

# WORKERS' FIGHT

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4p

## 200,000 READY TO OCCUPY

# DON'T PAY!

## Smash the Act

BECAUSE LIVERPOOL DOCKERS blacked 6 lorries carrying what they considered to be scab cargo, the TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION has been fined £5,000 for contempt of the National Industrial Relations Court set up to administer the new Trade Union laws which came fully into force a month ago.

For carrying out TUC policy of non-cooperation with the C Court the Union now faces the temporary seizure of its assets by a special Receiver and a prospect of unlimited fines if it continues to defy the Court, or refuses to pay the £5,000.

The threat which the Industrial Relations Act poses to the existence of the unions, as any sort of fighting organisations, could not be more clearly presented. Any employer can now invoke the machinery of the State in its trade union disputes. And we are back in the situation which followed the notorious Taff Vale court case in 1901, after which, for a number of years, the unions were liable to have to pay heavy damages to any employer who felt he had been 'damaged' by the action of striking members of any trade union.

### DOCKERS

The Liverpool dockers, like all dockers in Britain, have built up a solid job security, and high wages, through years of battle with the employers.

The employers need less and less dockers as machinery and rising productivity destroys jobs. Ultimately they want to smash the Dock Labour Scheme so as to have a free hand to sack men and control the docks at will.

Meanwhile they have been trying to bypass the docks and dockers by getting containers packed and unpacked away from the docks, by non-dockers at less than dockers' wages. With high unemployment in the ports this is taking bread out of the dockers' mouths.

Dockers have no alternative but to fight back. Thus the Liverpool men blacked container carrying lorries. The employers involved asked for a Court injunction to stop the blacking, and the order was granted. Even though the Union ordered the blacking lifted (the drivers involved are also T&G members) it was still liable for contempt of Court under the new laws.

Hence the £5,000 fine. No doubt the Court, like all the members and servants of the ruling class, was particularly sensitive to the issue of blacking. These people knew what weapon it was that laid Heath out and inflicted the worst humiliation on the hard-faced Tories that any British Government has suffered in decades.

### DEFY THEM!

Now the only answer which the labour movement can — in all seriousness — make to the

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AFTER THE MINERS, it's the turn of the engineers. A wave of sit-ins has already broken out in Manchester. The stakes are massive. On the one side, two and a half million workers, with the two largest unions in the country, the AUEW and the T&GWU. On the other, many of the largest firms in Britain: GKN, Hawker, GEC, Plessey, BSA, etc, organised in their 'union', the Engineering Employers' Federation.

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions put in a claim for a "substantial increase" last year. Negotiations broke down — and the Union leaders abdicated responsibility and left the claim to plant-by-plant bargaining.

In a situation of economic recession, when the employers are on the offensive, plant-by-plant bargaining means that the weaker factories go to the wall. The shop stewards of the Manchester district

of the Confed. recognised this. At a mass meeting they decided on a common claim of £4 a week, a 35-hour week, an extra week's annual holiday, and progress to equal pay for women. (Meanwhile, in the neighbouring District 29a, the best organised factory in the district was settling for £1.50...)

On Monday 27th. March they moved into action in support of this claim — a work-to-rule and a

ban on piecework. Some factories had acted earlier, staging sit-ins in response to employers' attempts to lock them out.

As we write, eight factories are occupied.

The law courts have shown which side they are on. On 29th. March, the High Court issued a Writ ordering workers occupying Sharston Works in Cheadle to leave the premises. They face the prospect of a siege. Workers from other factories are organising to support Sharston.

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## THE END OF STORMONT

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# workers fight

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## Ulster law comes to Britain

Police raids at dawn. Long, thorough ransacking of people's homes and personal property and the removal of sacks of documents, letters, diaries and political publications by the Police. The arrest and deportation to Northern Ireland of Comrade Seamus O'Kane, who faces a real possibility of being interned. And the ban on the Anti-Internment League demonstration — and on the by now traditional Easter Republican demonstration — from Trafalgar Square.

Already the war and the British Army terror in Northern Ireland have had their repercussions inside Britain itself. Already a faint echo of the sort of political life the Nationalist people of Northern Ireland have had to suffer for decades is being heard in Democratic Tory Britain.

Even if the Irish Sea was a great deal wider than it is, it wouldn't be possible for long to inflict a massive reign of terror on the Nationalist people of what is, still, a part of the United Kingdom, and at the same time maintain the traditional liberal freedoms in Britain itself. The savage and quite unprovoked attack by mounted police on the peaceful Whitehall demonstration of February 5th just after the Derry massacre had already made that clear.

Did those who planned the raids really see them as mainly concerned with an investigation of the Aldershot bombing (acknowledged as their work by the official IRA in Dublin)? If so how did so very many policemen have so much time to spend leafing through files of socialist and Republican newspapers? If so, why have the raids been followed up since by continued police harassment?

### SOLIDARITY

Almost certainly the raids were aimed at amassing information about, and possibly intimidating, militants involved in Irish solidarity work in Britain. One Sunday newspaper traced the connections between the victims to a common former membership of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign, an organisation that functioned in London in 1969.

The police were — and are — preparing to clamp down on solidarity activity, seeing demonstrations such as that of February 5th, as objectively mobilisations in support of the Irish Republican Army. They were preparing for what would have been a massive confrontation in London on the Anti-Internment League March 26th demonstration if the imposition of direct rule in Northern Ireland had not changed and 'mellowed' — for the moment — the political climate.

But the raids at 6 am are only part of the story. PEOPLE ARE STILL BEING HARRASSED. Noel Tracy, a sympathiser of the WORKERS FIGHT GROUP, was raided with the others, and the usual search and removal of papers, etc., occurred.

Since then he has been visited by the Police on a number of occasions — two times at his job, on flimsy excuses. If this isn't a blatant attempt to get him sacked, it is difficult to know what it is. Tracy, who supports the attitude of this paper to the war in Ireland and to the Irish Republican Army, has never been in the Republican movement.

But he has been a revolutionary socialist for some 15 years. No doubt other people we don't know about are being harassed in this fashion.

They are being harassed by the same state that is attempting to bludgeon the whole labour movement in Britain itself, through the law courts. It is the responsibility of the socialist movement to launch a counter-attack on the growing repression. Every single incident must be publicised. We must constantly explain that the attacks on the Northern Ireland Republicans, and the attacks on the trade union rights, wages, and social services of the British working class (and now on civil liberties in Britain itself) are part of an attack, elements of one strategy, carried out by the same government in pursuit of the same goal — to ensure the continued domination of the City of London big business spivs over both the British working class and the Irish people.

We will not get this through to the Labour movement in Britain, nor mount an effective campaign in Britain itself against repression, by dissociating ourselves from the legitimate military actions of the I.R.A. against the British Army. Nor by responding to the unwelcome attentions of the police with panic-stricken denunciations of the I.R.A., as did the leading spokesmen of the 'International Socialists', Palmer, Higgins and Protz.

Our major responsibility to those British working class militants fighting the Tory government on the home front is to demonstrate that they have a common interest with those fighting the same government on the Irish front. And that if we can coordinate the two fronts this vicious Government can be smashed — and so can the system its viciousness serves to protect.

# DON'T PAY!

(CONTINUED...)

employers, their Tory Government and their state, is to open a new offensive against the Act. The N.I.R.C. is trying it on, probing for weakness in the trade union front of boycotting the new machinery, trying to pressurise the Union leaders in to reaching an agreement to police the unions, against rank and file militants.

Deliberate, open and demonstrative defiance of the law, backed up by industrial action — that is the only appropriate answer to the arrogant challenge now confronting the working class.

To pay the fine would be to concede a big victory to the Tories. If the state can seize the financial assets of the Unions — the wave of sit-ins show that the working class can lay hands on the property of the employers. And we have seen what an effective weapon that can be.

### EXPLOSIVE

This decision means that the issue of the Industrial Relations Act has become linked, explosively, urgently and directly, with the dockers' battle to defend their jobs.

Dockers will recall how they dealt with the last attempt to use the law courts — a docks dispute in 1951, when unofficial strike leaders were put on trial. The London men struck, under

the slogan: "WHILE THEY ARE IN THE DOCK, WE ARE OUT OF THE DOCKS."

The strike leaders were soon released, all charges dropped.

The T&GWU leaders flinched from defying the Court on the blacking issue, but they boycotted the Court. If Jack Jones and Co. are not willing to launch an all-out defiance of the Court, then dockers — even if initially they have to act alone — must mobilise through the rank and file Shop Stewards movement to do it.

The fight against containerisation has been hard enough: the employers must not be allowed to gain extra leverage by using the Courts to stop dockers acting to defend themselves.

The miners proved that the Tories, at their most determined, could be routed. They can be routed on this issue too. Workers cannot wait until the return of a Labour Government, which may, or may not, repeal the Act.

Dockers, faced with a sharpening threat to their industry, can afford to wait least of all.

**WE DON'T HAVE TO WAIT.** Direct immediate industrial action in support of the T&G can reduce the Act to a joke.

The miners smashed the Tories in round one. Now it's our turn. We must give a lead to the whole labour movement in just how to deal with the Tories and their lawcourts.

Harold Youd

Manchester Portworkers' Cttee.

## Oldham: fascists call off march — for now

**THE ANTI-IMMIGRANT MARCH** which was to have taken place in Oldham, never did. At the last moment the fascists who had organised the demonstration backed down and called it off.

The reason the march was called off was quite clearly that the fascists knew that if they went ahead they would be outnumbered by anti-fascist demonstrators. When faced with this threat the fascist front organisation TRU-AIM (Trade Unionists against Immigration) began to crumble.

First the National Front withdrew their support. They were followed by Mosley's Union Movement, which left only Colin Jordan and his supporters who, despite their boasts to the contrary, were never in a position to carry the march by themselves.

The fact that the fascists were

forced to call off their racist carnival was undoubtedly a victory for all those who mobilised to stop the march.

However, the victory was not carried through. It had been agreed previously that even if the fascists did cancel their march, the anti-fascist demonstration would still go ahead. Despite this the leader of the Anti-Fascist Coordinating Committee called off the counter demonstration. So although a victory was won, it was not seen to be won. The lessons of HOW the fascists were stopped were not driven home.

The fascists are now threatening to march again in the Autumn. We must make sure they don't.

J.W.

# THE END OF STORMONT

*but the fight goes on*

by JACKIE CLEARY

IN ONE SENSE, THE IMPOSITION of Direct Rule is a victory for the Republican population of Northern Ireland — and not only in that the main republican group, the Provisional IRA, demanded it.

The Government had tried desperately to avoid it, for fear of the threatened Orange backlash, and fear of splitting the British "Tory and Unionist" Party. They have tried with all their strength to terrify the Catholics into submission. They tried internment without charge or trial. Then they tried cold-blooded mass murder in Derry on January 30th. Each move only made the situation worse, and heightened the danger of the fire spreading to the South and catching a real hold. Only reluctantly and hesitantly did they finally decide to pull the rug from under the feet of the strutting Orange politicians at Stormont.

It may prove a double-edged victory for the I.R.A. The British Government has merely retreated to a better fortified position. The Republicans have only won a battle, they haven't won the war. Middle class politicians, men like Gerry Fitt and John Hume of the SDLP, together with the Church and the Green Tories of the South, are

eager to help the British Government turn a tactical retreat into a victory for the Government, by helping it split off the Catholic masses from the IRA. And direct rule in the North brings nearer the possibility of Lynch being able to introduce internment in the South. They would like a repetition of 1969, when the Catholic workers forgot that the British Army, during all the terrible centuries of British rule, had never been other than an oppressor of the Irish people.

## STORMONT

After 51 years, Stormont has been scrapped — the ranting Orange bigots find that they are after all puppets, and can be over-ruled. The sectarian Orange state had become a liability rather than an aid to British domination of Ireland. For at least 10 years Britain has wanted to tone down the rampant Protestant Sectarian character of the Northern Ireland state in the interests of growing cordiality with the Southern Ireland rulers, among Britain's most important trading partners.

Now the government has been forced, because of the explosive contradictions in Northern Ireland

society, to shatter the Orange state. They do so to keep control, to stop the mass struggle getting completely out of hand. More than once in Irish history the British ruling class has changed things from above, to stop the people changing them in their own way and according to their own design, from below.

That is the only good thing to be said about Direct Rule — that it clearly exposes the British ruling class and Westminster as the real masters in the situation.

## PROTESTANT WORKERS

Perhaps the greatest shock of direct rule was to the Protestant working class, reared on the meagre fruit of tiny privileges over the Catholics, and living in the cripplingly divisive illusion of being, together with the Orange bosses, some sort of master race — "We are the people!"

The warped Northern Ireland society provides us with the sight of a major general strike to support the Orange-Tory regime, led by the Ulster Vanguard bloc of bankrupt politicians, they are still tied hand and foot to their own ruling class.

The brutal reminder that for all their strutting and prancing against the Catholics they too are under the control of the British ruling class, has so far led them to threats

of war, and pogroms against the Catholic working class. It will in the future lead them to a real sobering up so that they understand that they can only really better themselves in alliance with the Catholic workers against the Tories, and not under the leadership of men like Craig and Faulkner against the Catholic workers.

The paradox of 'loyalists' in revolt against British rule is only apparent. The Orangemen have always had, or thought they had, their own vested interest. The outrage at their 'majority' being ignored is possible only to people who hide from the fact that their majority, like their state, is artificial, unreal, conjured up by British imperialist partition of Ireland.

What imperialism gives, it can take away.

Meanwhile, the festering of Northern Ireland capitalism, and its slums and mass unemployment, continues. Internment continues and will not quickly be ended. Direct rule answers none of these problems. Capitalism is incapable of answering them.

The end of Stormont removes a direct instrument for Protestant oppression of the Catholics. But what confidence can there be in the direct rule of a government responsible so recently for the Derry massacre? If they fail to cajole the Catholics into calling off the fight for a united Ireland, they will continue the policy of bludgeoning them into submission.

Only a complete British withdrawal from Ireland would create the possibility for the whole Irish people, Green and Orange, to solve their problems. There can be no deals with British imperialism that benefit the Irish people. That is why we have supported the war of liberation of the IRA, and why, so long as the IRA continues to fight against British imperialism, we will continue to favour its military victory and the military defeat of our own ruling class.

It's great

to be

young

THERE I WAS, COWERING UNDER the blankets trying to keep warm, and almost on the point of deciding where to spend the 10p I had left from this week's dole, when there was a knock on the door.

"The fuzz — this time I'm the Eston murderer!" I thought. (Recently I've answered the descriptions of a car thief and a handbag snatcher — or at least that's what the cops said.)

But no, it wasn't the noble upholders of law and order, but Molly the dolly from the front room bed-sitter. She wanted to borrow a match to light her fire, and I rushed to oblige.

As we sat in front of a small paper and sticks blaze I looked through her copy of Polygram, Teesside Polytechnic's rag mag. It was pretty good, though corny in parts, as usual for annual college mags. Some blue stuff, too.

"Have you taken it into work, yet, for the girls to read at dinner-time?" I asked.

"Oh, no! I couldn't!" she said, "I'd get the sack if the foreman saw me with that."

This I couldn't believe, but she told me that a young foreman at her factory — John Colliers Tailoring — was a real prude and very strict about such things.

"Dirty" joke books and other 'obscene' literature are banned, not to mention such unspeakable publications as Oz. This puritan foreman has to protect the younger girls from such corrupting influences, as well as timing their trips to the loo, making sure their gazes never wander from their machines, and generally treating them like schoolkids.

Mischievous girls who are caught talking in class — I mean at work — or having a sly drag in the loo, are put on punishment duties such as pushing a loaded wheelbarrow about or untangling threads for the rest of the day.

Or, if one of the supervisors or foremen are in a bad mood, out you go.

\* \* \* \* \*

17 year old Peter O'Neill of South Bank, Teesside, was sick of being on the dole. Every time he applied for a job he was turned down because of lack of training. After three months without work he deliberately committed four robberies, then gave himself up in order to be sent to Borstal where he could learn a trade.

On Wednesday 22nd March he told Teesside magistrates that he regards Borstal as a place of training and an escape from the thing which sickens him most at present — unemployment.

Peter's desperation and exasperation drove him to court detention, and in this he was successful — he was committed to Borstal, as he had planned.

Perhaps he should have tried the Army, where he would be subjected to the same bullying, discipline and mindless tasks that he will experience "inside", only more so.

Or perhaps he's not that desperate yet.

Alan Theasby



# INTERNATIONAL REPORT

## Italy

### Why fascism is growing again

CENTRE COALITIONS, in which the Christian Democrats dominated, have ruled Italy for the last 10 years. But the centre cannot hold any longer, sapped and cracked by the pressure on it from right and left.

Since 1968 Italy has been repeatedly swept by waves of popular unrest — general strikes and sit-ins (often for political aims) mass demonstrations etc., — which if never at any one moment as dramatic as those of France in May 1968, have cumulatively involved wider layers of the population and been more destructive of the stability of the system. Only a couple of weeks ago 7 million workers struck in solidarity with the pay demands of 2 million farm labourers.

The Communist Party, with its 1½ million members and its 8½ million votes has seen here the chance that electoral victory might at last be in its grasp, and has put forward a programme of reforms rather like those of British labour in 1945 — but without nationalisation...

It has proposed a coalition, not only to the Socialist parties, but also to any willing 'progressive' Christian Democrats.

Since last December the parties have been unable to contrive a coalition for a new government, and so a General Election will be held on May 7th. Fearful as have been capitalist parties of allowing even the tamest 'Communist' Party a toe-hold in the corridors of power, many Christian Democrats are coming to the view that if the C.P. gains yet more votes, they will have to consider it.

In an attempt to appease the movement, some reforms have been passed since 1968, but they have become lost in the labyrinthine Italian bureaucracy which should have implemented them. Meanwhile the unemployment rate is up by 10%.

#### NO CLEAR LEAD

But in situations of social upheaval the working class and its organisations must offer a clear promise of victory and show a clear lead forward that other sections can follow. In Italy the compromising parliamentarism of the C.P. is already beginning to bring its retribution: those middle class sections of the society whose lives are most disrupted by the pressures of the

two main conflicting classes (workers and capitalists) but who get from the workers no clear lead, are turning increasingly to the neo-fascist M.S.I.

The MSI have powerful allies — both the Greek colonels and the CIA (US secret service) are paranoid about the possibility of Communists in the Government.

They launched their election campaign at a rally of 40,000 people Birindello, chief of staff of NATO in Southern Europe (who was expelled from Malta a few months ago to outcries from the British press) resigned his command to stand as one of their candidates.

They present themselves as the party of law and order, and have the effect of either attracting sup-

documents implicating the Greek Secret Service, and a group of neo-fascists have since been arrested for this and other bombings

In 1969 16 people were killed by an explosion at a Milan bank. Two anarchists, Pinelli and Valpreda, were arrested. The first 'fell' out of a window at Police headquarters, and it has since been admitted that he was arrested "in error".

The case against Valpreda drags on — getting flimsier all the time. And last week three Neo-Fascists were arrested for the Milan bank explosion.

The Fascist strategy was thus beginning to backfire when last week the body of left wing publisher Giangiacomo Feltrinelli was found, blown up, beside an electricity



Feltrinelli — victim of Fascist frame-up

## BUDGET:

### Gift horse with false teeth

Looking at the Press's comments on the Budget, we are led to believe that everybody is getting a gift from our generous Chancellor.

However, like the customers of the other "demon barber", Sweeney Todd, I can't help feeling worried about the ingredients of the free meat pies.

Barber wishes to put over the idea that the government is doing all it can by expanding industry for the good of all, and even giving people extra pocket money. However there are still those greedy, nasty workers who are cocking up the works.

He says, "if particular groups insist on pricing themselves out of jobs and the nation out of business, no government can secure full employment."

In fact, even given the five per cent growth in production (they're not very good at working out figures anyway), output per man is increasing by 4 per cent a year — so where are the extra jobs coming from?

We were conned into accepting productivity deals which put men out of work, and he has the bloody cheek to say we're "pricing" ourselves out of the market!

As for my granny, I'm sure she'll be delighted with her massive rise of 12½% — a £6.75 pension goes a long way these days.

Not content to keep it down to 12½% our charitable Chancellor is waiting till Autumn to pay up. I'm not for a moment saying the increase will be absorbed by the rise

in the cost of living — not all of it, anyway. And an extra quarter of mint humbugs is quite a luxury at that age.

The pensioners and unemployed will have been overjoyed at the reductions in purchase tax. Furs, jewellery, gold watches have had tax halved. Now the old folk can get fur coats to stop themselves freezing in winter, and I think now gold watches are cheaper my brother Fred might get one so he's not late to collect his dole.

There was something that caught my eye in the paper about the Budget. Apparently you can get interest on loans added to your tax allowances. And I reckon that what with the fridge and the cooker, and my second hand Morris-1000, we must be paying quite a bit of interest on our weekly HP payments.

But hold on. This does not apply to Hire Purchase. It only applies to those who have security to borrow off the bank, and then only if interest exceeds £35 a year.

I wonder who on earth these people could be who can borrow this amount? They could be the small businessmen who have just been given a special low rate of tax. I suppose they're the people who used to pay death duties until they were made exempt on the first £15,000. They could even be the people who have a large slice coming to them due to the changes in capital gains tax.

GOD knows why they should vote Tory...

Phil Lewis

port from the right wing of the Christian Democrats or else of pushing the C.D.s to the right so as to compete with them on their own terms. The Christian Democrats, pulled in two directions, split further still.

The neo-fascists have gone to some lengths to promote their image as defenders of order against anarchy. It is becoming increasingly clear in the country that they have for several years been setting off bombs — which they have then denounced with outrage, while their friends in the police have pinned the crimes on members of anarchist groups.

Last year two anarchists were acquitted of blowing up the Fiat stand at the Milan Trade Fair. An English journalist produced secret

pylon surrounded by unexploded dynamite.

The frame-up was crudely done. Peasants nearby said they'd heard an explosion 18 hours before, but a doctor stated that Feltrinelli had been dead for 24 hours. His spectacles and the ignition keys of the car nearby were missing. On him were false documents of identity forged with deliberate crudeness — but also a Cuban medal and photos of his son: to make sure he was correctly identified.

But if the onward march of Italian fascism is to be halted, it won't be by their own mistakes, but by the posing of a clear revolutionary alternative to a ruling class which can no longer go on in the old way.

## India

### Indira cashes in

THE RECENT STATE ELECTION results can offer little encouragement to the hungry millions of India.

Indira Gandhi's Congress Party, after seeming in tatters following the split in 1969 and its subsequent defeat in the 1969 state elections, has apparently regained all its old strength.

Riding high on a crest of Indian nationalism, following the Indo-Pakistan war in Bangladesh, Gandhi has swept to power in 14 out of 16

states with an absolute majority.

Both the Communist Parties (the major working class parties in India) have, overall, lost seats. Despite an electoral alliance with the Congress Party, the pro-Moscow CP only gained in Bihar and Bengal.

The CPI(M), the "left" CP, was decimated.

The reformism of both CPs has backfired with a vengeance, leaving the ultra-right Jana Sangh as the party with the second largest number of seats in the State

## Spain

# The jackboot wears thin

HOW LONG CAN FRANCO'S regime last? This question has been asked repeatedly over the last 7 or 8 years, since the new surfacing of the slumbering resentment of a people defeated a generation ago by the weight of fascist armies and the treachery of the leaders of the workers' own organisations.

Repeatedly over these years the challenges of striking workers, rioting students and separatist guerrillas have been repressed by the regime.

Yet the question remains relevant at every moment. Again and again the challenge reasserts itself: the intimidating power of the state's terrorism suppresses it, but not for long; familiarity with it breeds a growing contempt.

In the small town of El Ferrol the shipyard workers sat in demanding a new wage agreement and in protest at the sacking of 6 workers who had organised for their demand. The police drove them out, but the 3,000 workers attacked the armed police with their bare hands, drove them into their barracks and for several hours held the town.

Army reinforcements were sent in; three destroyers sailed up; and the police opened fire killing two and injuring over 100.

Yet the next day the struggle continued — shops were closed,

other workers, in a metalurgy plant, in the port and construction yards came out in protest.

After the funeral crowds attacked the police with stones. Martial law with soldiers sealing off all access roads, and large scale arrests, restored 'order', but the strike continued until a week later the threat of conscription of all strikers into the navy forced them back.

But support had already spread widely and the intimidation had only a local impact. In Bilbao, General Electric workers struck against the sacking of 10 of them for organising sympathetic action in support of El Ferrol. They in turn now face a lockout and punitive action — 1,500 have been suspended for periods ranging from 3 days to two weeks.

### GATHERING TIDE

The confrontation at El Ferrol is only the high point of a multitude of disturbances whose effect in the last months has become cumulative. Illegal strikes, some long and bitter, have been carried on by many workers — in their forefront the Asturian miners, workers in the Michelin factory in the Basque country, Barcelona motor workers and the Madrid building workers.

Guardians of 15th March, in its usual liberal manner, is prepared to concede that "observers believe that some of the allegations are true."

But ballot rigging is only part of the story; in the whole of India's 16 states the CPI(M) won only 35 seats!

The main reason for the CPs' failures, especially those of the 'lefts', must be sought elsewhere than in the ballot box.

Having previously collaborated with the Congress Party to maintain capitalist rule, they capped this in the period leading up to the recent war.

In October 1971, two months before the war, both 'Communist' parties supported Gandhi in a no-strike, increased-production drive. Small wonder, with the CPs playing second and third fiddles to Indian bourgeois nationalism, that Gandhi should be the main beneficiary in the post-war election — especially given her deliberate stealing of the left's thunder: the main Congress Party election slogan was "ABOLISH POVERTY!"

Of course, this Gandhi can't and will not do. The Congress Party is an out and out capitalist party. Poverty and starvation in India flow fundamentally from the grip of Indian and imperialist big business and finance on the Indian economy and from the hold of India's biggest landlords on the land.

The masses may expect changes, but Gandhi's regime will bring only more of the same.

Big social explosions lie ahead. Against these she will be aided directly by the pro-Moscow C.P. They will continue to bloc with her; and she has promised to include them in the Government. No doubt they will continue to be very useful in containing attacks from the left on the capitalist politics of the Gandhi government.

J.W.

The Perkins diesel engine factory in Madrid is on strike over the refusal of the management to reinstate in his old job a militant who has just completed five years in prison for his leading role in the illegal "Workers' Commissions". The El Ferrol sit in itself was an escalation of the mass meetings which have been going on in numerous factories to discuss their demands for new labour contracts.

### STUDENTS ON STRIKE

All faculties of Madrid university have been occupied by police for the last three years. Yet in December the medical students went on strike demanding a different curriculum, an improved health service and the removal of the police. When they were suspended the strike spread and mass meetings and marches by the students took place against the reprisals on the medical students.

The university became a battleground. In December and January some 150,000 students as well as many school children were involved.

After a month's lull, the students' struggle has resumed: some 50% of all Spanish students are at present on strike, and at least 600 students are currently in prison.

All teaching in the country is now at a standstill as there is also a national teachers' strike on against the new education law and for higher wages and smaller classes — a general revolt against an education system which they describe as inadequate, undemocratic and favouring the rich.

While workers and students gather their forces, the ruling circles themselves are in disarray. Many industrialists would like a normal bourgeois democratic regime. Church elements, including bishops, are hostile to the regime — the Bishop at El Ferrol circulated a pastoral letter condemning the shootings; another is currently being 'dealt with' after proposing that the Church should "apologise to the Spanish people" for its role during the Civil War.

The break-up of the previously solid front of Church and state could well be formalised when the Concordat between them comes up for renewal in the next few months.

The Falange party, long almost defunct, held its biggest rally for years at the end of November when 3,000 gathered to protest at Franco's project of restoring the monarchy: "Idiot Kings — No" they chanted.

35 years ago the revolutionary Spanish workers' movement was stifled even before the war with Franco was lost, because its leadership, primarily the "Communist" Party, had limited its aims to establishing a 'liberal capitalism'.

Today, though the fascist regime is ageing and essentially unstable, and a new undefeated generation of workers takes up the offensive, the same dangers threaten. This time the workers must not be led down the blind alley of a fight for 'democratic capitalism'. They have the strength and the will to go the whole way — if they are not derailed by treacherous 'Communists' with their plan for countenancing stages to a never-never socialism.

C.L.



Madrid workers and students demonstrate for the release of political prisoners.

## dave brodie

### Mr Weatherspoon

#### was a mighty hunter

A new series began last week in the 'Comic Cuts' (more commonly known as the Daily Mirror).

The series is entitled 'The Savage In the Suburbs'.

The article would have us believe that in the clean streets, tidy homes and well ordered lives of suburbia lurk the untamed savages of the twentieth century.

As an instance the 'Mirror' likens the Sunday joint to the sacrifice made by ancient man to the tribal gods.

But in the time it takes his modern day counterpart to earn the price of the Sunday joint, the cave dweller would have had seven tons of dinosaur hung up to dry.

We are told that, when a gent and his wife sit down to dine on medium rare steak and raw oysters they are in fact copying the habits of their ancestors.

Obviously these were not working class savages...

The Sunday morning session in the boozery, it would appear, is modern day man's equivalent of the meetings in the ancient longhouses of Borneo.

Did the Dyaks really charge 17½ a pint?

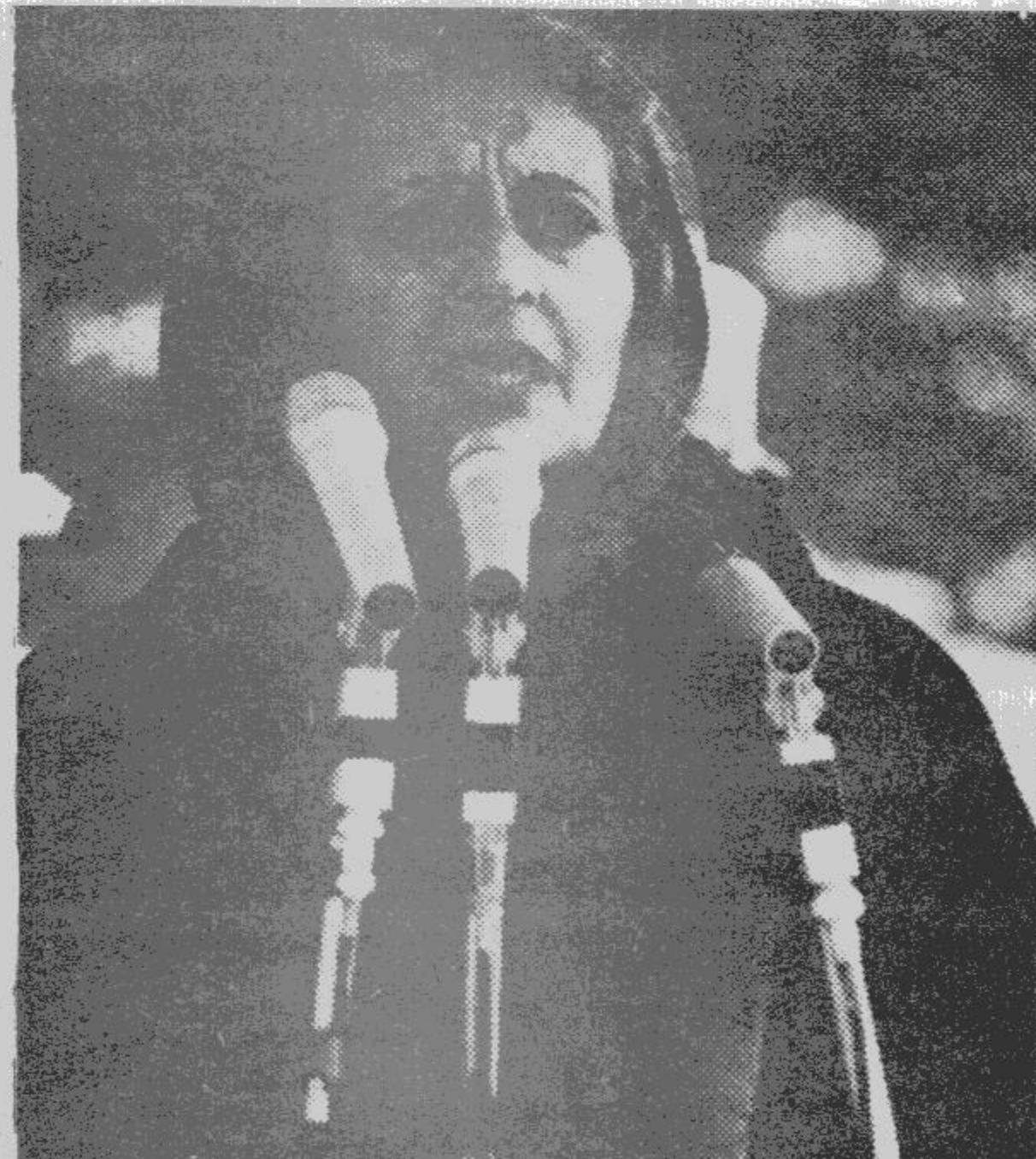
The tribal warrior would deck himself out with bright adornments to show his neighbours his prowess as a hunter.

The Nimrod of Neasden is the individual with a Mk10 Jaguar, who has bought a Capri for his wife.

The savage threw his spears and came home with carcasses of animals or the heads of enemies.

More than likely the character with the Jaguar and the Capri has had to lick his master's boots for at least ten years, to gain his trophies.

So there is a subtle difference. For myself, I shall be climbing aboard the SELNEC cattle truck in the morning, clutching my clock card and snarling viciously.



# James Connolly

## The road to the Easter Rising PART 1

'Any man who tells you that an act of armed resistance — even if offered by 10 men armed only with stones — any man who tells you that such an act of resistance is premature, imprudent or dangerous — any and every such man should at once be spurned and spat at. For remark you this and recollect it, that somewhere, and somehow and by somebody a beginning must be made, and that the first act of resistance is always and must be ever premature, imprudent and dangerous.' - James Fintan Lalor

THUS IT WAS with the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin. This was the spirit in which the successors of Lalor acted. And to act at all they needed such a spirit.

One thousand men, one quarter of them the trade union militants of the Citizen Army, badly armed and with little training, went out into the streets of Dublin to challenge and to fight the greatest empire the world had then seen. Many of them knew — certainly the leaders knew — that, given the isolation of Dublin, they had little chance of success.

Yet, 'We went out to break the connection between this country and the British Empire and to establish an Irish Republic . . . believing that the British government has no right in Ireland and never can have any right in Ireland . . . proudly explained Connolly to the military court that condemned him to death a week later.

Earlier Connolly had summed up the spirit of desperate determination which governed him between the outbreak of war in 1914 and his murder in 1916: 'If you strike at, imprison or kill us, out of our

prisons or graves we will still evoke a spirit that will thwart you, and maybe, raise a force that will destroy you. We defy you! Do your worst!' (Irish Worker, 1914).

with such conviction Connolly faced the British government and its firing squad. Awaiting his executioners he remained entirely unrepentant: 'Hasn't it been a good life — and isn't this a good end?' he said to his wife when she visited him for the last time. Yet, at his death, he believed that the socialists who knew him in Britain and America would never understand what he, a revolutionary socialist, was doing fighting for the mere national independence of Ireland. He knew that many of the socialists would regard it as an aberration for a marxist to take Connolly's course.



The Citizen Army

A GENERAL STRIKE OF Ovambo workers has paralysed South Africa's colony of Namibia since last December, and has shaken the confidence of the white rulers of the Apartheid dictatorship.

The strike started in Walvis Bay, the chief centre of the fishing and shipping industries, among cannery workers.

It spread to the industrial areas of Windhoek, the copper complex of Tsumeb and then rapidly to every industrial centre in the country. Soon 15,000 workers were involved, mostly Ovambos, who make up nearly half of Namibia's 700,000 population, and most of the workforce in industry.

The demands of the strikers are: for equal pay with whites, and for the abolition of the Contract labour schemes under which all black workers are employed.

The Africans can leave their shanty-town reservations called 'Bantustans' to work in the

"white" areas, only under the government-run scheme. They have to sign a contract to work with a particular employer.

During the period of the contract (anything up to 18 months) the workers are not allowed to return home even to visit their families. Neither can they bring their families to live with them.

They cannot leave their job, even though the employer can terminate the contract without reason at a moment's notice. They are forced to live in company compounds, where food, living and health conditions are atrocious.

"Discipline" in the company compounds is maintained by special squads of company police, and beatings and even, shootings of Africans are not uncommon.

The pass laws make it illegal for an African to be found in a 'white' area without an identity card. Even in cases where the non-possession of a pass is due to just leaving it at home, prison sentences are meted out.

Under South African 'law', blacks have no right to strike, which action is regarded officially as "furthering the aims of

And of course many of them did. How came Connolly to that end of his, which united the heroic act of traditional Irish Republicanism with the first decisive act of revolutionary labour?

### CALLOUS MEN

Born of Irish parents in Edinburgh in 1868, Connolly started work in a printshop at 10 or 11 and at 12 in a bakery. Like most emigre families, the Connollys remained very much attuned to Ireland. There at that time the crypto-socialist Fenian movement of the 1860s had given way to the fight of the Land League and Parnell's parliamentary party.

The League welded the tenants together to fight the landlords. Tenant solidarity and its warlike expression, the boycott, together with Parnell's obstruction in parliament, shook the English system. Callous men who had never bothered when the Irish people suffered in silence now became convinced of the need to solve the 'Irish problem' from above, before it solved itself from below.

The Connolly family atmosphere in Edinburgh, like that of most Irish families then, was saturated with a spirit of bitter rebellion against the 'English system'; it was in the air which the child James Connolly breathed, and it never left his system.

At 14 he joined the army, following many young workers forced in by economic pressure and following also a Fenian tradition: in the army they learned to use arms. Connolly

was stationed in Ireland and it is probable that he deserted. By 1889 he had become a socialist. The Jacobin ideas of the Irish Republicans transplanted to the conditions of the workers in Edinburgh blossomed easily and naturally into a socialist consciousness. From then to 1896 he developed his knowledge, winding up in the marxist Social Democratic Federation (Though his 'marxism' remained one-sided: he seems never

to have shed Catholicism.

He married and 'inherited' a job as an Edinburgh dustman but when he fought a local government election he was squeezed out and thereafter found it impossible to get a job. Then came the turn which threw him for the first time completely into Irish politics. The Dublin Socialist Society invited him to become its paid organiser. He accepted.

By May 1896 he was ready to

## Ovambo workers' strike

by Ke

Communism" and carries vicious jail sentences.

### £2.50 A WEEK

For all this the highest paid African workers receive a maximum of £2.50 a week, a princely sum on which to feed and clothe their families, who are forced to live on a staple diet of maize, which they barely manage to grow in the poor soil of the Bantustans.

The reaction of the Vorster administration to the strike was to declare immediately that the workers had broken their contract, and police and troops sealed off the company compounds. The workers demanded that they be repatriated to Ovamboland in the North.

This the state did, anticipating that they would be able to recruit fresh labour from among those living in misery in the Bantustans, and thus break the organisation and solidarity of

the strikers.

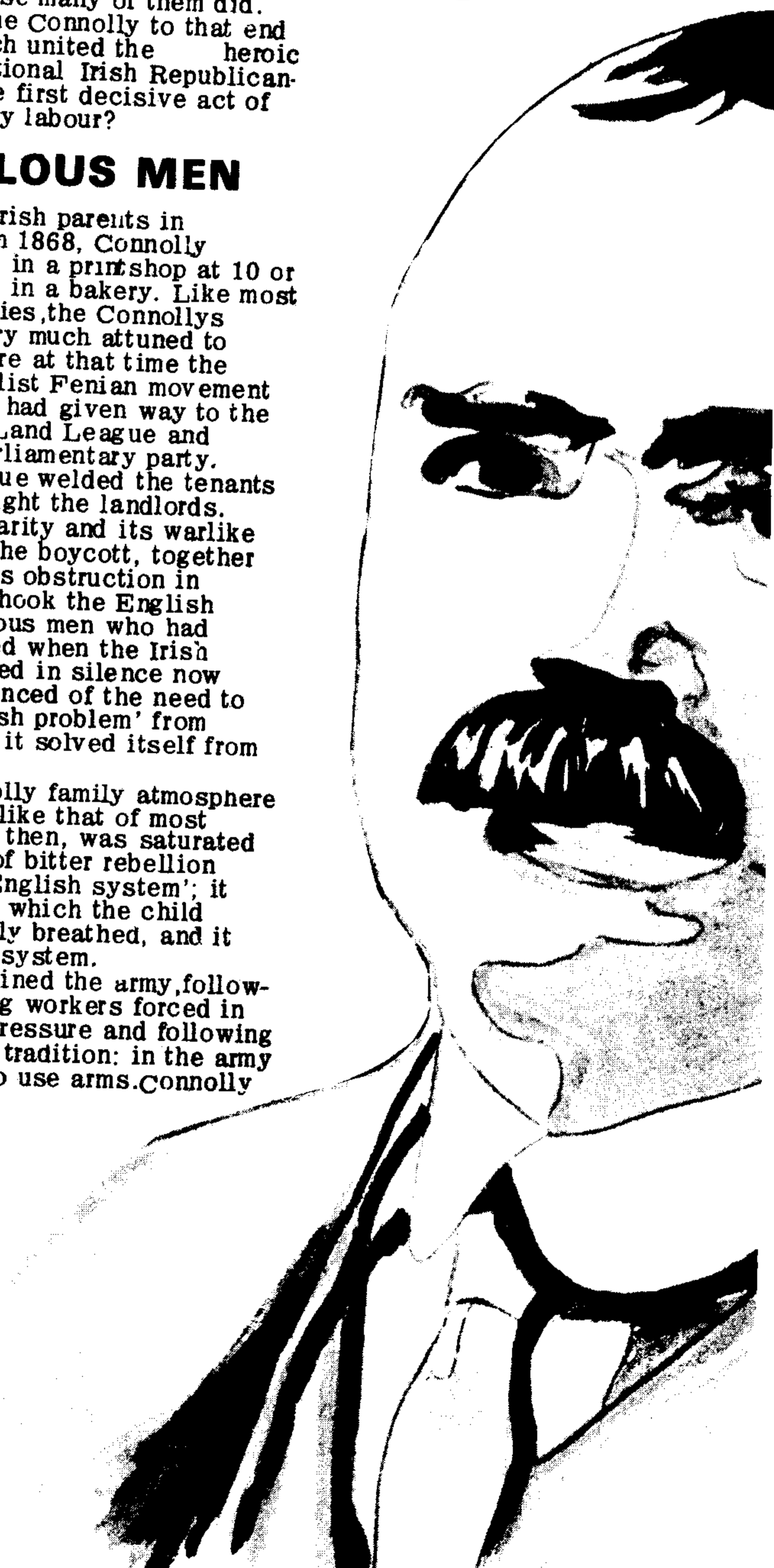
Thirteen of the strike leaders were put on trial and Ovamboland was sealed off by units of the police and army.

The government was shaken to find that they were faced with a wall of solidarity from the black people.

Not only this, but the Africans began to organise themselves. A strike committee was set up which began to issue leaflets telling the Ovambo not to seek work outside the tribal area.

SWAPO (the South West African People's Organisation) is demanding the right of self-determination for the people of Namibia, and guerilla activity has been going on in the Caprivi Strip in the far North East for some time.

The border fence with Angola has been removed by the Ovambo for a length of sixty miles and fraternisation has been possible with those fighting the Portuguese





the Irish people back upon their own resources, make them realise that the causes of poverty, of lack of progress, of arrested civil and national development are then to be sought for within and not without, are in their power to remove or perpetuate and 'ere long that spirit of democratic progress will invade and permeate all our social and civil institutions.'

'The Socialist Party of Ireland (the ISRP's successor) recognises and most enthusiastically endorses the principles of internationalism, but it recognises that that principle must be sought through the medium of universal brotherhood rather than by the self-extinction of distinct nations within the political maw of overgrown empires.' (Forward, March 1911).

### GREAT FRIENDSHIP

And 'We desire to preserve with the English people the same political relations as with the people of France, of Germany or of any other country. The greatest possible friendship, but also the strictest independence . . . Thus, inspired by another ideal, conducted by reason and not by tradition the ISRP arrives at the same conclusion as the most irreconcilable nationalists.'

But: 'Having learned from history that all bourgeois movements end in compromise, that the bourgeois revolutionaries of today become the conservatives of tomorrow the Irish socialists refuse to deny or to lose their identity with those who only half understand the problem of liberty. They seek only the alliance and friendship of those hearts who, loving liberty for its own sake, are not afraid to follow its banner when it is uplifted by the hands of the working class, who have most need of it. Their friends are those who would not hesitate to follow that standard of liberty, to consecrate their lives in its service, even should it lead to the terrible arbitration of the sword.'

These words were written 19 years before Easter 1916.

Connolly at the same time struggled against the middle class Home Rule Party. He mocked at those who saw mere independence as a panacea. 'If you remove the English army tomorrow and hoist the Green Flag over Dublin Castle, unless you set about the organisation of the socialist republic your efforts would be in vain. England would still rule you. She would rule you through her capitalists, through her landlords, through the whole array of commercial-industrial institutions she has planted in the country and watered with the tears of our mothers and the blood of our martyrs. England would rule you to your ruin.'

transform the group into the Irish Socialist Republican Party. From the start the ISRP distinguished itself by declaring for an independent Irish Republic. Even the SDF declared only for Home Rule for Ireland and many socialists considered it a betrayal of 'socialist internationalism' to bother at all with the question of oppressed nationalities.

Following Marx rather than the shallow 'marxists' of his time, Connolly blended the plebian revolutionary tradition of the United Irishmen and the Fenians with revolutionary socialism. He declared, 'Only the Irish working class remains as the incorruptible inheritors of the fight for freedom in Ireland.'

Often he expounded his ideas on this question: 'The development of democracy in Ireland has been smothered by the Union (ie the Act of Union of 1801 of Britain and Ireland). Remove that barrier, throw



Aftermath of 1916

A social as well as a national revolution was necessary: 'A system of society in which the workshops, factories, docks, railways, ship-yards etc. shall be owned by the nation . . . seems best calculated to secure the highest form of industrial efficiency combined with the greatest amount of individual freedom from state despotism. . .'

### CONTROL

But he qualified this: 'State ownership and control is not necessarily socialist -- if it were, then the army and the navy, the police, the judges, the gaolers, the informers and the hangmen would all be socialist functionaries as they are all state officials --but

Continued P.10

# Strike shakes apartheid régime

## Stratford

colonialists.

The South African government attempted to break the strike by trying to cook up a deal with the Uncle-Tom tribal chiefs, giving the chiefs control of the administration of the contract scheme.

For a short time this enticed back to work 1,000 workers at



Ovambo miners

Windhoek. But they rioted when they found conditions unchanged. The compound was sealed off and there has been a complete black-out of news.

Indeed, for the past week or so there has been a complete clampdown on news getting out of Ovamboland. This is because the white rulers fear the possible effect on the workers of South Africa itself.

### ARMED UPRISING

The news that has got out suggests that the Ovambo strike has turned into an armed uprising.

Armed only with primitive weapons the Ovambo have formed themselves into bands for defence against the police and troops.

Several policemen have been killed and the houses of many chiefs, who on 4th. February were given by the state the power to arrest, have been burn-

ed down. Informers have been executed.

The police are using vicious techniques of repression, and many workers have so far been killed.


Even the United Nations has been forced to declare that white South African rule of Namibia is illegal, and that contract labour is "akin to slavery". Waldheim, the U.N. Secretary General, has been having talks with Vorster.

But the response of the workers in taking matters into their own hands shows that they know the way of getting rid of the white oppressors: not by having cosy chats with them while they enslave, starve and degrade sixteen million people, but by organising themselves to combat and destroy the power of the white 'master race'.

The events in Namibia, coupled with the upsurge of the workers in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)

in recent months and the continuation of armed struggle against the Portuguese in Angola and Mozambique, spell the beginning of the end of the rule of the white colonial scum in Southern Africa.

We in Britain, facing the most serious attack from the state for many years, would do well to emulate the courage and boldness of these African workers. Without even a rudimentary trade union organisation they are fighting back against the forces of a state whose savagery far outstrips the one that we face now.



**THE HOOK**  
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BLACK PEOPLE in our society have some 'privileges' not granted to whites.

They are more likely to be beaten up or even killed by racist police. They are treated to the worst jobs and houses. They are more likely to be denied a job, as unemployment rises, by prejudiced bosses. They are privileged even to the point of having white MPs - the large Indian population of Wolverhampton have Enoch Powell for example - and white tradeunion leaders to look after their interests

Their children at schoolsuffer race prejudice from teachers, and the humiliation of being taught as if Black people have no history or culture to be proud of - they were just 'discovered' by white men! Obviously, this is why black children don't do too well in IQ tests, especially with questions like this: fill in the blank in "Good is to bad as white is to ...."! Obviously this is why they have another privilege over whites - that of being more likely to end up in a school for the Educationally Subnormal ( ESN ).

Racialists, and others spread the idea that blacks are just stupid from birth, that they are fitted by nature only for the worst type of jobs. Their place in society is thus a reasonable part of a natural order of things, and is not the result of the fact that they are oppressed and have been kept down for centuries.

These attitudes and prejudices have recently been given a 'respectable' and, seemingly, an authoritative scientific backing.

#### BLACKS AND IRISH

In his book, 'Race, Psychology and Education', Eysenck, the author of 'Sense and Nonsense in Psychology' and 'Know your own IQ' and a professor of psychology in the University of London, outlines an argument which says that negroes are intellectually inferior to whites. The same also applies to the Irish, who are inferior to the English, and to the Mexicans, who are inferior to white Americans.

In other words, the conclusion can be drawn from this work of Eysenck's that these racial and national groupings exist in an underprivileged state because they are not intelligent enough to better themselves; they are at the bottom because they are dim. Although Eysenck himself does not go so far as to state this openly, this view of society is implicit in his work, and it is not difficult to see the similarity between these ideas and the Fascist ideas of racial supremacy.

In outlining these views Eysenck is following the lead of the American psychologist Jensen, who published a study in the Harvard Educational Review in 1969, which attempted to show that American black children were generally inferior in intelligence to white children. He did this by testing both blacks and whites with intelligence tests of the types in common use and found that the black children performed worse overall. Furthermore, Jensen concluded from this and later studies that this difference is due mainly to the effects of heredity. Eysenck agrees with this. The child inherits from his parents an intellectual capacity which he cannot exceed - in other words, no amount of education can compensate for a low level of inherited intelligence.

From this Jensen has concluded that programmes of education should not be the same for black and white, but should be based on

# BOSSSES' QUACKS

## Trying to blind us with "science"

the realisation that the black children are generally not as clever as the whites. Eysenck agrees with this, too, and says in his book that "I can see nothing wrong with adapting teaching methods to human differences", which means that he is in favour of different types of education for black and white.

This view of education would involve patting black children on the head and saying - "we know that you're more stupid than white children, but we've very kindly decided to help become a bit less stupid, and you'd better be grateful". Such an education programme by treating black children as inferior from the start, would limit their chances of receiving a decent education even more than the present system does.

However, it is not enough merely to attack Jensen and Eysenck politically by exposing their views on education as white elitist. We must also bear in mind the fact that they can support their views by an appeal to the scientific nature of their theories, which gives them a hearing that they would certainly not receive otherwise. We cannot, as a review by Gale in the 'Workers' Press' does, simply ignore the scientific aspect of Eysenck, because it is precisely this that lends them credibility.

What is clear is that many other psychologists disagree profoundly with Eysenck and take up a position which stresses the social nature of intelligence rather than its genetic nature. The differences in performance between white and

black children can often be seen to be a result of the differing educations that they receive and also the depressing environment of the blacks. Many studies have shown that the environment plays a crucial role in determining the level of intelligence.

IQ: CON TRICK

However, this only shifts the blame from race to social conditions; more importantly, it is necessary to attack the very methods by which these theories are constructed, the instruments that are used to gather the information: intelligence tests. Intelligence tests themselves are not objective; they have built into them biases which tend to favour white middle class children. Is this surprising? They are constructed by white middle class psychologists, after all.

The items of the test which test, particularly, ability to use the language and ability to make judgments on moral issues are riddled with middle class white bias. Is it surprising that racial minority groups perform worse on these tests? Of course, they do perform worse - it's a fact; but it is a result of the nature of the test rather than the nature of the child. In fact, Eysenck at one point admits this, when he writes "At the moment there are no culture-free tests". But he then proceeds as if there were, by using these tests to compare children from different cultural backgrounds.

#### PARLOURMAIDS

Professor Brian Simon in his book 'Intelligence, Psychology, and Education', analysed an IQ test for children aged about 11, compiled in 1925. In order to have the necessary data to answer some of the questions at all, a child had to know such facts as the following: That a sovereign is made of gold, while a florin is made of silver; that pearls, emeralds, sapphires, diamonds, and rubies are precious stones, while gold is not; the reasons for saving money; that ledger clerks work in banks; what a person's 'inclinations' are; what 'the adjustment of an individual to his vocation' means; and - that a parlourmaid is not expected to do the sewing in a house! And these tests are supposed to measure innate ability! Today's tests are still loaded, perhaps less crudely. Can we call their concept of intelligence scientific?

Simon continues: "Some American psychometrists have recognised that intelligence tests 'prove' something that is patently false, namely, that working class children are more stupid than middle and upper class children. When they tested children in novel 'real-life' situations, for example, constructing a soap-box automobile from old pram wheels and grocers' throw-outs, working class children showed resourcefulness of a kind seldom displayed by those more fortunate children used to receive their toys as presents. An individual intelligence test consisting of items of this character could easily be constructed, which would turn the tables printed above on their heads" - and instead of proving 'scientifically' that middle class children are more intelligent than working class children, we could prove 'scientifically' that working class children are more intelligent than middle class children.

Continued





# WHAT A HULLABALOO!

The twice banned IRA show

FOLLOWING THE RAIDS on the homes of socialists and the banning of pro-Irish demonstrations from Trafalgar Square, a further blow was struck for English 'democracy' and 'fair play'. This time it was a witch-hunt.

The Teesside WORKERS' FIGHT GROUP members were quietly going about their business preparing for a meeting on "The War in Ireland" to be held on the Friday night of March 17th.

Suddenly, on Thursday, a headline erupted on the front page of the local "Evening Gazette": "Tees hotel I.R.A. meeting banned" it proclaimed. Well! Perhaps the Provos were holding a meeting? Anyone would be forgiven for thinking so.

But no. We found that the meeting so sensationally referred to was our own Workers Fight meeting.

The 'Gazette' had obtained a copy of a leaflet advertising the meeting, a leaflet which called for full solidarity with those fighting the British Army in Ulster, and which ended with the slogan "Victory to the IRA".

"I got straight on to the brewers when I heard what the meeting was going to be," said landlord Mr Alan Salt.

Teesside police are taking a keen interest in the proposed meeting. The deputy Chief Constable, Mr William Ashton, said that if a meeting was held the police would keep an eye on whatever happened.

A reporter from the Gazette, owned by that champion of free speech Lord Thompson, had contacted Vaux Breweries, who owned the pub in which the meeting was to be held. Reading on, we discovered that the meeting was not to be allowed - because it was political! Moreover, the Chief Constable was, it seems, considering action - against this (perfectly legal) meeting.

### STUDENT SUPPORT

On hearing of the ban, the Socialist Society at the Polytechnic came forward with the offer of a room. They offered to sponsor the meeting if we couldn't find any other venue.

This seemed straightforward enough. The usual procedure is to just reserve a room if you want a meeting. So far, there had never been any exceptions to this.

However, on hearing of the request, the Director of the Polytechnic and the Secretary to the

Governors - a Captain Clark - forbade the use of the Poly premises. No reason was given, except that they were "not going to have these people here."

Pro-IRA leaflets, advertising the public meeting were distributed at Ayresome Park during the home international on Wednesday night, and have been turning up in the Polytechnic refectory.

Dr Houghton said: "It is difficult to stop leaflets like this being distributed at the Polytechnic. I would advise anyone not sympathetic to the particular cause to just tear the leaflet up."

STRICT security precautions were in force last night at the Teesside Polytechnic.

And the board of governors banned a Left Wing meeting on the IRA's role in the Northern Ireland struggle.

The college buildings had been searched during the day after an anonymous tip-off that a bomb had been planted. Nothing was found.

Mr D. S. Clarke, chief administrative officer and clerk to the governors, questioned every caller at the polytechnic.

The president of the Student Union then informed the Director and his military buddy that, if necessary, they would sign the speaker into the Student Union buttry. This building is, after all, supposed to be owned by the students and to be exclusively for their use.

But no. The Director informed the dumbstruck student president that he, the Director, had absolute jurisdiction over all buildings connected with the Poly. This was Thatcher's policy for student unions applied with a vengeance!

The students were sent on their way with a copy of the "non-political" newsheet put out by - you guessed it - Her Majesty's loyal lackies of Stormont!

### I.S. SOLIDARITY

Meanwhile, Teesside Workers' Fight approached the local International Socialism, calling on them to give active solidarity by providing a room and by turning up to make sure the meeting could proceed unhindered. The IS comrades agreed; a meeting they had planned for the same evening had been cancelled, luckily without the meeting hall also being cancelled.

values of the workers sacrificed if they are not conducive to efficiency. Control and order from above are what these ideas amount to; control and order for the bosses, not for the workers!

These views must be routed. We must fight for better education for all, especially for the children of racial minorities and of the working class, both of whom are getting a very raw deal indeed at present. And in that fight, the forces that we will find lined up with Eysenck are those of big business and the ruling class. Neal Smith

A press statement was issued by Tony Duffy, AUEW District Committee member, and a member of Workers Fight. This outlined why Workers Fight, and he as an ex-regular Army man, were for the military victory of the IRA.

The statement went on to say that Workers Fight would not be intimidated, that the meeting would be held regardless, giving a time and assembly point for those wanting to participate. But instead of printing this, the Gazette headlined their Friday story with the mysterious message: "I.R.A. meeting Still On - In Secret!"

### Ex-soldier

But Mr. Duffy said: "We will not be intimidated from exercising our democratic rights to speak out. We shall be holding our public meeting on the war in Ireland tonight as planned."

He said he was an ex-soldier but despite that, he supported the struggle for a united Ireland in which the "IRA are playing a leading role."



### THE MEETING

Despite the hysteria, the misinformation and the attempts to suppress the meeting (culminating in a bomb threat to the Polytechnic and threats of an organised attempt to break up the meeting) more than 40 people turned up to hear Sean Matgamna, editor of Workers Fight. He spoke on the issues involved in the war in Ireland, and on the need for a genuine mass solidarity movement among English workers based on full support for the Northern Ireland Catholic masses and their armed militia, the IRA, in their struggle for a United Ireland.

He outlined why it was totally inadequate to call on the Tory Government to end internment and withdraw British troops - actions which every British worker knows would aid the IRA - without explaining in the British labour movement why British workers should be in favour of the IRA or without fighting to get British workers to support the IRA with action against the common enemy, the Tory government.

Unfortunately the IS/WF solidarity in face of the witchhunt did not survive the discussion of the issues involved. This was no surprise, given the condemnation by IS nationally of the IRA as "terrorists".

Duncan Hallas, national Education officer of IS, speaking from the floor, tried to cover up IS's cave-in to British chauvinism (in its condemnation of the IRA for striking at a legitimate military target in Britain - Aldershot). His major contribution to what should have been a serious discussion consisted of insistently labelling the IRA militias as terrorists. He went on to state that even if the Aldershot bomb had not been mistimed and had hit its intended target, the para murderers of Derry's Bloody Sunday, IS would still have condemned the action. And in a final emotional outburst he accused the speaker, a Marxist atheist of many years' standing, of being a Catholic Nationalist!

The attempt to ban the meeting on Teesside was, on one level, the action of small-town backwoodsmen. But in the context of the increasing attacks on the working class by the Tory Government, of the searching of socialist and republicans' houses and the Trafalgar Square ban on the Anti Internment League demonstration, it is obviously a foretaste of things to come as the ruling class attempts to choke the British workers' militancy in a blanket of chauvinism.

We must not allow ourselves to be censored. We must hold meetings regardless. Socialists and trade unionists must combine to defend any meeting of working class organisations threatened with bans or hoodlum disruption.

STAN LOMAX

A copy of the Workers' Fight leaflet, urging workers to help the IRA, on the meeting was sent to The Northern Echo by an anonymous student at the Polytechnic, complaining that "this propaganda" should not be allowed.

A statement on the back of each leaflet ended with the words "Victory to the Irish Republican Army" in capital letters.

The statement said: "The IRA is a popular army fighting an oppressor who has much superior weapons. This is the consideration which determines the methods of struggle used.

"If they had tanks and planes and the like then more 'orthodox' methods of fighting would be used."

It also said that British troops in Ulster were being used to "prop up the present set-up of police state, discrimination, poverty and unemployment."

The statement went on: "The British Army is there to support the oppression of the working people of the North; the IRA is defending the oppressed against them."

It expressed regret for the Aldershot bombing but said: "The real tragedy is that the real target of the bomb was missed."

### EYSENCK (from p.4)

#### ELITISM

Eysenck concludes his book by appealing to 'scientific impartiality' and contrasts this as a solution to man's problems to 'outdated political prejudices'. Here we find the voice of heartless bureaucracy, of witch-doctor scientific (so-called) elitism, of the smug meritocracy. We hear similar pleas from the bosses who would like to see efficiency and 'scientific' order in their factories, with the feelings and

# MACHINE TOOLS CUT-BACK

THE TORY VISION OF UP-standing, self-supporting industries, aided only by being lavishly serviced by a subsidised, low wage paying public sector, took a further knock last week, as the Government announced measures to get yet another "lame duck" back in flight.

This time it was the machine tool industry. Central to the development of industry in general, machine tools have been hit by the general recession in British industry. In 1971, spending on new plant and equipment fell by 8%, and, according to the Dept.

probably the biggest percentage reduction in any major UK company. Recently they have tried to close Churchills in Altrincham but a determined fight back and threatened work-in by its 1,000 workers has stopped this for the time being. Shop stewards from other Alfred Herbert plants have pledged full support for the Churchills workers.

## MISMANAGEMENT

The reasons for this sharp downturn lie largely in the reluctance of the rest of industry to invest in new machinery. But mismanagement has also played its part, in this vast rambling firm: "...the company itself has been extremely reluctant to invest in the past, with the result

firm a £1 million loan through the Industrial Re-organisation Corporation.

The plant, built only in 1967, was opened with a wave of publicity as the great saviour of British machine tools. It is technically way in advance of any other plant in the world and is geared to building the latest automated equipment and handling devices, mainly for track systems in car factories.

So fantastically expensive was the machinery installed in the plant, however, that it had to work at £6 million a year capacity to make a profit. The firm has never yet managed this and has lost a steady £1 million a year since it opened.

Now, after pressure from the Machine Tool Trades Associat-

present situation to force through redundancies, rationalisations and productivity deals so that with the expected upswing the same number or less workers will be doing a lot more work for the same wages - while their mates are still out on the stones. "The underlying trend of productivity is so strong (as a result of the retrenchment measures) that a rise in production will have a proportionately higher impact on profits." (Victor Keegan, Guardian.)

Whether the management's strategy is successful will of course depend on what the workers allow them to get away with. First, any further redundancies must be strenuously resisted, as at Altrincham. Second, when the

## Is this the end for top engineers Herbert? Union seeks Herbert aid aid for tool trade 33% in year to October Machine tool orders drop another 365 redundant

for Trade and Industry, things are not expected to change much in 1972.

The total order book now stands at £95 million compared to £150 million at the end of 1970. As a result of plant closures alone, 18,000 men were sacked last year.

ALFRED HERBERTS, the largest machine tools manufacturer in Europe, made a £2½ m. loss last year and have no better prospects this year. Since 1966 they have pruned their product range from 300 to 200, their factories from 17 to 11 and their labour force from 11,000 to 7,000.

that much of its own plant is out of date." (Victor Keegan, Guardian 8th. March 1972.)

Thus over one third of the workers have lost their jobs. THEY are being made to pay for the management's previous policies of paying out money in dividends which should have gone to keeping up with modern needs.

And rumour has it that now Alfred Herbert want to close down or at least drastically cut back Herbert-Ingersoll of Daventry. This firm is owned 44.3% by Alfred Herbert, 43% by Ingersoll (USA) and 13% by the Government, which in 1970 made the

ion and the AUEW, the Government has stepped in. Mr. John Davies announced on 22nd. March that the Government would spend £11 on re-equipping various nationalised industries, giving a boost to orders for machine tools.

## GOVERNMENT AID

This is of course all very well, but there is no guarantee that with more orders, those workers who have lost their jobs will get them back. Neither the Government nor the private managements are in the least concerned about men's lives or jobs. Their main concern is profit, and they will want to use the

orders do increase, workers need to insist on more men being taken on to do the extra work.

## NATIONALISE!

Once again Government money is being spent to boost private industry - in the interests of profits.

While the Government is spending millions here and there either in handouts, cheap loans or as obliging customer, it might as well nationalise the whole industry and have done with it. (We do not believe in "compensating" the robbers for the loss

Continued next page

## CONNOLLY (from p.7)

the ownership by the state of all the lands and material for labour, combined with the co-operative control by the workers of such land and materials would be socialist... "To the cry of the middle class reformers "make this or that the property of the government" we reply - 'yes, in proportion as the workers are ready to make the government their property.' " (Workers' Republic 1899)

Arguing thus, fighting for working-class independence from Home Rulers and Nationalists alike, Connolly was by no means a 'millennial socialist'. He fought for limited gains, and against sectarian socialists who refused to do so. "Of course some of our socialist friends, especially those who have never got beyond the ABC of the question, will remind me that even in a republic the worker is exploited, as for instance in France and the United States. Therefore, they argue, we cannot be Republicans. To this I reply: The countries mentioned have only capitalism to deal with. We have capitalism and a monarchy... This, too, was his approach to the national question: we have capitalism and national oppression.

Connolly would have had no time for the 'pure' nationalists today. Neither would he have time for those who, with the slogan 'For Connolly's Workers' Republic' on their lips, declare that the reunification of Ireland, even under capitalism, the removal of part of the double oppression of the workers of Ireland, is of no interest to socialists. Connolly was no 'Connolly sectarian'.

Connolly's ISRP never had more than 100 members, though at certain times it was influential beyond its membership. During the Boer War its anti-government pro-Boer press was smashed by the police.

In 1903 Connolly went to the United States on a lecture-tour. Shortly afterwards he moved there with his family. He worked for the American Socialist Labour Party and the Industrial Workers of the World. He had been one of the guiding spirits of a group of SDF members who had split off the same year to found a British SLP on the model of the American party.

Though eventually it was to become rigidly sectarian, Daniel De Leon's SLP was at that time producing trenchant criticism of the existing trade union and socialist organisations. De Leon was among

the first to castigate the increasingly conservative and cautious trade union bureaucrats as 'labour lieutenants of capitalism'. He also saw how feeble were the big socialist parties of Europe with their dominant parliamentarianism. Both the one-sided trade unions and the equally one-sided socialist parties seemed to De Leon to rule out any chance of working-class revolutionary action. Just how right he was, was shown by the collapse of the labour movement in 1914.

De Leon tried to answer the problem he himself posed by arguing that the working class needed to build up a real social strength inside the womb of capitalism just as capitalism itself had done in the womb of feudalism. He proposed an infrastructure composed of industry-wide unions, capable of both seizing and running industry. And he saw the need to build, both politically and economically, towards a strategy of taking power.

De Leon was groping theoretically for a specific working-class organisation form of industrial and social rule. History was to provide her own answer: the workers' Soviets thrown up in Russia in 1905 and in Europe after 1917.

## SHED HARSHNESS

Of De Leon, Lenin was later to say that, despite a certain sectarianism, he was the only man since Marx to add anything to marxism. But, as so often happens, the De Leonites combined many correct ideas with a sectarian practice which rendered their ideas impotent.

Connolly remained with the De Leonites for some years, eventually breaking with them over their sectarianism. But while shedding much of the political harshness and intolerance of the SLP he retained a belief in 'industrial unionism'. Until 1910 he was an organiser for the IWW - the great syndicalist movement of migrant workers in America.

In 1910 he returned to Ireland, armed with the ideas of industrial unionism, to begin a period of mass activity which saw the Irish working class rousing itself for the first time into militant action.

Sean Matgamna

To be continued

# MACHINE TOOLS

(continued)

of their loot, but it is ironic that the Government proposes to pay out a sum exceeding the present Stock Exchange value of the entire Alfred Herbert 'empire', currently going for £8½ million.)

Instead of paying private industry's price for the public sector's equipment, it could produce its own.

Nationalisation under real workers' control is essential if men's skills are to be used to benefit society as a whole and not just to make profits for the few or to be frittered away on the dole.

**Dave Spencer**

## Contact WORKERS' FIGHT at

**Birmingham** - Peter Radcliffe, 110, Gough Road, Edgbaston, B/ham 15.  
**Bolton** - Stephen Boyd, 24 Crawford Avenue, Tyldesley, Nr. Bolton.  
**Bristol** - Simon Temple, 42 Hampton Road, Bristol 6.  
**Coventry** - Dave Spencer, 17 Winifred Avenue, Earlsdon, Coventry.  
**Derby** - Trevor Cave, 97 Schoolhouse Hill, Heage, Derbyshire  
**Liverpool** - Paul Barker, 110 Edge Lane, Liverpool 7.  
**North London** - Phil Lewis, 349 Alexandra Park Road, N.22  
**West London** - Ken Stratford, 86 Rosebank Road, Hanwell, W.7  
**Manchester** - Fran Brodie, A6 Thornhill Road, Droylsden M/r.  
**Middlesbrough** - Tony Duffy, 39 Clynes Road, Grangetown, Teesside

**Newcastle** - John Foster, 55 Percy Road, Whitley Bay, Northumberland  
**Northampton** - Dave Green, 46 Chiltern Way, Northampton.  
**Preston** - Steve Corbishley, 29 Stanley Place, Preston, Lancs.  
**Stoke on Trent** - Martin Thomas, 88 Princes Road, Hartshill, Stoke  
**Swansea** - Bob Cook, 859 Carmarthen Road, Fforest Fach, Swansea, Glamorganshire.  
**Stockton on Tees** - Phil Thorne, 3 Heather Close, Stockton on Tees

I would like to know more about Workers' Fight.

NAME .....  
 Address .....

Send to: Joe Wright, 21 Lindum Street, Manchester 14.

## Midlands

# SS Offices Occupied

On Thursday March 23rd., members of the Coventry CLAIMANTS AND UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' UNION (C&UWU) attempted to occupy the Coventry Social Security office. This was co-ordinated with similar actions at the Rugby and Birmingham offices, which took place at the same time - all at 11am.

These acts of demonstration were in response to a call for solidarity by the recently formed Rugby C&UWU branch. The whole issue stems from the fact that the Rugby S.S. office is merely a sub-office of the Coventry S.S.

That means that all decisions, files and paperwork are centred in Coventry (16 miles away). This ludicrous and bureaucratic situation means that Rugby claimants have to wait and twiddle their thumbs even longer than usual. It can take up to 10 days for their claims to be sorted out and payment to be made. Even worse, they can't make an initial appeal to the manager because there is no SS manager in Rugby! Consequently, when frustration reached boiling point, the Rugby C&UWU recently occupied their local sub-office, and made four demands:-

- 1) A responsible official, who can make decisions without having to refer to Coventry, be stationed in the Rugby office.
  - 2) Records relating to Rugby claimants be kept at Rugby instead of Coventry.
  - 3) Claimants be given full details of all their entitlements.
  - 4) Firm dates be given to claimants for visiting officers.
- Obviously, as they said after this local occupation,

"The demands of the Rugby claimants are justified. Their fight is a matter of concern to all claimants. We are entitled to FULL INFORMATION on our rights. All we get is delays and refusal. We have a right to FULL MAINTENANCE. All we get is poverty-line payouts. We have to struggle to survive on the SS. We have to struggle AGAINST THE SS to survive." - and struggle they did.

After the regional demonstrations, one of the Coventry C&UWU members said - "Today's demonstration took the usual pattern, inasmuch as the manager tried to stop us, and at the same time attempted to turn the non-participating claimants against us. Yet today we closed the SS office down for half an hour. If these demos do not achieve our long term objectives, today's demonstrations can be seen merely as the beginning."

Obviously the C&UWU must be supported and built up. The Midland local C&UWU branches are at:

**Birmingham** - 66, Iver Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.  
**Coventry** - 27, Paynes Lane, Hillfields, Coventry.  
**Rugby** - 75, Freemantle Road, Bilton, Rugby.

All of these branches, as is the policy nationally, help both with actual representation at the SS offices, and visits.

Roger Litawski  
 (Coventry)

## Hartlepool

# George Clark & NEMs "Work-in"

Hartlepool is notorious even in the North East for its high unemployment, which goes hand in hand with low wages. The town is not noted for union militancy, and decades of poverty and unemployment have ground many workers down into apathy. Even though it was made a Development Area by the Tories, the jobless figures continue to rise.

But a fight back has begun at George Clark and NEMs Hartlepool dockland factory, where workers are fighting a management plan to move out machinery. (Ten years ago the factory employed 2,000 men, now only 600 work there.)

Last month workers were told that the firm was going to slash the labour force by 350, and now they have heard that machinery is to be moved to Wallsend.

A mass meeting of the men vetoed the plan, which is the first

step towards a total shut-down by the management. The decision to resist the transfer of machines has been endorsed by the AUEW District Committee and by the Union's National Executive.

Engineering workers at Wallsend have also promised to black any machines the firm manages to move

The AUEW works convenor, Mr. Bob Barnfather, said that "a type of work-in" was being put into practice by the men as part of the fight to preserve jobs, and that talks were continuing on the redundancies. Seventy men were due to be paid off on St. Patrick's Day, but 14 notices have been withdrawn. The union hopes to save more jobs, but they won't do it by copying UCS - a genuine occupation or sit-in strike would be more effective. The tentative "work-in" and blacking moves must be extended in order to ensure success.

## LAGGERS

Meanwhile, hundreds of Hartlepool and Teesside insulation workers are still on unofficial strike. They came out in January in support of a local claim by Tyne and Wear side ladders who have been on strike without union support for 4 months.

A threatened national strike, which would have involved 50,000 workers, did not come off, but the 900 North East men have not been disheartened. They have refused to accept their cards which the Thermal Insulation Contractors' Association sent them, and still demand that their parity claim is met in full. Pickets have so far prevented scabbing, but the ladders need support from other workers.

ALAN THEASBY

## Preston

# "No Strings" say BAC workers

THE STRUGGLE OF PRESTON BAC workers against redundancy and against the introduction of Measured Time Motion, continues after 7 weeks. After a mass meeting on Monday March 13th, the vote to stay out and reject the bosses' offer of 8½% plus strings, was carried by a near unanimous vote.

The strike committee, strengthened by the vote, plan to carry the struggle further. But with the men

solidly behind the strike committee, as shown publicly at the meeting, the committee expect increased offers soon from the bosses.

The fact that BAC workers at Filton in Bristol put in for, and got, a larger settlement than was offered at Preston, shows up the bosses' tactics very clearly as a policy of settling claims at different levels to keep the combine disunited.

Meanwhile they are still pushing

what was thought to be a weak area, Preston, to introduce MTM, which they then hope to spread throughout the BAC combine.

The engineers' struggle in Manchester shows the necessity for unified action in putting the claim forward, and the necessity of settling claims together.

S.C.

BAC shop stewards lobby to support Preston



# WORKERS FIGHT

## OCCUPATION

(From Page one)

But the ruling class, still reeling from their defeat at the hands of the miners, is willing to make some — slight — concessions. Conciliatory gestures may yet, they hope, avoid an all-out confrontation. They have been prepared to offer the railwayment 2% more than the norm the Government set for wage increases.

Firms in the Engineering Employers' Association — the Sharston firm isn't a member — are taking a 'soft line' on sit-ins. 15 firms have already settled.

The first to settle was Ernest

Scraggs of Macclesfield. The settlement sent a shiver down the employers' spine. But the point is not just to make the bosses tremble, but to defeat them.

At Scraggs the workers won £3 on the Consolidated rate, 3 days more holidays, and a 38½ hour week, as well as £1 on the women's share of the £3.

The settlement was a breach in the employers' defences. But it also weakened the workers' side. The Confed originally called on its members to accept no less than £4 on the consolidated rate, 5 days

extra holidays and a 35 hour week. To accept less BEFORE THE STRUGGLE IS WELL UNDER WAY — or before it even started — has opened the road to the salami tactic.

The 15 settlements are not the "breakthrough" that the MORNING STAR and the local AUEW officials say they are. The miners showed that victory isn't a matter of settling for more than the original offer. You use your strength and go for the full claim.

Scraggs won only 1½ hours off the week, some firms nothing. But in an inflationary period the money gains are eaten away quickest. Workers have to press hard for the kind of gains — like the shorter working week and longer holidays — that inflation can't whittle away. Limited gains on

money are not as good as they seem.

Now that the Tories are reeling, it's up to the workers to put in the boot.

Militants must demand:

- \* No end to the work-to-rule and piecework ban until all the District claims have been settled.

- \* Answer the threats of lockout, lay-off, sackings and suspensions with occupations.

- \* Weekly Confed District stewards' meetings.

- \* Officials must address mass meetings at the weaker factories.

- \* The national leadership of the Confed unions can't abandon all responsibility. They should take up the Manchester claim as a basis for nationwide action.

Steve Corbisley



## 33week Millingford Strike

THE FIGHT FOR TRADE UNIONISM started 180 years ago — but there are still bitter struggles taking place to establish the right of workers to trade unions.

At Fine Tubes in Plymouth, Brennans in Cumberland and Millingford near Wigan in Lancashire, the struggle for trade unionism continues.

It is a fight against small but right wing employers; it is a fight against reluctant, feet-dragging trade union bureaucrats; and more so it is a fight against police and legal persecution, harassment and interference.

19 men from Millingfords have been out for 33 weeks. They joined a union, the AUEW, to fight for better wages and conditions, against arbitrary bullying and favouritism by a management given to super-exploitation of 'apprentices' and even old age pensioners.

By way of reply, redundancy notices were sent to those men

leading the call for a union. At this time overtime was being worked every night and Saturday, and there was no shortage of orders.

The men went on strike, and were locked out.

Millingfords certainly aren't in any difficulties. They started up after the War, producing sub-surface oil pumps and using material and equipment 'bought' from the USAF. The export market is very profitable, and already two sets of large American "business-vultures" have tried to buy the firm out.

The police have given the strike their constant attentions. As Bernard Loew, one of the leaders of the 19 men, commented — "It is Millingfords own private army — the police." Offences committed against strikers by scabs or police have resulted in charges being brought against... the strikers. But when one of the Directors drove his Jaguar straight at the pickets, knocking down two of them and a cop, no charges were brought.

Help has come from local militant sites and firms, but the Union has been slow in organising essential support such as a levy throughout the AUEW District. One picket remarked "when we saw Scanlon, he dropped 50p in my hand for a cup of tea, and then just ran off."

The present fight for wages, and against this Tory government, can only be won by regarding the fight for the needs and wishes of the whole working class as crucial.

Rather than, as some trade union leaders hope: let us support the large militant firms, and pray the small, the weak, and the non-trade union work-places will make out.

The Millingfords men are fighting on, but it could well be a long battle. Scabs are working and have been given handsome bonuses.

Make cash for the strike fund payable to Bro. B. Eden at Wigan AUEW District Office, 100 Chapel Lane, Wigan, Lancs.

Report and photo by Joe Wright

read

**MANCHESTER  
PRINTWORKER**

available from:

21 Lindum Street, Manchester 14

for rank and file hospital workers

**GERM'S EYE VIEW**

Available from Jack Sutton,  
11a Rowan Avenue, Manchester 14

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**REAL STEEL NEWS**

available from:

22 Beauville Road, Grove Hill,  
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