

RED WEEKLY

26 JUNE 1975

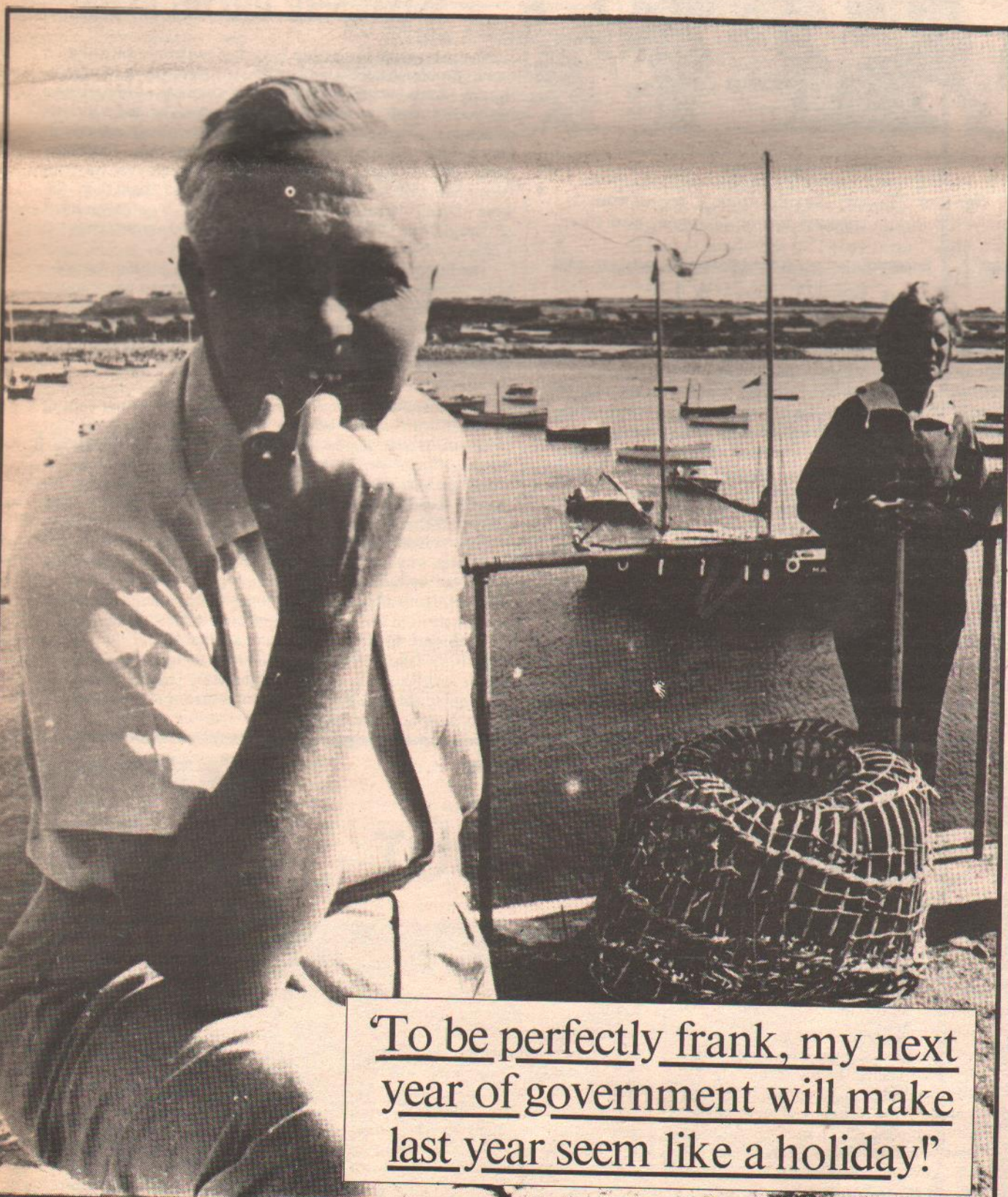
No. 107

PRICE 10p

NO TO ANY SOCIAL CONTRACT



Jack Jones — looking forward eagerly to lower wages for all.



'To be perfectly frank, my next year of government will make last year seem like a holiday!'

Last week the Social Contract took a hammering. The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers by 39 votes to 30 instructed its four members on the General Council of the TUC to oppose the wage restraint of the Social Contract. The Scottish Miners gave the Social Contract equally short shrift. Finally the rail workers punched another hole into its tattered fabric.

But in the corridors of Westminster and Smith Square, the union bureaucrats were engaged in the politics of betrayal. As unemployment shot upwards, as inflation broke another record barrier, and Environment Minister Crosland threatened a 25 per cent increase in council rents, Jack Jones and his colleagues in the TUC were trying to find a formula for throttling working class struggle.

Although Wilson is intent on slashing wages and plans big cuts in social expenditure, he is fearful that the working class resistance this will arouse will destroy both his policies and his position as leader of the Labour Party. Every working class leader and organisation should be putting reality into those fears by campaigning in the working class movement for socialist policies, for mass industrial action against any expenditure cuts, and for the removal of Wilson from the leadership of the Party.

CLASS HOSTILITY

The AUEW vote, the NUR victory, the NALGO conference decision in favour of industrial action against cuts, and the rising working class hostility to Wilson all show the potential which exists for such a campaign.

Instead of mobilising the working class movement, Jack Jones and the TUC are desperately trying to head off the rising discontent against Wilson. Not only do they plan wage cuts, but they even advise Benn to skulk off quietly to the Ministry of Energy so as to avoid any clash inside the Labour Party.

These actions of Jones put him once more squarely in the camp of the agents of the ruling class. He is an integral part of that unholy alliance which stretches from CBI boss Campbell Adamson through Harold Wilson to the Labour MPs and timid union bureaucrats who hang on to the coat-tails of capitalism. The Social Contract is the cement which binds this alliance together.

But the AUEW conference, the Scottish NUM, the railworkers and those 25,000 people who marched against the James White anti-abortion Bill show that there is an alternative. Within the rank and file a movement is stirring. It is confident, undefeated, and prepared to take on the employers and the the right wing policies of the Government.

DIRTY SELL-OUTS

The working class movement has a choice. Either it can grub in the corridors of power, implicated in the dirty sell outs, or it can turn to the mass movement. One offers the road of victory. The other offers the road of defeat and demoralisation.

This demands a break from capitalism and its servants inside the labour movement. It means fighting to remove Wilson from the leadership of the Labour Party. It means organising to bring into action millions of workers to fight for a socialist alternative. It means complete rejection of any form of Social Contract — including the one Jack Jones is preparing.

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MOZAMBIQUE INDEPENDENT!



Frelimo president
Samora Machel



Frelimo guerrillas on the march to victory

On 25 September 1964, when Frelimo took up arms against the Portuguese colonialists in the northern areas of Mozambique, its detachment was made up of only 250 fighters. Today Mozambique is an independent state. Four hundred years of colonial domination, ten years of courageous armed struggle, and nine months of transitional government have been brought to an end.

The independence of Mozambique was not won without cost. The Portuguese colonialists — eyeing the revenue from the colony's agricultural products and the potential of its oil and mineral resources — strove desperately to head off the liberation struggle. In these manoeuvres they were solidly backed by the Western powers — which benefited from enormous investment concessions in Mozambique. A major role was also played by the Rhodesian and South African regimes, who rightly saw their own survival threatened by this developing struggle on their borders.

ATROCITIES

It was only two years ago that the revelations of some priests gave widespread publicity to the atrocities of mass murder and genocide perpetrated by the Portuguese. Yet these acts of terrorism in no way dampened the support given by the Mozambican masses to Frelimo. By 1973, Frelimo controlled most of the three northern provinces of Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Tete. The struggle had also spread to Manica e Sofala — the white heartland containing the nerve centres of the colonial economic system.

The new period opened up in April 1974 by the fall of the Caetano dictatorship in Portugal highlighted the maturity of Frelimo's political and military leadership. It resolutely pursued its demand for immediate independence and rejected any form of compromise. This was accompanied by a developing programme of mass mobilisations and organisation of the urban areas. On the military plane, the freedom fighters successfully launched the armed struggle in Zambezia province; another new front was created.

By then the war was spreading like a prairie fire in the southern areas; and at the same time demoralisation was further increasing among the Portuguese troops. This was the backdrop to the Lusaka talks in September 1974 at which independence was finally agreed. Revolutionary nationalism had scored a victory on the very doorsteps of the reactionary white regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia.

REGROUPMENT

Frelimo was formed in 1962 through the regroupment of various nationalist groupings. The savage massacre of Mueda in 1960, which claimed 500 lives, and the repression of a peasant uprising in 1962 had dispelled pacifist illusions; Frelimo was therefore empirically oriented towards armed struggle. But the strong influence of the struggles in the French and British colonies and Frelimo's own diverse currents and lack of political past made it difficult to theorise the revolutionary process of the struggle. The content, strategy and historical perspective of the struggle were scarcely spelled out. Frelimo instead claimed openly to be a multi-class organisation, with a fluid and deliberately imprecise position on the social goals of the struggle.

After growing rapidly in the northern provinces of Cabo

by

Absalom Aku

point in the period of 1967-1969. External and internal difficulties were racking the movement. In Rhodesia a white minority regime had assumed power with the blessing of imperialism; the guerrillas in Zaire had suffered complete liquidation; and the Cabora Bassa dam project had got off the ground. Internally, the liberated zones posed a political problem which the diverse and frontist leadership of Frelimo could only solve with some ideological clarification.

Two opposing currents emerged. This is how Marcelino Dos Santos, vice-president of Frelimo, summed up the debate: 'The erroneous line, represented by Simango, was orientated towards a war of national liberation in order to drive the foreigners out of Mozambique; but the same system of capitalist exploitation which to-day takes the form of colonial exploitation would be maintained. The correct line, represented by Mondlane, is based on drawing the masses into the liberation struggle... and aims at the creation of an independent state where there will be no exploitation of man by man'. The position of the majority was therefore a decisive break with the traditions of reformist nationalism as seen in

all the British and French colonies.

But is this to say that Frelimo has a clear-cut ideological stance? Frelimo still describes itself as a frontist organisation. In one of his declarations Samora Machel, the President of Frelimo, said: 'Mozambicans of all races, ethnic groups, beliefs and all social origins identify themselves with Frelimo.' Furthermore the question of a vanguard party has still not been posed. Nor, despite Frelimo's Socialist phraseology has a clear-cut socialist programme yet been elaborated.

There has been no firm commitment to thoroughgoing change of the economic system. And yet, since Mozambique's economy depends to a large measure on foreign investments, indigenous petty-bourgeois layers will not take long to crystallise on the morrow of independence. Class differences will sharpen at a rapid rate.

The problem is that the radicalisation of Frelimo took place in a very empirical way: socialist experiments developed in the liberated areas because of the pressures of war and the needs of the immediate situation. To-day Frelimo militants say that the need for a vanguard organisation and a programme does not arise because the 'people' will take care of any reactionary or capitalist solution as they took care of the armed struggle!

IMMENSE PROBLEMS

The nationalist leadership is to-day confronted with immense problems qualitatively different from those of administering liberated zones. The various disguises of imperialism in the continent, the low level of class struggle, and a lopsided economic structure inherited from the Portuguese could very quickly drive it within the neo-colonial web. Furthermore 100,000 Mozambican workers leave each year for work in the mines of South Africa; and the Cabora Bassa dam, for which South Africa will be the main client, is on the point of completion. Very shortly, these economic constraints will compel Frelimo to make a decisive choice.

The building of a 'socialist' Mozambique will not be possible within a few days. The revolution must be consciously spread to the whole of Southern Africa. There cannot be socialism in one African country! It is thus imperative that Frelimo structures the mass movement around anti-capitalist objectives.

The Mozambican working class constitutes 10 per cent of struggles it unleashed last year. In fact, in the whole of the southern African region the struggle for national liberation has set off specifically anti-capitalist struggles among the working class. In South Africa, Rhodesia, and especially in Angola recently, the militancy of the working class has demonstrated that one cannot separate the struggle for national liberation from the struggle against capitalism.

That is why one cannot call for the unity of all 'authentic classes' to build a 'new' Mozambique. The balance of forces in Mozambique itself will depend to a large extent on the situation in the whole of Southern Africa. While economic compromises may well be unavoidable, only the support of Mozambique for the liberation struggles in South Africa and Rhodesia — most immediately that of ZANU — will enable the new government to confront and overcome the tasks which now face it.

STOP NALGO LEADERS SELL-OUT

The National and Local Government Officers Association's national negotiators are recommending acceptance of a 25 per cent offer from the employers in reply to their claim for £10 plus 15 per cent.

The employers' offer is just a 4.3 per cent increase on their last offer — virtually identical to the increase in the Retail Price Index in May. If the deal is accepted by the local government delegate group meeting on 27 June, it will mean massive cuts in the living standards of local government workers, especially the lower paid grades.

The lowest paid local government officer — at present receiving £1,119 a year, including £127 threshold pay — will get £1,215 a year, a grand increase in new money of just under 10 per cent. This is well under £2 a week. However, the

highest paid will be receiving new money' increases of more than 20 per cent, taking their annual salaries from £6,198 to £7,407.

Delegates at the last local government delegate group meeting very wisely decided, against the advice of the union leadership, to recall the negotiators so that any offer could be voted on by the group meeting. A successful campaign to get the offer rejected, in favour of the full claim and the total strike action necessary to get it, would defend living standards and prevent the Labour Government notching up at least one relative victory in its fight for a tougher Social Contract Mark 2 pay policy.

Militants in NALGO must also explain the importance of linking the pay fight with the fight to defend the social services against cuts in public expenditure.



Andrew Bennett

IN FOCUS

1. THE TRIBUNE GROUP

The policies of the Tribune group continue to display all the inconsistencies typical of left reformists. On the one hand the left MPs, after their capitulations on troops to Glasgow and the Budget, are showing a tiny bit more militancy in the House of Commons. The vote of eight MPs against the watering down of the Industry Bill follows on the heels of the votes against the Government on defence, the EEC, and by a small number of MPs against the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

There does seem to be a chance that at least some Labour MPs will vote against the public expenditure cuts and any incomes policy — although given previous voting records any socialist has the right to be sceptical on this. Such a vote by Tribune is not to be sneezed at — it would provide one of a number of rallying points against the cuts. Furthermore, if Wilson could only carry his economic policies through a coalitionist reliance on Tory votes this would substantially weaken his position within the labour movement. But even if Tribune were to vote against the cuts, it is all at sea when it comes to carrying through the logic of such a vote.

Firstly consider the question of the Wilson leadership of the Labour Party. Before the Cabinet changes Tribune were prepared to demand the reinstatement of Benn. After the reshuffle went through they condemned the changes. Yet when it came to the crunch the Tribune group failed to carry through the logic of such a position. They condemn the action, they declare that they have no confidence in Wilson's ability even to carry through the policies of the Labour manifesto, and yet at the same time they resolutely refuse to make any call for the removal of Wilson from the leadership of the Labour Party.

ABSURD POSITION

This refusal to call for the removal of Wilson is a truly absurd position — you declare yourselves opposed to the policies of someone but you refuse to call for their removal from the leadership of the Party. Of course this position is given a 'left' gloss by saying that it is policies and not 'personalities' which count, but this is just a cover-up — certainly you have to start with policies, but once you have decided these then you have to draw out the logical implications in terms of 'personalities'.

Secondly, and still more importantly, the Tribune left refuses to contemplate any idea of actually organising openly in the rank and file for opposition to Wilson and his policies. Indeed the Labour right, through its newly formed Social Democratic Alliance, is better organised outside the Parliamentary Labour Party than is the Labour left.

ORGANISE WORKERS MOVEMENT

Not merely does this refusal of the Labour left to organise prevent any serious fight against Wilson within the Labour Party, but, above all, it is suicidal given the present relation of forces within Parliament. A combination of Labour right and Tory votes can pass anything against the left MPs. To rely purely on a fight in Parliament is simply to hope that some act of God (perhaps lightning striking the voting lobby?) will succeed in wiping out the Wilson coalition majority votes. In fact it is clear as shown this week by the NUR and the anti-James White Bill demonstration, that the only really effective opposition is that which is mobilised outside Parliament.

If despite our scepticism, the Tribune group does vote against future public expenditure cuts or incomes policy, that will be a step forward. However, unless Tribune comes out clearly both for the removal of Wilson from the leadership of the Labour Party, and for the open organisation of forces for mass action against his policies, and for a fight for a socialist alternative, they will not be playing a role which can really have any important weight in the working class struggles which are coming.

2. THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

The IS position has remained as illogical as that of Tribune — it declares opposition to the removal of Benn, declares that Wilson is using his position to prepare an assault on the working class, but refuses to call for the removal of Wilson from that position. The only logical conclusion anyone could draw from the IS position would be that all would be well provided that Benn could be kept in Government — perhaps he could pressurise Wilson!

But even more striking than the extreme confusions of the IS position is the way they have almost completely ignored the whole crisis in the Labour party. For example, the week the Government changes were made, *Socialist Worker* decided to lead on a Maudling property scandal. This was a most extraordinary act by a revolutionary organisation, some thing which in itself should make any serious IS militant stop and think.

It is undoubtedly much easier to intervene in a strike, or in a national campaign on particular political issues than it is to intervene around a struggle which has so far been fought out primarily within the bureaucracy. But the impact of a crisis within the Labour Party on the consciousness of the working class is something of a totally different order to that of any strike. The Labour Party is the most immediately decisive political fact in the consciousness of the most important sections of the working class. The consciousness of literally hundreds of thousands or even millions of workers is affected by any struggle within it.

For any revolutionary organisation not to take up this crisis in a central way, no matter what the lack of immediate initiatives which can be taken around it, is for that organisation to confess that it is really incapable of dealing with the central problems in the political life of the working class.

To concentrate a paper and a line on local strikes or property scandals at the present time is actually to say to the working class that local or partial struggles are more important than all the questions of Government and other central political issues that a crisis within the Labour Party inevitably raises. Not only is this the complete opposite of everything which Leninists have to fight for, but it won't even work — the reality of the social weight of central questions of politics means that many more thousands of workers are talking about the crisis of the Labour Party than about the Maudling property scandals. Seldom has the inadequacy of the semi-syndicalist politics of IS been more clearly

Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)



AUEW: FINE WORDS BUT ACTION NEEDED

The decision of the national conference of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, meeting in Hastings last week, to throw out *any* form of social contract is a clear blow against Labour's wage-cut plans. The next day the Scottish miners followed the engineers' lead: 'so long as the capitalist system remains in Britain', declared Scottish NUM executive spokesman, Mr John Phillips, 'no trade unionist can accept the Social Contract or wage restraint'.

Fine words indeed! And there were more to be had at the engineers conference, where delegates had already voted by 39 to 29 to reject any Social Contract. Almost unanimously — which means the right wing supported the motions as well — delegates instructed the AUEW leaders to get the TUC to use the full strength of the trade union movement to secure the immediate release of the Shrewsbury building workers.

It will be remembered that numerous 'instructions' of this sort have been given to the TUC for more than a year... and the Shrewsbury Two are still in jail. But no resolutions came from the Communist Party members and supporters at the conference on how to mobilise the movement to get the jailed pickets out.

UNANIMOUS

Likewise the AUEW conference unanimously called for lower interest rates, control of capital exports, and cuts in arms spending to finance better pensions, state benefits and social services.

More was to come on public ownership. The AUEW re-affirmed its demands for public ownership of offshore oil, docks, shipbuilding and ship repair, natural gas, aircraft, land, atomic energy, computers, machine tools, banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions. The

by Mick Gosling

complete nationalisation of British Leyland was called for and industrial action to fight redundancies threatened.

ONSLAUGHT

It's fair to say that such an onslaught on the power of the ruling class would bring about a near revolutionary situation. So why did the right hardly bother to oppose these resolutions? Why did only the Social Contract debate generate so much heat? The reason is that only that decision committed the union leaders to anything that was actually going to have an impact — voting against Social Contract Mark 2 at this year's TUC.

All the rest remain so many pious resolutions to other bodies. The right knows that neither the TUC nor the Labour Government will do anything unless independent working class action is being taken at the base which threatens their own necks.

NO ALLIANCE

While the decision to reject the Social Contract in any form is an important step forward, the AUEW conference failed to propose an alternative strategy for the working class. Above all, it refused to put out any call for an alliance with other unions against the Social Contract. Instead it passed a series of resolutions which would seriously damage the power of the capitalist

class if acted on, and called on the very same TUC and Labour Government who are botching together new wage cut-plans to carry them out!

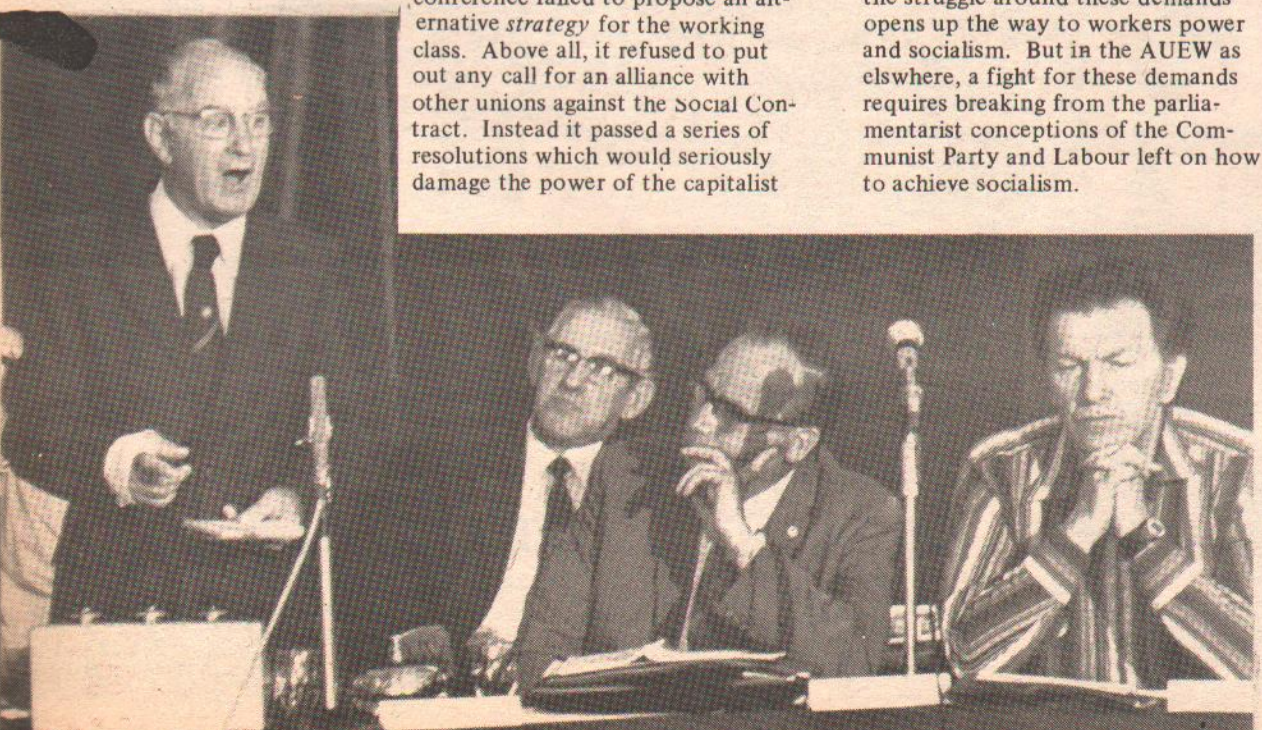
In place of the Social Contract the AUEW conference simply reiterated its faith in 'free collective bargaining'. It's true that the skilled sections of the AUEW can defend their interests on this basis because of their strategic positions in industry, but the non-skilled and low paid are not in a position to defend themselves through gut militancy. It is these real fears and divisions that Jack Jones exploits when he calls for flat rate wage increases.

CLASS-WIDE DEMANDS

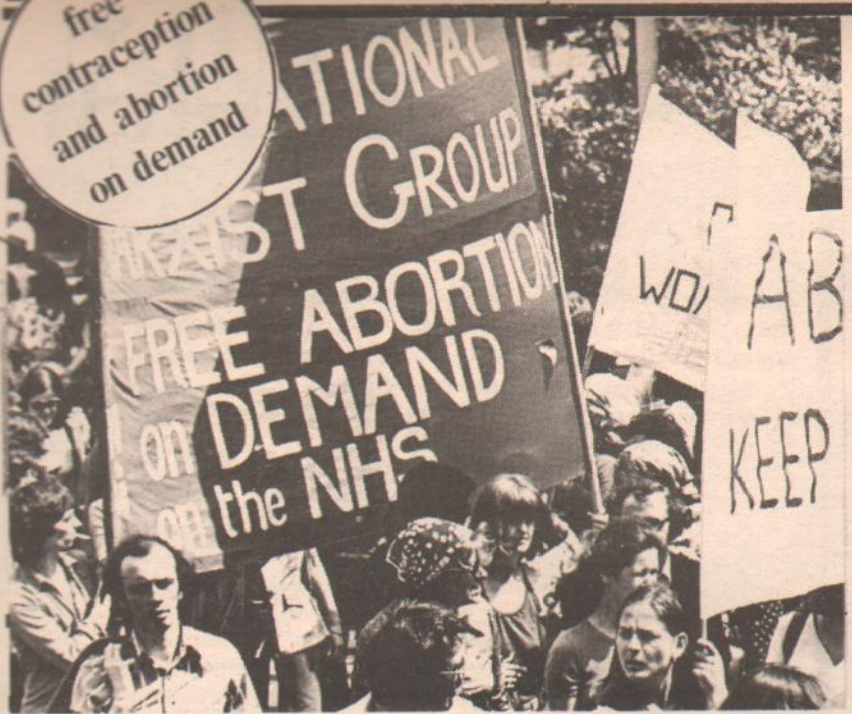
These divisions can only be overcome by a series of *class-wide demands* which cut across the divisions that exist inside the working class and unite all workers in a common struggle. The sliding scale of wages, benefits, and public expenditure would defend all aspects of working class living standards against inflation.

Not only that. By uncompromisingly asserting that the working class takes no responsibility for the capitalist crisis, and that the ruling class can pay for every last penny of it, the struggle around these demands opens up the way to workers power and socialism. But in the AUEW as elsewhere, a fight for these demands requires breaking from the parliamentarist conceptions of the Communist Party and Labour left on how to achieve socialism.

Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)



free
contraception
and abortion
on demand



As the 25,000 strong demonstration swelled through the streets, 200 anti-abortionists gathered in Trafalgar Square. This motley crowd represented the ruling class. They stand for keeping women in chains. Organisations like the Workers Revolutionary Party, by attacking the National Abortion Campaign, play straight into the hands of the right wing.

IMG makes it clear—abortion on demand, provided by the National Health Service

MASSIVE TURN-OUT AGAINST WHITE BILL

'Free abortion on demand — smash reaction, take a stand! This was one slogan echoing along last Saturday's 25,000 strong demonstration against the James White Abortion (Amendment) Bill.

The demonstration marked months of campaigning in trade unions, trades councils, Labour Party branches and women's groups. The National Abortion Campaign was launched when a Parliamentary Select Committee met to discuss restricting further the already inadequate 1967 Abortion Act — thus condemning thousands of women to the backstreet butcher. The labour movement banners on the demonstration as well as the resolutions of support for the campaign from the ATTI, ASTMS, NALGO, Scottish NUM, and Labour Party branches show that the fight for the liberation of women is getting a wider response in the labour movement.

OMISSION

The IMG has consistently fought against the James White Bill and has argued that the fight for free contraception and abortion on demand should be taken up by the whole of the working class. During International Women's Year, the labour movement has heard many rousing speeches from its 'leaders' in favour of equal pay and anti-discrimination legislation. But too often a struggle

for the material preconditions for this equality is completely ignored.

Without control over when and if to have children, without adequate paternity and maternity leave, and without free state child-care provision, women cannot be freed from the isolated suffocation of child-bearing and domesticity. Neither their financial, cultural nor political independence can be realised. As socialists, we always take a position in favour of free abortion and contraception on demand.

FIGHT NOW

However, a concerted fight on this question — a fight which the whole working class movement makes its own — is even more crucial now. The capitalist economy is cracking at the seams. In order to restore its viability and bolster the private sector, it has to cut social expenditure drastically.

Already cuts in education spending are affecting teachers, students and parents. Now the ruling class are trying to make the family provide many of the facilities previously provided by the State (child-care, health etc.).

Because the working class has not broken with the notion that the family, particularly the women of the family, should carry out these tasks of 'loving and caring', much of the weight of the crisis can be shifted

onto the working class, masked and unresisted. This is why the IMG has attacked not only James White but those Labour MPs who argue that the question of abortion is a matter of conscience. No serious resistance to attacks on the working class, however veiled, can be a matter of conscience for those claiming to defend working class interests!

FIRST STEP

Nor can we agree with Renee Short's remarks at last Saturday's demonstration, that supporters of White are acting against women alone. These moves must be seen as attacks against the interests of the whole of the working class.

Last Saturday's demonstration is just the first step in the campaign to obtain free abortion and contraception on demand. If this latest show of strength does not put the final boot into the James White Bill, and it is adopted by Parliament, then we must step up the fight to make it inoperable and get it thrown out. Many gynaecologists have joined Prof. Peter Huntingford in stating that they will bypass the Act and perform abortions whenever women request them. We should give every encouragement to these moves and fight for industrial action to protect these doctors against police and court action.

Even if the impact of the NAC campaign and the positions in favour

of abortion on demand taken by many unions force Parliament to discard this particular Bill, there is no guarantee that the Select Committee will not try to introduce equally restrictive legislation. By stepping up the campaign we can keep these reactionaries on the run. Whatever happens to the White Bill, the fight against the restrictions of the 1967 Abortion Act must continue.

The 1967 Act leaves the decision up to two doctors, and goes no way to ensure the quickest and safest methods of abortion and contraception are freely available under the National Health Service. Inquiries set up by the labour movement should investigate these inadequacies, along with cut-backs in existing provision and sabotage by reactionary consultants. These inquiries could act as a basis for trade union based action to make abortion and contraception on demand a reality — for example, the picketing of a women's hospital due to be axed in a programme of cutbacks.

M.C.A.P.P.

Unity with sections fighting private practice, like the Medical Committee Against Private Practice, would also further the campaign, for the private abortion racket is one of the most lucrative sides of private practice and one which is a major barrier to free abortion and contraception

on demand.

It is by taking this path of struggle that we can develop a way forward. We should not enter the cul de sac offered by Renee Short and the other Labour MPs, who urge us to rely on Parliament and channel our efforts into lining the waste-bins of the Commons with petitions and letters.

IGNORED

When Renee Short reported the British Medical Association's opposition to the White Bill, what she failed to tell the demonstration was that this followed an occupation of the BMA offices by doctors demanding an end to restrictive abortion legislation. While we welcome the participation of Labour MPs in the campaign, we must demand that they throw their weight behind a real programme of action to make a women's right to choose a reality.

The building of the national NAC conference on 18/19 October will mark the next crucial stage in the campaign. At this conference we can begin to centralise all these initiatives and strengthen the fight for free abortion and contraception on demand.

by Celia Pugh



'We think that any unity achieved on a purely economic basis is a false unity'

INTERVIEW WITH BERNADETTE McALISKEY OF THE I.R.S.P.

The following interview was given to Gerry Foley on 15 May by Bernadette McAliskey. Along with Seamus Costello a former leader of Official Sinn Fein, McAliskey is the most well known leader of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, which was founded in December 1974 primarily by people who left Official Sinn Fein.

●What involvement, if any, did the IRSP have in the shooting of Billy McMillen, the Official IRA commander in Belfast, who was killed at the end of April?

We don't think we have any responsibility for the McMillen shooting. We accept that there may be a remote possibility that on an individual level, somebody either sympathetic to or connected with the IRSP may have had a hand in it. But we think what is of overriding importance is that as an organisation the IRSP condemned the killing of McMillen and saw the shooting as a disaster.

●In your opinion, what started the conflict between the Officials and the IRSP?

I think the origin of the conflict was very simple: the Officials refused to accept the right of people to disagree with their political line — and not only to disagree with it, but to organise along different political principles. Right from the beginning they stated that because we didn't accept their political approach to the Protestant workers that we were 'sectarian'.

Their charge was based on the fact that we refused to see the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association as some sort of progressive working class organisations. It was based on our refusal to accept the essentially economist road of the Officials, that the way forward is to ingratiate yourself with the Protestant workers solely on the question of the Ring Road and redundancies, and ignore the political aspects.

We see this economist road as a blind alley and we think that any unity achieved on a purely economic basis is a false unity. That is, if you give up everything but economic reforms and then after that try to tell the Protestant workers that in the next stage we are all going to be Republicans, it will all fall apart. That kind of unity is a false unity that will immediately fall down when it comes to any real test, as has been shown in the past.

Particularly in Belfast, the Officials felt that when the Provisional split occurred they had made a mistake in allowing the organisation to develop and not crushing it physically at the start.

So it was essential to smash the IRSP before it got off the ground. I think that it was as hard and as crude as that. A decision was taken to smash our organisation before it had an opportunity for weakening any further the Official base in the North, or in fact in the whole of the country.

●In that context, how do you think the conflict can be ended?

I think that the only way the conflict can be ended is if we continue to put forward our political arguments in the belief that politics will win out in the end, that people who have the right political approach and who argue politically will at the end of the day be listened to and accepted or rejected on the basis of their politics.

In the meantime we have been trying through every channel — the liberals, the pacifists, the trade unions — to get talks going with them on how we can guarantee the right of the two organisations to follow their own political approach without interfering with each other.

●How do you think this conflict has affected the overall struggle against British imperialism?

Photo: ANDREW WIARD (Report)



land and the killing of Billy McMillen have shown that the very existence of this kind of conflict gives sufficient cover for the British army, Loyalists, reactionaries, or anybody else, simply to destroy both organisations.

You just have to set the ball rolling and two organisations can destroy themselves. It has a completely demoralising effect on what anyway is a minority.

This simply adds to the weight of propaganda against the left and completely cripples the development of political work in this situation.

●What progress do you think the IRSP has made in developing a revolutionary programme for Ireland and the kind of organisation that can put it into practice?

Well, we were formed originally in the middle of December and we've had our first national conference, which I think pointed very clearly to the massive job of internal education that we have to do. I think we also realised that we grew too quickly in the initial stages and have taken a more conscious step now towards organising much more slowly and carefully and working more with the membership we now have, working out our policy and educating our members, before we attempt to grow at that rapid pace again.

I think that the IRSP is probably about the healthiest development on the Irish political left over the past five years.

●You mean that it is healthy because there is a political discussion and new thinking going on within it?

Yes, in the political sense, in that things are being discussed, there is a process of self-criticism, a reappraisal of issues, combined with a determination to be active, to organise, to work towards the building of a revolutionary party. Although we accept that, as of now, we are not the revolutionary party

●Has the IRSP had any political contacts or discussions with organisations in other countries?

No. But we accept the necessity of moving in that direction. We accept the necessity of not being purely another Republican organisation, or another Irish socialist organisation, which demands solidarity from the world at large but doesn't want to become involved in the issues.

We see ourselves as an integral part of the working class international movement

part of that international struggle, not simply in terms of everybody struggling in their own country, but building links with international organisations.

●Do you have any programme for the Irish communities abroad? Any idea for how to link them with what is going on here? Any plans for utilising their support in an organised way?

We have a short-term programme that involves essentially maintaining links with various solidarity movements where they have previously existed. Basically the short-term programme around which we accept the solidarity of these groups is the demand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops, an end to repressive legislation, and the right to self-determination.

That's a programme that was already in existence, and there were problems with some groups because some people said, for example, that you can't take the troops out of Northern Ireland immediately, or we must not raise the issue of self-determination because it doesn't have class content. But essentially that is the immediate short-term solidarity programme which people who have supported us demand.

DEMONSTRATE
against the Prevention of Terrorism Act
SATURDAY 5 JULY
Assemble 2.30pm, Kilburn Underground Stn.
Organised by ad hoc committee supported by IS, IMG, WF etc and under the auspices of TOM

Loyalists 'put up to' arms raids

Last week's arms raid at the Ulster Defence Regiment base in Magherafelt, County Derry, was clearly organised by a Loyalist para-military group. Furthermore there is no doubt that the Loyalists had been 'put up to' the job by their colleagues in the UDR.

As Derek Brown, the *Guardian* correspondent in Belfast, commented: 'The intruders clearly had some knowledge of the layout and security arrangements at the centre in Station Road.' The UDR has 7,132 men — many of them former B Specials — and 564 women in its ranks. Ninety eight per cent of these UDR members are Protestants.

Three other arms raids on UDR centres have been organised by the Loyalists — all carried out with inside assistance. In each instance where arms were recovered they were found in Protestant areas.

Protests by SDLP member Ivan Cooper that the UDR would help Loyalists set up an independent state if the need arose have been brushed aside by the British Government. They claim that transport, communications and weapons for the regiment are under the control of British officers and NCOs serving with the UDR.

This hardly reassured the Catholics, who are only too well aware of the collusion of the British Army with the Loyalists. As the *Sunday Times* recently revealed, it can only have been the British Army who supplied 'top secret' Army dossiers listing suspected IRA members to the Loyalist murder gangs.

Our picture shows that the UDR does not in any case need to rely on guns supplied by the British. The weapons that these UDR men are brandishing were seized by British troops when they raided IRA 'A' arms dumps. Two of the guns on display are the Thompson and ArmaLite, neither of which are issued by the British.

So the UDR operates a nice two-way traffic. It arms itself with former IRA weapons — thus reducing its dependence on the British for arms. Then a number of its members arrange to 'get raided' by the Loyalist para-militaries so that they can steal the 'official' arms doled out to the UDR by the British.

No wonder UDA boss Andy Tyrrie can boast: 'If the civil war begins the equipment is already here.' Confident of his allies he added: 'If the British Army pulls out entirely, some force will have to be left behind. Then the Ulster Army would join with recognised forces of law and order.'



THE SOCIAL CONTRACT ONE YEAR

A year ago, in July 1974, the Tory incomes policy laws came to an end. Wages came under the framework of the Social Contract. Now Jack Jones and the TUC are planning a second round. Bob Pennington examines the appalling record of this first year.

The worst unemployment figures for any June since 1945 have just been announced. There are now 869,000 people out of work — 3.7 per cent of the working population. Unemployment has climbed by 19,489 since May, in contrast to the expected seasonal drop of 35,700. On the seasonally adjusted figures this really represents an increase of 47,900. In the last six months unemployment has risen by 216,566 and in the last year by 326,786.

No wonder Hugh Scanlon said at the AUEW Conference in Hastings: 'If this trend continues there will be no need for the regulation of wages — unemployment will do that'.

These are, of course, only the official figures. There are also thousands of women unemployed, who because they do not pay the full insurance stamp are not officially registered. The guess now is not will unemployment top the million — but how far over the million mark has it already gone?

Urgent action

Protests from Scanlon and calls from T&GWU leader Jack Jones 'for urgent action from the Government and co-operation between unions and employers' will fall on deaf ears. The voices to which the Government leaders are tuned in sounded off in Basle last week. The annual report of the Bank for International Settlements says: 'Sure as fate, real consumption is going to have to be curtailed, and the mass of labour will be obliged to shoulder its share of the cuts.' It goes on: 'The only questions are the extent to which the cuts will come by unemployment and the amount of financial stress the manufacturing sector will be forced to bear.'

The bankers were simply spelling out loud and clear the terms on which the International Monetary Fund will supply an emergency loan of around \$2,000 million. Their terms will be wage cuts, increased unemployment and lowered living standards. The commitment of the Wilson Cabinet to preserving British capitalism means that it will do what the bankers demand.

Wilson and company can only gaze with fascinated horror as British capitalism slithers down the slope of recession. In May, retail prices were up 25 per cent on those of a year double that of most of its major competitors.

Pound plummets

Meanwhile the pound sterling plummets in value and is now down by around 26.5 per cent from its parity in December 1971. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research forecasts that the pound's devaluation will have reached 32 per cent by the end of the year.

The picture of gloom spreads like a pall of doom right across the economy. Falling profit rates, and declining business confidence, brought investment in manufacturing down by eight per cent from the last quarter of 1974 to the first quarter of 1975. A gloomy Department of Industry predicts investment will slump by 15 per cent this year.

Over the last year desperate attempts have been made to cover the losses in the economy.

Some £1,000 million has been borrowed from British banks. Another £600 million has been borrowed from the Shah of Iran, eating up valuable reserves and cutting into the deposits banked in London by the oil producing countries.

Urged on by the international bankers, the Labour Government sees only one solution. The *Observer* of Sunday 8 June wrote: 'Mr Healey intends to warn trade unionists that he will slash public spending, allow unemployment to rise and introduce extra taxes unless they can assure him that ways will be found for keeping wage claims in the next round below a 15 per cent ceiling.'

Although it will be claimed that the new phase of the Social Contract will help the poorly paid, their living standards will in fact be driven into the ground even more firmly than under Social Contract Mark I. As the Child Poverty Action Group point out: 'The poor get poorer under the Social Contract.'

They write: 'Taking a family with one two and three children earning £25 a week in May 1974, the Chancellor was able to show that if they had received wage increases in line with the general level of settlements, these families had marginally increased their real incomes'. Healey claimed that a 'one-child family's income had increased by 14p a week, a two-child family's by 18p and a three-child family's by 68p a week.'

Drop in income

What Healey 'forgot' to examine were the cases of low-income working families who in line with Government policy had only managed to win increases that matched price rises. In the first year of the Labour Government these families suffered a drop in net disposable income. A one-child family lost out by 60p a week, a two-child family by 56p a week, and a three-child family by 4p a week.

If the present rate of inflation over the last three months continues — as is highly likely — then families on social security will still have suffered a decline in income even when social security benefits are increased in November.

Since Labour came to office the relentless war to cut social services has continued. Towards the end of 1974 councils were told not to increase spending on repairs and maintenance. In March 1975 the Department of Environment announced that councils would only get £271 million for improvement programmes instead of the £572 million they had requested.

By April cut-backs totalling £65 million were announced in future housing subsidies and capital expenditure. A round £50 million was cut from the housing programme. Now a



As Tony Crosland said:

confidential circular is going around the local authorities which puts tough restrictions on their purchasing.

The poorly-paid are getting hammered. The workless total is growing. Social security benefits are melting in the hot wind of inflation. Housing programmes are being wiped out. The social services — once the pride of social democracy — are collapsing.

Swamped

Even the more militant sections of the working class are being swamped by the torrent of price rises. May alone saw a 4.2 per cent increase in the cost-of-living — continued over the year that would mean an annual increase of more than 60 per cent.

The inexorable drive of prices against wages continues. In the period from December 1974

until March 1975 wages went up by 5.5 per cent. Prices went up by 7.8 per cent. In four months the gap between wages and prices increased by 2.3p in every pound — before taking the effect of taxes on wages into account. April and May's figures are even worse.

On every single front the working class is having its nose ground into the dust by the social contract. Worst of all, the trade union leaders by their pathetic defence of the social contract legitimise savage cuts in working class living standards and the dismemberment of the social services.

When Jack Jones pleads for 'co-operation between the unions and the employers' he is asking for more of the same medicine. The social contract represents co-operation between the union bureaucrats, the Confederation of British Industry and the Labour Government. It has got the working class into an unholy

mess. The task is to break from class collaboration so that the workers' movement is free to pursue its own ends.

Jones' solution - prime cuts all round

The proposals of Jack Jones are a sham and a fraud. They mean nothing more than a cut in wages. Even if the unlikely sum of £10 across the board is accepted as the union norm, this would still mean a cut in wages. A worker with two children who got the £10 rise would still take home only £6.50 after tax.

Jones claims that his policy would get inflation down to 15 per cent. But the reality is different. In May, inflation hit an all-time record of 4.2 per cent in one month. If maintained this would produce an annual rate of 65 per cent.

The original talk about £10 is now being changed to the more 'realistic' figure of £8, and the Government is leaning on the unions to bring it closer to £6.

is the veiled threat of coalition and the alarming growth in unemployment. Of course it was always Healey's intention to intimidate the unions with increased unemployment. And he can afford a smile of self-congratulation, because it has certainly had the desired effects on Jones and the other timid bureaucrats of the TUC.

The proposals of Jones are designed to tie the hands of the working class movement. Worse still, he

back-stabbing at a time when the working class is in the best possible position to impose its demands. The capitalist economy is in dire crisis. The ruling class without the aid of Wilson and the union bureaucracy could not hope to defeat the organised labour movement.

If Jones succeeds in ramming his policy down the throats of the trade unions it will lead to a decline in living standards. It will strengthen both the hands of the employers and their allies in the Labour Government. Alongside this, unemployment will grow and the social services will wither.

Jones is saying that because of the crisis, the struggle to improve

must be postponed until capitalism recovers its health. Such a policy is disastrous. The crisis of capitalism shows the bankruptcy of the system. The task is not to try and prop it up but to fight for its removal.

The way forward is to fight for a sliding scale of wages, to demand a programme of public works, and to insist that all firms threatening redundancies are nationalised, under workers' control without compensation. These are the answers to the crisis, not accommodation and collaboration with a decaying capitalist system.

Jeff King

Tightening their belts

It was spend, spend, spend at yesterday's glittering opening of the Royal meeting as punters seemed to shrug off the gloom of Britain's economic crisis.

The top hat brigade were lashing out top prices—and not just to the eager bookies,

Course organisers have laid on bottles of champagne costing up to £10 a time, a ton of salmon, and 2,000 strawberries.

The only joke note was the pick Newmarket stall-lads, who are demanding a £4.70 wage

PICTURE BY ROGER BARN

CONTRACT..... FEAR ON



The party is over...
...but for whom?



Sliding Scale to fight the Con-trick

For six months wage increases have been dropping steadily behind price increases. The process really got under way in January when prices went up by 2.6 per cent compared to a 1.0 per cent increase in wages. In February, wages held a lead before tax of 0.1 per cent, but the March figure of a 1.9 per cent increase in prices as against 1.45 per cent in wages soon wiped that out. Since then there have been the record increases in the cost of living for April and May, totalling 3.9 and 4.2

with the abolition of threshold payments by the Labour Government last November the low paid are being particularly hit. A recent survey in the Low Pay Bulletin No. 2 of 82 major national agreements for workers earning less than £30 a week during the period 1 March 1974 to 28 February 1975 showed that threshold payments did give some protection, however inadequate, to the low paid.

'62 of the 82 settlements gave workers on the basic rate below £30 a week a percentage increase greater than the 27.5 per cent increase in basic weekly wage rates for all workers.' However, without threshold payments only 43 of the 82 settlements would have given above average percentage increases (see Table).

On top of this, Healey's budget policies are beginning to bite with a vengeance. Higher rents, higher rates, higher transport costs, bigger electricity bills and rises in the costs of coal and gas are all part of deliberate Government policy.

But this is only the beginning. Vast cuts are being planned in public expenditure — semi-official estimates put them at around £2-3 billion. They include reductions on food subsidies — with the aim of abolishing them altogether. Subsidies will be further slashed in the nationalised industries — leading to even bigger fares, fuel and rent increases.

Capitalism can only keep afloat by increasing the exploitation of the working class. Driven by the fear of State bankruptcy, the capitalist class has to further drive down real wages and cut Government spending. This is why Healey is insisting that money needed for rescuing 'ailing' firms is taken out of money allocated to the public sector.

All pretence about the Social Contract maintaining living standards is being dropped. The boss of the Confederation of British Industry, Campbell Adamson, simply refuses even to talk about any policy of keeping prices in check.

The ruling class know full well that the Labour leaders are determined to support their policies. As the Economist commented, 'the pace of the crisis is fast', and desperate measures are needed.

PATHETIC ATTEMPTS

Despite the prostration of the trade union leaders before the offensive of the employers and their pathetic attempts to hang on to Wilson's coat-tails, the working class movement remains undefeated. The concessions made by the Government to the rail workers show that. And there is no doubt that if the strike had gone ahead even bigger concessions could have been won.

Inside the trade unions, workers are insisting on a more determined fight over wages. Enthusiasm for 'moderate' increases is running low. Millions of workers and their families know from first-hand experience just how hard inflation is hitting their living standards. Never has the need to take up the fight for a sliding scale of wages been so necessary.

What is facing the working class movement is the stark question — who shall pay for the crisis? The ruling class and the Labour leaders have given their answer. They are quite emphatic that the working class must pay. What is more, they are taking every conceivable step to ensure that is exactly what happens.

The answer of the workers' movement must be equally decisive and determined. Collaboration with the employers and the anti-working class policies of the Government must be rejected. The crisis is due to the capitalist system. It is not the responsibility of the working class to bear the burden of that crisis.

A determined offensive must be launched whilst the trade unions are at their strongest. Such an offensive should have as its central aim the winning of the sliding scale of wages so that immediate compensation is obtained for every single point increase in the cost of living. This means a nil-norm threshold guaranteeing a 70p increase for every one point rise in the cost of living.

Taking up the fight for such a demand spells out in no uncertain way that the labour movement does not subordinate working class living standards to the needs of capitalism. It can also unify the entire workers' movement — thus making sure that the less strong, less organised, and weaker sections of the working class are drawn into the mainstream of the struggle. The demand should also apply to pensions, unemployment benefits, etc, and be linked to a national minimum wage of £40 for employed, unemployed and pensioners.

The working class movement has the strength and the power to fight back and defeat the ruling class. The fight for the sliding scale of wages is a vital step towards winning such a struggle.

TABLE: LOW PAY SETTLEMENTS WITH AND WITHOUT THRESHOLD DEALS

1 MARCH 1974 — 28 FEB. 1975

With Threshold				
Increase	Public Sector	Private Sector	Wages Councils	Total
Above average	26	18	18	62
Below average	3	5	12	20
Average	—	—	—	—
Without Threshold				
Above average	16	11	16	43
Below average	12	12	14	38
Average	1	—	—	-1

SOUTHERN EUROPE

PORTUGAL — THE ROAD TO WORKERS' POWER

Portugal continues to be wracked by political turmoil centring around disputes over control of the mass media. While the Portuguese Socialist Party — backed by the international capitalists — continues to wage an hysterical red-baiting campaign over the dispute between the workers and editors of the newspaper *Republica* another struggle has broken out between the workers and management of the Catholic-owned Radio Renascenca. This second fight has resulted in violent clashes between reactionary Catholic groups and left-wing supporters of the Radio Renascenca workers.

These two disputes have made 'Freedom of the media' the latest rallying cry for reactionary forces both inside and outside the country. So much slander has appeared in the British press about the *Republica* issue that it is necessary to clear up a number of points:

1. *Republica* is not, and never has been, a paper of the Socialist Party (the SP has a regular weekly — as does the Communist Party); it is a capitalist concern that has a history of liberal opposition under the fascist regime. After 25 April the top editorial staff lined up politically with the Socialist Party (its editor, Raul Rego, was a Socialist Minister in the first Government).

2. These pro-SP views were far from unanimous even among the paper's editorial staff. An important minority with different sympathies was systematically purged by the top editors. Over the past 11 months fourteen members of the editorial staff (which now numbers 22) were edged out of their jobs — including a chief editor and two of his assistants.

3. There is no evidence that the dispute was masterminded by the Communist Party. Indeed, there is good reason to believe that the CP is embarrassed by the whole affair. Certainly the CP paper *Avante* has carried almost nothing on the struggle.

4. The decision to challenge the sectarian way in which the paper was being edited came from the democratically-elected Workers Coordinating Committee of the paper. This committee is supported by the overwhelming majority of *Republica* workers. A recent general assembly which endorsed the Workers Committee stand was attended by 146 out of the paper's 175 employees.

5. The Workers Committee is far from being controlled by the Communist Party. Only two of the Committee's 13 workers are members of the CP; both the Maoist UDP and the revolutionary group LUAR have more members on the Committee. The convenor of the Workers Committee is actually a member of the Socialist Party. The Committee recently supported a demonstration called by the Revolutionary Councils movement, which the Communist Party vehemently denounced.

6. The struggle of the *Republica* workers has the support of all the most class-conscious sections of the Lisbon working class. All the city's newspaper workers have backed it, and the workers on the *Jornal do Comercio* blacked an attempt by the *Republica* editorial staff to bring out a scab paper. These workers are far from being puppets of the Communist Party: the *Jornal do Comercio* workers led an important struggle for the purging of their editors last year, in the course of which they vigorously attacked the CP's obstructionist attitude. This culminated in a 24 hour general strike of Lisbon newspaper workers which the CP tried to scab on.



Copcon troops—will they follow Carvalho's lead in swinging behind MFA majority, or will independent rank-and-file organisation begin to assert itself?

7. The demand of the Workers Committee is simply for a newspaper which is not the sectarian organ of a single political party.

The outbreak of a similar struggle at Radio Renascenca has given SP leader Soares a golden opportunity. He has been cuddling up to reactionary Catholic opinion for some time. One of the main charges that he recently level-

led against the so-called 'Communist-controlled press' was that it devoted more space to the mass funeral of a CP militant murdered by fascists than to the Festival of Fatima (a particularly obscurantist Catholic rite with mass influence among pious Portuguese Catholics)!

Given the continuing influence of the Catholic church among many of the more backward sections of the Portuguese working class — an important factor in the big Socialist Party vote — this is a very dangerous situation. It threatens to open up a serious split inside the working class, with a numerically big section being won over to the reactionary politics being promoted by Soares and his cohorts, at a time when the task facing the workers' movement is to build working class unity around demands for carrying the struggle forward.

The main root of the political problems that the '*Republica* affair' has produced is the absence of an independent working class power. The dispute looks like one between different factions in the workers' movement



General Carvalho—commander of the key Copcon military force, he at first encouraged Revolutionary Councils movement, but now seems to have swung behind MFA majority to condemn it as an 'opportunist manoeuvre'.

the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (PRP).

Last week, on 16 June, a key group of workers — at the Lisbon Lisnave shipyards — held a mass meeting attended by half of the yards' 8,000 workers. They voted to set up a revolutionary council in the yards, elected 400 delegates to it, and decided to support the mass demonstration called for the following day by the Revolutionary Councils movement.

WORKERS' POWER

A solid column of 2,000 Lisnave workers, joined by colleagues from the Setenave yards just outside Lisbon who had also voted to establish a revolutionary council, and thousands of other workers from the Lisbon region, marched through the city calling for the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly, workers' power, and the immediate establishment of a 'revolutionary Government'.

This mass sentiment among the most class-conscious workers for the creation of their own organs of class power is a sure sign that the country is moving towards the very brink of socialist revolution. But there is also a serious danger in this situation. The task of revolutionaries is to reinforce the links between the most advanced workers and the more backward, fighting the reformist misleaders for leadership over the latter. The struggle for genuine mass, democratic bodies of the working class will be a central means of achieving this.

But the demands of the Revolutionary Councils movement try to ignore the present state of consciousness of the mass of Portuguese workers, who have just voted for the Communist or Socialist Parties in the Constituent Assembly election. They attempt to slip over the mass workers' parties, who have political influence over far more workers *at present* than do the various rank-and-file bodies out of which Revolutionary Councils would be built.

WORKERS' COUNCILS

In the present circumstances the demand for revolutionary councils or other bodies of workers power must be put forward as part of a set of demands for the independent organisations of the workers' movement to take the reins of political power. They must be tied to the demand for a workers' Government — to include the Socialist and Communist Parties, as well as the Intersindical trade union federation and new mass bodies of developing workers' power — and the demand that this Government bases its policies and its actions on the development of workers' power through the promotion and extension of such workers' councils.

Only in this way can the vanguard section of the working class actually fight to win the allegiance of the mass of Portuguese workers away from all forms of class collaborationism — that of the Socialist Party, the Communist Party, and the MFA leaders — and build the kind of fighting unity necessary to forge genuine workers' power and carry out the socialist revolution.

Chris Balfour

— Red Books News! —

CRITIQUE NUMBER FOUR OUT

Critique No.4, 60p (post 9p) continues the same high standards set by previous issues. It contains articles on the struggles of the Soviet working class, the political economy of the reform movement, Bukharin, factory committees in early Soviet days, a discussion on dialectics, etc.

NEW ISSUE OF SOCIALIST WOMAN

The summer issue of *Socialist Woman* is designed to provide ammunition in the struggle for 'free abortion on demand', and has a number of articles on this theme. In addition, the discussion on domestic labour is continued, and there are articles on various conferences and activities, women at work, the capitalist crisis and women, etc. Cost 15p (post 5p), bulk rates on application.

SPECIAL INPRECOR NOW AVAILABLE

As previously announced, the special double issue of *Inprecor* on the world economic crisis is now available. We remind readers of the special offer (they get it free if they send a year's subscription now). The issue is also available in French and Spanish — same price.

HITLER AND THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

Fascism in Germany, Vol. 1. £3.95 (post 18p) by Robert Black (author of *Stalinism in Britain*) is subtitled 'How Hitler destroyed the world's most powerful labour movement'. It comprises a comprehensive history of the rise of Hitler, the role of big business in financing him, etc. But it is more than that: it is also a closely argued, well-documented examination of the role and policies of the leaderships of the German workers' organisations. On this basis it draws the conclusion that the victory of Hitler was not inevitable, but was due to the errors and treachery of the leaderships of the Communist and Social Democratic parties.

AFRICAN POLITICAL ECONOMY

The Review of African Political Economy is produced by a group of socialist economists who are developing an understanding of how neo-colonialist forms of exploitation affect and distort the economic and political structures of African countries. Issue number 2 is devoted to the effects of multi-nationals and has a series of documented case-histories covering West Africa, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Tanzania and Mauritania. The *Review* costs 75p (post 11p).

STIMULUS

For their own reasons the leaders of the Armed Forces Movement (MFA) are discussing the creation of one or another form of organisation based on these local workers groups. Their aim is to harness them to support the MFA leadership, allowing the MFA to lean less heavily on the political parties, whose political squabbles are seen as obstructing the MFA's plans.

But, despite the intentions of the MFA leaders, their discussion of such schemes (which, in any event, they are unable to agree on) has given a big stimulus to their actual creation inside the working class. It has, for example, given a big push forward to the Revolutionary Councils movement which was set up before the elections by a small revolutionary group,

EUROPE IN CRISIS

WORKERS PREPARE IN SPAIN

THE FRANCO REGIME is tottering towards an un-mourned grave. The General himself is now reported to be lucid only for short periods. Meanwhile his supporters are locked in combat with other currents of the ruling class in a bitter dispute over the succession.

The latest figure to throw his hat into the ring is Don Juan de Bourbon, Count of Barcelona and father of Franco's nominated successor Prince Juan Carlos. In a speech in Portugal on 14 June he denounced the present law of succession as having 'the sole purpose of guaranteeing the continuity of the regime', and called on the army to intervene 'to change the direction of the State' in favour of a democratic monarchy 'protecting basic social and political liber-

ties'. The regime's response was to bar Don Juan from entering Spain.

But such comic interludes cannot hide the fact that the real challenge over the succession to Franco is coming from the working class movement. Despite the vicious repression in the Basque country under the 'state of emergency', 100,000 workers responded on 11 June to the call for a one-day strike against the regime. A few days later several thousand turned out for the funeral in Plencia of a young Basque militant shot dead by plainclothes police, although the police had sealed off all entrances to the town in an effort to avoid disturbances.

GROWING STRENGTH

The latest indication of the growing strength of the workers' movement came with the announcement of the results for Madrid and Barcelona in the elections for the Government-controlled trade union organisation. Candidates backed by the outlawed Workers Commissions and other left-wing organisations appear to have captured more than 50 per cent of the seats, with their share of the poll rising to 80 per cent or more in such strongholds as the SEAT car factory in Barcelona.

However the left-wing organisations were divided over what attitude to take to the corporatist trade union elections. In the last round, in 1971, there were massive abstentions with even the Communist Party taking a rather ambiguous line. This time only some Trotskyist organisations — notably our comrades of the LCR-ETA (VI) — called for a boycott.

The reason for the enthusiastic participation of the CP, which dominates the Workers Commissions outside the Basque country, lies in its post-Franco project of the 'Democratic Junta'. To carry through this alliance with the 'progressive' capitalists it needs to be able to demonstrate that it can hold back the workers' movement. The CP thus aims to reduce the independent role of the workers Commissions in relation to a bureaucratic trade union structure which it may well fashion with only a few alterations from the present Government-controlled organisation.

To this project the LCR-ETA(VI) counterposed the building of an 'active boycott' of the elections through the holding of mass assemblies etc. to develop the strength and co-ordination of the Workers Commissions in preparation for the coming offensive.

Such independent workers' organisation, based on real workers' democracy rather than the farce of the trade union elections (where, for instance, militants who had been sacked within the last two years were automatically barred from standing), has reached its highest level in the Basque country, where the CP is in a minority in the Workers Commissions. Here a Co-ordinating Committee of delegates from all the Basque Workers Commissions was formally established at a meeting on 20 April. In a communique they declared:

'By the establishment of the Basque Co-ordinating Committee of Workers Commissions we also wish to express our desire to strengthen by our presence the general co-ordination of the Workers Commissions throughout Spain...

'In each factory there should be a single Workers Commission made up of all the supporters of the Workers Commissions, accepting as their position the decisions of the majority while respecting the rights of the minority. Their representatives should be democratically elected in each factory and then in the various co-ordinating bodies of the Workers Commissions. This will ensure the strengthening of the Workers Commissions on the basis of unity and workers' democracy.'

WORKERS STATE

It is through the development of such organisations that the most powerful offensives will be achieved: immediately in defence of the Basque militants Garmendia and Echevarria who are now facing the death sentence in a rigged trial; in defence of Eva Forest and Antonio Duran who are charged with the assassination of Carrero Blanco; and finally to ensure that the Franco regime is replaced not by any capitalist solution, however 'democratic', but by a revolutionary workers state.

Martin Meteyard

ITALIAN ELECTIONS HAVE IMPERIALISTS WORRIED

'A shift of this sort does provide us with the basis for concern — major concern', commented US Defence Secretary James Schlesinger on the results of the 15 June regional elections in Italy. The Communist Party dramatically increased its share of the vote from 27.9 per cent in 1970 to 33.4 per cent, while the ruling Christian Democrats saw their vote fall from 37.9 to 35.3 per cent.

Taken together with the events in Portugal, the imminent collapse of the dictatorship in Spain, and the crisis in Greek-Turkish relations, it is no surprise that these election results have the imperialist chiefs worried. As the *Daily Telegraph* commented: 'NATO could not survive Italy's defection on top of all this.'

The massive swing leftwards in the elections reflected both the series of working class mobilisations over the last few years and the utter inability of the Christian Democrats to deal even with the effects — let alone the causes — of the deepening economic and social crisis. After nearly 30 years in office the party — for so long the main political instrument of the capitalist class — is virtually paralysed by the effects of widespread graft and corruption. Meanwhile public services, particularly in such fields as housing, health and education, have been slowly grinding to a halt.

Nor are things any better on the economic front. Three days after the elections it was announced that short-time working has increased

eight fold over the first five months of this year, while the number of registered unemployed has topped the million mark — a rise of more than 400,000 since December.

But despite its electoral success



CP secretary Enrico Berlinguer addresses victory rally

'The Communist Party is indispensable for the the salvation and re-birth of the nation', declared its secretary Enrico Berlinguer when the results were announced. 'The Party's policy is the only valid and realisable democratic alternative which can restore Italy to health.'

CONCESSIONS

This 'democratic alternative' of the 'historic compromise' has, as its name suggests, very little to do with the class interests of the Italian workers and poor peasants. Instead it involves a series of concessions to the capitalist politicians — including support for the Common Market and NATO — in an attempt to achieve an alliance in government with the Christian Democrats.

The contradictions between this class-collaborationist solution and the immediate need for an anti-capitalist offensive to solve the problems which face the working class are be-

cently they have been seen in the emergence of a rank-and-file soldiers' movement which has taken its stand by the side of the workers' movement.

This movement arose in large part as a response to Government attempts to restructure the army in order to deal with the 'enemy at home'. It is no secret that large sections of the top brass now favour a coup in Italy, although the capitalist class as a whole recognises that the relationship of forces with the working class is presently too unfavourable for such an attempt.

It was not a coincidence, therefore, that the first mass mobilisation of soldiers on a national scale took place at the end of April in response to fascist provocations which claimed three lives. In Milan there was a contingent of 500 soldiers on the workers' demonstration; in Rome several hundred; and in Turin 200 on a demonstration organised by the revolutionary left.

OUT OF NATO

In some places there were mass rallies rather than demonstrations. In Udine, in north-east Italy, 200 soldiers joined a rally and one of them — representing the co-ordinating committee of democratic soldiers in the Udine barracks — spoke to the assembled workers. Stressing that the soldiers' struggle could not be limited to partial battles, he explained how the anti-fascist and anti-imperialist struggles were linked up and ended by calling for the purging of fascist officers, an end to the 'civil war' restructuring of the army, and the withdrawal of Italy from NATO.

It is this kind of development which has the imperialists so worried. Despite all Berlinguer's promises, they realise that every step the CP takes on the road to governmental office threatens to trigger off mass mobilisations which could escape beyond its control into a specifically anti-capitalist offensive. The election results are only the latest confirmation that as a European-wide workers' upsurge gets under way our Italian comrades are ready and waiting to play their part.



Italian troops have taken

ROVER STRIKE: POST-RYDER TEST CASE



As we go to press, the first major strike struggle in British Leyland since the publication of the Ryder Report seems well on the road to being strangled by a combination of management manoeuvres and union capitulation.

The dispute which affects all Rover plants, is over the January 1975 pay claim for £11.80 to restore the spending-power of Rover wages to their 1972 level. *The management reply was to offer 20p* — a clear sign that they were spoiling for a showdown with the unions.

The first combine stewards' meeting on 5 June was divided on what action to take. A large minority was for all-out strike action, but a majority voted for a guerrilla strike strategy.

But as the Birmingham IMG's Solihull factory bulletin *The Organiser* pointed out, with the management prepared for strike action, a strategy of guerrilla strikes would be a recipe for defeat. What was needed was all-out strike action, combined with oc-

cupations to seize the plants and flying pickets to stop movement of stocks of completed vehicles.

On 13 June the combine stewards called for a 3-day strike from Monday 16 June, to be followed by all-out strike action from 23 June if no satisfactory offer was forthcoming from management.

But it was clear that this compromise position was seen by many of the Negotiating Committee as a way of staving off all-out strike action. By the second day of the 3-day strike the management rewarded their indecision. They called for an extended plant conference — i.e. full scale negotiations with trade union officials present — the last stage of procedure.

But at the negotiations, the management offered a mere 10p extra! What they wanted was to draw in the national officials and delay strike action for a further five days (as laid down in the procedure with regard to strike notice after an extended plant conference). They hope to inflict a decisive defeat on a workforce which has so far successfully resisted their massive redundancy plans. Any delay in strike action plays into their hands.

But whatever happens the company's insulting offer, together with their plans to make up to 10% of the workforce redundant, is a warning to every BLMC worker on the real meaning of the Ryder Report: wage cuts and redundancies all round!



Photo: JOHN STURROCK (Report)

On the picket line at Rover during last week's 3-day strike

RANK & FILE - NO ANSWER TO TEACHERS' PROBLEMS

The Rank and File group of the National Union of Teachers, dominated by the International Socialists, will be holding its annual conference in Birmingham this weekend (28/29 June). It will be haunted by the spectre of a dwindling membership and rising debts, as well as by the memory of its own confusion and isolation at the Easter Conference of the NUT. But no political answers will be provided.

Instead of attempting to retrieve its position by confronting the sectoral and populist demagoguery of the NUT executive Rank and File will be lowering still further its own politics to appeal to 'the classroom teacher' rather than the 'socialist teacher'. All this comes at a time when teachers face unprecedented attacks not simply on their own living standards but on those of the entire working class as a result of the education cuts.

NO CHANGE

The Labour Government has just replaced right-winger Reg Prentice with a new Secretary of State for Education, Fred Mulley. Mulley's previous job was to cut expenditure in the transport field. There is little doubt that he will continue the vicious building, resources and employment cuts in education begun by Thatcher and expanded by Prentice. But instead of fighting to link up

has pushed for policies which isolate teachers. At the NUT Conference, while the IMG campaigned for a motion adopting the Working Women's Charter and linking women teachers with the overall class struggle for women's rights, IS came up with a motion which eliminated all mention of abortion and contraception and rephrased other sections of the Charter to deal exclusively with teachers. While IS pursue a dead-end 'teachers alone' strategy, the IMG will be fighting for a united front of the left inside the NUT and a class-wide struggle against the cuts.

ALTERNATIVE

Despite manoeuvres by the IS to exclude all but its own membership and close periphery from the Rank and File Conference, IMG will be there. There is no chance that R&F will change its policy to meet the need of teachers and the whole working class at the present time. But we will be fighting for an alternative policy: an action plan based on inter-union action against the cuts, the Social Contract and every issue confronting the mass of teachers at the present time. And it is to continue this fight that the IMG will also be sponsoring the Open Conference of Socialist Teachers on Saturday 12 July.

OPEN CONFERENCE OF SOCIALIST TEACHERS

Saturday 12 July, 11am - 6pm

Discussion around the central issues facing teachers: salaries, education cuts, Social Contract, equality of women, teachers and the labour movement.

Tickets 50p from Bernard Regan, 24 St. Agnes Close, London E.9. Supported by: Teachers in Radical Education; International Marxist Group; Workers Fight; Anarchist Workers Association; Manchester Rank and File.

WHAT'S ON

STOP PRESS LIES against homeless and others! Demonstrate outside 'Sunday People' offices (corner New Fetter Lane and Holborn Viaduct), Thurs 26 June, 5-6.30pm.

RED LADDER THEATRE wants actresses for work in touring collective based in the north, producing own material and performing to trade union and community audiences. Commitment important. Equity membership and musical ability an advantage. Applications in writing by 8 July stating (i) theatrical/playmaking/political experience (ii) reasons for interest (iii) when you can start (iv) where ad read (v) tel. no. — to 58 Wray Crescent, London N.4. (01-263 1053).

FREE DESMOND TROTTER Campaign: Picket every Friday, 4.30-6pm outside East Caribbean



ENQUIRY INTO WOMEN AT WORK

In December of this year the 1970 Equal Pay Act comes into force, meaning that all women workers will supposedly receive the same pay as men for the same job. However, many employers have used the last five years 'wisely'. Re-grading schemes have been introduced whereby women are graded out of similar jobs to men. Training facilities for women are still totally inadequate, preventing even formal equality: in Birmingham for example the AUEW has just enrolled two women tool-room apprentices — its first ever.

The extent to which the employers have got round the Act has also been sharply revealed by a census carried out amongst its members in Birmingham by the AUEW-TASS. It revealed that while men and women on identical jobs were receiving the same or nearly the same money, the differential in similar grades was as much as £10-£13 a week. TASS found that women supervisors, although doing broadly the same work as male supervisors, received on average around £10 less throughout the Birmingham area. Differences in job description, however marginal, have allowed the employers to run rings round the Act.

This has led Birmingham Trades Council to set up a special sub-committee to investigate, via the local trade union movement, the implementation of the Act. Nor is the Trades Council limiting its investigation to so-called 'trade union issues'. In seconding the successful resolution, Linda Simon (National Society of Metal Mechanics), pointed out that the lack of nursery facilities is a major obstacle in women's struggle to achieve equality. So the Trades Council is looking into the availability of nursery facilities as part of its investigation.

The results of the enquiry are to be published later on in the year. For information on the enquiry, facts and figures and so on, write to D. Perris, Secretary Birmingham Trades Council, 181 Ruskin Buildings, Corporation Street, Birmingham.

COMPUTER STAFF OCCUPY

For three weeks technicians and computer operators at Birmingham University have been occupying computer facilities in pursuit of a claim for the restructuring of pay scales and job grades. For nearly three years university computer staff nationally have been attempting to win an increase which would bring them into line with the wages received by computer staff in other sectors, and in line with pay received by other university technical staff. Last week the operators' union, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, called an all-out national strike in support of the struggle.

This action comes at a time when the university authorities are taking a hard line towards campus trade unions as well as students, with the cash crisis intensifying as a result of the education cuts and the effects of inflation. The occupation at Birmingham is the kind of action needed to win the dispute and widen the basis of support for future struggles. Beating the university authorities on the computer operators' dispute will be a victory for campus technicians and workers as a whole.

NEW TECHNIQUES THREATEN JOBS

For the past six weeks an official strike by 42 printers and compositors at the Sharman newspaper group based in Peterborough has been the focus of resistance over the introduction of new technology, which now threatens the permanent loss of tens of thousands of jobs in the newspaper industry. Sharman's have introduced optical character recognition, which enables journalists and typists to directly set editorial and advertising copy, eliminating most of the jobs done by members of the National Graphical Association. The management has steadfastly refused to give a firm guarantee of no redundancy, and refuses to pay NGA rates to the women now setting copy.

While Sharman's are setting the pace for the whole of the provincial press — aided by journalists on the staff, who last week voted 24 to 11 to ignore an instruction from the NUJ executive to take supportive strike action — the concern of printworkers nationally is indicated by their financial support. Four days after a strike fund was opened, £1,500 had been received. But so far no solidarity action has been taken. To help organise this — as well as to determine the demands necessary to confront the new technology — a meeting for print, press, and publishing workers in London was organised this week by the action committee elected by last month's conference on redundancy and closure in the industry.

DEFEND WORKERS' COLLEGE

On 11 June the governors of Fircroft College in Birmingham, one of seven adult education colleges in the country, announced the closure of the college. This follows three months of crisis at the college after a decision by the 56 students, mostly trade unionists, to set up their own education programme — in collaboration with the teaching staff, but excluding the college principal, A.J. Crosfield, from all teaching activity.

The students took this decision after it became clear that the teaching staff were being prevented from expressing their own views on trade union education at the college. Rather than sit back and listen to the usual clap-trap about how unions and management should collaborate, the students demanded and put into operation their own democratically decided education policy, which they believe will better serve the interests of the labour movement. Since then democratic plenary sessions have been held every week to review the programme.

This is all too much for Cadbury's the chocolate manufacturers, who established the college in 1909 and still control it although the college is 96.5 per cent government financed. As one governor lamented, 'the students have become ungovernable'.

The students are campaigning in the local labour movement for support to keep the college open. Birmingham Trades Council has endorsed a motion from Fircroft College ASTMS branch, and a demonstration was due to take place on 25 June. Messages of support should be rushed to: Fircroft Students Union/Fircroft ASTMS Branch, 1018 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham 29 (tel. 021 - 472 - 1490).

NORTH WEST LONDON TOM: public meeting Thurs 26 June, 7.30pm, in Anson Hall, Chichele Road, Cricklewood (Willesden Green tube). 'The British Army Hand-in-Glove with Loyalist Assassination Squads—Its Real Role in Ireland'. Speakers invited include member of Brent Trades Council and Gery Lawless (TOM Executive).

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST GROUP public meeting, London: 'Britain and the Irish Revolution'. Speakers: Frank Richards and Chris Davies. Friday 27 June, 7.30pm, The Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road (Warren or Goodge St tubes; buses 14, 24, 29, 73).

LONDON SOCIALIST FORUM: 'The current situation in Angola'—speaker Tony Hodges, ex-staff member of CFMAG. Venue: Metropolitan pub, 95 Farringdon Rd. Tues 1 July, 7.30pm.

GREEK EVENING: Fund-raising party to aid IMG's East Mediterranean work. Greek and Turkish food, drink and music—and perhaps a film! Food & entrance £1, entrance only 25p. Sat 28 June from 8 till late. At the Bank, Tolmers Sq (junction of Euston Rd and Hampstead Rd—

GLASGOW Marxist Discussion Group meets every Wednesday in Iona Community House, 7.30pm.

REVOLUTIONARY MARXIST CURRENT: Reply to Workers Fight's 'Open Letter for Revolutionary Regroupment' is now publicly available. Copies from Red Books (Liverpool), 81a Renshaw Street, Liverpool 1. Send stamp with order.

DESMOND TROTTER—Althea Le Cointe will speak about Desmond Trotter and the campaign to save his life. Stamford Hill Library, Thurs 26 June, 7.30pm. Organised by Hackney Campaign Against Racism.

CFMAG is closing down on 30 June, but will be replaced by: (1) Mozambique Information Centre, Top Floor, 12 Little Newport Street, London WC2 (01-734 9541); (2) Angola Solidarity Committee.

RED WEEKLY

Defend the National Health Service

The following letter has been received from the Medical Committee Against Private Practice. MCAPP's intention to organise a broad conference on 11 October merits the full support of all socialists and trade unionists.

Readers are urged to order copies of this letter as well as supplies of the MCAPP brochure, which explains both the crisis in the National Health Service and the measures needed to fight it.

Red Weekly readers should raise this in their trade union branches, trades councils, Labour Parties and shop stewards committees. Such a conference can lay the basis for a unified working class fight against cuts in the NHS. This means getting maximum sponsorship for the conference and waging a campaign to get delegations from the labour movement.

Medical Committee Against Private Practice

Dear Sister and Brother,

The decline of the National Health Service is a matter of concern to the whole working class movement. Good health care means adequate financing of the NHS and the allocation of resources according to the needs of the patients.

The recent conference of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) carried a resolution demanding an immediate injection of £1,000 million into the NHS; a sliding scale of expenditure for the NHS to combat inflation, and the abolition of private practice both inside and outside the NHS.

The Medical Committee Against Private Practice (MCAPP) is a group of health service members which was formed during the wave of health workers' struggles in 1974. MCAPP has since then involved itself in a whole series of struggles around the defence and extension of the NHS. Always MCAPP has tried to involve other trade unionists in these struggles, as it considers that a proper and genuine socialist health service is in the interests of the whole working class.

It is for this reason that MCAPP is calling a conference in London on 11 October. The aim of the conference will be to establish the maximum unity inside the working class movement around the demands adopted by the ASTMS conference. It will discuss how these demands can be made the official policy of as many trade unions as possible. Further more, it will discuss how to fight to implement these demands.

In many areas cut-backs are taking place in the NHS, some hospitals have been closed down, plans to build new hospitals are being postponed, buildings and equipment are becoming even more outdated, and funds are not being made available for their renewal. These cutbacks affect all workers and their families, and often the local trade unions along with other groups in the community have resisted these cuts. Another task that the conference will have to discuss is how to co-ordinate these local struggles and get national backing for them.

MCAPP also supports the idea of a Workers' Inquiry into the health service so that its priorities and needs can be decided by the working class.

If your organisation supports such a conference you can take any one or all of the following steps to help build the conference: sponsor it; make a donation — no matter how large or small — to its organising costs; get a supply of MCAPP brochures for distribution amongst your members.

With all best wishes, *Uta*

Dr P Stern (Secretary, MCAPP)

We agree to sponsor the 11 October conference called by MCAPP Yes/No

We enclose a donation to MCAPP Yes/No

We would like _____ copies of your brochure (cost 25p per hundred, post free) Yes/No

We would like a speaker from MCAPP Yes/No

NAME OF ORGANISATION.....

Details of person to whom correspondence should be sent:

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Please complete and return to: Dr Paul Stern, 55 Bridge Lane, London N.W.11 (01-455-4920)

N.U.R. WINS A ROUND

The National Union of Railwaymen has won just about everything it was asking for in its confrontation with the British Railways Board and the Government. Although the increases achieved are comparatively small, they will be rightly seen as a victory by rail workers and other workers throughout the country fighting Labour's wage-cut plans.

But once the cheering has stopped it is necessary to look at just how much the deal is worth — and who is going to pay for it.

All grades of rail workers will get 27.5 per cent backdated to 28 April — the original tribunal award. From 4 August there will be an additional 2.5 per cent plus allowances of between 5p and £1.30 for the lower-paid. Till these allowances come into effect, the guaranteed minimum earnings level of £36.70 a week proposed by the tribunal will operate

In the fight against sackings, speed-up and BR's rationalisation plans, rail workers can expect little help from NUR general secretary Sidney Weighell. When Wilson, Healey and Foot repeatedly talked of the inability to meet the NUR's claim 'in full' they were providing Weighell and the BR with a potential get-out. But the price of that get-out is the NUR's acceptance of, and votes for a new hard-line Social Contract in September.

NUR members will have to fight to get their delegates to next month's national conference to support the resolutions against the Social Contract. In its place rail workers can launch the fight for a freeze on all rail fares, a sliding scale of wages and public expenditure against the effects of inflation, and an integrated transport plan with all jobs guaranteed.

James Hurst



Small size of deal and its step by step implementation makes even more urgent the need for a sliding scale of wages to protect rail workers' standard of living from the effects of raging inflation. Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)

with a guarantee that no rail workers wages will fall below this level after the new £34.65 basic comes into operation in August. But equal pay for women, which was to have been implemented immediately, has now been put back to the end of the year.

The deal means that British Rail has conceded the NUR's claim to restore pay relativities with surface miners. But it is also clear that the size of the deal and its step by step implementation will do little to protect rail workers' living standards against raging inflation over the next year.

There is no new threshold deal and no proposals for a new claim in the autumn to offset the effects of inflation. A united claim and fight by all the rail unions, as opposed to the short-sighted and sectoral approach of ASLEF and TSSA, could have won far more.

British Rail has already spelt out that it will attempt to pay for the deal through an onslaught on jobs. Richard Marsh, British Rail chairman, is already talking of the 'close monitoring of recruitment.' The *Observer* (22/6/75) reveals that Marsh would 'like to see the workforce down from 240,000 to 190,000 in three years'.

The *Observer* also talks of the 'private fears' of BR 'sacking as many as 100,000 railwaymen, making substantial cuts in rolling stock replacement programmes, axing many evening and late night services, and reducing weekend traffic to a minimum. On all but major trunk and freight routes, British Rail could become a Monday to Friday 8 a.m.—7 p.m. service.' This in an industry where the labour force has been halved since nationalisation and 200,000 jobs have been axed since 1962.

FIGHTING FUND

Last Saturday over 25,000 people marched on the National Abortion Campaign demonstration against the James White Bill. About 200 people mobilised by the Salvation Army, the Festival of Light and the Order of Christian Unity attended a service in Trafalgar Square to support this reactionary attack on women.

One Michael Hickling of the *Sunday Telegraph* reported the two events. To the miserable and pathetic crowd of 200 anti-abortionists he gave nearly four column inches. To the 25,000 abortionists he could only muster two column inches. That is what the *Sunday Telegraph* and its servants like Hickling mean when they talk about objective reporting.

Last week our Fighting Fund got £151.00. We still need another £154 to meet our monthly target. Make sure that you rush in every penny that you can. Otherwise you might finish up reading people like Hickling all the time. All donations to Fund Drive, 182 Pentonville Road, London, N.1.

RED WEEKLY

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