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Callaghan pledges 'cut in living standards'



UNION CHIEFS BACK LABOUR SELL-OUT

CALLAGHAN LAID IT ON THE LINE TO THE TUC DELEGATES AT Brighton this week.

He was quite clear what accepting the social contract means. Bluntly, he warned the delegates that many of the west European countries face 'a temporary reduction in their standards of living.'

No doubt this line of Callaghan will cause some cheer in the business boardrooms.

by Jeff King

The Tory Government, acting openly in the interests of capitalism, turned its full attention to cutting living standards. Now Labour is saying quite openly that it too favours the same policies, even if it tries to coat the pill by saying it is only temporary.

LITTLE APPEAL

The working class will be less enthusiastic. With rocketing unemployment, zooming inflation and the social services tottering towards collapse, wage freeze will have little appeal.

Labour wants to appear before the electorate, accompanied by a 'responsible' TUC prepared to play its part in 'saving Britain.' This is a recipe for electoral disaster.

What will make the working class turn out to the polls in their millions to vote Labour is not a promise that their living standards are due for the chop, but policies that ensure that they do not pay for the capitalist crisis.

The refusal of the AUEW to buy the social contract reflects the deep disillusionment of their members with Labour's shabby practices. The AUEW almost certainly has a higher number of political workers than most unions. Its method of electing its district committees, divisional councils and national executive makes these bodies more susceptible to rank and file moods than some

other unions—hence the EC decision.

HOSTILE

Many workers, particularly shop stewards, convenors and union activists are becoming more and more hostile to Labour's social contract. They see it is based on defending British capitalism, and recognise it must logically move from voluntary wage restraint to legislation imposing a compulsory government wage freeze.

Unlike the trade union leaders, the ruling class know that the crisis of capitalism can only be resolved either at the expense of one class or the other. There is little or no room left for manoeuvre. The economic situation is sliding at a faster pace each day, from bad to worse.

The way the present Government is operating all the election will decide is whether there will be a Tory Government with no policy to defeat the working class, or a Labour Government with no policy to solve the economic crisis.

What will decide the issues confronting the working class is how it organises to defeat redundancies, smash wage freeze and improve living standards. None of these issues can be resolved without taking on the ruling class in open battle.

A vital part of preparing for these struggles is to reject the social contract now. The election of a Labour Government is just one of the means—albeit an important one—of creating the best conditions for taking that struggle forward.



Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)



Labour unveils new scheme for repression in Ireland

Labour Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Merlyn Rees, having started down the helter skelter of capitulation to the loyalists has nowhere to go but down the chute.

The only way ahead he can see is increasing repression. This is the reality of his proposal for creating the special reserve of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

This is simply legalising the presence of an unofficial 'third' force. In a more or less open way recruitment of this force has

been going on for some time.

In so far as the Loyalists are dissatisfied, this is because Rees has not yet legalised the whole lot. But in general they find the proposal very welcome.

The proposal for raising the reservists around their own homes suits the Loyalists down to the ground. But it is no more than a transparent manoeuvre as far as the Catholics are concerned, to get these forces of the sectarian state inside the Republican strongholds.

In other words, it is a ploy to crack the resistance of the Repub-



Northern Ireland Secretary, Merlyn Rees

lican masses, starting first with the IRA which defends them. This was the traditional role of the B-Specials and this is what Rees is trying to recreate. As Ian Paisley has put it, the Government has at least realised that 'only Ulster men and Ulster women could win the war against the IRA.'

BRIAN GROGAN

ALL OUT FOR CHILE!

SUNDAY - 15 SEPTEMBER - 1 pm

Assemble Speaker's Corner, Hyde Park; march to Trafalgar Square

sponsored by: Labour Party NEC, AUEW, NUPE, ACTT, South Wales and Scottish NUM

speakers to include: Jack Jones, Ron Hayward, Tariq Ali and Hortensia Allende, widow of the late President Allende

Newry still in the dark - thanks to the British army

The border town of Newry, County Down is still in the dark nearly three weeks since maintenance workers at the town's electricity plants downed tools in protest against British Army control of street lighting.

This has long been a major provocation for the people who live in the nationalist ghettos. British Army vehicles roar through these narrow streets at all hours of the night and road accidents are a common occurrence sometimes resulting in fatal injuries.

Recently a young girl playing on a makeshift swing hooked to a lamp-post lost her life when hit by a Saracen travelling without lights. Things came to a head in Newry on 2 August when 24 years old Michael Hollywood died when his car crashed into an unlit British Army barricade.

The Army, concerned at the success of IRA snipers, order cars travelling through these areas to put their lights out. Refusal can be met with a bullet. For the same reason the Army have taken control of all street lighting in Newry where Provisional IRA Active Service Units have been particularly successful against the British foot patrols.

PROTESTS

There were widespread protests at Mr. Hollywood's death—he was the third person to die in Newry in similar circumstances, over the last few months. The Provisional IRA responded to his death with a statement saying they would regard all electricity installations as 'military installations' while the British Army held control of street lighting. The Provisionals pointed out that in effect the British were imposing martial law on the people of Newry, and they demanded that control of street lighting be handed back into civilian hands.

The nationalist people of this border town are fully behind this demand of the Provisionals. Attempts by the 'British Army Lie Machine' to depict the Provisionals as using 'Mafia-style' tactics by threatening to shoot the maintenance workers have been revealed as inventions of the British Army Press office at

Army HQ in Lisburn. Even the local SDLP member of the now defunct Assembly, who initially tried to give credence to these slanders, has now been forced to place full responsibility on the shoulders of the British Army. The SDLP have had to join in support of the demand that the British relinquish control of the electricity system.

This has come about because the people of Newry have gone back on to the streets in support of their demand. During the last three weeks the town's two main thoroughfares have been repeatedly blocked by demonstrators carrying placards calling on the British to take their hands off the electricity, and last Friday over 1,000 demonstrators marched through the town in support of this demand.

The march was led by a large contingent of members of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union. The demonstration made it clear that anything less than full civilian control was unacceptable. That they will go without electricity while the Army remains in control is beyond doubt. This overwhelmingly Catholic town

has shared the brunt of British repression over the last five years, and of successive Unionist governments since the foundation of the Orange State.

Too many of its sons and daughters are in internment camps and on the dole queue for it to do otherwise.

The united determination of the people of Newry to wrest control out of the hands of the British Army once and for all, coming so shortly after the successes of the Political Hostages Release Campaign in mobilising large united demonstrations around the third anniversary of internment shows that the spark of resistance still flares in the North of Ireland. It also dramatically exposes the hollowness of the recent claim in *Visor*—the bulletin issued to British troops serving in Ireland—that the IRA's war of liberation had been defeated and the IRA isolated. The people of the nationalist areas of the North have no desire to give to the British Army any facilities which might help their repressive military operations here.

John Magee



Over 100 doctors, nurses, and trade unionists marched from Speakers Corner last Saturday to protest against the opening of a new hospital in London entirely for private patients — the Wellington Hospital in St John's Wood

Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)

CALL FOR TROOPS OUT DEMO

The Troops Out Movement and British Peace Committee ad hoc Committee has decided to mobilise for a demonstration on the British Troops.

The projected date is either the 20 or 27 October. The intentions of the demonstration were stated in the aims of the ad hoc committee are that 'it is important that the forces of the Labour Movement and the Left are mobilised to demand that Labour immediately implements a policy for political and military withdrawal from Ireland. The main slogan of the demonstration is to be 'British Troops Out of Ireland.'

The International Socialism Group, the International Marxists, Revolutionary Communist Group, London Communist Federation and South Bank Poly SU agreed to support the demonstration.

ACCOMMODATION

The attitude of the TOM to the slogan requires some comment. The main slogan of the TOM—quite correctly—has been *Troops Out Now*. It is wiseful thinking to believe that this does not conflict with the timeless *British Troops Out of Ireland*. The latter denies the principle of self determination.

TOM has made an accommodation to the British Peace Committee and compromised its own principled position. Their decision to do so is based on two serious misunderstandings.

The first is that there is a difference between the building of a movement and any specific demonstration. The TOM assumes it is the movement, and that it will build itself parallel to the demonstration. In explaining our disagreements with the decisions of the last TOM conference, we pointed out that the TOM is not yet the movement and that the *only* way in which TOM will grow beyond being a small propaganda group, is through such ad hoc initiatives as this. But the TOM must link its own development *integrally* to the ad hoc initiatives which it projects.

It is crazy to think that it will somehow grow in tandem with these initiatives. In other words TOM will be built only insofar as it wins away the base of organisations like the BPC.

The second error of TOM is the way it views its relation with the BPC as a purely administrative one. It assumes that the two groupings have got different audiences. The TOM at this stage sees itself as outside the trade unions whilst this

is the area where the BPC depends for support.

The idea is that the two will complement each other. But this idea of peaceful coexistence will be disastrous for the TOM. It will not get at the base of the BPC by giving in over principles. On the contrary, it is the best way of cutting itself off.

The collaboration of the BPC with the TOM is not created by the TOM being nice to the BPC and conceding political principle to it. It is the crisis of British imperialism and the impact that has on the radicalisation of the working class which is forcing the BPC into action. It knows it will lose its base if it does not move.

Of course, we want agreements with the BPC. However these agreements must be based on the relative strengths of the contending forces. It is precisely because we have been doing work on this question for a whole period and the BPC has not that our relative strength in the movement is greater.

REFUSED

The central thrust of our actions should be based on this balance of forces which we have created through our previous activity and not on some spurious idea that by 'giving in' to the BPC a wider movement can be built.

Scarman tribunal prepares to strengthen the fists of the law

The police are polishing up their equipment to deal with opponents of the National Front at Speakers Corner this Saturday. Meanwhile, Lord Justice Scarman is looking into their last performance — at Red Lion Square. His Tribunal opened in London this week.

The IMG, along with Liberation and Warwick Students Union, is represented at the Tribunal by counsel. Why are we doing this?

We don't have any illusions about the Tribunal. When Jenkins first announced it, the police eagerly grabbed the chance to try to wash Kevin Gately's blood off their hands.

The Home Office don't just want to help the cops out of trouble. They see Red Lion Square as a pretext for strengthening police powers over all demonstrations and mass pickets called by the labour movement.

Possible recommendations range from allowing the police to ban demonstrations without the consent of the Home Secretary, to making it a criminal offence not to inform the cops in advance of demos. Ideas of better training and issuing riot equipment — 'including weapons' — to the police are being floated. These would be further steps on the road to the strong state. The blame would be placed on the revolutionary left rather than on the needs of capital to strengthen its state machine.

Martin Webster of the National Front will be there too. He will be protesting the 'respectability' of his fascist mob, the better to demand more law and order from the cops and judges.

The general line of everybody from Webster to Fleet Street will be that the cops need bigger boots and truncheons, and the Judges longer wigs, to 'defend democracy'. This is pure sham. The threats to the liberties of the working class come precisely from these same cops and judges. Look at Shrewsbury. Look at the Special Patrol Groups, the joint army-police manoeuvres, and the private armies. And look at the way the cops allowed fascists to drum their way through London!

We don't expect to persuade His Lordship against giving the Home Office what it wants. Nor are we there to help Roy Jenkins to 'assess the facts'. As well as denying Webster a free political hand, we are there to expose the political operation which this Tribunal represents. By being inside the Tribunal we can raise the alarm bells more effectively.

ALF JENNINGS

BRIXTON SPUC SPLUTTERS OUT

Monday's inaugural meeting to set up a Society to Protect the Unborn Child — SPUC — branch in Brixton ended in a shambles.

Oppositionists, including IMG members, persistently heckled and harangued the speakers.

Brixton is evidently considered to be fruitful ground for SPUC. This is why SPUC sent along two of its major figures, Phyllis Bowman and Nicholas Fogg, a known extreme right winger. Fogg's spouting of the crudest anti-abortion propaganda would have impressed even Goebbels.

The Chair repeatedly refused to allow contributions from oppositionists on the floor, and the speakers deliberately ignored direct questions which attempted to expose SPUC's position and its deeper implications.

Phyllis Bowman claimed to have great 'concern' about the rights of Jews and Blacks; and by an unbelievable stretch of logic she placed the rights of the foetus (which she repeatedly referred to as 'the tiny baby') on a par with oppressed minority groups. She dismissed the fact that women should have any right to choose.

The uproar heightened and the chairman, realising the possibility of physical fighting was not ruled out, was forced to abandon the meeting.

INGRID FALCONER

Equally unfortunate was the way in which this slogan for unspecified withdrawal was foisted on the demonstration.

The chairman, supported by members of the BPC, and the TOM refused to put the issue to the vote. This was done, despite the fact that almost all of the organisations present, wanted *Troops Out Now* to be the main slogan.

A strong movement can only be built through the greatest democracy in the movement. It should be a principle of all such ad hoc committees that the forces which support the committee should be the ones which decide its policy. The forces which involve themselves must be sure that they have a say in the course and overall development of what they are supporting.

We must, despite our disagreements with the attitudes of the BPC and TOM, understand that the main issue is to combat British imperialism in Ireland.

Every effort must therefore be made to get representatives from London-based and national trade union and student bodies to attend the next ad hoc committee meeting on Monday 9 September. Wide sponsorship is needed for the demonstration and people should now start setting up ad hoc mobilising committees.

Meeting 9 September, Friends International Centre, Malet St., W.C1.

IPD WORKERS CAN LEAD JOBS FIGHT

On 6 September Wedgwood Benn is due to tell a mass meeting of workers at Industrial Property Developments — one-time Fisher Bendix — details of how his department intend to save 1,200 jobs.

For the past month the workforce has been operating a system of work-sharing. This has followed their second occupation against closure and mass redundancies in the last year. Their last occupation forced the Labour Government to step in. The Government saw that the occupation threatened to blow sky-high the 'social contract' by becoming the first major battle against business bankruptcies.

It is almost certain that Benn will announce that the Government is going to buy the factory and that it will be re-equipped to produce for new markets.

The proposals that Benn puts to the workers at IPD have an importance, not just for those workers but for the working class in general. In particular it will reveal the Labour Government's attitude to the actual

struggle which will be waged against unemployment and secondly, just how many teeth Benn's nationalisation plan has.

July's unemployment figures already show a staggering 90,000 rise to nearly 700,000 jobless — the highest July total for 26 years! The working class doesn't simply face a temporary level of massive unemployment caused by the so-called rationalisation of industry as happened in the 'lame ducks' days of the Tory Government. It faces long-term structural unemployment caused by the permanent closure of whole sections of industry due to bankruptcy. This process will escalate through consumer goods industries, where demand is falling due to the drop in the real value of wages caused by inflation, and hit heavy industry (engineering, machine tools) around the spring of next year.

On Merseyside itself jobs have disappeared at several furniture-making factories and the 1800-strong workforce at Hygena, on the same industrial estate as IPD, is already on a 3-day week.

It is this situation which determines that trade union militancy by itself will not be enough to stop this process but that a nationally coordinated fight against unemployment becomes necessary. Because of this IPD becomes a touchstone.

Any national fight against unemployment would be tremendously strengthened if the Labour Government lends its support to that struggle. The best way this can be done is for Labour to nationalise and place under workers' control any firm declaring redundancies. The fight for workers' control cannot be an optional extra tagged onto nationalisation. Workers' control is necessary both to prevent capitalist sabotage of nationalisation and to begin to work out a solution to the economic crisis in the interests of the working class across the whole economy. No job will be safe, even in a nationalised firm as the experience of workers in the steel industry and on the railways shows, until these firms cease to operate according to the needs of capitalism and private profit. Neither is it possible to have a 'socialist' plan for an isolated factory.

Where workers' control comes in is to indicate the steps it is necessary to take now in order to move from the anarchy of private competition with its miseries of mass unemployment and inflation towards a planned economy. Any other measures, however well-intentioned, will only be stop-gap ones.

Two years ago, even though overshadowed by the events at Upper Clyde Shipyards, the workers at IPD gave a lead to the whole working class through its first factory occupation.

Labour council hands business to Bovis

7000 NALGO AND NUPE workers stopped work last week in response to shady goings-on between London's Labour-controlled Southwark Council and ex-Tory minister Keith Joseph's construction outfit, Bovis.

The Council invoked an emergency regulation, probably illegally, to allow the borough's main buildings department, the Southwark Construction Organisation to 'absorb' the smaller Capital Works Department.

Although technically a borough department the SCO is run by four Bovis managers and Bovis will receive 1.85% of £10 million worth of SCO contracts. It was a Bovis report that recommended the transfer and it was Bovis men who took away all the CWD records.

John O'Grady, Labour council leader, refused all consultation with the unions and instead simply threatened loss of pay for all workers operating the 'work-bus'. The 'work-bus' itself started because no guarantees were given about job security or

promotion after the 'absorption'.

Unfortunately, the stand taken by the NUPE and NALGO branch secretaries at a joint mass meeting was totally inadequate. They confined their objections to the issues of consultation and job security for those directly involved. And they recommended referring the whole business to arbitration by the Greater London Whitley Council with no guarantees from the employers on any of the issues raised!

Eventually, however, there was a guarantee given on job promotion and security but the only satisfied party is Bovis Construction Ltd. who have effectively got away with the whole manoeuvre.

The unions should have demanded to inspect the books of the so-called 'Works Departments' and for the instant dismissal of the Bovis managers in the SCO. As it is, the workers are in no way protected against similar manoeuvres in the future.

Photo: Tompkins 1974

tion. Now it can give that lead again by demanding that Benn and the Labour Government must

NATIONALISE ALL FIRMS DECLARING REDUNDANCIES WITH GUARANTEES OF NO LOSS OF JOBS

PLACE THEM UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL AS THE FIRST STEP TO A PLANNED ECONOMY.

Mick Gosling

WOMEN WORKERS WIN BLACKING PROMISE

The strike of 150 women at the Wainwright & Rogers engineering firm in Liverpool, whose take-home pay is £15.40 per week, is now in its eleventh week (see Red Weekly 63).

After waiting a year for an agreed bonus scheme to be implemented, on top of a refusal from management to pay thresholds, the women had had enough.

Through their own initiative the women have received promises of blacking from Liverpool docks and Speke and Manchester airports. They also had a mass picket, attended by over 100 people including workers from nearby IPD.

The local AUEW officials have been dragging their feet over the whole dispute and were reprimanded by the Trades Council last week. The Trades Council has also organised a public meeting with Eddie Lonnie and a member of the cabinet committee on the main question. The further south on the 'Wharfedale' valley.

Photo: Tompkins 1974

The present crisis has started a discussion on Workers' Democracy. Even the TUC has felt the cold draught of the wind of change. And that should be welcomed.

However, any trade union member could be pardoned for thinking they were still living in the mid-sixties after reading the TUC report on *Industrial Democracy*. The thinking at Congress House appears to have been influenced by reading a plain man's guide on *Progressive Management and How to Deal With Noisy Trade Unionists in a Boom*.

The TUC claims 'The major way to extend collective control of workpeople over their work situation will continue to be through the strengthening of trade union organisation and the widening of the scope of collective bargaining.' This means the unions have to strike bargains with management on a whole series of fronts such as manning scales, information about the company etc. To get this they presumably have to use the same techniques and methods that they used to win their present wage levels.

This simply ignores the presence of that vast army of low-paid workers who have not been able to improve their wages and conditions by those traditional methods advocated by the TUC document. Because their power for collective bargaining is weak their chances of winning measures of workers' control are going to be very slender.

POWER

The trade unions have enormous power, but that power is not unlimited and has to be mobilised if it is going to be effective. With inflation escalating towards heights of 20 to 25 per cent and the so-called Welfare State falling apart the need for the TUC to put forward plans for using trade union power to impose a workers' solution is urgent.

More than pious mutterings about collective bargaining is needed. The TUC proposals provide no way forward but simply lead to classical participation schemes.

In the document the TUC points out that for many... the basic conflict of interest between workers and owners... prevents any meaningful participation in management decisions. Then they proudly

Industrial democracy - TUC style

announce that they have never shared these silly delusions. 'The TUC... took a much more flexible approach.'

They propose that the Board of Directors be split up into a supervisory board including 50 per cent workers with overall veto powers, and the directors, who will continue to 'represent the interests of the shareholders.'

The TUC suggest that TUC appointees represent the workers on the Boards set up by the Government. Now it is the Government which chooses its own candidates. The implications of all this are seen when

the TUC comments on Worker Directors in British Steel. Despite, it would seem, its 'obvious inadequacies' the scheme shows 'a willingness to experiment', and an 'appreciation in the movement that the conflict between management objectives and labour in the nationalised sector is not sufficiently overriding to prevent some forms of joint control being adopted.'

This policy has turned BISAKTA into one of the weakest trade unions in Britain. The steel workers' union has accepted massive redundancies, and work re-organisation which is so

highly graded that the workforce is split a hundred different ways. That these attacks on conditions take place under a scheme of worker directors is no accident. Neither is the fact that many of the TUC proposals are schemes introduced during the mid sixties.

The ruling class and their state machine find it useful to have trade union representatives take some of the responsibility for the 'hard decisions' forced on them by the mad scramble of the capitalist market. The last time a basis for such schemes was laid was in the national

'The TUC must put forward plans for using trade union power to impose a workers' solution to the problems of the economy and the welfare state' — this must involve

the use of their strength on behalf of all the oppressed and exploited, such as the pensioners, seen here demonstrating in Brighton last Sunday.



Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)

The introduction of workers' control in 1974. The Government's decision to allow the workers' control of the steel industry in 1974. The workers' control of the steel industry in 1974. The workers' control of the steel industry in 1974.

The Government estimates two million unemployed by 1975. Workers control is becoming ever more important in an economy which promises nothing but unemployment and high prices. There are various steps which have to be taken to get there. These include the demand that Labour nationalise key sectors of the economy. Furthermore the workers have to be organised so that they have a real veto power over the wishes of the bosses and their state.

Workers cannot 'control' the economy without challenging the very existence of the capitalist state machine. Once workers begin to run industry in their interest, that immediately clashes with private ownership and profit. It is Utopian to imagine otherwise, and also very dangerous. To have workers' control in the factories, for any length of time, you need at least the beginning of a workers state to impose, and defend it.

USE

The TUC proposals however have some use. They correctly underline the need for access by workers to vital information in the running of the economy. But they propose no means — other than new law — to get it. The employers would find a million and one ways through that. Indeed there are no suggestions on how the workers movement could be organised to prevent the sabotage of these ideas, if put into practice.

Sit-ins, and factory occupations are dealt with in the document as valid, — but last ditch trade union struggles mainly against redundancy threats. The whole TUC 'plan' is based on simple extension of 'normal' trade union power. But trade unions are not based on the need to fight the capitalist state, as the bureaucrats thank heaven for every night.

If workers democracy were extended throughout the workers own organisations, like making any Labour government responsible to the organisations of the working class, and not parliament, then the bureaucrats would have a lot more to worry about.

PAUL SMITH



BRITISH FASCISM IN

1. THE THREAT

THE FASCIST NATIONAL FRONT constitutes a real danger to the workers' movement. It is a threat which must be vigilantly and vigorously combatted.

But the danger is not primarily a military or physical one. The NF's bully boys are not about to start smashing up the British workers' movement. It is a political threat that the Front poses.

A failure to understand this will lead to a misunderstanding of the real significance of the anti-fascist struggle for the class struggle as a whole.

'DIVERSION'

For example, in their recent pamphlet on the National Front the International Socialists write: "The Special Patrol Group and the jailing of building workers and dockers are far more important at present than the National Front." It is this view that previously led the International Socialists to dismiss the fight against the fascists as a 'diversion'.

This is also a view held by several black political groups who realise from bitter experience that they are in far more physical danger from racist police and the racism of the whole state machine, than from the handful of fanatics in the Front.

But the Front is not simply another instrument of physical repression that the ruling class may choose to use against the workers' movement.

The trained, disciplined and specially equipped forces of the police and the army are a much more efficient military weapon than the rabble of fascist bands. But while the special Patrol Group may be able to do a very efficient job of breaking up picket lines and mopping up demos, it will not recruit very many rank-and-file workers to its side in so doing. Repression of this sort will tend to unify and strengthen the workers' movement, as workers band together against what is clearly a common danger and a common enemy.

Fascism, on the other hand, is a political movement that confuses, divides and weakens the working class (white workers, the unemployed, the unorganised) and enlists their aid in doing the ruling class's job of attacking the organised workers' movement, under the banner of fighting the blacks, the Reds, etc.

'RESPECTABLE'

Precisely because it is a political movement, the Front is at the moment concerned to play down its fascist character, and appear as a 'respectable' organisation of patriots. Far from plotting military assaults on workers' organisations, the Front's leaders are more concerned with calming down the hotheads who are itching to 'get at the Reds'. (Although, of course, the racist and anti-communist propaganda of the Front does encourage such actions.)

The Front's attempts to take to the streets do not (yet) stem from a desire to engage in street battles with the Reds. What they want is to publicly present themselves as a mass political movement, a 'normal' and respectable feature of British political life, albeit one that has a militant image and is prepared to fight in a determined way for its aims. They want to appear as attractive as possible to the tens of thousands of

people who vote for them in elections, the hundreds of thousands who share their racist and anti-communist views, and the millions who are influenced by the reactionary ideas poured out by the capitalist press and political parties.

Of course, if it is able to build such a mass movement, the Front will turn to physical attacks against the workers' movement. But it can only do this once it has succeeded in its political task of winning over large numbers of workers.

Indeed the ruling class will not try to take on the workers' movement physically until it has first defeated it politically, and broken up its unity and fighting spirit. After all, even the German ruling class in the 1930's did not dare outlaw and dismantle the mass organisations of the German working class until after the workers' movement had suffered a series of political defeats with the rise of Nazism, and the crushing blow of the

— by —
Tom Cameron

election of Hitler to the Chancellorship without serious mass resistance.

INSTRUMENTS

The influence of reactionary ideas such as racism, and the growth of fascist organisations like the NF on the basis of such ideas, will be important instruments to try and bring about the political defeat of the workers' movement. The misleadership supplied by the reformist bureaucrats who presently head the mass workers' organisations will only lead the working class up a blind alley to the ruling class's political slaughterhouse.

So the fight against the reformist Labour Party and trade union bureaucrats, the fight against the ruling class and its state machine, and the fight against the fascist organisations and the reactionary ideas they peddle, are not separate struggles.

They are all aspects of the same struggle — the struggle to lead the workers' movement forward to confront and solve the problems produced by the capitalist crisis, and to defeat the attempts of the ruling

class to dump the burdens of this crisis on the backs of the working class.

If we understand that the National Front is a political threat we can see how the struggle against the NF must be conducted. This struggle must centre around the slogan 'No Platform for Fascists' — the workers' movement must not allow the fascists to freely conduct the public activity which will allow them to build up a mass movement.

Two dangers in particular must be avoided. The first mistake would be simply to undertake small minority operations against the Front (an error which certain elements at the recent Leicester demo tended towards.) This might serve to show up the military weakness of the Front, but does nothing to expose them politically.

We cannot assume that the workers to whom the Front addresses its propaganda are basically pure of mind and heart, and just being contaminated by the NF's propaganda. Many of them sympathise with the NF's ideas, and actions which allow the Front to pose as the poor victims of a tiny handful of violent Red plotters may serve to increase, rather than reduce, such sympathy.

Equally futile would be an interminable succession of marches with no object other than to continually prove that anti-fascist demos are bigger than fascist ones. Such activity does not strike at the political roots of the NF, and does not effectively block their ability to conduct their political campaign.

The most powerful weapon against the Front is the mass hostility that many, many workers feel towards fascism, and the mass anger that they will express against the Front when they recognise its true character and importance.

The anti-fascist movement must tap and organise those feelings. Effective action against the fascists, clearly backed by such mass sentiment, will not win sympathy for the Front among politically confused workers. Instead it will cause them to ask how it is that the activities of the Front evoke such strong reactions from among their fellow workers, and think again about their position as workers and their reactionary and racist beliefs.

At the same time, the anti-fascist movement must extend its work against the NF to the other areas of their activity. Their election activity, their work inside the unions, and

their attempt to move into the schools, must be taken up by anti-fascist militants and the workers' movement as a whole.

The elaboration of a precise strategy to deal with the Front in these areas, and the organisation of a practical campaign within the workers' movement to carry it into effect, is the job which the anti-fascist movement must undertake in the coming months.

We must bring the mass hostility which workers feel against fascism to bear in all these areas. This is the way to rip the National Front out of our political soil, root and branch.

2. THE THE

WHEREVER THE BREAKDOWN OF upheaval and resentment in wide sections of the Front tries to make its presence felt.

Meetings, leaflets, door-to-door canvassing, political campaigns are used by the NF in each particular crisis. The material in whichever group the NF is addressing.

Their leaflets for schools are marked 'School Students' and play on the theme of violence in schools. Propaganda for industrial workers — head-



Windsor — we must not let such scenes happen in Hyde Park this weekend.

IMG SAYS YOURS

The following is the press statement issued by the International Marxist Group (IMG) on the march of the National Front:

The decision of the fascist organisation to march on Claring Cross Embankment to Greenpeace and the refusal of the Labour Government to clear provocation to the workers' movement.

The International Marxist Group (IMG), London district AUEW and other trade unionists met at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, on 15th September to discuss the opportunity to peddle their racist and fascist propaganda, a movement that will destroy the workers' democratic liberties of which the workers' movement is the only force that can defend.

The forces that have called this march, the IMG, would want to avoid any further actions of the police in the recent past. The Special Patrol Group and anti-picketing squads have all given grave cause for concern.

We have seen vicious unprovoked attacks recently in Leicester, at the Imperial College, London, police attacks on student pickets at the Claring Cross Embankment, and a riot in Red Lion Square which resulted in the death of Kevin Gately, from a blow on the head. The police in London have extended when the police initiated the attack on the pop fans at Windsor Great Park.

All of these actions by the police are a direct provocation to the workers' movement, and especially to the workers' movement, and especially to the workers' movement, and especially to the workers' movement, and especially to the workers' movement.

All demonstrators should wear dark clothing and safety helmets to guard themselves against the possibility of being hit by the police during the National Front march.

There must be no more Kevin Gatelys.



Enoch Powell — the long 'Will he?—Won't he?' is over.

EVER SINCE the defeat of the Tory Government, various supporters of the ruling class have come forward with a whole series of exotic and nasty schemes for defeating the working class.

These range from the crusade of Lord Longford to group 'all true patriots', the private armies of Sir Walter Walker, and the slightly more serious strike-breaking squads of Colonel Stirling.

POWELL FINALLY PL

However, there is one big snag with all these reprehensible schemes — they are unworkable, given the present strength of the working class. Rather than being added adjuncts to a determined march of the ruling class, they are responses to the defeat of its chosen strategy, which was embodied in the confrontationalist policies of the Tory government. They represent the fragmentation of the base of the Tory party and indicate the weakness of the ruling class at this stage.

From that point of view Enoch Powell's project of seeking a seat in the Six Counties fits into this process of fragmentation. But Powell's plan has one major difference from all the other hare-brained schemes. It actually provides an

WEAKNESS

alternative for the ruling class which contains all the elements which might make it successful.

The fall of Heath showed the weakness of the ruling class in relation to the strength of the organised workers' movement. The strength of the working class in the unions

and in the factories means no direct repressive attack can be successful. A prior defeat of the working class is needed before any strong state measures can be put into practice and used against the working class. The defeat of Heath was a defeat for the ruling class as a whole — because his policies aimed to carry out the overall project of the ruling class. That strategy is now checked.

DIRE WARNING

Enoch Powell's proposal sounds a dire warning. For where the working class is weakest is on the ideological front. The great bulk of the working class can see the danger of the Industrial Relations Act and are prepared to fight against it. But on the questions of racism and anti-Irish chauvinism the working class sees no danger. But it is around these issues that working class organisations could be divided. On this basis an actual repressive assault could be successful.

Powell is cultivating a base in order to show the ruling class that there is an alternative. The victory of

the Loyalist strike has shown such a reactionary base does exist in the Six Counties. This base, which is alienated from the most immediate aims of the British ruling class, is the spring-board from which Powell has chosen to relaunch himself.

The policy it offers to the Loyalists is the only coherent one. It projects a new Union with Britain by a linkup of the Loyalists with the most reactionary trends in British politics. Although this policy has not yet been fully endorsed by the Loyalists — only Paisley proposes Union at this stage — Powell's immediate goal, that of gaining a wider representation in the Westminster Parliament commands total support from the Loyalists and has a large band of adherents inside the Tory Party. No wonder last week's *Observer* headline declared that: 'Powell Return Will Split Tories'.

As far as Enoch Powell is concerned, the recent actions of the Loyalists serve as a model for the rest of Britain. Powell bases himself on this new found confidence of the Loyalists since their general strike. This base is being continually reinforced by the conces-

WORD AND DEED



DRY

CAPITALISM LEADS TO SOCIAL
of the population the National

all the usual paraphernalia of forms designed specifically for

ed 'Trade Unionists' — deal with redundancies, immigration and Ireland. It is important to analyse this social agitation of the fascists and understand the ideas which underpin it.

'DEFEND ELVES!'

the IMG concerning the 7 September

the National Front, to march from Speakers Corner, this Saturday, September 7th. A ban on this demonstration, is a

ly supports the call by the North and anti-fascist organisations to prevent the NF using this anti-Irish poison, as a way of building divisions of the working class, and all class movement is the sole defender. assembly and picket, and particularly contact with the police. However, period, the activities of the Special the use of plain clothed provocateurs,

ice assaults on picket lines — most powerwriters dispute. We have witnessed and Essex. The last time an anti- with last, there occurred the police in the death of one of the demonstrat- ead. And only last week this pattern the scandalous unprovoked attack on

a grave warning to the workers' thousand trade union and other anti- rday at Speakers Corner. In the police, the IMG calls on those that are on to come prepared to protect them- attack,

sive clothing and in particular should against the possibility that the police their batons to clear a way for the

The principle theme of fascist agitation, past and present, is *nationalism*. This is the calculated fostering of identification by individuals to the nation state which rules them. Fascism is therefore able to play on long-standing and deep-rooted cultural traditions which flourished long before fascism emerged.

BRITISH NATIONALISM

In the 18th and 19th centuries the upsurge of capitalism transformed the political map of Europe. The feudal kingdoms were swept away. The modern capitalist 'nations' and their imperialist acquisitions were created. Inevitably, the accompanying 'philosophy' was centred on nationalism. Internationalism — be it that of working class socialism or even that of the multinational capitalist enterprises — challenges and undermines that ideology.

Fascism is part of the response that reacts against this challenge to the old values and it clings desperately to the worn-out patriotism of yesterday. Describing its aims the NF says: 'The NF is a party of British Nationalism, being pledged to work for the restoration of full national sovereignty... it stands strongly for the preservation of Britain's national identity. The NF recognises that International Monopoly Capitalism is as great a menace to the freedom of the nation as International Communism and that in fact the two represent different means to the same end — a world tyranny.'

CONSPIRACY

These words, taken from the NF's *Statement of Policy*, jumps Bolshevism, the United Nations, Swiss Financiers, and the Common Market as one great conspiracy. This notion, common to every fascist movement from Hitler to Tyndall, is reflected in the NF's social agitation. 'British' workers, students, businessmen are all called to resist jointly the ideas of 'alien' peoples.

Tied into this appeal to patriotic interests is a pronounced *racism*. A logical extension of identifying with one's 'nation' is hostility to other, often rival nations or other social groupings. Such hostilities to other social groupings developed before the appearance of the capitalist 'nation-states'.

Much of current racist ideas

have their origins in pre-capitalist society and have been re-adopted for modern exploitation by the fascists. Hatred of the Jews was first encouraged by sections of the Christian Church seeking to win converts against Jewish competition in the 4th century.

The stories used for Jew-baiting re-appeared hundreds of years later in the crusades and promoted a

ica's deep South. That same racialism fuels many reactionary and fascist movements in the USA today.

The NF styles itself as 'racialist'. Its agitational material exploits the racial hostilities nurtured by British imperialism in its era of power.

Sentences like: 'You know you feel strongly about immigration' — 'Three million Afro-Asians here already...' recall the racial superi-



Spearhead — the NF's hysterical 'theoretical' magazine.

tradition of anti-semitism which the Nazis developed to 'justify' mass slaughter in the concentration camps — a 'philosophy' had been provided for German imperialism.

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion — a forgery — which were dated 1905, uses ancient Christian language to whip up anti-semitism, referring to 'the King born of the blood of Zion — the Antichrist'.

Anti-black racialism originates from the vicious racial domination of the white plantation owners in the pre-capitalist economy of Amer-

ority line peddled by the Victorian governor-generals who lorded it over a subject colonial people.

The NF connects racialism and

'ALIENS'

nationalism by blaming 'black immigration' on the great world conspiracy which is 'undermining the nations'. It increasingly hints at the Jewish origins of this 'conspiracy' by selecting Jewish communists or international capitalists for special mention as 'aliens'.

Liberation and the CP claim that to do so would split the anti-fascist movement. But the importance of the anti-fascist movement now rests on the fact that these issues are made absolutely central.

Any failure to do this will lead to a big strengthening of the extreme right in Britain.



Edward Carson — one of Powell's most notorious predecessors as populist demagogue in the Six Counties.

AYS THE IRISH CARD

sions which the Labour Government keeps granting to the Loyalist forces. The recent re-creation of the B-

Specials under the guise of the special reserves is all grist to Powell's mill. But his policy of the permanent integration of the Six Counties

further increased if representation of the Six Counties is expanded to 20 MP's instead of the present 12. Powell is also attracting support from the right wing of the Conservative Party, from the 70 or so Tory MP's in the Ulster Group, and even from

By BRIAN CLYNES

with Britain cuts across the other platform of the Labour government — that of the Ulsterisation of the war.

Powell provides an answer which together with his already considerable political weight could unify the Loyalist forces and overcome their continuing fragmentation after the brief unity they had enjoyed in the flush of the general strike victory.

BLOCK

Such a unified base would take Powell from the fringes of British politics back into the centre. His block of Ulster MP's in the presently disorganised state of parliamentary politics would make Powell an important factor. This would be

people inside the shadow cabinet.

The fight against this new and dangerous development must begin now. The whole manoeuvre depends on a strong base in the Six Counties and the support it gets inside the working class by the use of anti-Irish chauvinism. It can only be effectively fought by winning the working class to solidarity with the Irish struggle for self-determination. This would undermine Powell's base which depends for its cohesion on the force of British imperialism to subjugate the nationalist population. It would also combat the weakness in the political armour of the working class — its backwardness on Ireland.

This makes the campaign against the National Front extremely important. In showing the connection with these types of policies and fascism we can begin to expose their anti-working class character. Of course Powell is not a fascist, but his aim is to use strong state methods against the working class.

By showing that the NF is using Powell-type policies, we can turn the overwhelming hatred of the working class for fascism against the extreme right on Ireland.

The next step in the anti-fascist campaign is to extend the forces involved and to take up this much more serious and immediate danger of the re-emergence of Powell.

This means warning these forces to support Irish self-determination.

SCANDALOUS

This is why it is so scandalous that the other main forces involved in the anti-fascist movement, particularly Liberation and the Communist Party, have refused to raise the Irish issue. This despite the fact that the NF is making explicit links with the Loyalists by marching with them.

A problem for the NF arises from the fact that the past prosperity of British capitalism allowed it to grant its subjects a significant measure of liberal democracy: Parliamentary traditions are well established. Notions of 'freedom' and 'tolerance' figure prominently in the public mind.

'HUMANITARIANISM'

In its attempt to build a mass fascist movement in Britain the NF cannot ignore this. The NF therefore bends its racist and other propa-

anda to stress the Front's 'humanitarianism'. *Spearhead* — paper of the NF — in its August issue whines about the 'seventy five year-old widow bullied by the Race Board'. In a heart-tugging article it tells of how an old white woman has stopped letting rooms and is now 'poor'. She has refused to let her rooms after being interviewed by the Race Relations Board who had found out she had refused to let to a black tenant.

The old widow's care-worn anxious face is on the front cover. The excluded tenant is ignored. If the NF grow no doubt it will put more emphasis on the uglier and real side of its racialism. Likewise their endless references to 'healthy, decent, opinions and fairness to all' will quietly evaporate. Now it concentrates mostly on white fears and insecurities.

FRUSTRATED

In all its mass campaigns the NF aims to construct an *alliance* of various groups in society. Some of their propaganda is aimed at the economically frustrated middle class. Other material is directed at the weaker sections of the working class. The August *Spearhead* writing about the crisis in the Health Service says 'the financially ailing Health Service has been greatly helped by the extra fees paid by private patients. If the right to pay these fees in return for superior medical treatment is withdrawn, the Service will further deteriorate.'

Such overt appeals to the better-off reached their heights in the *Middlesex Chronicle* of 11 February 1974, which reported on local NF preparations to deal with a general strike. The *Chronicle* said the NF is 'compiling a list of their supporters who could help maintain law and order... people who could serve as special constables.'

PUBLIC CONTROL

On other fronts the NF talks a different language. An NF letter to the *West London Observer* of 9 August 1974 warns parliament 'there is a danger that the views of the working majority will be ignored since most MPs are selected from the richer and so-called 'better educated' section of society.'

In issue no. 23 of the NF's *Britain First* they write 'The NF wishes to secure the prosperity of all workers whether by hand or by brain through the public control of finance.' This 'clever' mixture of demagoguery, designed to appeal to the different classes, is central to the strategy of the NF in trying to gain a mass base in Britain.

The unifying threads are nationalism and racialism and the strategy is straight out of the arsenal of classic fascist ideology.



GREEK TROTSKYISTS UNITE FORCES

THE NEW SITUATION in Greece has hastened the fusion between two Greek Trotskyist groups – the Revolutionary Socialist Union and the Communism group – to form a single sympathising organisation of the Fourth International in their country. The new organisation will be known as the Revolutionary Socialist Union (RSU).

In a statement issued on 6 August, the United Central Committee of the new organisation points out that 'the November clashes showed clearly the inability of any single group to act as a pole of attraction in the spontaneous upsurge of the masses'. This showed 'yet again the necessity to draw together the revolutionary forces in order to strike more effectively at the centralised capitalist forces'.

The statement goes on: 'From these experiences, and after practical and organisational co-operation, the two groups have decided to unite their forces for a more effective struggle. The exchange of ideas, the needs and the tasks of a practical intervention in the day-to-day struggles of the workers, peasants and students over the past months, the latest events in Cyprus, and the new political situation which resulted with the Karamanlis solution have hastened this fusion.'

The RSU are clear that this fusion is only the first step in what they hope will be further moves towards the regroupment of the revolutionary forces in Greece, uniting all those who (in opposition to the Communist Party) 'recognise the socialist character of the revolution in Greece'. They conclude their statement by declaring their readiness 'to discuss and work with any group or organisation' with similar political positions.

This move is all the more important in the light of recent events in Greece, which have already begun to reveal the true nature of the Karamanlis regime. Following the further Turkish military action in Cyprus, protests began to develop against the half-measures taken by the Greek Government – to withdraw Greek forces from NATO but not to liquidate the various American bases in the country.

In Heraklion on the island of Crete there was a demonstration of 20,000 people against the American presence in Greece, while on 16 August a massive crowd of peasants actually tried to overrun the nearby US air-base and set it on fire! The police only managed to disperse them with considerable difficulty.

But it was in Athens that the mobilisations most highly critical of the Government took place. For three days, on 16, 17 and 18 August, there was a constant succession of largely spontaneous demonstrations in Constitution Square involving more than 5,000 people. The slogans were extremely militant – 'Only one enemy – capitalism!' 'For a popular democracy of workers and peasants' councils!' – and clearly rejected the project of 'national unity' put forward by Karamanlis and supported by the Stalinists of the 'Interior' and 'orthodox' Communist parties.

MANY ARRESTS

Fearing that such activity could provide the basis for a new mass upsurge like that of last November, when revolutionary militants played a key role in developing the struggle of workers and students, the Government eventually sent in the police on Sunday 18 August to break up the demonstrations. Just as under the military dictatorship, the police



Jannis Felekis – arrested again brutally struck out in all directions, haphazardly arresting many passers-by along with numerous demonstrators.

Most of them were soon released after an order from higher-up pointing out that the resultant publicity could be damaging to the Government's image, and only four were held overnight. One of these, however, was our comrade Jannis Felekis – a printing worker who now edits the only revolutionary paper yet to appear in Greece, *Ergatiki Pali* (Workers' Struggle), which has appeared weekly since 10 August with a print-run of 4,000 copies. He is by now well used to such treatment – he spent four years in jail under the Papadopoulos regime before being released in September 1973, and was then re-imprisoned after the November events for having been a member of the 'struggle committee' at the Athens Polytechnic.

His trial was due to begin on 29 August, but no publicity at all has been given to the case by the press. The Communist parties, too, have refused to make any declarations of solidarity. There is thus a heavy responsibility on the forces of the left internationally to ensure that this first attempt at repression by the Karamanlis regime does not go unchallenged. Messages of solidarity should be sent to: *Ergatiki Pali*, Emm. Mpenaki 28 (1st floor), Athens, Greece.

JOHN MARSTON

Copies of *Ergatiki Pali* are available price 8p (includes postage) from Red Books, 97 Caledonian Road, London N1.

CEYLON REGIME BARS JVP TRIAL LAWYER

The defence counsel for three of the suspects charged as a result of the events in Ceylon in April 1971 has been barred from making further submissions at a crucial stage in the trial.

The action came after the counsel, Bala Tampoe – who is also General Secretary of the Ceylon Mercantile Union and Secretary of the Revolutionary Marxist Party (Ceylon section of the Fourth International) – had begun his submission by accusing the police and government investigators of fabricating the evidence against his clients. The latter – young militants associated with the JVP group – are accused of conspiring to overthrow the Government by insurrection in the events three years ago, which have been used as the pretext for continued emergency rule on the island ever since.

Tampoe argued before the Criminal Justice Commission set up by the Government that the real conspiracy had taken place on the prosecution side, to railroad his clients to jail on the basis of a series of false 'confessions'. The Chairman of the 'court' then ordered him to restrict his oral submissions to 18 hours – in a trial which has now lasted for more than two years!

When Tampoe insisted that more time was needed the Chairman arbitrarily barred him from making any further submissions, despite the protests of his clients. One of the latter, M. J. Uyangoda, pointed out that at this stage of the case it would be impossible for him to brief a new counsel and so offer a proper defence. The response of the Chairman, as reported in the *Ceylon Daily News*, was: 'If you think it is unfair we

cannot do anything about it.' He then added, almost unbelievably: 'Do you hope to get acquitted?' This latest incident only confirms the intention of the Ceylon regime – led by Mrs Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party in coalition with the Communist Party and the renegade Trotskyists of the LSSP – to use every means at their disposal to make victims of these militants.

As the chief accused, Rohana Wijeweera, who has conducted his own defence, courageously put it in his concluding address before the Commission: 'Whatever your verdict, acquittal or imprisonment, I am sure this Government will continue to keep me effectively imprisoned. Even if I have to spend the rest of my life in jail, I will not regret it.'

Wijeweera has refused to appear before the Commission for as long as the ban on Bala Tampoe remains in force. It is vital that he does not stand alone in this, but that international solidarity action is taken in defence of these and the thousands of other political prisoners still held by the Bandaranaike regime.



Bala Tampoe speaking at a rally in March

PORTUGAL

Army's 'iron heel' fails to crush workers

TWO GROUPS of workers have come under the 'iron heel' of the Portuguese army in the past few weeks.

First of all, striking ground crews of the national airlines, TAP, suddenly found themselves dragooned under military law and ordered back to work. So far, however, they have refused to obey, and the situation remains stalemated, with all TAP aircraft, except two ferrying Portuguese soldiers home from Africa, stuck on the ground.

While this was going on the army moved into the occupied premises of the Lisbon daily newspaper, *Jornal do Comercio*, where the workers were on strike and in occupation.

In a big operation, during which a major part of the city was sealed off, they cleared out the strikers and shut the building down under military guard.

The military seem to have been worried by the advanced methods of struggle adopted by the strikers. On strike over a series of demands, including the firing of a notorious anti-working class manager, the workers had put their occupation of the paper's plant to good use.

Until the army's take over they were producing and distributing a special 'strike edition' of the news-

paper to win support for their struggle. They had also called a meeting of workers' delegates from all the firms in the Borges Group, one of Portugal's big monopoly groups, which owns the *Jornal do Comercio*, along with two other newspapers, one of Portugal's biggest banks, a supermarket chain, and a string of other companies including the tyre firm, Mabor, whose factory in the northern Portuguese city of Porto has been on strike for two months.

Despite the army's attack, the strike goes on, and pickets have been mounted outside the paper's premises.

The meeting of delegates from the Borges Group went ahead, and a workers' commission embracing the whole group has been established.

Plans for solidarity action with the *Jornal do Comercio* workers are presently under discussion by other Lisbon newspaper workers and by fellow-workers in the Borges Group.

CHRIS BALFOUR

Bitter pill of union laws

THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT has just published its new Labour Law. It gives a pretty good foretaste of the sort of 'democracy' the Portuguese ruling class has in mind for the working class.

In many respects the new law (drawn up by a Government which includes the Communist Party) is very similar to the infamous Industrial Relations Act of the Tory Government in this country. But it also contains a number of provisions that go far further than even the Tories dared.

The aim of the new law is to outlaw all militant forms of struggle and place the Portuguese labour movement in a straitjacket.

Under the new law:

- * The right to strike is denied to the armed forces, magistrates, the police, prison guards and firemen

- * The public employees' right to strike will be subject to even tighter restrictions under a special law

- * Strikes which are not conducted according to the terms laid down by the new law are illegal

- * In unionised firms workers' demands can only be put forward by official trade union bodies, and strikes called by a union or unions which together represent a majority of workers

- * In firms where a majority of workers are not in unions, a strike can only be called by a secret ballot which shows a majority of all workers in the firm in favour

- * A strike cannot be called until thirty days after demands have been presented to the management in writing

- * Once a strike has been decided on, a further seven days notice must be given to the boss and the Government

- * Occupations of workplaces are illegal

- * Strikes with 'political or religious aims' are illegal

- * Solidarity strikes with workers in strategic jobs with the aim of 'disorganising the process of production' are illegal

- * Strikes during the life of a collective contract are illegal

- * All trade unions and workers are obliged to ensure that normal security and maintenance work is carried out during a strike, and workers in public service industries must ensure that essential services are provided.

Of course, this bitter pill is served up with a certain sugar coating. The right to strike and picket is 'generously' ensured, bosses are denied the right to stage lock-outs (except for 'defensive' lock-outs called in reply to workers' violations of the law), and they cannot import scabs from outside the firm to replace strikers (although the 'right to work' of scabs inside the firm is guaranteed under the law).

What all this adds up to is that the Portuguese ruling class, having well and truly trussed up the working class in this new law, is declaiming 'But look, we guarantee your right to wiggle your toes!'



The front page of a special strike edition of the *Jornal do Comercio* put out by its workers to popularise their struggle

'Our Common Struggle' bulletin of the Portuguese Workers' Coordinating Committee (in English) first number just out

- articles on:
 - background to 25 April
 - multinational companies in Portugal
 - the colonial question
 - repression and the press laws
 - the postal workers strike
 - the new Labour laws

single copy: 7p (including postage); subscription: 70p for 10 numbers. From: PWCC, 18 Fleet Road, London N19

FASCIST BULLETS FLY IN CAMDEN

Thugs — suspected to be local fascists — recently fired a blast of shots at the front window of the London squat at 220 Camden High Street. They used a .410 gun with a one-shot load.

The fascists were clearly enraged at the display of IMG anti-fascist posters in the window. This is the fifth harassment carried out against 220 since an anti-fascist meeting was held there on 18 August.

Prowlers have been seen on the roof. An intruder broke into the house but was chased off. Two men tried to force their way into the building on the afternoon of the Leicester demonstration but were repelled by the squatters.

Following the shoot-up the squatters saw a copper doing his Mr Ploot act up the road. Showing

little enthusiasm for chasing the car containing the attackers he made a casual call to the local station. Twenty-five minutes later the none-too mobile police unit arrived.

NO EVIDENCE

The policeman was more interested in finding out who owned the shop window. Noting the 11 bullet holes in the glass he commented that there was 'no substantial evidence' so he could not do anything.

The premises at 220 Camden High Street are owned by property speculator Joe Levy. The anti-fascist meeting of 18 August was part of the mobilisation for Leicester. Thirty members of the National Front turned up outside the meeting. The NF members took pictures of people going into the meeting and threatened the occupants they would be

back to 'get you'.

This attack drives home the need for self defence against fascist attacks. The police being more friendly to property speculators and right-wing extremists, will take no action to defend squatters.

A formal complaint has been made by the occupants of 220. Jock Stallard, MP for the area has also lodged a complaint. He made the comment: 'You know whose side the police are on.' The occupants at 220 refuse to be intimidated. On Thursday evening 5 September they are holding a public meeting — *Fascism and how best to organise local defence against future attacks.*

The meeting starts at 7.30. People are asked to turn up to solidarise with the stand of the 220 squatters against intimidation and to provide defence for the meeting.

Squatters up stakes against biggest-ever eviction plan

Elgin Avenue, Paddington, squatters will fight the biggest ever eviction in Britain in the courts and on the streets.

The proposed eviction of 250 squatters with 30 children dramatically spells the end to Labour's GLC self-stated 'reasonable' policy on squatting and progressive housing policies.

The Elgin Avenue eviction will also jeopardise the security of all of the many thousands of 'official' squatters who have made agreements with councils round the country — there are 2,500 in London alone. The GLC's legal moves place them on the same footing as 'mainstream' (unlicensed) squatters.

This attack comes simultaneously with GLC evictions of squatters in Stepney and Camden which are co-ordinated with attacks by speculators and borough councils. The attacks on squatters come side by side with a new crack-down on GLC 'rent slackers'.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

The summonses for Elgin Avenue came just one month after the *Telegraph*, on 17 July, attacked an (unnamed) IMG squatter militant in Elgin Avenue — Piers Corbyn. The *Telegraph* warned in an editorial against GLC 'conniving' with 'a carefully directed conspiracy against property by political fanatics' — squatters at that time were meeting the GLC.

Squatters are taking solidarity action to up the stakes in struggle against the GLC. Action so far has included the occupation of GLC 'High Rent' accommodation in fashionable Little Venice, Warwick Avenue and the take-over of a three-

years-empty block of former GLC firemen's flats off Fleet Street. The GLC sold these flats to speculators for conversion to office blocks. Print unions are discussing and supporting this action.

The Labour GLC in trying to justify its actions is putting on an 'exhibition of their plans' near Elgin Avenue. Squatters have replied by organising a counter-exhibition to show the GLC's attacks on the housing movement, and are holding a public meeting jointly with local tenants and trade unionists on 5 Sept-

ember (7.30 Chippenham Mews Community Centre) to which the GLC are invited to debate the matter. This will follow a street theatre show the day before. There will be a mass picket of Bloomsbury & Marylebone County Court at 9.45 am, 10 September.

Trade Unions, Tenants Associations are invited to send for speakers and information and send resolutions opposing the evictions to GLC County Hall SE1, Labour Councillors and MPs, and 19 Elgin Avenue, W9. 01-286 2186 (contact for all details).

Legal attacks threaten workers

IN JUNE THIS YEAR, the Law Commission published a working paper (no. 54) commissioned by the Tory government, to recommend updated laws to replace the present 'forcible entry' and 'conspiracy to trespass' laws.

The aim of the report is 'to consider in what circumstances entering or remaining upon property should constitute a criminal offence'.

If accepted, the proposed laws would make it an offence to remain on property having been ordered to leave by the person 'legally entitled' to the property. Failing to leave 'as soon as reasonably practical' (ie immediately ordered to do so) means that you are liable to arrest, and may receive up to six months imprisonment.

It would also be an offence to enter property against the wishes of

the occupants, whether legal or otherwise. This means that the owner may not himself remove people from his property which is irrelevant in view of the fact that the strong arm of the law can do it for him.

This could make factory occupations, student sit-ins, demonstrations or pickets and squatting on private or public property criminal if those in occupation refused to leave immediately they were ordered to.

The Law Commission is making certain other proposals to limit the application of the conspiracy laws. They suggest that conspiracy charges should not be used to make illegal an act that by itself is not criminal (as happens at present with the offence of 'conspiracy to trespass'). But, of course, 'conspiracy to trespass' would remain illegal under the Commission's plan, since trespass by itself would be made criminal.

But in the event of these proposals failing to enter the statute book, the present laws would be tightened up, and if enforced, could provide an equally oppressive attack against those who wish to defend their interests through occupation and similar forms of struggle.

HOMELESSNESS

Homeless people would become criminals, vagrancy already being an offence. These proposals would make any attempt by the homeless to obtain a roof over their head by occupying empty property illegal.

Homelessness is increasing. Under capitalism the state has proved unable to solve the housing problem. The present urban crisis has recently forced the ruling class to reject any responsibility for the homeless.

Red Weekly

Windsor — shape of things to come



One of those arrested is held upside down so that his head hits a railing

THE MASSIVE police operation to break up the Windsor Great Park festival last Thursday, 29 August, showed that Red Lion Square was very much the shape of things to come as far as other sections of the population are concerned.

Batons swinging, squads of cops moved in on the thousands enjoying the festival with a degree of violence which upset even sections of the bourgeois press.

'The police formed a long line and

walked towards the bandstand. They smashed down everything in their path, including all the tents and shelters which had been built.' — Geoffrey White in the *Daily Mail*.

'They smashed through the linked arm cordon, hurling people aside like dolls. Anyone who resisted was cut down.' — Keith Dovkants in the *London Evening Standard*.

'I saw an arrested youth being held down by four policemen and being kicked in the body by a fifth. Women were dragged off by their hair. Youths were kicked and beaten in the melee.' — Iain Walker in the *Sun*.

PLAIN-CLOTHES

Nor was brute force the only tactic used by the police. That the operation had been carefully prepared beforehand was shown by the sudden appearance of what the *Sun* called 'a special squad of young police officers, dressed in T-shirts and denims, who were sent in to mingle with the crowd.' As seen in our photo, these cops played an active part in the arrests — after donning chequered armbands to protect themselves from their uniformed colleagues.

Of course most of the press half-heartedly pleaded that perhaps the police were provoked, and anyway the festival was being held on private property. Nonetheless, it is clear that they were mostly taken aback by the degree of violence used — a sign that the capitalists' attempts to beef up the forces of the state apparatus have not so far been accompanied by sufficient political preparation to make them generally acceptable.

This present uncertainty provides an important opening for the labour movement to conduct its own public enquiry into these and other moves towards a 'strong state' — such as the series of joint police-army manoeuvres at Heathrow. There can be little doubt that Red Lion Square and Windsor Great Park are just the prelude to similar attacks on picket lines during the coming wave of workers' struggles. Now is the time to prepare to deal with them.

John Marston

'Even the Communist Party paper, the *Morning Star*, fell compelled to bow in this direction: 'While it is true that the festival was held on grounds where camping and music are against regulations, force on such a scale [our emphasis] to remove the youngsters was completely uncalled for.'

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