

# Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Make  
May Day  
a turning  
point

EDITORIAL

London Tories told 'stop the increases'

## RENTS VETO IS VICTORY FOR MILITANT TENANTS

From SEAN DUNNE

THE TENANTS' MOVEMENT in Greater London has forced Housing Minister Anthony Greenwood to reject the GLC's plan to increase rents for their 239,000 tenants. The GLC had hoped to raise the rents by 7s 6d to 10s a week from October, following a similar increase last year.

Mr Desmond Plummer, leader of the GLC, accused Greenwood of reacting to 'mob pressure'. Greenwood and the Labour Party are desperate for tenants' votes and they hope to smash the tenants' organisation to get those votes.

**'Fight goes on'**  
says Hackney leader

MRS IRENE LANE, secretary of Hackney Federation of GLC Tenants' Associations, commented on the government decision to veto the increases: 'It is clearly being done as a political move and at Easter weekend when every tenants' association is in recess. Many committee members feel it has been done to get tenants to pay up and thus weaken the associations. As far as we're concerned, we will continue to fight them to the end.'

**Sparks face battle for 10 bob rise**

From a Scottish Electrician THE GOVERNMENT seems poised to freeze a negotiated increase for 7,600 Scottish electricians. In 1967 an agreement giving sparks north of the border a shilling an hour was refused because the agreement was signed one day after the imposition of 'severe restraint'. This resulted in widespread industrial action, with Glasgow Corporation, Greenock Corporation and Scottish Special Housing electricians out for seven weeks and the whole of the contracting industry stopped for a fortnight. But the government, knowing their Incomes Policy was in danger, refused to budge.

With the full introduction of the notorious Joint Industry Board in England, a further difference in rates occurred and Scottish sparks demanded parity. In July 1968 the ETU executive, not noted for its militancy, called official 'guerrilla' strikes to force employers to pay the 10s an hour, but chose multi-storey sites where the one-week stoppage went largely unnoticed.

Electricians on the east coast were the next to move and although sold a phoney line on JIB by union full-timers, finally forced the employers to concede the 10s an hour with no strings after four weeks of strikes.

But not one penny reached the pay packet. Castle was quick to act against the workers and stopped payment. The past fights were fragmented, but lessons have been learned. This time it must be an all-out effort throughout the industry.

The call must be 10s an hour with no JIB.

The veto on the rent increases is clearly a victory for the tenants who have been withholding last October's rent increase.

Increasingly militant demonstrations at County Hall, at Greenwood's house and at the courts have shown that the tenants are not going to stop the battle and fall for vote-catching schemes.

The GLC are in a dilemma over the setback they received in Shoreditch County Court. They had asked for an eviction order against Mr Hyman Jackson, a GLC tenant from Bethnal Green, for paying no rent at all since last October.

**CONDONE**

But Mr. Jackson was ordered to pay up his back rent minus the increase, which he agreed to do, and the case was adjourned until April 29.

If the GLC now drop the case, they are condoning non-payment of the increase by Mr Jackson and thousands of other tenants.

If on the other hand they proceed with the eviction, they will be faced with a total rent strike from April 29, called by the United Tenants Action Committee.

The present moment is extremely timely to build on these victories and extend the fight. Next year's increase has been stopped for the time being - this year's is still being fought.

**LEAFLETS**

UTAC (formerly the GLC Tenants' Action Committee) is printing a quarter of a million leaflets explaining their policy - SPREAD THE FIGHT AGAINST ALL RENT INCREASES. DON'T PAY THE PRESENT INCREASE. These must be distributed to all GLC tenants, organised or not. London borough council tenants must also be

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The PD march from Belfast arriving at Dublin GPO on Monday

## Tories out, north and south say Irish marchers

From EAMONN MCCANN

DUBLIN:- People's Democracy, the militant Northern Ireland movement, carried its civil rights campaign into the south when it crossed the border post at Killeen, Co. Armagh, on Saturday chanting 'Tories Out, North and South'.

The previous day meetings and sit-downs had been held in Belfast, Lurgan and Newry. At Newry 21 people were arrested after the Royal Ulster Constabulary tore into a sit-down protest against the banning of a meeting in the town centre.

The purpose of the march to Dublin was to assert the fact that civil liberties and social justice are denied to the working class of southern Ireland as much as to the workers of the north.

Leaflets and speakers at meetings in each town we passed through concentrated on unemployment, housing and

anti-union legislation.

A consistent campaign of falsification in the press tried to convey the impression that the main demands were for the free distribution of contraceptives and the provision of facilities for divorce - demands which the march voiced, but not as a priority.

**Joined the march**

The result was a rapid withdrawal of support by the Students For Democratic Action, who had been organising in Dublin. Isolated from the student Left, the march entered Dublin unsure of its reception.

But in spite of the absence of students, more than 5000 people gathered outside the GPO, scene of the 1916 rising (see centre pages), to welcome PD to Dublin. In the

course of its passage through the slums of north Dublin, local residents came out, addressed meetings and joined the march.

Two hundred and fifty strong when it entered Dublin, the march numbered 1000 when it reached its destination.

An attempt to smear PD as being anti-catholic backfired in both the Tory press and on the timid Left. The march broke the back of clerical prejudice in the south and it is doubtful whether the old smear can ever be used again successfully to discredit a radical movement.

At the same time as the PD march, the Western Civil Rights Movement based on

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## Conference boost for SW fund

£600 10s 4d - that was the magnificent sum collected for the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund at the Easter conference of the International Socialists.

And on Saturday evening, Stoke Newington IS held a party for conference delegates and visitors and raised a further £19.

Bradford IS have donated £8 and the fund now stands at £1112. In other words, we have already reached the end-of-April target and are well on the way to the £4000 we need by the end of August.

The tremendous response to a special appeal at the conference has given great encouragement to the editorial board. If 400 IS members at the conference recognise the importance of building the paper and their organisation, we are certain the rest of the members will take up the challenge and continue to raise large sums of cash.

**First step**

As we have now raised the first £1000 of the fund, we hope to be in a position to move into our new premises

by the end of the month. That is the first step towards producing a six-page paper later this year.

The main discussion at the conference centred around industrial perspectives. It is clear that the work of the organisation in recent months, particularly during the February 27 strike and the Ford dispute, has won us a larger hearing among industrial militants. The paper's role in analysing and organising has been invaluable.

A bigger paper can have an even greater impact, with

more detailed articles on industrial and world affairs linked to a series of marxist analyses of modern capitalism and the history of the labour movement.

**Rolling in**

Keep the money rolling in. Don't let up now - there is another £3000 to raise and the summer months will be hard ones in which to collect.

Rush donations to Jim Nichol at Paxton Works, Paxton Road, London N17.

THE HYSTERIA that periodically fills the national press and takes hold of television script-writers about the 'national interest' is so much humbug.

The only interest we recognise is that of the working class. How is the working class interest advanced by rising prices, profits and dividends while wages are virtually frozen and work conditions steadily eroded by so-called productivity deals?

The Labour government has tried to undermine the traditional solidarity of the working class. A tremendous ideological offensive has been waged and all the ills of British capitalism have been laid at the workers' door.

The White Paper in Place of Strife expresses the government's desire to sacrifice the trade union movement in order to appease their great god Productivity.

**Every struggle**

Socialists fight against this offensive by bringing working class interests to the fore in every struggle. In order to be able to offer any alternative to the present system of exploitation and degradation it is necessary for workers to become increasingly conscious of themselves as a class united against capital, against the bosses and the exploiters of the ruling class.

This unity of the working class has traditionally been expressed on May 1st - May Day is the international day of solidarity of the working class.

May Day in Britain has virtually lost all its meaning since the war. Ritualistic rallies on the first Sunday of the month have occurred, cut off from real contact with any live movements in the working class. Knowing they couldn't mobilise anyone, the Labour Party has abandoned even a rally and plans a concert instead this year.

But two years ago the London Workers May Day Committee began an attempt to reintegrate May Day into the life of the working class. Last year more than 2000 people took part in what was basically a repudiation of Enoch Powell's racialism and all that it signified.

**Fight back**

This year a much bigger stoppage is being planned throughout the country. It will be a sign of working-class resolve to fight back against capitalist exploitation.

The struggle at Ford, the GLC tenants' victory and the one-day strike on February 27 show that the only answer to the Labour government's readiness to sacrifice the working class is to fight.

The demonstrations on May Day will be a political statement - a recognition that there is an alternative to the barbarities of the capitalist system in the form of workers' power and a socialist society.

We urge all our supporters to work to make this May Day a great success.

**May Day leaflets**

now available £1 per 1000 from Socialist Worker Paxton Works Paxton Rd London N17

**May Day greetings**

Is a line-proceeds to Fighting Fund Copy date April 26

**International Socialism**

New issue now out 3s (pp) from 36 Golden Road London NW5 annual sub 15s

# Easter 1916 The Dublin Rising

## 'A TERRIBLE BEAUTY...'

by GERY LAWLESS and CHRIS GRAY



James Connolly



Padraic Pearse

murdered by imperialism

Henry Street after the surrender: troops stand guard over the gutted Post Office (left) the revolutionary stronghold



### The gravedigger survives

The surrender took place on Saturday April 28. By Wednesday May 3 firing squads under the command of General Sir John Maxwell were at work. Pearse, Clarke and Mac Donagh went to their doom that day.

The executions continued until by May 10 all but three of the captured insurgent commandants had been done to death.

The remaining three were Eamonn De Valera, afterwards to be the chief gravedigger of the Irish revolution, Sean McDermott, a cripple, left-republican, professional revolutionary and one of the signatories to the proclamation, and the representative of the

revolutionary working class in the uprising - James Connolly.

Why was Connolly involved? The short answer is that he was attempting to implement in Ireland the resolutions of the Second International passed by its pre-war congresses at Stuttgart, Copenhagen and Basle which called for the mobilisation of the working class in each belligerent country against imperialist war.

The Irish section of the Second International did not rally to the defence of its national regime' as was implied in a recent article by Jim Higgins (Socialist Worker January 18 1969).

By contrast, in the next few days bourgeois Ireland rallied to the Empire. The Irish Times called upon imperialism to 'use the surgeon's knife'.

The bourgeois viewpoint was more clearly expressed by the leading

daily paper, the Irish Independent. In a leading article entitled The Clemency Plea it said:

'When, however, we come to some of the ring-leaders, instigators and fomenters not yet dealt with, we must make an exception.

### 'Sign of weakness'

'If these men are treated with too great leniency, they will take it as an indication of weakness on the part of the government and the consequences may not be satisfactory.

'They may be more truculent than ever and it is therefore necessary that society should be protected against their activity...It would hardly be fair to treat these leniently because the cry for clemency has been raised, while those, no more guilty than they, have been severely punished.

Weakness to such men at this stage may be fatal... Let the worst of the ring-leaders be singled out and dealt with as they deserve.'

Two days later this is precisely what happened to 'the worst of the ring-leaders': the wounded Connolly, strapped to a chair, was shot with MacDermott.

The insurrection over, all shades of politics came forward to pronounce their verdicts.

The verdict of the British ruling class was given by Augustine Birrell, the Chief Secretary for Ireland. He felt confident enough to state in Westminster that the revolt did not express the wishes of the Irish people, who would never regard it as a landmark in their history.

The organ of clericalism, The Irish Catholic, wrote of 'This extraordinary combination of rogues and fools. To find anything like

a parallel for what has occurred, it is necessary to have recourse to the bloodstained annals of the Paris Commune.'

And the paper declared that 'What was attempted was an act of brigandage, pure and simple, and there is no reason to lament that its perpetrators have met the fate which from the very dawn of history has been universally reserved for traitors.'

### Labour joins the chorus

The Pope sent a message expressing his regret. John Redmond, the leader of the Nationalist Party, was satisfied that the revolt was 'artificial' and so to be dismissed.

The British labour movement could not miss out on the imperialist chorus. Labour leader Arthur Henderson sat in the cabinet which ordered the death of

Connolly, while the Newcastle-on-Tyne Conference of the Independent Labour Party condemned militarism, and included among the 'militarists' Connolly and the Irish Citizens Army.

Polluted with the twin poisons of pacifism and Great British chauvinism, the labour movement of this country was unable to rally any support to the great Dublin struggle and ended up supporting the execution of the General Secretary of the largest trade union in Ireland.

Dublin lay in ruins. 1351 people were killed or wounded - officially - the jails overflowing, 15 leaders in quicklime.

In the city centre 179 buildings totalling 61,000 square yards had been irrevocably ruined.

But, as Pearse had predicted, the revolt had redeemed Dublin from many shames: the Dublin which James Joyce had so accurately described in Ulysses was dead, and what the poet W.B. Yeats was to call a Terrible Beauty was born.

Part of the beauty was that which told 30,000 workers to refuse to picket for 4½ months until 13,000 men won a wage of £3 10s a week. Even some of the revolutionary Left to whom it was a putsch.

Trotsky, while the Rising, thought the basis for a national revolution in Ireland had been laid.

Radek, in the attack of the Berliner Arbeiterzeitung, attacked the manner in which the attacks on one real section of the press on Che Guevara and the guerrilla movement in Latin America.

Lenin made a similar estimation. He wrote:

'The term "Terrible Beauty" is a scientific word, may be only when the insurrection has nothing but a conspiratorial, maniacal, and w

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## WHERE WE STAND

mand of no victimisation of trade unionists. Redundancy should be opposed with the demand: five days work or five days pay. Shop stewards organisations should strengthen and extend their in-

fluence by linking up on an industrial and ultimately a national basis.

We are opposed to racial discrimination, a weapon used by the ruling class to divide the labour movement. Immigration control must be ended, ensuring the free movement of peoples regardless of race and colour. Black and white workers must unite and form their own defence organisations to fight fascism and racialism. The labour movement must demand the immediate recall of British troops from abroad as the first step towards ending colonial exploitation.

The task of revolutionary socialists is to join workers in their struggles with socialist ideas that will link up the various sections of the labour movement and help create a force that will lead on to workers' control and international socialism.



## Drive by BMC to smash shop floor control

# WHAT WENT WRONG AT RADIATORS?

by  
**DAVE PEERS**

MORRIS RADIATORS was a good factory to work in three years ago: the best wage rates in Oxford, virtually no labour turnover, and a good stewards' committee to keep the management in its place. Today all this has changed and what happened at Radiators contains important lessons for every trade union militant.

The decisive blow came in October 1966 when the British Motor Corporation encouraged by the Labour government, 'shook out' 12,000 workers. Radiators split on whether to strike against their share of these redundancies.

The militants came out on their own, and not only did they shut down Radiators, but the whole of BMC as well.

There was no support from the trade union officials and the strike eventually collapsed. The collapse coincided with the stewards' elections. As a result all the militants were voted out and replaced by management yes-men.

### WIDE OPEN

With this kind of leadership and a demoralised rank and file, the factory was now wide open to an attack from the employers.

Their first move was to reject a toolroom claim for an increase to bring their rates into line with piece-rate earnings (at that time the differential was 11d an hour). The claim took two years to wind its way to York and back - while wages stood still.

Now the men were softened up the management made its next move. They offered an increase to the whole factory linked to the acceptance of a new wage structure. The toolroom agreed to the change of reference and negotiations began.

### VOTED DOWN

In return for an increase of 8d an hour - the initial offer was 3d - the bosses wanted agreement on job evaluation, flexibility and mobility of labour. The details of these strings were only made available to the shop floor after repeated demands.

Every time the deal was put to the vote it was rejected. But the management, with the active connivance of the stewards, persisted in their efforts.

The stewards were even taken in company cars to lobby the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' executive in York. At that time the Confed were in the process of accepting the productivity package which ended the threat of the national engineering strike last November.

### GREEN LIGHT

The national agreement was a green light for the engineering employers to push ahead with deals similar to the Radiators package, but the management got something more concrete for their effort in sending their lackeys to York.

A Confed union official suggested to the stewards and management officials that the best way to implement the Radiators' agreement would be to divide the factory into flat and piece-rate sections and take one at a time.

His advice was taken and a confused meeting of the flat-rate workers accepted the agreement. The piece-rate men refused to touch it.

At no time during this meeting would the stewards give any advice, despite requests, on what the job evaluation would mean for

the toolroom workers. But now the agreement is in force management has lost no time in putting it to use.

One toolroom steward has been moved to another part of the shop, causing confusion over whom he represents. Selective weekend overtime was introduced, favouring the blue-eyed boys and night shift working is being extended to cover all toolroom workers, regardless of age.

### USUAL MIXTURE

Under the agreement a committee of workers' representative and management experts were to determine a system of evaluating every job in the factory over a 12-month period. The system they proposed was the usual mixture of pseudo-science and deception.

Every job was to be measured on an 18-point scale, taking into account such factors as 'self-expression and communication', 'agility and posture' etc.

Each of these 18 factors is then 'weighted' on a 5-point scale to give a 'level

of significance', which in turn is given a numerical value. After a few more tedious processes, job assessments are arrived at which form the basis of subsequent grading.

The one part of the process which is not available for scientific examination is how they propose to put a price on each job. That is top secret, and the point of the whole exercise.

Behind all the mumbo-jumbo of stopwatches and slide rules is the same old formula - more production for no more pay.

More important, job evaluation represents the first stage in the smashing of rank and file control over working conditions that has been built up over the last 30 years and which has been exercised through the shop stewards.

In Radiators it looks as though the bosses have been too eager, and with any luck this might be their undoing. Instead of merely determining a system for job evaluation,

the stewards and management experts have actually been assessing and implementing jobs, thereby breaking their own agreement.

As a result one steward has already resigned and opposition to the agreement is growing rapidly.

The employers will learn from this mistake, for Radiators is a rehearsal for the major offensive against BMC-Leyland stewards in the main factories.

### REGAIN CONTROL

The experience of Radiators and, on a much larger scale, the struggle at Ford, demonstrate that one of the most urgent problems facing the rank and file is to regain control over their own trade union organisations.

EVERY section of an agreement should be voted on by the shop floor. If they want to evaluate our jobs then we should demand that they open the books so WE can decide what the jobs are really worth.

But behind the prod deals and work measurement stands the Incomes Policy and Barbara Castle's White Paper. The fight against these new attacks by the ruling class must be political, part of a general movement for workers' control of industry and of the society.



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aroused no sympathy among the masses.

The century-old Irish national movement, having passed through various stages and combinations of class interests, expressed itself, inter-alia, in a mass Irish National Congress in America which passed a resolution calling for Irish independence - it expressed itself in street fighting conducted by a section of the urban petty bourgeoisie and a section of the workers after a long period of agitation, demonstrations, suppression of papers, etc.

### Verdict of the masses

'Whoever calls such an uprising a "putsch" is either a hardened reactionary or a doctrinaire, who is hopelessly incapable of picturing to himself a social revolution as a living phenomenon.'

The verdict of the Irish masses was to vindicate Lenin. In the general election of 1918, Sinn Fein, the Republican party, won 73 seats out of 105.

Out of 84 seats contested, the Green Tories who had opposed 1916 won only six; the counter-revolutionary Unionists won 26. Elsewhere the opponents of the struggle and supporters of the imperialist war went down before a hurricane of popular indignation.

The death of Connolly and his failure to construct even the embryo of a revolutionary party, allowed the ruling class to dominate the national upsurge which followed.

The betrayal of the fight for freedom in the compromise of 1922 flows logically from the success of the bourgeoisie in gaining control of the movement, likewise all the subsequent betrayals.

The Irish working class is the only true inheritor of 1916. It must complete the struggle.

## CONNOLLY

I heard about Connolly when I was a kid. My mother told me all about Jim: As she told it, he sat at the right hand of God, and Larkin at his left. At school they didn't tell me about him; I wasn't interested then. I was on strike last month, four weeks and a half. All the boys talked about Connolly.

This time I was interested, 'Cos he was right, you see. We learned it on that strike: The great only appear great because we are on our knees. But we know it now, Kev and Eddie, Sean, Austin and Kate. So what's goin' to happen to the great?

S.R.

'Rebels' are marched to Richmond barracks after the surrender

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# Germans' labour straitjacket - is this Castle's aim?

BERLIN:- Following the big strike at Ford in Britain and the dispute at Vauxhall it may be useful to take a look at the German industrial situation, especially as Ford and the Department of Employment and Productivity clearly take it as a model for labour relations.

German workers appear to be in a stronger position than their British brothers: they have a system of participation, very strong unions, shop committees protected by law and many shop stewards.

Shop stewards are the spokesmen of the organised workers and the shop committees represent all the workers in the shop.

Committee members may, but need not be, union members. They are obliged by law 'to care for the prosperity of the shop' and 'to work trustfully together with the employer' - obligations that make their position ambiguous.

When something happens on the shop-floor that can't be accepted by the workers - rationalisation, organisational changes in the work process, speed-up of conveyor-belts or the sacking of men - they can't just go on strike like the Ellesmere Port workers and force the company to make acceptable changes.

They take their complaints to the shop committee and everything else is up to the committee. It starts negotiations with the management on the basis of the existing contract on wages, which includes performance, working conditions and wages.

The normal period for these contracts is 12 to 18 months. They are legally binding. If the union supports industrial action during this period it may have to pay damages to

the employer. In one case damages were £4.5m. Consequently the unions are very cautious about strike action.

As they don't support their stewards in cases where they might have to pay, and as the shop committees by law must not support industrial action but have to act as mediators, rank and file members may be sacked and fined for breaking the 'industrial peace'. Conditions for political leadership and sharing the experience of struggle are lacking.

If negotiations for a new wage end in deadlock, a so-called independent commission has to be asked for a settlement. The unions are only allowed to hold ballots if there is no solution acceptable to the employers.

This means the workers are asked whether they are ready to strike for the union's demand. They can't voice demands. And even if they ballot in favour of striking, the union is not compelled to call a stoppage.

## Question of power

Neither the demands nor the negotiations come direct from the shop floor. Wages are always regional or national. Only in rare exceptions is there a contract with a single company.

Negotiations do not reflect the local working conditions. Workers do not feel deeply concerned and fail to see the relations of productivity, prices and wages as questions of class power.

Thus bargaining becomes merely a discussion on economic development. The unions' constant concern with stabilising employment is used by the employers to impose conditions of massive sweating.

After the 1966/67 recession, for example, the unions accepted a profit rise of 28 per cent for 1968 and kept their wage rise demands 2 per cent below the recommendations from the Ministry of Economics. They asked for 4.5 per cent!

The integration of the working-class movement into the fabric of German society by laws, participation and as partner in productivity-planning has led to the grotesque situation where unions ask for smaller wages than would seem sensible even within the framework of capitalist profit planning.

## Coalition policy

Alienation between rank and file members and their representatives seems to be complete. In place of class struggle the union officials are busy with coalition policy, flattering themselves with the belief that this could save and stabilise employment.

Compared with these conditions, the long and fundamental strike at Ford in Britain was a success for the workers. It has shown that wage rises have to be forced through - humble begging is only rewarded by charity.

The bosses' complaints about ruinous wage rises have proved to be pure twaddle. Those, like Ford, who can afford a production-loss of £48m in market value just to force through penalty clauses can clearly afford a far bigger wage increase than the present one.

The effects of the strike on the Ford plants in Genk (Belgium) and Cologne have proved that highly mechanised and interconnected production inevitably internation-

alises the class struggle. The workers must make use of this fact.

The success of the Ford strike will only become a victory when the lessons from the recent experiences are kept alive and used. Bureaucratic officials like Les Cannon and Mark Young are not fit to negotiate for the workers. Bargaining has to be done by shop stewards from the shop floor.

Productivity schemes are rubbish. Productivity and wages should not be linked. Wages should be demanded by shop stewards and pushed through by adequate action. Increases in productivity can hardly be gained by speed-up but by technological improvements which make work easier and shorter. Adequate incentives in terms of better working conditions instead of conveyor belt exploitation would stimulate the technological creativity of the workers.

## International links

Workers and shop stewards need more communication. Internationalism should not consist of meetings of general secretaries of the unions. Workers and shop stewards at Halewood, Dagenham, Genk, and Cologne should jointly plan and coordinate their actions and exchange information at all stages.

**HANS SCHULZ**

# Teachers demand fresh talks on salaries

## Bernadette set for poll victory



From SEAN REED  
BERNADETTE DEVLIN, 22 years old People's Democracy leader, is almost certain to win a seat at Westminster when the 68,912 Mid-Ulster electors go to the polls on April 17.

When nominations closed in Armagh at the weekend there were only two candidates, Mrs Ann Forrest, widow of the former Tory Unionist MP, and Bernadette, who is standing on the same militant programme, including workers' control of industry, that won her 6000 votes in the mid-Derry election in February.

## MARCH from page one

University College, Galway, marched from Galway to Dublin protesting against government agricultural policy which aims to clear the small farmers off the land.

They were joined by trade unionists from Galway and Dublin and arrived at the GPO at the same time as the PD marchers, symbolising the unity of the socialist struggle in Ireland, north and south.

It is interesting to note that on the day the Dublin students were working themselves into a frenzy about contraceptives and divorce, the Galway marchers were joined by two contingents, one from Sceim Na G Ceardchumann - a trade union organisation, the other a group of student priests from Maynooth seminary.

PD is now in the satisfactory position of being attacked by Paisleyites for its romanist tendencies and denounced by Green Tories as anti-catholic. Any socialist organisation in Ireland which draws on itself that type of simultaneous attack is clearly on the right lines.

Socialist Worker Reporter  
**MILITANT TEACHERS** snook their union executive on Monday by pushing through a resolution at the National Union of Teachers' conference in Douglas demanding new negotiations for a substantial pay rise from next April.

The decision shows a marked rise in the determination of rank and file teachers to fight for decent pay. Just a few weeks ago, a call for militant action was defeated at a special NUT conference on the latest salary agreement.

But spurred on by the savage cut-backs in education spending and the successes of industrial workers and the BOAC pilots in breaking the incomes policy, the militants have scored an important victory.

The union is now committed to seeking negotiations for a new basic scale of £1000 rising to £2000 over 10 years.

The vote greatly embarrassed the out-of-touch executive, made up mainly of head teachers who have little sympathy for the pay problems of class teachers. The ink on the latest unsatisfactory salary agreement is hardly dry and the government and local authorities may well refuse to open new negotiations.

Rank and file action is the key to success. Teachers must press for strong action to implement the conference decision and force their reluctant leaders' hands.

## RENTS from page one

drawn into the struggle - more and more borough tenants' associations are affiliating to UTAC.

On April 29 UTAC is calling a demonstration at Shoreditch County Court and County Hall. Before then the fight must be spread among tenants and trade unionists.

Many tenants will be supporting trade unionists on the May 1st strike. Workers should remember that a 10s rent increase is the same as a 10s wage cut, and support the tenants in every possible way.

There are already moves among London class teachers for a half-day strike to demand increased pay.

On Tuesday, the NUT conference voted overwhelmingly in favour of a campaign to fight the government's education cuts. Teachers may refuse to accept extra work in areas where their colleagues are sacked through local authority cut-backs.

## Man of few words

CAPITALISM APPEARS to be speeding up everything, with the exception of wage negotiations. These are usually marooned for months amid muddy procedures - arbitration, conciliation, courts of inquiry, and other damn things - all carefully calculated to delay the worker a rise as long as possible.

Militants, fretful about such delays, should re-tell the story of the late Herbert Smith, the old Yorkshire miners' leader. He was the Speedy Gonzales of pay claims. His fastest negotiation was conducted as follows: Herbert Smith: (putting his head round the corner of the boss's door): 'Owt?' Boss: 'Nowt!' Herbert Smith: 'We're out.'

The strike was won. Herbert Smith proudly recounted this episode to union officials whom he believed were insufficiently belligerent towards the bosses.

## Explosive reaction

AS YOU SEND your contribution to the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, you may be interested to hear about the response to a previous call for financial assistance.

The author, Wilfred Scawen Blunt, wrote in his diary for February 19, 1905: 'George Meredith has been appealing for funds to help



# CHALLINOR'S CHOICE

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The author, Wilfred Scawen Blunt, wrote in his diary for February 19, 1905: 'George Meredith has been appealing for funds to help

the revolution in Russia, and I have subscribed £10.'

Then Blunt added: 'Yesterday came news that the Grand Duke Serge has been blown up with a bomb, so I am subscribing again.'

Alas, Socialist Worker cannot claim to have instigated the bumping off of any grand dukes - they are so hard to come by these days - but, nevertheless, I am sure it will use all contributions to the utmost effect.

## A dangerous game

THE INSTITUTE for Workers Control bulletin, specially issued for the recent Sheffield conference, contains a contribution from Danny McGarvey, of the Boilermakers' Union.

It would be interesting to hear from the Institute precisely how it considers Mr McGarvey is furthering the cause of workers' control.

Did the agreement he reached at Fairfield shipyard on the Clyde, where he signed away many precious rights of the men, promote the cause of workers' control?

Or could he be said to be advancing the interests of the rank and file when he sat on the notorious Cameron inquiry, which knifed the shop stewards' organisation at the Barbican building site in London?

By publishing the left-wing phrases of trade union bureaucrats like McGarvey,

while doing nothing to criticise their right-wing deeds, the Institute for Workers Control is playing a dangerous game.

Its role could easily become similar to the Anglo-Russian trade union committee of 1925, a body that gave a tinge of red to the TUC and so made its betrayal of the general strike in the following year all the more easy to carry out.

**Ray Challinor**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

MANCHESTER May Day Campaign. All trade unionists urged to attend on Thursday April 17 Wheatshaf, High Street, 8pm.

MERSEYSIDE IS public meeting: The economy, the Tories and the next election. Spkr John Ure, Leeds economics lecturer. Wedding House pub, Highfield St off Titebarn St L'pool, Sun, April 20, 8 pm.

BIRMINGHAM IS weekend school, April 26, 27 Digbeth Civic Hall, Spkrs Roger Cox AEF, Michael Kidron and Tony Cliff. Details and applications for accommodation to Hazell Mandrell 82 Haunch Lane Kings Heath B'ham 13.

LONDON REGION IS housing and research group. Crown and Sugar Loaf, Garlick Hill (next to Beaver Hall) EC1. April 21, 8 pm.

TRIBUNE - the leading socialist weekly. Absolutely essential reading for every socialist, radical and revolutionary. Every Friday from newsagents or 24 St John St, London EC1.

# Rail bosses' redundancy dodge

From COLIN BARKER  
MANCHESTER:- Not sacked, 'displaced'. That's the unhappy fate of railwaymen at Central and Exchange Stations, due to close on May 5. No one will be made redundant. Therefore no redundancy pay will be given. 'Suitable alternative employment' will be offered to all the men. Lists of vacancies at a third city station, Victoria, have been published.

The jobs offered at Victoria are not being filled. Railwaymen find that there are no jobs in their existing grades, or the vacancies are for 'rest day relief men'.

A 'rest day' man fills in another worker on his day off. He can be sent anywhere, told to do anything. It's a job British Rail can't usually fill. No one wants it.

If men from Exchange and Central don't take up the jobs offered, then they can be 'offered' work anywhere in the North West Region.

And there is no pay for travelling time.

## 'VOLUNTARY'

The result will be that many railwaymen will leave in disgust, 'voluntarily'. That way, BR will save redundancy pay.

Len Neal of BR has stated in the press that he aims to cut the wage bill nationally by £25m this year. Now we know how.

British Rail can only get away with this because of the weakness of the unions. The rundown of labour can only be understood in the context of last year's 'Torquay Agreement'.

The men on the Manchester stations say the NUR signed the agreement in exchange for the 'check-off' system for union subs. This produces the incredible situation that the LDC representative (railway shop steward) doesn't know who are the paid-up union members, but the station master does!

As one worker remarked, 'This is the kind of closed shop we don't want.'

A railman in Manchester now gets the princely sum of £13 a week, less deductions. Opportunities for overtime have been cut sharply under the Torquay Agreement, as an incentive to men to leave.

To add final insult to injury, the NUR is now talking of raising subs by 1s 6d a week...

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