

CHARTIST

Bulletin of the Young Chartists

No.8

4p

IRELAND

Tories Out Green and Orange!

Once again the political boiling pot that is Northern Ireland has spilled over into bloody confrontation - as the British ruling classes, the Tories and Unionists try to "correct" and "discipline" the "bastard child" of their own historical creation.

In the late sixties, they had hoped to bolster their declining economic stranglehold over the Republic, by breaking down the fetters of the border and effecting an economic integration of the Irish market, under some sort of quasi-federation of the Green Tories in the South and the Orange Tories in the North. Now the futility of this united neo-colonial Ireland - an Ireland that could guarantee British imperialism a most favoured nation relationship to counter American, German and French competition, a convenient subsidiary to drag lock stock and barrel into the Common Market - has become all too apparent.

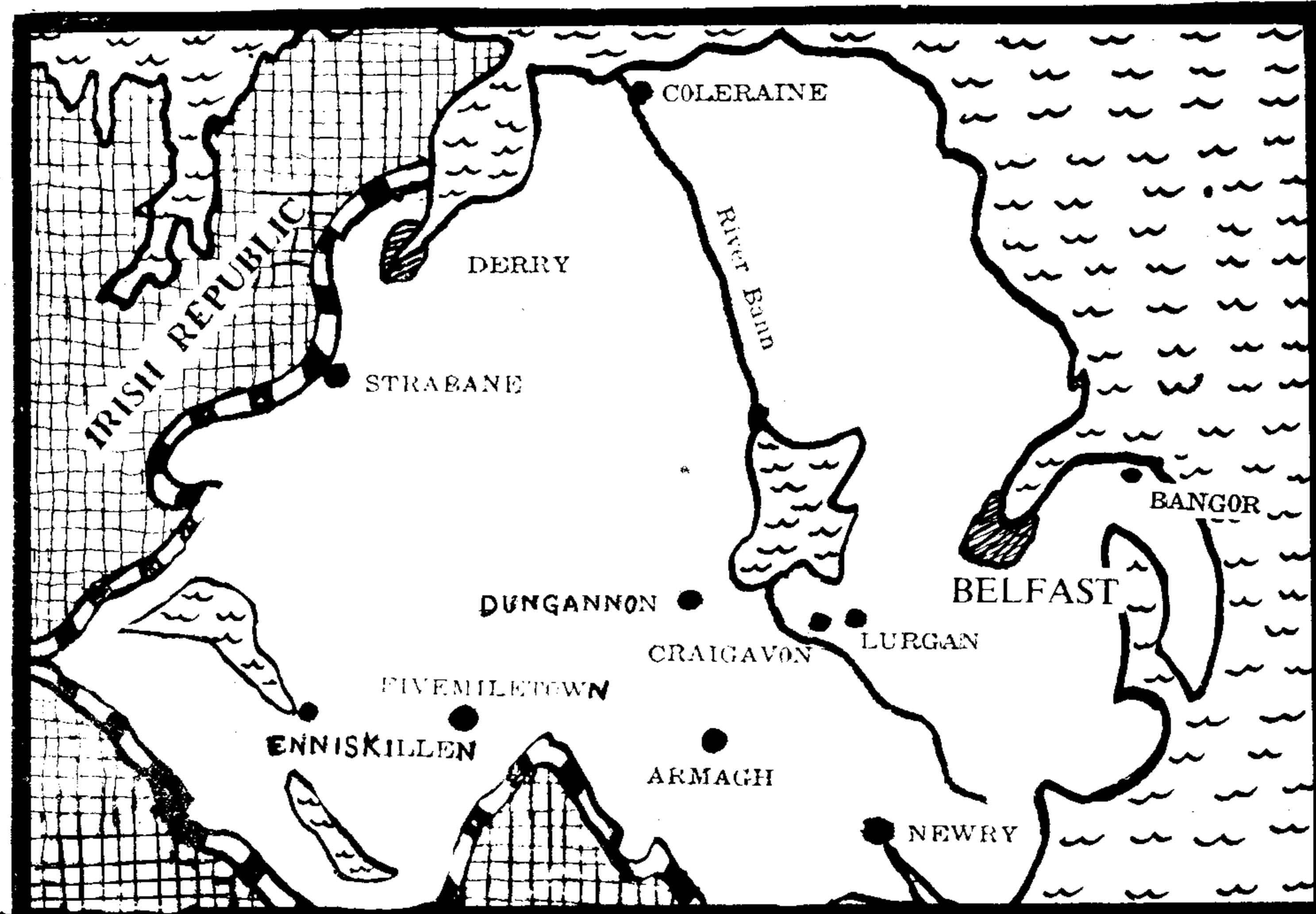
The Unionist rank and file, feeling betrayed by the "concessions" to the Northern minority, not to speak of the "accommodations" to the South, are regrouping around the Paislyites, demanding a "third force" and even threatening to secede. In order to placate these now somewhat lively skeletons in the cupboard, the Tories have been forced into a whirlpool of increasingly right wing P.M.'s - spanning O'Neill to Faulkner - and a whole series of brutal repressive blows, aimed at sapping its strength and shattering its organisations, have been reigned in ever-increasing quantities upon the heads of the Catholic working class.

Yet, despite the violation of the Catholic "no go" areas and the arms searches which precipitated the present crisis and facilitated internment, the Tories have not moved one single step towards a solution political or otherwise. The Protestant workers have not been reintegrated into the mainstream Unionist fold, the Republican movement appears stronger than ever and the Catholic working class is determined to defend itself, both militarily and in terms of mass political action.

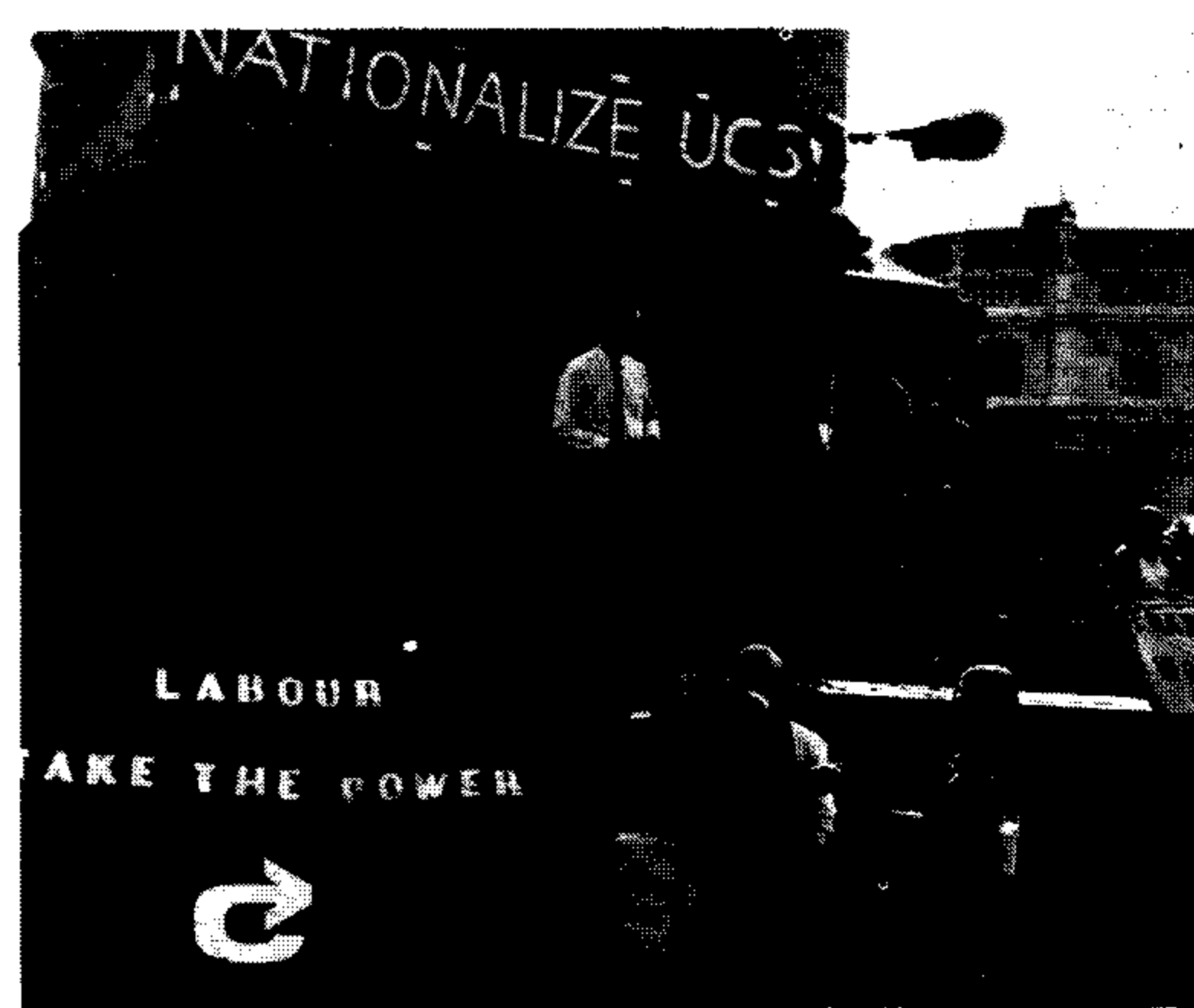
Having gambled upon repression to pacify both sections, the one physically the other ideologically, the Tories are now attempting to back this up by negotiating a common strategy with the Green Tories against the militant Republicans - a policy that is blatantly full of contradictions. The next step will probably be direct rule from Westminster which is of course no solution at all, unless it is on the basis of inflicting the type of decisive defeat on the workers that the Tories are at present banking upon.

The crucial question for us, the Labour movement, is what attitude should we take? At present our position is extremely ambiguous. On the one hand, we stand united and resolute in face of the Tory attacks, whether it be unemployment, U.C.S. or the Common Market. Yet, when it comes to Ireland, where the very same Tories are handing out similar medicine only in stronger doses, we find ourselves confused, racked by the worst sorts of chauvinism and generally bewildered

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Young Chartists give lead on U.C.S.



Before the Rally.



The march to the Square.



Listening to the speakers.

As the Tories unleash a vicious class offensive on the Labour movement, the struggle at UCS assumes a vital importance. With over 900,000 unemployed we must see the attack on UCS as an integral part of Tory policy. In face of this the Labour movement has not been silent. The heroic occupation of the yards marks a new stage and one supported throughout the country. The occupation reflects our determination to defend ourselves.

There are grave dangers though. Determination and the will to fight are necessary but this must be linked to a perspective of how this fight can be won. What we stress is that it is a POLITICAL battle which needs POLITICAL answers. Don't have illusions we can persuade the Tories to be nicer to us. Unfortunately Jimmy Reid seemed to not see this when said he was not in business "to bring down the government" !!

Neither do we have much faith in the TUC utopia of a "Development Authority". This sort of nonsense leaves the blokes open to the

Continued p 2.

U.C.S.

Continued from p. 1. schemes of sharks like Archibald (cash-down) Kelly and other such patriotic parasites. These sort of "non-politics" can lead to despair and defeat.

There is no objective reason for defeat though as we are stronger than ever before and victory can be ours if we plan our tactics correctly. The biggest working-class demo Glasgow has ever seen is a real testimony to this fact! UCS stewards can and will give a real lead to the movement if they base their strategy on a call for extending industrial action, with a view to using this as a preparation for an all-out offensive against the government. Only this strategy can even exact the most minimal concessions from our enemies!!!!

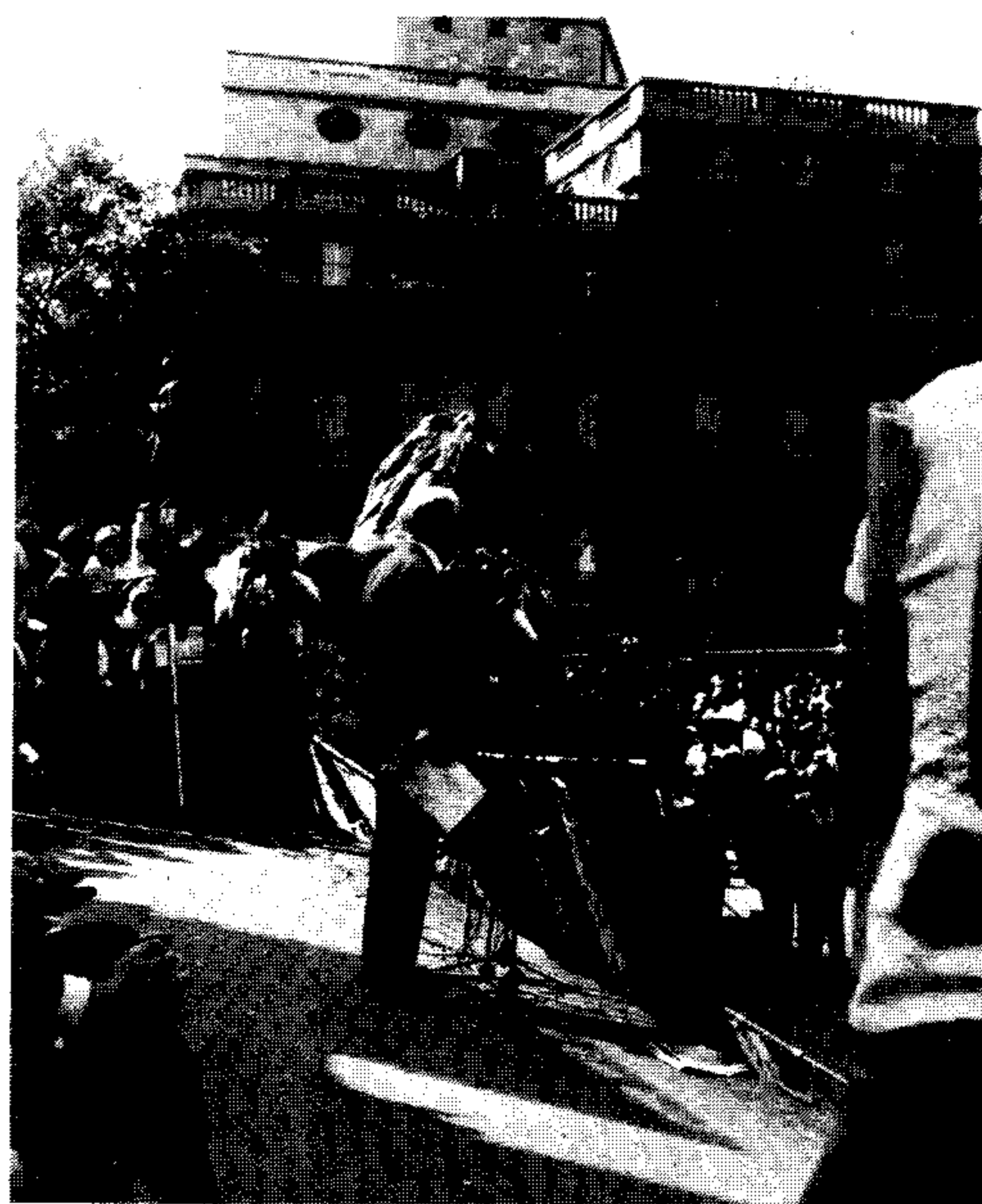
Meeting

Recently the Young Chartists struck a blow for the lads on the Clyde by being the first in London to give political and financial support to the fight. We held a meeting at which John Tasker, a shop-steward from the Clyde-bank yard spoke as well as Reg Taylor, on behalf of the LCS and Cllr. Dennis Knight, a Labour councillor from Tonbridge. The meeting was chaired by the CHARTIST's editor, Keith Veness. Brother Tasker said He realized the struggle was a political one, and depended on smashing the Tories. Reg Taylor congratulated the Chartists on their initiative and called on the unions to do likewise. Dennis Knight summed this up by saying that if we shirked the issue of power we were letting down not just UCS but the whole movement. A collection was then held which yielded £85 and this was presented to John Tasker, amidst applause.

London Demo

On Sunday 12th Sept. the UCS workers came to London to join the march of protest organized by the LCS and the London Federation of Trades Councils. At 9.00a.m. on the Sunday morning, the train carrying the Scots pulled into Euston Station and six hundred lads

poured off-to be met by a picket of Young Chartists & cooperators about two dozen strong. Our slogans which greeted them were ones like "Welcome to UCS workers-Extend the struggle to win" and "Tories out-TUC call a General Strike!". These slogans went down well with the workers who kept up a steady chant of "Heath-Out, Heath-Out".



The ensuing march from Gower Street to Trafalgar Square, in which we were the only political group to participate, was about 1,500 strong and was joined by many trades-unionists from London. As the march entered the Square, Coop and Chartist banners greeted the demonstrators. Chartists also saw the lads off when they returned home. In all honesty we can be proud of the part we played in helping the ship-yarders.

Many working class people have probably been wondering what form the next Tory attack will be in. So far we've had the Industrial Relations Act, the Immigration Bill, the cuts in Social Services, and the attempts to take us into the EEC. Well, the Tories have decided to push up the rents. Not all of them, of course, some tenants will find themselves paying less. But most council tenants will find their rents going up at between 50p and 75p a week each year. The Tories have said this in their policy "FAIR DEAL FOR HOUSING" And how long are the rents to go up for; one year, two perhaps. In the future rents will continue to rise each year until they reach the level of being a "fair" rent. The Tories do not actually say what a "fair" rent is but they do say that "these rents will be subject to the same broad criteria as the rents of priv-

DOLLAR

Trade War Intensifies

Nixon's bombshell announcement of August 15 - suspending the official convertibility of the dollar for gold and placing a 10% surcharge on US import - was the heaviest nail yet driven into the coffin of the Bretton Woods monetary system and the international trading boom on which - above all else - the entire post-war upsurging of capitalism has been built. Since then, while America's trading "partners" have refused to revalue their floating currencies by anything approaching the 10% or 15% demanded, the United States has declared that not even large revaluations, taken alone, will induce her to remove the 10% surcharge on imports. Only "a clear improvement of the US's balance of payments" will suffice. While Nixon has called for "the necessary reforms to set up an urgently needed new international monetary system", no-one is optimistic about the prospects for a solution to this deadlock. Even the British

"Times" admits "there should be no concealing the fact that we are currently poised on the edge of a prolonged phase of monetary and trading tension, if not outright war".

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A "new international monetary system" is in capitalist circles, seen as the only hope. But, an international monetary system is not - as some believe - a thing that can be replaced mechanically by an improved version. Although human planning is a factor, in reality it is more a product of unconscious social forces in a whole historical epoch. The system which recently collapsed took a world war and its consequences to create. Now - as even Nixon says - it has been destroyed - leaving the world with no stable monetary system at all!!

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Moreover, the appeals for "international cooper-

Fair Deal for Housing?

ate unfurnished dwellings", and we all know the cost of renting from private owners.



So the rents will be going up, but who is responsible for deciding the "fair" rent and enforcing the increases? "The local authority will assess a fair rent for every dwelling." This means that Labour controlled councils will be used by the Tories to put up the rents of the very people who vote Labour. They intend to use our representatives against us.

The Labour councillors should refuse to help the Tories in determining the "fair" rent in their area, and instead freeze the rents for the remaining period of their office.

However, we cannot let our councillors fight alone. Every Labour Party should convene Borough delegate conferences of ward Labour Parties, tenants associations, union branches and shop stewards committees, to organise rent strikes, backed up by industrial action. If the Labour Party NEC will see that this is done throughout Britain, the proposed rent increases can be defeated.

The defeat of the rent increases would become the beginning of a campaign to bring down Tory Government, and take the power of industry and finance on behalf of the working class.

Phil Elliot

R CRISIS

A TWO PART SERIES by
Chris Knight.

ation " to produce a new system, is based on a complete misapprehension. This is the widespread myth that the Bretton Woods system itself was the harmonious product of a voluntary agreement between the world's capitalist nations, that they would cooperate for the common good, and that what international "goodwill" and "cooperation" could achieve it can achieve again. Just as after World War II, America, Japan, Britain and the countries of Western Europe agreed to sink their differences, repudiate economic nationalism, outlaw "selfish" tariff barriers, initiate a system of fixed parities and generously come to the aid of each other's currencies with laws channelled through the International Monetary Fund (an agency of the U.N.) - so (goes the argument), these countries today should come together and create a totally new system based on an arbitrary international paper currency independent of gold

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But in fact, this is asking for a degree of cooperation which capitalists have never

been capable of and never will. Even the Bretton Woods system was in reality a product not of "good will" or "cooperation" at all. It was imposed simply by the self-interest and economic near-omnipotence of United States capital, which resulted from the crippling of its European and Japanese counterparts caused by World War II. Throughout the duration of the post-war boom, America has dominated the Bretton Woods system just as Britain dominated the Gold Standard system prior to 1914. All the Western World's currencies were convertible at a fixed rate into dollars, while the dollar itself was "as good as gold". The present dissaray stems from the evaporation of this U.S. dominance within the Western World.

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The Western World now stands on the brink of an economic catastrophe perhaps even greater than the slump following the Wall Street Crash of 1929.

(continued next issue)

Obituary

For all those supporters of "Stalinism with a human fist", this issue we reproduce a few choice quotes from chairman K. - unsung hero of the new "liberal Communism" :

1. "If I were an Englishman, I should be a Conservative"
2. "Power maintained at the point of a bayonet is worth nothing"

Young Socialists must fight for General Strike

On September 25th, the Y.S. are holding a Young Workers Conference in London. But what will become of this potentially important event? Young people today are hit by rising prices, bad social amenities, and worst of all, unemployment. We face a bleak future under the Tories! We grew up in the Sixties when living conditions were improving and we won't lose the gains we have made.



come a massive youth movement fighting the Tories:

Cook's Column

Labour Mafia Strikes Again

One of the candidates for the Greater London LPYS Committee vacancy is a self-confessed Fabian from Erith and Crayford called Wildish. His manifesto is almost non-political - just a lot of thing anyone can agree with - winning youth for the LPYS and socialism, etc. But how come no one told the other candidates (Young Chartist Paul Moore & Militant supporter Derek McMillan) that they could send manifestos round with the ballot paper?

This sort of underhand subvention by the Labour Party "Mafia men" is believed to have no connection with the recent announcement of the soggy left group called "Turn left" to 're-vamp' the LPYS. (see Editorial)

On the Home Front

On September 11th, several Chartists and STURM supporters invaded Aldershot to leaflet servicemen at the football match (0-0 draw with Southend) and in their married quarters. The Soldiers Charter went down well with troops, and we livened up the afternoon of the local coppers. A couple of comrades were cornered by the police (who couldn't find any skinheads to annoy) and given a lecture on the lines of:- "We dont want you crawling out of the dirt and subverting our lads".

We believe all members of the Labour Movement should join us in this fight for union rights for servicemen. We extend this invitation even to the shadowy organisation known as SLAG (Service-men's Liberation Action Group), which we hope will surface and demonstrate it actually exists!

but the organisers of the Young Workers Conference will not be showing us the way to acheive this.

Talk

These people, the supporters of the "Militant" paper, prefer to run this event like the Y.S. Conference. They will talk plenty but donothing! They refuse to lead a fight for a general strike to throw out the Tories, or against the bureaucrats who hold us back from using our real strength. Unknown to

Editorial

Greetings Comrades,

And welcome to the new printed CHARTIST. This marks a big step forward for us as an organisation- made possible by the growth of our group and the increasing number of supporters and sympathizers of our paper. Now its up to you the readers to back us in this new venture. With the vast battles facing the Labour movement our next targets are a six-pager and then to go fortnightly. Unlike the Tories or the right-wing social-democrats we're optimistic about the future. The whole world situation has never been riper for revolutionary change. Lets make sure we are equal to this enormous challenge!

Recently the 'Guardian' carried a report of a "Ginger Group" being formed for the LPYS to combat "stale Marxist rhetoric" in it. The leading light in this set-up is a certain James Curran - trendy candidate for Huntingdon. On the basis of our experience in the Co-op with the CMA we can safely predict the development of this organisation. It will receive shadowy but rather large sums of money from unnamed sources and have a few Labour agents working full-time on boosting it - but, like CMA, we can predict it wont get far even if the so-called "MILITANT" tendency persists in allowing these people the same leeway the Stalinists allow CMA in th LCS. If MILITANT have any sense they will join with us in a united campaign to throw out these disruptive elements from the LPYS - starting now.

themselves, they are very useful to Transport House. What more could Wilson want than a bunch of "Marxists" who talk endlessly about a Socialist Programme but never fight anyone except other Marxists! These people will show no way forward for this Conference. We urge all delegates to support the policies of the Chartists, the only policies which will prepare the Y.S. for the fight ahead. MAKE THE Y.S. N.C. FIGHT!!! PREPARE FOR THE GENERAL STRIKE!!!

Massive possibilities are ripening for the Y.S. to become

IRELAND - Tories Out Green & Orange !

Continued from P.1

by what appears to many of us a Pandora's box of turmoil and sectarian strife.

The blame for this lies squarely on the shoulders of our Labour leaders, who failed to take the real power from the Tories, the monopolies, the landowners and the whole bunch of ruling-class sharks that run this country and have carved-up Ireland for generations!!! Furthermore, although many socialists genuinely believed that our leaders were right in sending the British Army to "keep the peace", it is now patently obvious that such a force, dominated as it is by a Tory officer-caste and in no way under the democratic control of the Labour movement, can only be used as an instrument of the Unionist rulers. The Army is only neutral in the sense that it can be used either against the Catholic workers or the Protestant workers, depending on who has to be whipped into line.

Even now our leaders could cut through this confusion. Were they to launch a campaign now aimed at permanently removing the Tories by bringing industry and power under the control of the Labour movement; were to actively fight for the rights and conditions of the servicemen used to suppress the working class in Ireland, if they were to call for the troops to be brought home and seriously prepare for a general strike - this would provide a tremendous boost to the Irish struggle. Not only would such action help break down the sectarian barriers, but it would also be a real step forward in solving the problems of Ireland: low wages, enormous unemployment and Tory manipulation, North and South.

However, until our leaders do this, or until we replace them with people who are willing to carry out the struggle, we must give real support to those organisations actually defending the Catholic workers against the troops, or the Paislyites. Concretely, this means campaigning in support of the S.D.L.P. and the Official I.R.A. as well as the Provisionals, in so far as they are defending the working class, and fighting British imperialism. Immediately we should campaign against the internment, for the bringing home of the troops and for

the victory of these organisations in their present struggle.

At the same time, we must fraternally criticise the S.D.L.P. and the Officials for their failure to put forward any real measures aimed at achieving the Irish Workers Republic they so earnestly desire. Whilst it is the duty of every British socialist to unequivocally defend the Provisionals, at the same time those comrades who sow illusions in the ability of this organisation to attain independence for the Irish workers, are as equally at fault as the social chauvinists who use the call "Workers' Unity" merely as a stick to beat the I.R.A. and condemn "terrorism".

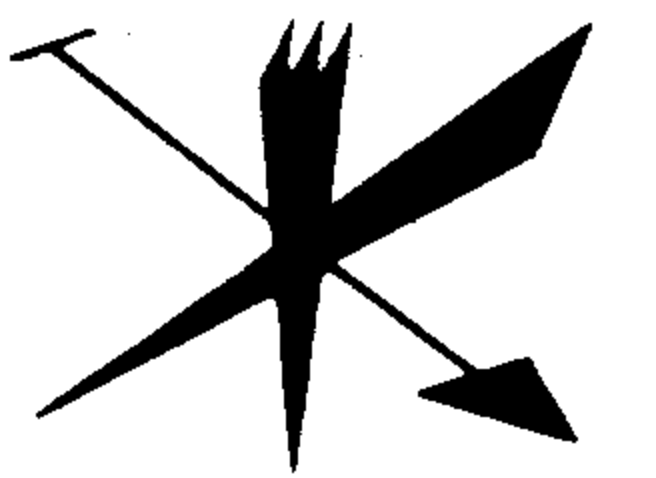
The bourgeois nationalist programme of the Provisionals, (despite the working-class rhetoric), their subordination of politics to military tactics and their links with sections of the Green Tories, mean that they must eventually be swept aside by the Irish workers if a United Socialist Ireland is to be achieved.

Finally, it is the duty of Irish socialists who maintain that Irish independence and unity can only be realised on a working class basis, who understand that a united capitalist "Republic" is one manipulated and dominated by British imperialism; to concretely raise the slogan of workers' power - North and South. This means demanding the activation of the Council of Labour (a body comprising the Irish T.U.C. the N.I.L.P., the S.D.L.P., and the Irish Labour Party). Calling for it to organise workers defence squads to protect both communities from the British Army, the R.U.C. and sectarian attacks; and to mobilise support against both the Green Tories of Fianna Fail and the Ulster Unionists of Stormont. Merely to demand that the N.I.L.P. do these things is to live in a daydream world of organisational fetish, - for the N.I.L.P. is supported by only a fraction of the Irish masses.

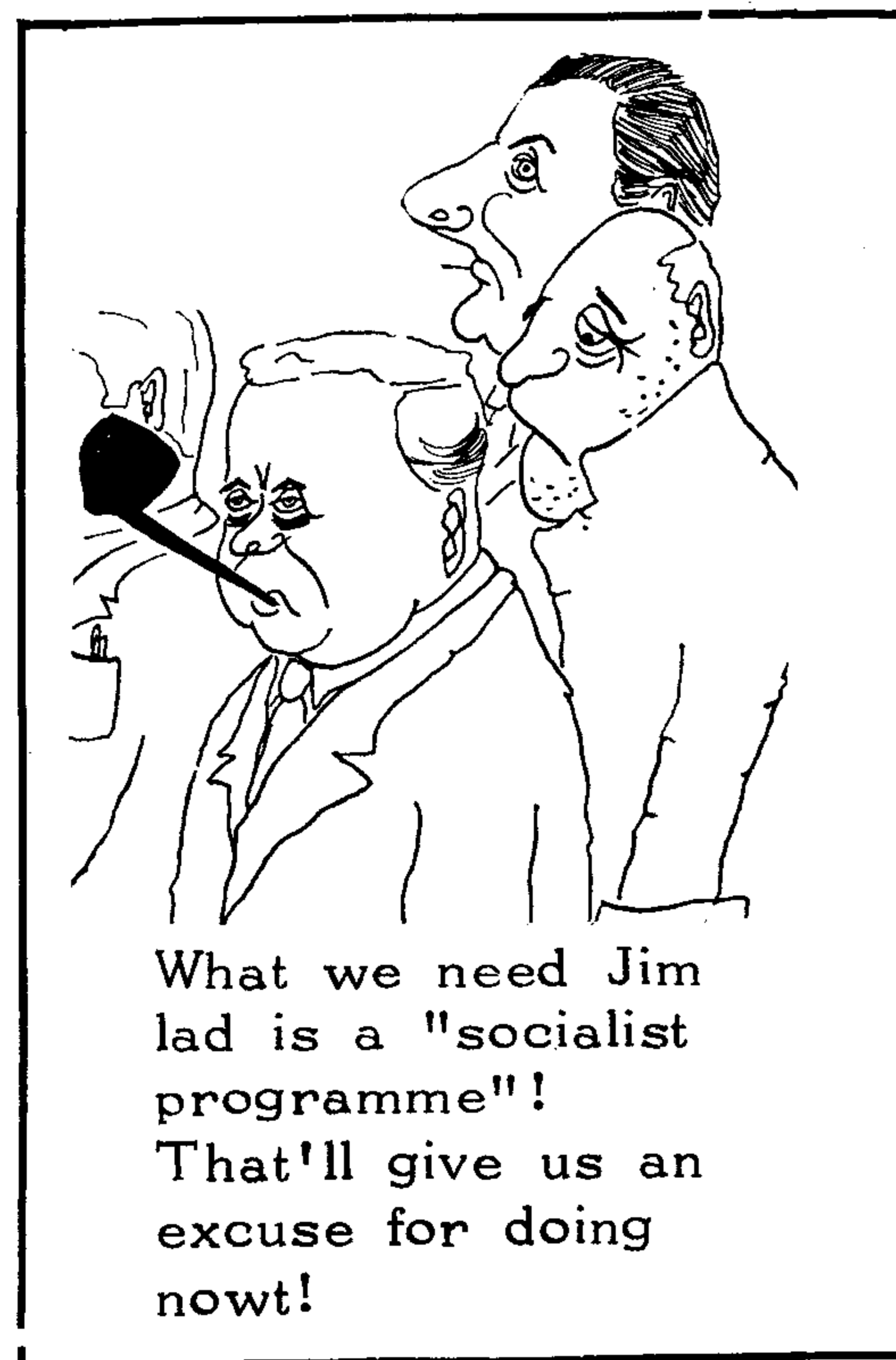
Only such a long-term strategy can guarantee independence under workers' power.

Peter McLintock

THE CHOICE BEFORE CONFERENCE



This year's Party Conference comes at a vital time for our movement. It's ten years since our movement held such a strong position against the Tories. What we need from this Conference is a clarion call to bring down the Tory government and end this rotten system once and for all. However the simple passing of a whole series of socialist resolutions is useless unless intend to carry them out.



What we need Jim lad is a "socialist programme"! That'll give us an excuse for doing nowt!

How to do this should be a major discussion point at this Conference. The NEC has recently behaved like the proverbial ostrich-head in the sand-while crucial issues face our movement. As for the PLP, it has given no clear calls for action-only basking in a smug complacency in that we've at last started winning a few bye-elections, instead of seizing the opportunities now open to us.

This year we must elect an NEC which is responsible to us. If MPs cannot act as responsive candidates, then they shouldn't stand & we shouldn't vote for them! Elect rank-and-file candidates this year.

Each year good resolutions are destroyed by a carve-up called "compositing". This nearly always produces motions devoid of any sense or use, and anyone who cribs is told to like it or lump it. We suggest some form of amalgamation of the organisations sending resolutions so that anybody gaining a majority for their views anywhere will at least be heard. This will ensure Conference is the real voice of the movement.

"Briefing"

This year the Young Chartists are combining with other "left-wingers" to produce a "BRIEFING" service for delegates. How this will work out in practice remains to be seen as we have been severely critical of some of these tendencies. Hopefully though we will give out each day a pamphlet to delegates on all the elections, votes and resolutions that are coming up that day. This is besides reporting meetings, giving insights and providing background material in the way we've become adept at recently.

Let the message ring out clear this year-Out with the Tories, Build the alternative and LABOUR, TAKE THE POWER !!!!!

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