

Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

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'Stewards must speak good English' demand

RACIST SMEAR ON ASIAN WORKERS

by John Setters (AEF)

PROPOSALS drawn up by trade union officials and the management of the nine Smethwick foundries of Birmid Qualcast contain not only plans to smash the shop floor organisation but a racist smear on immigrant workers.

One of the proposals says: 'Only employees who can speak and make themselves understood in English are to be considered for election to the position of shop steward.'

The foundries, which supply essential components to the car industry, employ about 85 per cent Asian labour on production work.

The convenor of one plant told me that the purpose of this proposal was to stop many militant workers from being elected shop stewards. He said that he and his committee were convinced that this was a racist and anti-democratic clause.

'If the management can't understand any of their workers,' he said, 'then the personnel manager should go away and learn to speak Punjabi.'

He added that if the proposals were ever accepted the company would probably object to him and many other stewards.

The proposals state that no employee with less than 12 months' service may be elected steward without the company's permission.

Talks between full-time union officials and management have been taking place since the publication in January of a Commission on Industrial Relations' report on Birmid. The CIR is the government-created body which investigates areas of industry most prone to strikes.

NEW SYSTEM

Unions and management formed a working party to implement the CIR report. This demanded that the present piecework system at Birmid should be scrapped and replaced by Job Evaluation, productivity bargaining and a new payments system.

The report complained that the shop stewards had too much power and recommended that the foremen's authority should be increased and stewards should be sent on courses especially 'where there is a particular need for changes in attitude'.

The CIR also called for an extension of work study methods, a tougher attitude from the management and new procedure agreement to govern the behaviour and elections of shop stewards. It sought to drastically weaken the shop floor organisation by eliminating piecework, speeding up production, increasing discipline and attacking the stewards.

Last month, the sixth draft of a new proposed procedure agreement drawn up by the working party was issued throughout the foundries.



The union-management Birmid working party

Among the unions represented on the working party are the AEF, TGWU and Metal Mechanics.

As well as the racist clause, the proposals further the attacks on shop floor organisation. They provide for foundry and company committees of management and shop steward representatives and say in their introductory 'general principles':-

'Employees may be required to transfer to other jobs for a variety of circumstances.' And 'the trade unions concerned recognise the right of the company to manage its affairs, which amongst other things include maintaining order and discipline and controlling efficiency.'

These two clauses are a direct assault on the Birmid organisation. The first introduces the principle of mobility and the potential danger of the firm moving militants around any of its nine foundries.

The second is aimed at challenging and removing the present power which the shop stewards have over such issues as hiring and firing, promotion and overtime.

On the election of stewards, the document says: 'The management shall have the right to raise with the trade union concerned any objections which it may have to the election of a particular individual or individuals.'

The section dealing with the authority of shop stewards states: 'A shop steward shall not leave his work without the permission of his foreman or act as such outside the section or department for which he is appointed.'

PERMISSION

'A shop steward will not leave the department in which he is employed unless permission has been obtained from the departmental manager or his deputy.'

'A shop steward wishing to approach a member in a section other than his own must notify the foreman of that section.'

'Upon election, each shop steward, the trade union concerned and

to back page

Oh,
what
a
bore



the election is!

by Martin Tomkinson

IN SPITE OF all the efforts of the public relations men and of the actors themselves, the 1970 Whitehall farce 'General Election', presently running throughout the United Kingdom, still promises to be the bore of the century.

Last week witnessed an all-time peak of boredom with the publication of the party manifestos, which can be thoroughly recommended to anyone who suffers from sleeplessness.

The Tories tell us that this election isn't so much about issues as about 'the whole style of government'. And as if that were not explicit enough, Labour's manifesto lacks one new policy or idea. Instead the voter is assured that 'Our appeal is to those who have faith in the capacity and humanity of their fellow-men'.

The people who drafted this sorry document seem to have used a recipe of three parts of empty bows to the long-forgotten ideals of socialism to one part of meaningless statistics telling us all how well off we really are even if we're not clever enough to realise it.

Manipulation and lies

Even the politicians themselves quite openly admit that this election will not be about conflicting ideas and policies but about which puppet can best manipulate words and lie most convincingly. By this yardstick, Liberal Lord Byers must come a long way bottom of the league because he is actually honest. Launching his party manifesto, he said: 'To keep prices down there must be more competition and more strength behind employers to resist wage demands'.

So much for the statement a few lines further on that: 'We care for the poor and the oppressed - we care for those whose only crime is that they're not as big or as powerful as their competitors'. Byers has a lot to learn from wily old Uncle Winston Wilson, who would never be caught saying anything as honest or unambiguous.

So, in place of policies and ideas, the public has been presented with a long series of non-events and non-issues. We've had Spiro T Hogg ranting on about the South African cricket tour, paragraph after paragraph analysing the polls and whose poll is the best.

One wonders more and more why we bother with elections. Just permit any eight polls: so much easier and less messy that way.

But socialists should not be deceived by this elaborate camouflage. Behind the honeyed words lies the bitter reality of 600,000 unemployed and thousands and thousands of homeless families. Labour will fight on its record says Wilson. Good. We all know just what that is and need no reminding of the broken promises. But this should not blind us into overlooking the Tories.

Veering to the right

Their manifesto is full of hints that they are veering quite a way to the right - a trend likely to turn into a gallop if they lose the election. Such hints include threats of action against 'shirkers and scroungers off the Welfare State', the encouragement of repatriation for immigrants, the introduction of a compulsory cooling-off period of 60 days in big national strikes, the banning of unofficial strikes and tougher action against demonstrators and students.

All of this just serves to reinforce the conviction that socialists have always had that a Tory government has never brought and never will bring a shred of comfort or an ounce of benefit for the working class.

While we say vote to keep the Tories out, as socialists we must stress that the real choice in British politics is not between puppet Heath or puppet Wilson but between the politics of farce and the politics of radical social change - of revolution. 18 June will be just one more opportunity for us to make this clear.

SPECIAL ISSUE NEXT WEEK

YOU CAN'T AFFORD to miss next week's Socialist Worker. The last issue before the election, it will be a special one devoted to the phoney parliamentary battle and its relevance to the working class

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Glasgow — where the old die of hunger and the slums fall down

Rooms in the Dennistoun tenement wrecked by rubble

...while the people wait

by Steve Jefferys



GLASGOW'S people are big-hearted, friendly, loud at Saturday afternoon's game and at 10pm closing. Glasgow is no mean city today, nor was it when McArthur and Long's famous book was written in the 1930s.

What is mean is the system that Glasgow's people live under, seemingly peacefully, as they wait for revolution.

Two sisters were found starved to death one Saturday last month. Aged about 60, they lived in a top floor room and kitchen in a condemned tenement in Maryhill, in the north of Glasgow.

They'd stopped collecting social security seven months ago, and no one had asked why. One sister was found dying on a mattress by the dead body of her sister.

The newspapers headlined it, preached about it. The police said, 'The grate was clean. Obviously they hadn't been able to afford coal. . . All the money we found was 11s in halfpennies.'

The Lord Provost said, 'I suppose they just didn't want to trouble anyone. There seems to be a lack of contact, born of ignorance, when there are so many welfare-organisations.'

And the people of Glasgow felt sad, bereaved, and said nothing.

HEADLINES

A 19-year old girl was again deserted by her husband. In her sadness and her second pregnancy she cut off her baby boy's genitals.

And the newspapers headlined it — the Express picturing the mother, the Record (Scotland's Mirror) the father and son.

The doctors pontificated in print on the tragedy and the mother was sentenced at Glasgow's Sheriff's Court to 18 months in a Young Offenders Institution.

The logic must either be that she'll know better next time or that the sentence will act as a deterrent to others. Glasgow's people sighed and life continued.

Along with 90 per cent of Glasgow's population, these noble magistrates follow football. When two youngsters raid Ibrox Stadium (Rangers FC) for money to take their girls out, a joke is handy.

The newspapers love it. 'It's not the right place to raid for trophies.' And when a man is brought up for yelling obscenities at a pub TV set after Celtic's defeat in Milan, he's



Mrs Mary Reid — she found the two sisters who starved to death

told: 'They deserved to lose.' Sixty days.

In the first week of May more than 100 tenements in Glasgow were reported by the Works and City Engineer as in such dangerous condition that they could collapse at any time without warning.

That happened in Dennistoun in February, in an area scheduled for demolition between 1975 and 1980. A wall carrying fireplaces collapsed and thundered down 60 feet, narrowly missing 10 families who were fortunately still in bed.

The Corporation Housing Convenor said: 'These people will be rehoused immediately.' His officials applied the rule that only families who have been in a house 12 years should be considered for new accommodation.

NOT THE BEST

So one young mother with a six-month baby was taken to see a corporation house with no locks on the door and with scaffolding inside to hold up the roof.

A spokesman said: 'Some of the houses offered are not of the best. . . but not all the families were being offered poor housing.' Only some of them.

Glasgow's sharpness comes from its thundering tenement walls, its wild and divided support for two religious-based football teams, from its personal and social tragedies.

If you add the city's unemployed to the city's estimated alcoholics you arrived at a figure of 10 per cent of the total population of Glasgow. The authorities correctly tell you it's not as bad as that.

Some of the unemployed are alcoholics and some of the alcoholics are unemployed.

All opposition is muted. The people wait for the signal to discard their mutes and trumpet down their Jericho.

And the waiting itself is confused and quiet. The people are the Red Clydesiders, Loyal Orangemen and anti-Communist Catholics all at once.

The city's minority that bothers to vote flirted with the Scottish Nationalists and gave birth to a Tory Council. The Tory Council teased the minority with education cuts, social welfare cuts, housing cuts and rates cuts. They titillate them with graft charges against Labour councillors.

NOT STUPID

A Labour councillor who proposed a curfew on groups of more than three youngsters as a solution to the gang problem was sent to jail for a year for accepting a bribe. He comes out, still declaring his innocence. He, a lawyer and councillor, was not stupid enough to accept a £100 note that could be traced!

Even this excitement couldn't hold the minority. With the 'swing' to Labour they break off their affair with the SNP and Labour 'gains' are clocked up. After the May election the right-wing Alliance (Progressives and Conservatives) still hold the corporation but with a reduced majority. The 'left' is even quieter than

the reactionaries. The city's Labour Party was disowned on TV the night after it supported desegregation of Glasgow's education system and that was that. A Labour Scottish Secretary of State had spoken.

No attempt to mount a movement from the bottom. Similarly the Communist Party's only campaign in the last year has been an election one. All but eight of the 38 corporation seats were fought by the CP. They were left out only because they couldn't get candidates to stand.

'Politics' was brought to the people. Election brochures plopped through perhaps 75,000 letter boxes. But in this 'politics' of consumer choice the minority who strayed into the polling booths couldn't tell Stork from butter. Votes for the Communist candidates were normally well below 100 per ward.

In some wards the Communist vote was actually lower than the local CP membership. One Communist councillor in Clydebank actually increased his vote but lost his seat all the same because the Tories and SNP stood down to let the Labour Party have a clear run at him.

The people of Glasgow don't find the call to action in election brochure form.

This call to fight is stronger where Glasgow's people are brought together in big working units. Yet even there, in the factories and shipyards of Clydeside, the call is confused.

SLOW DEATH

The strident clash of metal on metal, the stuff of militancy, echoes the tearing pull on human flesh of low wages and the opportunity for long hours of overtime. Again, the old giants are no more.

Closed down, ravaged by redundancies or the even crueller slow death through natural wastage, they are shadows of their former selves. New jobs and young workers are increasingly found outside the city in the new towns, better described as planned workers' encampments.

And there the traditions are built all over again. Industrial 'peace and harmony' gives way to bitter struggles.

The desire to have a go breaks out in new factories and is experienced by widening groups of workers.

Glasgow's people wait for revolution not only when they live among its broken milk bottles and bursting water pipes. They also wait when they leave the city.

For they discover what they knew all along. The system is not only mean over Glasgow, but it is mean all over.

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CAPITALISM has nothing to offer mankind but exploitation, crises and war. The ruling classes of the world — a tiny minority — subordinate the needs of the vast majority to the blind accumulation of capital in the interests of competitive survival. Imperialism condemns two-thirds of mankind to famine and calls forth movements of national liberation which shake the system and expose its essential barbarism. The constant and mounting preparations for war and the development of weapons of mass destruction place the survival of humanity itself in the balance. The increasing intensity of international competition between ever-larger units drives the ruling classes to new attacks on workers' living standards and conditions of work, to anti-trade union and anti-strike laws. All of these show capitalism in deepening crises from which it can only hope to escape at the cost of the working class and by the destruction of all its independent organisations. The only alternative is workers' power — the democratic collective control of the working class over industry and society through a state of workers' councils and workers' control of

WHERE WE STAND

production. Only thus can the transition be ensured to a communist society in which the unprecedented productive forces thrown up by capitalism can be used to assure an economy of abundance. Only the working class, itself the product of capitalism, has the ability to transform society in this way, and has shown its ability to do so in a series of revolutionary struggles unprecedented in the history of all previous exploited classes. The working class gains the experience necessary to revolutionise society by constant

struggle against the ruling class through the mass organisations thrown up in the course of that struggle.

To overcome the unevenness with which this experience is gained, to draw and preserve the lessons of past struggles and transmit them for the future, to fight against the pressure of bourgeois ideas in the working class, and to bond the fragmentary struggles against capitalism into a conscious and coherent offensive, a revolutionary Marxist party of socialist militants is required, embracing the vanguard of the working class.

The struggle to build such a party is only part of the wider struggle to create a World Revolutionary Socialist International, independent of all oppressors and exploiters of the working class, whether bureaucratic or bourgeois. International Socialists therefore fight for:

- Opposition to all ruling-class policies and organisations.
- Workers' control over production and a workers' state.
- Opposition to imperialism and support for all movements of national liberation.
- Uncompromising opposition to all forms of racialism and to all migration controls.

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the paper.

Re-visiting Labour's 'socialist' past by Richard Kuper

Part Two

IN 1945 the Labour Party with 393 seats in the House of Commons won a resounding victory over Churchill and the Tories, who won only 213 seats. It was the triumph longed for by the labour movement ever since Keir Hardie's great victory in 1893 — a majority Labour government, with a mandate for widespread social change.

But right from the start Labour saw itself as operating within the framework of capitalism. Any reforms which were introduced were only accepted in this light.

As the Labour leaders saw it, the independence of Britain and her continued prosperity depended on her ability to 'pay her way' in world trade. Any social objectives of planning were put into second place.

What planning there was, was therefore in the interests of increasing exports and the accumulation of capital.

But this is precisely what the bosses always do. The individual firm is always 'planned' and, as the scale of the enterprise increases and monopoly sets in, so is the industry or even to some extent the national economy.

There is nothing socialist about such planning which is forced on the ruling class by the chaos of international competition.

It is in this light that we must look first of all at Labour's nationalisation of industry. Robert Brady, in his book *Crisis in Britain*, written in 1950 while the Labour government was still in office, summed it up in devastating fashion:

Tory-dominated committees

As he makes clear, with the partial exceptions of transport and steel, all of the nationalisation programmes were based squarely on the findings and in large part on the recommendations which had been made by fact-finding and special investigating committees dominated by Conservatives.

This was true of the policies towards the Bank of England (Macmillan Report), coal (Reid Report), gas (Heyworth Report), electricity (McGowan Report), town and country planning (Barlow, Scott and Uthwatt Reports), and social security (Beveridge Report).

Even the nationalisation of the iron and steel industry seems to have been mainly the adoption of a plan for reorganising the industry which had been advanced by the Iron and Steel Federation itself.

This is not to underestimate the importance of the changes which this third Labour government made or even the importance for the working class of such measures as the National Health Service. It is merely to stress that British big business had already come round to accepting the necessity of major changes to provide a new framework for expansion following the Second World War.

For example, Labour's social insurance Bills, the foundations of the Welfare State, were virtually presented as coalition measures before 1945. R A Butler, one of the Tory leaders, told the Commons: 'We (ie the Tories) regard this plan as part of the mosaic of the new society. . . This Bill forms part of a series of Bills. . . which. . . foresaw the pattern of the new society long before this parliament was ever thought of. . .'

So too with most of the nationalisation measures. Churchill himself remarked that if Labour had waited another year before taking over the mines, they would have been totally bankrupt and the compensation required would have been minimal.

Demands for 'success'

Furthermore, Labour's scheme for running nationalised industry was by means of 'autonomous public corporations', run by managers who happened to be employed by the State, but still subject to the same demands of 'success' as any private concern.

What matters to any marxist is not the forms of legal ownership but the social content, the real social relationships, underlying these forms. As far as the workers in nationalised industry were concerned, their demands for nationalisation had been met, yet all that was achieved was the exchange of one set of bosses for another.

The revolution they longed for, and expected, failed to materialise. There could be no better illustration of the fact that, without the active involvement and organisation of the working class in the process of social transformation, no socialism is possible. It is, in a sense, the lesson to be learned.

Where planning was concerned, with the possible exception of the Development Councils, there were no alterations or even major steps forward made by Labour to the machinery of consultation, control

1945: helping the bosses back on their feet...



Bevin and Attlee — chief architects of Labour's post-war policies



His master's voice: Cripps with the young Wilson

and semi-control which the Coalition government had developed during the war.

In the early days of the government (in the years in which it laid the foundations of its so-called 'social revolution') the personnel of planning and control were extensively drawn from private industry.

For example, the Capital Issues Committee, responsible for approving or vetoing new issues on the capital market, consisted of seven bankers, stockbrokers or industrialists: the sole government representative was from the Treasury (that hotbed of socialism) who was its secretary and took no active part in its discussions.

In the Ministry of Food, the majority of advisers and commodity directors were unpaid representatives of business, especially big business. Unilever, for example, filled 90 positions in this Ministry, 12 of them senior posts.

At the Board of Trade the principal industrial adviser was William Palmer, chairman of the British Rayon Federation. The match controller worked for Bryant and May, Britain's biggest matchmaker.

The shoe controller was a director of Dolcis. Similarly with the paper control, the cotton control, the tobacco control and the rest.

What the Labour government did

do, from 1948-1950, when the economy had regained some sort of balance, was to dismantle many of the controls which existed. For them controls weren't part of the process of bringing capitalism to heel, but were seen rather as a product of a period of shortage.

In November 1946 Attlee had promised that 'as these shortages disappear so controls can be relaxed.'

Dismantled machinery

So, as capitalism recovered and as the businessmen recovered their nerve, the Labour government dismantled what little machinery there was on which socialist planning could have been based. All its interventions in the economy were justified in day-to-day terms, in terms of what would get the economy working after the war-time devastation and not in terms of socialist principles or perspectives. So when Tory and industrialist opposition to them rose towards 1950, Labour quietly retreated.

With devaluation of the pound in 1949 and the ensuing economy cuts of £250 million in government expenditure — £25 million off fuel and

power, £35 million off housing, £7.5 million off school-building and so on — the retreat was total. Wage freeze came in and this attack on the living standards of the working class was supported by the TUC General Council and by a special conference of union executives.

Already before this Labour's attitude to the working class was highlighted by their use of troops and emergency powers against dockers in July 1949. The dockers, in a tremendous gesture of international solidarity, had refused to unload ships blacked by the Canadian Seamen's Union in their struggle against a large wage cut.

In July 1940 Order 1305, which effectively outlawed strikes, had been introduced with the promise by Ernest Bevin, then Minister of Labour, that it would be repealed at the end of the war. It wasn't and in September 1950 it was used against the gas mechanics of London who were out on strike.

Strike breakers

Troops were sent in, as they had been earlier in that year to the docks and to Smithfield Market. Order 1305 was also invoked against the dockers in a further strike in February 1951. But the ensuing opposition, with 10,000 dockers on strike on the day when seven of their number were being charged, led eventually to the case being dropped. And, in August, six years later than promised, to the repeal of Order 1305.

If its attitude to the working class was profoundly capitalist, its attitude on colonial questions (with the notable exceptions of independence to India, Ceylon and Burma) was a classical imperialist one. Its language was indistinguishable from the Tories' — White Man's Burden stuff.

And where political changes were introduced (the King was no longer Emperor as well) there was no substantial change in the relationships of economic exploitation which bound the emerging Commonwealth to Britain.

Labour's major policy with regard to colonial development was the setting up of the government-owned Colonial Development Corporation. Its major function, as the Gold Coast, Malaya and others learnt to their cost, was to siphon the dollar earnings of the colonies to London to help prime the pump of British capitalist recovery.

For instance, from 1951-1954 the result of this policy set in train by the Labour government was that only 18 per cent of the Gold Coast's dollar earnings was allocated to her, the rest being used to subsidise the British economy. Similarly pressure was put on the colonies to transfer

their sterling balances to London where they were invested in government securities at low rates of interest.

In 1951, when Persia nationalised the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co, Herbert Morrison and several other members of the cabinet wanted to go to war. It seems that only a combination of the possibility of military disaster and American pressure prevented it. (America's interests were in getting access to Persian oil herself: her motives certainly weren't 'peaceful'.)

One major event in this final period of Labour rule which throws further light on the nature of the government was the decision to impose charges on the National Health Service. The scheme was a shadow of what it should have been anyway after the objections of the Tories and the medical profession had been met in its formative period. It was now further eroded by Gaitskell's Budget which imposed charges on dentures and spectacles.

For Aneurin Bevan this was a major issue of principle. The Health Service was free or it was nothing and he resigned from the government.

He was to lead the Labour left in the early 1950s. But trapped in the machine of the parliamentary party, the left was to repeat again all the mistakes of earlier (and later) versions of opposition to the leadership.

They and their many rank and file supporters walked once more into the blind alley of parliamentary reformism.

A colleague of Bevan's, who resigned at the time, did so for quite different reasons. For Harold Wilson no principles were involved. He merely felt that the capitalist system could not stand the economic burdens imposed by the government.

Efficiency, not socialism

Wilson was to unite the Labour Party around him by 1964, the left as well as the right wing, on a programme no longer of socialism but of efficiency in running the capitalist economy better than the Tories.

This was symbolic of the alternatives available within the Labour Party framework — the powerlessness of those who claimed to be on the left, power for those whose reformism excluded any vision of a socialist transformation of society.

It is the Labour Party in the 1920s and 30s repeated once more in the 1950s and 60s. It is also the tragedy of the British labour movement.

In October 1951, a dispirited Labour government which had lost all direction and even confidence in its own abilities to run the capitalist economy better than the Tories, went to the polls and was defeated.

It had done its job. It had revived big business. It had prepared the way for 13 years of Tory rule.

Business gets its nerve back — and Labour retreats

SOUTH AFRICA: UNIONS IN CHAINS

IN JANUARY 1961, after negotiations with their employers had failed, 194 African bus conductors and drivers employed by the Bay Passenger Transport Company in Port Elizabeth went on strike. They wanted the same wages and benefits as the white and coloured employees of the company and a minimum wage of £1 a day.

The 194 strikers were arrested and later released on bail. In support of their cause, the non-white bus users began a boycott of the buses. The effects of the dispute were felt far beyond the company and its employees, so much so that the Mayor of Port Elizabeth called together the representatives of the workers and the company to resolve the dispute.

Both sides agreed to arbitration by an independent tribunal under the chairmanship of an ex-Chief Justice.

The tribunal awarded the workers increased wages, the same scale of bonus as white and coloured employees and other benefits. This success offset to a degree the fines imposed on the 194 strikers—£7 10 0 each—after they had been convicted on the charge of striking illegally.

The company even lent the strikers the money to pay the fines.

For 10 of the strikers this was not the end. More than four years later, they were charged with furthering the aims of communism by taking part in a strike.

In September 1965 they were convicted of belonging to the African National Congress (banned under the Suppression of Communism Act) and of furthering its aims by taking strike action in 1961.

They were each sentenced to 4½ years' imprisonment. In August 1966, the Appeal Court reduced the sentences to one year.

The Port Elizabeth bus workers took on the system. For in South Africa black workers are non-persons, without legal status as employees.

They are defined as 'servants'. The task of the servant is to submit.

With no legal right to negotiate they have none to strike. A Bantu Labour Act totally forbids black workers taking such action.

Immediate arrest and penalties of a fine up to £500 or three years' imprisonment or both are the reward for trade unionism.

Pass laws

This tyranny is buttressed in a number of other ways. Like the Suppression of Communism Act.

Communism is defined as 'any doctrine or scheme which aims at bringing about any political, industrial, social or economic change' by unlawful means. This means by any means since there are no legal ones.

Then there are the pass laws which totally regulate the movement of population. No African can live or work in any area without permission.

Passes must be carried at all times. They provide a permanent record of behaviour.

If a black worker loses his job with any regularity for 'laziness or non-cooperation' he can be kicked out of town. It is therefore difficult to refuse any job.

In addition, there is the infamous Sabotage Act. This does not just apply to those who have been driven to explosion by the South African tyranny. It covers participation in any act which could potentially cause damage. Introduced in 1962, it dishes out five years in prison or death.

In fact no worker — black, white or coloured — is free to withdraw his labour in South Africa. No one can strike.

Within one year of a wage determination covering them or their employer being published.

While an industrial council agreement or a conciliation board or arbitration award is in operation.

If they are engaged in essential public services or utilities.

If they are employed by local authorities.

The government also has the power to outlaw strikes by workers employed in the supply, distribution, processing, canning or preserving of any perishable foodstuffs and in the supply or distribution of petrol and other fuels to local authorities.

It is also illegal for a registered trade union to call or take part in a strike unless a majority of members in 'good standing' have voted for such action.

These powers were obtained by the passing of the Industrial Conciliation Act. They provide for a maximum penalty of a £100 fine and one year's imprisonment.

They aroused opposition from

by
Laurie Flynn

some sections of the white trade union movement when they were brought in from 1954 to 1956. They led to the emergence of the anti-racist South African Congress of Trade Unions which has gradually been suppressed by harrying trade union leaders.

In 1948, just after the Nationalist election victory, the government declared that no workers earning less than £3 10s a week would get unemployment benefit. Since 90 per cent of black workers earn less than this they get no dole.

The government was keen to stress at the time they made their calculations on an income basis, not race.

In 1950 came the Suppression of Communism Act. The government could pronounce trade union leaders to be 'communists'. They were then compelled to resign, or prevented from attending meetings or entering factories.

By the end of 1955, 56 key trade union leaders had been removed by decree. Trade unions had not been banned, the government stressed.

In 1954 came the Bill to amend the Industrial Conciliation Act. In addition to the powers described above, the government ordered all existing mixed unions to separate their membership on race lines. Any new mixed unions would not be recognised. Mixed meetings were outlawed. Black workers were excluded from mixed union executives. The Bill became law in 1956.

The government swung the Bill on the white trade union movement by playing on conservative craft attitudes and deliberately widening wage differentials.

At one level the white worker was simply bought. At another he was made impotent by the poison of racialism.

In the mining industry average cash wages and salaries per month in 1968 were:

Average Monthly Cash Earnings		
	£	s
Whites	174	14
Coloured	36	6
Asians	44	14
Africans	10	7

Source: Mining Statistics 1968.

Besides their cash wages, the Africans receive free accommodation, food, recreation, medical care and certain types of clothing. The Johannesburg Star estimated (11.9.69) that the value of all these to the workers is about £4 8s a month.

In the building industry average gross cash wages and salaries in January 1969, were:

Average Monthly Cash Earnings		
	£	s
Whites	166	0
Coloured	57	15
Asians	79	3
Africans	26	7

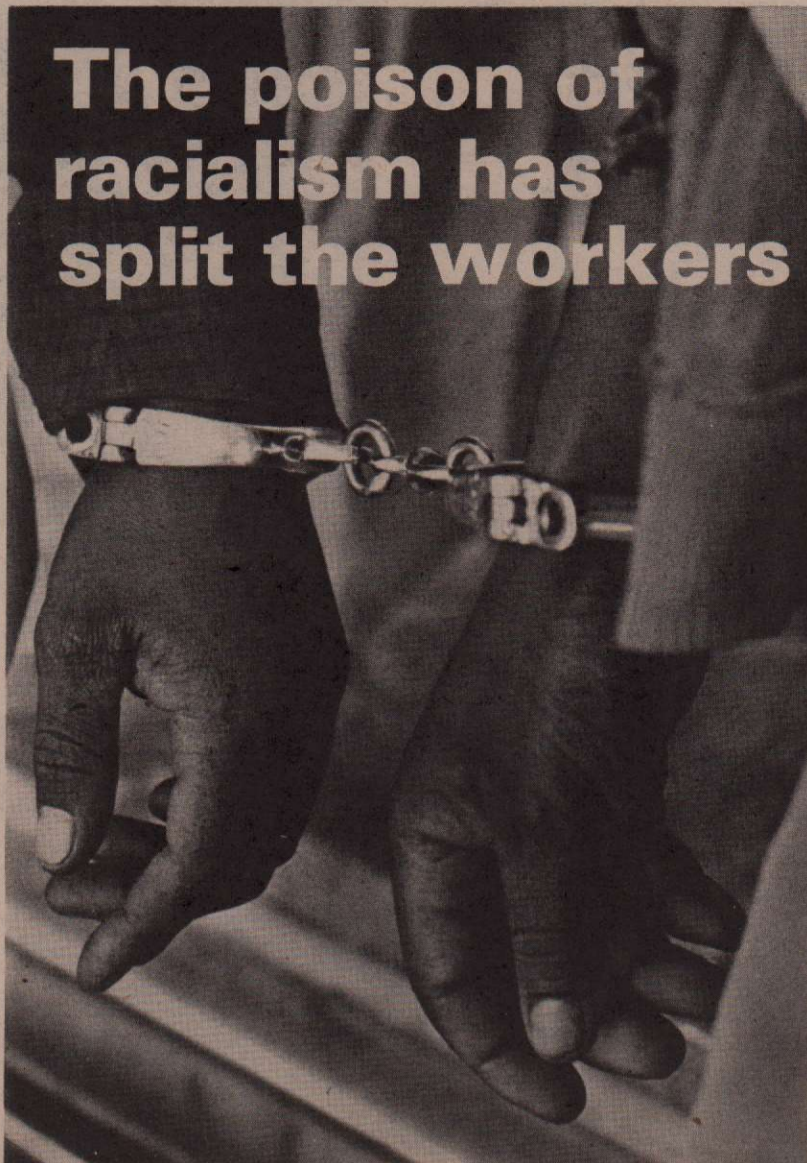
Source: Department of Statistics News Release 10.9.69.

In the mines the white-black earnings gap has widened continually this century. In the gold mines the ratio was 11.7 to 1 in 1911. In 1966 it was 17.6 to 1.

The accident rate is sky high — 63 per thousand workers per year. Deaths run to 1.40 per thousand per year in the Witwatersrand and Orange Free State mines.

In the coal mines, where some 25,000 Africans are employed underground and another 11,000 on the

The poison of racialism has split the workers



Handcuffed blacks — arrested for being in a white area illegally

surface, the degree of wage discrimination is even greater. The average monthly wage of white underground workers is £151 10 0 while that of Africans working alongside them is £7 14 9. The Africans, in addition to their cash wages, get free board and lodging but whites also get other benefits, such as cheap family housing.

As in the gold mines, all but three per cent of the African workers must live in single quarters in closed compounds, separated from their families and females.

How the system works in practice can be seen from the 1968 Engineering industry wage negotiations.

Six trade unions representing the 65,000 white, coloured and Indian workers in the industry, bargained with the employers for over six months before finally reaching agreement.



Property tycoon Harry Hyams — interests in South Africa

The unrecognised African Engineering Workers' Union could not take part because this is not allowed under the law. It submitted a memorandum, however, demanding higher wages and increased benefits; it asked for 2s 7d to 2s 9d an hour. All it got was what the employers offered at the outset, 1s 11d to 2s 2½d.

Shortage

The agreement stipulated that Africans could not be employed in any of the top six categories of work, thereby applying a strict colour demarcation to employment in the industry. The wages in these six categories range from 10s to 8s 1d per hour.

Seventy five per cent of the workers (190,000) are Africans. While caring nothing about social segregation, the most modern South African capitalists—particularly the foreign motor manufacturers — are coming up against the web of labour segregation where all the 'top' jobs are kept for the white workers. Hungry for

labour, they are forcing some changes.

The South African construction industry is stretched to full capacity and can meet only 65 per cent of demand because of the acute shortage of skilled labour.

What is it then that the bosses sit on in South Africa? What is it that keeps the foreign investment pouring in, and from nowhere else faster than Britain?

Stability

As R J Scott, managing director of Ford's South African subsidiary put it: 'It is the continued stability and growth of the country that has led to a renewed and increasing net inflow of foreign investment capital.'

One factor in this is the fantastically high returns on capital. In a glossy brochure put out by the American Department of Commerce, and lovingly titled 'Scope for Investment in South Africa' returns are put at 17.1 per cent in general manufacturing.

It is this that has attracted over £200 million pounds of British capital since Labour took power in Britain in 1964. In 1968 alone £43 millions gushed in.

At the end of 1966 the total British stake in the country was estimated at £1,300m by the South African Minister of Finance. An advertisement put in to the Investors Chronicle by the South African government on 12 December last year stated that 'British investment represents nearly two-thirds of the foreign investment in the country'.

The biggest single company in South Africa is 42 per cent owned by ICI. The largest milling and baking firm is owned by Associated British Foods, the Garfield Weston outfit. And just to add a nice touch, the nationalised British Steel Corporation has a 50 per cent stake in Stewart and Lloyd (SA).

The largest oil refinery is jointly owned by Shell and BP. The massive Palabora copper mine provides half of the £48 million profits of Rio Tinto Zinc.

Cementation, the civil engineers, have 19 per cent of all their interests in South Africa. They work hand in pocket with Consolidated Goldfields, chief killer of gold miners and friend of the London bullion market.

They raised all the capital to buy their British competitor Cleveland Bridge on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange by offering 20 per

cent of the ordinary shares in one of their five South African subsidiaries to 'the public'.

H and R Johnson Richards Tiles Ltd, which is a giant UK building materials company, has a 62 per cent share of the South African market through its subsidiary.

Its only competitor is a subsidiary of — guess who? — Pilkington's.

George Wimpey — the giant UK contractor which boasts Harry Hyams of empty Centre Point fame as a director — has a regional office in South Africa and a joint venture with a South African housebuilder.

Marchweil, the holding company which owns the Alfred McAlpine contracting outfit, has a joint venture with the South African giant General Mining Co. They got together to supply coal to the massive Hendrina power station in Natal.

McAlpine will do the opencast work, supplying plant and management from the UK. Worth £50 million the contract is for a 50 year period.

Customer

In the UK construction industry there are very few big boys that aren't in South Africa in a big way and getting bigger. Those that aren't are up to their necks in Spain, Greece, Portugal. In fact like capitalists or any shape size or variety, they're anywhere. They will exploit any social system, whatever its pretensions to uniqueness.

If you work on the assumption that whoever you work for has got his hands on South African workers' throats as well as your own, you'll be right on the nail.

Britain is South Africa's biggest customer in two other ways, apart from having most foreign investment. The UK provides 30 per cent of apartheid's export market. In 1969 UK imports from South Africa exceeded exports to South Africa for the first time.

In 1963 the total quantity of gold mined there was £343m. £45m went into reserves. All but £6m of the rest was sold on the London bullion markets. Without apartheid, God save the balance of payments.

And South Africa is the biggest customer for British exports of lorries, trucks, railway vehicles, switches and regulators, telecommunication apparatus, man-made fibres and cotton fibres. As any fool knows... it's export or die.

No wonder then that the United Kingdom-South Africa Trade Association operates from the same address as the Confederation of British Industries and that every UK bank, finance house and insurance company is right in there.

And what a bonanza for selling arms no matter what their use. After all, you don't sell to friends or enemies, but to 'customers'.

The Centurion tanks, Westland Wasp helicopters, the ships of the South African navy, the Canberra bombers, the Shackletons, the Viscount transports, the Havards and Vampires and the Saracen armoured cars are all British-made — and perhaps most instructive of all, the 16 Buccaneer bombers supplied to Verwoerd in 1965 were explicitly excluded from the arms embargo.

Special role

Britain has also accepted an order for three submarines from South Africa, worth £13 million, apparently in accordance with the 'secret clauses' of the Simonstown Agreement.

In February 1966 it was announced that the British firm of Hawker-Siddeley had sold to South Africa its first HS-125 jet — an allegedly 'civil aircraft' first demonstrated to the regime in 1965. At precisely the moment of the conclusion of the deal, General Hiemstra, chief of South Africa's defence forces, suggested that light aircraft owned by civilian farmers and businessmen could augment the air force in the special role against guerrilla fighters.

And it was our own Labour government which appointed a Minister of Disarmament and a Head of Defence Sales, the latter on loan from his own fast-growing firm, Racal Electronics. He had special powers to set up export lines, to influence design at the formative stage, to control delivery dates, utilise the diplomatic service and so on.

The message is clear. South Shields, South Africa, South Croydon — it is this that must be overthrown.

Yes, keep Tories out — but why not vote Communist?

I AGREE with Socialist Worker that the Tories must be kept out at the general election, but surely if we have to vote against them it is better to vote, where possible, for a Communist Party candidate than for a Labour traitor? - **BILL WEBSTER, London, E13.**

THE EDITOR replies:- Socialist Worker is opposed to giving support to Communist Party candidates. We call for a vote against the Tories because we think that a Tory victory would lead to demoralisation among important sections of workers.

Labour in opposition, possibly with a new leader, would show its 'left' face again in an effort to channel the industrial and political struggle into safe 'out with the Tories' campaigns.

We do not favour voting Labour because we have any illusions that they are the 'lesser of two evils'. We believe that it is important for Labour to be in office so that the workers can see them in action, attempting to solve big business's problems at the workers' expense.

A Labour government gives the revolutionary left the chance to argue its policies to a far wider audience of workers than when the Tories are in power. The opportunities for building a genuine revolutionary socialist movement are greater when Labour is in office and workers cannot turn to them as a 'left' alternative to the Tories.

Shatter myths

The major task for the revolutionary movement is to shatter the illusions which millions of working people have in the parliamentary system and 'reformism' — that is, the belief that our big business system can be tinkered with to make it a bit fairer all round.

In this decisive struggle between revolutionary socialism and reformism, the Communist Party is a barrier to workers who are moving to the left. There is no room in British politics for a second reformist party — and that is what the Communist Party aims to become.

It is totally committed to the parliamentary system, as it makes clear in its main document *The British Road to Socialism* and underlines in its quite grotesque election manifesto, published last week.

Here is a programme which would not have disgraced the Labour Party 10 years ago. It speaks of the 'sovereignty' of parliament and the British 'people', as though we were all one, big happy family. It contains no policy for completely turning society upside down, closing down parliament, taking power from the ruling class through a mass working-class party and workers' councils.

vote Communist?



John Gollan, Communist Party secretary, proudly brandishing his manifesto

Instead of calling for workers' control of industry, it demands that 'big firms should be nationalised and run in the interests of the people'. Here is the old Fabian paternalism of the Labour Party dressed up in 'communist' guise! But — there will be workers on the boards of these nationalised industries!

Milk and water

And the party thinks big too: a £17 a week minimum wage and a 3 per cent wealth tax on those with incomes over £20,000. Without hesitation, we say that this milk and water Fabianism is a disgrace to a party that claims to be Communist.

Revolutionary socialists have always said that the truth must be told to the workers. In the manifesto produced by the International Socialists for massive distribution during the election, we

speaking clearly of the need for a revolution to completely change the basis of society,

The Communist Party, on the other hand, peddles the most dangerous illusions. It suggests that the ruling class can be simply taxed away and that action in favour of the workers can be legislated through parliament without challenging the bosses' rule in industry and the state machine.

There are enough illusions around without the Communist Party adding to them. The working class doesn't need any fresh illusions in reformism, it needs a theory and a party that will channel all their great energies and abilities towards taking state power.

That is the struggle we will attempt to develop long after the dust of this phoney election has settled and the Communist Party is still totting up its lost deposits.

TGWU and GMWU are not the same

NIGEL WALBY'S letter (30 May) contained some serious mistakes. First, he says 'there is no fundamental difference between the TGWU and the GMWU, and left posturing by its leaders does not alter the bureaucratic nature of the TGWU.'

This shows a dangerous ignorance of and insensitivity to the labour movement, and in particular brushes aside at one go the thousands of militants who know from experience that there is a difference between the two unions.

In order for socialists to expose the phony nature of the TGWU leadership's talk of 'workers' control' and its unwillingness to lead the workers in a serious fight with the

government, it is necessary to take into account the real differences as well as the similarities between the union leaderships: to take up the left posturing and demand that Jack Jones and co take it seriously where it matters — in the struggle here and now.

Second, on industrial unionism. I have no fixed opinion on what the Pilkington workers ought to do: a glass workers union might be a possibility.

But Nigel's unqualified enthusiasm for industrial unionism sounds as abstract as his 'ultra-left posturing' on the nature of the TGWU and GMWU. It needs to be discussed with caution, at least, in a situation

where most of the agitation for industrial unionism comes from employers and a few union leaders — like Les Cannon — who look enviously to the USA, where militancy is ground between monolithic industrial unions and the employers.

Nigel should remember the advice of a famous socialist to revolutionaries working in predominantly reformist labour movements: to begin from how things are in the movement and not from how we might wish them to be. If we took Nigel seriously, the trade unionists with whom we are in contact quite rightly would not take us seriously. - **FRED LINDOP, London E8.**

Cottons Column.

LORD COLE, chairman of the giant Unilever combine, announced in his annual report to shareholders that — surprise, surprise — the reason why prices keep rising is because the government is doing nothing to stop workers' wages going up.

The report went on to say that Lord Cole was to receive a pay rise of £10,000 a year to add to the measly £40,000 he gets already.

Commenting on this particular wage rise, his lordship said: 'It is quite clear that I have been underpaid for many years.'

But here for once the description fits perfectly. Sunday Sun journalists have objected to Kane's vile rantings, but Lord Thomson has refused to remove him.

But his lordship can be beaten. The people of Tyneside, with their fine, militant traditions, should make it clear that Voice of North Britain does not speak for them. They should refuse to buy his rag until he is told to pack his jackboots and get out of Newcastle.

THE AMERICAN ruling class charges all over the world in its desire to defend 'freedom and democracy'. Pity that some of the regimes it holds up don't try a little f&d sometime.

Latest law passed by the Lon Nol government in Cambodia allows it to jail for up to 20 years anyone found listening to Peking Radio.

Please rush donations...

AS IF to inspire us all by his shining example, Mr David Barran, chairman of the Shell Transport and Trading Company, has taken a cut in wages — of £9 a year.

Mr Barran is now earning a mere £72,800 a year — or something like £35 an hour.

Donations should be sent to: The David Barran Relief Fund, Hilton Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida.

Meanwhile, back in the gutter

LORD THOMSON of Fleet Sewer, the most powerful newspaper boss in Britain, prides himself on giving 'complete editorial' freedom to his editors. As long as they are right of centre, that is.

In fact, Lord T doesn't mind how far right his editors go. Take the nut who edits the Sunday Sun in Newcastle upon Tyne.

His name is Pete Kane, an appropriate handle for one who fervently believes in flogging criminals and hanging murderers. Since he took over the editorial chair a few months ago he has championed many lunatic causes, writing about them in hysterical terms in a leader column called Voice of North Britain.

Mr Kane was beside himself with rage when the Springbok cricket tour was called off. 'Who runs this country?' demanded the Voice of North Britain. 'The mob. The mob that marches out to make a nuisance of itself — the mob that attacks policemen but screams with rage when a policeman hits back.'

After a few paragraphs of genial abuse at Jim Callaghan, Floggem Kane came clean on the real reason for his anger.

'The fact is that a great many people in Britain approve of apartheid. It is a logical policy which will commend itself to British people more and more as immigration increases.'

The left is often accused of using the term 'fascist' too lightly.



● A SHOCKING new cult is spreading through Britain. It is called Trollism. Read about the Trollists, their strange beliefs and activities on Page 7 TODAY

● A BIG new series... a bright-as-a-button new look to the WHOLE of your favourite Sunday paper. That's today's

NEWS OF THE WORLD

EVERY clean-living Englishman owes a debt of gratitude to the News of the World for exposing the latest shocking attempt to undermine the sacred institution of marriage — Trollism.

Trollists believe that in wedlock three is not a crowd. They practice sexual intercourse not in twos but in threes. And what's worse, they boast about their adventures to Sunday papers.

But there seemed to be something wrong somewhere. Then looking at the picture (blacked out to save our blushes) on the front pages of the NOW, it all came clear.

The picture shows what is probably a typical Trollist threesome — two girls and one likely looking young man. After extensive experiment, your correspondent is able to report that Trollism is not only corrupting our morals — it's also physically impossible.

'CASTLE TO BE GIVEN TO NATIONAL TRUST' announced a newspaper headline last week. Seems reasonable. After all, Barbara's policies are in ruins.

Those socialist blues

SAID Harold on the box on Monday: 'Your Labour government has got Britain out of the red in the last 5½ years.' Is that a boast or an admission of failure? Roll on Red Britain, we say.

Wave of repression hits French left

THE LEFT in France is faced with a wave of repression. Militants engaged in propaganda work are arrested and imprisoned on any pretext with increasing frequency.

The chief victims at the moment are the Maoist tendency Gauche Proletarienne (Proletarian Left). The hysterical style of politics of this group in no way justifies the charges against two successive editors of its paper *La Cause du Peuple* (People's Cause), who have been imprisoned for incitement to arson, murder and looting.

The editorship of *People's Cause* has now been taken over by Jean-Paul Sartre — acting from solidarity, not political agreement. The hypocrisy of the French rulers is shown by the fact that they dare not make themselves ridiculous to world opinion by imprisoning France's greatest writer. The organisation, however, has been banned.

Even more serious in the long-term are the government's proposed measures to curb 'extremist violence'. These virtually abolish the right of demonstration, imposing heavy penalties on organisers of demonstrations which lead to

damage. The law of trespass is tightened to outlaw occupations of colleges or factories.

So illiberal are these proposals that even the French Senate could not stomach them in undiluted form. But the proposals — even if modified — will go through.

Faced with these dangers, the working class movement is divided. The Communist Party opposes the laws, for it is anxious to be part of the respectable 'liberal' opposition to Pompidou. But to do this it must dissociate itself from the revolutionary left.

For the revolutionary left, which two years ago seemed to have gained a mass audience, isolation presents a tough challenge. While most of the recent bomb incidents can be blamed on right-wing agitators, frustration is leading some leftists to pure adventures.

This is tragic. For if Pompidou attacks the leftists today, it is in order to attack the Communist Party and the trade unions tomorrow.

The crucial job for French revolutionaries is to overcome the smears of the CP leadership and bring this lesson home to rank and file party members.

IAN BIRCHALL

Join the International Socialists

There are branches in the following areas

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen; Clydebank; Dundee; Edinburgh; Glasgow; East Kilbride.

NORTH EAST

Durham; Newcastle upon Tyne; Teesside (Middlesbrough and Redcar)

NORTH

Barnsley; Bradford; Derby; Doncaster; Hull; Leeds; York; Selby; Sheffield.

NORTH WEST

Lancaster; Manchester; Merseyside; Preston; St Helens; Stockport; Wigan.

MIDLANDS

Birmingham; Coventry; Northampton; Leicester; Oxford; Potteries.

WALES and SOUTH WEST

Bath; Bristol; Cardiff; Exeter; Swansea

SOUTH

Ashford; Brighton; Crawley; Folkestone; Portsmouth; Southampton.

EAST

Cambridge; Grays and Tilbury; Harlow; Ipswich; Lowestoft; Norwich; North-east Essex.

GREATER LONDON and HOME COUNTIES

Acton; Angel; Camden; Chertsey; Croydon; Dagenham; Deptford; East London; Enfield; Erith; Fulham; Greenford; Hampstead; Harrow; Hemei Hempstead; Hornsey; Ilford; Kilburn; Kingston; Lambeth; Merton; Reading; Richmond; Stoke Newington; Tottenham; Walthamstow; Wandsworth; Watford; Victoria (SW1).



Please send further details of the meetings and activities of the International Socialists to:

Name _____

Address _____

Send to IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Socialist Worker

Racist smear on Asians

from page one

the management shall sign a credential form in which the shop steward undertakes to accept responsibility for carrying out his duties in accordance with the terms laid down in this agreement (ie, no stoppages of work etc) and the principles and procedures defined in this document.

'In the event of any shop steward wilfully failing to observe the terms of his credentials or otherwise acting or inducing others to act in breach of agreed procedure or as agreed between the trade unions and the management, management shall have the right to request the withdrawal of his credentials.

'On election, shop stewards will undergo training.'

PREVENT

These clauses are solely designed to prevent shop stewards from meeting one another. They make the circumstances of any unofficial or unconstitutional dispute (strike, go-slow, etc) an excuse for the management to get rid of militant shop stewards.

The document devotes three pages to discipline. It provides for suspensions and dismissals and lists 11 'actions which constitute misconduct' and for which these measures can be used.

Among the items listed as 'misconduct' and for which the sack can result, are:

Unauthorised absence.
Refusal to obey a reasonable instruction.

False booking (management reserves the right to conduct checks on individual and group bookings, without prior notice.)

And just in case the company wants to sack a worker who has not committed any of the 11 offences, the document adds: 'It is pointed out that the cases as quoted are given as typical examples of acts of indiscipline, but the lists are not comprehensive.'

In other words, all power to the management!

WARNINGS

On the subject of work performance, conduct, absenteeism and time-keeping, the proposed agreement details a complicated procedure which provides for final warnings, entries on employees' record cards and shop stewards being present at each and every disciplinary meeting.

The purpose of all this is to involve the shop stewards in the process of suspending and sacking their members. It is to make the workers' elected representatives partly responsible for discipline.

This proposed agreement was drawn up with the assistance of the CIR. If agreed, it would increase discipline and curb the shop stewards.

It would guarantee that Birmid's record profit for 1969 of £8,377,416 (£9 10s per worker per week) is exceeded this year.

A TGWU shop steward told me that he and many other workers were absolutely opposed to the document.

'If our trade union leaders agree to them and betray us, then we shall fight them and their bloody agreement,' he declared.

STRIKERS HARASSED BY POLICE AND BOSSES

SW Reporter

OTTERY ST MARY, DEVON:- Management and police are harassing and intimidating pickets in an attempt to break the five-week strike at the Ottermill Switchgear factory.

The four unions involved in the dispute have at last officially recognised the strike.

'But in a press statement, the Ottermill personnel manager has said that the strike is still unofficial.

And when pickets approach lorry drivers delivering supplies to the factory, they are pushed away by the police who tell the drivers that the strike is not recognised by the unions.

The 300 men are demanding a 4s 4½d an hour, across the board increase to bring the skilled workers' rate up to the £24 national average. They have refused any productivity concessions and also want 100 per cent union membership in the factory.

SPARKED

On Monday the Ottermill strike committee met their opposite numbers from the Centrax factories in Newton Abbot, scene of a long and successful battle for higher wages earlier this year.

The Centrax strike sparked off moves throughout the south west to improve the appallingly low pay and conditions in the region.

Monday's meeting decided to stage a march and demonstration in Exeter in mid-June, followed by a meeting of all shop stewards in the region.

The march will coincide with the 'June Days' — a six day programme of discussions on revolutionary socialism and aspects of big business society being organised at Exeter University.

PLEDGE

Last week all the Ottermill strikers were sacked by the management. At a mass meeting, George Halliday, a Metal Mechanics official gave a pledge that no talks would be held with the management until the men's cards were returned to them.

But this pledge has been broken. Informal talks will take place on Friday between unions, management and the employers' federation.

Meanwhile, the management is still getting tough. One Ottermill worker who lives in a 'tied cottage' owned by the firm, has been given a month's notice to quit.

Donations to: P Coward, 83 Slade Close, Ottery St Mary, Nr Exeter, Devon.

Last week's issue of Socialist Worker was incorrectly numbered 172 instead of 173. This week's issue maintains the correct sequence.

AEF call to end prod deals

BRISTOL:- The local engineering union shop stewards quarterly meeting this week is to consider a resolution from its general section rejecting all productivity dealing. The resolution also calls for a refusal to renegotiate any existing deals.

This important move follows the rejection by shop stewards at Brecknall, Dolman and Rogers, a large Bristol engineering firm, of a management document on product-

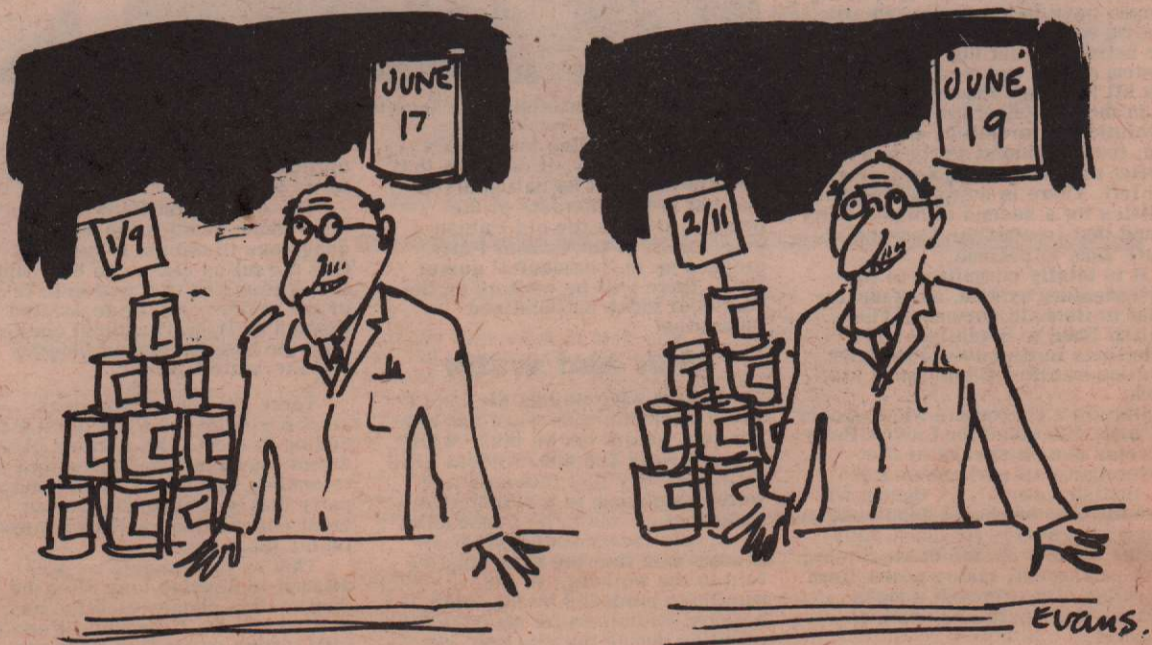
ivity. The employers refused to take 'no' for an answer and called in the Department of Employment and Productivity to undertake method study and work study, without even consulting the trade unions.

Refused cooperation

The district committee of the AEF instructed its members to refuse cooperation. It was as a

result of this that the BDR stewards introduced the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

With the election of president of the AEF coming up, with John Boyd standing on an openly anti-left platform, attacking 'Communists and Trotskyists' for backing Scanlon, it is vital to fight for the re-election of Scanlon but also to work for a policy of opposition to productivity bargaining, which he has fully supported.



'No strings' rise rejected — Kent workers walk out

NINETY members of the Engineering and Transport Workers unions at the Erith (Kent) factory of Sovex Conveyors are on strike over the management's rejection of their demands for a straight 20 per cent increase of £6 a week.

The management offered 15 shillings with the promise of further increases if proposals for the introduction of a productivity deal are accepted. Clauses in the deal include:

Abolition of tea breaks.
Reductions in the length of meal times.
Restrictions in the number of tradesmen's mates.
And the end of the management's contribution to the works sick benefit fund.

Contract

despite the firm's plea of poverty it is common knowledge that last month they negotiated a £¼ million contract for baggage conveyors to be used by Trans-World Airlines for new Boeing 747 Jumbo jets.

The strikers sent telegrams and made personal visits to sites where

Sovex equipment is being used. As a result, work on all these jobs is now 'black' — including one in Amsterdam.

Support has been given by the Erith AEF district committee and local union branches, including TGWU, DATA and Boilermakers.

Donations to: Laurie Smith, Convenor Sovex JSSC, 856 Rochester Way, Bexley, Kent.

Tugmen go back

AFTER SEVERAL weeks on strike Mersey tugmen returned to work last week with a £3 a week increase. They had been demanding £7 and were confident of getting it.

But the men have 'always had a go-it-alone attitude', as another portworker put it, and received little support from other workers along the line of docks. The good weather also had its effect, making it easier for ships to be berthed without the use of tugs.

Pilks men snubbed by GMWU

ANGRY rank and file leaders from Pilkington's glass factories in St Helens had to abandon talks at TUC headquarters in London on Tuesday when officials from the General and Municipal Workers Union failed to turn up.

The rank and file committee, which led the six-week strike in St Helens, have been discussing with the GMWU and TUC secretary Vic Feather the basis for future bargaining and negotiating in the glass factories.

Feeling ran high during the strike against staying in the GMWU.

After Tuesday's fiasco, strike committee treasurer John Potter declared: 'When we get back to St Helens we shall recommend all shop floor workers to withdraw from the union and join a provisional Pilkington trade union committee which we will set up.'

Ford foreman hit steward

MAINTENANCE workers at Ford, Halewood, walked out last week after a foreman hit a steward. 3000 assembly workers were laid off.

Another steward said: 'We are demanding this man's job. Recently a steward was sacked for doing the same to a foreman. This management seem to want one rule for themselves, and another for the hourly-paid workers.'

NOTICES

GERMAN comrade (female) seeks room in N or NW London. Ring 485 0476.

SWANSEA IS: Open meeting on the Spanish Civil War, 7.30pm, Fri 12 June, Red Cow pub. All welcome.

WHICH WAY FOR INDUSTRY? IS industrial conference in Birmingham, 28 June to discuss policy and strategy. Credentials 8s from 6 Cottons Gdns. Transport from London available.

REVOLUTIONARY left newspaper being set up in East Kent area would appreciate news items/articles. Contributions to R Crossley c/o 98 Lindon Crescent, Folkestone.

FURNISHED FLAT to let to reliable comrade in Dalston (E London) area for 3 or 4 months. Rent £2 12s. Ring 061-226 1177.

LONDON IS public meeting: John Palmer and Paul Foot on After the Election — a strategy for revolutionary socialists. Conway Hall, 12 June, 7.30pm.

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East Anglia march protests at Cambodia war

NORWICH:- More than 200 people took part in a lively demonstration against the Indo-China war last Saturday. The march was held in the city centre and drew far more attention than a miserable Tory election meeting.

The demonstrators and speakers at a rally at the end of the march

protested at the spread of aggression into Cambodia. They also condemned the campus murders in the USA itself.

The demonstration expressed support for all those fighting against military power and the monopolies behind it. Speakers highlighted the need to build the revolutionary

socialist movement in Britain as an alternative to the parties in the phoney election, all of which support Nixon to the hilt.

There were a large number of photographers on the march and they could not all have been from the press. Is someone getting worried about us?