

# Workers' fight

5p

No. 111 - Oct. 4th to 11th 1975

# BLACK SPAIN

**2000 HULL DOCKERS HAVE VOTED AT A MASS MEETING TO BLACK ALL Spanish goods until the fall of the Franco regime.** Airport workers at Heathrow and Stansted have blacked services to Spain. Night telephonists in London blacked calls to Spain.

In Italy, unions have decided to black all communications with Spain, including post and telephones.

In France, Belgium, Sweden, and of course Portugal, workers have taken action against the Franco regime.

150,000 strikers in Euskadi (the Basque country) have been joined by workers throughout Europe protesting against the arbitrary execution of five members of opposition groups, the Basque nationalist ETR(V) and the Maoist FRAP.

For nearly 40 years Spain has lived under Franco's jackboot. According to Amnesty International's recent report, torture is standard in Spanish prisons. It is impossible to form any exact estimate of how many hundreds have been submitted to torture.

But now even long imprisonments are little use to the crumbling Franco regime. Its only resort is to cut down as many as possible of the working class activists who are undermining the regime — people whom we must consider our comrades, people who are fighting for socialism and liberty in whatever way they can under Spanish conditions.

The ferocity of the Franco regime's death

spasm, the obscenity of the blood lust demonstrations officially organised in Madrid, has aroused such general and widespread horror that even the ruling classes of Europe have recoiled. They are no strangers, any of them, to blood on their hands, but they do not wish to be seen as the last allies of the dying dictator.

Some 16 countries (so far) have withdrawn envoys, and the EEC is to call off trade negotiations with Spain.

But the Tory and social democratic governments whose predecessors allowed Franco, with support from Hitler and Mussolini, to crush the Spanish working class in the '30s, will not go beyond feeble protest now. More vital is working class response.

As yet that response is far from enough.

The official trade union leadership has confined itself to 'passionate' speeches at conference and bland directives, without launching a large-scale agitational campaign among the rank and file to explain the importance of the issue.

A properly organised

official trade union campaign for blackings could forge an iron collar strangling the Franco regime, as the iron collar of the garrotte has strangled working class militants in Spain. We must demand such a campaign, and demand the Labour government imposes a complete boycott on all diplomatic and trade relations with Spain, while also working to extend anti-Franco action to the maximum at rank and file level.

The Franco regime is nearing its end. Working class action can save those lined up as victims of the regime's death agony. It can hasten the end of the regime. It can open the way for Spanish workers to fly aloft once again the banner of socialist revolution struck from the hands of the workers of Catalonia in 1936. It can bring new forces into the fight alongside the revolutionary workers of Portugal.

**DEMONSTRATION** — 2pm, Saturday 18th October, from Speakers' Corner. Called by the Spanish Solidarity Committee.



Franco with friends. Will YOU strike at Franco now?



## STOP THE NATIONAL FRONT NOW!

**THE NATIONAL FRONT Annual General Meeting** planned for Saturday October 11th at Chelsea Town Hall, must be stopped.

If we do not crush the fascists of the National Front, eventually they will crush us. This hard truth should be drummed into our heads by the NF's threat to break up a meeting of the Campaign to Repeal the Immigration Act, scheduled for the

previous evening, Friday 10th.

Or, if that is not proof enough, by the NF's attempt to disrupt a West London anti fascist committee meeting on September 21st (see back page)

Workers Fight calls on its readers to turn out for 6.30pm on Friday 10th, at Friends House, Euston Rd; and for 9 am on Saturday 11th, outside Chelsea Town Hall (King's Road; Sloane Square underground).

**ONE OF the biggest ovations at the Labour Party Conference** was for Dennis Skinner, supporting a resolution which "recognised the enormous debt which the Labour Government owes to the Clay Cross councillors". But the motion was lost. Here it's votes that count, not claps.

The difference tells a tale. With a few exceptions — notably the AUEW — the trade union votes are going to support the government, while the constituency votes are in large part supporting the left.

From 1964-70 onwards, the trade unions were on the left in the party, protesting against moves like 'In Place of Strife'; but that situation is now reversed. The hysterical outburst by Jack Jones against Ian Mikardo at the Tribune meeting illustrated that fact. It also illustrated the tremendous pressure on the trade union bureaucrats. They feel that they must stamp down on their membership in order to save the government.

The ousting of Denis Healey from the constituency section of the National Executive Committee by Eric Heffer was a victory for the left, but, in the context of the Conference, a hollow one. The government's economic policy had been approved. Its wage curbs had been approved. Its cuts in social service expenditure had been approved — despite successful rearguard action to win verbal victories on education and housing cuts. "Saving the government" has come before basic working class interests.

## LP Conference Bleakest Blackpool for years



Heffer got in — but Wilson rules, OK...

In the first two days the government won approval for almost everything it had done and proposed to do. The one defeat on economic policy at the hands of the 'left' forces was when a motion supporting import controls was passed. But this was a proposal which in fact is to the right of the government's policy.

The attacks on organised currents within the party were, as expected, made in the

name of "party democracy". Needless to say, those loudest in the call for 'democracy' today are the witch hunters of yesterday (and tomorrow!) No doubt it was in the spirit of this same quicksilver democracy that the conference ruled the excellent York amendment on Portugal, and the one from Richmond, also supporting the workers' councils, out of order.

Paul Adams  
Fuller report next week.



IF Roy Jenkins and the Home Office are lucky, the National Front's "Flour Bomb" campaign (a new departure from petrol bombs...) might persuade some people that the new Race Relations White Paper promises stern measures to stop the humiliation and unjust treatment of blacks in this country.

Black people think otherwise. Few of their spokesmen — ranging from the revolutionaries to the reformists — have a good word for the White Paper. And they point out that it's pretty laughable to legislate against discrimination in society when the most vicious discrimination is practised by the government itself, in the shape of the 1971 Immigration Act.

This Act is racist, divisive and withholds basic rights from a whole

# RACE DISCRIMINATION: GOVERNMENT PREACHES WHAT IT DOESN'T PRACTISE

section of the population. It is racist because it allows white Commonwealth immigrants to settle in Britain but restricts the entry of black and all other immigrants under the patrial clause. It allows immigrants to come in only if they have a work permit (annually renewable) for a specific job. This gives bosses the opportunity to intimidate non-British workers by threatening not to renew their permit and to get rid of them if they demand better conditions. Immigrant workers can be — and are — deported if considered a "threat to the public good" or a "security risk" and so on. Immigration officers have the power to stop and

search anyone they suspect is an illegal immigrant.

The campaign to Repeal the Immigration Act is a broad campaign drawing together immigrant organisations, trade unions, trades councils, students, left groups and others in a united effort to inform people about the Act and its significance, and to get it repealed. Come to the public meeting on Friday October 10th at 7pm at Friends House, Euston Road, NW1. It is vital that as many people as possible come along to give their support. There are indications that the National Front will try to break up this meeting, as they have done with similar meetings recently.



**Turkish catering workers fight the sack. As well as the bosses, they had to face the Government, when leading militant Sabri Genc was deported**

# Your son's not missing, he's dead.

Leo Norney, a 17-year-old boy from Turf Lodge, was on his way home in a taxi on a Saturday night two weeks ago. He got out of the taxi, alone and unarmed, and was shot down in the street as he walked home by soldiers of the Black Watch Regiment.

That fact alone is shocking enough, or should be. But what has actually shocked the people of Leo Norney's neighbourhood, who are pretty well used to the presence of trigger happy British soldiers and the casual shooting of friends and neighbours, is the sequence of events after Leo was shot — a sequence apparently dictated by the Black Watch's attempts to concoct a rational reason for shooting a teenage kid on a Saturday night.

First, no-one is quite sure whether the single shot they heard killed Leo. When the body got to the mortuary many hours later, there were two bullet wounds. When and where was he shot for the second time? The answer seems to hinge on another question: why did the soldiers gathered around the body send away a civilian ambulance that arrived (and later feel so touchy about the question that they claim no ambulance came though they called for one...) and instead wait for a Saracen tank/ambulance? And why did that vehicle take Leo Norney not to a mortuary (if he was dead) nor to a hospital (if he was wounded) but to Springfield Road barracks?

A second bullet wound wasn't the only thing that happened to Leo Norney's body before it finally reached the mortuary. By then, the boy's hands had been smashed and were black and swollen so badly that his hands couldn't be crossed in his coffin.

## Smashed fingers

Forensic tests showed that these broken hands had contact with a recently fired rifle. Yet when Leo left the taxi, he had no rifle: just before it stopped to let him out, the taxi had gone through an army check-point, and everyone in it including Leo had been searched and the whole taxi cleared. Were Leo's hands smashed by British Army rifle butts in their efforts to make sure there would be lead traces on them? And is that why they made sure that the body wasn't taken away from them until it was ready to be examined? To add a last macabre twist, soldiers of the regiment, while they held the body at their barracks, raided Leo's home in the middle of the night, asking where he was. Not until 16 hours after Leo's death was his mother informed that he was dead and not "missing".

If such a thing happened in Britain, it would be cause for headline news and embarrassing questions in Parliament. It would certainly be cause for more than the Provisionals' restrained appeal that "Rees must act; we cannot stand idly by whilst his Forces act with immunity in complete contravention of the Truce."

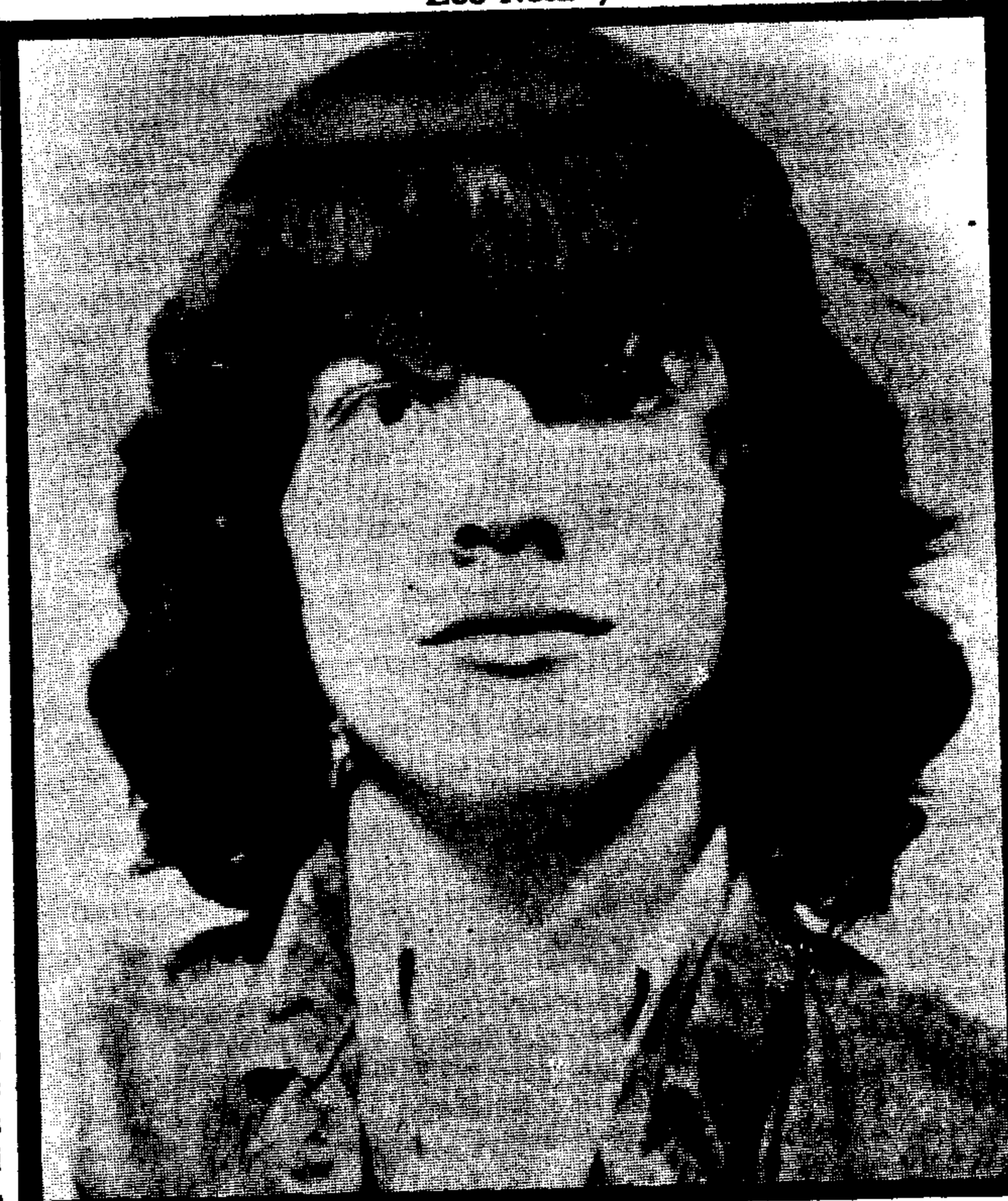
The fact that everyone, not least the British Army, expects the truce to be observed only by the IRA has in fact brought an increasingly angry response. Belfast Brigade started by carrying out a spate of bomb hoaxes as a warning "that we will no longer tolerate the policy of harassment by the British Army. Individuals and houses and business premises are being searched

without excuse, without justification. The Black Watch regiment in Andersonstown are pursuing a policy of mass arrests... The premises of the Andersonstown Co-op were subjected to a detailed search. All documents relating to the business were seized..."

But there was no let-up. Instead, a visible increase in house searches and intensive screening, often in the early hours of the morning. Castlereagh RUC barracks, just re-opened after 7 months, is now, says the Belfast Republican Press Centre, the scene of systematic tortures almost daily: "The old familiar routine is being re-enacted: 'Taken to interrogation room', 'beaten with fist on face', 'beaten on stomach', 'questioned and threatened continuously by relays of 2/3 men for eight hours' More sinister, and indicative of the line-up of the RUC with the Orange paramilitaries, are the threats to dump the victim in a hostile area or hand them over to the UVF — alongside the more usual threats of being drowned and shot."

After an 18-year old boy, Joseph Magee, slashed his wrists while under interrogation, the IRA announced that the RUC was not included in the truce — which got reported in the British press in the most censorious

Leo Norney



manner, without mention of the conditions that led up to it.

Conditions like these:

\*A man who gave chase to a car carrying gunmen who had just shot his father and sister found that it had been waved through an army roadblock out of the Catholic area; but he himself was stopped, searched and questioned — while the UVF assassination squad got away.

\*Ten days after that, members of the Royal Highland Fusiliers saw Kevin Fegan make the sign of the cross as he walked past a church. They set upon him and beat him about the head with their rifles, took him to Springfield Road barracks and kept him there overnight. He needed 5 stitches in a head wound.

\*At Whiterock in Newtown-abbey (88% of whose Catholic population has been driven out or killed or burned out since 1970) rescuers were pulling at the wreckage of a bombed house to reach a family of four. The RUC arrived on the scene and stood back jeering and shouting obscenities at the rescuers.

## Shoot to kill

These troops and these police are the people that the Catholic community is asked to trust and to look to for their protection and security, while William Craig and Gerry Fitt are supposed to be their big white hope for a political future: Craig, who not three years ago said "I am an ex-officer in the Air Force. I am prepared to come out and shoot to kill. Let us put the bluff aside. I am prepared to kill and those behind me will have my full support. We will not surrender". And Fitt, who has not dared set foot in his Catholic West Belfast constituency for the last two years.

Of course the people of the Catholic ghettos give their support to the Provisionals. Though they're pathetically under-armed and inadequate they are the only force the ghettos can look to for protection. And though their politics are confused and in some respect backward looking, they are the strongest exponents of the demand that offers the only viable way out of this impasse: an end to the 6-County state! Self determination for a united 32-County Ireland!

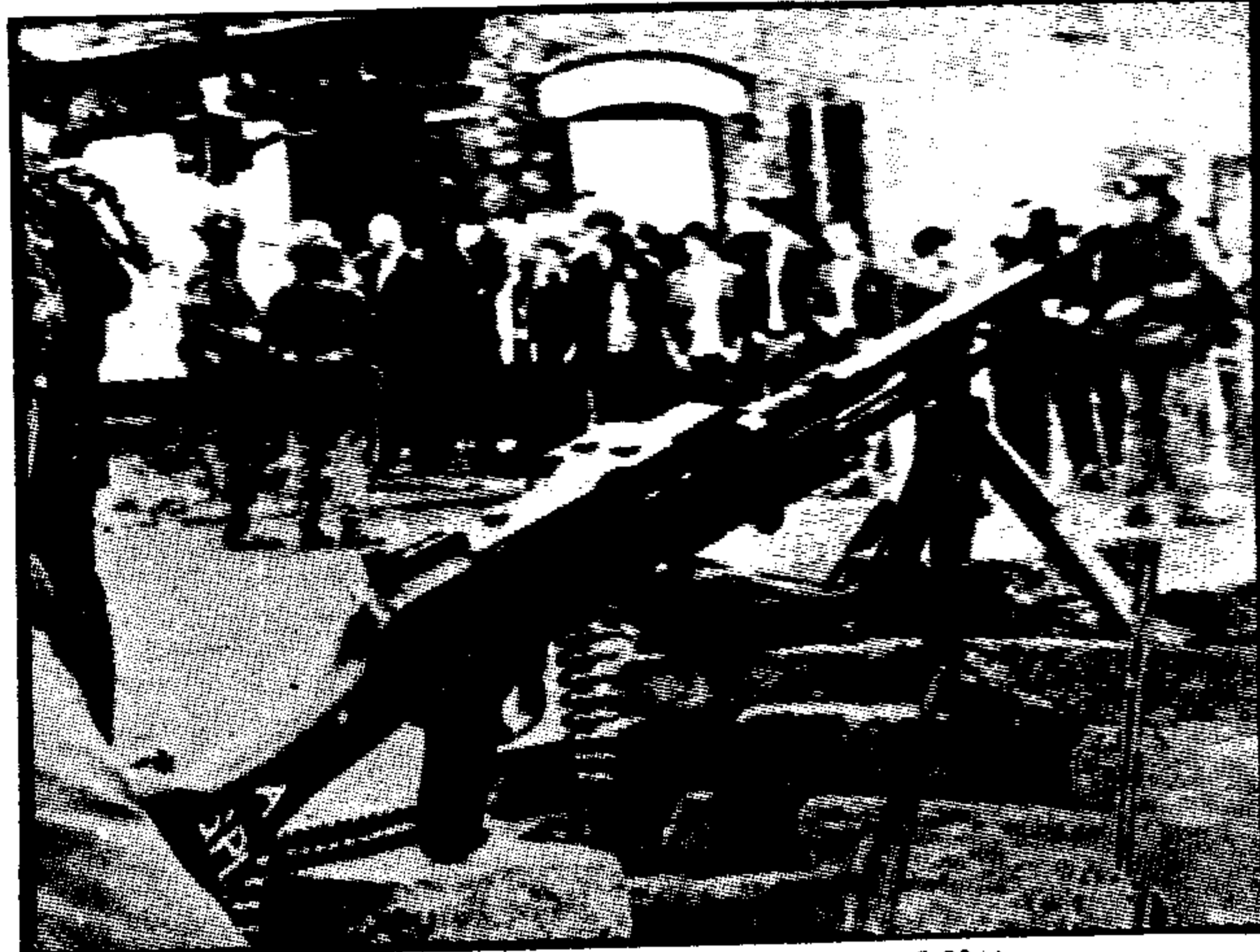
## NOW — GET RID OF TERROR ACT, SAYS NCCL

Manchester branch of the National Council for Civil Liberties has brought out a second and much enlarged edition of its valuable and informative pamphlet "The state, the law and Ireland". Mainly produced as a guide to the Prevention of Terrorism Act and an aid to agitation for its non-renewal, the pamphlet also contains a section on the Special Powers Act, the extremely repressive legislation used for years to help Stormont subdue the Northern Ireland Catholic population; and on the Emergency Provisions Act which has now replaced it. These laws were clearly used as a model for the Prevention of Terrorism Act — which helps support the view that a country that exports repression will before long

bring it home again.

Considerable work has gone into this second edition (now sponsored by Salford Trades Council, AUEW (TASS) No.10 Divisional Council, and Blackley LPYS) and it ought to get a very wide circulation within the labour movement. Its sponsors suggest that it be used as a basis for discussion meetings, and they offer to send speakers to introduce it and to suggest ways of using it in a campaign.

WF will be reviewing it more fully in a future issue. Meanwhile, we recommend readers to send for a copy right away to 6, Braemar Road, Fallowfield, Manchester 14. The price is 25p, with presumably around 10p for postage.



Living with trigger-happy soldiers

## The idea is submission...

"ON 12th February 1975 Mr. Rees in a letter to Fr. Faul of Dungannon said that he could not possibly justify the release of James Kyle, an internee from Derry.

Mr. Kyle had already been released on the 15th January." So much, say the authors of a small pamphlet on Internment 1971-75 (Fr. Brian Brady, Denis Faul and Raymond Murray), so much for the claim that the Secretary of State personally decides each case only after the most careful scrutiny.

The pamphlet also refutes the claim that Internment is purely a security measure. It reminds readers of Jimmy Moyné who died in Long Kesh of an asthma attack. Another internee, Hugh Trainor, is spastic in both legs and can hardly walk. Are they really security risks? Or is it that "Internment is the modern

equivalent of the taking of hostages in early society. Then important members of leading families were demanded from subject peoples. The idea is... submission."

The authors in fact demonstrate that those proven to have committed the 'offense' of membership, of an illegal organisation, generally serve a shorter term than those merely suspected and interned.

WF doesn't normally review the writings of priests. That this pamphlet — so full of bitter antipathy to British rule — appears over the names of three priests, is testimony to the depth of popular feeling in the Catholic community of Northern Ireland, and ample refutation of the lie that only a tiny number of "extremists" keep up the struggle.

## THE MURDERERS GO FREE

ON September 8th, 30 Long Kesh internees were sentenced to a total of 22 years (between them) for their part in the attempted breakout in which Hugh Coney was shot dead at point blank range by British soldiers. No-one was sentenced to anything for murdering Hugh Coney...



On returning from her recent binge around America, Margaret Thatcher praised the United States for the way it managed to combat inflation to a much greater degree than Britain. She failed to add that even though unemployment in this country is bad enough, it is proportionately nearly twice as bad in the USA. In fact George Meany, one of America's top union bureaucrats and no enemy of the Administration, is publicly predicting a possible 20 million unemployed next year. Next time anyone says higher wages means pricing yourself out of a job, remember that lower wages means penny-pinching someone else out of a job and that productivity and efficiency mean working yourself out of a job.

# WHAT A FARCE! A jobs plan by a government that's cutting jobs

Chancellor Denis Healey chose the wrong day to unveil his package of plans to dampen down unemployment. He should have chosen the First of April to make sure of the right response.

The £175 million package is designed, of course, less to dampen down the rate of unemployment as the fury of delegates at the Labour Party Conference. With Jack Jones - a

man whose approving touch transforms the most blatantly anti-working class policy into "a bid for socialism in our time" - giving his support to the measures, it seems that they have succeeded already in their real purpose.

- The package plans:
- \* to extend the £10 a week Temporary Employment Subsidy to the whole country;
  - \* to create 15,000 jobs mainly

for young people in the public service sector;

- \* to offer employers taking on school leavers an additional subsidy;
- \* to increase the number of places at 'skill-centres' for training and re-training by about 8,000;
- \* to offer unemployed workers help in moving to areas of lower unemployment.

These steps are to be backed up by increased investment in modernising industry and advance factory building and construction.

The reaction from the Labour and trade union left was almost unanimous. Eric Heffer felt the proposals were "very disappointing", Frank Allain thought they "only scratched the surface", Syd Bidwell claimed "the measures are only a stop-gap papering over the cracks" while Dennis Skinner condemned the "paltry measures".

Despite a lukewarm but generally favourable reception by the TUC, Clive Jenkins felt the measures were "too little and too late", Ray Buckton said they were only "short term palliatives", and Bernard Dix of NUPE noted that by cutting expenditure on public services the government was going to make thousands of older workers redundant while offering a handful of school leavers jobs.

## Abandon

Eddie Loyden, MP for Liverpool Garstang, summed it all up saying "This is an obvious move made because of the immensity of the Labour Party Conference. It ignores the real situation, which is to see a dramatic change in government policies. Without this there can be no real hope, even for the immediate future - not while the government is prepared to abandon the principle of never using unemployment as a means of fighting inflation".

The scandal is that for every job that's scraped up to

a fanfare of publicity, 5 or 10 more jobs are being cut, either as a general result of government policies such as the £6 pay limit, or through direct cut-backs by the government itself. That's how, while the Healey package of last week may put 100,000 youngsters in work for a time, the unemployment figures are set to go on climbing, perhaps as far as the 2 million mark.

At the TUC conference, a CPSA delegate pointed out that several thousands of jobs could be created in the civil service simply by cutting the working week by five hours. If the same policy were adopted nationally - if the government were to institute a maximum week of 35 hours, for instance - unemployment could be mopped up in no time.

## Failure

This is something the whole labour movement should campaign for. At a local level, campaigns against overtime working and long hours would serve to link up the employed and the unemployed. Where firms have low order books, workers would demand progressively reducing hours until there is work for all - without loss of pay.

The irrelevance of the Healey 'package' lies in the same area as the fundamental failure of Labour's policies all along. Instead of starting out from the recognition that capitalism cannot provide full and secure employment, Healey's starting point is that of propping up the system. And the very employers whose thirst for profits guides every step they take - including laying off workers when profits are low - are pampered with subsidies and inducements instead of being cleared out of the way so that what society needs can be produced come what may and regardless of the rake-off that's in it for some idle and superfluous shareholder.



## OFFICIAL FORECAST: MORE ON THE DOLE

OF the 813,055 unemployed people in Great Britain in May, the Dept. of Employment estimates that about 303,000 (or 37 per cent) are having to live on unemployment benefit only. This is £9.80 for an insured man, or single woman. This included 243,000 men and 61,000 women. A further 96,000 people were getting unemployment benefit plus some supplementary allowance; because the £9.80 did not cover their expenses. There were 252,000 people not entitled to unemployment benefit and living on supplementary allowance. And there were also 162,000 people registered as unemployed but receiving no payment.

These figures are contained in the August issue of the DE Gazette, which also gives some figures for the cost of unemployment benefit. For the 13 weeks ending May 30th 1975, unemployment benefit in Britain cost £82,449,000 (not including administration).

This was an average of £6.34 million per week. (In the same period of 1974 the cost was £51,870,000).

In the April budget the government announced cuts in spending for the next financial year (1976-77) of £86 million off the education service and £75 million off the health and personal social service budget.

The latest (August) issue of their Economic Review published by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research forecasts an even greater number of unemployed people shortly.

"Our 'central' forecast is that, on present policies, the trough in output should be reached fairly soon, but that the recovery will be slow. Unemployment is therefore likely to continue to rise rapidly, perhaps reaching 1 1/2 million (UK, seasonally adjusted, excluding school leavers and adult students) this winter and increasing further

to perhaps as much as 1 1/2 million by the end of next year..

"Arithmetically the largest single cause of the depressed outlook lies with personal consumption expenditure. Although the savings ratio is assumed to fall somewhat, the reduction of subsidies and the introduction of the new pay policy (together with falling employment) are likely to reduce real personal disposable income so much that consumers' expenditure is forecast to fall both this year and next by 1/2-1 per cent"

(Labour Research)

## £6 FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST?

"... on the whole the next 20 years will see mainly a vast increase in unthinking, uncritical leisure based on activities which depend upon random chance ... like bingo, roulette and certain card games, and on forms of gambling sports - football pools, horse-racing, greyhound racing. I believe it is gambling which is likely to occupy the large mass of the population..."

Some people make forecasts and sit back to see what happens. Morry Finiston, boss of the British Steel Corporation, didn't leave things to chance. He's taken an area of thousands of steel jobs to make sure that his picture of a world gone to the dogs turns out as he forecast it ten years ago. And for those still working for B.S.C. the biggest gamble is who's next to go...

IN "Fort Beswick" and "Fort Ardwick", two concrete fortresses housing scores of families in central Manchester, the tenants are up in arms at the rent increases caused by a rise in the price of the central heating. In the maisonettes the cost has soared from £1.04 to £3.12.

Mrs. Hannah Kirk, an old age pensioner, complained "Everybody's mad about it. It's taken us completely by surprise. I should have something to live on after I've paid all my bills, but the way things are going, it will be very difficult. The only on a pension of £4 a week and I can't afford any more."

Look at a picture of trade unionists marching with pensioners outside the TUC conference as an annual event, look on the platform of the biggest pensioners' rallies, and who do you see? Jack Jones, leader of the TUC, and architect of the £6 flat-rate rise. He does not agree with Jack Jones



manage to fork out the extra, the heating bills have already gone up twice already recently."

Inflation hits no-one harder than those on fixed incomes. Of all the victims of rocketing food prices, the worst hit are those for whom almost the entire after-rent budget is spent on food. There are few whose living standards have been attacked so sharply - and so perilously - as pensioners.

Look at a picture of trade unionists marching with pensioners outside the TUC conference as an annual event, look on the platform of the biggest pensioners' rallies, and who do you see? Jack Jones, leader of the TUC, and architect of the £6 flat-rate rise. He does not agree with Jack Jones

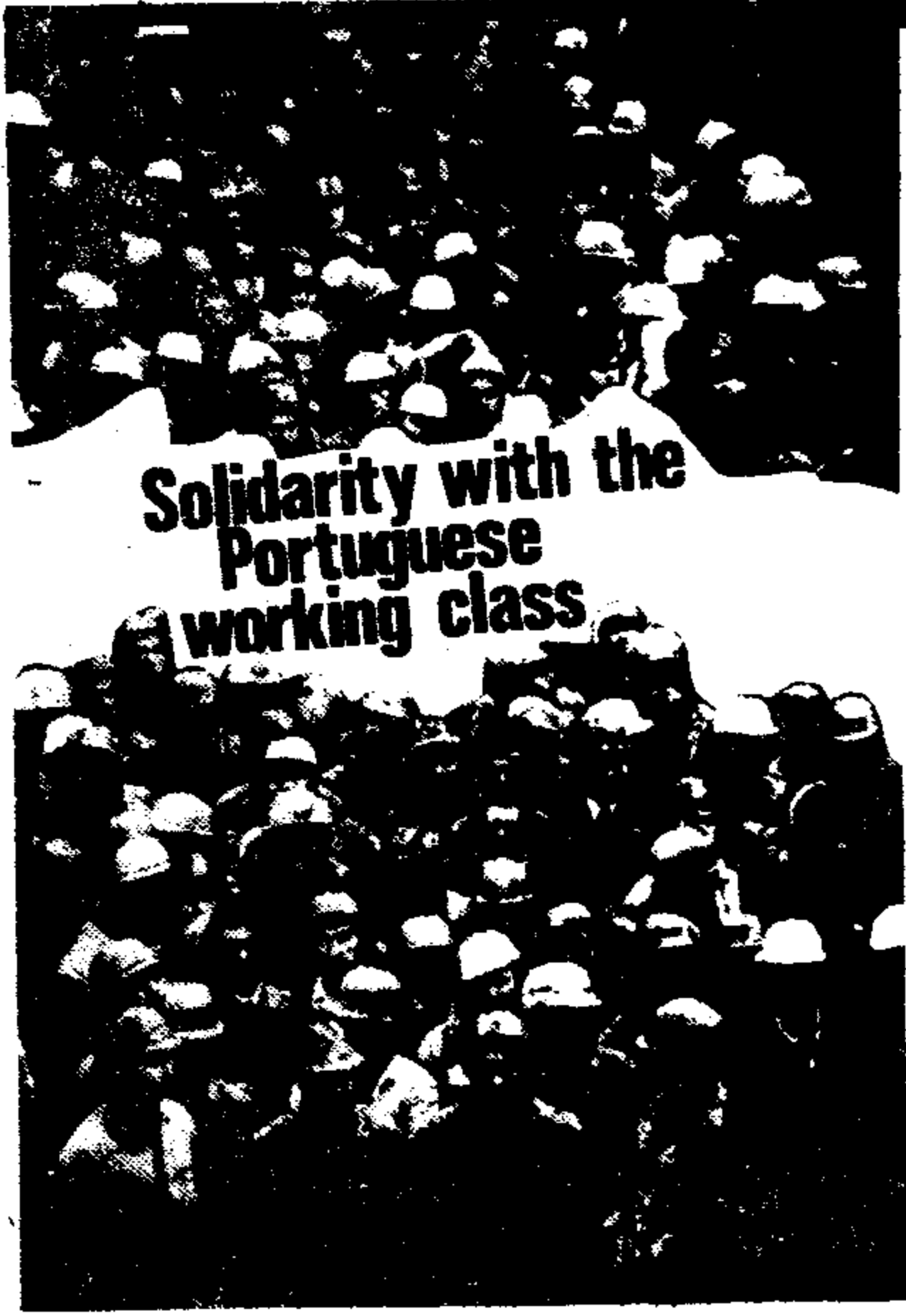
that workers should accept cuts in their living standards - either to haul capitalism out of the mire or the Labour Government out of the mess it's in. We believe his £6 plan is anti-working class. But we do agree that no-one can afford LESS than £6 - and if that's true for wages, it's doubly and trebly true for pensioners. For the unemployed. For unsupported mothers. For students.

But does the 'pensioners' champion extend his flat-rate £6 rise to them? So far he has been silent. In the government's compulsory measures these people are excluded. So there's no £6 maximum limit for them. But on present showing, they don't even look like getting the bare £6. Or anything

like it! Losing your job through redundancy or retirement, or through having to mind small children because there are no nursery places, doesn't bring a sudden freedom from the need to eat, be warm, wear clothes and have entertainment.

We've often said there should be a national minimum wage for all - wage workers, students, those on fixed incomes and benefits, pensioners. £6 right now would be a step in this direction. Will Jack Jones lead the demand for this? And to stop these people being continually left stranded by inflation, benefits should be indexed to the cost of living to rise automatically. How about it, Jack?





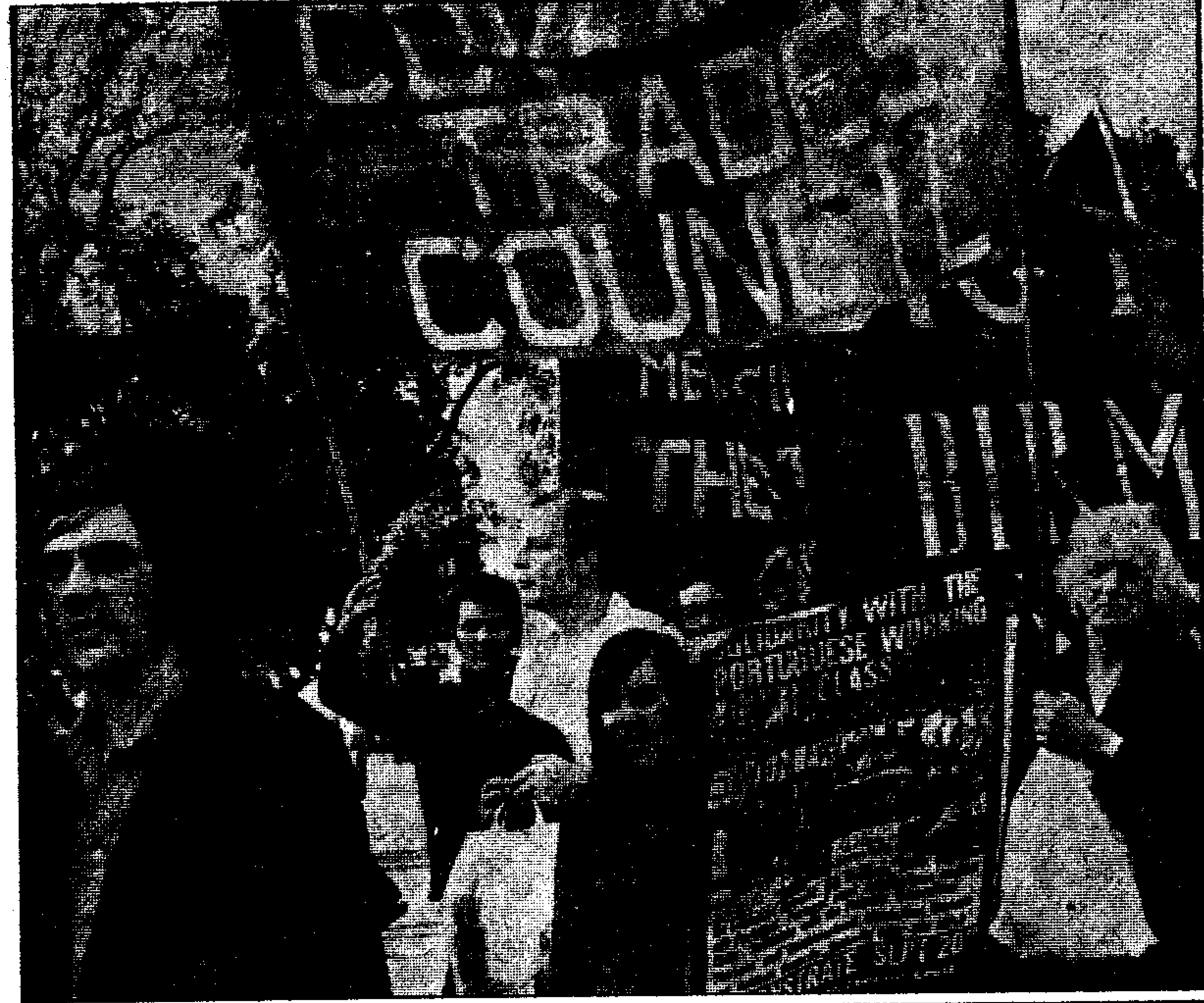
Eight thousand demonstrators marched through London on September 20th to support the Portuguese working class and to insist there should be no NATO or CIA intervention.

At a rally in Hyde Park, the demonstrators were urged to support the MPLA in Angola. Another speaker who received an enthusiastic welcome was Joao Goncalves, a journalist from the worker-controlled Radio Renascenca in Lisbon, which has become a focus of the present struggle against the 6th Provisional Government's attempt to put the radio stations under military control.

The rally was marred by a disruptive and irresponsible attempt at self-aggrandisement by the IS group. Under duress, the demonstration organisers, the Portuguese Workers Coordinating Committee, were forced to hand over their platform to IS (although an IS speaker had been specifically rejected in pre-demonstration organising meetings). Resulting arguments between IS and the CP led in some cases to scuffles.

IS must not be allowed to ride roughshod over the Portugal campaign using such bully-boy tactics; equally the solidarity movement must not allow itself to be diverted into recriminations against IS.

United work must go ahead to build local solidarity groups and to prepare for the solidarity conference to be called in the New Year.



# Forces of the right gathering in Portugal

AS the 6th Provisional Government took office in Portugal, all the millionaire press here acclaimed a triumph for "democracy". What specially pleased them as the presence of four ministers from the Socialist Party, and two from the 'liberal' PPD. The EEC suddenly found its problems in giving aid to Portugal decreasing. And their hopes must have been redoubled when they read in the New York Times that the CIA — that other well known guardian of democracy — was supplying several million dollars a month to the Socialist Party leaders to bolster them in their efforts.

And what has the government done—or tried to do? It has promised 200 million escudos (about £35 million) loan to ITT—just for continuing operations in Portugal. It has sent troops into all the television and radio stations. It has announced plans to set up a new 'internal security' force, the 'Military Intervention Group'. Obviously they hope that this new force—if it is ever established—will be more reliable than its present force, COPCON, which is riddled with left wing influence.

In short, the 6th Government has done its best to restore state authority and re-stabilise capitalism—which is just what the EEC, Nato and the CIA want it to do.

The pro-NATO policies of the Socialist Party and the bureaucratic manoeuvring of the Communist Party—which only just before the formation of the government was declaring it would never enter a coalition with a capitalist party like the PPD—together with the fact that the revolutionary left is still weak, have

allowed the right wing to regain some initiative. And just behind Azevedo and Costa Gomes stand forces more right wing still—like Costa Gomes' close friend General Spinoza, who is talking openly about the underground activity of his 'Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Portugal'; and the 'Portuguese Liberation Army', which has claimed credit for a whole number of bombings and is probably responsible for the burning out of large areas of the north.

Behind the oily smirk of Mario Soares stand the hard-faced men of fascist counter revolution, preparing for the moment when successive provisional governments have disorientated the working class sufficiently for them to make a successful attempt.

In Alentejo, landowners have been carrying out armed harassment of peasants and farm-workers who have occupied the land.

The right wing is gathering its forces for civil war—but so are the left and the working class.

The episode Azevedo seized on to justify sending troops into the radio stations—the razing of the Spanish embassy in Lisbon in protest at the executions in Spain—was itself evidence of an increased level of struggle and of internationalist consciousness. The visible tottering of the Franco regime will give renewed confidence to the Portuguese workers.

The other episode Azevedo cited was the occupation of the Emissor Nacional by dis-



Spanish embassy in Lisbon goes up in flames

abled ex-servicemen, who then used the radio station to broadcast their demands for better conditions.

The SUV ("Soldiers United We Will Win") movement is spreading through the army, even into the North. Its demands include the right to organise politically in the army, to distribute political literature, and to form worker-soldier links. Its demonstration of 25th September was reported in the Guardian as 2,000 strong. In fact there were 10,000 soldiers and around 100,000 civilians on it.

Copcon troops went to the radio stations when Azevedo sent them—but once they got there and heard what the workers had to say, many of them sided with the workers. The latest development, as we write, is that barricades have gone up round Radio Renascenca and the daily paper Republica, which are run by their workers.

The Popular Assemblies are growing throughout the country, including the North, where vigilante committees against right wing reaction have now been set up.

It is difficult now to see what can delay a decisive showdown between the Popular Assemblies, workers' committees and the other growing elements of workers' power, and the gathering forces of counter revolution, to determine which will seize power and resolve the present crisis. We in Britain must put every ounce we can muster in the scales on the side of the Portuguese working class.

## A unity which blurs

Eighteen months' struggle of the Portuguese working class to gain control and win socialism and still at the head of government stand men like Costa Gomes and Azevedo, flanked by those who call themselves Communists and Socialists, but who are pulling out all the stops to keep capitalism on its feet in Portugal.

The experience is yet another proof that socialist revolution requires not just revolutionary enthusiasm but the leadership of a revolutionary party equipped with a crystal-clear strategy.

Yet all is far from lost. Thousands of workers are becoming disenchanted with the reformist policies of the CP and the SP and are looking for a revolutionary alternative. Even a very small party with clear-headed politics could grow very rapidly in Portugal at present.

Most of the larger groups on the Portuguese revolutionary left—including the LCI, affiliate of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International—have signed the "Revolutionary United Front" (FUR) manifesto issued on September 10th. This looks like a

step forward. But is it really?

This FUR is a sequel to the United Front (so-called) formed on 25th August which brought together the LCI with the PRP (the Portuguese group with which IS in Britain has connections), LUAR (a guerillaist/semi-anarchist group), the MES and FSP (two groups generally reckoned to be close to the CP in their politics), the MDP (a satellite group of the CP), and the Communist Party.

On 28th August, the CP was expelled from the Front after it had started negotiating with the SP to form the 6th Provisional Government. The Front has since re-formed itself with a different manifesto.

### Criticism

The new manifesto is certainly well to the left of the 25th August platform, which explicitly supported the line of the 5th Provisional Government.

However, the new Front is like the old one in that it can't make up its mind what it is trying to do.

There is certainly an urgent need in Portugal for united action

by the left to resist the right wing and to build the Popular Assemblies and other organs of workers' democracy. Any revolutionary group in Portugal could and should sign concrete practical agreements for definite actions along such lines, while retaining full independence for its political propaganda, including criticism of other left parties with which it has joined in that united action.

Unfortunately, the FUR manifesto contains very little that relates to particular actions. It seems to be more like a general manifesto for uniting the different groups within it into one party.

As such, it is a very muddled party indeed. Apart from the varied assortment of groups within it (even if the MDP is breaking from the CP and moving to a leftward evolution like that of the MAPU in Chile, which is doubtful, it's certainly got a long way to go before it can be described as a proletarian revolutionary organisation), the Front's manifesto is mainly made up of vague good intentions. "Struggle against unemployment" it says: Excellent idea, and of course everyone can

agree to that; but as to how to conduct that struggle—which is of course where the disagreement is going to occur—the manifesto says nothing.

On some points, the vagueness is positively harmful. The manifesto ends up by calling for a Government of Revolutionary Unity. What does that mean? Obviously it depends on who you think are the "revolutionary" elements to be united. And every group inside the FUR has its own interpretation on that!

### Purging

In a country where any specious demagogue is likely to call himself "revolutionary", that is a serious problem.

On a number of points, we would consider the manifesto directly wrong. We cannot agree that "dissolve the Constituent Assembly" is a correct slogan until that dissolution is clearly in favour of a workers' government, rather than, as at present, of an unconstitutional bourgeois government. We cannot agree with the Portuguese nationalism expressed in the manifesto. Its talk of "purging social democrats" could be a cover for the most vicious bureaucratic manoeuvrings by the Communist Party. And we cannot agree with

the manifesto's endorsement of the pro-CP 5th Division (a collection of officers with no rank and file!) as a progressive revolutionary force.

For all these reasons, we cannot agree with Portuguese revolutionary socialists signing the manifesto.

In the short term, it may be the case that the FUR can act as a gathering point for revolutionary-minded workers, and stimulate progressive actions, like the "SUV" movement, apparently started by individuals in the Front. Marxists could and should perfectly well join in such actions without signing the manifesto.

But all this activity is doomed unless a revolutionary strategy is worked out by the vanguard of the Portuguese working class; and that can only come about through the sharpest and clearest political debate. By blurring over the differences between Trotskyists, Maoists, syndicalists, semi-anarchists and CP satellites or ex-CP satellites, under a vague programme of good intentions, the FUR holds back the process of clarification.

"We need an organisation, not a nebulous blot", wrote Trotsky in 1938. For the revolutionary workers of Portugal today, the same is true.

E.B.



# Bitter lessons but days of hope

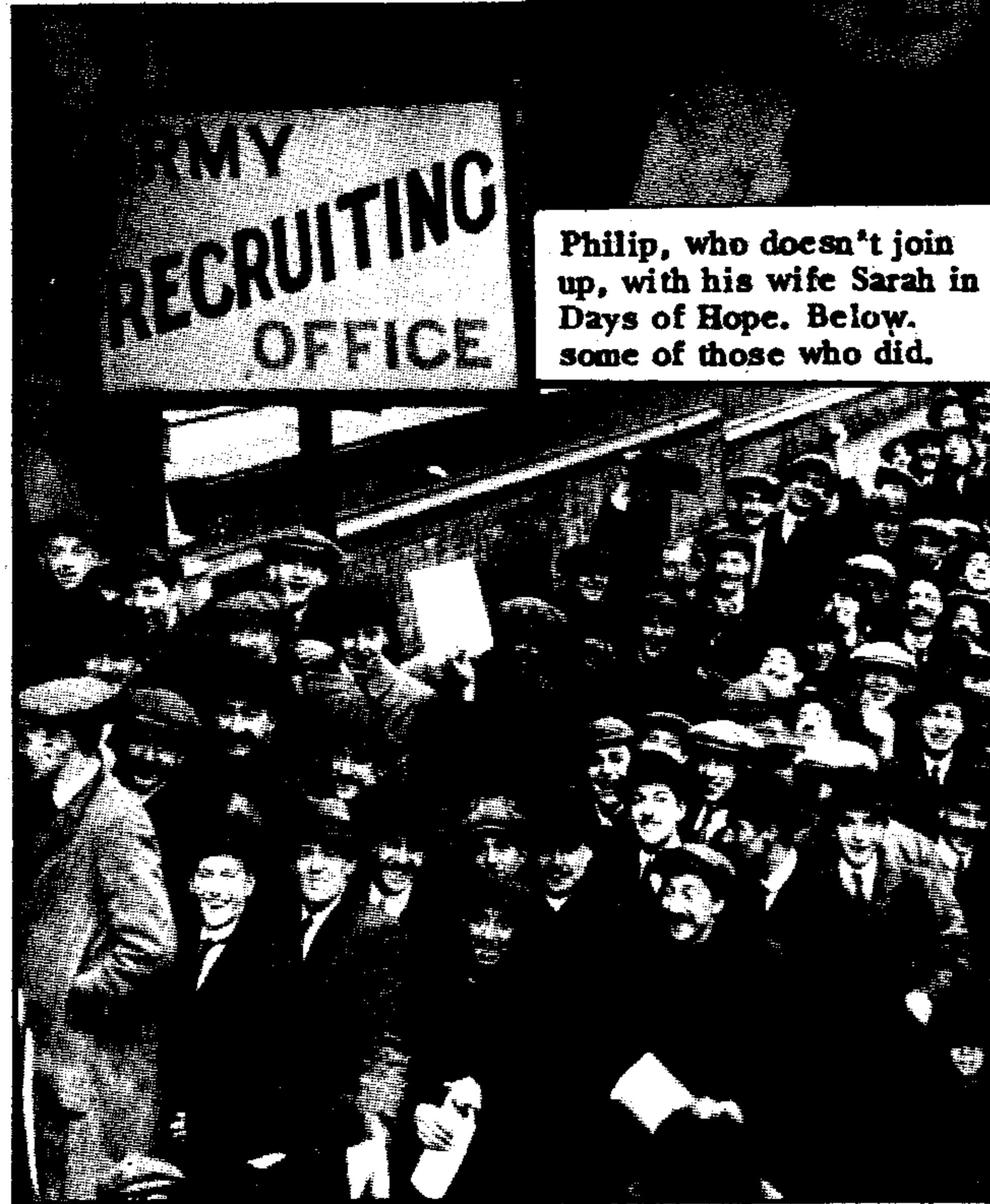
THE Garnett-Loach-Allen team (of Big Flame fame) continue to battle away in the television medium to give to an audience normally fed on offensive banality something of the realities of working class life. Their latest work, "Days of Hope" (BBC1) is a refreshing reconstruction of crucial events in the period between 1916 and 1926. The theme that runs through the first 3 parts (we go to press too early for the 4th) is that of the problems and conflicts faced by workers in having to make political choices, forced upon them by the bitter reality of their lives.

The first film, set in 1916 when conscription was introduced for the carnage in Flanders, established just this — that there was a choice. Ben, from a Yorkshire family, joins up, but his brother in law Philip, supported by Ben's sister Sarah, becomes a conscientious objector. This means having to stand up to the forces of the state, the Church and the 'representatives of labour'. The local union official argues that as the labour movement is in favour of state intervention, so it is in favour of conscription. It is only the ILP and a handful of others who oppose the war — mainly on pacifist, Christian socialist grounds. Isolated from any mass support, they have to suffer deeply for their convictions.

## Sentenced to death

And Philip does suffer. He is beaten, tied to a post in enemy firing lines, and sentenced to death, commuted to 10 years' hard labour. The limitations of his individual, conscience stricken protest are made clear — he has no conception of trying to spread his beliefs, win support, clarify the issues. We see only briefly, in a discussion behind the trenches, an alternative, the revolutionary socialist who condemns the war as a ruling class war, pitting workers from different countries against each other, and simply refuses to fight in it.

Ben, meanwhile, finds himself part of the British army of occupation in Ireland. Billeting in farmhouses like



Philip, who doesn't join up, with his wife Sarah in Days of Hope. Below, some of those who did.

that of his parents, seeing his companion blown up, his political education on British oppression of colonial peoples is beginning.

This is taken further in the second film, when, in the lockout of the Durham miners in 1921, the war 'comes home' to England. Ben, now an army deserter, with some knowledge of Lenin's work, is in the forefront of the fight against the army's use of their 'Irish' methods in England, against striking workers. The army officer may believe his own words that "we're just here to protect the community", but Joel the strike leader knows that "we are the community", who will make the 'sacrifices' that Pritchard, the local land-owner and pit-owner, says "we've all got to make". "In this country it's revolution by consent", says Pritchard, as families go hungry and are intimidated by soldiers who drill to his tune of "violence has no place in British life".

## CUTS CUTS

DEATH by a thousand cuts. That's the picture we get from a Manchester reader who has sent us some cuttings and notes.

On 11th September the local paper reported that "Education chiefs in Greater Manchester say the school calendar may be altered and other changes made to cut spending." In nearby Rochdale there are plans to close schools after 5pm to save money on heating, thus depriving a number of educational and community organisations of a meeting place.

The same paper reported that students intend to occupy public buildings in Manchester in protest against cuts in educational spending, inadequate grants and the massive cut-back in teacher training colleges.

Plans to improve Manchester Royal

Infirmaries have been discussed for the past 13 years. Last week, however, the Area Health Authority learned that the £20-million scheme would be scrapped "because of the financial situation". Cuts will be hitting other hospitals too, where previous plans for such vital items as a new X-ray department have been abandoned.

In nearby Warrington the council has mooted the idea of having the dustbins emptied once every ten days rather than once a week. Great for the rats! The North West Water Authority is axing £15-million worth of capital improvement as part of its cut-back. This involves not going ahead with new storm water tanks for Oldham, where last year poison seeping into the supply caused the town to be without water for a few days.

The cuts-at-all-costs mentality has led the Manchester Social Services Committee to turn down applications for cash help under the urban aid programme made by 19 different

voluntary organisations including the Bangladesh Welfare and Information Centre and the West Indian Organisations Co-ordinating Committee. Perhaps the most scandalous of these cuts has been the refusal by the Committee to pay for the renovation of a refuge for battered wives in Chorlton.

The Greater Manchester area is planning also to abandon 161 road improvement schemes in the area with an estimated cash saving of £600 million.

## ANARCHY

There have also been recommendations to cut the library service and the parks and recreation services in the area. So if you've run out on your violent husband and can't get into the refuge, chances are the nearest library will have been amalgamated with one across town and there won't even be a park bench on which to rest your weary limbs.

Greater Manchester is not the exception. It is typical. Everywhere there is a similar picture of cutbacks in every aspect of social services combined with rising prices, cuts in wages and rising unemployment. The kernel of the problem is that capitalism starts out with the anarchy of profit-pursuit and then, under pressure, sees what can be done to alleviate the needs of the working class. Socialism, on the other hand (a word the government, when it is convenient, occasionally takes in vain) starts off

with the needs and rights of working people and then looks to see what plan of production and work is necessary to satisfy those needs.



"We have cut the increase in public expenditure back very heavily already this year. The rate of increase rose in real terms by 8 per cent last year. This year we plan on cutting it back to one and a half per cent. I don't agree that it makes sense to cut further this year because we must accept substantial public sector deficits if we're to avoid even more unemployment. But as recovery gets under way we must achieve a drastic cut in our public sector deficit." Denis Healey, interviewed in Newsweek end of September.



BRADFORD, like most industrial towns, has many human problems, to the extent that demand for the social services is outstripping the present resources. You might think therefore that the social services need improving and their capacity increasing. Not so. A report to be presented to Bradford District Council Social Services Committee this week recommends what it sees as an "inevitable" solution — rationing. Yes, rationing, of social services. Thus it'll be "Very sorry Mrs. Smith — you've used all your vouchers this month. You'll have to wait till next month for your nervous breakdown..."

But again, the miners learn to retaliate, over-powering the soldiers when they try to take away the food sent by workers in Manchester and Liverpool, and organising its distribution, using their own force to try and prevent victimisation. They don't succeed, lacking organisation, left isolated by the official movement, trusting the bosses too much, remaining isolated from workers outside their community. They are double crossed and their leaders jailed. But it is a bitter lesson in political understanding.

Joel and Ben have both become communists by the third part. This is centred around the experience of the first Labour government of 1924, the manoeuvring to handle a major dock strike, and the illusions of the left Labourites in a parliamentary road to socialism at a time when the Labour Home Secretary is collaborating with previous Tory plans to divide up the country into zones and prepare a strike breaking force in the event of a general stoppage.

But the choice for Ben, particularly, is more confusing now. Although he's joined the Communist Party, he's presented with information about the increased bureaucratisation in the Soviet Union, and he can only hide his confusion behind blind loyalty to the Party line. The play runs into problems here, as the party's real relation to the working class and its own roots are not conveyed, and it tends to come across simply as a number of people who follow the line and the leadership with honest and fervent, but sloganistic and basically religious faith. Far too much of the dialogue is stilted, and there is a tendency to sentimentalise the workers in the series in general. Especially in this third part, many opportunities of developing ideas and imagination in the characters are lost in propaganda.

## Their smooth exterior

But "Days of Hope" deals with issues as relevant now as then, and this is its intention and its strength. Which side do you take in a ruling class war? (Ireland today.) Whose side are the 'peace-makers' on, in England and Ireland? What are the plans of the ruling class, behind their smooth exterior, to cope with working class struggles that go beyond the ability of trade union and Labour bureaucrats to cope with? What else can the working class rely on but its own strength in a situation where — unlike what you are told by the TV 'News' programmes — you go on strike because you can't feed your family properly or achieve the means for basic self respect. The play's weakness is that it doesn't express the relationship between these things and political consciousness very imaginatively. But its great strength is that it does attempt very passionately to express them at all.

Maggie Hope & John W. Harding

## Horror of the control units

NOT LONG ago, workers building a prison extension noticed that something was missing from the plans: the building was to have no windows. They immediately alerted their union, and all further work on the wing was blocked.

This action took place in Australia. Whoever the builders were who constructed the windowless, soundproofed isolation 'control' units in this country either noticed nothing strange, or did nothing about it.

Techniques of isolation and sensory deprivation have become increasingly popular with prison authorities. In an intense form, they were used as a torture in Northern Ireland in 1971. Nine men were so damaged by this treatment that courts have awarded them large sums of money as compensation. In the USA, 'behaviour controlling' drugs are used as well — resulting so far in two known deaths. In Germany, such deep isolation methods have completely broken the health of the four defendants in the 'Baader/Meinhoff' trial, so much so that the trial is about to be abandoned.

After a number of protests, the British Home Office announced in February of

this year that it was rejecting the policy of placing prisoners in control units to 'discipline' them. The unit at Wakefield prison had been 'put on ice', they said, and the one at Wormwood Scrubs wouldn't be used 'in the foreseeable future'.

But only 3 months later, three men were put into the unit at Wakefield. And in June it came out that a third unit, at Gartree prison in Leicester, was ready to go into service.

David Anslow, Mick Shendler and Henry Dougan have been shut up alone for 23 hours a day since May 22nd. They have two half hour exercise periods in a tiny steel cage, again alone. No sound. No daylight. No conversation or human contact (the Home Office describes control unit warders as "coolly professional"). David Anslow has now been put back to the harshest 'stage one' of the regime, and is said to be strip-searched as often as three times a day.

Labour Party members should now express their abhorrence of these methods of breaking prisoners, and press Roy Jenkins to put an end to the control units — in deed as well as in words.

ML

## MEETINGS

LONDON Workers Fight readers' meeting: *The threat of civil war in Portugal*. Speakers: Simon Temple (recently returned from Portugal) and a speaker from the PWCC. 8pm, Sunday 19th October, at the 'George', Liverpool Road, NI (Angel underground).

Published by Workers' Fight, 98 Gifford Street, London N.1 Printed by voluntary labour. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

ISLINGTON Trades Council meeting against the cuts. Speakers from public sector unions, tenants, etc. 7.30pm, Monday 13th October, at Lofting Road library, Caledonian Rd.

FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND demonstration, demanding end of the ban on Trafalgar Square, repeal of the 'Terrorism' Act, and dropping of charges on the BWNIC 16. Assemble Speakers' Corner, 2.30pm Sunday 5th October.



# Plessey workers may fight sack with occupation

WHITE COLLAR workers from the three Plessey telecommunications factories on Merseyside (Edge Lane, Speke and Kirkby) held a mass meeting last Monday, 22nd September, after the bosses threatened to cut 1000 jobs, largely amongst technical and supervisory staff.

The management have said that they want the redundancies 'as soon as possible', and have blamed them on a cut-back in Post Office orders. Whatever the immediate cause (some Plessey workers are saying that it's the bosses' fault because they haven't diversified enough) the main point is clear: the bosses are trying to unload their problems onto the backs of the Plessey workers.

Monday's mass meeting voted to resist redundancies, by industrial action if necessary. This was seen to mean occupation. The meeting also called on all Merseyside MPs to oppose cuts in telecommunications spending.

On Friday 27th seven Labour MPs and trade union representatives went on a delegation to the Department of Industry about the cutbacks. All the government would commit itself to was talks with the Post Office. Eric Heffer, speaking on behalf of the five Merseyside Labour MPs, committed them to supporting any action that the Plesseys workers took to defend their jobs.

On Tuesday, coachloads of Plessey workers will be going to lobby the Labour Party conference in Blackpool.

Big as they are, these 1000 threatened redundancies on Merseyside, with 1000 elsewhere in the country, are only the thin end of the wedge for Plesseys workers. Along with the notice to the 1000 Plesseys have said that they want 1500 production workers on short time after October 6th.

Clearly more sackings will be on the way unless the present cutbacks go through.

Maria Riley

John Bloxam

**TUESDAY 30th: 1500** Plessey workers from Liverpool lobbied Labour Party Conference today demanding the right to work. They joined contingents from Plesseys factories in Chorley, Wigan and Deeston. Mass demonstrations had preceded the departing coaches from Liverpool - 3000 from the Edge Lane factory, 500 from Kirkby. J.B.

No-ONE should believe that the £6 award to council manual workers proves that the Government has come round to thinking that the £6 rise is - as the TUC say - an 'entitlement'. It's what you can get if you are prepared to fight for it.

£6 falls a long way short of what the claim should have been. The unions have admitted that 27% increases would have been needed to restore the purchasing power of their members' wages. £6 is only 12%.

Over a week before the settlement, 75 shop stewards of the General and Municipal Workers Union representing council workers in Greater Manchester, Manchester City and Rochdale, decided to call out their 3,500 members if the claim wasn't paid in

# £6 for council manual workers but Nothing without organising

present standards of living, and therefore no reason why workers shouldn't try to do better than just standing still.

This means rejecting incomes policy outright. It means exercising the right to come back for more any time we feel like it. It means coupling lump sum demands which should at the very least restore fully the loss in spending power of our wages with automatic cost of living rises fully compensating for further erosion of wages.

Demands without fighting organisation are a joke. In every factory and within every union brothers and sisters have to organise to impose this policy on the employers - and on the union leaders.

JACK PRICE

full. Dick Pickering, one of the representatives, made their intentions plain. "Our resolution demanding the full £6 will be passed on to the negotiators ... We will take industrial action if it is not paid".

## Poorly paid

There is a traditional connection between the council workers' negotiations and those of the hospital ancillary workers, so it looks as if these 220,000 poorly paid workers will get the £6 too. Certainly there is widespread feeling that they are entitled to the amount in full.

But with inflation showing no signs of slowing down, with threats of increases in taxation, and with impending rent and rate rises, the argument as to what amount would be enough not just to cover the decline in purchasing

power of wages up till now, but to cover it for the duration of twelve months is largely a guessing game. What's needed is a claim that doesn't leave things to chance, a demand that lump sum increases are coupled with automatic rises in the line with the cost of living of workers and their families. The rise, is supposed to stand for twelve months. In that time the dustmen, sewage workers, cleaners, cooks and others who have just got £6 will have seen a catastrophic fall in their standards. If they do sit out the year.

## Nothing sacred

There is nothing sacred about £6 - unless you sing praises to poverty. There is nothing sacred about the twelve months you are supposed to wait until you put in another claim. And there is nothing sacred about

# Liverpool LP leaves meet to demand 'NO RETREAT!'

AT ONE stage, the chairman, Bob Wareing, commenting on the comparison between the treatment of the Rank Corporation's ex-chairman and what happens to working class people, said: "This is what it's all about. This is why we are in the Labour Party".

Indeed, that was the general feeling amongst the 200 Labour Party members who attended the joint Liverpool Borough Labour Party/Tribune meeting, "No Retreat from the Manifesto". And when Ian Mikardo said that the present government "had not been raped by economic circumstances, they've gone along as consenting adults", he expressed the common view of the other platform speakers, Eric Heffer and Tony Mulheam (vice-chairman of the Borough Labour Party).

## MOBILISE

The platform speakers criticised the government for going against the Manifesto. The only way forward, both for the 'people' and for 'the economy', was in 'an irreversible shift in power and wealth' and 'socialism'. A campaign had to be built to mobilise both the rank and file of the labour movement and the Labour Party against the present retreat. We would agree; but the

picture of Labour left-wingers appealing to the skies for socialism while a Labour government stamps on the working class is indeed a traditional one - as a Workers Fight supporter pointed out in the brief discussion at the end.

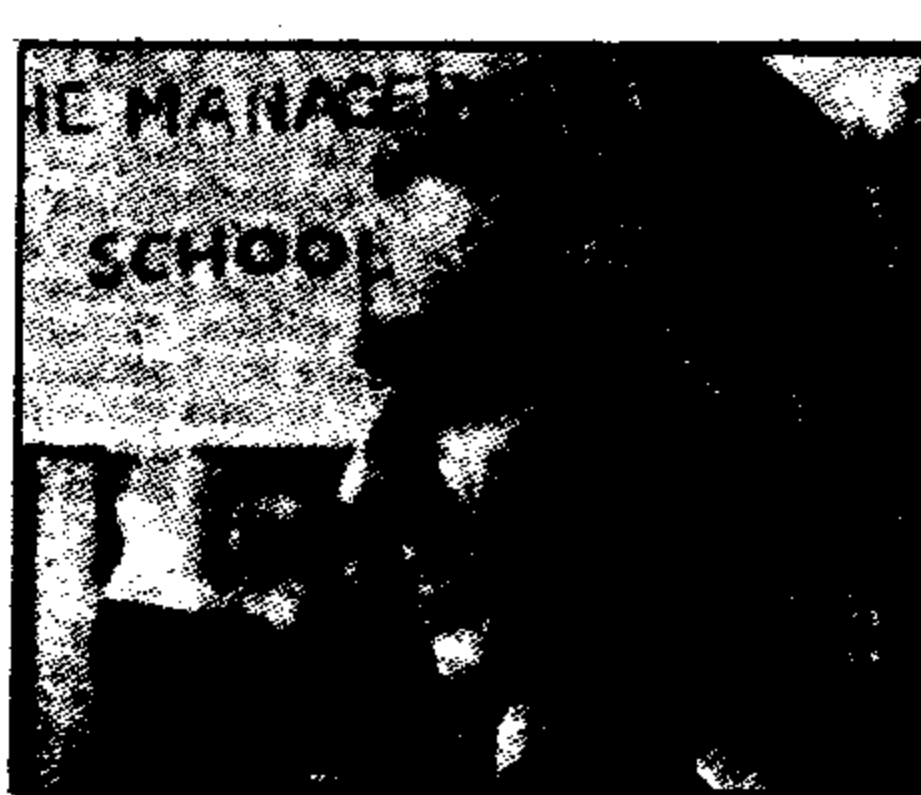
## CONTROLS

He made two points on how to break out of the traditional deadlock.

First, the need for clarity in policy. "No retreat from the manifesto" will not do as a platform, when that manifesto included centrally the wage-cutting 'Social Contract'. Nor should the left press for the import controls favoured by Tribunes like Heffer and Mikardo. Such controls only mean an effort to solve British workers' problems at the expense of workers in other countries. As long as militants are tied to such 'national interest' policies the right will continue to run rings round the left.

The second point was the need to tie any left wing movement in the Labour Party to the industrial struggle of the labour movement. Here and now, that means supporting and encouraging struggles against the £6 wage cutting scheme, as Norwood CLP has done. John Bloxam

# A school run by strikebreakers



Striking headmaster Terry Ellis

FOR a week inspectors have been attempting to run William Tyndale school, in Islington, London, and only now have handed over to peripatetics who have been drafted in to break the strike which is supported by all the teachers at the school bar the deputy headteacher.

The seven members of the National Union of Teachers went on strike in protest against an extra inspection of the school ordered by the Inner London Education Authority. The ILEA action was the result of a campaign waged by certain school managers and local right wing Labour councillors, against the progressive teaching methods used at William Tyndale.

One of the inspectors who were supposed to set the school straight was seen grappling with an eight-year old child trying to force him in a direction he didn't want to go. One visiting teacher stated that he saw them using methods so old fashioned they would never dare advocate them in public.

## Class size

Average attendance while the inspectors were there was 65 out of a roll of 114. Since the ILEA considered it necessary to send in 13 inspectors to do the job, this meant that the average class size must have been 5 - and this with the deputy headteacher and two part-time teachers to help them!

The teachers object to the terms of reference of the inspection. The inspectors have been specifically told not to look into the activities of the school managers. Further, though

a routine inspection in February produced a favourable report, the Chief Inspector will not guarantee that retrospective criticisms will not be introduced into the inspectors' report without the teachers' knowledge.

The Tyndale staff have set up alternative education facilities in a nearby church hall for the duration of the dispute. Attendance on the second day was up to 28.

Non-teaching unions attached to the school have given support to the teachers' strike. NUPE instructed the schoolkeeper to do no more than sweep the play ground and open the school (which he had to do to let children in to the attached infants school). The GLC Salaried Staffs Association instructed the school secretary to work to rule.

## Campaign

However, official backing for the teachers from the local NUT has now been reversed, thanks to the efforts of the Communist Party.

The Support Campaign has continued to organise with contacts in 12 London boroughs. But the school managers have submitted a formal complaint against the Tyndale staff to the ILEA, which lays the ground open for them to be sacked.

On Tuesday night 30th September an all-London Rank & File meeting decided to press for a nationally distributed special edition of the "Rank & File" paper giving the facts about the case. Supporters of the campaign are being asked to make regular weekly contributions to keep it going. Information and speakers from the Tyndale staff can be got by phoning 01/359 4545. Sam Deedes.

## CONFERENCE ON UNEMPLOYED

The sharp increase in unemployment in the previously 'prosperous' Birmingham area is evoking a response from the local labour movement. Warley Trades Council is holding a local conference to discuss ways and means of fighting unemployment and redundancies.

Workers Fight supporters in Hamstead AUEW branch moved a resolution calling for Birmingham Trades Council to follow Warley's example. The resolution was passed and will be put to the next Trades Council meeting.

ROLLS ROYCE Engine Division is aiming to cut its 10,000 workforce by a minimum of 400 workers. The cuts affect the company's factories throughout the country.

PYE TMC have also announced the closing down of their Dulwich, London factory, which will make 500 people redundant.

## N.F. TRIES TO BREAK UP ANTI-FASCIST MEETING

The newly formed West London Anti-Fascist Committee held its second meeting on Sunday 21st September, to discuss what action should be taken to combat the forthcoming National Front Annual General Meeting on October 11th at Chelsea Town Hall.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Hammersmith and Camden Trades Councils, Hammersmith hospital shop stewards' committee, IS, IMC, WF, the Communist Party, CPE (ML) and Militant.

As the meeting began, about nine National Front thugs marched in and demanded to know what the committee was going to do about their AGM. At this, the anti-fascists ejected the NF people from the meeting onto the street.

The experience should underline once again the fact that dealing with the National Front is not just a matter of shouting slogans, but also means energetic mobilisation to protect our own meetings - like the "Campaign to Repeal the Immigration Act" on October 10th, which has been threatened by the NF - and to stop the fascists getting a platform.

PETE SMITH (Camden Trades Council)



# BALFOUR AND DARWINS OCCUPIED

FOLLOWING threats of 28 redundancies in the stock control and despatch sections, workers at Balfour Darwins are occupying the Greenland Rd toolworks at Damall, Sheffield.

There have been 100 redundancies already this year, and the management

intend closing the Sheffield plant and moving all stock to Openshaw, Manchester.

On Tuesday, the chairman, Dr John Bailey, and 50 office workers were locked out by shop stewards led by works convenor Derek Simpson in order to make the sit-in more secure.

A meeting between management and the works committee on 13th September led to the resolution that the sit-in would continue until all 500 jobs at Greenland Rd are secure.

Balfour Darwins is part of the Edgar Allen group. Steve Howlett: 24-9-75.