BRADFORD 12
DEFENCE CAMPAIGN IS GROWING

By a "Class Struggle" Correspondent

Since the arrest last summer of 12 black youths in Bradford on conspiracy charges black people and organisations all around the country are uniting in their defence.

As the October issue of "Class Struggle" showed, these charges conspiracy to damage property and life, conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm and manufacture of explosives - are intended by the state to be an attack on all black people. In particular it is an attack on their right to organise their own defence against racist attacks and harassment. As such it is vital for these 12 comrades and for all black people in Britain, that these charges be defeated.

"CONSPIRACY" CAN MEAN 'LIFE'

The use of 'conspiracy' charges show clearly that the state intends to make an example of these comrades because it means that they can be given HEAVIER sentences than if they had actually committed the offence. In effect discussion of a criminal act becomes worse than the act itself. It also means that anyone present can be prosecuted irrespective of whether they had any intention of being involved.

POLITICAL TRIAL

If there is any doubt that this is a political trial then a brief comparison of the way these comrades have been treated and racists who have actually thrown petrol bombs makes this clear. When, on July 14, 40 white youths giving Nazi salutes and chanting racist slogans threw a petrol bomb at an Asian pupil in Keighley only 2 were charged and then only with assault and resentment of a weapon which he had to keep on him after a previous attack.

Similarly on July 24, 3 white men were arrested for the firebombing of 2 Asian homes on Leeds Rd., Bradford. Although they were charged with 'conspiracy to assault' the magistrate did not hesitate in giving bail.

Compared to the Bradford 12 this was like a pat on the back. The 12, who fire bombed nothing, were refused bail for up to 3 months. Sureties of up to £20,000 had to be given and most of them are practically under house arrest. They have to report to the police every day, under curfew from 10 pm till 7 am and are NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE PART IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY, including any meeting organised for their defence. It is clear why these conditions have been imposed. The state is trying to kill off the resistance by isolating the 12 from each other and from the working class.

Inside...

SPECIAL FEATURE
War and Peace

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Public concern over the threat of war is growing. CND claims a nearly tenfold increase of membership over the last year. Marxist-Leninists have always had a distinct position on war and peace. Our Special Feature and Editorial outline our position, show where the threat of war comes from and look at CND and anti-nuclear movements in Europe.

The Deportations Continue p. 3
The British state continues its racist campaign of deportations. We look at the case of a Chinese student in Leeds.

"In the National Interest"? p. 5
Defending their privileged positions, Duffy and Co. call on the working class to put the "national interest" first. We call for a fight class against class.

Sinn Fein Speaks p. 10
"Class Struggle" aims to give a platform to those fighting British imperialism. In an interview, Sinn Fein set out their views on the mood of the people, the campaign in Britain, the Anglo-Irish Council.

Irish Community Attacked p. 12
London's Irish community is under a sustained racist assault. We expose the repression and calls for all democratic forces to fight against the PFA.

BL: Behind The Defeat

By a "Class Struggle" Correspondent

On Tuesday November 3, British Leyland workers voted by 25,000 to 20,000 to go back to work and accept the pay deal. The agreement raised basic wages by 3.5%. When compared to the government 'tax and price' index (which shows the rate of inflation) which now stands at nearly 11%, it means that the majority of BL workers voted to accept a cut in real wages of around 12% - 12p in the pound! The Company's 'final offer' on basic pay was no different to the original offer which the workforce had already rejected in an overwhelming 8 to 1 vote. The only difference lay in BL's statement that it would guarantee a bonus of £3.75 a week, which meant nothing to the majority of the workforce, who already receive more than
It is not uncommon to hear government leaders rabbling about the "national interest" in terms of "we've all got to work harder in the national interest" or "we must tighten our belts in the national interest". We get this from all the parliamentary leaders despite their squabbles about what exactly is in the "national interest". We also get it from the union leaders. We've all heard things like "we must work together in the national interest", or maybe not so directly "pull together for Britain". It's enough to make you laugh. There is actually such a thing. But a bit of reflection shows otherwise.

Just who tightens their belts, goes on the dole, or does the work in the first place?

When we go to work, we are of course paid. What we produce is more than we get. That is the source of the capitalists' profit. "Ah" he says, "but I bought the machines" which I pay for. "With the profit you made out of us in past years." Of course the biggest capitalists don't even invest their own money. Ford, for example, opened their Bridgend Engine plant at a cost of £180 million. But £148 million of that was paid by us in taxes. The remainder was in the form of grants. It is not a question of "working together" but of their share-holders being parasites.

Take wage claims for example. All firms set out to gain the maximum profit. They sell their goods at as high a price as they can get. The firm has a profit fixed. If the workers get a higher proportion of the value which they created, the capitalist gets less. And vice versa. A wage struggle then is a result of the opposed interests of the capitalist and the worker.

But to illustrate the union leaders attitude let's see what Duffy had to say at the negotiations between the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions with the Engineering Employers Federation over the pound and the minimum salary rate. "We believe", he said, "that this claim is positive, realistic, forward-looking and to our mutual advantages." (Inadvertently from the published minutes)

Duffy's whole stand was "in the national interest". "No other country in the world has a greater industrial heritage", he said.

It is time the engineering industry had a long hard look at itself. The British "Trade Mark", which stood for engineering reliability, innovation and competitiveness has now been seriously tarnished, as other nations have surpassed us in areas where we once excelled. "In Britain we have fallen behind other nations." Duffy has no interest in talking about the contradictory interest of the workers and capitalists. On the contrary all he talks about is "the engineering industry and the" and "firms" as though we, the workers, and they, the capitalists, were a single entity. He is not fooling the bosses. They know that British imperialism is a class system. His words are for the working class. "We have a common interest with our imperialism" he says "against workers and oppressed peoples and nations of the world".

Just to rub it in, he points out to the capitalists: "The great majority of employers will not have to pay any increase in earnings to men who are on day work and do not work overtime. The cost of the claim is, therefore, very small, as it is mainly only involved in the negotiation exercise, switching money already being paid from the bonus to the MTR.

The employers, needless to say, were not influenced by Duffy's toadying. They used even the "very small cost" of the claim. We need effective union leaders, and that must be people who stand for the working class. Conciliators are worse than useless - they are saboteurs.

BRADFORD 12 CONSPIRACY CHARGES

Contribution

their friends and supporters. They will not succeed because the reasons why they polled on the 12 is the same reason why we cannot and will not desert them. These comrades, as members and supporters of the United Black Youth League, have been active in many anti-racist struggles in the past. It was this activity which encouraged the police to attack them. This activity also gained them widespread respect which will guarantee them support.

ATTACK ON THE RIGHT TO ORGANISE

Primarily this attack is not aimed against the 12. Essentially it is an attack on the black community's right to organise. After the summer's uprisings the state has wanted to hit back. Already we have seen the kangaroo courts, sentencing people indiscriminately on the flimsiest of evidence. Now we have this calculated attack on a black organisation which is designed to intimidate all militant black organisations and the whole revolutionary movement in Britain.

SUPPORT COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL MOBILISING COMMITTEE SET UP

The importance of this political trial has been widely recognised and support committees have been set up in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, Leicester and Coventry, with a national mobilising committee to co-ordinate between them.

These have organised a wide variety of activities from public meetings, fund raising socials, pickets and leafletting. The central focus of their activities will be the demonstration in Bradford on December 12. Many Asian and West Indian organisations are mobilising and a massive show of strength is essential. We ask you to help ensure that all our readers will attend.

ASSEMBLE 1.30 pm
MANNINGHAM PARK, BRADFORD

COCX DETAILS - LONDON PICK UP POINTS:
York Way, Kings Cross 7.30 am
Tootl, Brixton 7.30 am
Lambeth Town Hall 7.30 am
Cato's, Southall 7.30 am
East Ham Town Hall 7.30 am
Querries: Southall Rights (01-571-4920)
Other cities, ask the paper seller,

REVOLUTIONARY UNITY

The United Black Youth League was one of the only two organisations from Britain (the other being the Troops Out Movement) to have fraternal delegates at the recent Ard Feis (congress) of Sinn Fein in Dublin. The UBYL delegate, Praktibha Parmar, received a standing ovation. Here was a clear statement: the revolutionary Republican Movement identifies itself with the emerging revolutionary forces of the oppressed in Britain, and those forces identify with the advanced example of the Irish freedom fighters.

FORD PAY CLAIM

At the time of going to press, Ford workers are preparing for the next stage in their wage struggle. Ford have offered a paltry 5% - a mere £4.50 for a worker on the production line, or £1 after depreciation in 5 years. Ford are offering a wage cut of 8 pence in the pound.

Ford itself is hardly in dire straits. Over the last 2 years it has made £600,000,000 profit from the labour of its workforce in Britain. It has a strong position in the car market - producing 3 out of 10 of all new cars sold in Britain. Ford has already "increased efficiency" by cutting 3,000 jobs. A further 2,000 production and 700 staff redundancies are planned.

Ford have demanded acceptance of their "After Japan Strategy" as a condition for their 5% offer. If they succeed in forcing acceptance of this it will mean more redundancies, one job devaluation and displacement. Workers at Ford are demanding that the "AJS" plans be separated from pay negotiations.

The National Joint Negotiating Committee of the Ford Unions have rejected the pathetic offer and have said it is preparing for an all-out strike.

Meanwhile "last ditch" talks have been arranged for the day before the strike is due to start. Now, have we had all this somewhere before? Ah, Leyland wasn't it?

The workers' demand now is that the Union leaders stand firm and fight, and this time that means strong leadership and taking account of the company's strengths and weaknesses and using tactics.