

# CHARTIST

LABOUR'S REVOLUTIONARY VOICE No.34 SEPTEMBER 1975 Price 6p

## STOP WILSON'S CUTS

"IN THE NEXT TWELVE months, while all incomes are limited, the living standards for many of the people will show no improvement; for very many they will fall." Thus spoke Harold Wilson when he launched the £6 pay limit campaign with the backing of trade union leaders on the left as well as on the right. The Labour government is now clearly taking up where Heath left off.

Prices will go on rising. Even the Government's most optimistic forecasts expect this to happen. For why do Government spokesmen now say that living standards will fall by 10 per cent? Unemployment will continue to increase. There is not a City businessman who believes that there will be less than 2 million unemployed in 1976. The pay-cuts of the 1920s and 1930s did not stop unemployment—and neither will pay-cuts in 1975.

Around the country, education services are being slashed. The NHS is starved of funds. Even housing is now coming under the hammer.

### BENN, FOOT MUST LEAD FIGHT

The left-wing in the Labour Party and trade union leadership, offering no alternative, have caved in without a fight. By their silent acquiescence they are confusing workers into acceptance of the pay freeze. Only a massive movement from below will force any kind of fight—like the struggle of the ship-builders on Tyne-side. Foot, Benn, the left MPs and union leaders must begin the fight



back now. They must use every opportunity to

- Oppose the Government's incomes policy.
- Oppose public expenditure cuts.
- Fight for a rising scale of wages which provides automatic pay increases for every rise in a workers' cost-of-living index.
- Give full support to all occupations and struggles against unemployment. Force open the business secrets which disguise the employers' profiteering out of this crisis.

Only a vigorous campaign in the Labour movement will force the lefts to fight or resign and let others take over. The Chartist urges every trade unionist and Labour supporter to aid us in this fight.

## SHADOWS OVER PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION

BY MIKE DAVIS  
recently returned  
from Lisbon.

WHILE the foreign press vibrates with talk of imminent coups and civil war in Portugal, Lisbon, the capital city, appears to the foreign observer as a stable bastion of the revolution.

### BUZZ

The streets buzz with small groups of people discussing the political situation. Every available wall space and building is festooned with slogans, posters and multi-coloured murals representing the views of the many political parties legalised since the April 25th coup which overthrew the barbarous Caetano dictatorship last year. As many of the newspaper editions appear they are plastered up on the walls for all to see and discuss.

On the day I arrived, four political gatherings alone occurred that night in Lisbon. The Socialist Party (PS) assembled to march from the Rossio, the main square in Lisbon. They mustered between 10,000 to 12,000 demonstrators. Later that evening, an international solidarity demonstration of organisations from Spain, Italy, Britain and Germany marched up to the American Embassy to protest against any NATO or CIA interference in Portugal. At 9.30, the Communist Party (PCP) began a rally of about 12,000 of its

supporters in the Pavillion at the top of the great Avenida da Liberdade, (Avenue of Liberty), where Party secretary, Alvaro Cunhal was the main speaker. On the outskirts of Lisbon, the liberal bourgeois, Popular Democratic Party (PPD), held a similar rally.

Such meetings and demonstrations as these are an almost everyday experience in Lisbon today.

But even these events were overshadowed the following week by a massive demonstration of almost 100,000 on the evening of August 20th. The march was called by numerous workers and tenants committees, revolutionary councils and popular assemblies, against fascism and imperialism and in support of a document written by some COPCON (international security force) officers. Armoured vehicles with soldiers and sailors from several barracks were cheered onto the march. Tractors pulling trailers holding farm labourers and workers from the militant south joined the march.

For almost three hours the demonstration snaked its way through the narrow little streets from the Terreiro do Paco, the vast square overlooking the harbour at the bottom of Lisbon's commercial district, to the Rue San Bento beside the old Parliament building which now seats the Constituent Assembly.

Through the immigrant areas where unemployment is high, the marchers chanted—"No to sackings! For the right to work!" Further along old men and women with young children watched nonplussed from open windows and balconies, some waved and joined in with the slogans.

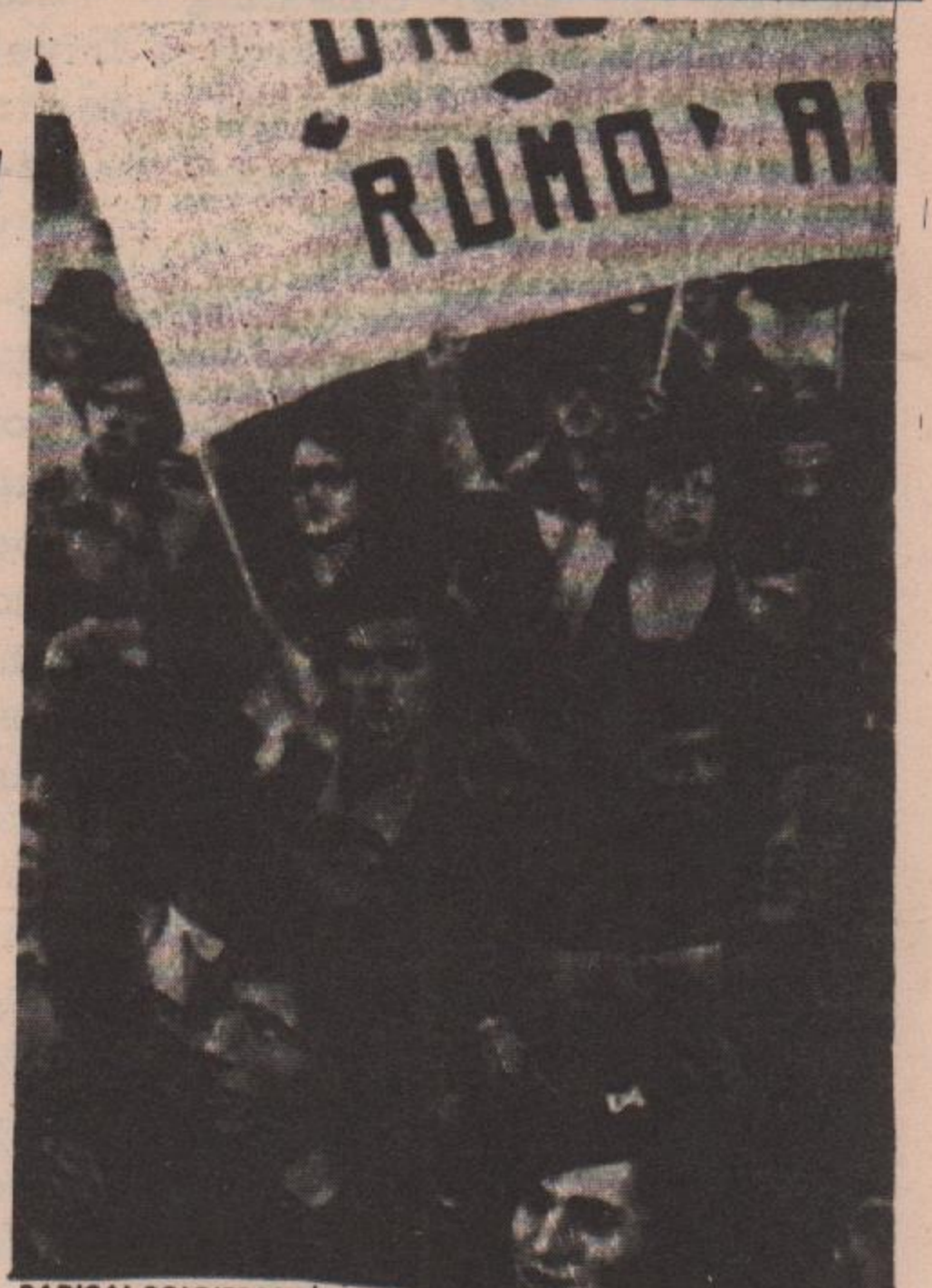
But unlike the singing, street dancing and red carnations which followed the April 25th revolution last year, this demonstration was a tight-faced and disciplined expression of the crisis which now grips Portugal.

### MANIFESTATIONS

This, and other manifestations, appear as the tips of icebergs to the vision of the foreign observer. For the moment Portugal is locked in a profound debate, taking many forms, about the soul and future of the revolution. Vast shadows hang over Lisbon and the more revolutionary south, where the workers' advance has forced extensive nationalisations and agrarian reform and turned hundreds of factories and workplaces into test-beds of workers control.

In the conservative and predominantly peasant north the anti-communist offensive smoulders.

In the Armed Forces a strug-



RADICAL SOLDIERS IN LISBON  
The majority rages for control. The majority of the commanders, ten Armed Forces Movement (MFA) officers and the bulk of the military hierarchy have come out supporting a document presented by Major Melo Antunes calling for a credible government and a social democratic Portugal. Opposed to this is a document penned by some COPCON officers, claiming to provide a programme to defeat the reaction. It attacks the PCP and the MFA, especially for isolating the peasants. The fifth government headed by Vasco Goncalves stumbles on while the flamboyant 'left-wing' General Otelo Carvalho appears to compromise with Antunes.

The future of the revolution in Portugal is likely to be decided if and when these shadows materialise.

## WILSON'S SOLUTION

BY DAVE WILSON

COINCIDING WITH THE new and appalling unemployment figures that now total just over 1,250,000 was Harold Wilson's sudden and dramatic broadcasts over the Radio and TV, appealing to the "Nation" to back his anti-inflation measures.

Wilson sheds a quick crocodile tear for "the lowest paid, large families, pensioners, long-term sick, and disabled." He assures us that the Government has "a duty to protect" such people.

Wilson then denies millions of working people food price controls because he is afraid that these may "cut manufacturers and traders profit to the bone..."

### DOCUMENTARY

Newspaper journalist, John Pilger's recent TV documentary "Smashing Kids" exposed the plight of families caught up in unemployment and who couldn't live decently on the full Social Security benefits. Two million parents, says Pilger, go to bed hungry to feed their kids.

These are the people whom Wilson pledges to support. His hard-faced and anti-socialist measures, deny them any help, while thousands of families are driven into the same corner.

Harold Wilson gives a special kick in the teeth to workers who elected him after defeating the Tory pay laws. This kind of drivel forms the backbone of his speech: "Don't let minorities take decisions for you... Stand up to any who seek to cash in on the difficulties... Don't let them (!!) talk you out of it." Talk them out of what, Mr. Wilson? Defending their living standards? Is it to be a crime for workers to defend their living standards, and fight for better ones, at a time when the spectre of the 30s haunts every working class family?

### SOLUTIONS

The various "solutions" offered by Wilson, Healey, Murray and Jones can do no worker any good. A £6 wage rise will be eaten away in as many months by inflation. And who guarantees that all workers will receive it anyway?

What is happening is that the gains that the working class have won since 1945 are being lost. The same path which led to the Tories return in 1970 is being trodden by people such as Barbara Castle, who tells working women "To stop moaning" about food prices, and that today's hardships are "the facts of life."

Wilson's TV "Action Replay" of 1964-70s performance, can only have even more disastrous consequences for the labour movement. The Chartist has warned many times that the leadership's refusal to carry out its socialist pledges means for the working class, a fate worse than Heath! Wilson's speech marks his furthest retreat from Labour Election Manifesto, and foreshadows our warning becoming a bitter reality.

# THE CHARTIST

Monthly Journal of the Socialist Charter Movement.

Editor: M. Davis, 82 Loughborough Rd., London SW9. 01-733-8953

ONE OF THE demands most frequently raised by the Tribune Group and the Communist Party lefts in the Labour Party and Trade Unions is the call for import controls. This demand is a TRAP. Import controls, by trying to unload the worst effects of the crisis on workers overseas, can only play into the hands of the employers.

One of the best examples of this has been in the textile industry. In response to a wave of sackings sweeping the industry, the unions, like the Dyers and Bleachers, have called for import controls. The British Textile Corporation (BTC), made up of management and unions, has called for a 20% cut in imports. Left Labour MP, Michael Meacher has added his voice to the chorus. Lord Kearon, Courtaulds' (profits £125 million) chairman and "socialist" millionaire paid for hundreds of his workers to participate in a lobby of Parliament, at £12 a head, only to appear on TV to say it was a waste of time. Employers, clearly will not defend the right to work, only independent workers' action will do that.

Employers use the idea of import controls as a diversion. Britain's four biggest textile firms have substantial operations abroad. The

## The Import Controls Trap

'Economist', the employers' mouthpiece, pointed out "A lot of British companies putting workers on short-time are themselves operating in low-wage areas such as Taiwan, India, South Africa, and bringing their goods into Britain." Import controls would be used to monopolise the home market and jack up prices. They already make massive profits while sacking thousands.

For workers, import controls would be disastrous because others would retaliate, the market would shrink, workers would be sacked and wages driven down. Fewer workers would be expected to produce more goods for less money. Prices would rocket because cheaper goods would no longer be available. Nor would workers in other countries be able to buy British goods. Thus, workers in one country would be set against workers in another... while bosses sacked them at will, destroyed competitors in the resulting trade war, intensified work rates and grabbed bigger profits.

The lust for profits in textiles knows no bounds. Between 1963 and 1973, productivity rose 86% per worker. Now, the employers demand more from a pruned workforce. The employers' offensive must be met with class policies. A pre-condition for this is a fight for 100% trade unionism in an industry with large reservoirs of non-union labour. An immediate fight must begin to unionise the industry fully.

Organised workers must reject the suicidal slogan of import controls and demand the withdrawal of those that exist. Stewards should make efforts to develop links with workers in other countries to plan joint action against a common enemy.

The rubber workers of Dunlop-Pirelli showed the way, when they organised an international strike. Fights for work-sharing without loss of pay and factory occupations, opening the way for workers' inspection of firms' books and workers' control, are the real ways to fight unemployment, not the reactionary trap of import controls.

## ABORTION: FIGHT NOT OVER YET

BY LIZ ADAMS

ALTHOUGH James White's Abortion (Amendment) Bill fell at the end of this Parliamentary session, we have not seen the last of reactionary attempts to introduce further restrictions into the 1967 Abortion Act. The Select Committee has recommended that it be reconstituted in November—when some form of restrictive legislation will be concocted. The Select Committee's recent interim report leaves one in no doubt about that.

This report makes no attempt to condemn James White's Bill. The proposals concentrate on calling for greater bureaucratic controls over clinics and referral agencies; more power over disclosure of information (ostensibly to investigate professional misconduct); and restrictions on access to abortion after 20 weeks. One can be sure that in the light of James White's Bill, such proposals are a dangerous step towards strengthening the apparatus for tracking down those women and doctors who are a party to abortion—before a real clampdown on the right to abortion itself is introduced. The Select Committee is preparing the ground for its real attack to be launched this autumn. The 20 week limit is totally opposed to the policy of the National Abortion Campaign (NAC). Women must have the right to decide whether or not to continue a pregnancy. If the Select Committee was really concerned with helping women they would have called for freely available abortion facilities on the National Health Service.

Delegates to the TUC and Labour Party conferences must fight for the position of a women's right to choose; opposing the reconstitution of the Select Committee and rejecting their highly

suspect report. The TUC agenda includes resolutions supporting a woman's right to choose from the Tobacco Workers' Union and the Association of Scientific and Managerial Staff. Eight constituency Labour Parties have put forward resolutions to the Labour Party Conference. The most comprehensive of these is the Dulwich CLP resolution which calls not only for the demand, a woman's right to choose, but recognises that "the major abort-

ion abuses which need correcting lie in the unequal provision of NHS abortions in the different parts of the country.

The NAC is busy planning its autumn campaign. A central part of this is the two-day conference on the 18-19 October at Imperial College, London. Please come and help NAC plan the way forward in the campaign for a woman's right to choose.

(Contact National Abortion Campaign at 30, Camden Road,

## FUNDS APPEAL

### for Minority Report on T.C. Belfast visit

We reprint below a letter from the Defence Committee for the three official Trades Council delegates, (Mike Knowles, Sec. and Gerry McMorrough of Hackney Trades Council and Rosemary Sales of Barnet Trades Council) expelled from an ostensible 'fact-finding' delegation to Belfast. The background to the visit can be found in a statement produced by the Defence Committee, which shows very clearly the rigged 'conducted-tour' nature of the visit. It was for objecting to the rigged character of the visit that the three were expelled from the delegation. Their minority report is now available.

TRADE UNION COMMITTEE FOR FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND

Secretary  
M. Davis,  
18, Lordship Pk.  
London N. 16.  
9th August 1975.

Dear comrades,  
As you may or may not be aware a defence committee, to defend the three members expelled from the 14 person Greater London Association of Trades Councils delegation to the north of Ireland on 3 July, has been

established to enable their case to be heard throughout the London trade union and labour movement. Already the three members expelled from the delegation have had difficulty in circulating a statement and gaining a democratic hearing.

The defence committee is in the process of reproducing a 'Minority Report' of the 'fact-finding' visit written by the three expelled members. We hope to distribute the Report throughout the London labour movement in the near future. Unfortunately, as with all defence campaigns the production and circulation of information, and particularly the detailed 'Minority Report', costs money.

We are therefore appealing through your press for financial support and donations for the defence campaign. We trust you will recognise the importance of this campaign, which is essentially about the democratic right of these three official Trades Council delegates to report on their findings in Belfast.

Please send donations to the Defence Campaign, c/o the above address.

Yours fraternally,

# PRESS FIGHT FOR CLOSED SHOP

BY IRENE MACDONALD (NUJ)

BLACKLEGS crossing the picket lines at the Birmingham Post and Mail were pinpointed at a recent NUJ conference as one example of the urgent need to institute a closed shop in the press.

As happens again and again in strike situations, editors can continue to publish newspapers while turning their backs on union members fighting for their rights. At Birmingham, as in many other provincial papers, proprietors can easily ignore strikers' demands while their revenue flows in, even though, as in this situation, they have locked out over 250 employees. Matters there have worsened with the arrest of pickets on charges of supposed 'obstruction'.

## resolution

What is ironic about the debate surfacing is that only four months ago the Annual Delegate Meeting—the supreme policy-making body of the NUJ—laid down a full resolution on the 100 per cent shop.

This was in the face of a kow-towing statement on Press Freedom issued by the monolithic National Executive Council as a sop to the newspaper proprietors worried about amendments to the Industrial Relations Act 1974. In that statement the NEC reneged on its membership who, for 55 years, have been campaigning for a closed shop. The Charter on Press Freedom, as it was laughingly called, exempted editors from Union membership if they wished not to join and, even further, stated that editors would be free to do their normal work in strikes.

## ballot

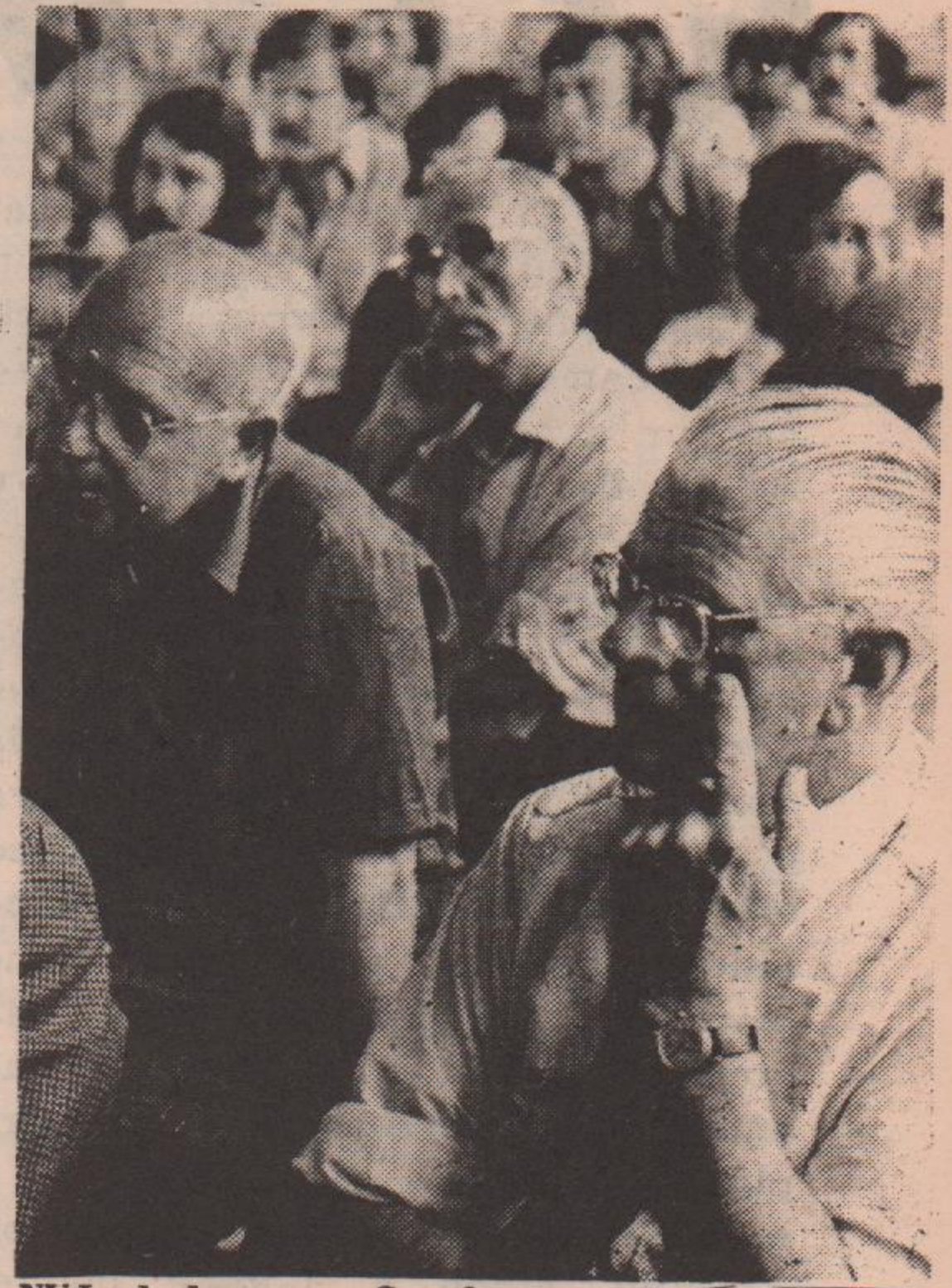
This policy was vehemently attacked in the ADM Cardiff resolution and, so the delegates thought, was abandoned. Not so, for in an outrageous move, a special delegate meeting was called for late July in order to push through a ballot on the whole membership to re-adopt the charter.

That meeting, which cost an almost financially bereft union an estimated £12,000 and which went against all democratic principles, passed the ballot motion by a slender majority of 14—190 against, 204 for. Most ironic of all, the Birmingham chapel, made up mostly of Post and Mail members then on strike, mandated its delegates for the ballot at a meeting when a large proportion were absent due to picket duty!

Peter Deeley from the Post and Mail, though mandated to vote for the ballot, spoke out against it saying 'A vote for the ballot is a knife in the back for our people in Birmingham.'

The meeting was conducted in a mood of antagonism and anger which erupted at one point into a near fight. General Secretary Ken Morgan, was verbally attacked on several occasions, members feeling, quite rightly, that he and the NEC had sold them out to the Press Barons.

Fortunately, a series of amend-



NUJ delegate Conference

ments changed the ballot from being one of acceptance of the Charter to acceptance of the Cardiff resolution.

## Hammersmith ban on private patients

AT A RECENT meeting, the porters at Hammersmith Hospital in West London decided to re-launch the campaign to rid the hospital of private patients once and for all.

Since Barbara Castle announced she was phasing out private beds from the NHS last year, nothing has happened and recently there were twenty-five private patients in the Hammersmith Hospital, five more than the supposed maximum.

The campaign in the past was only a partial success due to the total opposition by the management, scabbing by NALGO members and the difficulty of differentiating between private and NHS patients.

It was, therefore, decided to black two complete wards until the management removed the private patients from them. This course of action had not been taken before because of the inconvenience it would have caused to the NHS patients. However it was felt that the time had come when nothing else would succeed and that the damage done to the NHS over the past 25 years is incalculable compared to possible inconvenience to a few NHS patients now.

In the last few days more sections of workers in the hospital are backing the ban, most important being the kitchen staff.

## Tyneside challenge for Wilson

by Graeme Atkinson

FOR THE LAST six weeks, 5,000 workers have been on strike at Swan Hunter shipyards on Tyneside. Yet, outside the North East, the strike has gone unnoticed, with a virtual TV and Press blackout in operation. A look at the issues soon tells us why that is. The 5,000 are ancillary workers and furnishing trades men. Of these, 3,000 are in the General and Municipal Workers Union, the others in the AUEW, EEPTU, UCATT, and the Furniture Trades Union. In January the men got a £4 pay award, plus £3.60 spread — very thinly — over the next 12 months. Meanwhile, the Boilermakers and APEX members won an increase of £8.30 plus £2 next January. So that the differential between the Boilermakers, who set the pace in shipyard wages, and other workers was not further widened, it was agreed to demand parity with the Boilermakers award (the differential is at present £20). Swan's first offer amounted to a derisory 40p.

## Wilson

A mass meeting of all the men decided on immediate strike action, only 50 voting against. While this took place, Harold Wilson and the Labour leaders were dusting up their state wages policy, getting it ready to try where Heath failed. This policy makes £6 the maximum rise and clearly contravenes the shipyardmen's just claim. Wilson's wages policy is the screen which Swan Hunters are hiding behind. This only makes the strikers more determined to win the full claim.

On July 25th, Swans upped their offer to £5.50 payable in two stages £3.50 now, £2 later. Stewards and men rejected the offer. They also defeated attempts by union officials to force a return to work, acceptance of the offer, and along with it, Wilson's wage laws. Two involved in trying to swing the fight the employers' way have been Ken Baker, right wing official of the GMWU, and George Arnold, Regional Official of the AUEW, and

Chairman of the Tyneside Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. Baker has consistently tried to separate out his members from the lads in the other unions, especially by having separate mass meetings. Arnold, probably thinking he was still at C A Parsons factory, where he foisted a £6 deal on his members, at one stage signed an agreement with Swans.

## rebuff

The biggest rebuff for the officials came after the expulsion of stewards from the talks on Friday August 15th. The following Monday the stewards met and insisted on being present at all further talks with the employers.

The union officials' enthusiasm for collapsing the strike has been backed up by 'left' Michael Foot's Department of Employment, who have stated that the workers demand is unacceptable as it goes against the government's economic policy. As the Financial Times stated so bluntly "This means that a mass meeting of strikers... will be faced with a prospect of returning to work with no extra money, or staging a prolonged challenge to the government's policy".

## blackmail

Now Swans £5.50 offer has been withdrawn, and replaced by... wait for it... 55p! There have also been Press efforts to blackmail strikers by alleging that shipbuilding orders from the Shah of Iran to the value of £250 million might be cancelled; it has yet to be established whether he has even placed an order.

Despite the employers' attacks, union officials cowardice, and Press blackmail, the strike holds firm. A mass meeting at the Newcastle City Hall on Saturday 23rd August rejected Swan's pathetic 55p. in a secret ballot vote. AUEW steward Norman Laffey from Swan's Hebburn yard, reflected the mens' feeling when, urging continuation of the strike, he said "All we've heard about is government policy. We are fighting Swans... we've got pride and that's what counts. There is no going back".

He was ably supported by other Hebburn stewards Barney Read and Neil Carmichael. The vote is a big blow to both employers and union officials, who have tried to use the proposed nationalisation of shipbuilding — jam tomorrow! — to head off the fight that is taking place here and now.

## determined

As Swan's labourer Tommy Atkinson told the Chartist, "Swans can pay the money. Sir John Hunter can pay it, get fined or whatever. What happens to him after he's paid us is nothing to do with us. We want this money... we aren't bailing Swans out; we haven't been out this long to go back with nothing. Wilson must be in a world of his own if he can't see that workers won't accept his £6".

The strike is now a vital test for the pay laws. Already the shipyard workers 10 miles away at Sunderland on the River Wear have been denied a similar claim. They must link their struggle with the fight of the Tyneside men who are determined to win and must not be left to fight alone. The labour and trade union movement must see to it that they are given every support.

THE MYTH OF  
'ORTHODOX' TROTSKYISM

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SERIES NO. 2



Martin Cook CHARTIST PUBLICATION 25p

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# G.L.C. DEMOLISH HOUSING STRATEGY PLAN

by Ken Livingstone

AFTER TWO years in office at County Hall, the Labour group of the Greater London Council finally came forward with proposals for a housing strategy plan which they claimed could solve London's housing problems within the next 10 to 15 years. Discussions were held with the London Boroughs Association to get a joint agreement on the proposals contained in the plan. Within days of the agreement being reached with the London Boroughs Association, the GLC went back on the plan by cutting £100m from its housing budget in the current financial year. The housing strategy plan was finally destroyed at a meeting of the Labour Group on 22 July when a 3-year budget strategy was agreed which allowed for a nil growth budget in the following three years.

What cuts were made in this financial year? The GLC made a cut in capital spending on housing in 1975/76 of over £100m. Cuts have also been made on capital spending on other non housing programmes. The housing cuts can be broken down into 5 categories.

1. Acquisition of land for new housing - the budget included provision for £28m to be spent on acquiring new land as part of the increasing housing programme. This was cut by 50% to only £14m. The long term effect of this cut over the next 3 years will mean that we do not acquire enough land to continue a housing programme on any scale worthy of mention beyond 1980.

2. New houses bought - The budget for this year included £30m to be spent on buying up estates from private developers which they had been unable to sell. This has been cut by 30% and this means

that many houses which are now standing empty and would provide excellent homes will not now be purchased by the GLC.

## SLAUGHTERED

3. Municipalisation programme - This has been effectively slaughtered for all time with a cut of nearly 75%. The staff currently engaged on acquiring homes under the municipalisation programme will not have adequate work to keep them in full employment from October 1975.

4. Government cuts - Government pressure for cuts in home improvement and home loans led to a total cut of £45m in this area.

5. Cuts in Housing Association loans - Here a 50% cut of £15m was imposed.

New building is not being immediately cut, but it must begin to fall within 2 years as the supply of land runs out. Land acquisition by being halved in 1975/76, as well as the 3 following years, will mean that the current rate of building (only about 7000 a year) will fall to levels lower than those under the previous administration, before 1980.

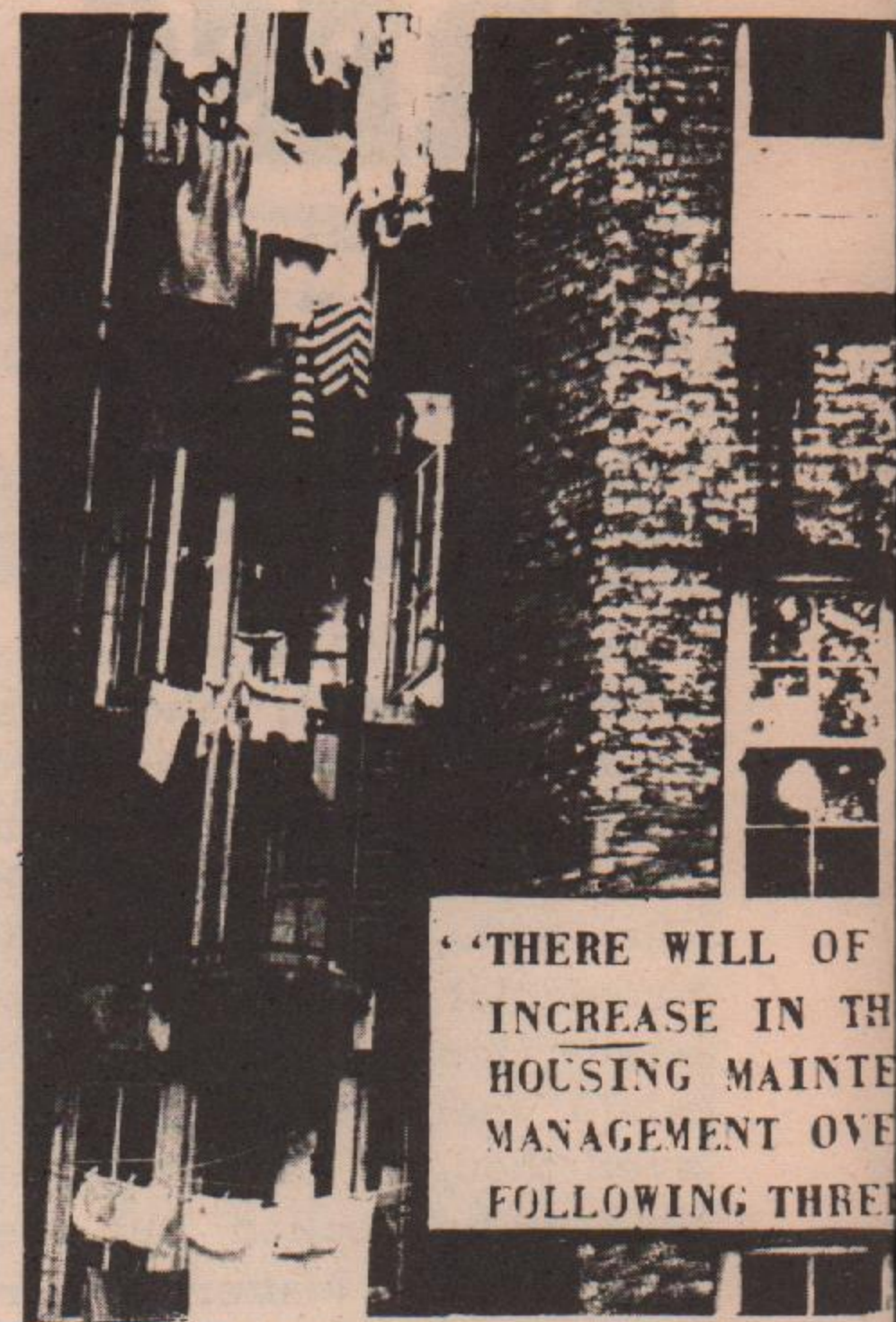
One could ask why it was that a Labour GLC made cuts on this scale in housing. The answer is supplied in document which have already been leaked to the press and quote the reasons behind this strategy. 'Cuts now would mean greater room for manoeuvre and less of a rating increase in the

run-up to the GLC elections. This could mean the difference between a Labour win in 1977 with a modified housing programme or Labour losing with a higher but unacceptably expensive housing programme.'

At the GLC Labour Group meeting on 22 July the financial strategy for the years 1976/79 was agreed. This includes provision for a no growth budget. However, it is important to bear in mind that over the next three years the GLC must borrow £700m to re-finance existing loans. The money that will be borrowed to re-finance these loans is being borrowed at a much higher rate of interest than the existing loans - thus we will have to pay more out of revenue each year to meet debt charges. As we have agreed a no growth budget for the next three years, this means that in each year we will be paying more out of our annual budget in debt charges and less in providing services. It is estimated that if the current rates of interest remain in force, then we will be faced with a staff cut of 10% over the next three years as the jobs the officers are currently doing disappear from under them. Redundancies will be as high as 10% of all GLC staff.

## REALITY

There will of course be no increase in the services of housing maintenance and management over



these following three years. It is important to bear in mind that the services now being provided are basically those inherited from the last administration.

This is the reality of the housing programme that the GLC are pro-

## Cuts Campaign Prepares

FOLLOWING THE successful 'Labour Against the Housing Cuts' conference in July, the organisers have been busy preparing a broadsheet report on the conference which will be distributed to all Labour Party management committees in September. They have also drawn up plans to hold a meeting with Shelter at the annual conference and to launch a campaign in every London borough inviting tenants and homeless families along with the Labour

## CONFERENCE C

BACKING UP the Campaign against a resolution from the Norwood Labour Conference. The resolution calls

- reversal of ALL cuts
- nationalisation of banking, insurance and other services
- councillors to refuse to implement cutbacks in services.

IT SEEMS certain now that Frank Tomney, MP for Hammersmith North, will soon be formally asked to retire at the next general election by his constituency party. Like Reg Prentice in Newham Northeast, another right wing Labour MP will be getting his just rewards for reactionary and anti-working class activities over the years. But in Hammersmith North, unlike Newham, the campaign against Tomney and the right wing goes back a lot farther - in fact 35 years to the day - in 1940 when the then left wing MP (and King's Councillor) D.N. Pritt was expelled by the national executive of the Labour Party for supporting the Soviet Union's invasion of Finland. So popular in the area was Pritt that, standing as an independent Labour candidate, he was re-elected in 1945 by a large majority. The official Labour party candidate lost his deposit.

In 1950 the right wing were fully in control of the local party. Frank Ing, a local councillor and secretary of the party, told me how in those days he was one of only two left wingers and how they lost votes on the GMC by 60 votes to 2. For the general election that year the party adopt-

ed a G&MWU nominated candidate Frank Tomney, a local G&M branch secretary. The right wing this time organised better and unexpectedly, Tomney won. He has been the MP ever since. For a number of years from his, the local party's and his union's

point of view, it was a cozy situation. But in the 1960's as new faces appeared in the party the left wing gradually gained control.

Frank Ing, who joined at sixteen and has been in the party

for forty years, told me, "In the 1960's the old agent Singleton went, we gained the chair and I became secretary. Since that time Tomney has been in a bit of a dilemma. Who does he serve - his right wing union masters or his left wing party? But by that time he had been so involved and entrenched with the right wing that he has gone along with them and this is where the friction has developed. We found ourselves increasingly more in conflict with him. He is shockingly right wing, not only on the right wing of the labour party but right wing in Parliament. He is involved in supporting the most reactionary of things. He believes in flogging and hanging. He took up the case of the lads who were found guilty of the affray against some black youths in North Kensington. He thought that the seven years they got was too harsh! He thought the 'Shrewsbury Two' got all they deserved and was pro-America

# Another Newham in Hammersmith ?

Clive Pullinger talks to Frank Ing, Hammersmith North CLP.

## CHARTIST PUBLIC MEETINGS

### AFTER NEWHAM -

### WHAT NEXT FOR LABOUR LEFT

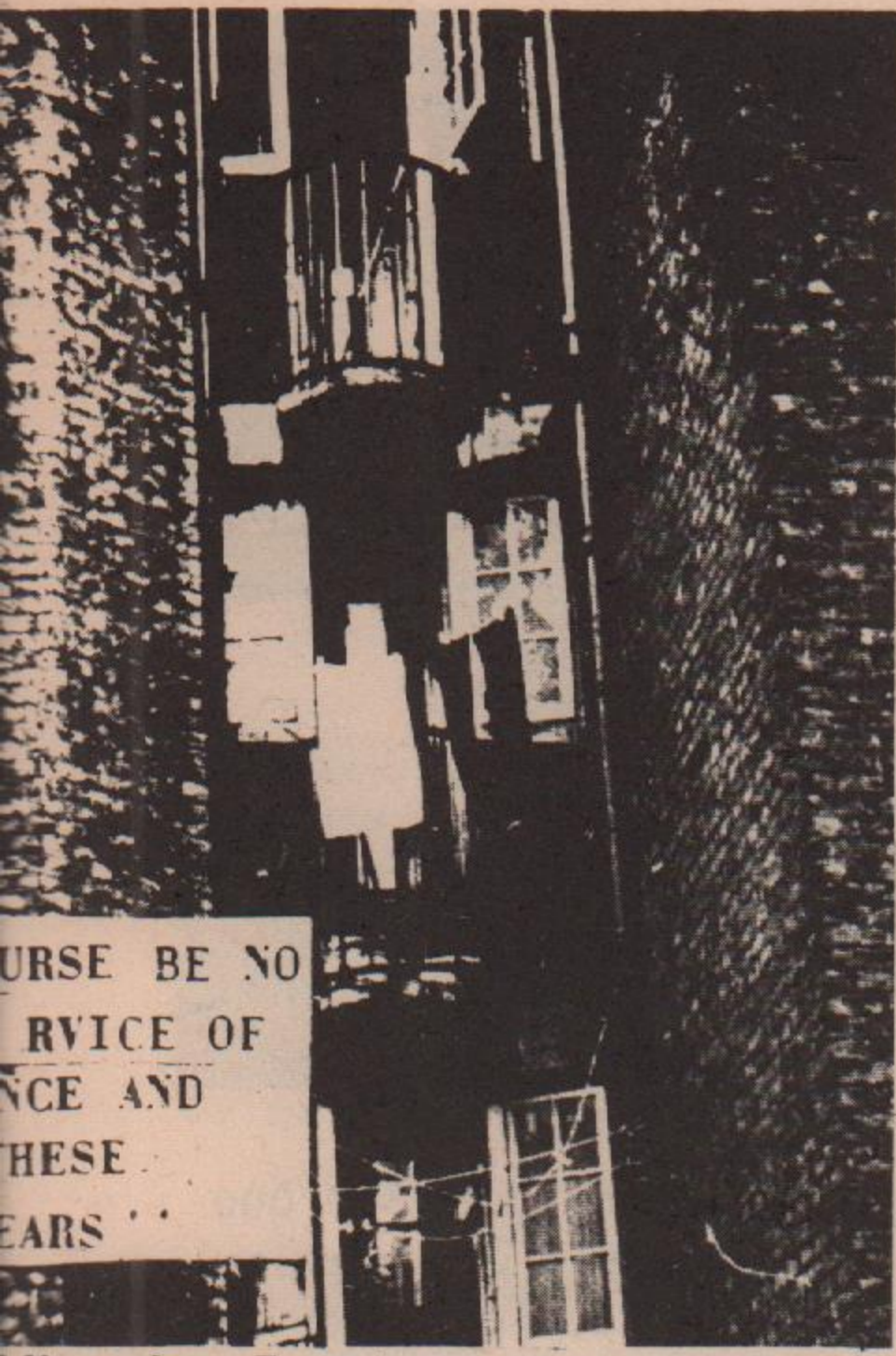
Main Speaker **Tony Kelly** (Newham N.E. CLP)

#### MANCHESTER

8pm Thursday 18th Sept  
Hulme Labour Club  
Bonsall St Mc15

#### BLACKPOOL

6.30pm Monday 29th Sept  
The Victory Counce St  
Blackpool Central



...ing for London in the coming years. It is crucial that we now begin a public debate on the full meaning of these cuts for Londoners living in bad housing conditions before it is too late to stop them.

**Report**

Party against these cuts. Make sure that your GMC and Trades Union affiliate to the Campaign, invite a speaker along to our next meeting and help to launch a campaign in your own local borough. It is vital that we begin to organise immediately because the cuts and continuing and getting worse.

Labour Against Housing Cuts, Camden Road, N.W.1.

**CHALLENGE**

At the Housing Cuts comes a Party to this year's Party

and major monopolies rents and rates, or to

over Vietnam. Now there is no doubt that the majority of the Party feel they want a member in Parliament that represents the views of the Party. He is never going to do that."

Tomney and Bill Jones, the regional organiser, were present at a special executive committee meeting on the 30th of August 1974 which recommended to the GMC that they should consider a motion from Collingham ward that the MP should retire at the next general election.

However, before the GMC could consider the motion, the October general election intervened and Reg Underhill ruled that the matter had to be taken back again to the EC. Because Tomney was ill at the beginning of the year, no action was taken until Easter. After procrastinating for some time, Tomney agreed to attend a reconvened special executive meeting on the 29th of August this year. As we go to press, it seems that a similar vote to last year, 15 to 2, will emerge and the motion will go to the September or October GMC. It is up to that meeting to convene a special GMC in not less than 28 days, when the final vote will be taken.

# Loyalist threat behind Convention stalemate

COLIN KENNEDY

THE CURRENT CRISIS in the six counties of the North of Ireland, centring around the disputes within the Constitutional Convention, once again poses the threat of open conflict between the Protestant and Catholic sections of the population.

The attempt to impose British-style 'solutions' on problems concerning the unity of the Irish nation is once again proving a practical impossibility for any Westminster Government. The march of events since the original 'power-sharing' efforts of the Sunningdale Agreement, and its downfall at the hands of the Protestant Loyalist Lock-out of May last year have revealed the processes at work behind the failures of these British solutions.

The current debates within the Constitutional Convention hinge on the discredited conception of power-sharing. The SDLP is demanding the right of a place within any executive body governing the affairs of the six counties. The United Ulster Unionist Council (UUUC), is determined to use its dominant position to ensure that only the majority Unionist parties should be allowed to control the statelet.

The UUUC has offered the SDLP some type of 'power-sharing' role, in the form of permission to chair certain inter-party committees. But even the SDLP ultra-moderates have been obliged to state that such a plan would not meet the 'minimum' requirements of their party. The problem for the SDLP is that their 'maximum' programme of total power-sharing at executive level does not meet the minimum requirements of the great mass of the nationalist people of the North of Ireland.

**ULTIMATUM**

The collapse of the Constitutional Convention poses the threat of the return of the UUUC to the use of the UWC and paramilitary organisations against whatever measures the British Government throws up in an effort to hide their latest failure. Reports that the militant Ulster Loyalists have already made contingency plans for this situation have been widely featured in the national press. Merlyn Rees, Labour's Northern Ireland Secretary, received an ultimatum to this effect when he met the leaders of the various Loyalist parties and paramilitary organisations at the end of last month. Mr. Glen Barr, UUUC Convention member and one of the leaders of last year's Loyalist Lock-out, has given broad hints that the measures planned include the re-introduction of Protestant no-go areas, internal policing of Loyalist districts by members of the paramilitary groups, and the and the possibility of another lock-out.

But alongside the question of the intended actions of the militant Loyalist parties and groups, it has become evident that the British Army itself intends to play an active role in clamping down on any opposition to the Orange statelet. Over the past few months of heightening tension in the area, the Army has revealed that it understands the reason for its own presence

in the North of Ireland perhaps more clearly than the Labour politicians who are supposed to be controlling it. In the middle of the so-called UWC 'General Strike', the Army was to be found turning away masses of workers anxious to be allowed to stay at work. This was done, so it was said, in order to prevent 'confrontations'. As though the whole action wasn't a confrontation anyway! More recently we have heard the voice of General Frank King speaking out in opposition to the Government's policy of giving nominal recognition to the IRA 'truce' and the gradual release of Republican internees from Long Kesh. This supposedly non-political General called for open war against the nationalist areas and the stepping up of the use of internment without trial!

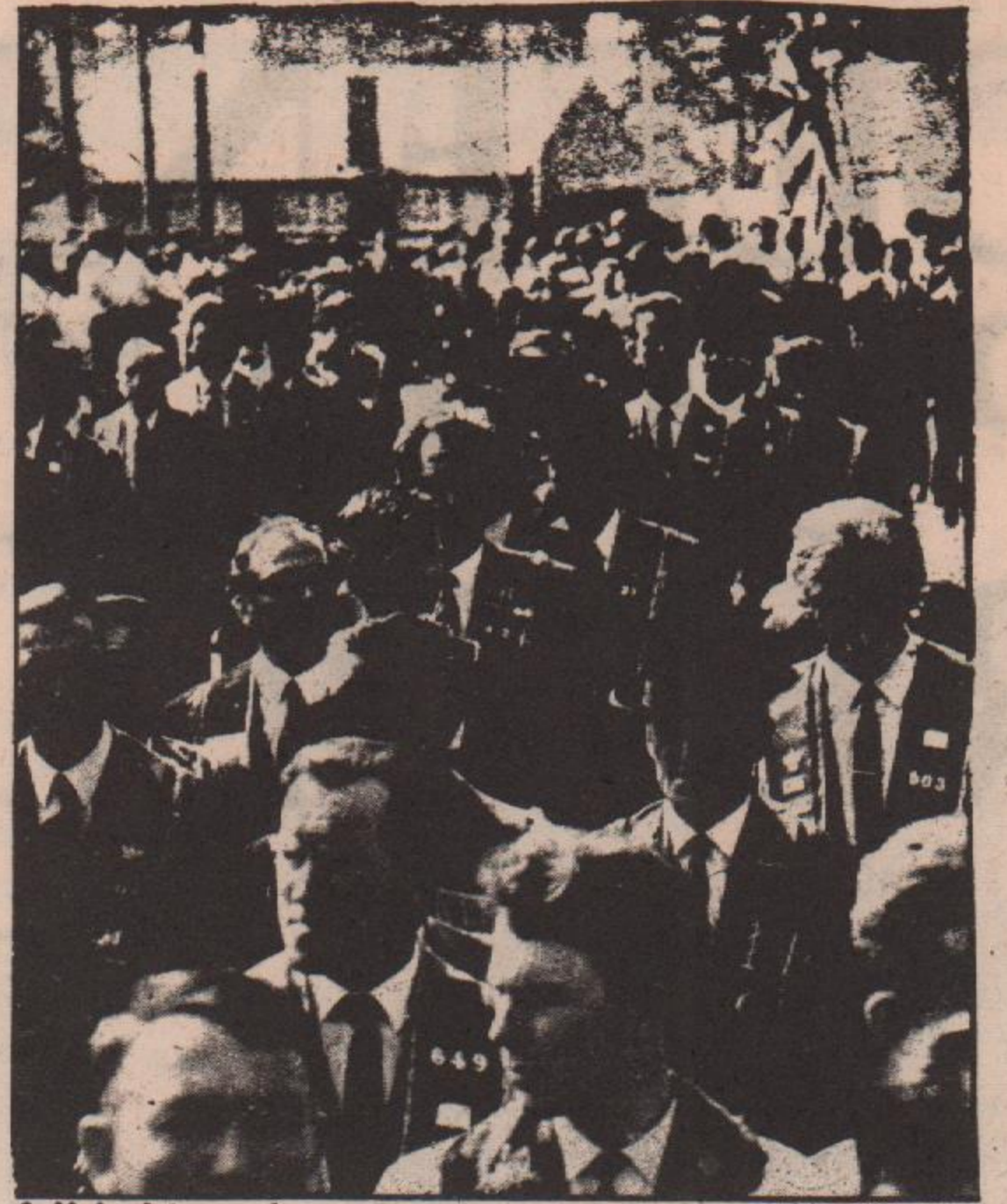


British troops arrest a Belfast demonstrator

But by far the most sinister aspect of Army support for the programme of the Ulster Unionists are the reports which first appeared in Britain in the pages of the "Sunday Times" on 8 June this year. In one report, direct evidence was quoted of collaboration between British soldiers and the paramilitary Loyalist groups. This collaboration involved the circulation of an Army compiled dossier on men who were thought to have some connection with the Republican movement. Photographs of these 'suspects', their names and addresses and telephone numbers were distributed to the very people who have claimed responsibility for the dozens of sectarian murders which have occurred over the last twelve months. The fact of this collaboration was confirmed more recently in the "Observer" newspaper.

**HARASSING**

With such evidence available it is impossible to imagine that the British Army, so used to the practises of harassing the nationalist with house-to-house searches, street-arrests and the right to intern active political campaigners without trial, could ever be used to defend the Catholic population against the Loyalist mobs which the UUUC and the UWC are threatening to unleash. On the contrary, the very presence



A Unionist march

of the British Army and the actions which it has carried out in defence of the Orange statelet simply reinforces the conviction that the Army supports the Loyalist cause. With such an ally willing to fight for the maintenance of Protestant domination, the Loyalist organisations have been emboldened in their actions against the Catholic areas.

This unity between the Army and the Loyalists is the greatest danger to the nationalist people of the North. The added danger that this Labour Government, or some future Tory administration might capitulate to the pressures of the Army demands to "take the kid gloves off" is immense. The task before socialists in Britain is to disarm the hawks of the British Army in their struggle against the national aspirations of the Irish people. The campaign to get the troops out of Ireland immediately is an essential service which the Labour movement can make in this to the fight for a united country to the fight for a united Ireland. It is imperative that this "Troops Out" campaign should be taken up in the next few months -- before the Army and its Loyalist allies take the opportunity to open up their own campaign for the return of the domination of Stormont Unionism.

**Fight Conspiracy Charges**

14, 15, 16...now probably 20 supporters of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign have been charged—like the Shrewsbury pickets—with conspiracy. In this case, conspiracy to break the Incitement to Disaffection Act. The charges relate to a leaflet for British soldiers. Those charged face extremely heavy sentences. The trial is due to start on 29 September 1975. DROP THE CHARGES..... protest meeting on the growing use of conspiracy charges.....

Conway Hall, 7.30 Monday, 15 September.

Speakers will include (subject to confirmation):

- John Miller TGWU
- Joan Maynard MP
- Eric Tomlinson
- Paul Foot
- Alastair Renwick
- Jack Dromey NCCL
- George Anthony AUEW
- Wendy Butlin (a defendant)

Defend the 16 Campaign, Labour Movement Committee, c/o 84 Claverton Street, London, SW1V3AX

# DEFEND THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION!

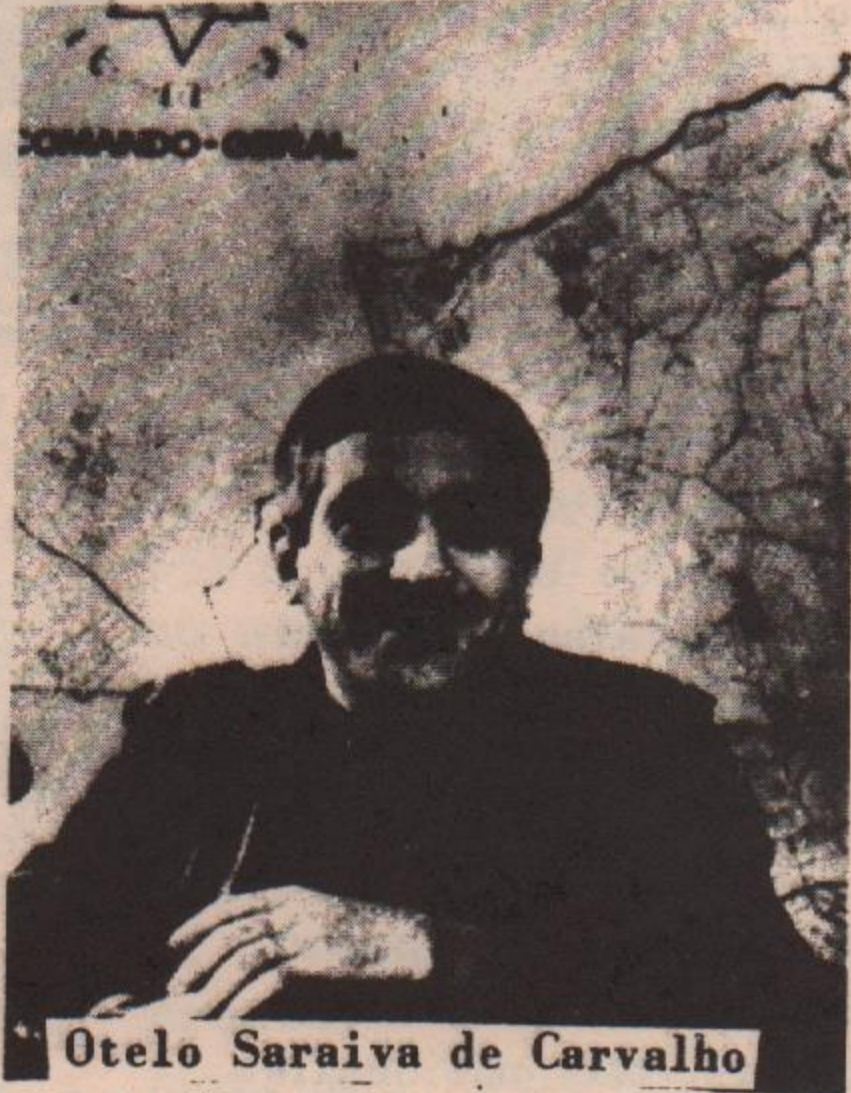
THE FUTURE of the Portuguese revolution hangs in the balance. As we go to press the shaky government of Vasco Gonçalves seems doomed to fall. President Costa Gomes, himself, told his latest ten-man cabinet that they might not have long to serve. However it is still far from clear who will replace them. On the right, stands Antunes and behind him, Soares, the the brazen pro-capitalist backers of the 'Antunes Document', which rejected "a socialist society of the East European type" calling deceptively for "pluralism and democracy". This document earned Antunes and eight other signatories immediate suspension from the Supreme Revolutionary Council but still continues to win support from the right-wing elite sections of the Armed Forces such as the cavalry, the paratroops etc.

On the left stands Otelio Carvalho, who in a counter-document issued by COPCON labelled the Antunes plan "right-wing" and called once again for workers' councils and organs of "popular power" organised on a non-partisan basis. Behind him are the radicalised regiments such as The First Light Artillery (RAL 1) and COPCON as well as some of the groups to the left of the Communist Party. The Navy also supported the COPCON proposals while pledging support to Prime Minister Gonçalves, object of the moderates' fury, as an interim measure. Carvalho, himself, favours Gonçalves' resignation. The CP, who have so far backed Gonçalves, continue to vacillate in the centre. Their leader, Cunhal, in a futile attempt to paper over the cracks in the Armed Forces Movement, said in a press conference (August 21st), that both the moderates' plan and that of Carvalho had their good and bad points. It is likely that, in the near future, the CP will be forced to drop Gonçalves and do a deal, either with Carvalho or Antunes.

## UNHOLY ALLIANCE

However the recent attempts by Carvalho to reach a "tentative agreement" with the moderates on a compromise plan - a plan not submitted to COPCON - represent a dangerous manoeuvre on his part. It comes as no surprise that the left-wing of the Armed Forces rejected this unholy alliance and Carvalho has been forced to admit that "there is no agreement on some fundamental points". Cunhal's statements that he would be willing to enter a government with the MFA moderates must also be condemned. The revolution can not be held back at will. The Popular Democrats and the Socialist Party and their backers in the MFA around Antunes, represent the interests of the remaining Portuguese bourge

BY GEOFF BENDER

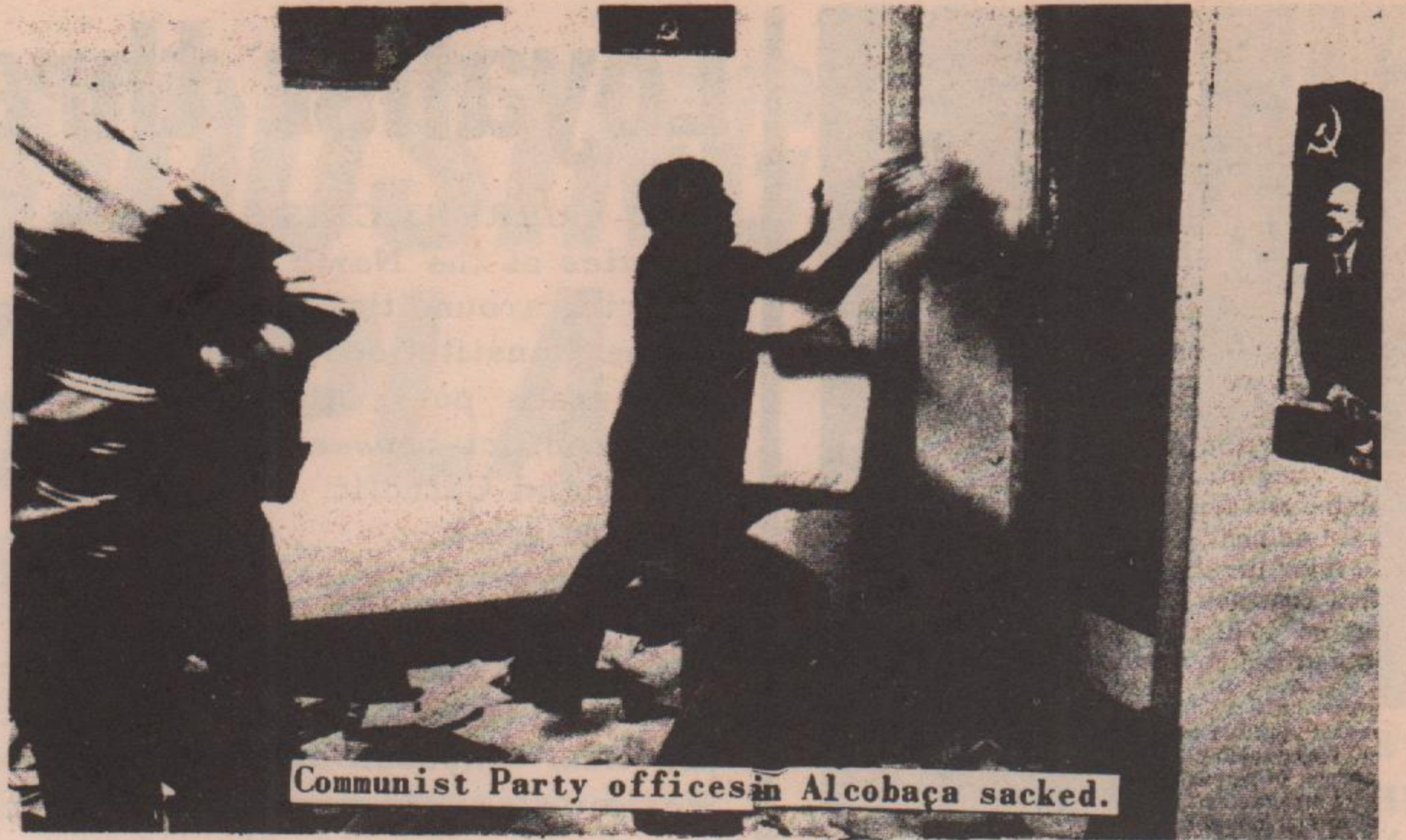


Otelio Saraiva de Carvalho

oisie and world imperialism. The left-wing of the MFA and the Communist Party represent, in a distorted fashion the pressures of the working-class. Any government based on these opposing camps can only disarm the working-class and prepare the way for reaction. The massive left-wing march for Carvalho (August 20th), strongly supported by the most radicalised soldiers and sailors and sections of the CP rank-and-file and the left groups shows the way forward. What is needed is a government of the Communist Party and Carvalho's supporters, based on the COPCON proposals for workers' councils and seeking the support of the left groups and the radicalised soldiers, sailors and airmen. The support of the Navy, RAL 1 and COPCON for such a government can be assured. Such a government could mobilise the working-class, in and out of uniform, against the reaction, preparing the way for a government really responsible to the working-class organised in the councils. It is for this reason the CP fear above all the COPCON proposals and the real development of the workers' councils. The Party's opposition to these councils has contributed to their present isolation from the most militant workers, stunted the growth of the councils and prolongs the current impasse.

## REACTION

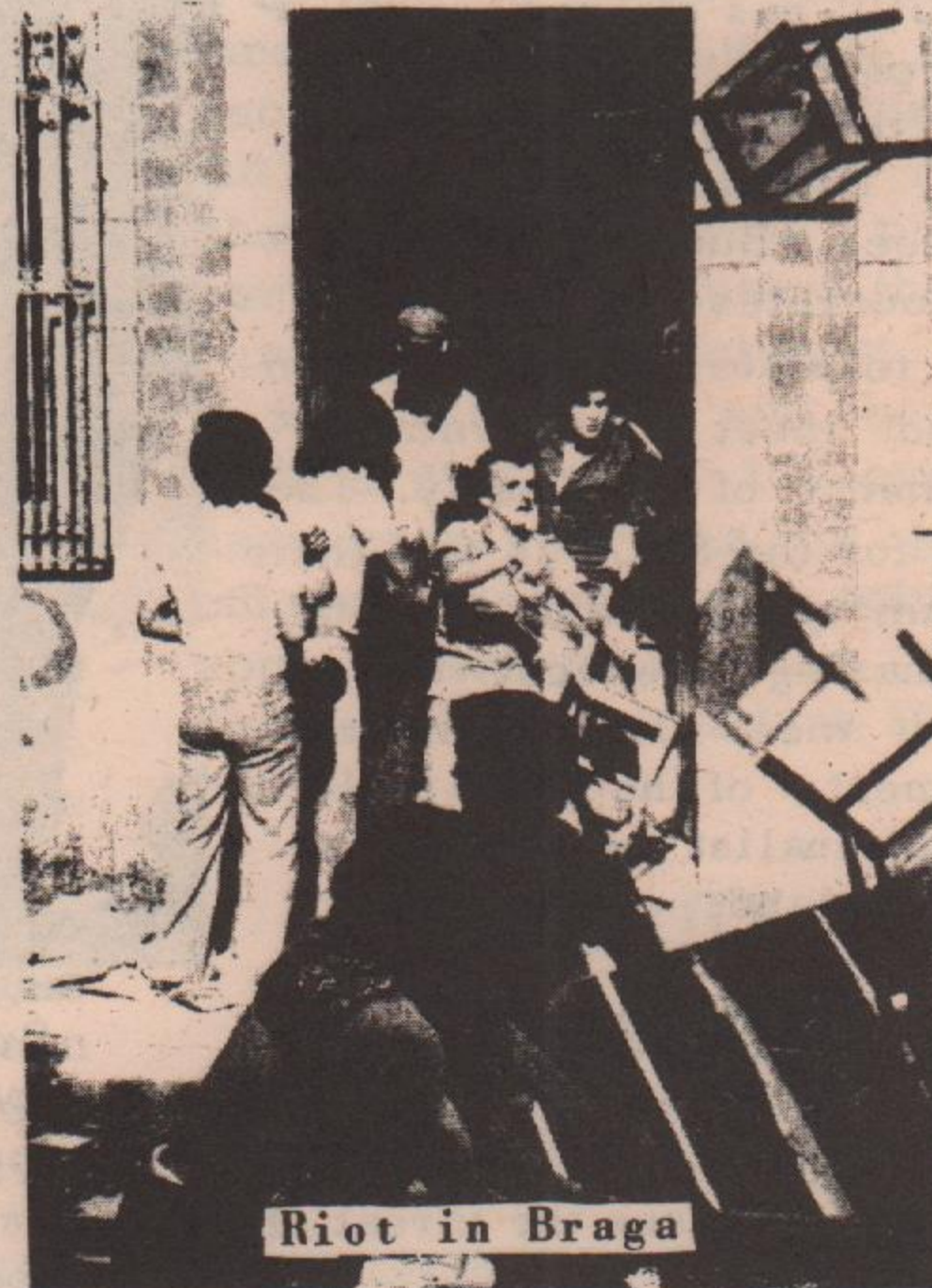
Meanwhile, in the North, in the wake of the Socialist Party's campaign against Gonçalves and the CP the Catholic Church has come to the fore as the mobiliser of reaction. In Braga, thousands heard Archbishop Francisco Maria da Silva call for the restoration to the Church of Radio Renascença. "We want respect for public morality, and moral values. We want respect for basic human rights", said the Archbishop. His devout followers then demonstrated what he really meant, by launching an attack on the local CP offices, which,



Communist Party offices in Alcobaca sacked.

by the following morning were a smouldering ruin. In town after town the story has been the same. The craftsmen, farmers, small-businessmen and deeply religious peasants have attacked CP offices and members. Many Communists have been injured and local Party headquarters destroyed.

Where CP militants and troops have attempted to defend Party offices with small-arms fire the resulting deaths and injuries have further inflamed the anti-communist rioters. In Oporto a CP march was called off after the local offices were gelignited



Riot in Braga

It is ironic that the CP, for so long the backbone of the anti-fascist resistance, should now be the victims of this treatment. Largely responsible for unleashing the pent-up hostility of the northerners has been the recent campaigns of the Socialist Party. The CP leaders, too, must accept some of the blame. Having tried to gain power by clinging to the coat-tails of the leading factions in the MFA at any given time, they have completely failed to advance a programme capable of allaying the fears of the small business-men and peasants of the North, terrified of arbitrary collectivisation. Blame, too, must fall on the allies of Soares, the Social Democratic leaders of Europe, Wilson and Schmidt who along with the openly capitalist EEC ministers have refused aid to Portugal until a "stable democracy" exists. In reality, a stable regime of any sort would be possible only on the basis of the most massive aid. Also these "democrats" who howled over the closing of "Republica" have shown rather less concern over the lives and property of the CP militants in

the North.

With prices rising, and 300,000 officially unemployed in a population of 8½ million, an economic blockade by the West, the loss of the colonies and economic disruption resulting from the nationalisations the need for aid is a pressing problem for the Portuguese workers. The international labour movement must bring pressure to bear to end the blockade and to demand immediate Soviet aid to Portugal, despite the warnings of Ford and Kissinger.



The first task for all socialists in Portugal today is the defence of the CP against the reaction as the pre-condition for the advance of the revolution. Despite all their strike-breaking in the early days of the revolution, after April 25th. Despite their bureaucratic manoeuvring since, despite all their subservience to the military, the CP remains a bulwark of the workers' movement against the reaction. They have been forced to base themselves on the gains the working-class have made in spite of the CP leaders. A defeat for the CP now, would not be a defeat for Stalinism, but a defeat for the Portuguese working-class. Defence of the CP today is necessary for the future development of the revolution tomorrow - a development that will mean the workers' movement casting off its Stalinist misleaders. There must be no deals with the "moderates" - the most effective defence for the CP militants would be for the Party to support and develop the workers' councils and the creation of a government based on these and resting on the revolutionary workers', soldiers and sailors.

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**SOLIDARITY WITH THE PORTUGUESE WORKING CLASS!**  
**DEMONSTRATION SEPT 20TH**  
**SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS**

BOOK REVIEW: 'Ramsay MacDonald's Political Writings' Edited by Bernard Barker

# DENIAL OF REALITY

by Frank Lee

REFORMISM, in the narrow sense, represents the ideological penetration of the bourgeoisie into the workers' movement. The historical roots of reformism were to be found in the massing of super-profits from imperialist exploitation abroad. This has led to a "buying off" of sections the metropolitan working-class and the creation of a deeply conservative "aristocracy of labour" at home. What is the essence of this 'alien' class ideology? What is the 'world view' of reformism? Does it even have a world view or any sort of coherent ideology?

## REJECTION

Clues to some of the answers may be found in "Ramsay MacDonald's Political Writings", edited by Bernard Barker. MacDonald's writings, as would befit a practising Christian, are laden with empty idealism, amounting at times to a denial of objective reality. Most striking is MacDonald's belief in the primacy of thought, of ideas, in relation to the material world, and in relation to practice. He expresses this view thus; "If the people cannot construct Socialism in their minds they cannot build it into their institutions." Presumably the masses must undergo some sort of cerebral revolution before they can capture state power or, for that matter, even aspire to state power. His denial of objective reality is apparent in

his view of classes and the class struggle. He regards the class struggle as a method favoured by revolutionaries, a method which he, as a reformist and moderate, rejects. But what MacDonald and reformists generally fail to understand is that the class struggle is not a method, but a reality. MacDonald's denial of the class struggle is, in fact, a denial of this objective reality.

But MacDonald's rejection of the reality of the class struggle is an essential part of his—and the more general reformist—outlook. It is precisely this outlook that leads in practice to what Marxists call class collaboration. According to our reformist, "Socialism is no class movement. Socialism is a movement of opinion, not an organisation of status. It is not the rule of the working class; it is the organisation of the community." (1907: The Political Future of Socialism p.122)

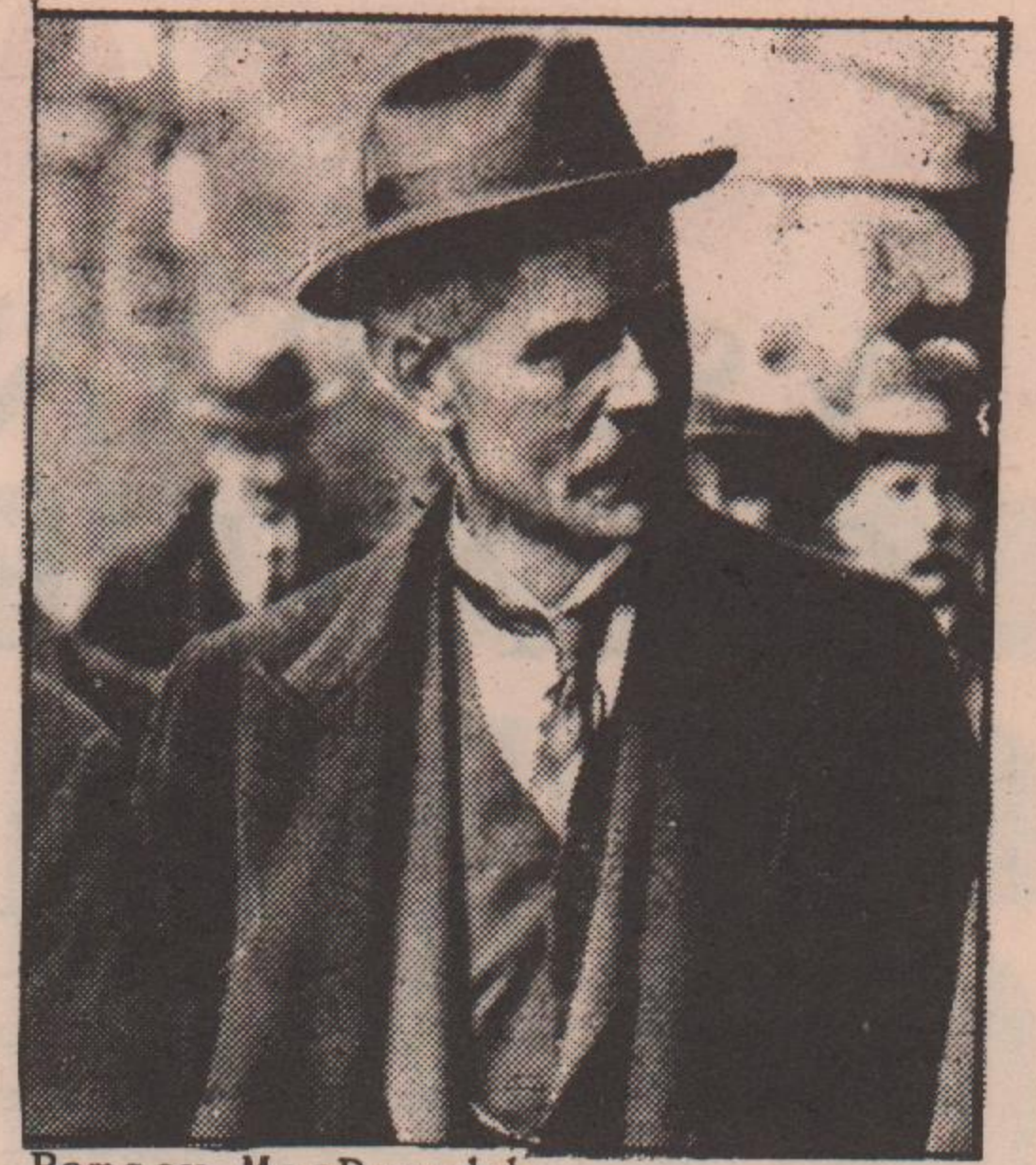
The last sentence is the most likely key to MacDonald's politics. He saw class conflict as a sort of dysfunction within the social organism, something which militated against social harmony, which disrupted "the community". (This idea is of course another characteristic reformist trait. The idea of a semi-abstract, classless, third force between capital and labour; viz. "the community" or the "national interest" or whatever the current euphemism is.) For MacDonald the method (sic)

of class struggle was to be rejected, and replaced by reasoned argument. Socialism was inevitable, "not because men are exploited or because the fabric of capitalism must collapse under its own weight, but because men are rational." (1905: Socialism and Society).

What then is MacDonald's socialism? According to Ramsey, "When we think systematically of the scattered fragments of reform promised by political parties, we see that they are but the foreshadowing of Socialism; when the tendencies begun by a score of experiments—factory laws, public health laws, municipalisation—are followed out, joined together, systematized, Socialism is the result." (Ibid. p.95). There we are; Socialism is the consummation of piecemeal reforms. In other words, Socialism has nothing to do with who holds state power—the bourgeoisie or the proletariat. In MacDonald's view the state is a disinterested social arbiter, the embodiment of social will.

## CO-OPERATION

"Thus in this country we have reached the stage where the Socialist programme is a matter of political fighting. A parliamentary election will give us all the power that Lenin had to get by revolution, and such a majority can proceed to effect the transition from capitalism to Socialism with the cooperation of the people, and not merely by edict." (Parliament and Revolution, p.232).



Ramsay MacDonald

Ramsay MacDonald did his best to practise what he preached. The problem he came up against—the problem which all reformists must face—was that the capitalist system will not just permit itself to be peacefully abolished through the gradual "systemisation" of reforms. The capitalist system made its own demands for 'reform' on the MacDonald Labour Governments. His attempts in 1931 to slash the unemployment benefits of the hundreds of thousands on the dole was a 'reform' which led to the virtual abolition of the Labour Party for a whole period, rather than the "transition" to Socialism.

This is the character of reformism. It presents pleasant, rationalist ideas to the working class, while in practice it leads the entire Labour movement into the greatest danger of defeat. That is why the study of reformism is essential to scientific socialists—in order to learn how to fight against it.

# ANGOLAN RIVALS FIGHT FOR CONTROL

THE revolution in Portugal is not just a national Portuguese affair. It is part of a world-wide process. Everyone in Portugal knows that it was the African wars above all which sparked off the revolution of April 1974.

Today, the fate of the workers' movement in Portugal still hangs largely on events which are taking place in far-away ex-colonies such as Angola and Timor.

Angola is an enormously rich part of Africa. If Portugal were to become a workers' state, faced with economic boycott from the Common Market and the United States, it could be a matter of life and death whether a strong alliance could be forged with the workers of Angola and other countries of the so-called "Third World". So it is essential that the revolutionary forces in Portugal do all possible to assist their comrades in the former colonies to throw off imperialist rule.

Three rival liberation movements are fighting for control in Angola. The MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) is numerically smallest, reported to consist of 17,000

men under arms. But it now has control of the capital, Luanda, and much of the coast, including some of the economically richest areas. It is less tribally based than the other movements, its main support lying with urban workers, especially in Luanda. It has antagonised Western and South African financial interests by naming eight giant foreign companies, which it has promised "will be chased from our national territory and have all their assets and equipment seized". Many Portuguese whites, who have been radicalised by the revolution in Portugal and have decided to live in black Angola have joined the MPLA. The movement obtains arms and support from the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Mozambique, Tanzania, and other countries which have adopted an anti-imperialist stance.

## bitter struggle

The other two movements are tribally based and anti-Marxist. The FNLA (National Front for the Liberation of Angola) is based on the Bakongo tribe of the north. It is the largest movement, with

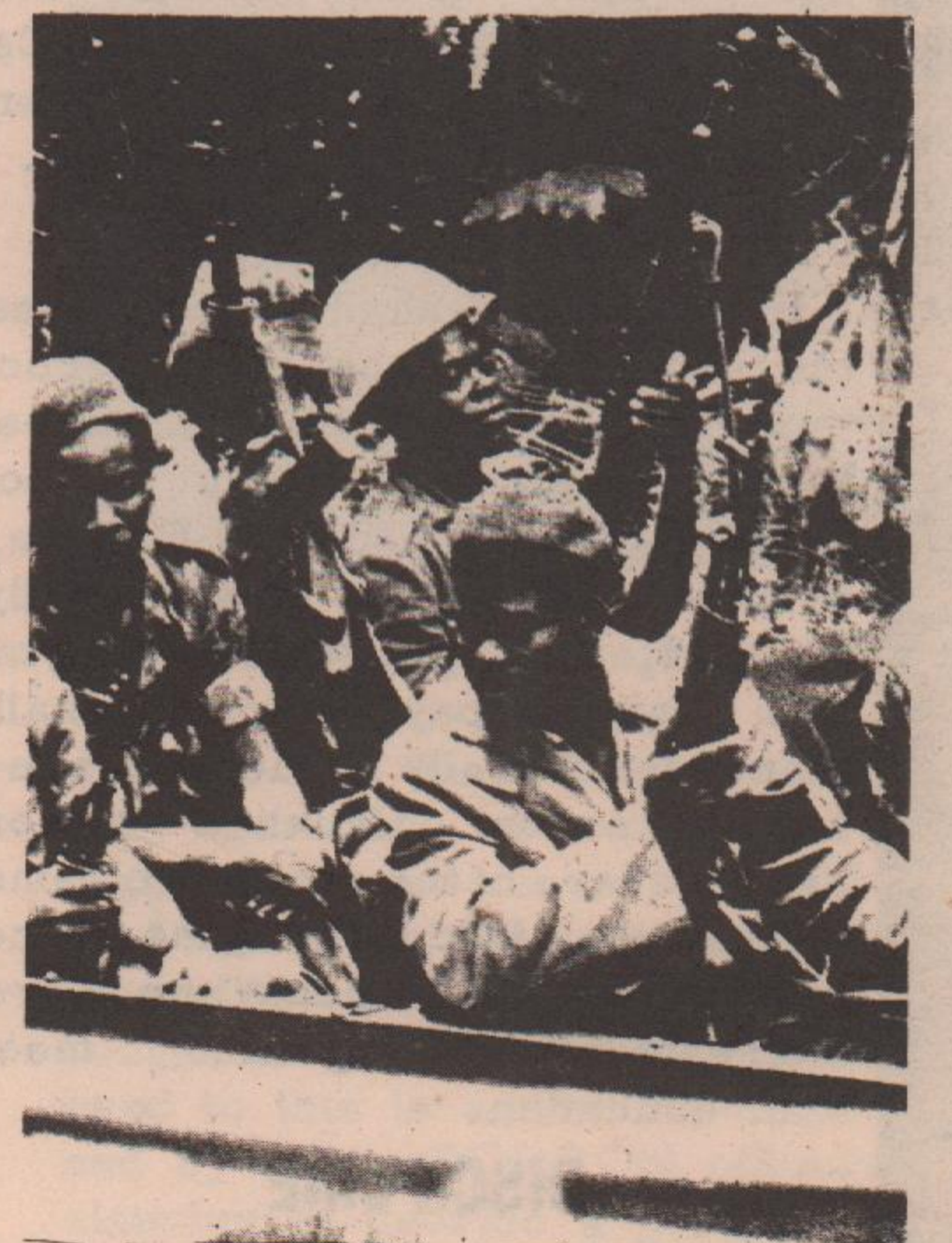
# CONTROL

Chris Knight

about 30,000 men. Its backers include the reactionary President Mobutu, some ultra-conservative white Portuguese, the Chinese government, the Americans, and South African and Western iron ore, mineral, diamond, and oil companies.

The third movement, UNITA (Union for the Total Liberation of Angola) is based on the Ovimbundu tribe, largest tribe in the South. Like the FNLA it is backed by the West.

A bitter struggle is going on between the FNLA and the MPLA; at present the MPLA controls the capital, and most of Angola's seaboard, and seems to have the upper hand. But it is vital that the left AFM and the workers' movement in Portugal resist the temptation to "wash their hands of" Angola's turmoil and hope for the best. While all remaining units of the Portuguese army



MPLA liberation troops

should be withdrawn, (the MPLA have demanded this), there should also be a programme of positive support to the Angolan workers' and peasants' movement. Individual Portuguese soldiers who wish to remain in Angola to fight with the MPLA should be encouraged to do so, while arms and economic aid should be supplied to the MPLA in Luanda.

BY MARK DOUGLAS HACKNEY Y.S

**Y.S. BRANCHES ORGANISE AGAINST WILSON'S PAY LAWS**

YOUNG SOCIALISTS are opposed to pay curb laws. We oppose the £6 pay limit which is to be used by Wilson to make us take a cut in our living standards. The working class is not responsible for inflation and should not have to pay for it. Hence we demand proper "threshold" payments for all workers and pensioners, and at least the protection of the present value of public expenditure.

**AGREED**

Practically all Young Socialists are agreed on this. "Workers Fight" supporters in the YS and the Labour Party attempted to commit Labour Parties to campaign against the pay limit. We give them full support - Vauxhall YS passed a resolution along these lines.

But then news of the campaign appeared in the "Sun" and "Daily Express" newspapers. They had

already been defeated over Prentice who they had fully supported. So once again they tried to discredit the left. The campaign and normal Labour Party activity in general were blown up into "red scares" and a "conspiracy".

These tory rags were poking their noses into what was none of their business. So when they contacted the YS National Committee you'd expect our NC to tell them where to go. No! They tamely replied that although they had "similar" feelings, this was not their way of doing things.

So what is the YS NC's way of doing things? Do they want to oppose the pay limit and hope that nobody hears? We must not be afraid of the press and their attempted witch-hunts. Every YS branch must fight for their Constituency Labour Parties to oppose Wilson's tory policies and campaign against them.

THE HACKNEY Committee Against Racism has been continuing its activities over the summer period. The two main campaigns have focused firstly on the deteriorating housing situation of thousands of tenants, especially black workers' families, and secondly around a series of protest actions against the local police. This arose after a series of arbitrary harassment of West Indian youth came to the notice of the Committee, in the Dalston and Stoke Newington area.

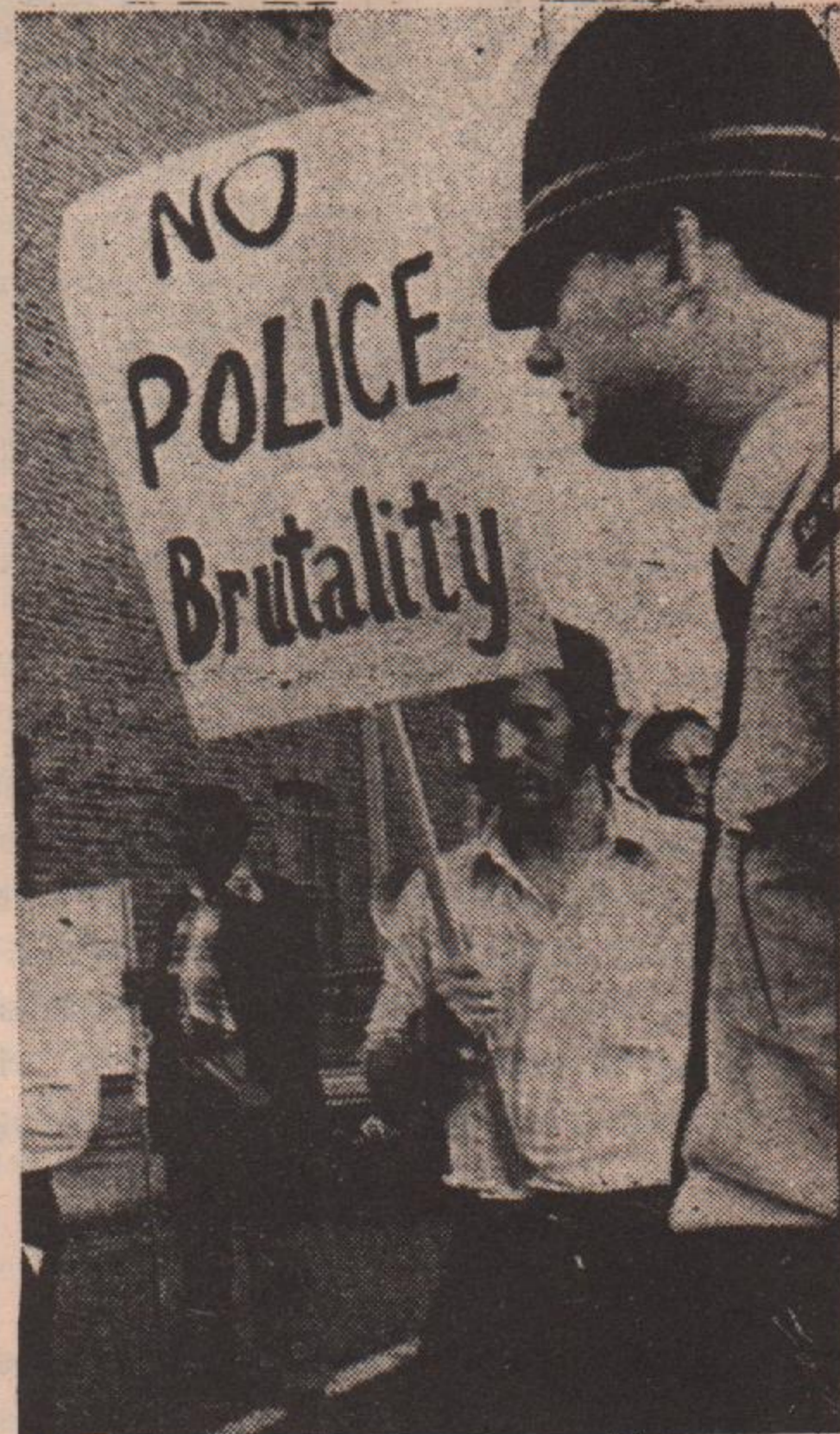
Every Tuesday evening for four weeks, the Committee, supported by local tenants groups, Asian and W. Indian activists as well as people from the Labour Movement generally, have mounted effective pickets near Dalston Police Station.

Despite the holiday period, scores of local people and community activists have turned out to support the Committee's call for action in replacing known 'racist police officers' and ending 'brutality' committed on black youths picked up off the streets and worked over in the Police cells.

The local police have been seriously embarrassed by the picket, but have denied the allegations. Detailed statements by people involved are in the hands of the Committee who intend to release them to the press if there is no action to prevent this sort

of thing happening again.

The Hackney Central and Stoke Newington branches of the LPYS have given their full support to the Committee's campaign and



have called for intervention from Hackney Labour Councillors in clearing the situation up.

The National Front, ever present in Hackney politics these days, have not been quiet. The second picket in August had an opposition of some 20 NF flag wavers together with the ex-(Tory) Mayor for Hackney defending 'law and order' and saying that the police should not be criticised.

More pickets and demonstrations are planned for September. In particular, these will celebrate 39th. anniversary of the historic Cable Street defeat of Mosley's fascists in the 1930s.

**VAUXHALL MANOR SCHOOL — ANOTHER FAILURE?** BY SARAH WHITTLE VAUXHALL Y.S

Vauxhall Manor in South London is meant to be a smashing success. Mixed ability grouping is practised in this 'progressive' girls' comprehensive. Many parents, however, are disappointed in their daughters' achievements. The idea, is to turn out an average person. If this means the achievement of a couple of CSEs and a general knowledge then Vauxhall Manor has succeeded.

**TRUE COMPREHENSIVE?**

Probably Vauxhall Manor does the best a 'comprehensive' school could in the present set up. There is one all-girl grammar school nearby—Charles Edward Brooke, creaming off the academically inclined, or a public school if you can afford to pay. So Vauxhall Manor isn't really a true comprehensive school. Vauxhall Manor has its share of the social problems in the area. Bad housing means no room to study. Parents are more interested in making ends meet than education.

**DISCIPLINE**

Vauxhall Manor has managed to cope with the discipline problem. Teachers are friendly and discipline, in most cases, unnecessary. But lessons are still regarded as boring and irrelevant to everyday life, so people don't bother to turn up.

So what's the answer for Vauxhall Manor? There are some things that could be changed in the school, but really the whole education system and society needs to be

changed. In Vauxhall Manor there is a School Advisory Council with representatives from each form. But it has limited power. The Council should be expanded to take in the staff and have complete



internal control within the school. This would give a sense of unity between the staff and pupils and it would also make pupils interested in their school.

People who stay on should be given a grant on which they can live, or a hostel should be provided by the school.

**EXAMS**

Pupils are bored by exam syllabuses. This causes a lack of interest which leads to exam failures. Pupils and teachers should get together and decide interesting and varied syllabuses. The module 3 CSE exam goes some way towards this, but it needs the pupils help to make it interesting.

What is really needed is a change in society. We could then get rid of exams, because we could teach

everybody to the same high standards. A socialist society could use the resources of industry to provide new buildings, better facilities, more teachers and teacher training colleges. With less than half the present number of pupils in each class, with interesting lessons, and pupils participating in the running of the school, success would be more or less guaranteed.

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**£300 FIGHTING FUND**

THE introduction of Wilson's £6 wage freeze means that the work of the CHARTIST in the Labour Party and the Trade Unions will assume increasing importance and a renewed urgency. Unfortunately, this work is impossible without money. So we are making an appeal to all our readers to make a donation, however small, to our work. So far £40 has been collected in the first two months. With FOUR months left to go please send contributions to: Chartist Publications, 82, Loughborough Road, Brixton SW9.

**HANDS OFF PORTUGAL**

**demonstrate!**

**saturday**

**20 september**

**assemble 2.30pm**

**Charing X Embankment march to Speakers Corner**

Information, posters, leaflets etc from **SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN WITH THE PORTUGUESE WORKING CLASS** organised by Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee, 18 Fleet Road, London NW3

•an end to economic boycott

•big business, NATO, CIA hands off Portugal

•Portugal must not become another Chile

•solidarity with the MPLA