

RED WEEKLY

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FIGHT RACIST MENACE

RED FLAGS cover the dried pools of blood where one Sikh youth died and another lay wounded. Speakers from the Communist Party-dominated Indian Workers Association urge the angry crowds of Asian youth to go home, keep it cool, leave it to the police. They are ignored.

The boy died outside the doors of the 'Victory' pub. Inside, young blacks pour out stories of years of insults and assaults by whites, collusion by the police. One Sikh youth puts it this way:

'At school, the white kids told us that the reason we had white palms and soles and black skin was that when God was painting us we had to hold on to the branches — you know, like monkeys. We were never told about the things which made Britain rich: West Indian spices and sugar, African gold, Indian diamonds.'

Another interrupted: 'The police say that this crime has no motive. People who have no motive don't carry knives! They don't stab someone nine times!'

'We told the police that a group of fifteen white youths standing around on that night were responsible. They ignored us! There was no fight last night! Just two boys stabbed.'

The slogan on the pavement outside echoes all their sentiments: RACIST MURDERS MUST BE AVENGED — WE'LL GET YOU, RACIST SCUM.

They discount suggestions that the National Front is responsible. They stir it up but 'it comes from everyday life. The pub along the road from here, the 'Red Lion', a Whitbread pub, operates a colour bar. Of course if you went to the Race Relations people, the landlord would say: "Sorry, I didn't see him when he asked."



The murdered youth, GURDIP SINGH CHAGGAR

'You get white youths patrolling in vans and cars. When have you ever seen Asian youths going out of their area looking for trouble? Never!'

'Enoch Powell stirs the lot with a long spoon. Those guys from Malawi are stuck up by the papers. The Government doesn't do nothing. From now on we are going to defend ourselves!'

The first step they took, along with hundreds of others, was to win the release of four youths arrested during clashes with police. Speakers from the Asian Socialist Forum addressed the massive picket which successfully freed all four. It's common for black youth in Southall to be kept in overnight even for the most trivial offences. But now the fight has begun.

CRISIS IN EDUCATION INSIDE—special pull-out

WHAT TO DO

The killings in Southall and Woodford are only the bloody tip of an iceberg of racist assaults and discrimination. The police continue to maintain that this violence is not racially motivated, but even the press are forced to conclude otherwise. The police have proved unwilling and unable to stop the wave of violence.

The police and the useless machinery of the Race Relations Board are no obstacle to the racists. Black and white unity can now only be built on the basis of *action* from the labour movement.

It is the responsibility of white workers to build a strong anti-racist current in the trade unions. The way to build it is through solidarity actions, confronting racism in the workplaces through campaigns run by shop stewards committees and supporting the right of blacks to self-organise in the trade unions and the community.

That's why we say: **BUILD LABOUR MOVEMENT SUPPORT FOR BLACK SELF-DEFENCE.**

Those in the labour movement like Bob Mellish MP and Birmingham Trades Council president Bill Jarvis, who aid the far right with their calls for an end to immigration, should be kicked out. The TUC, instead of joining the witch-hunt against illegal immigrants, should come out against all immigration controls.

Immigration is the product of the impoverishment of the underdeveloped countries, which for centuries have been stripped of their wealth by imperialist nations like Britain. Now the British economy, which was built on that plunder, is in crisis.

Controls try to put the blame for that crisis on immigration. They attempt to split working class resistance to the cuts that this Labour Government is pushing through in jobs, social services and living standards.

That's why we say: **END ALL IMMIGRATION LAWS.**



The massive sit-down which freed the four

LOBBY TUC 16 JUNE

LEICESTER LABOUR TAKES ON RACISM

Following the local elections in Leicester, where the National Front polled some 43,000 votes (over 18 per cent of the total), local Labour Party members in an individual capacity have launched a campaign to combat the National Front.

Called 'Labour Against Racism', it has adopted the following programme:

1. To combat all forms of racism inside and outside the party.
2. To oppose the NF for socialism.
3. To call for support against any NF demo held in Leicester.
4. To oppose all racist immigration laws introduced by the present race hysteria.
5. To fight for a national Labour Party campaign against the NF.

Leicester's constituencies are also in the process of creating an official anti-NF campaign. The Leicester Anti-Fascist Committee is meanwhile working to arouse an awareness of the dangers of the NF in the trade unions.

The need now is to create the maximum unity of all anti-fascist forces to organise street meetings, estate meetings and propaganda in order to prevent race-hate policies from becoming even more acceptable.

Paul Winstone



'I'm not a racist, but.....'

Bill Jarvis, the president of Birmingham Trades Council who recently made a statement calling for an end to immigration, has now reaffirmed his support for trades council policy against racial discrimination. However, he has refused to retract his earlier statement. In other words, he has opted for the 'I'm not a racist, but' camp of Bob Mellish.

Jarvis's refusal to retract his earlier statement flies in the face of resolutions passed by both Birmingham Trades Council and Birmingham Labour Party District Committee (Jarvis is also chairman of the West Midlands County Council). With a bureaucrat's contempt for expressions of workers democracy, he will neither retract nor resign.

The labour movement's failure to remove this right-wing misleader reflects two things. One the one hand, the Communist Party has refused to take a clear stand against Jarvis. They condemned his statement, but at the same time characterised it as 'unfortunate' and 'not what we would expect from Bill Jarvis'.

They thus failed to prepare the ground for the real fight — to remove him from office. Indeed, CP members publicly stated that such a move would disturb the good relations they have developed with the right wing — by which they are allowed to put through left-sounding resolutions as long as they don't commit anyone actually to do anything.

Secondly, however, the failure to remove Jarvis also reflects the deep-seated racialism of the West Midlands labour movement. Over 800 members of the Post Office Engineering Union signed a petition supporting his opposition to immigration, and a number of TGWU branches and Labour Party wards have also backed him.

This makes it urgent to build support in all sections of the labour movement for a local conference on racialism called by Selly Oak Constituency Labour Party on the initiative of Red Weekly supporters.

WEST EUROPE'S RACIST SCOURGE

In July 1973 a lorry broke down near Aix-les-Bains, in France. It was sealed. According to the customs declaration it was carrying sewing machines. In fact the police found that it was crowded with 59 Africans from Mali. There was little food or air, and the only sanitation was piles of straw.

The 'new found slave trade' is only one aspect of the plight of migrant workers in Europe highlighted in a new Minority Rights Group report*.

The report traces how employers and governments in Western Europe found a cheap and convenient method of meeting labour shortages by developing a system of short-stay employment for migrant workers.

The result has been super-exploitation in the workplace. Much of this is done through agencies. In France, workers at the Esso plant were paid 750 francs (£68) a month for a nine hour day. The authors calculated the agency rate at 1,800 francs. Rates for migrant workers at the Ford factory in Cologne were found to be 25 per cent lower than those for West German workers.

INGRATIATE

What do the unions do about this situation? Not much, according to the report. Even the French CGT 'is now so institutionalised, so wedded to its own traditional working class supporters, so concerned to aid the Communist Party in its attempt to ingratiate itself with the French middleground, that it almost completely ignores the foreign workers' problems'.

This failure to relate to the problems of migrant workers has had ex-

plosive consequences. The report states that 'everywhere the focus of hostility to immigrants was housing, not the workplace'.

RACIST

Discontent with the crisis of social provision has found an easy target with the migrants. A survey of opinion polls in the report shows 92 per cent of French people believing that France has 'too many foreigners'; two-thirds in Germany wanting to 'get rid of those employees'; and 42 per cent in Britain in favour of laying off coloured workers before white ones.

But racist sentiment has not been restricted to opinion polls. In 1972, Dutch workers burned down several immigrant boarding houses. In France there have been repeated attacks against North African workers. In April 1973, an insane Algerian murdered a French bus driver. In the weeks that followed no less than eleven Algerians were killed in racist attacks.

The mass of information provided by the report makes it essential reading for all militants fighting against racism in this country. But



Appalling living conditions are not the only hardship suffered by migrant workers in Marseilles—this 'bidonville' was machine-gunned by racists shortly before this photo was taken.

The authors come to dangerous and wrong conclusions:

'It will call for political leadership in Europe to explain to the electorate what the true price of the massive immigration in the last 20 years has been. To tell them that it is necessary and possible to cut it down. (Of course we do not mean to suggest sending home those who have already made Europe their home — a minority.) But we will have to pay to finance the transition — a historic transition which will leave both sides better off.'

UNWISE

The transition suggested by the authors flows from their analysis of what causes immigration. For them the cause is the massive internal migration in the underdeveloped countries of the world, and in those impoverished European countries like Italy and Greece. The move from countryside to city, they claim, has been provoked by the unwise industrialisation of these countries, the archaic land tenure systems and unproductive methods of agriculture.

From this they deduce that what is necessary is immigration controls

and 'untied aid' from the developed capitalist countries to the underdeveloped, devoted to the expansion of the agricultural sector. They note a 'welcome departure' by Robert McNamara of the World Bank in this direction.

The cause of immigration into Western Europe, however, is the systematic underdevelopment of these countries by imperialism. The level and direction of industrialisation are not determined on the basis of the objective needs of that country, but by the needs of the international ruling class — of which the World Bank is an authoritative spokesman.

The regimes in those countries have developed under the dominance of the capitalist class. 'Untied aid' will have the same result as direct aid: the systematic deepening of the contradiction between town and country, mass unemployment, poverty and emigration.

Equally, the advocacy of immigration controls — no matter how touched up with aid for the third world and the poorer European countries — only provides a basis for the further growth of the racist sentiments which the report documents so well, and bolsters the vicious system of contract labour which they attack.

It is typical of the method of the report, which sees the 'problem' as being internal to the countries from which migrant labour comes, that its conclusions do not include the necessity of fighting for the basic rights of employment, housing, education and social provision, as well as the fight for the liberation of the countries presently dominated by imperialism.

That is the only reply possible to the just retort of the immigrant worker who says: 'We are here, because you were there.'

STEVE POTTER

* Western Europe's Migrant Workers. Report no 28, Minority Rights Group. Price 45p (plus 15p p&p) from Red Books, c/o 97 Caledonian Road, London N.1.

MEDIA ACTION PLANNED

A major responsibility for the deaths of three Asians in the last fortnight lies with the press, whose hysterical coverage has done much to spark off the present racist upsurge.

But this has not gone unchallenged. Central London branch of the National Union of Journalists is asking for action to be taken against those responsible, and now the union's Book Branch is supporting a meeting on Tuesday 15 June at 6.30 p.m. in the St Bride Institute, Bride Lane, London E.C.4, to organise a Fleet Street demonstration and rally. All members of black and trade union organisations welcome.

AGAINST RACIALISM



Last Saturday a demonstration called by the Hackney Committee against Racism marched through the streets of Hoxton in response and as a challenge to the growing fascist influence in the area. The march, of about 6-700 people, ended with a rally where the speakers included the chairman of the Community Relations Council, a member of Liberation, and East London teacher Chris Searle.

A number of things were evident on the march. Firstly, there were hardly any blacks on the march — I counted only eight, including myself. One reason for this was the poor co-ordination between the organisers and local black groups.

Secondly, the benevolent attitude of the police towards the fascist National Front, who attempted physically to disrupt the march, clearly showed which side the authorities were on.

Finally, and perhaps most striking, was the predominance of white working class youths in the lines of the fascists — many of whom could not be described as card-carrying fascists. One of the major dangers of the present offensive is the effect of emotional racist rhetoric upon disillusioned white working class youths — particularly the unemployed.

One young black marcher, on spotting an old school friend in the line of hecklers,

said: 'I use to go to school with one of those boys, in fact we sat together and played football for the team.' The young black marcher — half embarrassed, half angered — shouted to his old school friend, now raw material for the fascist right.

This is not merely a sad story, it is part of the reality of the racist offensive. The revolutionary left and the labour movement must carry out a vigorous campaign to counter the racism of the right wing and deny any platform to the fascists.

Leroy M. Gordon

Photo: ANDREW WIARD (Report)

EQUAL PAY SHOCKER FOR CAR BOSSES

300 WOMEN, members of the Engineering Union (AUEW), are out on an equal pay strike at Trico, a car components factory in Brentford, West London. The management tried to fob off the women's demand for equal pay by giving them £1 extra last year, which still left them £4.75 below what the men production workers earn. One of the tricks management tried to pull was to reduce some of the men's pay to that of the women.

ROTA

But the women would have none of it. A fortnight ago they walked out, and they have since voted unanimously to continue the strike and keep up a regular picket rota on all entrances to the factory. They have also organised a march around local factories to publicise their case (another is planned for this week).

The strike was made official a few days after they came out, but so far the men, also AUEW members, are still working - apart from a one-day stoppage on 2 June. Yet convenor John Inwood originally assured them that the men would come out as soon as the

strike was official. Asked at a mass meeting last Thursday 'why the men haven't come out, and that they'd better come out quick', he replied: 'I don't want any funny business, these things take time.'

Although the support of all the workers in the factory is a key issue, the women themselves are determined to stay out until management delivers the goods. 'The management doesn't want to talk to us, because they think we women are too weak to win, but we are going to stick it to the end', commented one striker. They have already dealt a sharp blow to the popular idea of women workers, voiced by one Trico manager - 'oh, they won't turn up for a picket'.

In fact, women workers have shown their militancy in a series of strikes against inequality over the past few months: at Dunlop Engineering, Orlake Plastics, East Coast Plastics, etc. They are determined to be treated as an equal part of the workforce and not as a pool of cheap labour which can be hired and fired at will.

At Trico, workers in the car industry can play a leading role in ensuring a successful outcome to the strike, as the firm supplies windscreen wipers for Ford, Vauxhall, Rolls Royce and Chrysler. If workers from these firms were to black the Trico parts, the pressure on management would be enormous.

CHARTER

The AUEW should circulate this and other demands as official instructions if its recent conference decision to adopt the Working Women's Charter is actually to mean anything.

Action should also be taken by all those unions and organisations that support the Working Women's Charter, in accordance with the aims of the campaign to generalise all struggles on women's rights:

- * send money to the strike fund;
- * resolutions of support;
- * solidarity stoppages.

We must smash the idea that the employers are doing women a favour by employing them and that they should be grateful for the chance to be exploited.

IN FOCUS

NO PLATFORM FOR POWELL

'I stand by all the speeches I have made on this issue in the last ten years, but I will not be interrogated about this apparent violence.'

The man? Enoch Powell. The issue? Race. Try as Powell might to evade responsibility for the race killings there is no doubt in the minds of the racist scum who carry out these attacks that Powell is their standard bearer.

Those who now leap to the defence of Powell, still embroider the tattered flags of 'free speech'. But that free speech was only the product of years of struggle by the trade unions and the political organisations of the working class. The tightening of the immigration laws that Powell suggests would limit the rights of black people. And a blow suffered by one section of the working class is a deprivation of the unity and rights of the whole labour movement.

Powell's speeches also give a respectable gloss to the far right organisations whose platforms extend far beyond those of racialism, the right to organise in trade unions, the right to strike, freedom of assembly.

Despite the National Front's boasts, it is Powell who has made racialism respectable and by making racism respectable, made the National Front and other fascist vermin like Robert Relf heroes.

That is why there can be no platform for racists. No platform for Enoch Powell.

PUNCHES HIT THIN AIR

The fists that flew in Parliament last week were just one more sign of the impotence of the Labour left. After absurd posturings, singing of the Red Flag and offers to 'meet the Tories outside', the following Monday saw them meekly standing by while the Government shelved the nationalisation of the aircraft and shipbuilding industry - perhaps for the life of this Government.

The fiasco over this Bill reveals the real dilemma of the Labour lefts. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has just negotiated a huge loan to back the ailing pound. Despite Healey's statements that no cuts are necessary at the present time every Labour MP knows that such loans are not given out of charity or as a reward for getting the pay policy past the miners.

They contain 'sleepers clauses' which are liable to wake up with the next round of pressure against the pound. All the blustering of the Left MPs Bidwell, Flannery and Thorne cannot disguise the fact that they will limit their opposition to the cuts to Parliament and then not to the extent of defeating the Government.

Instead of posturing they should be out building a campaign against the cuts, touring the colleges under occupation building support for the fight of the student teachers against redundancies. Instead of playing he-men with the Tories in the House of Commons after one too many in the bar, they should be touring the shipyards and aircraft factories building mass action in support of nationalisation.

The steam roller of the trade union bureaucracy will move into action at the Special TUC Congress this week. It will flatten the hopes that millions of workers had for the defence of their basic living standards under the Labour Government they put into power.

The Lefts could mobilise thousands of workers against the deal: the 47 per cent of miners who voted against the policy; the building workers, whose leader rejected the decision of their conference against the 4½ per cent as 'unacceptable'; the engineers gagged by Scanlon and the right wing at the AUEW conference a fortnight ago. The list is endless. But so is the Lefts' series of vacillations and capitulations.

Only through starting to build rank and file opposition to the Government's policies on cuts, unemployment and wages starting from the 16 June lobby will the links be made between the militant minorities in the labour movement who are opposed to this Government's policies.



Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)

BUILDERS' LEADERS FLOUT UNION DEMOCRACY

In a flagrant violation of the most basic principles of democracy in the labour movement, the Executive of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians is refusing to vote against the Healey deal on 16 June - despite the decision of its biennial conference last week.

Amidst uproar, general secretary George Smith declared that the Executive would not carry out the decisions of the conference - which had been clearly carried by 112 votes to 89. Instead a ballot of branch members would be held, and as the result of this would not be known until mid-July, the union's delegation to the special TUC conference would not vote. Yet last year the union

voted against the £6 deal when no mandate at all existed.

In a further attack on workers democracy Smith warned that if conference persisted in passing 'improper' resolutions there would have to be 'serious consideration of whether this delegate conference was capable of representing the members.'

The vote of the 281,000 strong union, the first manual workers' union to oppose the pay deal, was a snub not only to Smith but to the right-wing leaders of the TUC - including Len Murray, whose impassioned plea for acceptance of the 4½ per cent deal had no effect on delegates but landed him in hospital.

Conference also instructed the Executive to submit a claim for £2 an hour for craftsmen to the build-

ing employers and for a 35-hour week. With unemployment in the building trade running at over 200,000 in the building industry, even according to official figures - some delegates put the real figure at over 300,000 - the fight for 35 hours is an essential part of the struggle for jobs.

Delegates also called for an increase in capital expenditure for construction work. But to wage a fight against cuts in building spending means linking up with hospital, social and education workers in a common fight against Healey's White Paper.

Building workers must now organise to force the leaders of UCATT to carry out the decisions of the conference. In recent weeks the right wing in the unions - starting with Hugh Scanlon, who used the Engineering Section block vote to clobber the other three sections of the AUEW at the union's national conference, supposedly its supreme decision-making body - have pulled every trick in the book to get blanket endorsement of their deal with Healey.

The UCATT conference struck one blow against this. Building workers can strike another by turning out in force for the lobby of the TUC on 16 June to demand that their leaders implement union policy and vote against the deal.



UCATT delegates show what they think of Murray's histrionics—the hands go up against the pay deal. Photo: News Line

AS NALGO CONFERENCE MEETS CAN WE AFFORD ANOTHER WASTED YEAR?

By
JACK
LEWIS

The annual conference of the National and Local Government Officers Association, Britain's fourth largest union, is taking place this week — one of the last big dramas in the build up to the special TUC conference on 16 June.

The NALGO leadership first sold their members the social contract as a way of protecting jobs in public services. The £6 limit was likewise packaged by the bureaucrats as if NALGO's acceptance was conditional upon the Government protecting jobs and services.

But before 'giving a year for Britain' was even six months old, Denis Healey's public expenditure White Paper of February cut public services for a further four years until 1980. And at this moment, as NALGO's leaders are rallying the right wing to force through the National Executive Council's emergency motion accepting the 4½ per cent deal, further £2 bn. cuts are being prepared by Healey — which must lead to public sector sackings if implemented.

NONSENSE

This fact alone makes nonsense of the NEC's motion, which once again couples NALGO's acceptance of wage cuts with 'demands that any agreement between the trade unions and the Government must be related to' policies to reduce unemployment and maintain public services. Economic Committee chairman Glyn Phillips virtually admitted this when moving the resolution at the NEC, stating that it did not mean that NALGO support for the pay deal was conditional on these conditions being carried out.

There is a reason for this leftist hypocrisy by NALGO's right-wing leaders. They cannot yet be sure

that further cuts and possible sackings will not galvanise public sector workers into the kind of mass action that brought down the Tory Government.

Despite the fact that last year's strike figures were the lowest for seven years, there are still enormous reserves of opposition to Labour's Tory policies in the labour movement today. There have been strikes, demonstrations and conferences against cuts and unemployment. But the oppositionist sentiment ranges far wider than simply the participants in these limited actions so far, and is potentially explosive.

FRIGHTENED

NALGO members have been part of this opposition. Thousands of gas industry workers took strike action against British Gas management's attempt to impose new work conditions without agreement. This attempt and the accompanying victimisations could not have been made without the specific knowledge of Government Ministers. Social service staff have acted against frozen posts. Thousands of members have supported NALGO's Save Your Services campaign by attending rallies and marches.

Seen by NALGO leaders as a propaganda effort in the aftermath of last year's poor wage settlement and conditional acceptance of the £6 limit, the support attracted by the campaign soon frightened NALGO's right-wing leaders more than the cuts it was meant to combat. They have since managed effectively to end mass involvement in the campaign by turning it into a 'long term' project.

But while this potential for struggle in NALGO was making itself felt, and the right wing was organising at a national level to

TUC delegate - these attacks can be fought

ERICA BARNETT, a Red Weekly supporter and member of Cardiff West Labour Party, will be representing 24,000 members of the National and Local Government Officers Association as a South Wales District delegate to next week's special TUC conference. We asked her how she saw the fight back against the Government's policies developing.

What was your election programme based on?

I stood on a specific platform against cutbacks in the public sector. Only two of the other nine candidates said anything at all about fighting the cuts. My election as delegate to the TUC shows that members are willing to respond to the policies I have been putting forward.

How do you see the cutbacks affecting your members?

The recent five-year plan for health in Wales gives specific examples of cuts in hospitals and staff. NALGO members will certainly suffer from 'redeployment', as it is called.

In local government, non-filling of vacancies has increased considerably. On 1 May 1976 there were 167 unfilled posts in Mid-Glamorgan. Most seriously hit are the social services, where field and case workers are already overstretched and new cuts are being planned.

It's not just that staff are being cut; it's also worsening the quality of the service that can be provided.

What do you think of the Government-TUC pay deal?

A very fierce debate raged in my own branch of 2,500 members. The NEC

emergency motion to accept the pay policy was only passed by two votes. Although I would like to see the TUC special conference reject the pay deal, it is clear that the rhetoric of Jones, Murray and Co. has temporarily won the day.

But as the feelings voiced in my own branch show, there is the basis for an independent campaign against these attacks. It is obvious that people are confused to see a Labour Government carrying out these policies — they all know that the Government's measures have resulted in a lowering of their standard of living.

What sort of measures do you think are necessary to stop the cuts?

A programme of building works — council houses, schools and hospitals, for example — would soak up unemployment not only for building workers but for NALGO members in administration.

We should demand to see the accounts of local authorities who are proposing cuts. A demand like that is a vital part of any campaign against the cuts.

We should also stop the continuing increase in the non-filling of vacancies, and black any posts that are not filled.

head it off, what has the left been doing? The 17 out of 64 NEC members who voted against the new deal with Healey have made no impact whatsoever nationally — indeed, they haven't even tried to.

They have been content to relate to their own areas and make a few left speeches at the NEC and other committees. No national lead to step up the Save Your Services campaign, no national call for supp-

port and extension of existing struggles against cuts, no fighting lead to NALGO as a whole even in defence of existing union policy against health service cuts and private practice has been given.

This is a sharp reminder that politically they represent a bureaucratic accommodation to the mass struggles that sections of NALGO's membership have launched over the last seven years. Only a revival of such struggles can drag these left leaders out of their local hideouts. No wonder that the right wing made significant gains in the recent NEC election, and that NALGO has made no national impact on the cuts whatsoever.

REFUSAL

Despite the potential for mobilisation by sections of NALGO members, the International Socialist-dominated Nalگو Action Group has meanwhile entered a stage of near paralysis as a national force in the union. Simple opposition to a pay deal with the Government has proved impossible to campaign for. But the alternative workers' policy, a sliding scale of wages to keep up with price rises, was rejected at NAG's national conference last October.

Likewise a refusal to campaign for generalised workers' solutions to the crisis, such as the inflation proofing of all social services, a workers' enquiry into the public services, including opening the books and files of management, has left the NAG incapable even of generating basic national or regional solidarity with existing local struggles.

The decline of the NAG has allowed the left social democrats greater freedom of inaction than before. The Communist Party has also been revising its system of alliances, supporting the lefts in their passivity (the CP was instrumental in calling off a half day strike against cuts in Islington, on the same day as NEC and CP member Jean Geldart addressed social workers prior to the November unemployment demonstration.... on the cuts), and distancing themselves from their erstwhile IS allies in the NAG.

CHALLENGE

Only a struggle to unite the left around a programme of workers' action to meet the crisis can provide a national challenge to the policies of the right wing. Only with the elements of such a programme can the left link up with the actual and potential struggles of the rank and file on a countrywide basis.

This is the fight to build a broad, united class struggle opposition in NALGO which can join with workers in all industries to challenge the policies and positions of the present labour leaders. We cannot afford another wasted year.

-WHAT'S ON-

LONDON COLLEGES in occupation have organised two meetings: (1) for all trade unionists against the cuts, sponsored by Westminster Trades Council, Thurs 10 June; (2) for all London teachers, with speakers from local NUT associations, Fri 11 June. Both at 7.30pm at Sidney Webb College, Barrett St, W.1.

'OPEN FORUM ON IRELAND' in support of the Labour Movement Delegation to Ireland. Sat 26 June, 10am-5pm at Conway Hall. Morning: 'Lessons of other colonial wars' with Tony Cliff, Eamonn McCann, Pat Arrowsmith and speaker on Algeria. Afternoon: 'No British solutions' with Colin Sweet (BPC), Ken Livingstone (Labour councillor) and Mervyn Metcalf (Coventry TC). Plus TOM speakers and discussion.

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DEFEND Cartaxo and Ribeiro, Portuguese journalists sacked by BBC External Service. Fund-raising event, Sat 12 June, City University Students Union, St John St, London EC1 (entry via Northampton Sq). 6.30pm film 'Viva Portugal!' followed by discussion. 8.30pm disco. Admission 20p.

ROADGANG, touring socialist theatre group based in the North-East, need actor/musician from August. Equity rates. Apply in writing to: 5 Washington Terrace, North Shields, Tyne & Wear.

COME TO the Summer School for IMG members: 28 Aug-1 Sept. About £20 all in, including room and board in comfortable surroundings. Reading lists available soon. Book now as places limited! Will be held in Midlands countryside. Further details from: IMG National Centre, 97 Caledonian Road, London N.1.

SAVE THE E.G.A. Campaign open meeting—all welcome. Mon 14 June, 7pm, Goodwill Centre, Ossulston St, NW1 (just off Euston Rd between Euston and St Pancras stations).

FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT! Stop the Cuts! March through Newham Sat 12 June, assemble 2pm, Ordinance Rd, E16 (opp Rathbone Mkt). Rally with speakers, 5pm, Plashet Park.

IRISH CITIZEN ARMY—Giant Commemoration Poster (30" x 40") for sale. 3 colours—limited edition. Obtainable from Red Books, 182 Pentonville Rd, N1 or send cheque/PO for £1.10 to TOM, 1 North End Rd, London W14. Proceeds to finance Labour Movement Delegation to Ireland.

REVOLUTIONARY Communist Group public forum on 'The cuts in state expenditure'. The third of a series of fortnightly meetings on the fundamental questions facing the working class today. Speaker David Yaffe. Tues 15 June, 7.30, Earl Russell pub, 2 Pancras Road, Kings Cross tube.

FIGHT THE CUTS: public meeting at occupied Garnett College of Education, Roehampton Lane, SW15 to discuss united action against the cuts. Thurs 10 June, 7.30pm.

DAYSCHOOL on: Working Class Power and Britain's Crisis. Speakers: Bill Warren and Mike Prior, authors of 'Advanced Capitalism, Backward Socialism'. 2pm to 6pm, Sat 19 June, at Moss Side People's Centre, St Mary St, off Moss Lane East, nr Alexandra Road. Organised by Manchester Centre for Marxist Education.



NALGO militancy is far from dead if it can find a direction—as these workers at London's Institute of Education showed by mounting a 24-hour strike last Friday in support of occupying students. Photo: ANDREW WIARD (Report)

CRISIS

IN EDUCATION

WEEKLY
SPECIAL



SYLVIA RENILSON (Ethel Wormold College, Liverpool, and North West Colleges):

'We didn't need anyone to tell us there wouldn't be jobs at the end of the year. And we're not going to be told by the NUS Executive when to end our occupations. We want the NUS Executive to get off its backside and do the jobs we tell it to do.'

'All the things the National Executive is now telling us to do have already been done in the North West. The Merseyside and North West Areas of the NUS were brought together. There is a single co-ordinating committee.'

'We have gone to the unions, we have gone to the Labour Parties — and we've got support. All the schools in the area have been divided into teaching practice divisions, and we are going out into the schools approaching every individual teacher, not just the National Union of Teachers.'

'We have divided up all the industrial estates in South West Lancashire for leafleting. The local education authorities have been occupied. Every meeting of the council, of the education committee, of the further education sub-committee has been picketed.'



STEVE FAULKNER (President, Northern Counties College of Education, Newcastle, and Vice-Chairperson, Tyne-Wear Area NUS):

'If we want fighting student-worker unity then we have to move into action with those workers fighting the Government's attack, those lobbying the TUC on 16 June. Yet we've had people here today arguing against a mass demonstration outside the TUC because that will embarrass Len Murray and company. Well, if we want jobs we're going to have to do a lot more than "embarrass" these people.'



Moray House students acclaim decision to make TUC lobby main focus of action

Photo: JOHN STURROCK (Report)



SANDY ROSS (Moray House, Edinburgh):

'The NUS Executive claim they have put their full-time staff on a war footing. But the war footing seems to have been only to decide peace terms, because every single thing the NUS Executive recommends has already been done.'

'We haven't just been sitting round in Moray House for the last month. In Edinburgh not only are three Colleges of Education occupied, but also one central college, one art college and Heriot Watt University. All have the same problem. For example, Moray House also trains social workers — who have no jobs.'

'We are not fighting the problem of teacher unemployment, we are fighting the whole problem of unemployment. That's why in Edinburgh we have set up a coordinating committee of all colleges and are aiming ourselves at three decisive sectors: health students and workers, those involved in education and the schools, and the construction industry.'

'On the local day of action on 15 June we want students and workers on the march. Edinburgh NALGO (the local government workers' union) is supporting a strike, and the local executive of the Educational Institute of Scotland (the Scottish teachers' union) has called for a strike which they hope will close schools in the Lothian region. From there we move to the lobby of the TUC on 16 June.'



COLIN TALBOT (Manchester University and Manchester Area NUS):

'If the NUT and TUC policy on class sizes was implemented it would end teacher unemployment. Yet there is not a word in the resolution being put forward by the NUS Executive about the NUT.'

'I think this also relates to the Executive's call for a national demonstration the day before the lobby of the TUC. We want a fighting unity with the unions, not paper unity. Those people prepared to fight unemployment and the cuts are going to be on the lobby of the TUC on 16 June. That's where we should be.'

THE ACTION NOW

Last Saturday's National Union of Students conference for colleges in action threw out the Executive's proposals for the campaign and voted to:

BUILD a mass lobby and demonstration outside the special TUC on 16 June under the slogan 'No Deal with Healey — Fight for the Right to Work', rather than holding a separate national demonstration on 15 June. The lobby starts at 9 am at Central Hall, Westminster. Book overnight coaches now/arrange accommodation with occupied London colleges.

ORGANISE a day of local action on 15 June to forge links with the labour and trade union movement in the localities.

Hold a WEEK OF ACTION preceding the lobby, the ground to be laid for an ongoing campaign by coordinating committees in every area, organising pickets, demonstrations, occupations of local education authorities, etc. on the basis of:

* Demanding that the Labour Government end its cuts and guarantee jobs for all.

* Demanding that local authorities guarantee jobs for all student teachers and local authority employees and allow student and labour movement representatives to examine plans for expenditure.

* Setting up democratically elected ACTION COMMITTEES in the localities involving trade union and Labour Party representatives.

* 'Unemployment Survey' desks, called for by the NUS in all colleges, to be expanded to include representatives from local labour movement bodies as a step toward organised labour/student enquiries into the effects of the cuts in

education as a whole.

The conference also called for the continuation and extension of the OCCUPATIONS until at least the lobby and demonstration.

Recognising the importance of student worker unity in action, the conference called for:

* All trade unions to consider industrial action in support of the campaign. The NUS to use every means to bring pressure to bear on the trade unions, especially the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters.

* The teachers' unions to extend the policy of no cover for absence or non appointed teachers, and refuse to take classes over 30 (in line with 1969 NUT conference resolution).

* All teachers' unions to grant qualified teachers full trade union rights at a reduced rate when they are unemployed.

The conference demanded that the NUS Executive campaign for other sectors to take up the question of unemployment and reverse its present policy of concentrating almost solely on teacher unemployment in its propaganda. The threat to the jobs of student teachers is a direct result of the Labour Government's policy of cuts and unemployment, as spelled out in Healey's White Paper.

The denial of jobs to student teachers is part of an attack on the entire working class, on students, on school leavers, and on the social services. All victims of the cuts must unite against the entire policy of cuts and unemployment.

IMG STUDENT COMMISSION STATEMENT

THE WAY FORWARD

The Labour Government has responded to the demands of student teachers. They have told the students to look for other jobs, as they too have to make sacrifices in the present situation. Some MPs have suggested retirement at 50. Willie Hamilton has even come up with the idea that all married women teachers should be given the sack to make way for college leavers!

Common to all these 'suggestions' is the attempt by the Government to set

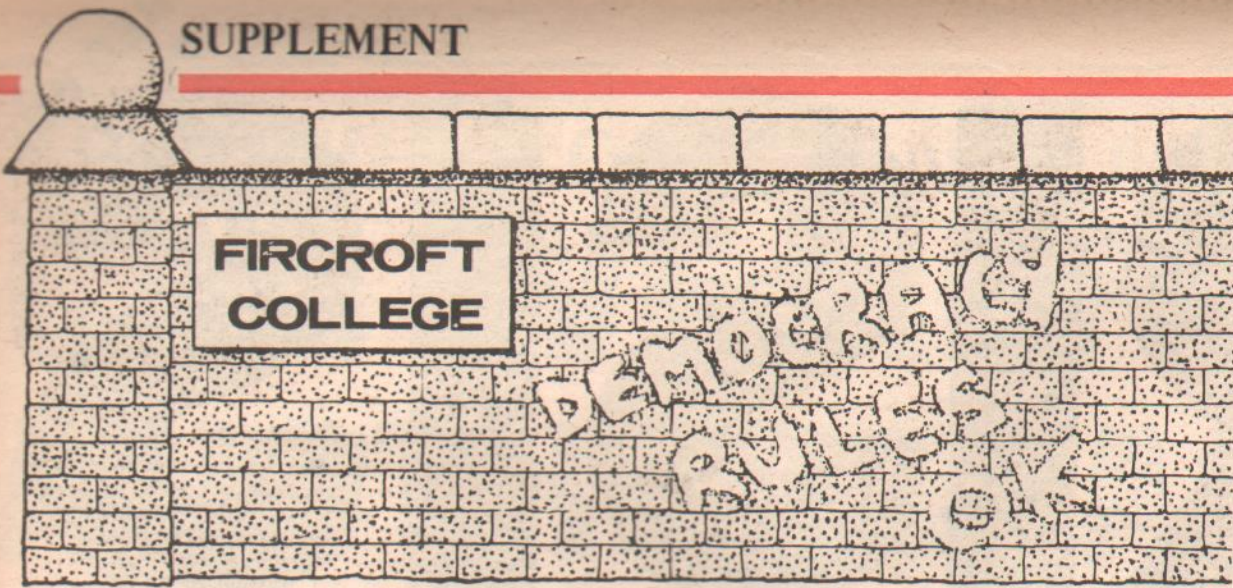
unemployed teachers against unemployed building workers, college leavers against school leavers, men against women, and above all those that have jobs against those who have not.

The national delegate conference at Manchester on Saturday decided to centre students' activity around the lobby on 16 June of the TUC special conference. Students will urge trade unionists to support the fight against the cuts and for the right to work. The conference showed that students are not going to

allow the Government to isolate them from the trade union and labour movement, which has given them so much support in their fight for jobs.

The way to build this lobby is to turn every occupation into a centre of activity against the cuts. All occupation committees must be elected from mass meetings, and we should urge trade unionists in the colleges to do likewise. From the occupations we should go out to the

Cont. on back of pull-out



In March last year the fifty students at Fircroft College in Birmingham went on strike. They were mature students – mostly trade unionists – doing a one-year course.

They were in revolt against a paternalistic and undemocratic set-up in which, for example, they were not deemed 'responsible' enough to control their Common Room funds or to set up a branch of the National Union of Students. Following a dispute with the Principal over free speech in the College, they instituted their own education programme, with the support of the four tutors. An occupation to stop the closure of the College ended when the owners – a trust financed by the millionaire Cadbury family – took out an injunction.

After a campaign in the labour movement, the Department of Education and Science set up an enquiry which placed most of the responsibility on the Principal, and criticised the way the College was run. It recommended that the College be re-opened, and that the Principal should be sacked, but – amazingly – that the tutors should also be shown the door. The College Governors, however, have effectively rejected the report; they have refused to sack the Principal, or to re-open the College, and the tutors have been made-redundant.

A national 'save Fircroft' campaign is to be launched at a meeting in Birmingham University on 12 June. This has three demands:

- * Re-open the College in September.
- * Reinstall the four tutors.
- * The DES to take over the College, and set up a new Board of Governors comprising representatives of the trade unions.

Red Weekly asked Trevor Blackwell, one of the four tutors, about the Fircroft struggle

The DES report was published in April, although it was submitted to the Secretary of State last November. On 11 May the Governors announced that we were to be made redundant, saying that there was no work for us in the coming year, as the College would be closed. On 14 May we met the Trustees, along with the Divisional Officer of ASTMS (our union).

We asked them to withdraw the redundancy notices, pointing out that this was not a genuine redundancy, since it resulted from an arbitrary decision to close the College. There are students waiting for a place, and money in the trust fund. Christopher Cadbury, the Chairman of the Trustees, told us that the College would definitely not re-open this year and that there was a question as to whether it would re-open next year.

What about the involvement of the Cadbury family?

The Fircroft Trust was set up in 1809 by George Cadbury; the Board of Governors and the seven Trustees overlap, but the real power is with the Trustees, of whom four are members of the Cadbury family. Over the years the State has gradually been putting more and more money into the College – today the Trust contributes only £2,000 to a set-up that costs £100,000 a year to run.

But control has remained in the hands of the Trustees – in reality in the hands of the Cadbury family. Their attitude to the students shows the worst aspects of paternalism. They are virtually saying: 'If you don't play our way we'll take the ball away.'

How did the tutors respond to the DES report?

We were suspicious before it came out because we had got hold of a confidential memo from the Principal to the Governors, dated 4 July 1975. In this he advised the Governors to set up an independent enquiry in order to 'confirm the Governors' judgement that the tutors were culpable, as it would provide the moral backing for appropriate action to be taken'.

But I think that the most important aspect of this report is its reactionary educational ideology. At one point it says: 'The tragedy of all the four tutors is that, although they were devoted to Fircroft and the students ... they nevertheless entered into the arena and allowed the dust of battle to obscure their vision.'

This is an ivory tower view of education. Teachers are a part of society and have a right and duty to tell the truth about society as they see it, in the hope that in an exchange with the students a better understanding can be achieved.

The report says that it is wrong for teachers to involve themselves in this kind of collective activity. The clear implication of the report is that in any institution where there is student trouble and the teachers do not oppose them, the solution is to sack the staff – this is a threat to all teachers.

'This is a threat to all teachers'



FRENCH LESSONS

French students have recently been fighting proposed Government reforms aimed at tailoring education to the needs of big business and the state. Here we look at their struggles and what we can learn from them.

The main role of the proposed Haby-Soisson reform is to adapt education to the technological and economic needs of French capitalism.

Therefore the reform proposes to cut down the number of teachers and stream pupils into two groups. The more advanced will follow an accelerated syllabus, while the others will be trained to go directly into industry, and will provide cheap labour for the bosses.

Profit and necessary competition are the mark of this adaption. The reform wants to put an end to 'free knowledge, free education'.

By granting the schools and universities a limited autonomy which will force them to choose from among a certain number of options, the reform opens the door to programmes directly adapted to local industry. The grip of this local industry will also be reflected in the presence of local bosses on the university exam boards, and the probation time which students will eventually have to do in the local factories.

REFORMISTS

To this the school and university students have responded with a struggle organised in the tradition of May '68.

Against the reformist UNEF-Renouveau, which falsely tries to present itself as a union of 'all the students', they have democratically elected strike committees in which all political tendencies and independents are represented. The continuation of the struggle is voted on every two days by mass general meetings of all the students. Motions are presented to these meetings and discussed

in national coordinating meetings held every fortnight in different parts of France. The delegates to these national meetings are proportionately elected by the schools or university mass meetings.

There have been five national meetings so far, each of which has clearly stated that the struggle is not a sectoral one to win amendments to the reform, but is aimed against the whole of the reform, against capitalist education. Each has clearly stated that the only way forward is alongside the workers' struggles against the French Government.

At this point of the struggle, the students had to face not only the intransigence of the Government, but also the betrayal of the reformists. The latter feared that the climate of agitation created by the struggle would be an obstacle to the election of a Union of the Left government in the 1978 elections. The CGT and the CFDT union federations refused to organise demonstrations with the students and excluded them from their May Day contingent. Finally the UNEF called on the students to go back to lectures.

The only ones to support the students have been the revolutionary teachers of the Ecole Emancipee and the SGEN, who went on strike and adopted the same forms of organisation as the students. They decided only to go back with the students.

Full student-worker unity has been prevented by the reformists. However the students have not lost the struggle. On the contrary, they have acquired the necessary experience to carry on the fight and to organise a permanent resistance to capitalist education.

LONDON TAKES THE LEAD

By TONY SWIFT

Half term in London has seen a strenuous renewal of activity by students in occupation. Among the most important steps has been the creation of the London Action Co-ordinating Committee. Composed of representatives from colleges in occupation, this Action Committee has put forward some excellent initiatives designed to centralise and unify the action of many thousands of London students.

The first action put forward by the Action Committee was an all-London lobby of the Inner London Education Authority. Supported by up to a hundred representatives from a broad spectrum of London colleges, the lobby challenged the ILEA cut-back of 500 teachers from its payroll – to be sneaked through under the cover of 'natural wastage'.

HYPOCRISY

Pointing the finger of blame at the Government and ILEA, the students exposed the hypocrisy of the ILEA Labour leader, Sir Ashley Bramall, who only days before had urged employers to take on more jobless teenagers. Throughout the lobby, which was attended by sympathetic teachers, the demands were raised for the reversal of the cuts and jobs for all.

In a number of colleges, the trade unions of college workers have begun to organise for solidarity action.

PICKET

NALGO has already organised a one-day strike at the Institute of Education last Friday. At North-East London Poly, the NATFHE lecturers' branch declared its fullest support for the student union occupation, and to prove it have maintained NATFHE representatives on the student picket lines all day!

With a view to generalising this action across the working class, the London Action Committee has taken the following steps:

- * called for a programme of action from the National Union of Teachers and the Inner London Teachers Association;

- * initiated a picket of the DES on 9 June;

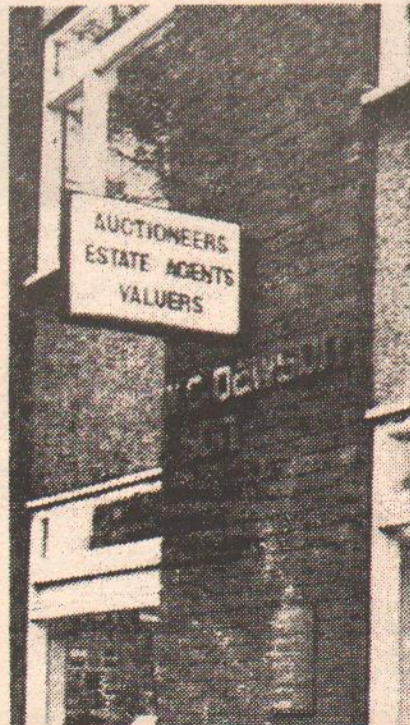
- * organised a meeting of trade unionists on 10 June to discuss how best to launch action and give support to the students;

Workers thro

Trade unionists in Tameside have put the local Tory councillors where they belong – out of the Town Hall and into the back-street estate agent's office. Local teachers and council workers have refused to co-operate with the Tories' attempts to re-introduce selection procedures for the authority's 3,100 children who are about to transfer to new secondary schools.

The children were expecting to go to the new comprehensive schools in September, but following the local elections on 6 May the Tameside Tories called a halt. They are now attempting, with the help of Conservative Central Office, to block the new comprehensive system coming into operation.

The local Tories at first went for a head-on confrontation, but met with strong resistance from the



New Tory offices in Tameside



A packed meeting last Friday hears progress local teachers' unions, backed by the Tameside Trades Council. They originally intended to force the 11-year-olds to sit 11-plus exams, but the teachers refused to co-operate. Members of the National and Local Government Officers Association have also refused to handle letters inviting parents to apply for the 240 grammar school places in Tameside.

It is this united action which has forced the local Tories to operate from an estate agent's office belonging to one of the Tory councillors

ACTION COMMITTEE

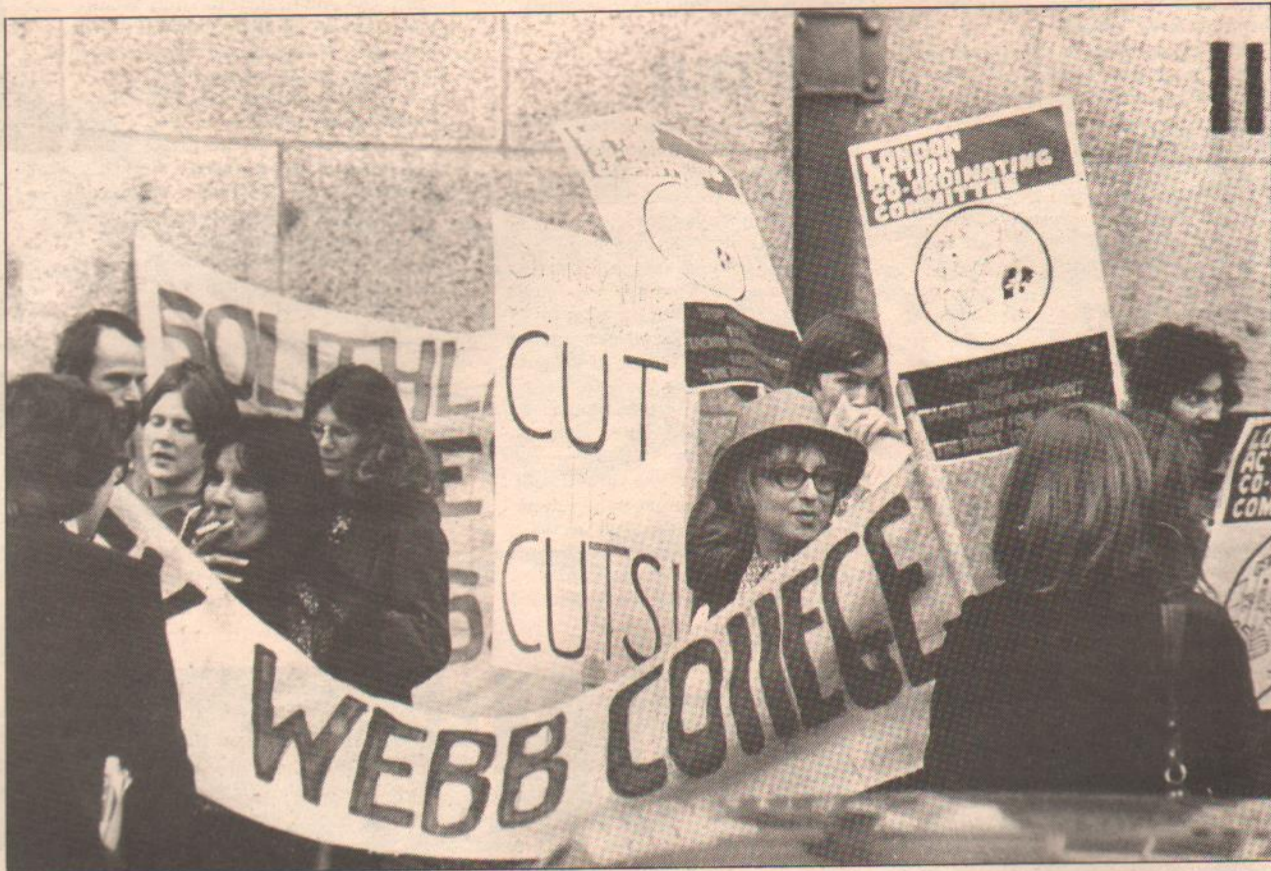
WOMEN LEAD THE CAMPAIGN

In college after college, a new layer of women militants have taken up the challenge thrown down to them by the Government.

The reality of women's oppression has been starkly reflected in the fight that has been waged by mature students in the colleges of education. Both Avery Hill Annexe, Mile End (where only nine out of 53 students have been offered a job) and Rachel McMillan College have organised 24-hour occupations. In the latter, where the 200 students are all mothers, they have pointed out the difficulty in mothers securing employment because of the problem of humping their families around the country in search of a vacant post.

At Froebel College in South West London, speakers from the NUT and Greater London Council NALGO introduced a meeting organised by the Working Women's Charter. The speakers argued for action which dealt with the oppressive link between women at home and at school in terms of demands for nurseries and creches, employment security, full maternity and paternity leave, and the sweeping away of all barriers which cut off women from the right to employment.

Garnett College in London specifically called a day of action on 8 June around the issues of women's discrimination. These students have understood that fighting women's oppression is integral to the campaign against unemployment and cuts, and should be placed at its centre.



Students and teachers challenge ILEA's cutback of 500 teachers from its payroll at this picket on 2 June

Photo: JOHN STURROCK (Report)

* organised a specific meeting for teachers on 11 June to discuss what steps should be taken throughout NUT to mobilise massive teacher action;

* initiated a lobby of NUT and ILTA at 5 pm on 15 June at Hamilton House (NUT Head Office);

* fought to organise action on 16 June to coincide with the workers' lobby of the special TUC Congress.

The Action Committee has correctly seen the need to take the campaign into the NUT. Ever since the beginning of the occupations, the NUT Executive has been thoroughly embarrassed by the militancy achieved by students in relation to the prospect of teacher unemployment next year.

A petition backed by the London Action Committee is currently circulating in the schools urging support for the right of all unemployed qualified teachers to full trade union rights from the NUT; for the NUT Executive and ILTA to implement a campaign on class size so that no class is over 30, or in reception classes over 25; that the NUT Executive extend no-cover action to all areas across Britain. Such a set of demands can be used by teachers to campaign in the schools for action by the Executive.

OUTFLANK

The officers of Wandsworth NUT have wasted no time in passing a resolution that incorporates the demands raised by the petition. In addition, they have called on ILTA to organise a meeting on unemployment. Best of all, to make the demand for full trade union rights for the unemployed a reality, the branch is to hold its next meeting at Southlands College of

Education (the first English college to occupy), with a view to giving students speaking and voting rights. Westminster NUT have taken similar action.

If such examples were followed by all local NUTs, the broad membership of the union could rapidly outflank the Executive and make the issue of full trade union rights for the unemployed teachers a living part of the struggle.

OCCUPYING AGAINST COLOUR BAR

'It was also considered that an increasing proportion of overseas students would have serious implications for the attractiveness of the institution to English students and staff' (minute from meeting of Directorate of North East London Poly, 28 January 1976).

A meeting of 400 North East London Poly students voted overwhelmingly on 2 June to continue an occupation of the college begun a week earlier.

The directorate of the college, led by Director George Brosan, have openly admitted that the courses at the college are under-subscribed. But at the same time, Brosan has instituted a policy of discriminatory fees, discriminatory quotas, and apartheid classification of the student intake into 'white' and 'non-white', which aims to discourage overseas students from applying to the college.

Students at the college, with the full support of the lecturers' NATFHE Barking branch, have replied through their occupa-

tion. They have called on all staff to refuse to identify overseas applications and to refuse to charge the extra fees meted out to these students.

Every attempt has been made by all the occupying students at NELP to link the issue of fighting racism to the conditions of unemployment and the cuts - which are providing a breeding-ground for the sort of attacks that immigrants have recently experienced. The brutal murder of the two Asian students from Queen Mary College and the new murder of the young Asian in Southall indicate a severe raising of the stakes by the racists, to the extent of physical liquidation.

The NELP occupation can only help to build an awareness amongst immigrant communities of the need for self-defence in this situation. All labour organisations should take note of this particular occupation and extend every last resource at their disposal to defeat the racists both inside the colleges and outside.



Teachers without jobs!
Unemployment rising!
Wages buying less each day!
WHAT ARE THE TUC DOING ABOUT IT?

Hear ERICA BARNETT, delegate from NALGO to the special TUC Congress on 16 June, give an exclusive report on the discussions.

Also speaking: DES TIERNEY, student teacher from Moray House in Scotland—the first college to occupy.

WEDS 16 JUNE, 5.00 p.m.
ST. STEPHENS TAVERN RESTAURANT, 10 BRIDGE STREET, LONDON S.W.1

A special Red Weekly meeting



Wash out tory rats



on campaign to defeat Tory threat in Tameside

The office is staffed by local Tory supporters who are freely offering advice. Among these self-appointed overseers of the education of Tameside working class children is the local rat catcher.

Threatened

However, his services could be better employed elsewhere. When Tory MP Rhodes Boyson spoke in Hyde Town Hall last Thursday, local supporters of the National Front appeared and physically threatened

students from the nearby Didsbury College of Education who had come to criticise Boyson.

The Tameside Tories, under the guidance of Tory shadow minister Norman St. John Stevas, are employing delaying tactics as a precaution. They hope that even if the Bill does become law, a Tory government will be returned at the next General Election which will then throw it out.

The Tories have put off talks with education minister Fred Mulley until 9 June. Whilst delaying negotiations with Mulley, they are sending out the letters to parents (including Catholics, who are not covered by the new re-organisation) and regrouping their supporters. New moves include a proposal to establish a flexible transfer system even if comprehensives are introduced, which would mean a retrospective process of selection.

Select

Despite a 70 per cent vote by teachers not to co-operate with the Tories, they are proposing to select pupils for the 240 grammar school places with the help of four local head teachers (defying their own National Association of Head Teachers) who will interview the school students and their parents. Even this move, however, could be thwarted. The National Union of Public Employees have threatened to call the caretakers out on strike and lock up the schools if the Tory council leaders attempt to get the school record cards.

Trade unionists in Tameside have called upon Mulley to use his powers under section 68 of the 1944 Education Act to force the Tories to drop their schemes. But it is their mass action which is the best guarantee that the reactionary Tories will be thwarted in their plans.

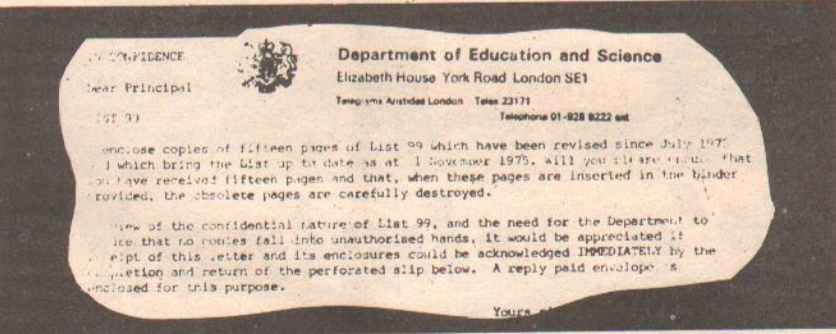
Jim Donoghue

DES caught redhanded

The Department of Education and Science's denial that any list of blacked teachers existed has been blown wide apart by occupying students who have come across something called 'List 99'. List 99 is a dossier of teachers who, in the words of the DES, 'have been determined by the Secretary of State to be unsuitable for employment as teachers.'

The grounds for such victimisation are 'misconduct or conviction of a criminal offence'. At present the names of well-known militants do not appear to be on the list. However, its very existence and the vagueness of the criteria make it a potential device for the removal of militants from teaching. This applies in particular to militant homosexual teachers.

Teachers must start to raise questions on this affair. By what right does the Secretary of State exercise this power? All hiring should be under the control of workers in the education sector. This is the only way to put paid to the menace of List 99 and the sacking of teachers on the grounds of economy.



LONDON ACTION OVER CLASS SIZES

The NUS Executive and the London Student Organisation have called for an enquiry into the present conditions of class size in the schools. This is to be achieved through the setting up of 'action desks' in the colleges. In addition to this, the colleges have themselves taken the initiative to send squads of speakers into the schools to win support from teachers.

The demand has to be raised for the opening of all financial and administrative accounts by ILEA and the divisional inspectorate. What such a programme would

reveal would be the links between teacher unemployment and the cuts in building programmes, capital expenditure, and schooling resources. In addition, the opening of the books would reveal the network that makes building workers, ancillary staff and public sector workers jobless through the linchpin of cutting education.

A full workers' enquiry should be demanded in relation to the current crisis in the schools, which involves the labour movement in its broadest sense.

FORWARD!

Continued from front page of pull-out

schools to find out the level of class sizes in the area, the standard of the school buildings, and demand that the Labour councils act now to improve educational opportunity.

When contacting schools, students should find out if any of the school students as well as the teachers in the school are interested in the campaign. Fifth and sixth-formers could set up registration desks in schools to find out the level of unemployment among school leavers. Report-backs can then be made to occupation meetings, and teachers and school students can be invited to attend cuts action meetings.

Occupations should also take the campaign to other colleges, and not just universities with education departments. In Scotland the two central institutions that are occupied find it very easy to explain to student nurses, architects and other students being 'vocationally' trained why students have to fight not just cuts in educational expenditure but also those in

health, housing etc. if they want a job when they leave college.

This message must be taken from the occupations to every college in the area. The occupations have not merely received the support of workers and students immediately affected by the cuts in public expenditure. Dockers and miners in Scotland, carworkers in the Midlands, Rolls Royce workers in Bristol — all have pledged their support and asked to know more about the campaign.

ACTIVE

The clear stand students have taken against the Labour Government has gripped the attention of broad sections of the labour movement, because it is an active stand and exposes the wastefulness of Labour's unemployment policies. In building for the lobby of the TUC through local days of action, we can highlight the need for action against cuts in public expenditure by all sections of the labour movement.

The local branches of NALGO and the EIS in Edinburgh are discussing strike action in support of the 'day of action' called for by the Edinburgh area of the NUS. This is the sort of action that will begin to make the Government sit up and take us seriously. The TUC will find it difficult not to give full and active support if every area can win similar solidarity action from trade unionists.

UNITED

By themselves, students will not be able to turn back the Government's programme of cuts and win jobs for all college leavers. Only a united campaign by the labour movement and its allies such as students — can reverse the cuts that are the cause of unemployment in the public sector. That is why we must call on the TUC to join the fight taken up in teacher training colleges, and not stop there but fight to halt all the cuts.

Some students argue that it is not right to call on the TUC to support and extend this struggle. We are not calling for a fight against the TUC. We are calling for a fight against the Government's cuts. If the TUC chooses to join these attacks it will choose to fight us. We must campaign instead for it to fight the cuts so that we can go forward to a united victory. It's everyone's defeat if we lose.

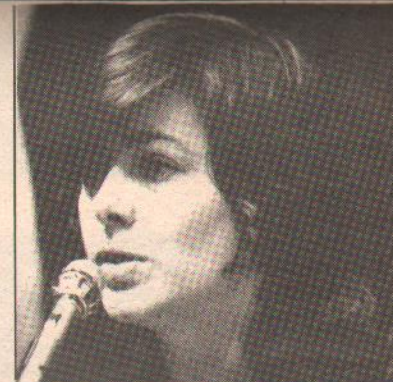
The emergency conference in Manchester called for local action against the cuts and unemployment on 15 June, and for 16 June to be the national day of action to coincide with the TUC lobby.

The actions that have swept Britain's colleges demanding jobs for teachers need a national focus to place the blame clearly on the Labour Government. Our will to fight can only be sustained against the Government if we win the support of the broadest possible sections of the labour movement. That is why we must march on 16 June alongside the trade unions.

To implement the emergency conference decision we must lobby the TUC and march on to the Department of Education and Science, and urge trade unionists to support our demo. We must call on the TUC to mobilise the whole labour movement against the cuts and in support of our fight.

DEMAND

We must demand that the Labour Government stop its attacks on our jobs, on our social services, on our lives. Its present priorities are not the priorities of a Government pledged to represent the working class. March on 16 June shoulder to shoulder with the labour movement against the Tory policies of this Government!



VALERIE COULTAS (NUS Executive):

My criticism of the NUS Executive are specific:

1. It has made no demand on the NUT to implement the 1969 conference resolution on class size and give student teachers full trade union rights.
2. It's true that we have to make the case for student teachers, but the Executive has failed to demand a cash injection into the social services to defend and create jobs.
3. In effect it counterposes the proposed national demo on 15 June to the lobby of the TUC, suggesting that the problem of teacher unemployment is "special" and separate from the problems of unemployment and the cuts confronting all trade unionists as a result of TUC collaboration in wage-cutting. That's why we want to make our case alongside trade unionists on 16 June. It's a simple way of explaining that we don't see ourselves as a special case.
4. The Executive is trying to use the insecurity that many students are feeling to get the occupations called off. All this talk of going out with a bang and not in dribs and drabs is completely schematic. The political goal of the occupations must be to build action committees with trade unionists in every locality. Let's use the occupations movement to do that, and not confuse it and defuse it as the Executive is trying to do.

N.U.T. INACTION ON CLASS SIZE

Mass sackings of teachers — that is the only conclusion that can be drawn from the revelation that a secret document has been sent to local authorities.

The document deals with 'over-spending' by local authorities. If its recommendations are implemented, £1m on average will be chopped from local authority expenditure.

The NUT leadership's reaction to the threat to teachers' jobs is one of inaction combined with rhetoric. While student teachers have been fighting for jobs, the NUT Executive has been voting by 32-10 to back the Healey package at the special

TUC Congress on 16 June.

Alf Wilshire opened his presidential address to the 1976 annual conference of the NUT with the remark, 'the National Union of Teachers' fight to secure advance in education has only ever been successful through struggle — often prolonged struggle'. But these words belie the real attitude of Wilshire and the NUT Executive.

In 1969 the NUT annual conference declared: 'Conference reiterates union policy that from 1970 members will not teach in classes of over 35 and from 1975 in classes of over 30 pupils. It further instructs the Execu-

tive to seek immediate negotiations with the Secretary for Education and Science on the question of class sizes and to ensure that such negotiations are fully completed before the end of the 1969-70 school year, in order that union policy on class size can be carried out without fail from September 1970.'

Despite the adoption of this militant policy in 1969, the Executive have fought at all successive conferences to abandon this project and allow them to choose 'new areas for investigation and possible further action' (1971, 1972) or 'seek to improve a local situation by national intervention based first upon negotiations' (1973). In 1974 and 1975 the NUT reaffirmed support for 'class sizes of 30' but failed to mount any national campaign — once again the onus for action was on local and often isolated areas and teachers.

Bold

Introducing this year's policy statement, NUT Executive and CP member Max Morris boldly declared: 'The NUT, Britain's largest and most powerful teachers' union, means business in defence of educational standards. We intend to resist in every way we find effective the inroads into standards being made now and planned for the future.'

He went on: 'We aim to safeguard the jobs of our members and win more jobs for our unemployed colleagues.' The NUT leadership's words, however, were only conference demagoguery. One month later, General Secretary Fred Jarvis, was calling on the Government to introduce a retraining programme for teachers without jobs.

Jarvis was trying to say that these teachers could be given jobs if they were retrained for 'shortage' subjects like technical studies, etc. At this very moment, however, there are 3½ million children being taught in classes over 35 and 58,000 teachers are needed to bring down the class size to 30. The 'Jarvis plan' could at best find work for 3,000. It is a pathetic attempt to cover up the NUT leadership's spinelessness.

The NUT has a policy, which can provide the basis for winning jobs for the student teachers. They should act on it.

BERNARD REGAN

Tech teachers back students

Heckling from students and delegates broke out against Education Minister Fred Mulley's call for sacrifices all round at the conference of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education last week.

The students — from Didsbury College, further education training colleges at Wolverhampton, and Garnett College, Roehampton — had earlier lobbied the conference calling for support for the students' fight against teacher unemployment.

Mulley denied that the Labour Government was contemplating further cuts in teacher training colleges and college closures. But Malcolm Lee, chairman of the NATFHE committee on teacher education, drew attention to press reports that teacher training places would be further cut back from 57,000 to 45,000.

Lee was speaking to an emergency motion supporting the student action in fighting for teachers' jobs and committing the union to a target of 60,000 student teacher places. Another speaker for the motion, Hilary Shuard, was enthusiastically applauded when she said that the association was 'at one with those who are fighting against unemployment of teachers'. The conference voted to support the students' action.

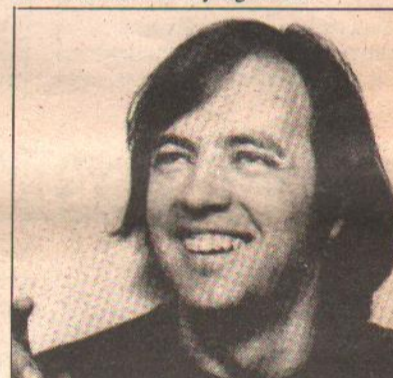
MOCKERY

But the conference's simultaneous acceptance of the Government-TUC pay policy made a mockery of the campaign against the cuts adopted. The Executive movers of support for the pay deal made this conditional on the control of prices and distributed profits, sustained investment, and a commitment to maintaining real levels of expenditure.

But as some delegates pointed out, the alliance proposed between NATFHE and the Labour Government to achieve this could be compared to a non-aggression pact between Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf.

The opposition to the endorsement of incomes policy was botched by the Communist Party movers. In a vague speech, the speaker — obviously uneasy at breaking with the Executive — provided no clear lead for the delegates beyond a vague statement that the cuts and incomes policy were related.

The fight against the cuts must be fought at the rank-and-file level. Not one lecturer or student who witnessed the Executive's demagoguery about the cuts, while caving into the Labour Government on the key issue of wages, can expect any real lead from them.



DES TIERNEY (Moray House, Edinburgh) moving the successful amendment:

'This conference must direct itself to cracking the cohesion that exists around the Government cuts amongst the whole leadership of the labour movement. That's why it's necessary to oppose all cuts and all unemployment, because how could we get the support of the miners and building workers if we said that teacher unemployment was a special case?'

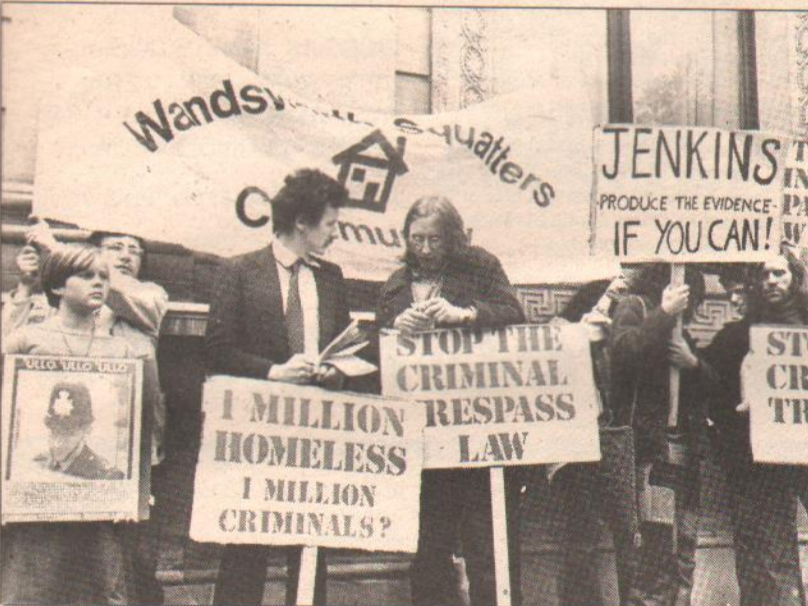
'We've got to be fighting for the unity of all sections of the trade union movement willing to fight the policies of the Government.'



RUTH MARTIN (Southlands College, London):

'We came to this conference for action — and we haven't seen much of that proposed today from the Executive. We want to see the struggle for teacher employment as part of the struggle for the right to work of the whole trade union movement. That's why we must march on the 16th.'

'To march on the 15th would be to say that we are a special case. What we want is not a walk round London with other students on the 15th but a day of fighting action on the 16th.'



It's criminal!

THE CURRENT wave of student occupations would be illegal and subject to immediate police invasion if the Criminal Trespass Bill — which is backed by the Labour Government — becomes law in November.

The Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law responded swiftly to the occupations with telegrams of support and speakers at occupation meetings. CACTL speakers are urging occupations to make 'Kill the Trespass Bill' a public demand; and the CACTL National Committee meeting on Saturday decided to print a special leaflet for national distribution to the occupations.

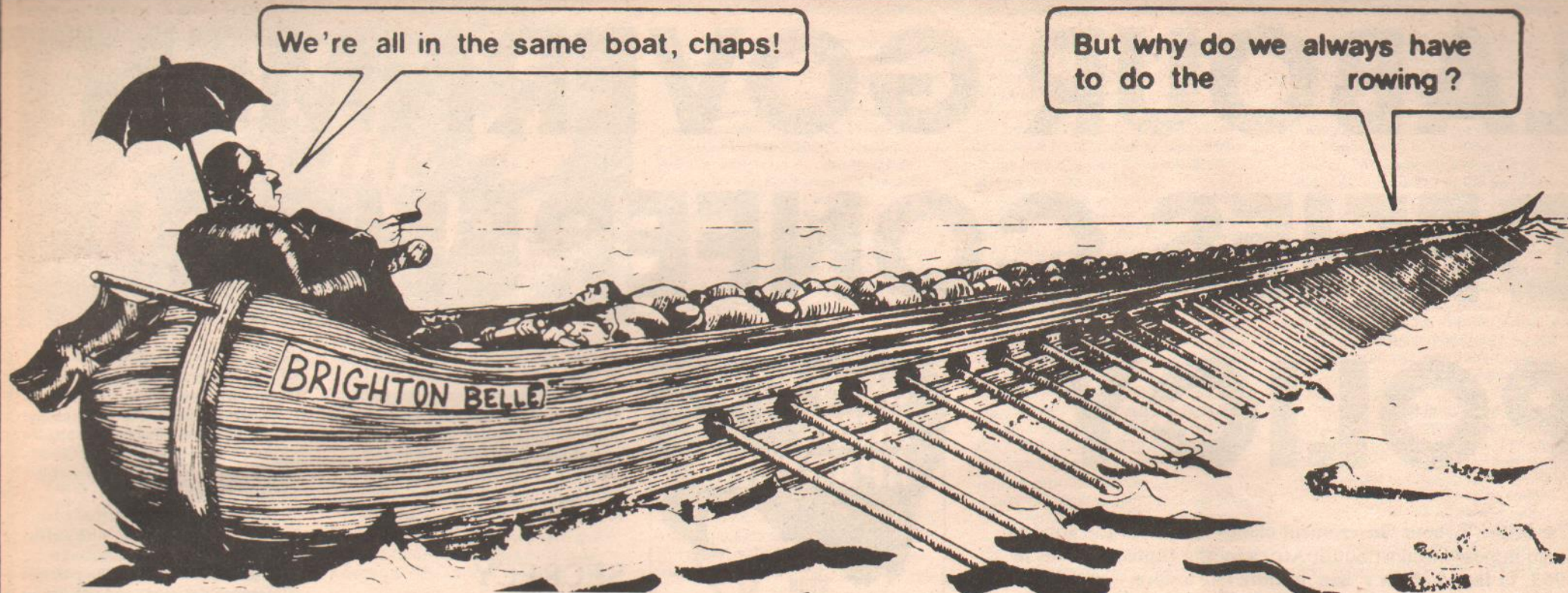
The Bill would mean that anyone in a student or worker occupation could be arrested — and imprisoned for up to two years — if they entered the occupation against the wishes of a security guard. The offence would be called 'violence for securing entry', but under the Bill's redefinitions of English this includes simply outnumbering the security guard.

The Bill makes all occupations and squats public places for the purpose of police searches and arrests without warrant for 'trespassing with an offensive weapon'. With this offence the police could frame anyone and put them inside for two years.

The Bill is being smuggled onto the back of the working class behind a smoke-screen of squatter-bashing. The Bill even has a clause to stop squatters from moving in to lived-in homes, when the facts of that matter are that every one of the press 'horror stories' claiming such things have turned out to be lies. They are lies that the labour movement must take up and expose as part of a campaign to 'Kill the Trespass Bill'.

Information/speakers from CACTL, c/o 6 Bowden Street, London SE11 (01-289 3877).

Piers Corbyn



The endless cry of the Labour Government, of the press, and of the employers is that high wages cause inflation. According to this argument, wage increases are self-defeating as every extra penny in the wage packet is put onto prices, and so workers are no better off. The sensible policy is supposedly to accept wage controls and then watch prices go down. As this is the most widely used argument in favour of wage controls, it is vital that militants are able to nail the lies of this argument.

Actually, even the slightest moment's thought should show the ridiculousness of the claim that wage increases are self-defeating because they push prices up as fast, or faster, than pay packets. Wages are not at all the only cost price making up the price of goods. In fact the economists Glyn and Sutcliffe¹ calculate that the price of goods is made up roughly as follows:

Imports and purchases from agriculture	16½%
Purchases from nationalised industries	7%
Depreciation	5½%
Profits	9½%
Wages	60%

Thus wages only make up about £60 of the cost price of every £100 of goods.

In such a situation simple wage increases could never push up prices as fast as (let alone faster than) wage rates. A 10 per cent increase in wages, for example, would at most only push up prices by 6 per cent. Even if the price of everything else, including imports and the held-down prices of nationalised industries, went up by the same amount as wages, and the amount of profit remained the same, then a wage increase of 10 per cent could only put up prices by 9 per cent and workers would still be better off.

MYTH

But in the recent period it hasn't been the case that wages have been going up and prices also going up but by less than wages. On the contrary, prices have been going up more rapidly than wages. This has led to a fall in real wages (the amount that can be bought with a pay packet) of around 6 per cent in eight months. Such a situation, as the figures show, cannot be created by wage increases but must be due to other developments.

Before looking at what wage controls can do, let us look further at the myth that it is wages which are the cause of inflation.

The first way of disproving the lie that it is wages which are responsible for inflation is simply to look at international comparisons. The latest figures show that wages in Britain are the lowest in Western Europe apart from Austria, Spain, Portugal and Ireland. Furthermore, taxes on the working class are higher than in virtually any other country — a worker with one child on the average industrial wage pays 21 per cent tax in Britain compared to 6.3 per cent in Austria, 5 per cent in Portugal, and 15 per cent in Spain (to take the other chief low wage countries).

Taxation is only higher in Denmark, at 21.32 per cent where wages for a skilled worker are £81.97 a week, and Norway, at 20.23 per cent where the average wage is £89.2. In short the British working class is paid less and taxed more than in any of the major countries in Europe.

On the argument that it is high wages which are responsible for price rises, then inflation in Britain should be lower than in any other major country. Instead infla-

tion is much higher in Britain than any other similar country — for example, in March this year inflation was running at 21 per cent in Britain compared to 14 per cent in Italy, 10 per cent in France, and 5 per cent in West Germany.³ International comparisons absolutely refute the argument that high inflation in Britain is due to high wages.

But, it is sometimes argued, the problem is not that the absolute level of wages is too high but that workers are demanding too great an increase in wages. This is the line taken by Callaghan, for example, when he claims that 'sacrifice now' will make Britain a high wage economy. According to this argument, inflation is caused by wages taking too much of the 'national cake'.

In fact, the figures once again show that this claim is a complete myth.

Most striking of all is the fact that in Britain take-home pay as a proportion of the economy actually fell from 60 per cent in 1957 to 56 per cent in 1970.⁴ But inflation rose from 4 per cent to 7 per cent in the same period of time. In short, while price rises were accelerating the share of wages in the economy was actually falling. This in itself is a clear refutation of the claim that it is excessive wage rises which are responsible for inflation

ABSURD

It is the same story if one looks at wages over a shorter period of time. For example, from 1970 to the end of 1973 real weekly wages rose by only 12.3 per cent. Furthermore, productivity in the crucial manufacturing sector of the economy had risen by 17.5 per cent, so that each worker was producing rapidly more — and indeed had increased production more rapidly than wages.

Yet in that period prices rose by 33 per cent. There is absolutely no way in which such an increase in wages — lower than the increase in production — could in such conditions produce a rise of one third in prices.⁵ Yet we are still supposed to swallow the absurd lie that it is wage increases which are responsible for inflation.

Figures from other countries tell exactly the same story. The most strik-

ing of all in its horror is Chile, where after the coup to overthrow Allende, wages were savagely cut but price increases soared by more than 600 per cent.⁶

The United States shows exactly the same picture. For example, in August 1971 the Nixon Government introduced a wage freeze and then, until December 1973, successive incomes policies. In successive years wage settlements tumbled — from an average 12 per cent in 1971 to 7 per cent in 1972 and 6 per cent in 1973. According to the propaganda of the American Government, such falls in wages should have kept down prices. Instead,



however, exactly the opposite occurred.

Instead of prices being kept down as wages fell, prices actually soared — with the rate of increase going from 2 per cent in August-November 1971 to 4 per cent in November 1971-January 1973, to 8 per cent in January-June 1973 and to 10 per cent in June-December 1973. In short, once again it was shown clearly that wage increases are not responsible for inflation.⁷

Finally, just to complete the picture, we can look at some of the most blatant examples of all. For instance, house prices in the South East of England rose by £700 in the first three months of 1972 but building workers never received a penny increase in their wages in this period.⁸

Furthermore, between 1970 and the end of 1973 money earnings of workers rose on average by 49.9 per cent. But the average price of new houses mortgaged rose by 110 per cent. Just let anyone try

to explain that this scale of price rises is due to wage increases!⁹

But if wage increases are not responsible for inflation, what then is the purpose of wage controls? As wages don't cause inflation, the aim certainly can't be to keep down prices.

The real purpose of keeping down wages is to put up profits. The Government no longer even seriously bothers to conceal that this is the case. Callaghan has already announced in the House of Commons that the basic core of the Government's economic policy is 'the recovery and profitability of the private sector of British industry'.¹⁰ It is to foster this increase in profits, and not any supposed fall in prices, that the Government has slashed the living standards of the working class.

ASSAULT

The real effect and aim of holding down wages has already been seen in the massive offensive launched by the Heath Government to hold down wages during its first years of office. A TUC report at the time showed that wage costs per unit of output in Britain in the period 1970-73 went up by 11 per cent but that prices went up by 14 per cent — which incidentally shows once again that wages are not responsible for inflation, as this would not have occurred if wage increases were the cause of price rises. The result of being able to force down wage costs while letting prices rise was absolutely clear — profits rose by over 13 per cent in 1971, the first full year of this policy, and went up even further in 1972.¹¹

In the present Government's assault on wages, the effects have if anything been even more dramatic. Already this year we have seen firms such as Unilever increase profits to an annual rate of £500 million from £328 million last year, while Taylor Woodrow has seen profits go up by 41 per cent to £15 million. No wonder that in a survey printed on 3 May, the *Financial Times* found that the number of firms expecting profits to increase this year had nearly doubled in January-April compared with October-January, while the *Daily Telegraph* predicted that this year profits

would increase six times as rapidly as wages.

Figures coming from abroad also show what is possible for capitalist profits by holding down wages. In West Germany, where real wages have declined by 2.3 per cent in the last two years, it is predicted that profits will rise by 15 per cent in 1976. In Japan, where living standards have also dropped sharply, profits are up by 50 per cent.

Most striking of all is the United States — which shows with great clarity what the real aim of an incomes policy is. Here, as we have seen, wages under the Nixon incomes policy fell continuously while price increases shot up to 10 per cent a year. While holding down real wages did not hold down prices, nevertheless the incomes policy did its real capitalist job very well — which was to increase capitalist profits.

TRUTH

While real wages plummeted, profits soared from \$86 billion in 1971, to \$98 billion in 1972, to \$127 billion in 1973.¹² Furthermore, after the interruption of the slump of 1974-75, we can see the same process operating today. The wages of United States workers have gone up in the last year less than those in any other major nation in the world. It is American capitalists who have reaped the benefit, with profits this year up 85 per cent since mid 1975.¹³

As always, wage controls have nothing to do with keeping down prices. But they have everything to do with keeping up profits. This is the real truth behind the wage control lies.

NEXT WEEK: Money — the mechanism of inflation.

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LABOUR GOVERNMENT DEFIES CONFERENCE POLICY

The British Labour Government claims to uphold the arms embargo imposed against South Africa by the United Nations in 1963. In fact, Labour's 'ban' is more like a sieve — with such wide holes that literally millions of pounds of military hardware have been exported from Britain to South Africa in recent years.

No less than eight separate instances of military cooperation with the South African racists have come to light in the past two months:

* On 29 March, Labour MP Frank Allaun protested in Parliament that British Marconi had supplied an £8 million military communications system to South Africa.

* On 13 April, Allaun made a new revelation: Aviation Jersey Ltd had supplied South Africa with Centurion tanks, spares and equipment worth £1.2 million.

* Again, on 16 April, Allaun charged that Marconi had signed a second contract in 1975 for £7 million — to refurbish and update the South African air-defence system.

* The *Observer* revealed on 4 April that rocket motors for Martin-Baker ejector seats are being exported to South Africa.

* The 25 April issue of the *Observer* reported that Hasler (Great Britain) of Croydon is at present manufacturing a sophisticated message-switching unit for export to South Africa. Ostensibly to be shipped to Hasler (South Africa), the equipment is actually destined for the Rhodesian army.

* The Anti-Apartheid Move-

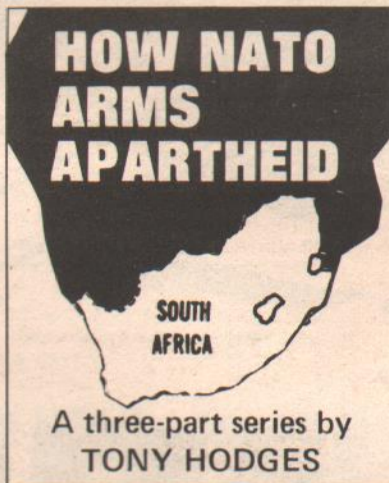
ment's secretary, Abdul Minty, has accused the Government of allowing a new generation of Impala attack aircraft (manufactured in South Africa under Italian licence) to be equipped with Rolls-Royce-designed engines (*Guardian*, 28 April).

* On 29 April, Roy Mason, the defence secretary, admitted in Parliament that copies of the British Defence Equipment Catalogue, which lists British arms available for foreign buyers, were passed on to the South African Government in January.

* *The Times* revealed on 30 April that seven parcels containing codification documents for NATO equipment had been sent from the Ministry of Defence to Pretoria via the South African Embassy in London.

COLLUSION

This record of repeated military collusion with the apartheid regime in Pretoria is made possible by the extensive system of 'loopholes' in the Labour Government's arms 'embargo'. The most important of these is provided by Paragraph 4, section (ii), of the 1970 Customs and Excise Ex-



PART 3

port of Goods (Control) Order.

This deals with exemptions from restrictions on 'Schedule 1' exports. Schedule 1 lists several hundred items ranging from aircraft to nuclear equipment. Some of the more obviously 'military' items in the list are marked with an 'A' and may not be exported anywhere except by special licence. But according to section (ii):

'Goods of a description included in this schedule but not herein indicated by the letter A are prohibited to be exported to any port or destination other than a port or destination in the Commonwealth, the Republic of Ireland, the Republic of South Africa or the United States of America.'

In plain English, this means that 'non-A' items on Schedule 1 can be exported to South Africa — and they comprise dozens of categories of military equipment, including surveillance and communications equipment as well as materials for nuclear reactors and aircraft engines.

Jock Hall, an electronics engineer who recently resigned from Marconi in protest at his company's sales to South Africa, pointed out the meaning of this in an interview published in the *Observer* on 18 April:

'Thus British industry cannot actually arm South Africa, but is free to provide most of the necessities for the South Africans to arm themselves without any obligation to inform the Government.'

LOOPHOLES

There are numerous other loopholes. Since the embargo was never made retrospective, for example, it permits the supply of spares for equipment already purchased. The recent shipment of tank spares through Jersey falls into this category.

The Labour Government also continues to allow British companies to sell licences and patents for the manufacture of British military equipment in South Africa — such as Rolls Royce engines for the Impala fighter. In addition, the South African armaments industry is free to buy British technology

through the employment of British technicians.

Another loophole appears to be contained in Paragraph 5, section 'f', of the Export Order. This permits the export via the Channel Islands of a whole range of militarily valuable equipment not specifically covered in Schedule 1.

SECRECY

Finally, but shrouded in secrecy, is the role of British companies in supplying South Africa with military equipment bearing NATO code numbers. 'Although the firms cannot be identified from the NATO firms, because reference to them is shielded by code numbers', the Anti-Apartheid Movement said on 17 April, 'it is clear that Western firms are involved. Most striking of all is that the NATO system of codifying equipment and spares has been made available to South Africa.'

Military communications equipment is believed to have been exported from Britain using NATO codes for installation in the giant South African military surveillance system, Project Advokaat, located at Silvermine near the Simonstown naval base. The system, which can monitor any plane or ship in a 5,000 mile radius (covering the whole of Africa, the entire South Atlantic, and much of the Indian Ocean), is tied in with the surveillance systems of the Royal Navy, the US Navy, and NATO headquarters in Brussels.

FLAGRANT

The military collaboration of the Wilson and Callaghan Governments with South Africa has been carried out in flagrant violation of repeated Labour Party conference decisions. As Allaun stated on 16 April: 'There is unanimous opposition in the Labour Party and its executive to all supplies of arms to South Africa. Indeed, this was pledged in our election manifesto.'

Despite hypocritical criticisms of some of the more abhorrent aspects of the apartheid system, and despite the much-touted arms 'ban', the record shows that the Labour Government has cynically used a battery of loopholes to ensure that British companies can continue to export military equipment to the South African racists.

The right-wing Labour leaders, in line with their total commitment to British involvement in NATO, have put the strategic interests of the imperialists in southern Africa, the Indian Ocean and the South Atlantic before the interests of the workers and peasants of southern Africa.

Above all, the British Labour Government remains firmly committed to defending British imperialism's vast holdings in South Africa — a country where over 500 British companies have more than £2,000

million of investments. These imperialist corporations are raking in a fortune off the backs of the black workers — who are not allowed to strike, are controlled by a multitude of restrictive apartheid laws, and are paid at or below bare subsistence wages.

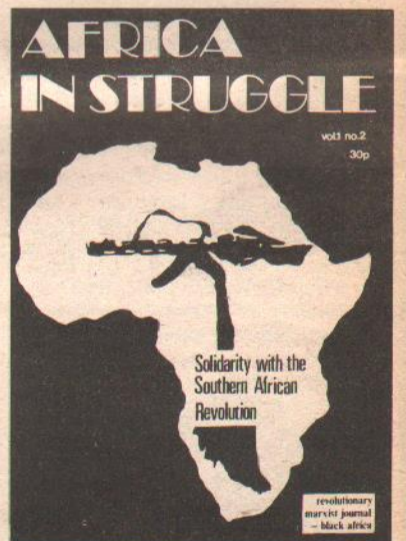
Every effort must be made to build a mass movement with sufficient power to force the Labour Government to honour the party's conference decisions and cut off all links with South Africa — whether military, economic or political. Furthermore, NATO's role in arming the South African regime — revealing once again the real nature of that imperialist alliance — underscores the need for Labour to sever immediately Britain's ties with NATO.

STOP THE ARMS TRAFFIC TO SOUTH AFRICA!

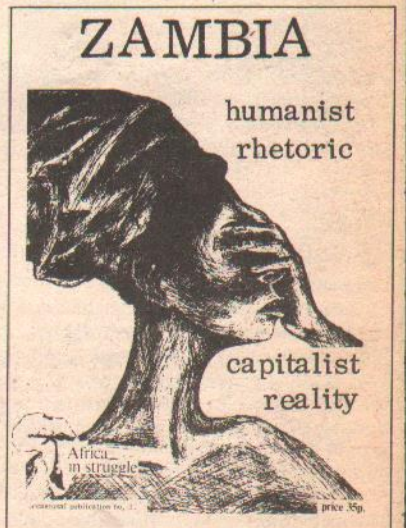
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LETTERS

FREE INDIAN PRISONERS!

The year has almost come round full swing since the declaration of the State of 'Emergency' by the Indian Government on 26 June 1975. Since the declaration the Indian Government has instituted a spate of moves which can be seen as a desperate attempt to solve the problems of foreign and Indian capital and landlords at the expense of the working people of India.

Of course the Indian bourgeoisie welcome the new situation: new restraints on labour, such as slashing the promised minimum annual bonus of one month's pay; the lifting of price controls from certain key commodities; the reduction of tax rates on intra-corporate investment; an easing of import controls for the export industries, etc. All these investment incentives would have been harder to implement in pre-emergency conditions.

The response of the working class and left groups has been stifled with repression and the threat of imprisonment, although not wholly successful. Owing to press censorship, the news of illegal strikes that have occurred cannot be circulated widely.

Indira Gandhi has also made changes in India's internal security law — an amendment issued as a presidential decree. This gives the Government the power to imprison political dissidents for up to one year without disclosing charges or evidence even to a court. As a result of this, previously released dissidents can be re-arrested at any time.

This change indicates that certain features of the 'Emergency' are beginning to take on a more permanent nature. This in any case will not affect the 50,000 to 60,000 mainly 'Naxalite' political prisoners arrested since 1967/68.

The Campaign for the Release of Indian Political Prisoners (CRIPP) was launched in order to get the support of all socialist and working class organisations in Europe (in Britain particularly) to fight for the release of all political prisoners in India, who languish in jail, without trial, under inhuman conditions and suffer the worst forms of torture, often leaving them with permanent physical and mental injuries. Today, one does not have to be connected with the 'Naxalites' to be slung into jail. Trade union leaders and workers who try to fight for even basic democratic rights are not tolerated by Indira's regime and end up in jail.

CRIPP is at present involved in mobilising the support of all socialist and working class organisations, women's and student organisations for a demonstration to be held in London on Saturday 26 June. We would ask those who wish to demonstrate their solidarity with Indian political prisoners to join the demonstration and to come to the ad-hoc meetings fortnightly on Friday evenings. Our demands are: release all political prisoners; halt prison killings; end all torture. — SONIA KHAN for CRIPP, 22 Boundary Road, London NW8 — tel 328 2332.



7 DAYS in the 6 COUNTIES

JOHN MAGEE reports from Belfast

BELFAST, 6 June: This city, to whom violent death is no stranger, stands stunned this Sunday morning after a night in which nine people died and many more were injured. This slaughter took place within the space of four or five hours, and took the form of a series of bomb and assassination attacks.

The papers have labelled these attacks as 'tit for tat', but this description obscures the plain reality that the victims have predominantly been Catholics. Since the appearance of the Ulster Service corps (USC) vigilantes on the roads

last weekend, Catholics living in fringe areas of Belfast have known nothing but uncertainty and fear in dread of the knock on the door — feelings more than justified by the escalation of Loyalist violence.

Yesterday's violence has an added significance, coming only hours after revelations that the Official Unionist Party and the Social Democratic & Labour Party have been having secret talks aimed at finding some agreement on the future government of the Six Counties. The Official Unionists' part-

ners in the Loyalist coalition have been enraged at these talks, and have roundly denounced them as 'dilly-dallying tactics as Ulster is being destroyed'.

Undoubtedly the announcement that these talks were taking place, exposed in a statement from Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), gave the green light to the Orange paramilitaries in the launching of a further round of murderous attacks on Catholics. It is a fact that while Loyalist politicians as a whole have been undecided on the issue of support for the United Unionist Action Council and the USC, all the paramilitaries have spoken with one voice in giving their backing to these bodies.

This includes the Down Orange Welfare, regarded as the most 'respectable' of the Loyalist paramilitary groups, and headed by one Colonel Brush, ex-British Army and a leading member of the Official Unionist Party. Colonel Brush is also election agent for Enoch Powell in South Down.

Since the Paisley-Baird 'Save Ulster' statement of 25 May, there has been a concerted campaign of bomb and bullet attacks on Catholics and those that dare to socialise with Catholics — a capital offence in Loyalist eyes. Last night's

carnage, coming only weeks before the big Twelfth celebrations, is not only a warning to Catholics that nothing less than total surrender will appease Loyalism; it is also directed at those in the Loyalist camp like Harry West and Orange Order chief Martin Smyth who budge even one inch in search of an agreement with the SDLP.

As the DUP made explicit: 'There can be no compromise on basic Unionist principles.' For the SDLP's part, there is no limit to their capitulation to the forces of reaction in the North.

Revelation

Last weekend, at a seminar in Dublin, Paddy Devlin flew the kite of a negotiated independent North. Devlin was precise in his definition of what the SDLP was seeking: 'A joint party government based on an agreed formula between the UUUC, the SDLP and others which will enjoy financial support for the limited period until such time as the British presence and influence are phased out of the North.'

He was not so precise on what the content of any agreed formula might be, but the revelation of the SDLP's

secret talks was accompanied by information that the SDLP will now give full support to the Royal Ulster Constabulary and Ulster Defence Regiment, both abjectly sectarian forces. It is once again being confirmed that for the price of a few token seats in an Ulster government, the SDLP are prepared to offer up the Catholic population of the Six Counties as sacrificial lambs for a Loyalist Ulster.

The defence of the anti-Unionist working class is now posed as the central issue in the North. If the sectoral interest of any one organisation now stands in the way of building a united resistance movement, then that organisation, along with the SDLP, will share the major responsibility for the gruesome assault which the Loyalists are presently threatening against the Catholic ghettos.

Integral to the building of defence against Loyalist aggression must be the removal of those forces that last night allowed free passage to Loyalist bombers and gunmen — the British Army. While British troops continue to be allowed the run of anti-Unionist areas, there is an open invitation to the sort of carnage we have witnessed during these last seven days in the Six Counties.

IF YOU AREN'T CONVINCED ABOUT IRELAND

During the last eight years the media have poured out more garbage, distortion and slander about what has taken place in Ireland than about any other topic. Editorial writers and reporters have used euphemisms reminiscent of the Watergate cover-up to camouflage Britain's role. 'Ill-treatment' has been substituted for torture, 'detention' for internment without trial, 'peacekeeping' for repression, and 'shot while trying to escape' for murder.

Newspapers such as Red Weekly have done all they can to counter the lie machine of the British state and its parasitical supporters in the press. We cannot hope to match the huge resources of the establishment mouthpieces; all we can do, by carrying weekly reports from the North of Ireland and articles outlining

the political and historical background to the struggle for Irish self-determination, is to point in the direction of the truth.

But in the end the best way militants in this country can learn what is actually happening in Britain's oldest colony is to go and see the situation at first hand. On the weekend of 18-19 September that very opportunity will present itself when a National Labour Movement Delegation visits Ireland for three days.

This initiative could be the most important event yet in influencing working class opinion on the Irish situation, and so it is not surprising that it will be resolutely opposed by all those in the British labour movement who wish to see the British version of 'terrorism' versus 'peacekeeping' sustained. Therefore when



readers of Red Weekly raise the delegation in union branches, CLPs, and student unions — as all readers should — they will face a sizeable resistance to sending representatives on the delegation. To meet that resistance, Red Weekly offers the following information:

WHO IS BEHIND THE DELEGATION?

While it is the Troops Out Movement which is organising the trip, the venture has received widespread support from both the British and Irish labour movement. The following MPs, in sponsoring the delegation, have given their support: Syd Bidwell, Maureen Colquhoun, Robin Corbett, Dick Kelly, Arthur Latham, Tom Litterick, Jeff Rooker, Brian Sedgemore, Harry Selby, Ron Thomas, Stan Thorne, William Wilson.

Ten trades councils have also agreed to sponsor it, as have over fifty prominent trade unionists in Ireland. These include Phil Flynn, the Deputy General Secretary of the Local Government and Public

Employees Union; Matt Merrigan, one of the most powerful trade unionists in Ireland; and Peter Keating, who as well as being the secretary of two Workers' Union of Ireland branches is also the industrial organiser of the Communist Party of Ireland.

Such a wide range of sponsorship — including many who do not agree completely with TOM's two main demands — proves decisively that the delegation is not a front for TOM.

WHAT WILL THE DELEGATION DO?

It will be the delegates themselves who decide whom to meet and what to see. But the organisers have already drawn up a provisional agenda which will seek to discover the facts both about the present role of Britain — especially the troops — and about the political background to the situation.

In the South it will be recommended that the delegates meet representatives of shop stewards committees in Dublin, official union spok-

espersons, and members of the Irish Labour Party.

In the North of Ireland the delegates will not only meet political parties, but will also be asked to meet the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, the Belfast Trades Council, the Association for Legal Justice, and various community groups. The delegates will also tour the ghettos and see at first hand what is taking place there.

WHO HAS ALREADY AGREED TO GO?

There are nearly forty delegates committed already. Just last week Joan Maynard MP announced at a press conference her willingness to attend. There are representatives from five trades councils and branches of the following unions: AEU, AUEW-TASS, NUR, UCATT, ASTMS, NUT, TGWU, NUJ, and USDAW.

Already two CLPs have agreed to send delegates, as have a number of student unions. Geographically the delegates range from London to Bradford and from Coventry to Glasgow.

WHAT WILL IT COST?

Accommodation will be provided free, so the only major expense will be the plane fare over. The fare will be something in the region of £30-35.

While all organisations sending delegates will be asked to pay as much of their own fare as they can, the organisers have and will be holding a series of fund-raising events in order to subsidise those delegates who are unable to meet the full cost. Details of these fund-raising events will be announced in future issues of Red Weekly.

AND NOW....

Raise the delegation wherever you can, and in applying for delegate credentials or further information write to: LMDI, c/o TOM, 1 North End Road, London W.14.

GO AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!



New Troops Out Movement bulletin just out—10p plus 8p p&p from Red Books, c/o 97 Caledonian Road, London N.1.

LOBBY THE TUC

16 JUNE

On 16 June the special conference of the TUC will be meeting at Central Hall, Westminster to rubber stamp the pay deal agreed with Chancellor Healey.

Most unions will comply. While a few white collar unions have rejected the pay deal at their annual conferences, it has been rammed down the throats of the Transport and General Workers Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers by those faded 'lefts' of yesteryear, Jones and Scanlon. The executive of the 281,000-strong building workers union, UCATT, are meanwhile refusing to implement the policy of their own national conference and vote against the deal!

This deal is the central pillar of the Government's strategy, allowing it to carry through its attacks on jobs, on the social services, and on

living standards as a whole. It is the block which stands four-square against any movement of opposition to the Government's policies — whether it comes from workers demanding their jobs or student teachers fighting the education cut-backs which are throwing them on the dole.

The massive 47 per cent vote against the pay deal in the National Union of Mineworkers, compared to the 60-40 vote in favour of the

£6 limit last year, reflects the groundswell of opposition developing to the collaboration of the union leaders in the Government's policy of wage curbs and social service cutbacks.

As Scottish Miners' secretary Bill McLean pointed out, the carefully manipulated run on the pound has caused many miners and other workers to realise that pay curbs have nothing to do with creating a just society and plenty to do with

lining the pockets of the well-healed gentlemen of the international banks.

The real significance of the miners' vote was let out of the bag by NUM president Joe Gormley, who conceded that nobody can now expect a 'yes' vote three years running. Phase Three, at least, is out. The question now is whether the Labour Government will be out before it, thanks to the disastrous policies it is pursuing in collaboration with

the TUC.

A massive lobby of the TUC can be an important step in linking all those prepared to fight Labour's Tory policies now and build a real class struggle alternative.

That's why it is vital that as many militants as possible turn out for the lobby of the TUC which starts at 9 am on 16 June. The lobby got a big boost from student teachers at the weekend when militants successfully fought for the NUS to cancel a demonstration planned for 15 June and join forces with all those militants lobbying the TUC on 16 June to press their case for jobs and against all cuts.

For this reason *Red Weekly* urges all its readers to join the workers and student teachers lobbying the TUC on 16 June. No deal with Healey! Reverse the cuts! Fight for the right to work!

RED WEEKLY

WHY NO CANDIDATE?

None of the present candidates in the Portuguese presidential elections offers a clear way forward in defence of working class interests. Our comrades of the Internationalist Communist League (LCI), Portuguese sympathising organisation of the Fourth International, had therefore planned to stand their own candidate.

As part of the moves towards unification between the LCI and the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), however, the LCI agreed to run a joint campaign in favour of Arlete Vieira da Silva, who had stood for the PRT in the assembly elections and claimed to be an old member of the CP who had been arrested and tortured under the Caetano regime.

While launching an immediate campaign to get the necessary signatures for the candidate to stand, our comrades naturally also looked into her credentials — only to discover that her supposed record of struggle was a complete fraud: she had never been imprisoned or tortured. In these circumstances the LCI and PRT at once withdrew their support for her, but by then it was too late to put up another candidate.

There must be a strong suspicion that this affair was a deliberate provocation against the LCI and PRT by those who had no interest in seeing an independent workers candidate stand against the generals and bureaucrats.

PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS THE 'KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR' AND 'ROBIN HOOD'

Five candidates are on the ballot for the presidential elections in Portugal. They are General Ramalho Eanes, the army chief-of-staff; Admiral Azevedo, the Prime Minister; Major Carvalho, the former chief of COPCON; Octavio Pato, a leader of the Communist Party; and Pompilio da Cruz, who claims to represent the 800,000 refugees from the African colonies. The candidature of the last-named, however, is being challenged on legal grounds.

The President will have considerable powers as a result of the constitution agreed three months ago. The President can dissolve the newly-elected Legislative Assembly and dismiss the Prime Minister and Government Ministers. It is clear that the ruling class see the President as a figure who can be represented as standing above the class struggle, speaking with authority and arbitrating in the capitalists' favour. Both the Socialist and Communist Parties voted for this constitution.

At the present time the obvious candidate for the bourgeoisie is General Eanes — the strong man of the military. The CDS and the PPD immediately put their weight behind his campaign, and they were followed after an internal struggle by the Socialist Party.

would have liked to add its voice to those supporting Eanes. However, it knows that its base would not vote for either Eanes or Azevedo, both of whom have attacked the workers movement. The Stalinists were therefore caught in a cleft stick.

On the one hand, they do not want to split the armed forces or oppose themselves too sharply to the ruling class. On the other, they have to maintain their own working class base to be of any use to the capitalists. The solution they came up with was to stand an old member of the Central Committee — Octavio Pato, a bureaucrat of long standing.

Having taken this decision, CP leader Cunhal scurried off to explain it all to Eanes, commenting afterwards: 'It is never a problem when you speak with

responsible men!' Pato's campaign is intended to demonstrate that no government is possible without the Communists, and to make sure that Eanes understands this point.

The final candidate is Major Otelo de Carvalho. The former general is backed by the centrists and ultra-leftists of the UDP, the MES and the PRP.

In his speech he attacked those who had 'allowed the bosses to return and freed the [secret police] agents of the PIDE'. He further denounced the United States 'for intervening in our internal political affairs', and social democracy 'which defends nothing other than an advanced capitalist society'.

Illusions

However, a major effect of Carvalho's campaign seems likely to be a revival of the illusions which led to the disaster of 25 November. Talk of 'popular power' cannot substitute for attempts to develop and centralise those organisations through which the working masses have conducted their struggle over the last six months — the trade unions and workers commissions. Only by relying on their own independent organisations and not on 'Robin Hood' figures (Carvalho's latest self-description) can the workers throw back the capitalists' attacks and advance towards a successful revolution.

It is around this theme — centred on the call for a CP-SP Government based on a democratic national congress of trade unions and workers commissions — that our comrades of the LCI will be campaigning in the coming weeks.

Ric Sissons

INCHING FORWARD

Slowly our Fighting Fund total inches upward—but it's being left far behind by the burning needs of the class struggle. Racist violence flares on a scale not seen for nearly twenty years; the TUC pay policy steamroller hits a bumpy patch as the building workers' conference and nearly 90,000 miners vote to reject Healey's con-trick; while internationally, the Syrian invasion of Lebanon threatens to set the whole Middle East alight once again.

In the midst of these momentous events, Red Weekly plays a vital role in explaining their significance and spelling out the political tasks which flow from them. But we can't do that without resources—resources which are sorely lacking to us. Just look at the four page pull-out on the student occupations in this issue. Ask yourself if it doesn't play a much needed role in helping to organise the struggle. Then think of the extra expenses we incurred to make its production possible. Isn't that worth a donation to our Fighting Fund?

Among last week's contributors were: N. Shovelton, £1.50; S.W. London IMG, £3; L. Sinclair, £15; IMG Media Fraction, £25. Let's see your name in next week's list. Post your gift now to: Red Weekly Fighting Fund, 97 Caledonian Road, London N.1.

Omission

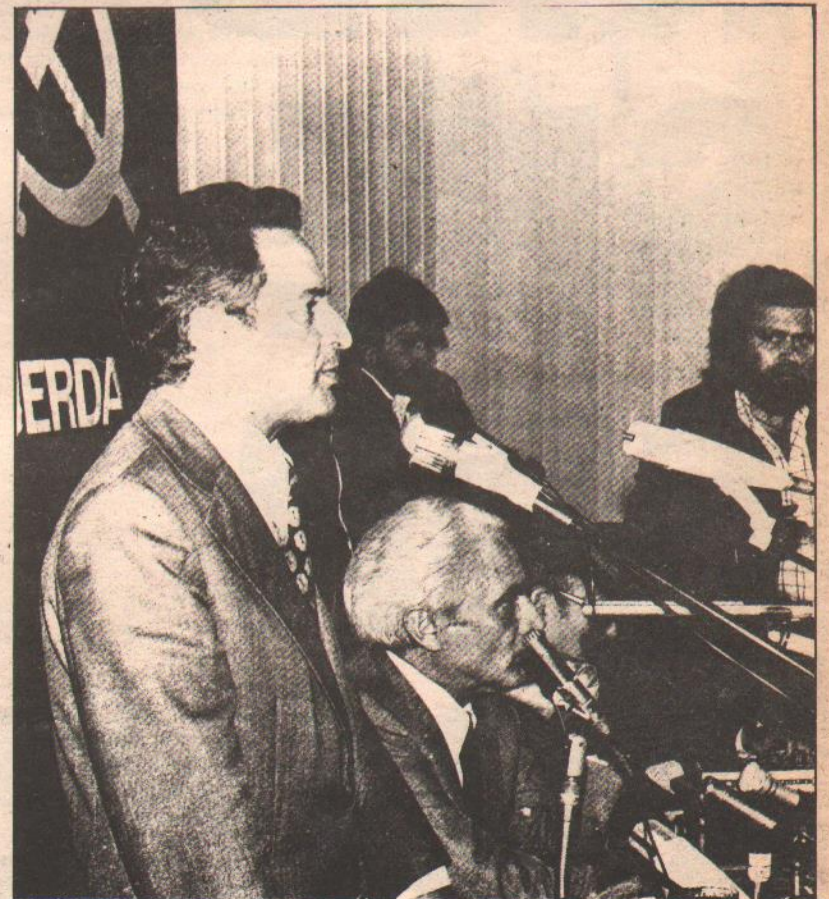
According to SP leader Soares, Eanes represents 'the synthesis of April '74 and November '75'. It is interesting that he does not mention 11 March 1975, when Eanes was purged from his post as head of the state television network after the attempted coup by Spínola.

It has been Eanes who has streamlined the army, reducing it in size by 40 per cent and setting up a strike force of 10,800 special picked men to deal with problems of security. While giving Soares an assurance that he will not oppose a minority SP government, he has also clearly stated that he will not have his hands tied by political groups. It is not surprising that the *Economist* called Eanes 'a knight in shining armour almost too good to be true'.

However, the first election rally for Eanes held in Lisbon drew only 4,000 people, leaving the hall half empty despite the presence of Soares on the platform.

The candidatures of both Azevedo and Cruz are a hindrance to the ruling class, in that they will reduce the first round vote for Eanes and deprive the General's campaign of the unity it needs. The presence of these other two people on the ballot merely reflects the failure of the ruling class to consolidate its own political leadership.

The Communist Party, no doubt,



Octavio Pato—standing to advance CP's claim to governmental office



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