

WORKERS' FIGHT

No.29

7th-20th July

4p

Tories want 2nd class workers DEFEND BLACK WORKERS

DEMONSTRATE ON JULY 22nd!

THE RECENT HOUSE OF LORDS ruling, which made parts of the 1971 Immigration Act retrospective, is an attack on the black community as a whole and an attempt to widen divisions between black and white workers.

It is a savagely brutal measure which threatens thousands with instant deportation. Some have already been deported without even their family or friends being informed, and without a chance to get legal help.

FASCISTS ROUTED IN LIVERPOOL

On Saturday June 30th Colin Jordan and a few supporters attempted to hold a rally against immigration on the Pierhead in Liverpool. In response to a call to prevent the Fascists from speaking, a counter-demonstration of over 400 from all left groups, including Workers Fight, and Black and Jewish organisations gathered at the spot where Jordan and his rats were assembling.

The few Fascists who did appear - 2 wearing military uniforms and swastika armbands - were beaten into the ground until the police rescued them. A diversion then unfortunately allowed Jordan to set up his platform and the demonstrators were faced with a police cordon around the Fascists. The cordon was broken and several more of the Fascists beaten before the police began to make arrests. Tony Boyle, the Tower Hill rent rebel, was seen being beaten up by police as he was driven away in a van. Jordan was finally escorted away by police without having been able to speak.

The magnificent response of the left and labour movement in Liverpool to attempts by Fascists and racials to win popular support should be repeated wherever else they try to show their faces.

LEN GLOVER

Money to Defence Fund,
12 Upper Duke Street,
LIVERPOOL 1.

But this ruling affects all black people. Up and down the country, black people have been hauled into police stations and questioned for hours and told to produce their passports to prove their status. They can be treated like this just on suspicion.

So far it is just a trickle. But there is no doubt that if this measure is allowed to stand, any black person stepping out of line - even for, say, a parking offence, and particularly if he is a trade union militant - can expect the police harassment which already exists to be stepped up.

Already the new situation is being compared with the South African pass laws system. It will make all immigrants - in fact all black people - into official second class citizens.

Hypocrisy

This ruling shows up clearly the hypocrisy of all the Immigration Acts which, we were told, would "help to integrate" black people who were here already. In fact they have created such a racist climate that now the bosses and their political front men can play divide-and-rule to their hearts' content: 'illegal' immigrants can be divided from 'legal' ones, black workers from white workers. Another new bill, the Pakistan Bill, will create a further division, another grouping with its own 'status': Pakistani immigrants will become 'aliens' and have to report to the police regularly or when they move house or job.

Those directly affected by this ruling are faced with instant loss of home and job. Many have children at school here, who know this country as their only home. Others face repression in their country of origin. Families will be split.

These people - and they could number up to 10,000 - are wide open to blackmail: by corrupt police for money; by racist police for information on comrades; by employers who will demand that they toe the line and scab on their mates.

Thus a whole section of the working class can be singled out for victimisation - just when immigrant workers are beginning to find their feet and stand up to the sweat shop bosses and racist trade union officials.

This must be resisted by the whole working class through the labour movement.

Shop stewards committees and trade union branches must take action to defend any worker threatened or harassed by the police, by racists or by fascists.

Already black organisations and sections of the labour movement have protested against the House of Lords ruling. They have decided to withdraw from the Government's 'Race Relations' bodies, which are shown up by this to be irrelevant decorations masking the Government's racist measures.

It is also a fact that repressive measures against one section of the community tend to spread and generally 'narrow the area of previously accepted liberties. It has now been announced that immigrant workers applying for N.I. cards or for their renewal will be asked to show their passports, and that where these create suspicions, the information will be passed on to the police.

This is already setting a new precedent: it has up to now been against civil service policy to pass on information from one branch to another. The confidentiality of the census and much other 'innocuous' information gathering becomes highly questionable.

In response, the Civil and Public Services Association has called on its members not to co-operate

with these new methods, and not to ask to see passports.

The labour movement must follow the lead of the CPSA and resist all racist and discriminatory laws and use its traditional weapons to put an embargo on their operation.

The AUEW voted last week for the repeal of the 1971 Immigration Act (which also has the effect of making post-1971 immigrants subject to deportation for minor offences, such as, for instance, "illegal picketing"). This is a step forward. But it must be fought for through a programme of action based on trade union anti-racist committees defending the black community and eradicating racialism in the labour movement.

Above all, trade union branches and shop stewards committees must take it upon themselves to see to it that any hint of intimidation at work is met by immediate collective action.

Meanwhile, we call upon all workers and socialists to support the mass demonstration of protest which has been called by the black community and workers' organisations.

DEMONSTRATE
JULY 22nd.
Look out for more details



THE MANOEUVRES BEHIND WHITELAW'S ELECTIONS

BY JOHN KELLY



Paddy Wilson— murdered by British Army?

ON THE EVE OF THE NORTHERN Ireland elections for the new Assembly, Senator Paddy Wilson of the SDLP, a former steelworker, was kidnapped and then butchered. He was stabbed at least 30 times. His companion, a Protestant girl, was stabbed twenty times.

The 'credit' for this valiant deed was immediately claimed by a mysterious new Loyalist organisation calling itself the 'Ulster Freedom Fighters'. But rumours immediately began to spread, and not only amongst Orangemen, that the extravagantly savage killings were in fact the work of the British Army SAS (the outfit which specialises in assassinations, sabotage and so on), the intention being to give the SDLP a sympathy boost in the elections

The significance of the rumours

— true or not — is that they sum up the reality of British Government policy and intentions.

The elections were geared to producing a 'moderate' majority in the new Assembly, which would carry through the experiment of powersharing between the two communities. It would, so the British hope, freeze out of influence both the republicans — who are fighting for the democratic rights of the whole Irish people to form a united Irish state; and also the die-hard Orangemen who want a total restoration of the old Stormont state with full power for the Orange Order and the Unionist/Tory party.

As such, the result is a qualified success for the policy of the British Government. Of 78 seats in the new Assembly, 23 are held by Unionists ready to carry through

British government policy., and moves are in progress to get a deal between the various pro-White Paper parties to form an executive, including SDLP (19), Alliance (8) and N.I. Labour Party (1).

Here the efforts of the Government in building up the SDLP and Alliance parties has had a marked success. As long ago as 1969 the policy of integrating sections of the Catholic population into acceptance of a modified 6-County state, through the agency of middle class politicians such as Hulme and Fitt, was the centrepiece of British policy.

The Government's need to beat down the Republicans has led to difficulties for them along this road, as the SDLP went through the motions of 'resigning' and 'non-cooperating' in protest against interment. However, this stance was quickly abandoned.

If the elections are the test, the British appear to have managed to create a powerful force for 'moderation' — which of course means collaboration with continued British occupation and interference.

In fact, of course, power-sharing is very much of a gimmick, which, even if the majority of Catholics are conciliated and the IRA crushed, will solve nothing socially. The economy will be the same as before, with desperate housing and job shortages dominating the life of the communities

Not powersharing in the new Assembly, which itself has no power, and is to the British Government what the Manchester or Croydon councils are) is the answer, but an end to Britain's claims to either rule or police Ireland, or any part of Ireland. The prostitute SDLP is hedging on the question of reunification, and is clearly willing to put it off to some future decade or century.

But Whitelaw and the British Government may be in for rude surprises. Answering the Provisional republican call, many militant Catholics didn't vote at all. The elections are by no means the last word.

ENGINEERS LEAD AGAINST TUC-TORY HORSETRADING

THE FIRST DISTANT THUNDER of the battle to come over Phase 3 was heard at the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers policy conference on 18/19/20 June.

The Tories are, right now, aiming for a deal with the trade union tops. They are willing — in the hope that the present economic upturn will last long enough — to offer some concessions. The trade union tops are willing to take the bait. All of them — including the 'Lefts', Hugh Scanlon and Jack Jones — are steering towards a pact with the Tories as the main road for improvement

At the AUEW Conference, Scanlon pushed the pace a bit too much — and was heavily thrown back. His speeches centred round one theme: defending the TUC-Tory talks. He stated boldly that he would take a vaguely-worded resolution to mean boycott of the talks.

The 69 delegates were mostly shop stewards or convenors, not full-time officials. They might have settled for vagueness — but Scanlon's open challenge pushed them to a 35 to 33 vote against him.

The 'Broad Left' domination of the conference was also expressed in important resolutions for nationalisation of major industries without compensation, for industrial action to bring down the government, and for the repeal of the 1971 Immigration Act.

Take this together with the claim — endorsed by the conference of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions — for £10 increase on the minimum rate and a 35 hour week for engineers, and the engineers have set themselves an impressive programme.

But the programme in itself is only a shell. The shell must be filled. The programme must be carried out.

The conference vote would not be a success if it did not reflect rank

and file militancy riding high. Militants in other unions can take heart from the engineers' decision, and attempt to force their own leaderships to boycott talks.

With the T&GWU conference coming shortly, and similar resolutions on the agenda there, the Tories could be faced with the two major unions refusing to take part in any sort of voluntary wage restraint. This would be a massive defeat for their attempts to bring the trade unions under increasing state control.

But the 'Broad Left' has yet to learn the lesson of the course of its former hero Hugh Scanlon, and transform itself from an electoral machine into a militant rank and file movement. The 'Morning Star' (paper of the Communist Party, which domin-

ates the 'Broad Left') managed to support the boycott of the talks without attacking Scanlon!

The fact that the shell is not yet filled was shown by the failure of the conference to take up the urgent practical questions of the defence of pickets, and of ways and means of building solidarity for the national engineers' claim. Militants must take up these points in 'Broad Left' meetings all over the country.

Opposition to wage curbs must not be allowed to remain on the level of the 'No Recognition' approach to the Industrial Relations Act — the approach that has resulted in the AUEW and the T&GWU each paying out £50000 to the court which they "don't recognise".

The crucial test is in action, not resolutions. The test-case for wage curbs will be the engineers' claim.

KEVIN CROWE

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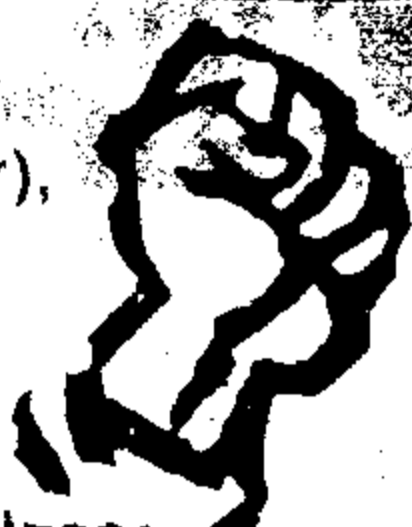
Tony Brockman (Business Manager)

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We apologise to regular readers of Workers' Fight for the late appearance of this issue, and for the lateness of the last 3 issues. The problem is that every process from typesetting through to despatching is done by a small number of people, and therefore any extra effort, such as the production of pamphlets, disrupts the routine. In the last month we have published a 20-page pamphlet on "Racialism and the Working Class", and a 50-page collection of articles on "The Industrial Relations Act and the fight for a General Strike". (See p.11 for details).

The regular fortnightly appearance of Workers' Fight will now resume. The next issue will be out on July 21st, and final date for copy is Saturday 19th July.

W.F. Editorial Board



SUPPORT THE POLITICAL PRISONERS

Internees still imprisoned in N.Ireland have been producing the goods listed below. The money made from sales will go directly to the internees and their families. Orders should be sent to: Sean P. O'Brien 54 Elderfield Road, London E.5. with postage added to the prices below. Due to increased harassment of internees, 4-5 weeks should be allowed for delivery.

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NIXON CLINGS TO OFFICE AS REVELATIONS MULTIPLY

THERE IS A NEW GAME ON THE market in America. According to the instructions on the pack there can be no winners, but the object is, once the cards are dealt, to cheat, lie and out-manoeuvre all the other players. The game is, of course, called Watergate.

Increasingly, one is getting the impression that it isn't the only game without rules called Watergate. For by all the rules and all the expectations, we should by now have witnessed the final come-uppance of Richard Nixon and the installation of Spiro Agnew as the next President of the United States.

The Senate Committee hearings are still concentrating on Watergate itself, even though it is now clear that the burglary and bugging of the Democratic HQ by the Republican Committee to Re-elect the President (CREEP) was only a minor incident in a whole range of operations radiating out from the central core of Nixon's personal paranoia.

The fact that Nixon probably knew nothing about that particular break-in before his agents were caught, now points not to his innocence, but to the comparatively

routine nature of the job. As *The Economist* put it last week, 'why should the President of the USA be consulted every time a faulty bug was to be replaced.'

We now also know the purpose of the bugging: not to discover any of the other party's 'campaign secrets', but the rather nastier purpose of nosing out personal scandal to discredit their electoral opponents. At the same time there was a White House list of Nixon 'enemies', 200 establishment liberals marked down for harassment by the Revenue and constant investigation for scandal and smear.

SPIES

Meanwhile a whole network of spies and agents provocateurs was at work in universities and left wing organisations, and despite all the pretensions of guarding 'law and order', these agents were very often used to incite rioting and bombing.

One of these agents is about to have his memoirs published. Under the title 'I Was a Weatherman for the FBI' he relates how he infiltrated the 'Weathermen' organisation, taught its members how to make bombs, and suggested targets that it would be 'militant' to go for.

Another FBI man, Arthur Murtagh, has revealed the extent of FBI involvement in black liberation movements. It is not unlikely, from his account, that Luther King and/or Malcolm X was killed by Government agents. But that was, of course before Nixon's time...

Nixon had his own plans, which it is claimed were never put into effect. But that is another White House claim that has now lost all credibility.

Nixon's plans included intensifying 'electronic surveillance and penetration'; stepping up 'mail coverage' (both recording addresses, which is legal, and opening mail, which is supposed to be illegal); dropping certain restrictions on 'surreptitious entry' (burglary); and the improvement of 'campus sources', at that time restricted by the minimum age of agents being 21.

'Law & Order' Nixon was instructed that some of these things were 'clearly illegal', but the discussion on feasibility centred not on the morality or ethics of using such methods, but on the fact that the advantages seemed to outweigh the risk of disclosure.

John Dean states that parts of the plan were put into effect, and few people doubt that this is so.

The Watergate burglaries themselves were planned as a cheaper and simpler alternative to an elaborate plan by Gordon Liddy to have various delegates to the Democratic Convention in Miami seduced and/or abducted, using a floating brothel and high class prostitutes ('the best in the business'). 'Mr. Liddy offered a series of "flip-charts", cards on which the details of each proposal were printed together with the budget and a

code name, such as "Gemstone". Mr. Liddy was told to reduce the cost. ... The operation, minus the brothel and the kidnappings, was finally approved by Mitchell (who was then Attorney General, roughly equivalent to Home Secretary) and Magruder'.

To the agents who did it, it was just another routine "plumbing" job — nothing out of the ordinary. These men, such as the neanderthal Cuban exile who was persuaded that his targets wanted to "desecrate the grave of J. Edgar Hoover" were used to turning their hands to such jobs.

And possibly others too. One of the most mafia-like revelations circulating in the US papers is of a plane crash in Chicago last December in highly suspicious circumstances. Among the 44 people killed was the wife of Howard Hunt (one of the break-in men); she was at that time involved in trips around the country to distribute 'hush money' and was carrying \$40,000 traceable to Watergate: these bills disappeared from the wreckage. The plane's altimeters were found to be punctured, the 'glide control' on the runway assigned to the plane was shut down, and the pilot was reported to have died from cyanide poisoning.

LABYRINTH

In the official investigation, which concluded that the crash was due to natural causes, the airline was represented by none other than Dwight Chapin — a recent White House aid. The investigation is now being re-opened.

The money to finance these activities came from campaign contributions bordering on bribes, given in return for the dropping of judicial investigations, or in expectation of government favour. The election funds issue is in itself a labyrinth of scandals and illegality, which the Senate hearings will start on in September.

One little financial tableau needs no investigation to trace it back to Nixon himself: that is, the expenditure of £880,000 out of public funds on Nixon's private houses in Florida and California. Among the items stated to have been necessary "to assist the Secret Service

in its mission to protect the President, and to help Mr. Nixon fulfill his national security responsibilities, were:

New central heating (£5,400); landscaping and sprinkler system (£31,000); new paving, picture frames and roof tiles (bug-proof, no doubt); fertilizer, tree trimming and "landscape maintenance" (£10,830); a flagpole (£234); and ice-making machine, swimming pool cleaner, golf-carts, and £31,540 for repairs and maintenance.

Nor is Watergate itself over — witnesses and 'hostile' senate committee members have been liberally smeared and threatened even while the smear and bugging industry is under investigation.

LIMITS

But just how much of it is under investigation? The Senators have been noticeably lax in questioning witnesses when the answers go beyond the narrow limits of what the Republicans did to the Democrats. They have no interest in exposing, and possibly thereby damaging, the secret activities against the left and the black movement — which is far more serious and deadly than the harassment of people like Paul Newman, Leonard Bernstein, Kenneth Galbraith, Robert McNamara and Clark Clifford, which so shocked the Committee.

It now in fact looks as if Nixon might well be allowed to ride out the whole affair, though a majority of Americans agree that he is guilty of, at the very least, conspiring to pervert the course of justice and buy the silence of witnesses. Though his and the White House's statements have been deeply self-contradictory (compared with John Dean's testimony which stood up to 4 days' cross-examination), he is probably going to be left in the White House because the Republicans do not want their man impeached, and the Democrats prefer to fight a discredited Administration rather than an untainted (if unpopular) one at the next elections. So, while others are left to take the rap, the instigator and inspirer of Watergate — the law and order President — stands a good chance of being left intact.

RACHEL LEVER

POULSON COVER-UP

6 tons of evidence sub-judice

If John Garlick Llewelyn Poulson had been better at counting his money than giving it away, he and his 'friends' would have carried on, happily surrounded by the cloak of privacy.

But Poulson became bankrupt, and it was at the bankruptcy court hearings in Wakefield that his unsavoury dealings began to leak out.

Six months ago the Bankruptcy court adjourned, and meanwhile more information has been amassed. 10,000 files weighing six tons lay ready to disgorge their secrets at the Wakefield Court when it resumed last Monday.

However, the police stepped in, in the nick of time, and arrested Poulson and one of the men he is alleged to have bribed, William Pottinger. They had of course been in possession of the evidence against Poulson and Pottinger for some time. But what lent urgency to the police action was the impending resumption of the hearings in the bankruptcy court, with all their potential for explosive scandal.

Now the hearings are to be postponed indefinitely, or else held in private session. Which all goes to show, there are more ways of shutting a Watergate than stuffing it up with dollar bills.





HOUSING

How the options are closing in

by Richard Witts

ARE YOU FED UP WITH RENT increases, with living 14 floors from the ground, the mould in the wardrobe and the couldn't-care-less council? Many private and council tenants have decided to pack up and buy their own home, to become owner-occupiers.

Inflation and the Tory housing policy has forced so many into this situation, causing an unnatural pressure for owner-occupation and producing a bonanza for those companies (and I bet your MP's a director of one) lending money at exorbitant interest rates, and for the construction firms (we've seen their matey links with state officials in the Poulson affair: and stay tunes for more to come!).

The capitalist-created 'housing problem' was recently discussed in a symposium at Manchester University's Architecture Department. Some amazing facts were revealed.

REWARDS

Planners talk of 4 groups:

Owner-occupiers — 53% of householders.

Council tenants — 30%

Unfurnished private tenants — 8%

Furnished tenants — 8%.

Naturally, if any ruling class party wants to gain support from the largest group, it'll make sure they receive the best aid, the biggest subsidies. So, owner-occupiers get the largest subsidy in the form of income tax relief for mortgages: this came to £340 millions in 1972, and increased a few weeks ago to £355 millions with the Tory handout to building societies.

By comparison, less than half that amount, £160 million, was spent on council tenants.

No party, of course, will bother with the weak private tenants, who are mostly low-income families but

include students and single immigrants. They's rather aid the more powerful landlords by eliminating the only safeguard tenants had, the rent control. With the 1972 Housing Finance Act, one and a quarter million tenants are taken out of rent control, allowing rents to triple with Tory blessings. (But remember, it was Labour who introduced the "Fair Rents" fiddle). The same Act of course affects council tenants, cutting direct housing subsidies by £120 million by 1978.

But the options for working people are closing in. Housing costs have risen continually and at a faster rate than any other commodity, and much faster than wages. Houses have on average increased in price by 47% in the last year.

The average wage-earner spends 13% of annual income on housing, pensioners spend 25%, but those earning £4,000 a year or over need spend only 7% or less.

If we compare wages with house prices, the situation becomes clearer. If wages had gone up since, say, 1938 by as much as houses, then the average wage today would be £90 a week. And, since building workers quite obviously don't earn anything like that (or they wouldn't have been demanding £30 last summer) that rather scotches the idea that workers' wages cause inflation!

Increases in cost have also been blamed on increased land and site development costs, but far more important than these are the incredible interest rates, for in Britain housing is financed by borrowing. Of money spent on housing, only one sixth is for the cost of the house, and the rest goes on paying interest on loans! For instance, a £6,500 house bought by a local authority now, will really cost £35,000 when interest is paid.

Above all, speculation is pushing prices sky high. It's not rare for a

house to double its price in one year. Auction selling is on the increase — 50 or 100 houses might go under the hammer in one session, bought by investment companies for quick resale with or without improvements — often without, now that they can make a quick few thousand just in the time it takes to sell again, without lifting a finger.

In reply to enquiries, the usual answer comes back — "We don't know the property. We only own it for investment purposes." In London you couldn't buy a kennel for £5,000. Parts of houses — "flats" — are going for £15,000 and over.

BLEAK

For those in council houses, the picture is bleak and bureaucratic, with people at the mercy of remote planners who never have to experience their handiwork or bring up their children in the environment they decree for others.

At the Manchester symposium the Chief planning officer for Liverpool, F.J. Amos, showed how even local planners are manipulated by remote control, in this case how government subsidies for house building affect local authorities.

For instance, the 1961 Tory Housing Act offered the biggest subsidies for high-rise dwellings (blocks of flats) in areas with land problems. Originally Liverpool planners decided that 140 persons per acre was the maximum density they could harmfully impose. (More impersonally, planners even talk of b.s.p.a. — bed spaces per acre). But in order to get as much money as possible in subsidies, they increased densities up to 300 b.s.p.a. The other alternative that planners have gone in for in a big way in cities like Liverpool is

the equally bleak overspill areas.

Most speakers saw good possibilities in subsidising the improvement of older houses. But even this was being twisted to suit the small-time property companies and the wealthy landlords. Landlords have been getting grants, improving housing and putting up rents; or else splitting them into flats and selling each one for the price of the whole house. A Manchester builder builds houses sub-standard, and then gets an improvement grant to rectify the faults!

In Liverpool prior to 1968, applications for these grants averaged 200 a year; now it's around 4,000 applications. But Amos explained that the number of houses improved can't go above 2,500 a year anyway, because the big building firms aren't interested and they can't increase the number of small builders.

No, the big construction firms are only interested in the largest scale work, which is the construction of offices, and of nice new motorways up to the city centres with thousands of feeder roads involving the demolition of 'slum' areas. £3,400 million is being spent on road construction this year, despite the small number of car owners (70% of Manchester householders have no car).

In Salford it was reported, 3,000 houses have been demolished for ½ miles of feeder road. Don't mention free and better public transport: there's no profit in that!

And then when they've knocked down the 'slums', you can send the people to those barracks called estates — a clever way of dividing communities, imposing ready-made restrictions, new-look rents for new-look houses. What a lot of money for building bosses, demolition directors, landowners, and the building society bloodsuckers! They're all well organised to exploit us in every way.



One law for the Rich

FOR THOSE not totally carried away by headlines like "Lambton Sex Drug Fetish Confession", the Lambton affair focussed attention on a number of other things, that the press is a lot less happy to exploit.

In particular, the hypocritical and unctuous talk about privacy enraged those who have been fighting off the Social Security's sex spies. While the outcry raged because illicit bedroom capers of the gentry had been splashed around by the professional snoops of the press, workers are supposed to think it quite right and proper that the government itself should employ 400

men to spy on women receiving Social Security to see if they have a man in their bedroom.

The bureaucratic reasoning behind this vile practice is that any woman with a boyfriend must be being 'kept' by him: and in fact that he is paying for the upkeep of her children too.

In cases where "cohabitation" is 'proved' (with the aid of behind-the-hedge binoculars and probing enquiries around the neighbourhood) a woman can be cut off without a penny for either herself or her children.

It has not been generally publicised that, by contrast, women living

on maintenance from their separated or divorced husbands get a different deal. In their cases, a Court will not necessarily assume that any man they live with is keeping them. A legal expert recently advised his Client, a divorced woman with children, who was living with a man, that she could well expect a court to order her ex-husband to keep up the same payments to her. He cited a case where, as he said, "the Court was primarily concerned with the financial aspect, rather than the moral implications ... and as the wife's sexual intercourse had made no difference to her financial situation, it provided no valid ground for varying (i.e. reducing) the maintenance Order of the Court."

You don't find that sort of conclusion expressed by S.S. officials! And the advice continued: "Even if the wife were unable to persuade the court that she was receiving no financial advantage from the man she was living with, that is a far

cry from the court coming to the conclusion that the man was in fact assisting her in the financial support of the children".

So once again we find that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor.

If you're middle class, and happy to screw whatever you can out of your one-time husband, then you're not regarded as a 'kept woman' if you live with another man.

But if your ex-husband happens to be on the dole and paying you nothing; or if he's a working man and paying you all he can afford, and it isn't much at all; or if you have no wish to burden him down with maintenance payments that make it impossible for him to make a new life — then woe to you, for you have committed the crime of being poor. And for that, the sentence of the court is that every bureaucratic twist is visited upon you and your relationships are degraded into cash 'commodities'.

IN BRIEF

And in neighbouring Rhodesia 3 Africans were last week hanged for possessing firearms. ■

When the Greek Royals were deposed a few weeks back, *The Times* carried a tearful article speculating on how the ex-king was going to make out for a few bob. He was, after all, losing £120 million worth of property in Greece, not to mention the £6,000 a month he's been getting from the Colonels since he went into exile.

Would he, perhaps, have to take a job in a factory, as his father had done when he was deposed?

Well, what would you do if you were suddenly cut off with only a villa in Rome and jewellery worth £2 million? ■

While Lord George Brown was giving out the prizes in a "Working Together" competition recently, Lord Brockway was resolutely pursuing the fight for socialism on the barricades of the House of Lords. And having, he thought, perhaps persuaded their lordships that socialism was quite a good idea, he put down a motion "urging the Government to give a lead towards socialism".

Where would the cause be without stalwarts like this... ■

London girls answering any of the numerous ads. for jobs in the City as "girl Friday" should perhaps bear in mind that the original *Man Friday* was ... a slave! ■

Engineering workers in the Manchester area will remember the name of Scraggs. For it was at Ernest Scraggs and Co. that the first settlement was signed in last year's sit-ins for a pay and shorter hours claim. Scraggs workers settled for the money and a small cut in hours.

14 months later, how are things at Scraggs? For the workers, the hours are a few minutes a day shorter; and the money's about the same as before the settlement, after the last year's rises in rents, fares, food and everything else.



Members of the Black Workers' Movement leading a 300-strong demonstration in South London to protest the brutal police treatment of three black youths, one only 14, arrested after a clash with police at Brockwell Park.

And for the Scraggs bosses? Their recently published annual Report shows that profits have exactly doubled. ■

When ambitious young gigolo Slater, Walker was jilted at the altar by the middle aged maiden Hill Samuel, they put out a calm and dignified statement saying they didn't think married life would suit them.

But behind the calm there was another story, with Slater, Walker threatening Writs on the *Sunday Times* for publishing a guide to this Finance Company's 100 odd other 'marriages'. ■

The bourgeoisie really does have everything sewn up. If napalm bombs, nuclear threats, puppet police/army regimes, CIA skulduggery, and corruption of local potentates and bureaucrats isn't enough to safeguard their overseas investments, there's always insurance to fall back on.

An ad. in the classier papers asks - "Comes the revolution, who'd protect your overseas investments?" and goes on to promise insurance cover against war, revolution, expropriation, or restrictions on what they sedately call "remittances" — ie the life-blood that imperialism drains out of the rest of the world.

Well, at least they have nearly everything sewn up.

For, who will put up insurance against expropriation of home investments, "come the revolution" ...here? ■

S.W. ANK

The self-importance these days of the International Socialists, and their paper *Socialist Worker*, is growing beyond bounds. In the latest issue, SW sets up the treatment of its reporters as having more interest to its readers than the decisions of the AUEW policy conference.

The conference — which voted, among other things, for a no compensation amendment to its nationalisation resolution and for the rescinding of the 1971 Immigration Act, and put a ban on its President's participation in Government talks — got no report in SW.

Instead, there was a story about the fact that its reporters weren't allowed into the conference. "SW regrets that it is unable to publish a report of this week's conference of the AUEW."

While we deplore the fact that they were kept out, there were surely secondary sources of information on which to base a report. The major part of SW's foreign reportage, and probably much of its home and industrial news, is made up from such secondary sources.

This latest piece of nouveau-riche ostentation, more in the style of the *Workers' Press*, will not be lost on the growing body of opinion in I.S. which is critical of SW's present priorities: first priority swank, last priority politics. ■■

SO HUMILIATING

The liberal cretins who thought that sporting contact would soften the policies of the incorrigible South African racists must have been re-examining their illusions last week. Because South Africa did send a multi racial athletics team abroad — and showed that an 'integrated' team could be just as racist as a white-only one: for throughout the tour, the black team members were made to act as porters for the rest of the team, and were also degraded and humiliated in the allocation of accommodation.

Meanwhile, back in the Fatherland, players (white only, of course) at Johannesburg's select golf club are having to do their own carrying.

The African 'caddies' are refusing to work after sjambok whips and an electrified cattle prod were used against men hustling for work. Said a spokesman for the master-race club: "It is humiliating to bring in an overseas visitor and have to fight off the crowds of men wanting to carry for us!"

The 6 defendants in the Pretoria 'terrorism' trial were last week sentenced to terms of up to 15 years for 'plotting' to change this system — a system such that its 'justice' demanded the 6 prove their innocence.

'IT'S YOU THEY'RE AFTER. It's an attack on everyone in dispute... in North Wales we won't win by ourselves, but with the support of the movement we can win - as over the Pentonville Five'

That's how Barry Scragg and Ivor Lloyd, members of the Defence Committee for the 24 North Wales building workers who have been victimised for picketing, put it to Liverpool Trades Council.

And at last the message seems to be getting through.

Lambeth, Glasgow, Liverpool, and Camden Trades Councils have already set up committees to organise the defence of the 24. The Building Workers' Charter movement is also giving more active support.

The last Charter Editorial Board decided that North Wales Charter should organise a conference on the North Wales 24. Charter has declared that the defence of picketing is its main campaigning issue for the moment, and appointed Pete Carter to coordinate local defence committees.

The Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions has decided to give support to the 24, and to hold an autumn conference around the issue of the 24 and of Phase 3. UCATT in Birmingham, and the Labour Party in Birmingham and Coventry, have also expressed support.

And in Birmingham on 25 June, a 600-strong demonstration, with Birmingham, Coventry, and Stoke Trades Councils

DEFEND THE NORTH WALES 24! DEFEND THE RIGHT

ORGANISE DEFENCE COMMITTEES NOW

represented, supported five building workers charged with conspiracy to trespass in a parallel case.

SOLIDARITY

This picture is a welcome change. The work of solidarity so far has fallen more to small left-wing groups - mainly Workers' Fight and the IMG - than to organisations like Charter, the Liaison Committee, or Liverpool Trades Council.

And even today the official union leadership is openly sabotaging the defence effort. In a letter to all UCATT branch secretaries, general secretary George Smith says he is going to report Lambeth Trades Council to the TUC for the 'crime' of setting up a defence committee and a fund for the 24. He instructs union branches not to give money to support the 24, who are being prosecuted for official picketing.

The Trades Union Congress has already taken its stand, in a letter to Flint Trades Council (see WE 27) "Trades Councils should not encourage deleg-

ates or affiliated branches to take part in any industrial action in support of workers before the court on charges arising from the Act (the 1875 Act, on which all 24 are charged) unless requested to do so by the National Executive Committees of the Unions concerned".

And the delay - since February, when the 24 were arrested - in getting broader support is also a warning.

The failure of Charter up until recently to make any concrete calls for support action for the 24 was not due to forgetfulness or absent-mindedness, or even lack of concern (some of its own members are among the 24). The Communist Party, which controls Charter, is habitually and persistently unwilling

MOLD TRIAL

Police interrogate "Like the Gestapo"

8 of the 24 North Wales building workers are already on trial at Mold Crown Court on charges of causing damage to property, of causing an affray and of intimidation.

These 8 will also face a second trial in the Autumn when all 24 together go for trial to Shrewsbury.

The fact that the government has gone ahead with this trial shows that they are sticking to their plans to use these trials as part of a clampdown on the right to picket.

As the Mold trial opened, the forces on both sides were clearly lined up. Police ringed the Court. Defence counsel described the Court as "under siege" with police shoulder to shoulder round the building. But the objection that this would intimidate the jury was dismissed!

On the workers' side, they were supported by 600 trade unionists, students and socialists at the opening of the trial. Some had travelled from as far as Brighton and Scotland right into Wales. At least three Trades Councils were represented (Oxford, Rotherham and South Shields), and contingents included building workers and car workers, as well as Workers' Fight and IMG branches. And in the Mold area, at least 4 sites stopped for the day.

So far, the police appear to

to do anything which could disturb its alliance with the 'left wing' of trade union officials.

That the defence committees have been set up, that the report has been given, is excellent. But it is still necessary for militants to fight to make sure it is active support - not just paper support.

STOPPAGES

Defence committees must be formed in all areas - through Trades Councils if possible, not through Union district committees or individual Union branches or Charter groups. They must organise meetings, tours of workplaces, collect delegations to demonstrate

be basing their case on the main planks.

The first stems indirectly from the Industrial Relations Act, where the Prosecution dwelt at length on the fact that the men were organised in an official action committee; the influence of the Building Workers' Charter which "run by trade union officials

This is a real key to the political nature of the trials line with the Government attempt to bludgeon such and file and spontaneous as flying pickets. And it is key to the continuing and ashamed hostility to the defendants shown by the leaders and officials of their own union (UCATT) and the 'left wing' of trade union officials.

The second thing that appears to be relying on is the evidence produced by their own intimidation.

On the second day of trial one of the Prosecution star witnesses, in Court questioning about a statement of his, said he had signed because police intimidation had been "like the Gestapo". He had been in Court until 11 at night, and his statement without reading properly because he wanted to get out.

And one of the Defence witnesses, Gwyn Roberts, told a similar story, of not being allowed

UCATT

UNION OF CONSTRUCTION, ALLIED TRADES AND TECHNICIANS

9-11 MACAULAY ROAD, CLAPHAM, LONDON, SW4 0Q2

TEL: 01-622 2362



General Secretary: G.F. Smith, C.B.E.

Reference: GFS/HTP/LAMBETH/645/73

20th June, 1973

TO: ALL BRANCHES

Dear Sir and Brother,

Lambeth Trades Council

At a meeting of the Executive Council this week their attention was drawn to an appeal for money made by the Lambeth Trades Council in connection with charges made against 24 Building workers at Shrewsbury Court.

The E.C. takes the strongest objection to the action of the Lambeth Trades Council and is raising the matter with the T.U.C.

In the meantime the E.C. directs all Branches to ignore the Lambeth Trades Council appeal and Branch Aid Funds should not be used to make any donations to this appeal and would direct your attention to our circular Reference GFS/JK dated 27th March, 1973 "Branch Aid Funds - Donations".

Yours fraternally,

G.F. Smith

General Secretary

ABOVE: the latest in a line of stab-in-the-back instructions from Union officialdom, which is actually worried by the growth of any mass movement to protect its own members from legal victimisation. This letter has drawn the appropriate response: £50 came in to the Defence Fund from one UCATT branch in Wrexham. Now more branches must defy this shameful decree. Send your donation to: M.R. Williams, 1 Fford Pentre, Ocean View, Camel, Holywell, Flintshire

TO PICKET!
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leaflettings. They must push resolutions through union branches, Labour Party wards, and Trades Councils demanding active support from the unions, the TUC, and the Labour Party.

On 23 July we must mobilise for the next time the Birmingham militants come up in court. Already the trial of seven of the 24 has started in Mold, and will go on for two to six weeks. All 24 will be on trial in Shrewsbury in the autumn, for three to five months, at a date yet to be fixed.

For the autumn, we must prepare such a massive campaign of protest and stoppages as will force the Tories to retreat as they did over the Pentonville Five.

CYNTHIA BALDRY.

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leave the police station until he had done what the police wanted.

Whilst evidence abounds, of police intimidation, the flying picket which went to the Brenig site in North Wales, where the offences are alleged to have taken place, had no need to intimidate anyone. The site had previously come out on strike in response to an earlier flying picket, but had gone back in the mistaken belief that the strike was over.

But whatever the Court defence in this case, the main task is to build a solidarity movement for the defence of the 24 and of the right to picket. This movement will be built outside the Courts, in the labour movement.

We must work to build a movement capable of calling widespread stoppages, not only in North Wales, for the Autumn, when the trial of all 24 starts.

And it must be on the basis of solidarity until all the charges are dropped.

At a meeting after the demonstration in Mold, cut short by rain, it was decided to hold a rally in London 10 days before the trial in Shrewsbury starts. The 24, with supporters, would then march 18 miles a day to Shrewsbury, calling for solidarity along the way. The march would finish up in what must be a mass demonstration in Shrewsbury.



London building workers at a meeting called in support of the N.Wales 24

Protest the ban on Ligue Communiste

TRYING TO JUSTIFY his Government's ban on the French Trotskyist organisation the "Ligue Communiste" (announced on June 28th French Foreign Minister Jobert said: "What the Ligue Communiste did to the police is unforgivable".

What the Ligue Communiste, and others, did to the police was in fact to wound 63 of them in a pitched battle in the centre of Paris: sixteen ended up in hospital, nine with serious burns from Molotov cocktails,

The police received this "ill-treatment" whilst guarding a demonstration.

The heavily armed French police do not usually find themselves in the role of defending demonstrations. In fact they are notorious for the brutality with which they normally lay into demonstrations.

A British Sunday newspaper recently described what normally happens on any demonstration in Paris which the Police authorities

choose to refuse permission to. mass waves of helmeted police, carrying riot shields, batons, rifles and sometimes sub-machineguns, descend on demonstrators, beating and clubbing some of them senseless and arresting anyone they can grab, including onlookers and passers by. The article described one occasion when the numbers of people arrested and wounded outnumbered the size of the original demonstration.

So many journalists have been badly beaten up on such occasions that the Police Department now assigns detectives to protect reporters! And in turn, many plain clothes detectives, not quick enough on the draw with their badges, have suffered brutal assaults from their colleagues!

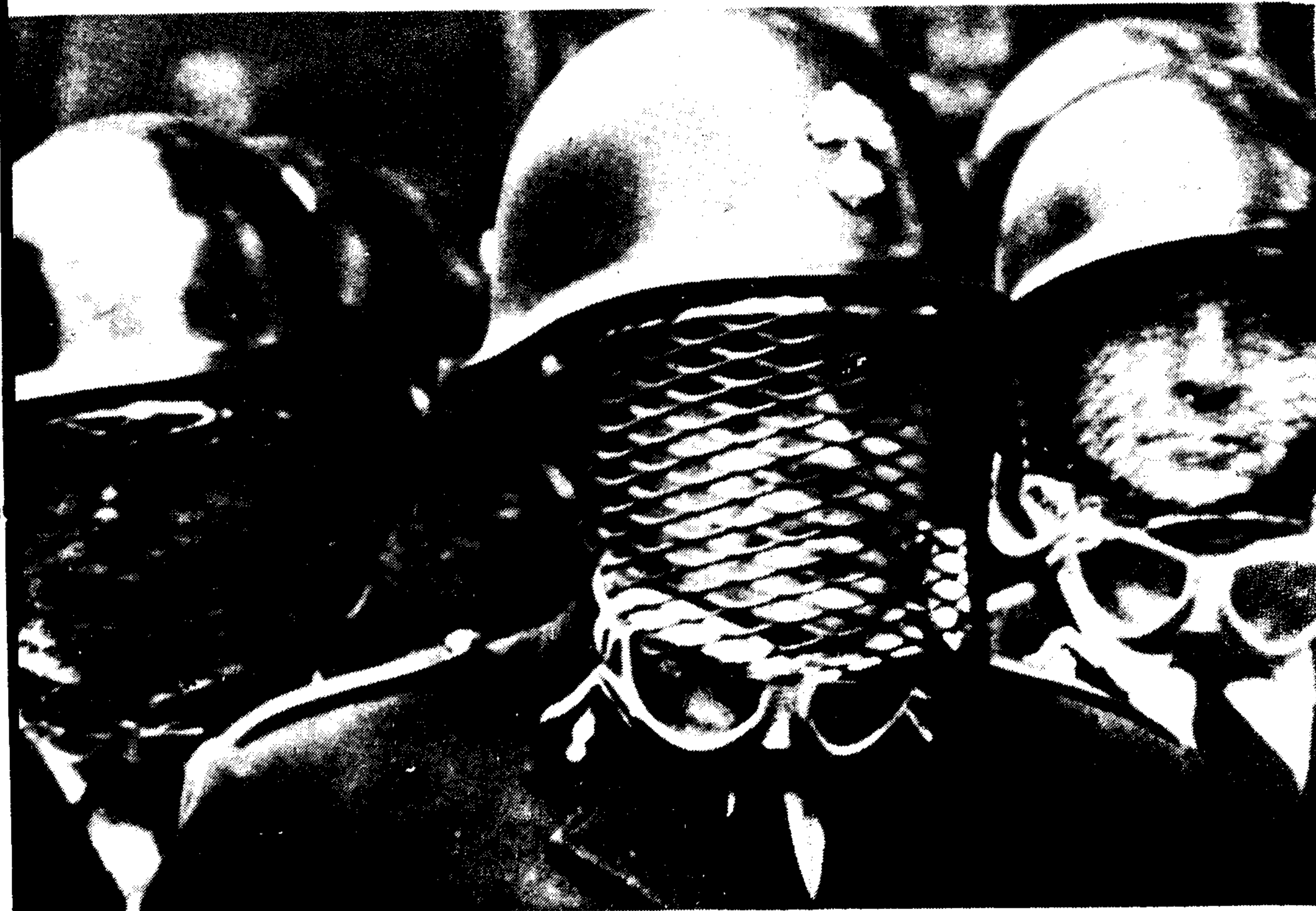
No, the Paris police are not accustomed to protecting demonstrators! But this demonstration was different. It was organised by the fascist group Ordre Nouveau (New

Order). it was a demonstration of racialsists, demanding a total ban on immigrants into France. Ordre Nouveau is a mainly student organisation which has specialised in beating up left wingers and immigrant workers and campaigning against immigrants.

Both Ordre Nouveau and the L.C. have been banned, but observers believe that the real target is the L.C. the biggest group to the left of the reformist Communist Party. The truth is that there is a rising tide of working class militancy in France, and that is why the Ligue has been banned.

British socialists and trade unionists must protest at this move against revolutionaries in France. Join the demonstration on Saturday July 7th, 3pm at Hyde Park. Picket French consulates, and send resolutions of protest from your union branch and political organisation.

JACKIE CLEARY





**CAETANO GET OUT!
DEMONSTRATION**
Sunday 15th July 2-30 pm
Charing Cross Embankment

END THE ALLIANCE FOR PROFITS - BUILD AN ALLIANCE FOR FREEDOM!

by Clive Bane

PORTUGAL IS TODAY'S 'SICK man' of Imperialism. Its colonies, Angola and Mozambique in Southern Africa and Guine (Bissau) in West Africa are in open revolt. In each country the guerilla armies which form the spearhead of the nationalist movements, are liberating large chunks of territory from the control of the occupying power.

A joint committee of nationalist forces, PAIGC of Guine, FRELIMO of Mozambique and MPLA of Angola, unites the struggle to remove the colonialists from the face of Africa.

Portugal's dirty little wars in Africa need to be spotlighted, especially now that Caetano, fascist dictator of Portugal, intends to visit Britain next month to celebrate 600 years of 'alliance' between Portugal and Britain. The official cant of the ceremonials must be answered.

The 'sick man' status of Portugal is a key to the continuing colonial wars. Are the Portuguese operating a longer time-scale for 'decolonisation' than the larger colonial powers, such as Britain and France, which in the past 20 years have given up their right to govern directly in most parts of Africa?

Semi-colony

The unusual thing about Portugal as a colonial power is that it is a poor country itself. In many respects it is far poorer than the African territories, and occupies a semi-colonial status in relation to the major imperialist countries. Portugal has certainly the poorest economy in Europe. For the mass of the population it is just a question of having enough to eat to stay alive.

Disease is rampant and 40% of the population cannot read or write. The wars in Africa, despite official propaganda, are not well supported, and many Portuguese emigrate to industrial Europe to avoid poverty and conscription, although emigration is illegal.

That all is not well in the republic of Portugal is hardly surprising. For over 40 years the country has been under the heel of the vicious fascist dictatorship, first of Salazar and now his former henchman, Caetano. Since 1926 they have enjoyed the support and protection of the local ruling class and foreign imperialism. The dictatorship, akin to the Spanish and Greek varieties, has repressed the struggles of workers and peasants. Trade unions are illegal as are political parties, and a brutal secret police maintains rule by terror and intimidation.

The Caetano clique use force on a greater scale in the colonies to keep them firm in their shaky saddle. They cannot 'decolonise' because they cannot 'neo-colonise'. As a backward country Portugal lacks sufficient capital to exploit her colonies indirectly, relying on the service charge it makes from allowing the richer nations to exploit them.

Its agency services to imperialism are in fact the key to Portugal's presence in Africa and the survival of its economic system. Imperialism's guard dog therefore has no

use for western 'neo-colonial' subtlety. Rather, it can employ western napalm in Africa instead.

The cost of defending its African territories is over 50% of Portugal's national budget. This has to be backed up, however, by large-scale 'aid' from NATO. Portugal cannot even make toy planes, let alone the jets it uses in Africa.

Portugal uses Italian planes, German radios, American bombs, etc in its war operations, while the respective capitalist nations exploit Africa's soil and African labour. This situation was summed up quite succinctly in a Financial Times investment survey last year, headed: "Steady economic progress but the war drags on."

For over 600 years Britain has been the major imperialist ally of Portugal. Both countries have worked hand in hand in the slave trade, the pillage of raw materials and the violent suppression of the colonial peoples. These are the fundamental features of the Alliance, despite the many contradictions which often occurred between the two countries.

English treaties with Portugal ensured the latter's political independence from Spain, but in return

Some of Portugal's Political Prisoners

Dias Lourenco - 56 year old workers' leader, has spent over 14 years in jail, and was also sentenced in 1962 to 17 years in jail for his part in the clandestine anti-fascist movement.

Jose Magro - at 56, he has spent over 18 years of his life in jail for political offences. He is at present serving a 16½ year sentence, and is suffering from nervous complaints.

Rogerio de Carvalho - 51 years old, he has spent 12 years in jail. He suffers from a serious bone disease.

Ilido Esteves has spent nearly eight years in jail. The five-year sentence given him in 1965 has long ago expired, but he continued to be kept in under the fascist state's "security measures". He also is

seriously ill with spinal troubles. **Jose Pedro Soares** is a young worker conscripted into the Army. Arrested by the military police for insubordination, he was then handed over to the civil-political police. At their hands he suffered 820 hours of interrogation, was kept without sleep for a total of 21 days and nights and kept in solitary confinement for 79 days. Still unbroken after all that, which also included numerous severe beatings, he was told by his interrogator: "I shall be in court as your prosecution witness to get for you "security measures", renewable every six months on our orders after your sentence expires. You are going to spend the rest of your life in jail."

the Portuguese economy was subordinated to the expanding power of English capital. Portuguese support of Nazi Germany during the War did nothing to upset the Alliance. The Portuguese regime even went to the extent of declaring a national day of mourning when it heard of Hitler's death!

British investments in Portugal and her colonies now run at over £300 million. It is easy to see why British capitalists are keen to retain the Alliance.

Apart from the big investments, the colonies of Africa, especially Angola and Mozambique, are strategic in the defence of the Apartheid state of South Africa where there are of course even bigger investments. The Portuguese colonies are used as buffers against the black nationalist movements pressing from the north.

South Africa itself does not just stand and watch. It lends highly trained mercenaries and advanced equipment to the Portuguese to help them put down the guerillas. They also certainly take part in bomber raids, using napalm and chemical warfare. For South Africa it is both a training ground for the future, and a vitally important struggle to contain a potentially contagious situation.

The United Nations recently recognised the Liberation movements as the true governments of their respective countries. The vote was 96 to 6 (among these latter, Britain).

In the territories where they have control, the liberation movements have set about reconstruction, bringing in land reform and establishing education and health services. They are gradually pushing back back the areas of white domination - the unliberated zones.

The guns of African liberation have forced the 600,000 strong Portuguese army into retreat. We must do all we can to aid the Africa liberation movement to turn that retreat into a rout.

Alliance

Next month the imperialists will celebrate the 600th anniversary of their Alliance. And it is at this Alliance that the latest campaign against Portugal's rulers is being aimed.

The End the Alliance campaign is a coalition of liberal, socialist and anti-imperialist groups. While concentrating on the Alliance and the celebrations surrounding it, it also gives support to the liberation movements, and is also keen to draw attention to the terrible repression in Portugal itself.

Unfortunately, they got off to a bit of a lame start, with petitions to the Duke of Edinburgh before he visited Portugal. As one black militant remarked, "The Duke of Edinburgh is irrelevant. Everyone knows he cares more about wild animals in Africa than about African people - except as a source of profits."

What's more important is for the labour movement in this country to organise in practical solidarity, and where possible with industrial action, to aid the working people of Portugal and the nationalist fighters of 'Portuguese' Africa to deal with their oppressors - and in doing so, to strike a blow against 'our own' ruling class.

End the capitalist Alliance with fascist Portugal!

Create a fighting alliance of workers and revolutionaries against the oppressors!



THE FUTURE OF THE TORIES' attempts to hold down wages remains in the balance. Despite the defeat of sections of workers, who were forced to fight alone against Phase 2, the Government has only gained a temporary reprieve and is essentially faced with the same balance of forces as before.

So the possibility of the effective use of incomes policy to discipline the working class depends on Phase 3 and our response to it.

The talks between the TUC and the Tories thus take on a vital importance. The Government enters the talks with less economic room to manoeuvre than it had last autumn. They have a boom — but it has added new problems, such as huge balance of payments deficits, and not really solved the old ones. Last month saw the rate of inflation go above what it had been at the beginning of the year, thus bringing the total increase in prices over the last year to 9.5%.

Nobody should therefore expect many concessions on pay in Phase 3. As CBI chief Campbell Adamson put it, there is 'little left in the national chest for higher real incomes'. He went on to say that the Phase 3 norm would therefore be "very low indeed".

On the other hand, the Tories face a basically undefeated trade union movement, and the likelihood of a series of large and militant strikes in the autumn, as the work-

therefore caught between their view of the need to take part in the machinery of the state and the pressure from their own members. But to head off an upsurge of rank and file militancy, they have to obtain something from the government which can be presented as a victory.

If the talks continue therefore, it is likely that non-economic issues such as the amendment of the I.R. Act will become central if any deal is to be made. The Tories are lucky in that in this field they have a whole variety of gimmicks — showy but meaningless — to pull out of the bag: 'workers' participation' has for example been suggested.

NORM

As far as the pay part of the deal is concerned, certain types of incomes policy are automatically ruled out by the fact that, as the Times put it, "the actual or implied norm for pay increases must be if possible lower than the effective 8% under Phase 2." This makes it most unlikely that another norm of the £1 plus 4% type will be set as the TUC cannot accept a lower norm. A reversion to the type of incomes policy operated by Labour is also impossible because the use of productivity as a criterion for wage increases makes it possible for employers to buy off workers at local level and thus render attempts at overall control ineffective.

to retail food prices and the other is selective food subsidies. If no obstacles exist in the form of disagreement on retrospective payment for those who did especially badly under Phase 2, it is unlikely that the TUC would reject such a package.

The rest of the agreement will be centered around amendment of the I.R. Act. There are some amendments to which the Tories are by no means opposed. The Engineering Employers' Federation has also named some changes it would like to see. Although the TUC's demand for non-operation is obviously not acceptable, the Tories will probably try to make it more palatable for the TUC leaders.

There are several amendments which could do this without undermining the fundamental aims of the Act. One is the creation of some body, which would act as a buffer between private individuals and the NIRC. This would stop people such as Goad creating embarrassing situations for the Government. The NIRC would remain totally intact to be used at the behest of the Government.

Other concessions are possible on points of minor importance for the working of the Act. The EEF has suggested the removal of the ineffective ban on the closed shop and the substitution of the right to join a union for the right not to join one. Such 'concessions' will in no way harm the attempt to integrate the unions into the state. The same is true of the ordering of cooling off periods and secret ballots.

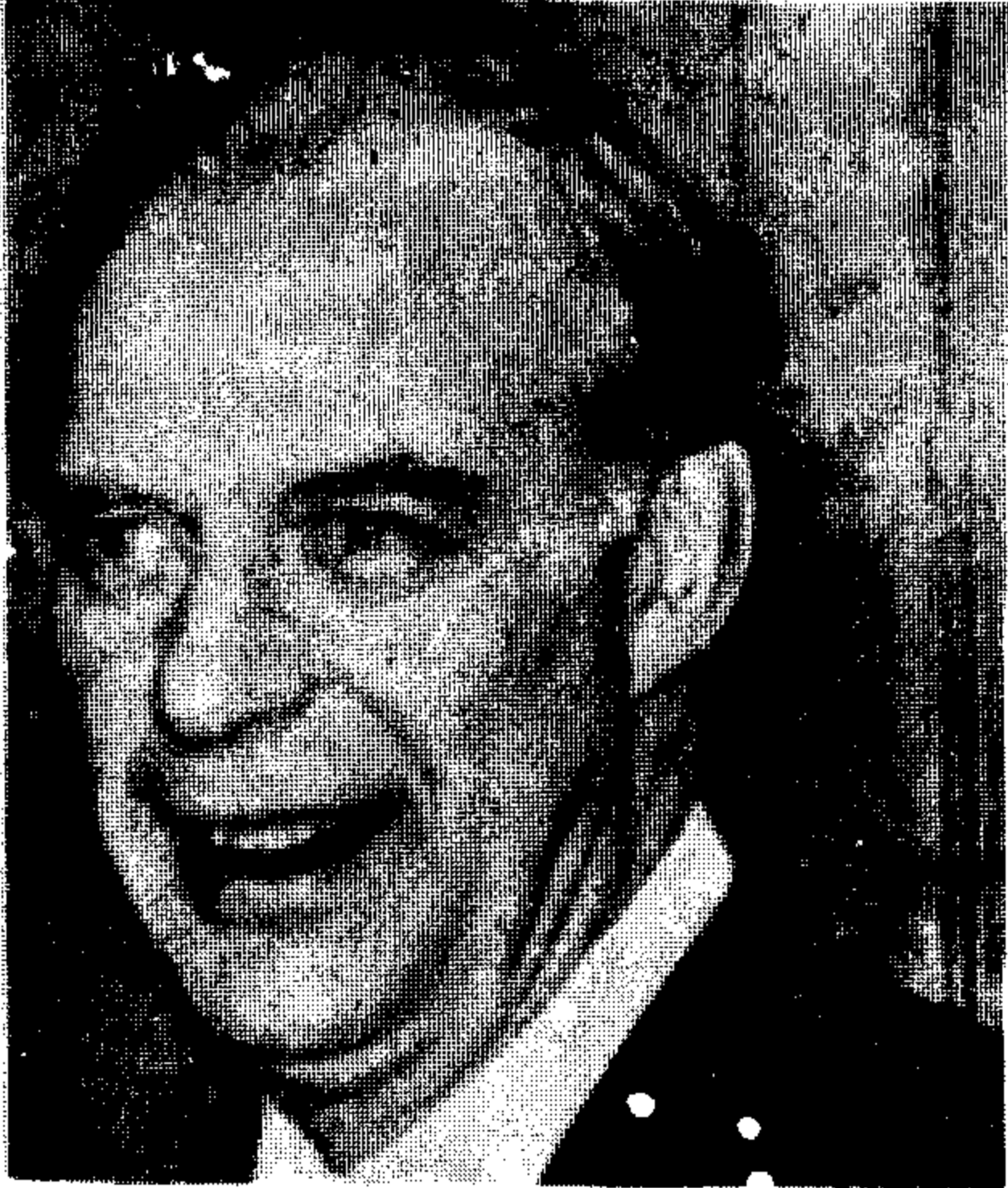
These are measures which the Tories want to get rid of simply because they have been ineffective and provide good bargaining counters. Far more fundamental is the question of registration.

The Economist, echoing Macmillan, wrote that: "Some form of registration must be maintained... What they (the unions) are challenging is the principle that unions should to some degree be publicly accountable for the way they are run. That is a principle no democratic government should cede. Although registration forms the basis of the Act, there remains the possibility that the form of registration can be changed and some of the penalties for non-registration removed."

UGLY

Non-registration of most unions has meant that the penalties have failed in their original aims, while the rights given to registered unions, often small breakaways, has made the life of many employers more difficult. Thus there may be some new form of registration, which removes some of the difficulties of applying the Act that exist at the moment. Nothing more can be conceded as registration is the basis on which the whole of the rest of the Act stands.

Thus the Phase 3 package is most unlikely to alter anything fundamental in the Act, but it will contain some concessions to win TUC support and disguise a sharp deal on pay. As the Economist put it, "Workers' management and amendment to the I.R. Act are likely to be cosmetics". The ugly faces of the NIRC and attempts to cut working class living standards remain behind the make up. This makes attempts to force union leaders to withdraw from the talks and preparation for smashing Phase 3, of vital importance.



Bruce Robinson examines

THE SELLING OF PHASE 3

ing class tries to catch up with prices after Phase 2. They must give some concessions to the TUC if they are not to see their wages policy totally swept away.

The Tories still have several options open, however. It is likely that if Jones and Scanlon stay away and the talks break down as a result, a general election would be called on the issue of the economy and of the 'unreasonableness' of the unions.

T.U.C.

If the talks do go on, they will try to tie the TUC down on wages, while making paper concessions elsewhere. This would probably mean a package consisting of threshold agreements and amendments to the Industrial Relations Act, possibly with some alterations in the Government's social policy.

Such a package would also suit the trade union bureaucrats very well. They could try to use the paper concessions they had obtained to show that a policy of talking to the Tories did really work and could thus try to defuse any rank and file movement against the Act or the Freeze. But to get such a package they have first to overcome the opposition of many of their members to their participation in the talks. As Scanlon found out, this is not easy, and this makes the calling off of the talks a real possibility.

Both 'Lefts' and Rights are

Use of 'comparability' and consideration of 'anomalies' would have the same effect, and, although it is likely that the TUC will insist on some provision for the low-paid and groups which fell behind in Phases 1&2, the Tories will try to confine this to a specific list of 'special cases'.

The only agreement satisfactory to both sides is likely to be the introduction of threshold agreements, in which wage increases are tied to the retail price index or some part of it. The Tories would welcome this as it would provide an effective reduction in the norm, concealed behind the facade of a 'fair' system. The only objection put by the TUC when this was first proposed by the Government last autumn was that the suggested threshold was too low. The type of increase that would result can be seen by using the thresholds proposed last autumn and assuming an annual price increase of 12 1/2%. The TUC suggestion would have meant a wage rise of £ 2.25 and the Tories' £ 1.30, which would have cut the living standards of anyone earning more than either £ 18.00 or £ 10.40 respectively. The TUC are willing to accept this for two reasons: firstly, so as not to appear opposed to the 'national interest' or 'unreasonable' and also because it represents a move of power away from the shopfloor.

Two specific proposals appear likely candidates for inclusion. One is a threshold agreement tied



ARMY MORALE AT LOW EBB AS MORE OPPOSE IRISH WAR

by Ron Vandy

On 23rd June the Royal Berkshire Regiment was scheduled to celebrate its departure for Ireland with a march through the streets of Reading and a concert of martial music. In this way the Army top brass hoped to counter the mood indicated in the 43,000 signatures on a petition for the withdrawal of troops from Ireland, which had been collected by a Reading housewife.

But the Regimental band found itself being followed through the streets of Reading by 100 with placards demanding that the troops get out of Ireland. The demonstrators gave out leaflets arguing their case. They stressed that they were calling for the troops to be got out not on the racist basis of "why should we waste our boys on these mad Irish", but on the basis of the right of the Irish people to win freedom from British domination and determine their own future for themselves.

The response of the townspeople of Reading to the demonstration

was in a number of cases sympathetic, usually neutral, and only occasionally hostile. This fact in itself indicates a big change from the Union Jack waving mood very common a year or so ago.

The military band ended up with a foreshortened concert of traditional tunes, to an audience of about 20.

At the same time as doubts about the Army's role spread among workers, army morale has taken a severe buffeting. Recruiting to the army morale has taken a severe buffeting. The number of desertions is growing, and recruiting is down by half on this time last year. And, if the example of South Shields Trades Council is followed to any extent, the figures will continue to drop.

SOUTH SHIELDS

For South Shields TC has recently launched a drive against army recruitment. It intends to fight against the advertisements and recruiting campaigns that exploit the high youth unemployment of such areas as the North East.

They point out that a life of fulfillment, excitement and prosperity is promised, while nothing is said about the fact that young workers will be used to bludgeon and suppress members of their own class, possibly returning home in a wooden box.

The Trades Council plans to picket recruiting centres, and demands that recruiting be banned from the area and its schools. It will itself leaflet schools to counter the Army's propaganda. And it invites local trade unionists and students to help.

South Shields trades Council calls on other Trades Councils to follow its example. Socialists around the country will no doubt take the lead in proposing that their own Trades Council takes up this call.

STOKE NEWINGTON 5

Conspiracy sentences upheld

The decision to uphold the sentence on four of the Stoke Newington 5 last week, has sinister implications for militants. By upholding the verdicts arrived at by the jury, the judges have made the conspiracy charge an even more convenient political weapon for the ruling class.

The jury had convicted all five accused without any clear guidance about what 'conspiracy' meant, and returned non-guilty verdicts on the more definite charges. Moreover, 4 of the people that those convicted were supposed to have conspired with were declared completely innocent by the jury.

The Court of Appeal has declared its approval of the practice of convicting with no evidence whatsoever other than innuendo and the political beliefs of the alleged conspirators.

Hilary Creek, one of the Stoke Newington 5, is at present very ill. Her illness is a direct result of prison life and the ten year sentence which has now been confirmed. Despite reports from her doctor, the appeal judges chose to put the boot in and make sure that she has little chance of recovery.

These recent decisions show the need for a continued fight to secure the release of these political prisoners, and for the smashing of the conspiracy laws.

PAUL STOREY and NOEL JENKINSON

No appeal

TWO 'NON-CASES' RECENTLY provided good examples of capitalist 'justice'. Both Paul Storey and Noel Jenkinson were refused leave to appeal.

Paul Storey is the 16 year old Birmingham building worker given 20 years for 'mugging'. Fellow building workers know that in that industry there is a death every day due to the employers' total lack of interest in anything but profit.

Noel Jenkinson was convicted of causing the explosion at the Aldershot barracks of the Parachute regiment which was responsible for the murder of 13 unarmed civilians in Derry early in 1972. He is to serve 30 years in jail — whilst the butchers of Derry were declared to have been innocent by a Tory tribunal which ignored the massive weight of evidence against them.

*James Connolly
and
Ireland's struggle
for Freedom*

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WHERE WE STAND

CAPITALISM is inseparable from the exploitation by the bourgeoisie of the working class 'at home' and (since 'advanced' capitalism became imperialist) of the workers and peasants in the colonies and neo-colonies abroad.

It is a vicious system geared to buttressing the strong against the weak, to serving the handful of capitalists against the millions of workers, and to keeping many millions in poverty so that a few may prosper. Capitalism exalts property and degrades life. It is at the root of the racism which poisons and divides worker against worker. It is a system of massive waste and social disorganisation, at the same time as it forces the working class to fight every inch of the way to better or even maintain its wages and conditions.

Having once been progressive, in that it at least developed, in the only way then possible the productive resources of mankind, it is now a totally reactionary force in history. Its expansion after World War 2 gave it merely the appearance of health: in reality the boom was like the flush on a sick man's face. Already economic expansion has given way to creeping stagnation.

TODAY the ruling class can keep their system going only at the cost of large scale unemployment and attempts to cut the living standards of workers in the 'rich' parts of the world, of massive starvation and bloodshed in the 'poor' two thirds of the world, and of the ever-present threat of the destruction of humanity through nuclear war.

THE ONLY WAY OUT is for the working class to take power and to bring the resources of the modern economy under a rational working class plan, in place of the present unplanned and blind private profit system. Having overthrown capitalism and established social ownership of the means of production, the working class will build towards a truly communist society, in which at last the principle will be "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs."

The working class has created political parties for this purpose — LABOUR PARTIES, COMMUNIST PARTIES, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. But in country after country these parties have joined capitalist governments and managed capitalism. They have betrayed the socialist aspirations of their working class supporters, tied the labour movement to the bosses' state, interest and ideology, and destroyed the political independence of the working class.

The task is therefore to build a socialist party which will stand firmly for the interests of the working class. WORKERS' FIGHT is a group of revolutionary socialists, aiming to build that party: a party which is democratically controlled by an active working class membership, which preserves its political independence and fights the ideological domination of the ruling class.

The basis of our activity is the scientific theory of MARXISM, the only theory which gives a clear understanding of present day society and of the necessity of revolutionary change.

Although they cannot organise the struggle for workers' power, THE TRADE UNIONS are indispensable for the defence of workers' interests. We fight for the independence of the unions from all state control, and within the unions for militant policies and for democracy. We see the trade union bureaucracy as a distinct stratum which acts as a broker between workers and bosses. Its life and work-situation is quite different from that of the working class. Lacking a direct, necessary allegiance to working class interests, or any fundamental historical interests of its own, its general tendency is to work with the bosses and their state against the working class.

Only a mass national rank and file movement, linking up the different industries and guided by the ideas of revolutionary Marxism can, in this period, turn the trade unions into reliable instruments of working class interests, independent of the bosses' state.

We fight against the INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT, against any incomes policy under capitalism, and against any legal restrictions on trade unionism.

We fight against UNEMPLOYMENT; for a national minimum wage; for work or full pay; against productivity bargaining.

We fight to extend the power of workers to control the details of their own lives in industry here and now. We stand for the fight for WORKERS' CONTROL with the understanding that it can be made a serious reality only in a workers' state. We are against any workers' 'participation' in managing their own exploitation under capitalism.

We believe that the 'PARLIAMENTARY ROAD TO SOCIALISM' is a crippling illusion. The capitalist class will not leave the stage peacefully; no ruling class ever has. Socialism can be built only by smashing the capitalist state machine (army, police, civil service) which is the ultimate defence of the bosses' power in society, and replacing it with a state based on democratic Workers' Councils.

THE LABOUR PARTY is a capitalist party in its ideas, its policies, and in its record in government. At the same time, the bedrock organisations of the working class, the trade unions, support and finance the Labour Party. There is an 'open valve' connection between the Labour Party and the Unions, allowing the possibility of large scale active working class participation in the party.

We relate to the Labour Party, therefore, not by simply denouncing it, but by attempting to advance the working class towards outgrowing and breaking through the particular stage in its own development — ideological, political and organisational — represented by Labourism.

We fight for full and equal rights for WOMEN, for female emancipation from the male domination which has co-existed throughout history with class society and which has its roots in such society. We fight, in particular, for the emancipation of women of our own class, suffering a double and triple exploitation, who have been most accurately described as the "slaves of the slaves".

We fight against RACIALISM and against immigration controls. We fight for the integration of immigrant workers into the labour movement and for a united front against capitalism, whilst supporting the right of black minorities in Britain to form defence leagues or independent political organisations.

We give unconditional support to the struggles of oppressed peoples everywhere fighting against IMPERIALISM, and to their organisations leading the fight.

British workers have — fundamentally — more in common with every single worker throughout the globe, irrespective of race, religion, or colour, than with the whole of the British ruling class. We see the fight for socialism as a world-wide struggle, necessitating the creation of a world revolutionary party, such as Leon Trotsky founded the Fourth International, in 1938, to become. We consider that the mainstream of Trotskyism surviving from the 1938 Fourth International is the United Secretariat of the Fourth International but that this organisation in some of its theories and much of its practice (for example that of the British section) represents a degenerate form of Trotskyism. We fight for the regeneration of the Fourth International.

We stand for a political revolution of the working class against the bureaucracies of THE U.S.S.R. and the other countries called 'communist' which we consider to be degenerated and deformed workers' states. The social regime of the different bureaucracies has nothing in common with socialism, let alone with real communism. At the same time, we defend the nationalised economy in these countries against capitalism and imperialism, unconditionally: that is, irrespective of the selfish, usually anti-working-class and anti-revolutionary policies of the ruling bureaucrats, and against those policies.

There are OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS which have generally similar aims, but methods differing from ours, or differing conceptions about what needs to be done here and now. We consider all these groups to be seriously — sometimes grossly — inadequate in theory and practice. We favour unity in action with these groups where possible, and a serious dialogue about our differences.

Local News

LIVERPOOL

WOMEN GO BACK BUT NO VICTORY

THE SEVEN-WEEK STRIKE OVER pay and conditions at the Crofts Sea Foods factory, Liverpool, was settled last week when 44 voted for a return to work against the advice of their four shop stewards.

"I don't know what has happened", the convenor told me. "Another week and we would have won all our demands."

With the help of the local tenants association, rank and file support had been organised in the docks and at the airport. Local busmen asked

the strikers if they wanted a bus laid off, in case any of the six scabs were using it to get to the factory.

But the General and Municipal Workers' Union officials stepped in, to lend a hand, collect the union dues, make it all 'official', and eventually to sell a rotten agreement.

The only good point about the agreement is that it may give a lay-off pay of £7, £6, and £5 for some of the workers in three months' time.

Written into the agreement are clauses such as "subject to work performance", which could mean anything: good behaviour, productivity, or just availability of fish.

Another paragraph describes the need to recruit an unspecified amount of casual labour to deal with the "seasonal nature of the work". This was the main point of the strike to decasualise the job.

There is a further danger that this will divide the workforce into those with a permanent job and lay-off pay, and those without.

However, the women are now organised, they know their allies in the local movement, and they have the experience of this strike to build on next time.

COLIN McCOWEN.

COVENTRY

FIGHT BACK AT WICKMANS

THE MACHINE TOOL FITTERS AT Wickman's (Stoney Stanton Rd, Coventry) reconditioning department have been forced to take strike action on their claim, following breakdown of negotiations.

They have not had a wage increase from Wickman's for at least ten years, and are still working on piecework times established in 1958. Last October they finally decided to go for Wickman's tool room rate (£50 a week) and get the piecework system scrapped.

Wickman's answer was to give an increase within the government's Phase 2 legislation, provided that (a) all piecework times were frozen; (b) all machines without an established time were paid at a fixed rate, instead of average bonus - management reserving the right to alter this rate without consultation.

Some of the machines to be reconditioned are pre-war, and often have as many as 500 spare parts missing. At the same time, the average time for rebuilding these machines has been reduced over the years from 27 weeks to 10 weeks.

D.S.

COVENTRY

AFTER GEC DEFEAT: UNITY ESSENTIAL

GEC TOOLROOM WORKERS VOTED last Friday to accept the company offer of £2.88 a week. This has to be seen as a severe defeat for Coventry toolmakers.

With the scrapping of the Coventry Toolroom Agreement, every tool firm and toolroom is on its own. They can no longer wait for an automatic increase in wages.

Clearly the employers' plan in the long term is to drive down tool-

makers' wages in the area by picking off one section at a time. The first in line were GEC workers - and they have been allowed to go down without any real campaign by the AUEW local officials and district committee.

Already rates are being advertised in non-union firms at well below the district average. The need for a local combine committee uniting machine tool workers in the area can

quite clearly be seen now. And if the local AUEW officials will not build this committee, it must be built from rank and file level.

The committee would maintain constant vigilance on the district rate and support any group of workers in a fight against their particular firm; and build the AUEW-T&GWU unity sadly lacking as yet in some plants.

T.R.

BOLTON

HAWKER SIDDELEY OCCUPATION WINS

On Monday 19th June workers took over and occupied the Hawker Siddeley plant in Horwich, near Bolton.

This action was the climax of a dispute going back 3 weeks. The millers had objected when management tried to bring in semi-skilled men into skilled positions. They went out for one day, and then

came back and asked for the support of the other men. So picketing started and everything was turned

The militants were not pleased at the slow progress of the strike, and on the 19th they occupied the plant, and locked out the staff and management. All the old locks were

taken off and replaced; the police were refused entry and a day and night picket was set up on the gate.

It was clear throughout that the men had nothing against the semi-skilled workers - who also came out. It was generally agreed that what they were objecting to was the management's use of the semi-skilled workers to keep all wages down.

As a result of the occupation, the men speedily won an agreement giving the union some control over definitions of skilled and semi-skilled work.

More important, the men all agreed that this was the first time that everyone had been solid, and the spirit of the occupation will encourage further actions. In the words of one of the militants, "We had reached a stage where the management were getting the whip out every time. They will now think twice before being so dictatorial again. This is only the beginning."

Len Glover

The Industrial Relations Act and the fight for a GENERAL STRIKE

Just out, a collection of reprints from Workers' Fight on the general strike. A short introductory section deals with the events of July 1972 and the situation leading up to them. The central section contains articles on the experience, including Britain 1919-26; France May 1968; the 1972 Quebec general strike, and a new translation of Rosa Luxemburg on Belgium, 1902. A third section deals with the question of trade unions and the State, and an appendix discusses the positions of the left groups on the General Strike and the July Crisis of 1972.

Price 20p plus 5p postage from:
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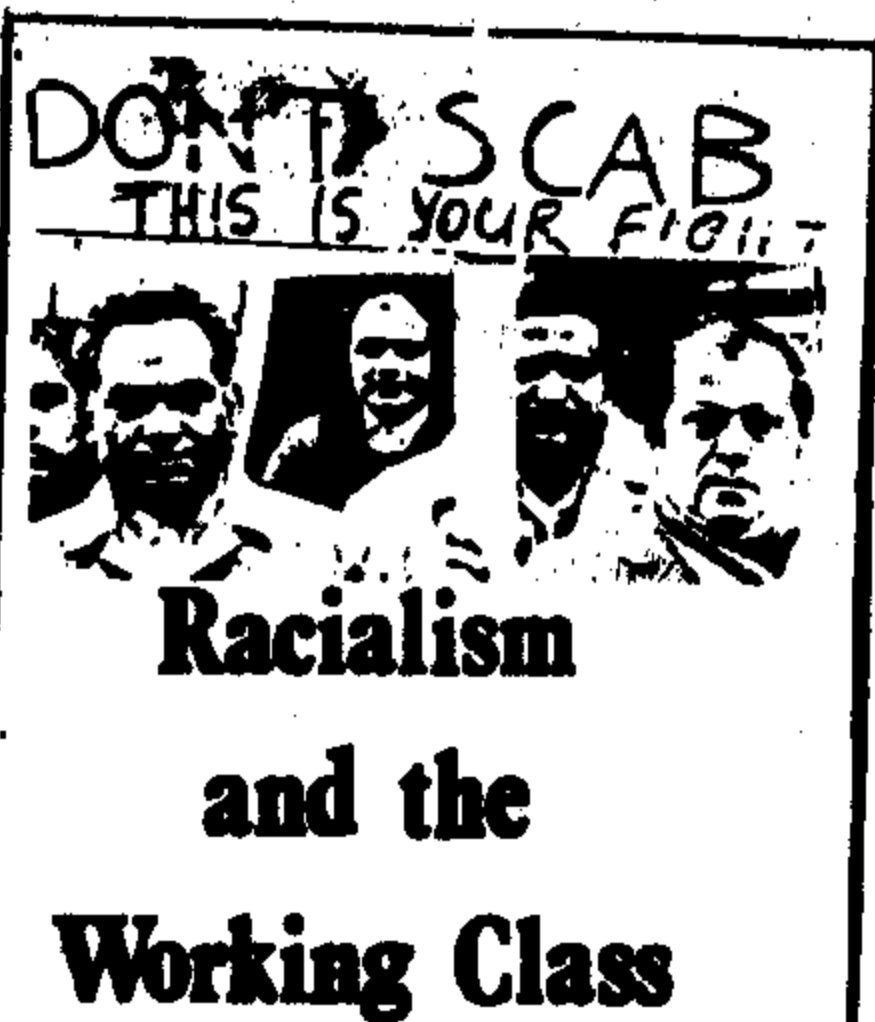
Use this Pamphlet

To help campaign against racism, WORKERS' FIGHT has produced a 20-page pamphlet which explains the roots of racist thinking, takes up 'reasonable' sounding racist arguments, examines the racism of the popular psychologist Eysenck, and exposes fascist infiltration in the Unions.

The pamphlet is written in a clear style, and should be an invaluable aid to militants striving to fight racism at work.

We appeal to all readers and supporters of Workers' Fight to take it into their workplace and make sure it gets as wide a circulation as possible.

Single Issues 10p & postage
Bulk Orders: 50p for 6; 80p for 12



WARLEY

Council fakes rents fight

The Housing Cttee. of the Labour controlled Warley council (Worcs) have pledged themselves to fight a 50p rent increase due under the Housing Finance Act in October.

But before we all start celebrating another Clay Cross, we should remember last year's performance. After a few militant words, they implemented the Act with neither a blush nor a stop for breath. The Council, they had said, would fight the Act with every means at its dis-

posal; would implement the Act to the good of the tenants (!!); and anyway, if they didn't they'd be replaced with the Tories who would implement it.

This time they have an alibi laid in advance: "This is a revolt against the indecision and the slow attitude of the Government in setting up the rent Scrutiny Board" the Chairman of the Housing Cttee said last week.

Kevin Crowe

C.O.

PORT BOSSSES REAP

REWARDS

by Tom Ramsey

THE STATEMENTS AND REPORTS of major port and container industry companies published in the last two months, reveal that there has been a large increase in their profits. Furthermore, they forecast expanded profits in the future.

This is strange, to say the least. Only last year, many companies complained of lack of profits, of being ruined by greedy dockers who were, at the same time, destroying the "national interest".

Over the last year, Workers Fight has described some of the factors which have contributed directly to the increase in profits. The dockers failed to halt the two-fronted attack of the employers.

The employers fought to: 1) increase productivity; and, 2) cut back the number of registered dockers, through severance. Succeeding in both, they achieved this general rise in profits.

There are, of course, other factors. For example, the North Atlantic rate war has cooled down. There has been a further rationalisation of consortiums and companies. Earlier investments have begun to pay off.

But the main thing is that the employers have successfully forced the dockers to retreat. Severance broke the log jam for the bosses. It cost a lot, but most now reckon it was worth it.

The Annual Report of the National Dock Labour Board describes clearly what severance means for the port industry. Over the year 1971, the number of men who worked was on average around 33 500. The number of registered dockworkers in that year was 45 500. For one reason or another — sickness, being on the Temporary Unattached Register, etc — there were an average of 12 000 men not working at any given time.

By 1972 the number of men working was 30 700 (average), but there were 4 200 registered men fewer than the year before.

So over the year the employers used fewer dockworkers, and got a better return on those they did use — and 'use' is the right word.

Now, the number of men on the register is roughly the same as the number the employers want — about 30 000. The employers have won a fight to cut back the workforce to their requirements. And their plans are for further cutbacks.

Instead of dockers using the situation to force through demands such as for a 30 hour week, a few dockers have been bought off with severance money, and at the other end of the process, casuals have been brought in.

The road for a fight back is clear. Open the register. Bring the supplementary men onto the permanent register. 30 hour week. Defend the

" YOU CAN WIN "

SHOTTON STEELWORKERS TOLD

"YOU CAN WIN".

That was the message of Bill Freeman of Bryant Color and Jack Spriggs of Fisher Bendix, speaking to a mass meeting of Shotton steelworkers on June 28th.

As leaders of successful take-overs against redundancy, both were living proof to the steelworkers that action against redundancies is necessary and can be successful.

The Action Committee at Shotton is faced with 6,500 redundancies when the steelmaking end closes, and a further 6,500 when

the finishing end follows. Yet the Committee is at present playing into the hands of BSC and the Government, by splitting the contractors from the rest of the work force and dragging its feet to the tune called by the sub-committee dealing with technical matters.

The contractors who work on the site were not allowed to vote at the mass meeting — because they are alleged to have swung the vote at the last mass meeting! (in favour of coming out on May Day)

Action Cttee. Chairman Luke MacLaughlin, whilst correctly

advocating full support for the steelworkers National Action Cttee and the fight of all steelworkers, at the same time out of the fight at Shotton to some indefinite time. As well as advocating continued negotiations, he supported investigations into alternative steelmaking plans by the technical committee. (Not surprising perhaps, when you consider that he is having to do the work of the semi-defunct technical Committee.

Yet as he himself told the meeting, Finiston and Melchett (BSC hatchet man and late hatchet man respectively) had already spelt out what is clear in the Steel White Paper itself — that Shotton will be closed even if the Technical Cttee comes up with alternative plans.

Militants at Shotton must take up the message of Jack Spriggs and Bill Freeman, and struggle to get it across in the works and on the NAC. What is needed is an occupation with the NAC implementing its resolution of its 2nd meeting (see WF27) by supporting it and ensuring that material still goes to Shotton to keep the heavy end in working order. If BSC stop material coming to the works, any collapse of plant will be their responsibility.

The technical committee should prove itself in practice by providing information necessary for an occupation with the heavy end still operable — that is certainly possible.

Steel Coils

As an immediate first step, all materials should be stopped from leaving the works. The Shotton Action Committee did have a policy of not letting certain products out (including steel coils) in order to put the squeeze on BSC. But acting on their own initiative three members of the Action Cttee (Geoff Hett, Alan Smith and Danny Fellows), gave instructions for a massive number of steel coils to leave.

Instead of the Action Cttee coming down like a ton of bricks on these people, they decided to "let by-gones be by-gones" and say nothing more about it. This was a really dangerous capitulation to the right wing.

Unfortunately some left-wingers responded to it hot-headedly and just walked out of the Action Cttee (and one actually left the works).

While plans are being laid for an occupation of the works, there must be a firm refusal to let anything out of the gates. To do this there will have to be tougher line taken against those who break ranks and do their own thing.

Above all, militants must ensure that the rank and file steelworkers know what is going on, prepare for action, and don't allow the Action Committee to get away with undemocratic decisions.

If steelworkers themselves are prepared to take action, and prove this in practice, they can win the support of other workers. That way, they themselves can win.

CYNTHIA BALDREY

CHRYSLERS

Pickets Beat Scabs

THE ORGANISED VIOLENCE OF hired scabs employed against Chrysler strikers must be seen as a grim warning that in future blood will flow on the picket lines.

The dispute at Chrysler's Ryton assembly plant began on Thursday May 24th with 4 500 workers striking in support of 600 "body in white" shop workers who were stopped one and a half hours pay for "unacceptable work". The men had in fact been told to use reject parts.

The strike broke out on the day the men had been recalled after being laid off because a dispute at Linwood plant had resulted in a shortage of components. The strike at Chrysler Ryton was thus provoked by management to avoid lay-off payments.

Flying pickets were quickly organised by an action group set up by rank-and-file Ryton workers to get solidarity for the strike from other Chrysler plants. Action Group policy was to stop production and force the company to meet lay-off pay agreements. Immediate company reaction to this was to set the scene for things to come. Chrysler management demolished railings and walls, flew helicopters over the plant and took photographs of the pickets.

On Monday June 18th, like thieves in the night, the Walker Bros. rent-a-scab unit (hailed by the 'Daily Mail' as brave commandos acting in the spirit of Dunkirk and Colditz) moved into action. Taking six over-loaded lorries out of the Stoke components plant they smashed through the picket line throwing bricks and bottles at the strikers as they went. Inside the Stoke plant John Doherty, a fork-lift driver, was assaulted with a spanner by scabs who feared he would raise the alarm at the picket line.

Violence did not stop at Stoke. At Chrysler, Dunstable, where three of the lorries eventually arrived (the

other three had collapsed under the weight of their heavy loads), one of the company's own security guards was pinned against the gate and badly injured as the scabs drove past him. Needless to say, the scab drivers broke every rule in the book — no lights, number plates blacked out, overloading, dangerous driving, etc. And the police? "Well, it was too dark to see, and too late to do anything!"

Eventually, on June 23rd, the company backed down, making the one-and-a-half hour and layoff payments. This was a clear victory for the men, and an admission by the management of their case. Chrysler workers have gained tremendously more self confidence and a new sense of strength through the use of flying pickets.

PROVOCATION

The major question the strike posed was, what was Chrysler management playing at? Was the "body-in-white" dispute an incident that simply got out of hand, or was it a deliberate provocation to weaken the union before a fight on the big pay claim due to begin shortly? If, as seems likely, it was the second, then it is essential to learn the lessons of the strike.

Chrysler's director of manufacturing plant, Bob Irwin, had the habit of driving lorries through pickets when US auto workers were fighting the Chrysler empire. If the American bosses have taught these techniques to their bully-boy hirelings then carworkers in Britain must learn from American workers — who have matched truncheon with truncheon, spanner with spanner.

It is necessary to give organised expression to the valid hatred of workers towards scabs and bands of gangsters.

Bas Hardy

National Dock Labour Scheme.

At the last meeting of the National Ports Shop Stewards Committee, many new areas were represented: Glasgow (both Greenock and Clyde), Tilbury, and London riverside docks

The only major port now missing is Southampton.

But still the meeting came to no firm decision for action on the employers' plans. Time is running out. The next meeting must decide to act