

**FARES UP — WAGES DOWN**

# CLEAR OUT THE TORIES!

EDITORIAL

## Sit-downs and the Labour Movement

EVERYONE must admire the courage and self-sacrifice of the youthful demonstrators who were carried unresisting from last Saturday's sit-down in Parliament Square.

Exasperated by the complacent respectability of CND's established leaders, they seek more vigorous means of arousing public opinion against the threat of nuclear war.

But what might appear to be a challenge to the H-bomb danger becomes a harmless stunt, a means of letting off steam.

The 1,172 arrests will be followed by as many fines and some jail sentences. The traffic near Parliament Square has been delayed for two hours. 3,000 policemen have done an afternoon's lucrative overtime in the shadow of New Scotland Yard.

The State will, on balance, have lost a few thousand pounds, a tiny percentage to be added to the cost of preparing for nuclear destruction.

The Newsletter and the Socialist Labour League have taken part in every major demonstration for unilateral nuclear disarmament since the first Aldermaston march in 1957. We have, however, never hidden our opinion that such demonstrations are not enough.

Despite the protests of pacifists and others, we have insisted on the political implications of CND. Seeing the H-bomb as part of the drive of imperialism towards war against the USSR and the colonial revolution, we have tried to turn the anti-H-bomb movement to face the organized working class.

For the fight against the bomb, being one aspect of the fight to rid the world of an out-moded, violent and repressive social system, can only win if it brings into action the industrial and political power of Labour.

This task is both difficult and urgent. People like the Committee of 100 are trying to find short cuts which will avoid it. But there is no other way.

The passive resistance and non-violent methods of individual protest cannot possibly succeed against the power of the imperialist war machine. The danger is that they divert attention from the most vital job.

This remains the organisation of the fight in the Labour Party and the unions to break them from their NATO leaders.

## By the Editor

UP go the fares. Down go the wages. This is Toryism in action.

On the eve of the Budget, Mr. Marples, Minister of Transport, fully supports the increase of 10 per cent in fares. Freight charges are not affected, so big business remains happy.

Those in opposition consist entirely of the working and middle classes. Here once more is an indictment of those unions which have accepted the Tory hand-out of 3 per cent.

The attack continues. So far as the government is concerned, the purchasing power of wages must be reduced. Workers must eat less and pay more.

## Notice

There is only one immediate answer to this problem: a strike organized by all those workers who are in conflict with the government over wages.

The dockers are absolutely right in giving the Minister four weeks' notice to make up his mind. They are right when they refuse to be diverted into discussions with arbitration boards and the Ministry. So far as the conditions of the working class are concerned, this government has had its say.

There was nothing in the Tory election platform in 1959 which said that by 1962 the cost of living would have risen by leaps and bounds.

There was nothing in that election manifesto which said that wages must be frozen. On the contrary, the Tory government took power by being all things to all men—at least while the election was on.

## Victims

If somebody obtains money or property by false pretences, the capitalist courts are quick to apprehend him. If the Tories come to power by false pretences, the only solution is to bring their government down.

A co-ordinated strike of the dockers and engineers can do this.

Pay no heed to right-wing Labour leaders such as Gaitskell and Brown. The only people who can stop the present government are the electorate—and a substantial body of them

(Cont. p. 2, col. 1)



CEU banner on the February one-day strike in a Liverpool demonstration.

## Say 'Yes' in Strike Ballot — CEU Urges

By ALAN WEST, Our Labour Correspondent

THE Executive Council of the Constructional Engineering Union has recommended its members to vote in support of strike action in the ballot being conducted by the unions affiliated to the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, which has already staged two national one-day stoppages to press their claims for a wage increase and a shorter working week.

In a circular to all members contained in the current issue of the CEU Journal, General Secretary Ernest Patterson gives his executive's reasons for recommending strike action.

'The one-day token stoppages,' the General Secretary writes, 'clearly demonstrated the mass support that exists amongst engineering workers for the Confederation wages and hours claim. It is now necessary to ensure that the personal individual support for the ballot vote is on the same scale.'

'The second feature that needs to be understood is that there is more involved than wages and hours. The employers at any time would resist such claims but in this instance they are reinforced in their attitude by the so-called 'pay pause' which, apparently, is to herald the introduction of a wages policy, concerning which, neither our industry nor the workers generally have been consulted.

### Strike Action

'It is with these thoughts in mind that the ballot vote on strike action must be considered. . . . If we fail in this effort then our Unions will suffer a defeat.

'Under these circumstances your Executive Council recommends that you vote for strike action.'

Mr. Patterson goes on to say that responsibility for the present economic and industrial position lies entirely at the door of the government and the employers.

'We are told that increased wages can only come from in-

creased production whilst at the same time people like stock exchange gamblers and landlords reap a rich harvest without lifting a finger towards production.

'A glaring absurdity in this required condition is that workers are called upon to increase production without any control of the apparatus or the means of production. Such control remains in the hands of the very people who impose the restrictions, i.e., the Government and the employers.'

'If we are to fulfil the requirement it would seem indispensable in the first place to get these people off our backs, and it would be well to give some thought to that point.'

### No Abstainers

'Every engineering worker knows full well that our claims are more than justified and must, therefore, vote for strike action as the only means left to emphasize our determination to secure them. Not to send in the ballot paper means, in effect, to vote for the employers insofar as each lost vote is a failure to declare in support of the claims. You must vote.'

'Your Executive Council recommends that you do so in support of Strike Action.'

The CEU is the third major Confederation union to recommend strike action, following the TGWU and the Boilermakers.

In spite of the delaying tactics of the right-wing, there is now a strong possibility of a real showdown with the government in this important industry.

# Stop the Cuba Blockade

ALTHOUGH the 'Food for Cuba' campaign is only a few days old, reports are already coming in of support from all sections of the Labour movement.

In Liverpool, six prominent left-wingers, Alderman Dalton, Councillors Heffer, Hart, Kirton, Stan Thorne, secretary of the Toxteth Labour Party and John Disley, a leading member of the AUBTW, have formed a provisional committee which is holding a meeting on Sunday, April 1, in the Stork Hotel at 3.0 p.m. It is hoped that this meeting will set up a 'Food for Cuba' Committee.

Active socialists in the North-East coast have already gone into action and are busy circularizing

'The Croydon North West Constituency Labour Party condemns the United States' brutal economic blockade against the people of Cuba, following their unsuccessful attempt to overthrow, by force of arms, the popular government.'

'We urge all sections of the the Labour, Trade Union and Co-operative Movement to aid the Cuban people in their fight to maintain independence, to call upon the British Government to make available credits to Cuba for the purchase of basic necessities; to protest to the American Embassy and to express their solidarity to the Cuban Embassy.'

the local Labour movement with a view to organizing a similar committee.

The executive committee of the Glasgow Federation of Young Socialists, at an emergency meeting last Thursday, decided to circulate all Young Socialist branches, Labour Parties and union branches in the city to set up a Glasgow 'Food for Cuba' Committee, and asking for delegates

The Federation also decided to hold a demonstration against the American economic blockade of Cuba. The demonstration, on Friday, March 30, will start at 7.30 p.m. at Community House, Clyde Street and march to the American consulate in Glasgow.

In London, resolutions of support for the campaign have been sent to the Cuban Embassy from the City and Central General branch of the Clerical Workers' Union, Stratford ETU, West Nor-

(Cont. p. 2, col. 5)

'Solihull Labour Party supports the right of all nations to self-determination. We consider that this applies also to Cuba, though its present Government does not meet with the approval of the USA. We therefore view with horror the attempt of the US government to starve the people of Cuba into submission by economic blockade. We would remind the people of the US that their own nation was founded as the result of a revolution, which reactionary elements in this country tried to suppress. To us it is deplorable to see the successors of Washington and Jefferson behaving in this tyrannical way.'

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are now victims of the government's attack.

To bring down the Tory government is just as much a legal act as to apprehend someone who obtains something for gain through false pretences.

Why aren't the left in the Labour Party and the trade unions speaking up more sharply about this? The Communist Party is opposed to bringing down the Tory government because they believe that this government can be persuaded to negotiate peace with the Soviet Union.

What a farce! A government of the employers remains a government of the employers, despite the statements of its politicians.

A strike by engineering workers would be a strike against the government. The Communist Party calls for such a strike. Very well then: if you want to strike against the government what do you put in its place?

Either you prepare for power—and this means the election of a Labour government pledged to a socialist policy—or you turn tail and run at the most critical moment.

**Labour to Power**

This is a time for decision. The Socialist Labour League calls upon workers to unite to bring this government down and replace it with a Labour government pledged to the nationalization of all the basic industries and the introduction of socialist planning.

But, our left critics might reply, Mr. Gaitskell is not a socialist. We know that. But if the Labour Party is to act now in the interests of the trade unionists who it represents, then it can only do so by replacing not only the Tory government but by replacing the Tory employers.

Labour must take over all the basic industries, eliminating the profit motive and introducing a system of workers' control which alone will present a real balance sheet to the nation, and enable it to undertake the heavy responsibilities which now face it.

The fight to remove the anti-socialist leaders like Gaitskell and Brown is inseparable from this struggle.

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# Settlement Vital for French Imperialists

**T**HE willingness of de Gaulle to use 'ruthless' methods against the OAS in Algeria and Oran shows how crucial it has become for his regime to carry through the Evian settlement.

The embittered and desperate rage of the 'poor whites', dominated by race hatred which arises from the fear of losing their often meagre privileges, cannot be allowed to stand in the way.

Most of the big business interests have no further use for the European extremists. They now count on the FLN ministers, after 'independence', to protect their investments and property, including priority in the development of the Saharan petroleum resources.

At the same time as French imperialism has been able to preserve its essential stake in Algeria—with the nationalist leaders bound to it hand-and-foot by sheer economic necessity—it needs to end the war in order to strengthen its position in Europe.

**OAS TAMED**

The cleavages which the war produced within the bourgeoisie, the tying up of military forces and the financial burden all made it increasingly imperative to make a satisfactory peace.

At last de Gaulle has done this: now he hopes to turn back to Europe to assert French power against Western Germany and Britain in NATO and the Common Market.

Backed by the major part of French monopoly capital, he has the task of facing up to pressing problems at home as well as abroad.

The ability of de Gaulle to

win the active co-operation of part of the army against the OAS, while neutralising elements favourable to it, is significant.

In May 1958 the Pflimlin government drew back from using force against the uprising of the Europeans in Algiers, which led to the downfall of the Fourth Republic.

In January 1960, at the time of the insurrection of the

**by Tom Kemp**

barricades, no actual shooting was necessary to bring the supporters of Ortiz and Lagailarde to heel.

In April 1961, the long-awaited show-down with the rebel generals never came and they gave up their attempt to overthrow the Fifth Republic without a struggle.

**ACUTE DIVISIONS**

Open violence only appeared when the OAS began its long series of plastic bomb attacks, shootings and lynchings. Until then the army and police showed a marked distaste for opening fire on other Frenchmen.

The fact that the forces of the extreme right, with whom the regime has much in common, could not be dealt with without severe fighting, indicates the acuteness of the divisions in French society and the acceptance of force as the ultimate arbiter.

Undoubtedly the 'forces of order' have fought the OAS more in sorrow than in anger. If need arose they would turn on the left with much greater vigour and ferocity.

On both sides the struggle is felt to be an unnatural one and OAS sympathisers still abound

in the army, police and administration. There are many who would dearly like to get to grips with the main enemy—the working class movement in France.

Everything has been done to keep that working class under control. The slogans of 'peace in Algeria' and 'down with the OAS' have tied the workers to the Fifth Republic, with whose institutions their leaders have long ago agreed to live.

Unwillingness to mount a real struggle against the regime even when the working class was ready to mobilise has made them even more its prisoners.

De Gaulle has now made peace with the FLN and is in the course of settling accounts with the OAS in his own fashion.

In such circumstances the workers cannot fail to look for an alternative leadership.

In the period following the referendum, which will clearly give de Gaulle's policy a massive endorsement, it can be assumed that an attack on working class organizations and living standards will be high on the agenda.

**LEADERSHIP NEEDED**

It will still be necessary to prevent a link-up between the French workers and the colonial revolution. The domestication of the trade unions must be carried still further, as French industry prepares to meet more intensive competition in the Common Market.

In the meantime, the signs of impotence and betrayal in every part of the socialist and labour movement underline the need for new policies and leadership. Vigilance and preparation are now more than ever before of the utmost importance.

## A tearful week end

**T**HE London Labour Party Conference, which met at St. Pancras Town Hall last week-end, properly gave much of its time to debating the questions of homeless families, housing and the government's plan to re-organize the London boroughs to ensure Tory political control.

The answer to these problems, of course, is a Labour government, but this is a 'national' matter, and such matters are not allowed to be discussed at the conference.

The conference carried resolutions calling for the repeal of the Rent Act and for approaches to the government for power to requisition property and an extension of compulsory purchase to combat evictions.

Such appeals will no doubt cause great anxiety to the financiers and landlords who profit so well out of the misery of thousands of homeless families.

The executive of the Party seemed to have an over-riding fear of losing its respectability. Appeals to the government and tears from Bob Mellish ('I have seen some of the homeless families and I could cry for them') will not endanger that respectability.

If they were to forget about their image in the Tory press and lead the people they are supposed to represent to take over the many empty houses in the area they would be doing something definite to alleviate the appalling conditions of the 3,438 families in London who have been thrown on to the streets.

The one lively debate centred round an emergency motion from St. Pancras North which called upon the conference to send a message of support and goodwill to the Committee of 100 demonstrating in London that Saturday.

The motion was ruled out of order by the Standing Orders Committee. This was referred back and carried by an overwhelming show of hands. The chairman, Bob Mellish, put it to a card vote, and the reference back was again carried, but only by two votes.

The EC then tabled an amendment which, in fact, deleted everything in the original motion and merely condemned the jail sentences passed on the six members of the Committee.

This was received with considerable anger by many delegates and one pointed out that if the EC felt so strongly about the jail

sentences they should have put their own motion on the agenda, instead of trying to wriggle out of support for the emergency motion.

Mr. Mellish angrily asked if the conference doubted the integrity of the EC. 'I want peace so much that I could cry for it,' he said. But the EC could not support a motion that sent support to a movement that was not recognised by the Labour Party.

The Young Socialist who moved the emergency motion pointed out that the immediate task was to recruit the thousands of young people who were fighting the bomb into the Labour Party.

The amendment was carried by some 200 votes.

Another emergency motion from St. Pancras raised £40 for the families of the miners who were killed in last week's pit disaster.

The greater part of Sunday afternoon was given over to a debate on an EC motion thanking Herbert (Lord) Morrison for his services to the Labour movement.

Amidst tears and emotion, Morrison was presented with a copy of the motion printed on vellum from the secretary, Peter Robshaw, looking for all the world like Mr. Eamonn Andrews.

## Stormy Passage for Gaitskell

**A**N angry crowd of unilateralists chased Labour leaders Gaitskell and Brown from Smith Square on Wednesday. More than a hundred people gathered outside Transport House at mid-day to take part in a lobby of the NEC, organized by 'Tribune', to protest at the refusal of the executive and the Parliamentary Party to oppose the resumption of nuclear tests by America. A strong SLL contingent supported the lobby.

NEC members trooped sheepishly out to the derisive cheers of the crowd. When George Brown trotted out, scowling, demonstrators surrounded him, calling upon him to stand by what he said at the Blackpool Conference about condemning tests by any country.

He angrily shoved his way through, sending one demonstrator flying. The crowd ran after him towards the corner of the square and surrounded him again.

Police attempted to break up the crowd, but a shout of 'Gaitskell!' was more effective.

The 'Leader' was walking quickly, head down, towards the opposite corner of the square, obviously hoping that his decoy duck, Brown, would draw attention away from him.

But the game was up! Quick march went Gaitskell, thin-lipped and red-faced down the street, businessmen and bank employees goggling from windows. The whole crowd had taken up the chase and the large body of police could not prevent them from shouting, cat-calling and running round him.

Harrassed Hugh suddenly bumped into George Brown, who had nipped round the other way to lend a hand.

In solemn, pin-striped dignity, they walked to Gaitskell's car and drove off towards Westminster, the crowd chanting, booing and thumping the car.

● **CUBA**

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wood AEU and the Brixton (Labourers) AUBTW.

Battersea College of Technology Socialist Society have organized a meeting and pledged themselves to work in support of the Cuban revolution.

A similar meeting has also been held by students at London University. This campaign in the University will be stepped up as soon as the Easter recess is over.

At a meeting in Birmingham University on Friday last, a 'Food for Cuba' Campaign was launched. As soon as the next term commences it will start with a documentary film of Cuba. The Communist Society is participating and the Africa, India and Iraqi Societies are to be invited.

At the London Labour Party conference last week-end a petition was circulated which said: 'We, the undersigned, completely condemn the actions of the United States government in blockading Cuba and pledge our support to the efforts of the Cuban working class and peasants to free themselves from imperialism. We pledge ourselves to campaign within the British Labour Movement to gain support to prevent the success of this blockade.'

This petition was signed by 13 members of the AEU delegation, as well as many individual Labour councillors active in the London area.

A further picket of the United States Embassy in Grosvenor Square is being organized on Saturday, March 31, starting at 10.0 a.m. All supporters of the Cuban revolution are urged to attend.

# Indian Elections: New Forces

**T**HE Revolutionary Communist Party of India (the party formed by merger of the Revolutionary Communist Party and the Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers' Party in 1959) won two seats in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly and retained its single seat in the Assam Assembly.

The Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), which had an electoral alliance with the Communist Party of India in Bengal and Kerala, won two seats in the House of People (the Lok Sabha or Parliament) and seven seats in the West Bengal Assembly.

The RCPI put up 16 candidates and one for Parliament in Assam. The CPI failed to get any representation in this state. There was no united front of the left in Assam. In Bengal the RCPI was a part of the leftist front with the CPI, RSP and the Forward Bloc.

In states like Bengal, Andhra and Kerala, where the CPI had a programme of limited class struggle, the left scored well.

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In Bengal and Andhra the CPI emerged as the main opposition party in the State Legislature. In Bengal the party is dominated by its left-wing (anti-Khrushchev) tendency.

But in Bombay State there were big set-backs. The CPI has got only six seats in the present Assembly, against 18 in the old. It returned four members to Parliament in 1957, but none this time.

S. A. Dange, leader of the CPI group in the old Parliament was among those defeated in Bombay City.

**A significant feature of the third general election is the emergence of communal and reactionary parties like the Jan Sangh and Swatantra Party in some of the big states, where the left has been traditionally weak because of the class collaborationist line pursued by the CPI and the major left parties.**

In Uttar Pradesh (home province of Prime Minister Nehru) the Jan Sangh, a Hindu communalist party, has emerged as the main opposition and the Swatantra Party has got 15 seats.

The Jan Sangh has become the main opposition party in

Madhya Pradesh. This is the only state where the Congress has failed to secure an absolute majority in the State Legislature. It has formed the government with the support of independents.

The class collaborationist role of the CPI leadership was illustrated in the line taken by it in

## By An Indian Correspondent

the contest for a parliamentary seat in Bombay City between Defence Minister Krishna Menon and Acharya Kripalani, sponsored by the reactionary combination of the Jan Sangh, Swatantra Party and the PSP.

No left candidate was put up and Dange forced his own party and the Samiti front to support Menon.

The pseudo-left Menon was elected and all the CPI and other leftist candidates, with one exception, were defeated in the traditional strongholds of the working class parties in Bombay City.

In three other states, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Bihar, the Swatantra Party is now the main opposition party, with the support of the most reactionary bourgeois and semi-feudal elements.

The emergence of the extreme reactionary forces and the rout of the left in some states has provoked a big discussion in the ranks of the CPI.

The right-wing Dangeite (Khrushchevite) line of supporting the 'progressive bourgeoisie' represented by Nehru is being openly questioned.

The results have seriously undermined the position of Dange, and the left-wing is taking advantage of the situation to make a new bid to capture the leadership.

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The left wing identifies itself with Peking in the present Sino-Soviet ideological controversies.

A debate on the 22nd Congress of the CPSU is now taking place. The Trotskyists in the RCPI and other revolutionary Marxists are participating in this debate inside and outside the CPI.

Their task is made easier because of the readiness in a section of the CPI leadership to consider sympathetically the Trotskyist criticism of the Stalinist distortion of the communist movement.

There is also a growing realisation in this section of the

CPI that the growth of the reactionary forces can be fought only on the basis of independent mass action of the proletariat, and not behind the pseudo-socialism of Nehru or by supporting the 'progressive bourgeois' regime of the Congress.

In the new Lok Sabha the

Congress has won an overwhelming majority of 359 seats and all the opposition parties (both right and left) have improved their position from 127 in the old house to 131 in the new.

The CPI, which has emerged as the second largest group, has secured 29 seats, but with six independents elected with the party's support, its strength will be raised to 35.

The composition of the new Lok Sabha reflects to a large extent the new relationship of forces in the country.

**The bourgeois Congress will be subjected to a great deal of pressure from the extreme reactionary groups and Nehru may be forced to slow down his moderate reforms.**

**The CPI has been responsible for weakening the revolutionary forces and indirectly encouraging the emergence of the far right.**

The post-election period will see a resurgence of the class struggle.



## Glasgow Labour Delegates Oppose Rent Increases

**T**HE General Management Committee of Glasgow City Labour Party last week rejected a report on rents from its Executive Committee.

The EC report was based on its claim that council house rents were an administrative and not a policy matter and should therefore be decided by the Town Council Labour Group and not by the City party.

This was supported by a letter

from Sarah Barker, Chief Assistant National Agent of the Labour Party.

The City Factor's office had already informed tenants that their rents will be increased and the decision of the GMC will not change the position.

The EC delayed calling a special meeting on rents for months, despite requests to do so by nine affiliated bodies.

In the discussion, delegates pointed out that it is not the

job of the Labour Party to carry out the dirty work of the Secretary of State for Scotland and that the Labour movement should organize a massive campaign against Tory housing policy and high interest charges.

In the vote, the EC report was rejected by 70 votes to 59. Had the meeting taken place earlier, council tenants in Glasgow would not now be facing rent increases which many of them can ill afford.



## City Slants by colin chance

### Evidence of intent

The guns of big business are being raised into position. The Chairman of the Stock Exchange states that the City's 'loyalty and willingness to co-operate have almost reached breaking point'.

The 'Financial Times', writing of the possibility of taxing capital gains at similar rates of tax now applicable to income, states that such a measure 'would be violently and justifiably opposed'.

Selwyn Lloyd and the Tory government will no doubt take the hint and a capital gains tax will not attempt to make any inroads on capital.

It will be remembered that the tax was first mooted in the July 'Little Budget'. All the other proposals, the pay pause, the credit squeeze, higher purchase taxes, etc., were aimed at the living standards of the masses of the people and were put into effect immediately.

The capital gains tax was

promised in order to make these measures palatable, following as they did on the sur-tax concessions and increased health charges.

The latest outbursts from the City have been made to ensure that this tax must have no teeth and that there should be some compensation for having to submit to its introduction.

Mr. Paul Chambers, chairman of ICI, calls, for example, for a sur-tax exemption limit for unearned income as well as for earned income. For the year 1962-63, directors paid £5,000 per annum will only have to pay sur-tax on their additional income from investments. Mr. Chambers would like to see the investment income free of sur-tax also.

Both the Chairman of the Stock Exchange, Lord Ritchie, and Mr. Chambers were speaking at the Wider Share Ownership Conference in London last week. This organisation, whose aim is to attract the 'small investor', has just carried out a survey into share ownership in Britain.

75 per cent of shareholders interviewed, says the report, were attracted by the possibility of either 'capital gain, tax free profits, making money, or for the gamble.'

Yet Mr. Selwyn Lloyd in his Budget speech last year rejected the idea of a comprehensive capital gains tax on the grounds that those who make a business out of seeking capital gains were already liable to tax on their profit.

In fact the present tax code would allow the revenue authorities to tax capital profits arising out of the sale of shares if it could be proved that the intention to make a profit existed at the time the shares were bought.

Since intention cannot be proved easily, the tax has never been levied in the vast majority of cases.

A watered-down capital gains tax may be the price for union leaders' co-operation on NEDC. But no one should be deluded into thinking that the fabric of the profit system will be damaged.

### VOTES POLLED (Millions)

| PARTIES       | 1952        | 1957        | 1962        |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| CONGRESS      | 47<br>(45%) | 57<br>(47%) | 45<br>(45%) |
| CPI           | 5<br>(5%)   | 13<br>(11%) | 11<br>(11%) |
| PSP           | 17<br>(16%) | 12<br>(10%) | 7<br>(7%)   |
| SWATANTRA     | —           | —           | 9<br>(9%)   |
| JAN SANGH     | 3<br>(3%)   | 7<br>(6%)   | 6<br>(6%)   |
| Other Parties | 32<br>(31%) | 32<br>(26%) | 22<br>(22%) |

The votes polled by regional and other parties in the Lok Sabha in the 1962 elections are as follows: Socialist Party: 27,35,499 (seats won 5); DMK: 23,15,610 (7); Republican 10,59,886 (3); Akali Dal: 8,29,129 (3); Rama Rajya Parishad: 6,29,823 (2); Jharkand Party 4,99,950 (3); Hindu Mahasabha 4,69,640 (one); Forward Bloc 4,31,007 (2); Muslim League: 4,19,761 (2); Revolutionary Socialist Party: 1,19,377 (2) and Independents and other parties: 1,22,59,681 (25).

# Industrial Newsletter

## About-turn at Dunlops

By Our Birmingham Industrial Correspondent

**T**HE clash between strikers and union officials at Fort Dunlop, Birmingham, ended on March 23 with a decision to return to work, after a week-old strike involving 6,000 workers. This decision, which was not unanimous and was greeted by some workers with booing, came as the climax of intensive pressure by union officials.

The strike was in protest against the new pay agreement drawn up by the National Joint Industrial Council for the rubber industry.

This had been described by Arthur Quigley (secretary of the union side of the Dunlop Joint Works Council) as an insult which would leave Dunlop workers worse off than they were in 1960.

On the previous Tuesday, the confidence of the strikers was high. They shouted down the union speakers and voted unanimously to continue the strike.

On Thursday a special meeting called by the union officials (in order that 'the trade union case could be put') was denounced by strike committee leaders as an attempt by union officers to break the strike in advance of Friday's mass meeting.

The strike committee boycotted it and placed pickets outside the hall to dissuade workers from attending. In fact only 250 of the 6,000 on strike went in.

The strike committee said, 'It must now be obvious to the unions that the strikers have more confidence in us than in their union officers.'

At the meeting L. Walsh, general secretary of the United Rubber Workers' Union, sternly declared, 'This matter will not be settled by mob rule. Fort Dunlop workers' grievances must be settled in the proper procedure.'

By the following morning, when the strikers gathered outside the factory, the atmosphere had altogether changed. It was obvious that the union officials were straining every nerve to get the workers back.

They had pressed into service not only Wesley Perrins (District Secretary, NUGMW) but also Stan Pemberton and a second speaker from the tyre factory at

Speke, Liverpool, to lend their weight to the plea for a return to work.

**No doubt the strikers would have been able to withstand all this eloquence if their own leaders had not performed an about-turn and advised them also to go back. What happened between Thursday's meeting and Friday morning to alter their tune so decisively?**

Great play was made by Wesley Perrins with the fact that Fort Dunlop was the only rubber works showing any dissatisfaction with the agreement. This was greeted with derisive shouts.

When Arthur Quigley asked, 'What have we gained?' there were jeers and shouts of 'Nothing!'

Chief target of the strikers' hostility was Harold Smith, district organiser of the NUGMW. He was shouted down when he asserted, 'Our quarrel is not with the Fort management.'

When he tried to introduce a jocular note by offering to give a demonstration of the 'Twist' while waiting for the arrival of Bro. Perrins there was a roar of derisive laughter and shouts of 'You can do that all right, mate!'

When the vote was taken for the return to work, union officials announced 'Unanimous'. Instantly there was a shout of 'Take the vote against!' The vote was taken. They were in the minority, however, and smiles of relief showed on the faces of the union officials.

Here was magnificent solidarity of workers against the pay pause, which was rendered ineffective by the lack of will to fight of union officials and the 'blow hot, blow cold' leadership of their representative on the Works Council and Shop Stewards' Committee.

The workers had been marched up to the top of the hill and marched down again, with nothing to show for it.

## Hapton Mines Disaster

By A Lancashire Miner

**SIXTEEN** miners were burned to death on Thursday, March 22 in the Hapton Valley mine disaster. Two more have died since in hospital from the severe burns they received.

It appears that the explosion occurred in the tunnel leading to the coal face, where 20 men were working at the seam, a mile and a half underground.

All the men who have died lived in Burnley. Ten of them were under 30, two of them were under 16.

Eleven of the dead were buried on Tuesday. 2,000 miners and other workers lined the route to

pay their last respects to their dead comrades.

All the men I talked to were asking, 'Will it happen again? What caused the explosion?'

Millions of pounds have been spent by the NCB in modernising the mines and making them safer. But tragedies still occur.

With the continual speed-up in mechanisation, more and more lives are in danger.

Already this year more than 400 miners have been killed in Europe.

All the miners in Britain will echo the thoughts of the Hapton workers when they ask: 'Did it have to happen?'

The Lord Mayor of Burnley has launched an appeal for the relatives of the victims.

# Dockers Fight the Pause

By Our Industrial Correspondent

**A** NATIONAL dock strike may be called unless the pay and hours claims for 70,000 dock workers are settled within the next month.

This was the decision reached by a conference of port delegates on Tuesday.

The unions' claims are for a 'substantial' pay rise and a cut in the working week from 44 hours to 40. The claims have twice been rejected by the employers.

The delegate conference, with only two abstentions, decided to give 28 days' notice to end their national agreement with the employers.

The conference agreed that unless a settlement is reached before the 28 days are up they would 'take such action as

deemed necessary'.

The union leaders have made it quite clear that they will not accept arbitration or invite the Minister of Labour to intervene as he would be bound to uphold the government's 'pay pause' policy.

Tim O'Leary, chief negotiator for the unions, said that the notice to the employers meant that there would be an immediate joint meeting.

A strike would depend on the results of the talks.

## Liverpool 'Blue' Union Men Support T&G

by BILL HUNTER

**A** GANG of Liverpool dockers who walked off a ship last week after refusing to work with non-unionists sparked off a strike which spread rapidly through the city's docks.

By Monday of this week the strike had been officially supported by the Transport and General Workers' Union and union members were promised strike pay.

TGWU officials have never moved so smartly in support of their members before. The reason is not hard to find and it was quickly pointed out by members of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers—'Blue Union'—on Merseyside.

The officials are trying to use the strike as a final offensive in their seven years' war against the NASD, whose members they describe as 'non-unionists'.

### JOINT CAMPAIGN

However, despite their suspicion of the motives of officials of the TGWU, NASD members in Liverpool have walked off the docks with 'White' union men and are actively supporting the strike.

'Your officials declare us nons,' Blue union speakers have told dockers' meetings, 'but we cannot scab on TGWU members. Our members are out even though they are not getting strike pay, while members of the "White" union are.'

Many of the Transport and General Union members now on strike supported the 'Blue' union in its strike for recognition in 1955.

The Merseyside area committee of the 'Blue' union supports a policy of 100 per cent trade unionism on the docks. During the past few years they have written to the TGWU several times asking for a joint campaign against non-unionism. Their letters have been ignored.

'Blue' union militants earnestly desire to build a strong organization on the docks in unity with the rank and file of the TGWU. They propose to turn the present struggle into a real fight for

100 per cent trade unionism, with dockers given freedom to join either organization.

Last Monday, a meeting of 1,000 dockers on strike from Number 5 control and members of both unions, unanimously passed a resolution moved by a TGWU member and seconded by a member of the NASD.

The resolution supported a policy of 100 per cent trade unionism and declared that the 'principled rights of members of both organizations should be fully recognized'.

A similar resolution was passed by a meeting of dockers at Gladstone dock where the strike began.

Immediately after the meeting at Number 5 control, which was called by the NASD, the local official of the TGWU, Harold Marr, attempted to speak to the men.

He was given a rough passage after he declared, 'We're not going back until everybody is a member of the "White".' He was finally forced to close his meeting, declaring that his audience were 'a lot of rabble'.

### NUM PRESIDENT ON REDUNDANCY

Mr. Sidney Ford, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, speaking at a meeting at Glenrothes, Fife, last Sunday, was attacked for his policy on pit closures.

He said that he did not see the coal industry as a declining force, despite its setbacks. Productivity had now reached the target set for 1965 and in the first 10 weeks of 1962 they had produced two million tons more than in the corresponding period of last year.

In Scotland productivity had been increasing at a rate better than the national average.

This week over 200 miners at Rothes colliery, the £20 million show-piece pit in Fife, received two weeks notice.

The NUM official in the area stated that there were 112 underground jobs available in the East Fife area. There are 800 men at the colliery which is to close in a matter of weeks.

# Olivetti Workers Fight Speed-up

By Bob Shaw

**'AT 8.15 a.m. on Thursday, March 22, 900 workers at Olivetti Ltd. came out in a 100 per cent strike,'** said Peter Murray, a convenor and spokesman for the shop stewards' committee at the Glasgow factory, in an interview with The Newsletter.

'The dispute arose because the management had announced their intention of cutting costs by reducing the number of labourers employed. The methods they intended to use to do this were by new time-study methods and the double-banking of certain machines in the workshops.

'When the management were challenged over their intentions by the shop stewards their reply was that the reduction in the number of labourers meant that the smaller number would "just have to work a bit harder".'

'The management broke off negotiations. The shop stewards replied by calling on the workers in the factory to black all fetching and carrying unless done by a labourer. This policy was put into effect on March 16.

'On Monday, March 19, chaos reigned in the factory. The labourers could not keep pace with the demand, bottlenecks were building up and the assembly workers were hit by waiting time. At this point the management tried to make a deal, one which would have meant a speed-up in a disguised form.

'A further factory meeting on March 21 agreed that there should be an immediate withdrawal of labour should there be a move to send anyone home as an act of discipline as the management had now threatened.

'That same day two operators were sent home for refusing to handle blacked work. The workers therefore immediately withdrew their labour 100 per cent.'

As Peter Murray explained to a mass meeting of the factory workers on the second day of the strike, redundancy was obviously impending at the factory.

It was better to fight it out now than to wait until the management could put its policy into full effect. This was the preparation for entry into the Common Market by a monopoly firm.

The mass meeting endorsed a demand that the AEU District Committee and the national leadership of the union support the dispute and help to fight the completely provocative action of the management.

—ADVERTISEMENT—

### One-Day School

Saturday, March 31

Langley Labour Club,  
Middleton, nr. Manchester  
School opens 10.30 a.m.

Admission free

Speaker: FRANK GIRLING

Morning session:

Trade Unions Today—A  
Crisis of Leadership

Afternoon session:

Racialism and the  
Working Class

Sponsoring the school are: NUM (Bradford); NUR (Ardwick No. 1); AUBTW (Middleton)

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