

CHARTIST

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LABOUR: CONFRONT MONOPOLIES NOW

CATASTROPHE now stares the British economy in the face. Rising prices threaten the living standards of millions of families. The economic crisis of British capitalism turns the corner towards slump and mass unemployment. The bosses talk of "economic disaster", the "worse crisis since the war" and "the nation on the brink of collapse". All this is true. Their nation and their economy is bankrupt. Just look at the facts:

- Prices rising at an annual rate of 25%
- Zero growth—stagnation—for 1974 is forecast by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.
- NIESR further predicts the average worker will be 4% WORSE OFF by the end of the year. Consumption is already down by 2½% since January.
- The biggest trade debt ever recorded of £481 million for May.
- Share values have fallen to their lowest level in 15 years—a fall in 2 years greater than in the Great Crash years of 1929-33.

The ruling class wants workers to pay for this crisis. That is why the air is now thick with calls for "wage restraint", "moderation", and "sacrifices". This chorus initiated by the Tories and their big business backers have been joined by the voices of TUC chief Len Murray, and NUM President, Joe Gormley. Worse still, the minority Labour government actually attempts to put into practice these dictates. Through the 'social con-trick', nurses, teachers, Local Government workers and even OAPs are expected to accept increases which barely raise the pittance they already receive. On the Department of Employment's own admission, living costs in 1973, soared to an average £39.43 a week, for most families. How many workers, least of all, nurses and teachers, take home this much after tax and insurance?

But this is not enough for the Tories. They want to see living standards rolled back to the levels of the Depression period and all democratic rights removed.

What really sends shivers down

IMPLEMENT NATIONALIZATION PROGRAMME

their spines is the talk of nationalisation which was contained in Labour's manifesto but which they hoped would be forgotten "during the crisis".

Industry Secretary, Wedgwood Benn, has now named 20 of the major companies earmarked for 'state intervention'. This has brought down on the Labour government an avalanche of abuse and anti-nationalisation hysteria. The Tories and the big business millionaires aided by the capitalist press and TV have been leading the offensive. Tory propaganda has portrayed the Labour Party as trying to grab businesses and companies in order to bankrupt them. "Aims of Industry and other right-wing Tory organisations are pouring thousands of pounds into a campaign to stop 'the fanatical Mr. Benn and Labour's nationalisation plans'".

Behind these declarations lurks a real fear within the ranks of the capitalist class that the Labour government cannot control the



militancy of the working class which put Labour into office.

Beyond the Labour government's plans to extend nationalisation, they see the spectre of an increasingly powerful and combative labour movement. The decisions of the Scottish NUM, the builders' union and the train drivers' union, ASLEF, to go for massive 50%+ wage increases besides threshold agreements, bears out this fear.

The leaders of British capitalism are unanimous that the Labour government must be challenged and defeated on these proposals. But unfortunately, the labour leaders are no so unanimous in their determination to carry out the decisions millions of workers voted for in the general election. Pressure has been mounting within the Parliamentary Labour Party to stop all mention of nationalisation. Chancellor Healey has called for an end to the excesses of 'Bennery'. Harold Lever Labour's Chancellor of the Duchy

of Lancaster—a millionaire—has hastily reassured the bosses that as far as the Labour government is concerned "there will be no confrontation with business".

But this will not satisfy the demands of the tiny minority who control production. CBI President, Ralph Bateman, has thrown down the gauntlet. He has made it quite clear that Labour will be on a confrontation course with his class unless it drops its nationalisation plans.

At the heart of the challenge to bring down the Labour government stands the question of power. What is at stake is not merely the bailing-out of lame ducks like Court Lines but the takeover of the whole economy. So long as the anarchy of capitalist production for profit survives, Labour cannot plan the economy or control prices. To implement even its own partial nationalisation plans the Labour government must launch a struggle for power.

Already the ruling class—as shown at Heathrow—are staging rehearsals for deploying troops with armed police in readiness for use in an 'industrial emergency'. The right-wing Tory journal The Spectator has argued "the policies projected by Wedgwood Benn amount to Allende-style anarchy".

We should be warned. The blood of hundreds of workers is still flowing in Chile. There the capitalist class went beyond mere words. And so will the bosses here if necessary. The task facing the minority Labour government is the crushing of the resistance of the bosses to the nationalisation plans, by destroying their state power. Without struggle, without mobilising Labour's industrial strength, all talk of nationalisation will come to nothing.

- Break with the capitalists!
- All industry, finance and power to the Labour Government!

INSIDE: THE ARMY IN IRELAND →

THE CHARTIST

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Extend the Threshold

FOR A RISING SCALE OF WAGES

THRESHOLD Agreements have now become the centre of major trade union battles. Employer after employer is refusing to pay increases of up to £2 for the 5 per cent increase in prices over the months of April and May. The Pay Board—still operating under a Labour government—made a false declaration that after 15th June workers without threshold clauses could not get back payments, whereas no such interpretation of the Pay Laws was justified. British Leyland, employing 170,000 workers, said it could not afford to pay them, despite making a profit last year of £51.3 million before tax. Fierce resistance is also coming from the Confederation of British Industry and the Engineering Employers Federation, whose member companies, such as Plesseys and GEC made millions of pounds profit last year. Recently Harold Wilson voiced his doubts saying that thresholds had back-fired!

But thousands of workers disagree. The only people thresholds have back-fired for are the employers who never expected them to be triggered. The 6,000 workers at Plessey's telecommunications factory in Beeston, Nottinghamshire, who occupied their plant and brought production to a standstill, the British Leyland clerical workers at the Triumph plant in Coventry who halted production, SOGAT print workers who launched a strike stopping many of the big dailies—these workers were in no doubt that they wanted cost-of-living increases. Moreover, many of these strikes have been for open-

ended agreements. That is, agreements that do not end in October, as the present thresholds do, but continue indefinitely. Workers are increasingly seeing that some kind of automatic adjustment to recoup for losses in real wages incurred by inflation is vital.

But are 'threshold' payments sufficient? Do they provide real protection against rising prices? Originally they were part of the Tories' Phase 3 state wage control machinery. They were part of the strategy to off-load the burden of the economic crisis on the backs of the working class. Many class conscious workers recognised them as such. To accept them meant accepting joint responsibility with the capitalists for inflation and equally accepting in practice state control of wages.

But the then leaders of the TUC Vic Feather and co. were ardent advocates of threshold deals. "What makes threshold clauses such good value as an insurance policy for both sides of industry" is that "from the employers point of view the wage bill is only increased if the threshold is crossed. From our point of view there is a guarantee of an increase in real income". This was Feather at a conference of trade unions on Cost of Living Threshold Agreements. He went

on to reassure the bosses that "the old style cost of living clauses, which provided for full cost of living increases right from the word go" were "not what we are talking about today".

So it was clear. Thresholds were never designed to give full automatic increases corresponding to the actual rise in the cost-of-living. They were merely the cosmetics on the Tories wage-cutting legislation, just as food subsidies are with the Labour government. Today the TUC even has the nerve to present a document arguing that workers should accept wage increases which merely compensate for the rise in the cost of living and no more!

But the whole point of cost-of-living increases is that they should lay the basis for protecting real wages and ensuring a pay rise is a real increase and not one that is immediately eroded by rising prices. Thresholds don't do this. Firstly, they don't apply until prices have risen by 7%. Furthermore, the Tory-inspired Retail Price Index, upon which cost-of-living increases are calculated, grossly underrates the expenditure of working class families on items like food, rent, and transport—items which have risen much faster than others. The 40 pence

increase for every percentage point rise over 7 per cent is also totally inadequate, as calculated on the above basis. It is not consolidated into the basic rate and is subject to tax and other deductions.

What is needed is a genuine working class cost-of-living index formulated by the TUC and Labour Party and informed by Price Committees of housewives, trade unionists and consumers generally. Labour must give these committees real backing and authority. The way this can be done is by the nationalisation of the food industry in particular, so that the committees can become the organs of working class control over prices. The Price Commission has already revealed itself as one enormous fraud. Indeed, any Labour government which tries to control prices while the anarchy of the capitalist market dominates production is a deception of the working class.

Above all a genuine RISING SCALE OF WAGES is needed. The only 'threshold' that can be acceptable is one that starts from a zero norm. For every one per cent increase in a workers' price rise index an automatic rise in wages should be demanded. Into every wage contract negotiated with the employers a clause should be written-in providing for a rising scale of wages. Only in this way can living standards be protected and an independent working class strategy for united struggle be opened up.

- Extend the threshold to a zero norm.
- For a genuine rising scale of wages based on a workers' cost of living index.

THE COMMON MARKET is beginning to tear itself apart. Britain, Italy and France face massive balance of payments deficits, and their currencies are threatened by galloping inflation. With its member countries facing economic disaster, the EEC is floundering from crisis to crisis. All talk of 'European unity' is a gigantic fraud with the capitalist class of each nation desperately trying to save its own skin at the expense of the others.

It is against this background that the Labour Government has drawn CLOSER to the EEC than ever before. Labour came into office pledged to the miserable utopia of a 'fundamental re-negotiation of the terms of entry'. Recent events have demonstrated one thing—there can be and will be NO FUNDAMENTAL RENEGOTIATIONS.

NO CHANGES

When Foreign Secretary, James Callaghan, at the beginning of June, presented the Labour Government's demands to the EEC, he reneged even on Labour's own wretched demands.

GONE was the talk of fundamental renegotiations. GONE were references to British withdrawal from the EEC. GONE was the threat to block all further steps to integration until the 'British people' had given their verdict.

Callaghan presented a long list of specific requests for change, but clearly did not intend to call into question any of the principles of the Community's industrial, agricultural or financial policies.

COMMON MARKET—LABOUR MUST GET OUT NOW!

Graham Bash



Callaghan and Shore

No changes were to be sought which would require renegotiation of the Accession Treaty itself. No wonder Geoffrey Rippon, Tory opposition spokesman, was moved to applaud Callaghan's 'great advance' on the European question.

NO WAY FORWARD

All this comes as no surprise. The Common Market CANNOT be reformed. Entry into the EEC represents an attempt by the British capitalist class to join hands with its European counterparts to extract higher rates of profit from the workers on the continent. It is an attempt to withstand the icy winds of trade war from the US and Japan and to exert some control over the enormous multi-national companies. Basically it amounts to a further attempt to solve the deepening crisis of ailing British capitalism on the backs of the working class.

British entry must be fought tooth and nail. The EEC, itself in crisis, can point no way forward for the working class, either in Britain or in Europe. But neither can the ideas of 'Britain alone', which are held by the foremost Labour opponents of British entry, such as Peter Shore and Michael Foot.

The national boundaries dividing Europe are obsolete, and the development of the productive forces on the Continent requires the integration of the different national economies. But the capitalist class in Europe is incapable of achieving this unity. European unity can be achieved only by the European Labour Movement itself, which faces exactly the same problems of unemployment and massive inflation, as the British working class. The French Labour Movement is today stronger than ever whilst German Labour is beginning to stand up and feel its strength for the first time since its class organisations were destroyed by fascism in 1933. The struggle for European Workers unity, for the Socialist United States of Europe—this is the only realistic alternative to the EEC. Not the pathetic utopias of 'Britain alone' or 'fundamental re-negotiation'. Callaghan should be taking immediate steps to organise a congress of European workers' organisations, West and East, of the continent, at which



Heath, Rippon: signing in

a policy for uniting Europe under the rule of the working class should be thrashed out.

AUEW GIVES LEAD

The threat is now clear. Callaghan will go all out to get marginal concessions in the 'terms of entry' so that the Labour Government can then recommend acceptance at an election or referendum.

But the fight is by no means lost. The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, at its recent 69 man national conference, gave a lead to the whole Labour movement when it supported moves to commit the Labour Party to total opposition to the Common Market, without bothering about renegotiations or any form of referendum. This was passed 37 to 28, despite pleas by Bill Simpson, General Secretary of the Foundry workers' section and last year's Labour Party chairman, not to destroy the unity of the Labour Movement.

It is this phoney 'unity' which is paving the way for massive betrayal. Wilson and Callaghan must stop the deception of "re-negotiation" and get Labour out of the EEC, NOW!

NALGO Rejects Pay Board Report

THE PAY board Report recommending £400 for Inner London and £200 for outer London workers has been rejected by NALGO leaders. This decision is undoubtedly the result of the overwhelming movement at the unions' Annual Conference held at Brighton (10-14 June) to continue with industrial action until the full claim is met.

At the Conference an emergency motion from Merton NALGO one of the London branches involved in selective strikes, reversed, on a card vote, the NEC's decision to call off industrial action, by a majority of over 76,000 votes. That the defeat of the National Executive should have come on a wage claim applicable to only a small proportion of the NALGO membership, a wage claim repeatedly described by the National Executive as divisive and lacking in support from the membership outside London demonstrated the new unity of the NALGO rank-and-file. The attitude of the delegates from outside London was clearly that a defeat over the London Weighting campaign was a defeat for the whole membership which would be reflected in all subsequent wage struggles.

The Conference which started by rejecting any participation in the Labour government's 'social contract' with the TUC, went on to demand no acceptance of any offer within Phase 3 on the current National Pay claim for 25% rises.

In London, the selective strikes continue with a difference—members now know that they are fighting with the support of the whole membership if not with that of the National Executive.

Shrewsbury pickets out on bail

THE RELEASE on bail of the Shrewsbury pickets, Eric Tomlinson and Des Warren, pending appeal in October, must not be allowed to disguise the heavy sentences which still hang over them and the fact that the Conspiracy Laws still stand on the statute book.

It was a scandal that the majority of time the lads spent in jail was under a Labour government! At a meeting in London last month called by the T&G London Region to 'revitalise' the campaign to free the pickets, Eric Tomlinson spoke of the diabolical treatment he had received in prison. Solitary confinement on several occasions and being forced to use his own cell as a toilet had caused a loss of 2 stones. UCATT, the other union involved, only recently came out at its annual conference in full support of the Shrewsbury 24. Previous to this Conference, union leader, George Smith, had implicitly accepted the 'conspiracy' charges against the men, and disassociated the Union from them.

The way forward now is to put into practice, through industrial action, the decisions of the UCATT conference. These were:

- That the Labour government immediately quashes all the sentences and drops all pending charges against the remaining pickets.
- The immediate repeal of the reactionary Conspiracy Laws.

MIKE DAVIS

NURSES—ACTION AGAINST AGENCIES

by Paul Moore



IN THE next few weeks, nurses will be picketing a number of private nursing agencies in London, backing up an extensive campaign of non-co-operation with agency staff which has been adopted in many hospitals.

The dropout rate of qualified nurses has reached 30% in some parts of London, and private agencies are making large sums of money hiring back the 'drop-outs' to the NHS at increased rates of pay. The Agency situation is throwing even more pressure onto the backs of the permanent staff, who have the real responsibility for patient care, since the continuity and involvement of agency staff is less.

Agencies are compounding the difficulties of staff shortages caused by Barbara Castle's refusal to increase wages, and making 'healthy' profits at the same time. The biggest Agency run by the

No Action by Castle on Tory Reorganization

Barbara Castle has backedpedalled over her 'opposition' to the reorganisation of the NHS planned under the Tories. Despite a Labour government coming to office, the Tory plan was put into effect, making much of the NHS less publicly accountable. Many health services have been taken away from elected councils and put under control of government appointed authorities: of these authorities only one quarter are elected councillors, but alongside them are a number of part-time consultants who have private practices!

Under Castle:

- The part time consultants will not be removed.
- The number of councillors is to be increased only to one

third (a majority was hoped for)

- No action is to be taken to bring on elected union representatives.

The Lambeth Council in South London has made many protests over this blatant continuation of Tory legislation. But the reply they received from the Health Minister was almost identical to the one they received from the Tory Minister!

Furthermore, Labour's election manifesto proposed to nationalise pharmaceuticals and drugs. It is only when these are taken into the hands of the working class that private practice and private profit and all its associated evils can be rooted out of the N.H.S.

Islington 'Mafia' Defeated on Expulsion Bid

THE RECENT attempt by the right-wing in North Islington CLP to expel seven party activists for sitting down at the Annual Dinner and Dance of the party during the National Anthem has failed. The GMC on the 19 June passed a resolution to expel the seven party members by only 24 votes to 22, with a number of abstentions—thus falling well short of the required two-thirds majority for this sort of motion. The seven who sat down include four newly elected councillors—Kate Donoghue, Ann Holmes, Mark Van De Weyer and Valerie Veness—and three other active members of the party, Roger and Kitty Lyons and Keith Veness. This seemingly nonsensical issue however, has very much deeper causes behind it. The constituency was recently involved in a tremendous uproar over the selection of candidates for the Borough Elections, in which no less than nine of the twenty sitting councillors in North Islington failed to get re-selected by their wards. Among the casualties were the President of the party and Mayor of Islington for 1973-74, Harry Reid, and the party treasurer, Gerry Flynn. This attempt to expel the seven was widely interpreted as an act of 'revenge' by the ousted right wingers. The

failure to expel these seven now must be seen as an endorsement of the new councillors.

SOCIALIST CHARTER member, Keith Veness, one of the 7 commented: "Long before the present dispute this CLP was the subject of an NEC enquiry over the selection of the sitting M.P, Michael O'Halloran. He was selected at a GMC at which many of the delegates were attending for the first time. The NEC subsequently expelled one member for impersonating a delegate at the selection and was severely critical of several people prominent in the campaign to expel the seven. However it shied away from taking any action against O'Halloran as a General Election was in the offing.

He continued: "In his five years at Westminster, O'Halloran has yet to make a speech on any major issue, but has confined his activities to local 'charitable' and social work aimed at consolidating his hold over the CLP. The ditching of many of his cronies by the ward selections of their councillors was felt by him to be a threat to his little 'power base'. However, under pressure no doubt from his more intelligent fellow MPs, he declined to become openly involved in the ven-

'British Nursing Association' made £106,955 in pre-tax profits in the year to April 1973. While big business profits from finding jobs for the state trained nurses and doctors, the British worker gets a run-down NHS.

In their attack on those who are profiteering from the National Health, the nurses will also be picketing a new private hospital in St. Johns Wood, which offers patients the comforts of a 5-star hotel—if they can afford it.

Private Medicine within the NHS is also under attack. Private beds exist in many NHS hospitals, and their cost is well in excess of what patients pay, but it is the consultants, not the private patients, who are making the biggest killing out of the national health. They are known to:

- steal valuable surgical equipment such as replacement joints
- use publicly donated blood, with no charge for valuable equipment.
- use deception to get private patients to the front of an NHS queue for a free x-ray
- blatantly push urgent cases aside when they require operating facilities for less urgent private patients.

Part of Labour Party policy is to phase out private patients—but in practice Barbara Castle has made no moves in this direction, any by delaying until September even beginning to review the pay situation, is in practice encouraging private medicine: people who would not normally have considered paying out large sums of money for private surgery now find it is the only alternative to a two or three year wait.

detta against the seven and instead opted to rely on a number of his 'associates' namely Tony Murphy and other councillors who were prepared to be more blatant in their witch-hunt."

As we reported in the last issue of the paper, the seven were not the only ones to sit down through the National Anthem (in fact many other councillors and party activists did so as well) and it was done as a protest not only for toasting the queen but also for the refusal of the organisers to play the "Red Flag" which is usual at Labour Party functions. The wide publicity this attracted, and the subsequent 'enquiry' held by the CLP apparently dissuaded many right-wingers from pushing on with the expulsion. Besides local and national press coverage dozens of CLPs, YS branches, and other Labour Party organisations bombarded North Islington with protests about the attempted expulsions. It was noteworthy that no letters were received supporting the 'witch-hunt'.

For our part, we can only reiterate our demand for a full NEC enquiry into the goings-on in North Islington, where the clique who run the show there, have brought discredit on the whole working class movement.



One of the many loyalists barricades erected during UWC strike.

ONE OF THE consequences of the two-week strike of Ulster's Loyalist Workers' has been the raising of the demand for the withdrawal of troops from N. Ireland within the Labour movement. The question of the Army's presence in N. Ireland has now become a big issue and the Labour Party is split between those who see the Army as being asked to bear an intolerable strain in maintaining law and order, and those, usually on the left, who fear an imminent blood-bath if it is withdrawn.

It is time that the illusions sown by these contending groups, that 'our lads' have been doing a wonderful job in keeping the 'lunatic' Irish apart, were completely dispelled. The crisis in N. Ireland is the product of centuries of exploitation and division by British capital. British troops, if we cut beneath the smokescreens provided by the Labour reformists, have always served to defend these imperialist interests.

IRON GRIP

The Loyalist General Strike created a situation that is not unfamiliar in the recent history of the province. The iron grip which the Ulster Workers Council (UWC) held over all the essential services in the province, the armed patrols of the extreme right-wing Ulster Defence Association (UDA) and Ulster Volunteer Forces (UVF) closely paralleled the developments within the six counties in the summer of 1969. The immediate threat posed by protestant action in both situations was the same; the launching of a pogrom against the Republican sections of the Ulster community.

In both situations the 'solutions' proposed by Labour Governments in Whitehall were the same; get the British Army in to restore 'law and order'. Though, on this occasion far greater reticence was shown by the Labour Government than over the smashing of the Catholic barricades in Free Derry, during Operation Motorman in 1972. This time a movement originally created by British Imperialism rose against the spectre of a United Ireland posed by the Sunningdale Agreement, power-sharing, and the Council of Ireland.

PRELUDE TO CONFLICT

In 1969, James Callaghan, the Labour Home Secretary, had been insisting that the Ulster forces, including the police auxili-

ary 'B-Specials', be committed to their utmost extent before he would employ British Army units posted in N. Ireland, on the streets. By August of that year it became clear that this point had been reached. For eleven months from the previous October, the date of the first Derry Civil Rights march, the forces of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) had been fully extended in a campaign of terror and violence against the inhabitants of the republican enclaves in the major towns of N. Ireland.

The assault on the Civil Rights Association demonstration on October 5, 1968, the B-Special riot at Burntollet Bridge the following January, the night of terror on the 5 January when Lord Cameron was forced to conclude in his report that a body of police was guilty of '...misconduct which involved assault and battery, malicious damage to property in streets in the predominantly Catholic Bogside area...', all these actions, the Ulster forces of 'law and order' were guilty of.

ASSAULTS

By the Summer of 1969, the rioting and violence that was the Loyalist response to the demands for civil rights from the Catholic community, had reached a new pitch. A joint attack on Unity Flats in Belfast in early August by the RUC and Orange demonstrators in which a man was beaten to death and many others injured, signalled the preparations for the more intensive assaults that were bound to follow. And sure enough, commencing on 12 August, Bogside's fought for 48 hours to repel mobs of raging Orangemen and RUC from entering their estate. In the days that followed this historic 'Battle of the Bogside' the conflict gained a firm grip on Belfast where a protestant mob swept into the Catholic areas behind RUC Shorland Armoured Cars. Ten people were killed and 145 injured, mainly unarmed Catholics. Many

hundred catholic homes were destroyed.

It was into this situation that the Labour government was forced to introduce the Army. Pinned down and surrounded in the ghettos by the loyalist mobs, many Republican sympathisers, for the first time in their memories and traditions, felt relieved at the sight of the British Army holding the protestants at bay. For a time, the soldiers were made very welcome by the citizens of staunchly nationalist areas.

But whatever relief was felt by many Republicans with the first appearance of the troops, was within months transformed into outrage and indignation, as the 'protectors' were seen to be protecting those protestants who were mobilising in ever greater numbers around the banners of Paisleyism and extreme right-wing loyalism. In celebration of Easter Tuesday 1970, as Orangemen carried out their annual parades in honour of bigotry and repression, the Army made its own contribution by deluging the Bogside with CS gas. In June of that year, Bernadette Devlin was kidnapped by the RUC while on her way to address a large meeting of her supporters in Free Derry. The popular MP was jailed for six months for her leading role in defence of the Bogside from RUC marauders the previous August. In Belfast, the beleaguered Catholics in the Ardoyne, Ballymurphy and East Belfast areas, suffered days and nights of rioting and fighting as they sought to repel the Orange parades from Catholic areas—parades on which sectarian hatred for the minority and blatant provocation was dutifully protected by the British Army.

LAW AND ORDER

What was the Labour Government hoping to achieve through its use of the Army in N. Ireland? Front bench spokesmen talked of the need to keep the situation

within the bounds of law and order while a comprehensive programme of reforms of the Orange statelet was enacted. But it was the law and order of a state that was founded on the principles of repression of the Catholic minority population. Fifty years of Tory Unionist Party domination had given the stamp of legality to the planned provocations of the loyalist right wing. The demagogues of Orangeism, Paisley and Craig, spoke with all the authority that a decades-long struggle against Republicanism, sanctioned at all points previous by the governments in Westminster, had lent their cause. The Wilson government, and the Tories who were soon to succeed them in Office proved unwilling to break decisively with the traditions of the Orange statelet. By repudiating the Union with Britain, withdrawing the Army and all remnants of a British presence and by refusing to give unconditional support to the struggles of the Republican people against Orange repression they actually legitimised the feelings and outrage of the Paisleyite mobs with the 'sell-out' proposals for the gradual reform of their beloved right of Ascendance. On this point there can be no doubt; it was the weak-kneed, gradualist policies of the previous Wilson government that laid the foundations for the armed gangs of the UDA and UVF.

ARMED PATROLS

Throughout 1971 to the present date, the policies of the Labour government in Ireland were to be continued by the Tories. The existence of the IRA, the defenders of the besieged Catholic areas, and not Stormont's Orange repression, was identified as the root cause of the 'troubles' in the North. The Army's policy of 'containment' of the conflict gave way to armed patrols on the Catholic estates, raids into the no-go areas, harassment, beatings up, arbitrary arrest, and, on Monday 9 August 1971, the internment of

The Army in Ireland



Labour Directs Repression

Below: COLIN KENNEDY EXAMINES THE WILSON GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND IN THE CREATION OF THE LOYALIST PARAMILITARY.

CHILE: M.I.R. Militant Speaks *Part 2*



Saracen tanks in the Bogside

any individual with the vaguest sympathies for Republican ideas.

Bloody Sunday, 30 January 1972, when thirteen people were massacred for their participation on a peaceful civil rights march through Derry, placed the pathological maniacs of the murderous Orange ultra-right, the respectable officer-gentlemen of the Army and their political masters in Whitehall, firmly in the same camp.

When the paramilitary organisations first appeared on the streets of Belfast, in their bush-hats, combat-jackets and dark glasses, they appeared as the most consistent defenders of Whitehall's declared aim to 'root out the IRA'. Their only points of disagreement with Heath, Whitelaw and Co., was that not enough Republican sympathisers were behind the wire of the concentration camps, that the Bloody Sundays were too infrequent by far.

PARAMILITARY

The present Labour Government, through the pursuit of its own policies in Ireland from 1968-70 and its bi-partisan agreement with the Tories in their period of Office, is fully responsible for the creation of the Loyalist paramilitary monster and the sectarian threat of pogrom and civil war that is posed in the aftermath of the UWC General Strike. Even now, Labour's Ulster supremacy, Merlyn Rees, places the defeat of the IRA at the heart of Labour's policies for the province. The Secretary of State for N. Ireland, 'Tribunite' Stan Orme, so very enthusiastic for socialist policies for the British Labour movement, sees only tanks, troops and internment as being good enough for the Irish.

In the coming months, Chartists will be intransigently opposing these pro-imperialists in Labour's ranks. British 'solutions' for N. Ireland always have and always will serve only to promote sectarianism and to justify Orange rebellion. The lives of tens of thousands of working class people have been placed in the utmost peril through these policies.

Only a SOCIALIST PROGRAMME of UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT for the besieged Catholic ghettos can suffice to ward off the threat of a monstrous Loyalist assault, organised and co-ordinated by the paramilitary organisations of the protestant extreme right.

- Labour—Break from bi-partisan policies with the Tories!
- Troops out of Ireland now!
- Unconditional military and material support for the defence of the republican areas!
- For the right of the Irish people to national self-determination!

THIS IS the second part of the Chartist interview with the Chilean Movement of the Revolutionary Left. (MIR). Along with the trade unions and other workers' and socialist organisations, the MIR is now illegal and many of its members have been imprisoned and tortured by the military Junta which brutally overthrew the Allende Government.

Q Would you criticise the programme of the Popular Unity itself?

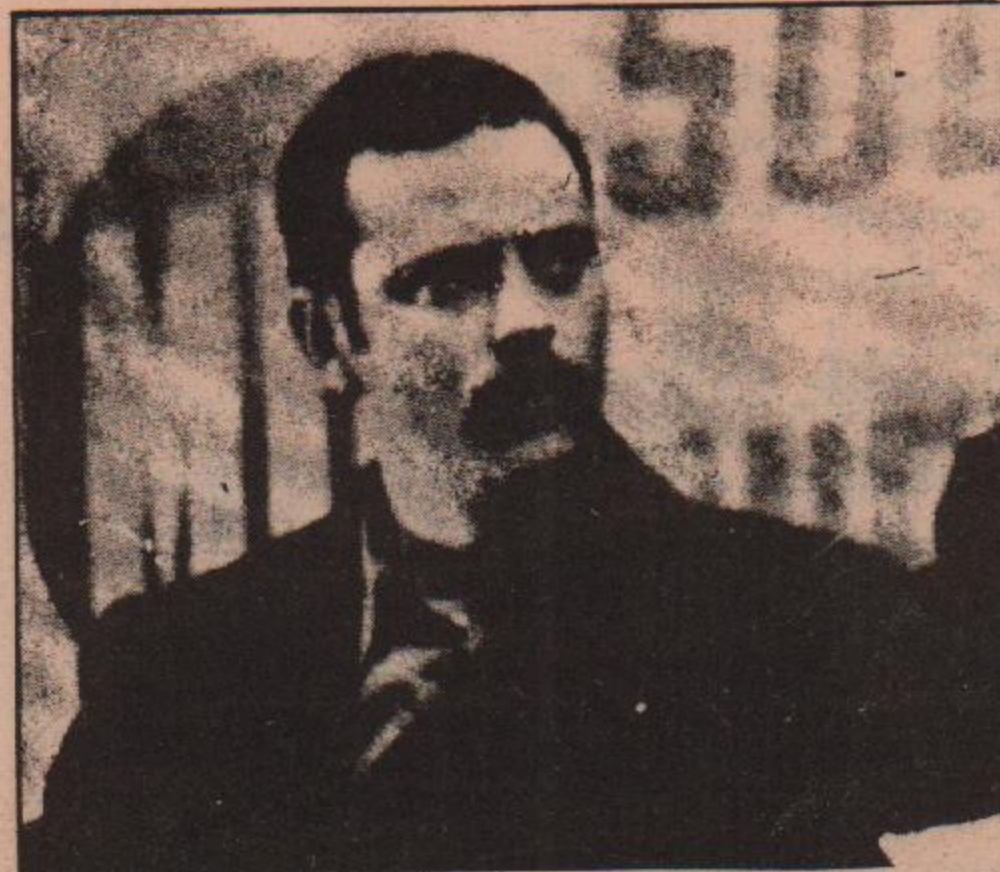
A Yes, because this programme responded to a strategic conception which is not ours. It expressed a conception of a revolutionary process by stages which we would certainly not agree with and that conception led to a policy of making alliances which were also alien to our policy. Nevertheless this programme suggested a series of tasks of great importance, directly linked to the interests of the working class and the poorer sectors. It should not be forgotten that although the Popular Unity was built on a certain conception of an alliance making policy, it had the strong backing of the working class which was expressed organisationally by the presence within it of the workers' parties. The social and political composition of Popular Unity gave it a potential difference from those of other Popular Front experiences in Chile; this being a characteristic which was evaluated as positive by the MIR. The problem was to translate this presence into real leadership by the working class and proletarian policies.

In terms of a programme, the problem was to use this within the perspective of the struggle for power and, to this aim, to encourage and strengthen the positive aspects.

Q Some comrades, such as Hugo Blanco, have accused your party of paying insufficient attention to the industrial working class whilst over-emphasising the importance of the peasants, shanty town dwellers and others. It is said that this was reflected in your policy of advocating 'Comandos Comunales', representing petit bourgeois layers as well as industrial workers, at the expense of the 'cordones industriales' of the working class. What is your reply to that?

A I haven't heard this declaration by Hugo Blanco. It may have been published in England but not here. However, concerning the version you have given me there are two misunderstandings: one relating to the work of the MIR within the working class; the other relating to the 'communal comandos'.

Although it is true that the MIR started to have an influence in the mass movement from 1969, with special links with the shanty town dwellers and peasants, this does not mean that it failed to give priority to the movement of the industrial working class as the fundamental objective of our work. This link was more a response to the specific problems relating to the organic capacity of the party,



Bautista van Schowen. MIR leader imprisoned and tortured by Junta who have only recently admitted they hold him.

to its situation of illegality and clandestinity, etc., as well as to the Chilean trade-union movement and the policy of access to it. In any case, even if it were possible to doubt the policy of the MIR in this regard prior to the 1970 elections, it has not been possible since. Under the new conditions of the Popular Unity Government, the MIR immediately aimed to integrate itself within the movement of the industrial working class.

It would be completely false to say that the MIR did not pay sufficient attention to the 'Cordones' (belts)—it not only considered them important but also was present in the creation and the development of ALL the Cordones. But from October 1972, the month of the lorry drivers strike, when the right wing tried to paralyse the country, the MIR began to agitate for the necessity of the comunal comandos as a superior form of organisation, with a territorial base, which would group the industrial workers through their 'cordones' and their natural allies the poor of the town and country. By organising the "comandos" which would be an organisation capable of transforming itself into a real alternative of power to oppose the bourgeois state and to assume the tasks of the movement: food distribution control at the time when the bourgeoisie was creating black market and food shortages by hoarding, transport control; at the time when the bourgeoisie tried to paralyse the country. Health control at a time when the bourgeoisie called all its doctors on strike, guarding of the factories, farmlands and living areas of the working class at the time when the bourgeoisie sent its armed groups into the streets to make acts of terrorism, and the defence of the government at the time when the bourgeoisie encouraged the putchist sectors of the Armed Forces against the Government. But the Comandos did not have any intention of acting in parallel with the 'cordones', nor did they at any time have the slightest intention of giving the same importance to the petit bourgeois as that of the workers. On the contrary, these were an organisation, that was led by the working class through the active presence of the 'cordones' which would draw in and mobilise all the sectors of the people to the completion of all the tasks that were necessary at the time.

The problem that we put forth around the conception of the 'cordones', especially after the failed coup on June 29, 1973 when all the working class parties including Communist Party already accepted the 'cordones' as a fact, pointed to a different aspect than the one that you propose. Certain sectors of the Chilean left-wing suggested that the 'cordones' should be under control and direction of the TUC, while the MIR and revolutionary sectors of the Popular Unity suggested that, although the cordones could be linked with the TUC, these had a qualitatively different character and responded to new conditions of the process of mass struggle and that in this sense they would have the capacity for initiative which should be autonomous and independent of the bureaucratic structure of the TUC.

British trade unions "have developed solidarity actions which have been among the strongest in Europe"

Q What is the importance of British Trade Union solidarity for you?

A It is fundamental and definitely the most effective form of solidarity. The workers of Britain have shown an outstanding awareness of the Chilean situation and have developed solidarity actions which have been among the strongest in Europe.

It is on the arms questions that the strongest and most effective solidarity movement has been developed. A concrete case was the decision of the AUEW Executive to boycott all arms production for Chile. There have also been many other cases, such as the NUM's resolution which, passed unanimously, demanded the government suspend all arms. The strike at Rolls Royce, the boycott on the frigates by the Yarrow and Clydeside workers, the dockers actions in Liverpool and many other cases are the concrete proof of the strength of this solidarity. All these actions have brought fury to the fascist Chilean junta who have shown their class hatred (through the press, radio and TV) in accusations and attacks against the British working class. In fact the Junta knows very well that the working class is its most dangerous enemy, not only inside Chile but throughout the world. We consider that it is within the British workers movement that the 'Chile Solidarity Campaign' should develop its mainwork. The working class is the only sector which is capable of developing a permanent, stable and effective solidarity movement with the struggle of the people of Chile against fascism. Finally, we would like to call on all progressives, democrats and revolutionaries to strengthen the campaign to save the life of Bautista van Schowen, a member of the Political Bureau of the MIR and doctor by profession, who has been savagely tortured by the military and who lies in a state of coma in the Santiago military hospital.

Portugal: No Limit to Stalinist Betrayals

By Chris Knight

IT IS NOW illegal for a newspaper in Portugal to encourage workers to strike. The penalties include a fine of up to £8,500 and a suspension of the paper for two months. This is just one of the effects of the new censorship law signed by 'democratic' President Spínola on 22 June.

The law was passed with the endorsement of both the socialist and communist Ministers in the Provisional Government. It is just the latest in a series of strike-breaking measures unleashed by the Government since the defeat of the workers' upsurge in the last week of May.

"OBJECTIVELY FASCIST"

The Communist Party argues that for workers to threaten the capitalist state in the present period is 'objectively fascist'. An editorial of the Portuguese Communist Party weekly *Avante*, published in the *British Morning Star* on 14 June, wrote:

"The strike of the Lisbon transport and supply services, such as the bread 'strike', marked the most serious moment of the reactionaries' offensive."

The "reactionaries' offensive" was the high point of the May strike wave during which workers struck all over the country, seized their plants, ship-yards and other places of work, ousted the old managements, tried to gain control over the mass media and groped spontaneously for state power. The *Avante* editorial boasted proudly that:

"the mature class consciousness of the workers, the self control of the armed forces and the emergency measures of the provisional government all enabled this first offensive of fascist reaction to be stopped and defeated."

The Communist Party in Portugal attacks the big monopolies not for resisting wage claims but, on the contrary, for surrendering to the workers' too much:

"Big firms suddenly decided to grant wage increases far in excess of those demanded by the trade unions. Everywhere they tried to profit from the widespread, just discontent of the workers."

NO SOCIALISM

Most of all, the Communist Party is determined to protect the existing Provisional Government and its "left" ministers from socialist demands:

"To demand at this moment a full solution of all the great problems in Portugal, to demand the deep social and democratic transformation necessary, as if we had a government of the people in power, does not contribute at all to a good development of the revolutionary movement.

In the present stage of the struggle the fundamental task is to carry out in practice the programme of the Movement of the Armed Forces."

STRIKE-BREAKING

Meanwhile, the Generals and Army officers—in strict accor-

dance with this same 'programme of the Movement of the Armed Forces'—are preparing the ground in their own way for "free elections." The outcome of an electoral struggle depends, of course, fundamentally upon the actual balance of class forces within society itself. The officers' first concern, therefore, is to break the spine of the Portuguese trade union movement. The censorship laws are but a small start—although



Stalinist leader Cunhal (left) celebrates victory of Junta.

even these could not have been passed without the industrial defeat suffered by the working class after the May upsurge. The Junta has already prepared anti-strike legislation which makes Edward Heath's Industrial Relations Act look like a shop-steward's charter. On present form, the Communist Party will endorse this legislation, too.

"EVERYBODY"

Overriding all issues in Portugal at the present moment, however, is the issue of the colonial wars. Spínola and the junta have no intention of granting real self-determination to the former African colonies. Instead they want to continue imperialist rule in a new way, through pro-imperialist bourgeois parties with a black following, which they require time to foster and manoeuvre into place. FRELIMO, PAIGC, MPLA and the other 'liberation' movements, for all their limitations, sense the threat to their own positions in this: hence the progressive break-down of the 'independence' talks. Here, too, the Portuguese Communist Party, despite its 'reservations', takes a pro-junta line. It is well aware of the effects of a full-scale military defeat on the Portuguese economy. The loss of Portugal's investments and privileged trade relations would be a crippling blow. So the Party is digging its heels in against the supporters of the liberation movements. It says it wants a solution in the interests of 'everybody'—which includes, of course, the reactionary white settler interests in Africa. The editorial quoted declares:

"The negotiations which have been started will not be successful unless they are carried out on the basis of a political plan acceptable to everybody.

A certain type of propaganda, leftist and irresponsible, can only damage this common search for a just solution."

Early in June a demonstration of 1,000 demanding the release of Pedro Peralta, a Cuban army Captain captured in Guinea while

aiding the PAIGG rebels, was violently dispersed with tear-gas and mounted police wielding clubs. On 7 June, the editor of a Maoist paper, was arrested at his home in the middle of the night. The excuse: his paper had reproduced a communique which urged troops mobilised for Africa to desert.

PERMANENT REVOLUTION

The overriding concern of the Stalinists is not to do anything which might upset the Generals or damage Portugal's capitalist economy. It would be a mistake, however, to imagine that Portugal's Stalinists are peculiar in the scale of their counter-revolutionary betrayals. They are following exactly in the steps of their Chilean counterparts. Their positions stem inevitably from the conceptions of Stalinism as such. As against the idea that a 'democratic' revolution in a backward country such as Portugal must be 'permanent'—i.e. that it must 'grow over' without interruption into a workers' revolution—Stalin insisted on the theory of separate 'stages'. Thus according to the Portuguese Communist Party, the liberal capitalists and the working class are at the present 'stage' united by a common interest in 'democracy'. Although they have different 'ultimate aims', the representatives of the two classes can therefore work together at present using the same government to prepare for and conduct 'free elections'. Ignored is the sad fact that at no time in history have 'liberal capitalists' under such conditions been willing to play by the rules. In a backward country like Portugal, the

capitalists are too weak to be able to contain the power of the working class by democratic means. If they are not disarmed and overthrown at once—as in Russia in October 1917—they will crush the working class along with the 'democratic' regime. Already we see the warning signs in Portugal. Spínola's new press laws make it a crime for any newspaper to conduct 'ideological aggression' against the execution of the armed forces movement's programme. What kind of 'free elections' are likely to be held if the working class allows such measures to be imposed?

THE SOLUTION

The freedoms—such as they are—which have been won by the working class in Portugal can be defended in only one way. There must be a complete break with the policies of Stalinism. A real revolutionary workers' party must be built in its place. This requires two things. Firstly the formation of a nucleus of revolutionaries—no matter how small to begin with—based on the programme of permanent revolution. Secondly, there is required the ability of this nucleus to penetrate the ranks of the trade unions, the Communist Party and the Socialist Party and split these organisations on that political basis. The Stalinists and Socialist leaders must be confronted with implacable demands backed by an organised force. They must be told to withdraw from the Provisional Government, where they are prisoners of the capitalists, and declare they will serve only in an all-Communist-Socialist government. They must unconditionally support the military victory of the colonial liberation movements against the Portuguese army. They must immediately appeal to the soldiers to set up committees in the army, insisting that no orders be obeyed without the sanction of the working class parties. The discredited police—and not just the hated security police—must be disarmed and a popular militia created based on the trade unions, to defend the gains of the revolution. Above all, the suicidal policy of waiting for elections must be put an end to. The crucial issue is: under what conditions are elections to be held? Why allow the Generals and the capitalists to hold them under their own class rule, when the economy, state and mass media are in their hands? The need is to seize power now, immediately, so that the conditions for genuinely free elections to a Constituent Assembly can exist. It is nonsense to say it cannot be done. The Communist Party has a massive machinery of working class strength at its disposal. The working class is already striving for power. The generals and capitalists are in no state to survive an all-out assault. The working class in Spain, Italy and throughout Europe is on the move and would rally to the defence of a workers' Portugal. Almost the entire African continent would be on the new Government's side. Now is the time to act! If the Stalinists will not do it, they must be fought mercilessly and thrust aside.

THE LESSONS OF CHARTISM

Part 5 of a series on
'The Struggle for Revolution
in Britain'

by Graeme Atkinson

IN OUR LAST article, we focussed on the division between the two main trends in Chartism. These were the 'physical force' wing led by Jones, Harney and O'Connor, and the 'moral force' wing of Lovett and Place.

In an embryonic and incomplete way the battle between the two wings was an expression of the struggle between reformism and revolution, between those who wished to pressurise capitalist government and those who wished to overthrow it. The lessons of this struggle are vital today.

DECLINE

The Chartist movement declined because it was premature. In July 1839, the movement presented a petition of 1,280,000 signatures in support of the Six Points. It was rejected... a possibility the 'moral force' men had refused to consider. The intense frustration felt by whole layers of the working class was expressed in the attempted insurrection in Newport. The rising of Welsh miners and steelworkers was crushed with exceptional brutality. Feeling stronger the ruling class embarked upon a policy of even more vicious repression. By 1840, the movement was underground. Nevertheless, the National Chartist Association was set up and by 1842 had 40,000 members. This was a tribute to the determination of the working class.

Preparations began for a new Petition. The 'Northern Star', a Chartist paper with a 50,000 circulation, agitated unceasingly for the Petition which was signed by 3,315,000 workers—only to be rejected again.

The second petition was radically different from the first and included broader demands of a class character on wages, hours and factory laws. It had gained massive support in a working class radicalised by the sharp

class struggles which the economic crisis of 1839 had precipitated. Also, Chartists had been active for the first time in the trade unions.

When the second Petition was rejected, mass strikes broke out in Lancashire, Yorkshire and the Midlands. London signally failed to respond. Yet, once more, repression got the upper hand. A revival of trade completed the job. And, once again, the movement was weakened.

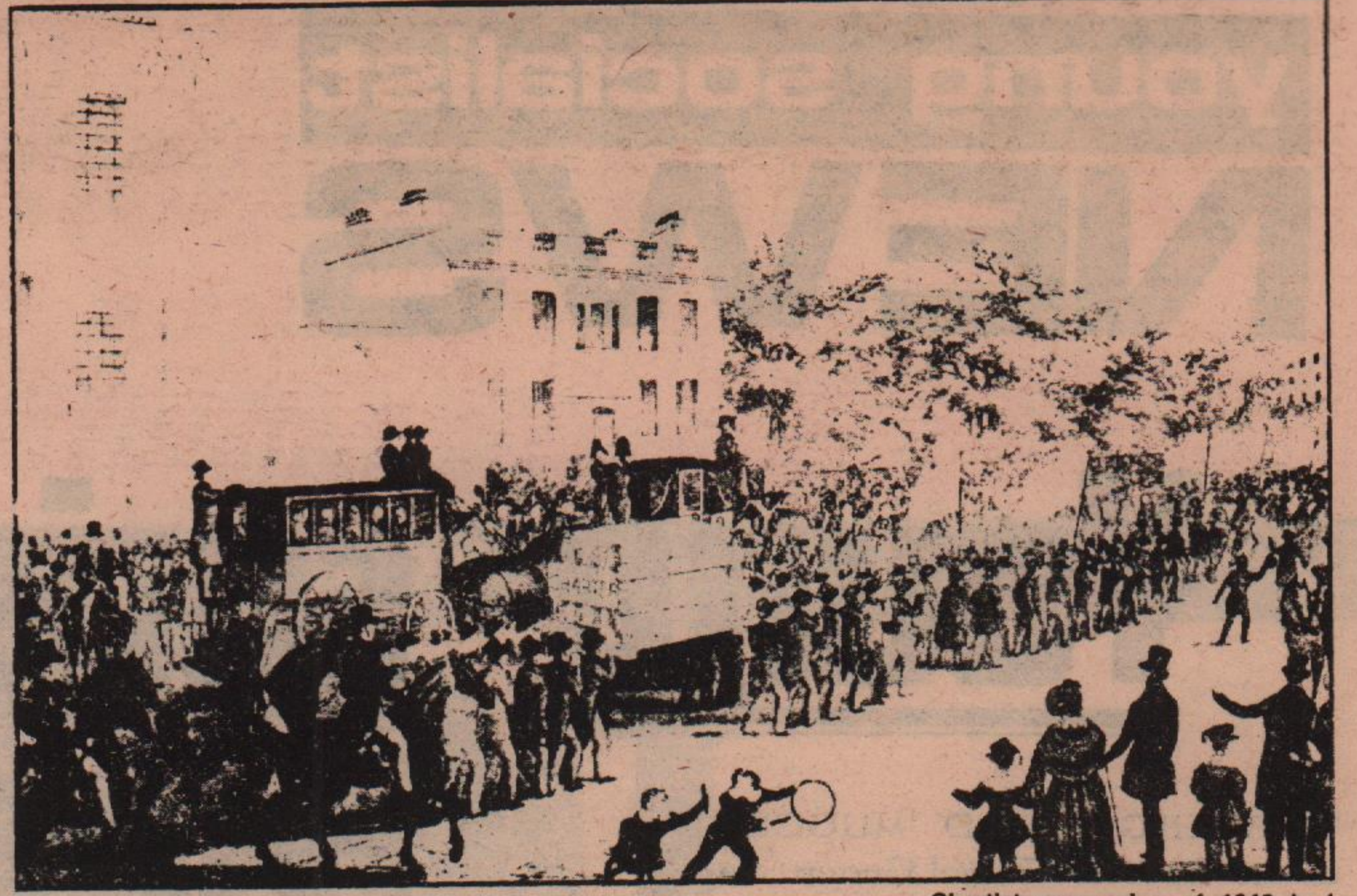
Four years intervened before Chartism grew to its former strength. The defeats of 1839 and 1842 weighed heavily on the consciousness of the masses. However, a new economic crisis gave rise to a new search for political solutions and a new wave of mass activity. While the Chartists prepared for another Petition, the authorities prepared for another bout of violence.

When the Petition was presented it was found to contain far less than the 5 million signatures claimed by O'Connor. The demonstration of 30,000 who gathered to present the Petition were outnumbered by soldiery and police, who were assembled in such numbers that the march to Parliament had to be abandoned. The failure of 1848 was the beginning of the end.

FAILURE

The reasons for Chartism's failure reside in its success, in the fact that it was able to mobilise masses. This stemmed from the weakness of leadership without theory, method or programme. However, it must be borne in mind that Chartism—the first really revolutionary working class movement—was in steep decline before Marx and Engels produced their unperishable contribution: 'The Communist Manifesto'.

The defects of Chartism were reflections of the youth and immaturity of the working class itself. Equally, the capitalists were still



Chartist procession of 1842 had as its backbone of organizers a large proportion of journeymen tailors

a rising class whose crises were symptoms of growth rather than decay. The working class was still undergoing formation and was not yet homogenous enough to complete the advanced tasks posed by Chartism. The further development of capitalism the ideological crisis inside it, the development of Marxism and the growing strength of the working class all served to create the conditions for Chartism's revolutionary aspirations to be realised.

OVERTURE

Assessing the historical balance sheet of Chartism, Trotsky wrote, "The Chartists movement is like a prelude to an opera which gives undeveloped form the musical theme of the whole opera. In this sense, the British proletariat must see in Chartism not only its past but also its future. As the Chartists threw overboard the sentimental preachers of 'moral action' rallying the masses under the standard of revolution, so the British proletariat will be confronted with the task of thrusting from its midst the reformists, democrats and pacifists and of mobilising under the standard of revolutionary change. Chartism was unsuccessful not because its methods were incorrect, but because it came too early. It was only a historical venture. The revolution of 1905 also suffered defeat. But its traditions revived after 12 years and its methods triumphed in October 1917. History is liquidating liberalism and preparing to liquidate the pseudo-labour pacifism just in order afterwards to resurrect Chartism on new, immeasurably

broader historical bases. There you have the original national tradition of the labour movement.

RELEVANT

Trotsky's words are more relevant today than ever before. Once again 'knife & fork' questions are revolutionary questions expressing a challenge to capitalist power.

To fight for power, the working class must emulate its Chartist forbears by expelling from its ranks all those Labour and union leaders who refuse to break from capitalism and fight for socialism. The Stalinists of 'Her Majesty's' Communist Party and the reformists dismiss Chartism precisely because of this central lesson. That is why they counterpose their own brands of 'moral force', 'peaceful road' and protest to revolutionary struggle, and prevent the masses from reclaiming their organisations... since that means a fight against the reformists who have taken over these organisations, i.e. against these people themselves!

The fight between reformism and revolutionary is an expression of the class struggle itself, a battle for leadership between the Marxists and the Labour agents of imperialism who head off that struggle and betray the working class. These are the lessons of Chartism for the labour movement today in an epoch, not of rising capitalism, but of its absolute decay.

THE DEATH of Warwick student Kevin Gately marks a new stage in the fight against both police repression and the National Front. The coroner confirmed that Kevin died from a blow on the head during the police riot in Red Lion Square on 15 June.

This was probably inflicted by one of the hundreds of police protecting the N.F. from a left-wing counter march. Police broke up the latter with considerable force. Also involved were the Special Patrol Group (SPG) an elite force of strike breakers under the control of Commander Gerrard, recently returned from the USA where he studied American 'anti-riot' techniques. On previous outings, the SPG has smashed picket lines of London electricians and Hull dockers, as well as shooting two Pakistani boys last year. This time it was pitted against students. Kevin's death is the result.

Labour whitewash for blackshirt menace

Characteristically, the Tory press has produced its biggest whitewash brush in defence of the police while Labour Home Secretary, Jenkins, has been at pains to exonerate the SPG. Worse still, Jenkins has now appointed the infamous Cdr. Habershon of the 'Angry Brigade' frame-up fame to head the enquiry into Kevin's death.

The National Front regards the police action as a victory for 'law and order'. This is part of their campaign to project a 'populist' image which includes talk about 'strong (corporatist) unions', opposition to the Common Market, support for Ulster Unionism, opposition to abortion, support for the 'Festival of Light' and participation in annual town carnivals 'to preserve the British way of life'. Mixed with this, of course,

is the most virulent racialism aimed at making black workers the scapegoats for capitalism's failure to build enough houses or provide enough jobs.

The 'populism' serves to hide the real Nazi character of the N.F. led by Tyndall and Webster, a pair of inveterate racist thugs. The N.F. stands for the obliteration of the labour movement. The real source of their growth is the economic crisis and the treachery of the Labour leaders, who refuse to transfer power into the hands of the working class, the only force capable of smashing fascism. The cowardice of the Labour and Trade Union leaders aids the development of the fascists and nourishes the disillusionment of the middle class which is badly affected by the crisis and lacks

the organised ability of the workers to fight back.

The bosses still prefer peaceful methods, but already the fascists are giving notice of their availability, should peaceful methods fail to defeat the working class.

For this reason the fight must be stepped up. Labour must ban the National Front from the streets, refuse them use of meeting rooms and disband the SPG. The Trades Union leaders must organise the mass demonstrations which alone can keep the fascists off the streets and prevent the 'law' from attacking with impunity. The building of a revolutionary leadership in the labour movement is vital to resolve the question of power which lies at the centre of the fascist menace.

● For a Labour/TUC enquiry into Kevin's death. No platform or free speech for fascists.

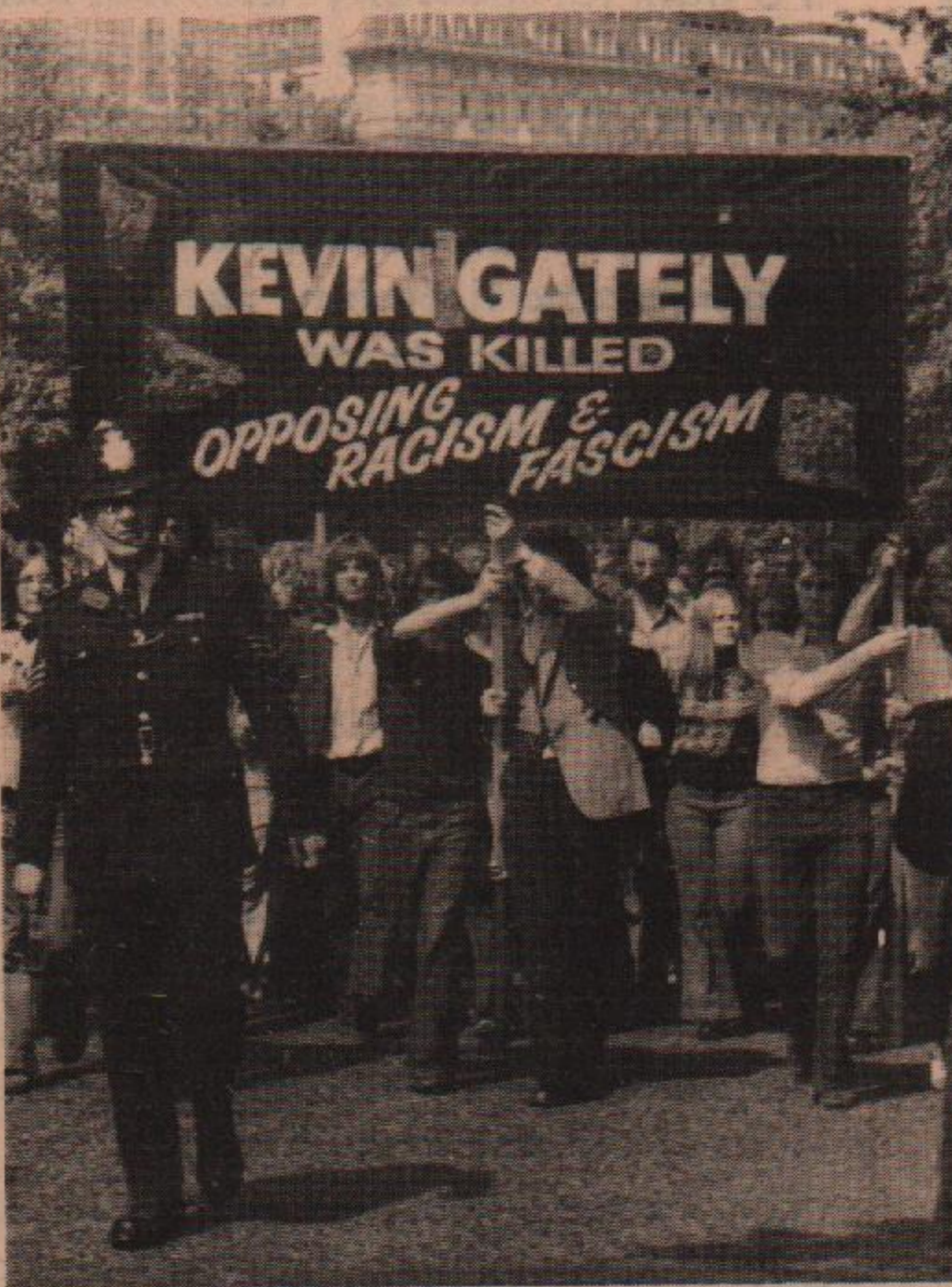
Young socialists confront racialism

Jones shares
platform
with Powell

by
Graham
Durham
LEEDS
Region

THE LEGALISED MUGGERS of the Special Patrol Group were part of the police contingent that inflicted a decisive blow against a left wing demonstration against the National Front on June 15th. In bending over backwards to protect the fascists, the police at one stage charged the demonstrators completely unprovoked, clubbing and kicking people and pushing them under the hooves of their horses.

During the march, Kevin Gately, a student at Warwick University, was killed "by a blow to the head". Eye witnesses state they have no doubt that police were responsible.



The backbone of the police contingent that charged the crowd was made up of the Special Patrol Group, a squad set up by the Tory Government to be used against strikers and demonstrators; they have now expanded their role to the protection of fascists.

If the public enquiry set up by Jenkins contains one shred of honesty, this will be its conclusion. To back that up the Labour Government should immediately disband the S.P.G.

Paid Advertisement.

JUST OUT. THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION IN BRITAIN, a pamphlet analysing the present crisis, the response of various workers' groups, and the revolutionary alternative. The pamphlet consists of articles reprinted from THE TORCH, newspaper of the Revolutionary Socialist League—U.S.A., recently split from International Socialists—U.S. Introduction by Sy. Landy. 15p. British or International cheques. To: RSL 13755 Woodward, Highland Park, Mich. 48203 U.S.A.

Two Norwood LPYS members were arrested at anti-fascist demonstrations during June. On June 15th on the first anti-National Front march, Martin Cook was charged with threatening behaviour. On 22 June at the Kevin Gately memorial march, Richard Moore was arrested for carrying an offensive weapon. Both strongly deny the charges. These arrests were not the only ones which took place. To back up their physical force, the police are using the full force of the courts as part of a general witchhunt to discourage anti-fascist demonstrations.

Richard Moore, who is 17 and still at school, was "sounded out" during the march by plainclothes policemen dressed as students (complete with long hair) and was actually arrested as the demo entered Hyde Park in London. Richard, who had travelled to the demo by scooter, carried his scooter equipment during the march including two luggage straps and was later charged with possessing an offensive weapon. Interviewed by YS news, Richard



told us— "They had been marching from the start. We were marching at the back of the I.S. contingent and they had even carried placards

bearing the slogan 'disband the SPG'." During the march the police asked him why he was carrying the elasticated straps. When one jokingly suggested that they could be used as a catapult he replied in a similar vein that they could be used if there was any trouble. Having said this he stuffed the straps into his helmet obviously indicating that he was joking and had no intention of using them. That plainclothes police were present should be no surprise. More sinister still was the ease with which they had obtained arm bands, a reflection of the poor organisation and lax security on the march.

BRENT COUNCIL TO BAN NATIONAL FRONT

THE LABOUR GROUP of Brent Council has decided to stop the National Front from using local schools for its private meetings.

The National Front have been getting more active in Brent lately, and at the beginning of June, they organised a motor cavalcade through Brent. It was then discovered that they were using Anson Road School, Crickle-



wood, for their branch meetings.

Graham Bash, Chairman of Brent East Young Socialists, immediately contacted the Chairman of the Education Committee, Councillor Len Snow. Snow admitted he knew the NF were using local schools, but said "We've stopped them using schools for public meetings, but

ON 19 JUNE a crowd of 600 people heard Enoch Powell, Jack Jones—TGWU Gen. Sec., and former Labour Paymaster General, Lord Wigg launching the Get Britain Out Campaign at Pudsey, Yorks. The meeting received wide coverage in the media and the local Tory paper, the 'Yorkshire Post', eagerly reported Jones' statement that "just and proper causes are bigger than individuals—and this campaign is a just and proper cause". In actual fact, the sharing of a platform between Jones, one of the most powerful trade union leaders in Britain and Powell, an avowed racist and a dedicated enemy of the working class, is a most dangerous event.

Powell's opposition stems not from concern for the British worker or housewife but because in common with many Tory MPs, he does not believe the Common Market to be the best solution to the problems of British capitalism. As for Jack Jones, he should be leading the fight for the withdrawal from the EEC, and for the implementation of Labour Party Conference decisions, regardless of any "new terms". A real and lasting European unity can only be achieved by the overthrow of the capitalist class in all countries and the construction of a Socialist United States of Europe.

WHAT'S ON

FILM: July 11th at Norwood Labour Party rooms, 264 Rosendale Rd, SE.24.8pm. On Chile.

JUMBLE SALE: August 3rd at Vauxhall Training Centre at 2.30pm.

FILM: August 8th at Norwood Labour Party rooms at 8pm. On squatters.

we can't stop them having private meetings in schools. You can't stop the National Front by banning them."

Resolutions were put to the General Management Committee of Brent East CLP and the Young socialists supported the North West London Committee Against Racism in organising a picket of the Labour Group on June 17. About 30 people turned up to the picket, and the issue was raised at the Group Meeting. Certain elements in the Group talked about defending 'freedom of speech', and one even equated the NF with the 'Communists'. But a motion was passed to stop the NF using any schools in the area for both public and private meetings.

YS member, Mike Grabiner, Brent East CLP delegate to the Labour Group, told YOUNG SOCIALIST NEWS "This is an important victory against fascism in Brent. The death of Kevin Gately at the Red Lion Square demonstration brought home to the Group the nature of the threat it faced. If the Labour Government had stopped the fascists from marching, Kevin Gately would be alive today."