

# The Newsletter

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## NO WALK-OVER FOR BYRNE & Co.

### Defeat for right wing's 5-year E.C. plan

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

**T**HE Electrical Trades Union Rules Revision Conference, contrary to the stories of the capitalist press, was not a walk-over for the Right wing. The stubborn struggle waged by left-wing delegates clearly exposed the bureaucratic gang who now dominate the union.

Chapple, Byrne, Cannon and company put down amendments to rule which could not be challenged or amended from the branches. Not one branch was able to bring to the floor of the conference a single amendment to the rules. They were called to vote upon amendments which will transform the ETU into one of the most bureaucratic unions.

But as if that wasn't enough—and the platform under the chairmanship of Chapple evidently thought it was not—they refused in some cases to allow the various clauses in the amendments to be discussed and voted upon separately.



Byrne: not confident

#### Tellers refused

For example, the amendment proposing that the union's annual policy conference should be abandoned in favour of a biennial conference was taken with the proposal that in future conference would have one delegate from each branch. Chapple refused tellers. In the opinion of a large number of delegates it is doubtful if these proposals were carried. But Chapple declared that they were—and that was that.

These are not the actions of confident men. Since the court case in July 1961, the Byrne, Chapple, Cannon clique have known that they lacked a base in the union. They are, therefore, working frantically to try and create one.

#### Starved of politics

By holding the conference every two years instead of annually they are trying to starve the union of the political discussion for which it was noted in the past.

By concentrating on craft issues in the various trade groups, they are trying to drive a wedge between members of a union famous for their solidarity in action.

They are not responsible by themselves for such a policy. There is every reason to believe that the extreme Right wing of the TUC have taken a special interest in the proposed amendments to the ETU rules. These are the type of rules which Woodcock would like to impose on all the unions as part of his 'streamlining' proposals.

The Right wing want rules that will isolate the militants, keep

the unions politically backward and allow them more freedom to come to agreement with the employers.

The struggle that took place at the ETU conference and which will continue after the conference is not one related to the ETU alone. It is part of the struggle for internal democracy inside the unions which will become a national issue in a very short time.

The ETU Right wing were not  
● back page, col. 1

### Railwaymen drive NUR leaders

#### Busmen to support strike?

By ALAN WEST, Our Labour Correspondent

**T**HE fighting spirit of railway workers and their determination to oppose Beeching, Marples and the Tories with all the strength at their command has forced the executive of the NUR to growl with unusual militancy and plan another national strike, but of longer duration, to follow up last week's one-day stoppage. The general secretary, Sidney Greene, hinted that he might appeal to Mr. Cousins to stand by his promise at the Labour Party Conference and bring out members of the TGWU employed as busmen.

Mr. Greene, it is rumoured, may also include NUR members working on the docks, an action calculated to win the support of TGWU dockers.

But even as the railwaymen pound on his front door and demand action to counteract the Tory plans for mass redundancy, Mr. Greene is holding the back door open for further talks with Dr. Beeching.

#### INFORMAL

In order not to offend the worthy doctor, the NUR executive on Tuesday, although voting 17-7 for an immediate 'challenge' to the British Transport Commission, did not decide on a specific date for the next strike in view of Beeching's invitation to them to attend informal talks on the problems of redundancy.

It is clear that Beeching,

angered by Marples' openly arrogant, take-it-or-leave-it attitude on television last week which would have offended even the most right-wing trade union leader, is determined to put on his velvet gloves and try to pacify the NUR leaders into accepting his 'realistic' policies.

There was an important tag to the decision of the NUR executive: there would be another national strike if the BTC did not change its attitude, and they agreed that the decision would be held up until Mr. Greene had heard what Dr. Beeching proposed.

#### PRECARIOUS

Greene and company are therefore engaged in an extremely precarious balancing act between the militant rank and file of their union and the Tories, who, as their willingness to talk shows, they see as people who can be won to the NUR's point of view.

Railway workers, with the success of last week's strike behind them when possibly two-thirds of the country's city workers stayed at home and big business ground almost to a standstill, must press forward with the campaign and demand that their leaders should waste no time in discussing with the Tories and their hatchmen but should immediately plan a complete national stoppage supported by every union connected in any way with transport.

#### TORY PLANS

Mr. Cousins' vague promises and Mr. Greene's suggestions for spreading the strike are not concrete enough. Neither will definite guarantees of support from other union leaders be sufficient; the NUR must win the support of rank and file busmen and dockers by showing them that the fight is one which affects them all, a fight to defeat the Tory plans for economy at the expense of the Labour movement.

A TRANSPORT ALLIANCE MUST BE THE BASIS FOR THE NEXT NATIONAL STRIKE. THIS MUST BE NO HALF-HEARTED AFFAIR, FOR SUCH AN ALLIANCE COULD WELL BE THE LEVER WITH WHICH THE TORY GOVERNMENT CAN BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE.

### Russian food riots rumour

By ERIC NEILSON

**W**HILE the official Soviet Press drones on about this year's 'wonderful harvest', information is leaking out of the country about food riots in Novochoerkassk early last June.

It was on June 1 that increases of up to 30 per cent in meat and butter prices came into force. This naturally provoked resentment amongst the Russian population.

In the town of Novochoerkassk (pop. 100,000) in the Rostov area a large crowd apparently assembled in the main square to protest against the increases. When this crowd refused to disperse police fired warning shots.

Reports say that some young children were hit by these shots and that this sparked off serious rioting. There was open fighting with the police on the streets and public buildings were

broken into. At the moment, however, there is no reliable information about the number of casualties, since the whole area has been closed to foreigners and the official newspapers have made no mention of the incidents.

Despite the usual silence in the Soviet Press and the obvious urge of the American papers to dress up the whole affair, it is very clear that there is deep and seething unrest amongst the Soviet workers.

The increase in food prices have been made largely as a concession to the farming population, together with a lowering of taxes and delivery quotas. This is an attempt by the ruling bureaucracy to buy off the agricultural workers, who are dissatisfied with the amount of consumer goods they are now receiving.

● p. 2, col. 5

## Another East End defeat for Mosley

Newsletter Reporter

**L**AST week-end another Mosley meeting was closed down through the action of left-wing militants. While addressing a crowd at Bethnal Green, East London, on Sunday, October 9, Jeffrey Hamm, second-in-command of the Union Movement, was shouted down by angry members of the crowd, with Young Communists and Young Socialists playing a prominent role.

Throughout the night, the Yellow Star Organisation had been holding a meeting at Victoria Park Square, Bethnal Green, to 'prevent Mosley from getting the pitch'. This policy was proved ineffective when they started their meeting in a street just around the corner.

#### ADVICE

As soon as it became known that the Hamm meeting had begun, prominent members of the Yellow Star urged their dwindling audience to stay away from it. Fortunately this advice was not heeded by the younger elements present.

The trouble at the Mosley meeting began when Hamm called upon the police to take the name and address of a heckler, who, he said, had 'openly admitted being a member of the Communist Party'. At this a roar of protest from the crowd drowned his voice and numerous policemen emerged from their hiding place in a yard adjoining the street and closed the meeting.

#### SCUFFLES

As the dispersing crowd milled around the crossroads by Bethnal Green Underground Station, several scuffles broke out. In all, about 30 people were arrested by the police.

The people who smashed the shopwindow of the Bethnal Green Labour Party were not among those arrested.

Those members of the Labour Party, who believe in 'anything for a quiet life' and who want to leave the job of cleaning out the fascists to the Tories, must realise that it is their party and the trade unions behind it that the fascists are gunning for.

#### SERIOUS

Failure to check the growth of the fascist movement now will spell disaster for the Labour movement, a disaster with far more serious consequences than the breaking of a few windows.

# Labour: the way forward

**T**HE Labour Party conference at Brighton demonstrated once again how the genuine anti-Tory feeling of the rank and file of the movement can be exploited for reactionary ends.

The NEC resolution on the Common Market was a fraud and Gaitskell's speech a clever piece of fakery. This concern over the terms for entry, whilst on the surface giving the impression of a major difference between Labour and the Tories, is nothing more than concern that the British monopoly capitalists should get the best possible deal from the 'six' when they enter. The debate had nothing whatsoever to do with socialist policies.

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With unemployment on the increase and several industries threatened with closure, all talk of nationalisation was dropped. Instead the conference discussed how best to advise the Tory capitalists in the conduct of their business. Thus, Mr. Gaitskell succeeded in obtaining a suitable cover for an election campaign for which he has no policy.

He is not worried about the tremors of opposition on the extreme Right. He has succeeded, with the assistance of the fake Lefts and *Tribune*, in rallying the Left behind him. It is, after all, this Left which will do the donkey work for the election, and Gaitskell is conscious that Labour's election machine is in bad shape.

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Once more the Right wing have demonstrated that they hold complete sway over the political fortunes of the Labour Party. The fake Lefts remain at Gaitskell's mercy. The five Independent Labour MPs are still without the Whip and are likely to remain so unless Gaitskell shows them mercy.



Foot: at Gaitskell's mercy

They are certainly not capable of forcing him to give back the Whip since they are far too compromised with his policies.

**The Brighton conference could, however, mark the end of the retreat from Scarborough. The Right wing expected that they**

**would be able to carry their 'guilt by association' amendment to the constitution, but it was defeated.**

**Such a defeat, however, could be just as worthless as the H-bomb victory at Scarborough unless a new Left wing, determined to fight the Right along Marxist lines, emerges.**

There are, in fact, indications that such a Left wing, although not yet Marxist, is beginning to show itself in the youth movement in particular, and in some trade unions and constituency parties. The proscription of the youth paper *Keep Left*, is a fiasco for the Right wing and its full-time officials.

The legal affidavit of a young

socialist named David Todd submitted to conference delegates in the current issue of the paper exposes a state of affairs at the Young Socialists Conference that remains unanswered, by the officials concerned.

Many delegates believe that

the witch-hunt in the Young Socialists.

**The Stalinists of King Street show that they are not much different from the Gaitskellites at Transport House. Both sides talk about democracy when it suits them but are not**

**concerned with it inside their own organisations.**

The fight against the proscription of *Keep Left* and the threatened expulsion of a number of youth leaders, should be utilised to spark off a national campaign to put teeth into the struggle against 'guilt by association' and bans and proscriptions.

It is necessary to lay bare the bureaucratic workings of Transport House. We understand that there is some concern that the full-time officials are going to be weakened as a result of the exposures in the current issue of *Keep Left*. Some of these people should not be weakened but expelled if what Mr. Todd says is true.

the reason for this is that the Right wing have no answer. Before *Keep Left* was proscribed they refused to hold an enquiry although the paper says they were asked to do so.

At the conference they refused to accept an appeal on behalf of the paper, although they are constitutionally required to do so. Now the matter goes back to the constituencies and the trade unions.

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It is worthwhile noting the alliance which exists between the *Daily Worker* and Transport House on this issue. On paper the Communist Party talks about the fight against bans and proscriptions but in practice it has been remarkably quiet on

members' interests.

The aid, both military and economic, which the Cubans have received from the USSR, has enabled them to defy the attacks of US big business. But increased dependence on these supplies carries with it the danger of political pressure from Khrushchev for more 'responsible' policies to be followed.

The UN speech of Cuba's President Dorticos is a warning of the possibility of such moves. Dr. Dorticos declared his government had no intention of spreading revolution to the South American mainland, or of taking action against the US naval base at Guantanamo.

The Cuban Revolution must not be allowed to be used as a bargaining counter in any deal between Kennedy and the Soviet bureaucracy. Assistance from the international Labour movement is vital if the revolution is to be saved.

## US steps up the Cuban squeeze

**T**HE past few weeks have seen a stepping up of the US efforts to tighten the economic stranglehold on Cuba. Pressure on the allies of American imperialism to cut off trade with the island has been intensified.

An 'informal' gathering of South American diplomats met in Washington on October 2 to consider a memorandum from Secretary of State Dean Rusk. This demanded new restrictions on shipping and trade, as well as intensified security precautions against Cuban 'infiltration' in Latin America.

Washington's fear of other parts of South America following the Cuban example is an important factor in Kennedy's aggressive actions.

At the same time, representatives of NATO countries are being called into State Department talks on this question. They have heard demands that shipping should be stopped from carrying goods to and from Cuba.

All US ships, including those owned by American firms but sailing under 'flags of convenience' of other countries, are to be prevented from carrying any kind of cargo there. The Americans propose to prohibit the use of American ports to the ships of a country if one of its vessels takes

strategic supplies to Cuba. The definition of 'strategic materials' used by Washington is notoriously wide.

A joint Congressional committee last week recommended that all foreign aid be cut off from any country allowing strategic goods to go to Cuba.

The British government, while declaring its sympathy with the aims of US policy, is still objecting to some of these proposals. Greek shipowners, however, who are responsible for carrying more Cuban trade than any other Western country (Britain comes second) have now decided to stop chartering ships for this purpose.

These attempts to starve out the Cuban revolution must be fought by all sections of the world Labour movement. Those union leaders, like Joseph Curran of the National Maritime Union, who support the imperialists' moves, are not only hitting at the Cuban people but are betraying their own

## Labour Review Autumn issue

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A new left-wing leadership is beginning to show itself in the Young Socialists, seen here at their annual conference last Easter

The hope in the coming period lies with the youth and not with the fake Lefts of *Tribune* who, on the day that the *Keep Left* appeal should have been debated, came out in open attack on the paper.

The days when *Tribune's* proud boast was that it campaigned for freedom and democracy inside the Labour Party are over. The paper is now managed by people who have no real principles to fight for, people who are cynical and tired of the struggle.

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They fear the resurgence of a youth movement interested in Marxism. *Tribune* is worried that its circulation will be seriously affected by such papers as *Keep Left*—a fear which may well be justified.

The fake Lefts lined up last week with the witch-hunters. At long last those people who posed as militants have shown where they really stand in the struggle. Much of the confusion has been cleared away. Brighton 1962 could be the beginning of a new seriously-based socialist Left wing in the Labour Party.

## ● Riots in Russia cont. from page one

**The impressive space flights and the building of the vast power station at Bratsk have not solved the problem of food.**

**Nor, for that matter, has Khrushchev's 'virgin lands' scheme. This newly-opened farmland is already showing a decrease in productivity. The bureaucracy fail to realise that it is not the amount of land under cultivation which determines the agricultural output, but ultimately the output per capita of the agricultural workers.**

This cannot be increased until an incentive is provided for the agricultural workers in the shape of tangible consumer goods (things which are commonplace to workers in the capitalist countries) in return for their work.

These trends make nonsense of Khrushchev's promises about communism by 1980. Soviet economy is crippled by the need for arms production to defend the USSR against the imperialists. Despite all its tremendous advances its future is therefore as dependent as ever on the international working class movement.

# De Gaulle tightens up the state

## French ruling class shows contempt for parliament

by Tom Kemp

**S**INCE the end of the Algerian war de Gaulle has shown his determination to resolve the problem of the succession, a determination stimulated by the attempt on his life at Petit-Clamart. This is not a personal question. It is necessary, he asserted in his recent broadcast, 'to assure the continuity of the State and the functioning of its powers'. What opposes him to the old-line politicians is a different conception of the form the bourgeois state should take. Behind that difference lies a deep fissure within the French bourgeoisie.

For the political parties, the line of defence of capitalist property relations lies through the parliamentary benches. For de Gaulle and his backers, essentially the big monopoly groupings thinking of the bitter struggles which lie ahead in the Common Market, a strong state is indispensable. Any slide back into Fourth Republic instability would be a disaster.

This is the issue posed by the referendum on whether the President should be elected, that is, retain the absolute powers within his grasp under the present constitution, or whether the gate should be left open for the supremacy of parliament. Big business identifies the latter with the palsy of the Fourth Republic, opening the way to civil war.

### HIERARCHY

Dedicated to building a strong state with a first-class army, a massive police reserve and a hierarchy of loyal functionaries, de Gaulle's aim conforms with the needs of the most advanced sectors of French capitalism. It wins support from the main modernising forces in the bourgeoisie which wish to by-pass the old parties, as well as from the direct beneficiaries of bonapartism. If the OAS can be considered a serious contender for power, a further strengthening of the state apparatus not only makes it easier to deal with such opposition, but also draws away from it sections of the ruling class attracted mainly by its authoritarian promise.

## K's missiles for Nehru

**T**HE report that Russia is going to sell air-to-air missiles to the Indian government is a striking illustration of the nature of Stalinist policy. Together with the MIG fighters, these weapons will be used on the Indian-Chinese border.

The Soviet workers have to shoulder the burden of an enormous armaments programme in order to protect their nationalised economy against imperialist attack. But the bureaucratic Soviet leaders are prepared to use the results of this sacrifice not for defending the conquests of the Russian working class but to attack the Chinese Republic.

Nehru's capitalist government is fighting to maintain the boundaries laid down under the British Raj. It receives material support from the Russians because they

think they will get some diplomatic advantage in return.

The imperialists want to encourage the Indian capitalists in dispute with the Chinese. Nehru, as a capitalist politician, is tied to imperialism. His disagreements with the big powers have only episodic significance.

In the event of a conflict between the Chinese workers' state and the Indian capitalist state, every socialist should fight for a Chinese victory. The patriotic attitude of the Communist Party is a capitulation to the Indian ruling class. Instead of backing Nehru they should be supporting the Chinese and leading a struggle against Indian capital.

The opportunist politics of Khrushchev and his Indian supporters, sacrifice to diplomatic manoeuvres the true interests of the workers and peasants of Russia, India and China.

In the meantime the more backward, and often short-sighted, sections of the bourgeoisie clamour their opposition. Their vote against de Gaulle in the Assembly expresses their weakness, not their strength. As long as de Gaulle commands the state power and can appeal directly to the people through the radio and TV, their opposition is no more than a helpless gesture. In the last analysis they are dependent upon de Gaulle anyway. And he, and they, know it!

Meanwhile because the working class lacks leadership and a programme to win backing from the peasant and lower middle class mass, the main base for bonapartist dictatorship remains intact. The restoration of parliamentary powers means less than nothing to these classes. Contempt for parliament is even deeper than it was in 1958 at the time of the downfall of the Fourth Republic. This the leaders of the parties hardly dare to admit.

**If they could see clearly, they would realise, as de Gaulle surely does, that French capitalism must have a strong state power, independent of parliamentary control, or see itself go under before the onslaught of the real democratic forces of a resurgent working class.**

*'The Union's Sports Park is a magnificent set up' . . . 'a magnificent swimming pool' . . . 'there is still a terrific housing problem, but the Unions are tackling this' . . . The main object of the Labour University was to deal with the question of Social Justice' . . . 'a very fine hospital' . . . 'A residential Holiday Camp for Trade Union workers in a magnificent setting on the Northern Coast' . . . 'A Youth School' . . . 'a National Institute of Welfare.'*

**N**O, this is not a picture of a future Socialist Utopia. It is—incredibly—a selection of the marvels which a delegation from the Lancashire NUM managed to see—in Franco Spain! They went as the guests of Franco's tame fascist-led company union and their glowing report is now the cause of a blistering row in the Lancashire coal-field.

This jaunt took place last April—the same month that the great strike of 100,000 Spanish workers broke out. But no trace of that searing discontent is to be found in this report.

Messrs. Crossley, Gibson, Turner and Gormley were persuaded that all the leaders and committees of this fake union were elected by ballot vote (though there appears to have been no investigation of the conditions under which these 'ballots' took place nor any question as to who counted the votes) and that each pit had its

own elected trade union committee.

Yet during the strike it was these leaders—like Senor Solis—whom Franco drafted in to break the strike. What were these 'democratic committees' doing when miners were being forced down the pits at gun-point and their wives and children beaten in the streets by Franco's police thugs?



This remains unexplained in the report, published four months after these events. Instead, it comments approvingly on the Union Arbitration procedure: 'It would seem that 70 per cent of the cases submitted for settlement had been agreed to the benefit of the workers.' There is not one mention of the fact that strikes are illegal!

And, unbelievable as it seems, this happy picture of peace and harmony was gained from a visit to the Asturias region, where in that very same month

Franco sent in 30,000 armed police and troops!

Labour Universities? Welfare schemes? What about the stinking gaols where hundreds of socialists and trade unionists lie rotting their lives away?

What about men like Fernando Macarro Castillo, Antonio Zapata Borrego, Jose Luis Fernandez Albert, Felix Rodriguez Bello and dozens of others all serving sentences of 30 years imprisonment in Burgos Central prison?

Of course, one should not expect a respectable delegation, comfortably quartered in the Plaza Hotel, Madrid, to notice such unsavoury details. No doubt that would be 'outside the terms of reference'—besides being so impolite to one's hosts.

Much better to drool over the symbol of a cathedral and cross erected by Franco after he had butchered the Spanish working class. This building, the delegation reports, 'represented the wish of the Unions to whitewash the scars of a long and cruel Civil War, so that the bodies of the Spanish Youth who fought on both sides of this war could rest together, as each one of them fought, from his own point of view, for a better Spain'.

However, militant Lancashire miners do not go for such whitewash. There are demands for the complete withdrawal of this report, and a censure on the delegation. The men feel that British workers stand four-square with the fighting miners of Spain, and that hob-nobbing with Franco's fakers is a disgrace to the name of trade unionism.

**NO ONE** could dodge this issue, says Mr. Jim Callaghan on the subject of an 'incomes' policy! Britain has always had wage restraint, so there was nothing new in that. What we have to do is to secure the assent of the whole nation to an incomes policy which is fair and equally applied.

Maudling is too timid, according to Callaghan. His new measures are cautious because he fears another balance of payments crisis.

But, hints Mr. Callaghan at the Brighton conference, with a Labour government the co-operation of workers can be assured. In other words, wage control can be instituted to make profits safe for British capitalists.

This column, in the past, has described so-called dividend limitation, called for by Callaghan, as a sham. More investment by big business and tax incentives for them says Mr. Callaghan. But not even Mr. Maudling can encourage big business to invest if the rate of profit is not maintained.

His Mansion House speech in which he announced an increase in public investment and an end of restraint on bank lending was calculated to bring about an

## City Slants by colin chance

increase in business activity generally.

But the economic climate is such that it is unlikely that these measures will lead to more buoyant trading conditions. Easier lending to local authorities by the Public Loans Board, also announced, was forecast in this column (Newsletter July 21) but the building industry is already

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### Dodging the issue

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fully extended, and this concession is not likely to have much impact.

Now that the banks and insurance companies are free of controls, they will tend to lend money for projects where there is little risk. Property development, competing for building labour with housing, was on the black list whilst controls were in force. This, however, is the sort of field that appeals to the money-lenders.

It is precisely this money outlet that is highly inflationary, contributing nothing at all to exports so highly prized by the Tories. Not that export of goods is the cornerstone of their policy. Maudling was well aware of Lord Cromer, Governor of the Bank of England, breathing down his neck and calling for the abolition of controls on capital movements from the UK.

Trading in money can be much more remunerative for capitalists than trading in goods. Investment abroad can yield fatter profits than investment at home.

The political pygmies in the leadership of the Labour Party implore big business to increase their investment. But nationalisation of the basic industries can alone enable sustained investment to take place, because those industries will determine it.

If the next Labour Chancellor is dependent on the beneficence of British capitalists, he will have to take note of Lord Cromer's views, too, for expediency makes Labour 'statesmen' prisoners of the ruling class.



# Industrial Newsletter

Saturday October 13, 1962

## Tough future for Midlands

### Busmen fight 'more-work-less-pay' scheme

By a London Busman

REPRESENTATIVES of 37,000 busmen meeting in London on Monday rejected the plans of the London Transport Executive for drastic re-organisation of London's transport. The package deal offered to busmen's leaders by the LTE was rejected by 100 votes to three. This would have conceded small increases in wages to some bus staffs in return for the acceptance of one-man operated (OMO) buses, 'Standee' buses, and the large Routemasters, together with cuts in schedules particularly at weekends.

Delegates were particularly incensed by the offer, extended by the LTE, to divide the savings from these reorganisations of the industry on a 60 to 40 per cent basis (busmen to get 40 per cent).

Delegates from Edgware, Harrow Weald and Hornchurch, where decisions for strike action had previously been taken, made it quite clear that they were not opposed to scientific and technical progress, but that these new vehicles would place an intolerable burden on the operating staff.

The LTE proposes to introduce the OMO buses in suburban districts where passenger flow is light. The standee bus is a new vehicle with a capacity for carrying 70 passengers, 35 of whom will be standing on the lower deck. The Routemasters are huge 72-seaters.

The LTE proposals were for an increase of 2s. a day for Routemaster staff and a reduction in hours equivalent to 6d. a day. Standee crews were to get 1s. 6d. a day.

Delegates spoke strongly in favour of a substantial reduction in hours in preference to wage increases. Already, intensified schedules introduced last year have increased fatigue enormously.

### ● ETU: Left fights back

from page one

altogether successful; they had to retreat on the proposal for a full-time executive elected for five years. This allows the rank and file an opportunity to change the executive at the elections which will be held next autumn.

The new system of voting will make this more difficult, but the Left wing must establish the widest possible unity inside the union and understand that their fight is a fight of militant trade unionism as a whole against the growing dominance of right-wing bureaucracy.

The rules revision conference proved beyond doubt that the issue in the ETU was not one of democrats versus vote-fiddlers, but one of a



Cousins: much criticism

Busmen should be quite clear that these proposals are part of the drive for efficiency and speed-up which the Tories are carrying through in all transport industries. That is why the activities of Frank Cousins, who stopped busmen striking in support of the railwaymen last week, is under much criticism from his members.

All attempts should be made to strengthen the alliance of transport workers in a combined fight against the economy plans. If the opposition to these plans leads to strike action by some garages they must be given the full support of all busworkers.

● Wednesday: Busmen at Edgware and Dalston garages decided to strike on Saturday against the new schedules.

Right wing, enjoying the full support of the capitalist press and influential trade union circles, seeking to change a union against the interests of the rank and file.

The Communist Party, despite many serious mistakes made by its members, never put forward the type of rules proposed by Byrne and company. That is why The Newsletter always opposed the witch-hunt against the Communist Party and will continue to oppose it. We were the first political weekly to denounce the Byrne clique as right-wingers, industrially and politically. The rules revision conference has proved this description to the hilt.

The rank and file will have their day. The fight must go on.

### Redundancy threats for engineers

From Our Midlands Correspondent

MIDLAND engineering workers are facing tough times ahead. This will undoubtedly mean big struggles in the motor factories as the employers go ahead with their plans to reduce costs. Without opposition from trade union leaders, they have been able to establish a low rate of pay in the new car centres on Merseyside, in Scotland and in South Wales. This rate is approximately half that paid to the motor workers of Coventry, Birmingham and Oxford—a standard rate of £10 18s. compared with £20 to £25.

The motor bosses have already decided in favour of entry into the Common Market. They are quite clear on just what entry will entail. While Labour leaders have been churning out millions of useless words, the employers have carried out a detailed survey of the motor industry's prospects.

This concludes that it is quite likely that by 1970 there will only be five leading manufacturers in Europe: the two American companies Ford and General Motors (Vauxhall and Opel), Fiat, who are the biggest producers in Europe, Volkswagen and Renault.

#### PRICE WAR

One wonders what place will be left for the British manufacturers. This will depend on the ability of the British motor bosses to drive their European counterparts from already established markets. To do this they must reduce costs, for an assault of any significance on the European market will inevitably lead to a price war.

In their preparation for this coming competition, the British motor bosses have been ably assisted by the Tory government. Together they have successfully diverted large sections of the industry from its present high cost areas in the Midlands to new, low cost areas.

The employers fully recognise that high unemployment has been the main factor in getting these low rates accepted in the new centres. Now they hope it will help them to reduce the wage rates in the Midlands.

#### GRIM

As the *Financial Times* said on August 8: 'For most of the post-war period Coventry has been famous as the town where labour has been the hardest to come by, where the black market for manpower has reached its dizziest proportion. But now the situation has changed. One of Coventry's leading employers, Whitworth-Gloster Aircraft, will be laying off some 3,000 employees.'

The grim facts are that unless WGA get an order for the RAF contract known as the OR 351, the present estimated redundancy of around 4,000 will be turned into one of 11,000 workers.

WGA are, in fact, in a poor position to match the competition of the international aviation in-

dustry. Not only are they incapable of producing large jet transport aircraft, due to hangar size, lay-out and location of factories, but they also pay the highest wage rates in the British aircraft industry.

In Birmingham, the unemployment prospect is very similar. The AEU District Committee has established that over the next 12 months, 14 firms will be closing down. Some 14,000 workers will be thrown on to the labour market.

A fight against the policies of the present Labour Party leadership must be waged by Midland engineering workers, for their present policies only seek to aid the employing class. Ray Gunter's recent speech on the need for a wages policy must be seen for what it is—a plan to put the economy (the capitalist economy) back on its feet at the expense of the working class.

#### OVERTIME

The only wages policy that Midland car workers can accept is the establishment of their rate throughout the car industry.

The growing army of unemployed must demand to be transferred to jobs which carry the same rates of pay as their existing jobs. Trade unions with employed and unemployed workers on their books must instruct their members not to work overtime until all the unemployed are given jobs.

The trades councils, district committees and Labour Parties should organise meetings calling for the nationalisation of the industry. Factory gate meetings should be held calling for a ban on all overtime. The fight for the 40-hour week must be renewed with all the vigour of the Labour movement. Leaders who do not lead must be removed from office.

#### CONTROL

The so-called 'palmy' days for Midland car workers are over. They must take their place with all sections of the Labour movement struggling against Tory policies—a struggle that must ultimately lead to power and workers' control of all the mighty industries.

### What the steel strike was really about

Newsletter Reporter

THE strike of 300 bricklayers employed in the steel industry, which ended on Tuesday, was blown up by the press as a demarcation dispute between the AUBTW and BISATKA. The strike affected more than 12 steel plants in England, Scotland and Wales and the management at Richard Thomas and Baldwins in Ebbw Vale worked up a scare story about the strike threatening the future of the works.

#### GLIB

Beneath the glib reports of an inter-union struggle lies the major threat of redundancy for the bricklayers in the industry. Their struggle first came into prominence last year with the big shut-down at Port Talbot. Members of the AUBTW have faced for some time the prospect of reduced wages and ultimately the sack.

At Ebbw Vale and throughout the steel industry this week, they were fighting for their jobs; unless they were allowed the sole right to fix dolomite blocks in the steel converters they faced the grim prospect of redundancy, with their job done by members of other unions at lower rates.

With the whole weight of the press, the employers and the TUC bureaucracy against them, the AUBTW finally agreed to take the matter to arbitration. In the meantime, the AUBTW members will be allowed temporarily to fix the dolomite blocks.

#### TUC INTERVENE

Mr. Michael Foot was quick to heed the employers' heart-cries about 'ruining the industry' and appealed to the TUC to intervene. Perhaps Mr. Foot believes that the steel employers have the welfare of the people of Ebbw Vale at heart; on the contrary they are ruthlessly out to remove the bricklayers and engage cheaper labour for one of the most strength-sapping jobs in the whole of British industry.

Failing this, they are quite prepared to close down the least profitable 'nationalised' section and bring mass unemployment to South Wales, regardless of the pleas of tame parlour pinks.

#### SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS

#### Glasgow

#### THE FIGHT TO GET THE TORIES OUT

Speaker: Bob Shaw

Sunday, Oct. 21, 7.30 p.m.  
Kingston Rd., 336 Paisley Rd.

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 7.30 p.m.  
Rutherglen Town Hall

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