

RED WEEKLY

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARXIST GROUP 31 OCTOBER 1974 No 74 PRICE 8p

Celebrate the anniversary
of the Russian
revolution
Red Weekly Rally

CONWAY HALL
FRIDAY 8th NOVEMBER

Speakers include
Alain Krivine John Ross Tariq Ali

SCOTS WORKERS' VICTORY DRIVES A— LORRY THROUGH THE CON-TRICK

'STATE GRAB' SCREAMED THE *Evening News* Labour 'divides the nation', whined Heath.

But behind the smoke screen whirling up from Westminster and the capitalist press after the Queen's speech the more sober representatives of the ruling class were murmuring sighs of relief.

As the editorial of the London *Evening News* claimed: 'The Queen's speech shows some welcome signs of firm action aimed at pulling Britain through the hour of crisis.'

For Labour is proposing to restrict its nationalisation proposals to off-shore oil, development land, and the chronically sick ship-building and aircraft industries.

What sticks out like a sore thumb in the Queen's speech is Labour's determination to stick to the social contract. That means Labour is pledged to hold down wages, slash social expenditure and keep the noses of the working class to the capitalist grindstone.

The employing class are desperately seeking time. Right now they know that they cannot smash the working class in a head-on clash.

They are haunted by the defeats they suffered in the last two miners' strikes. And now the strike wave that is sweeping Scotland is sending new tremours of horror down their spines.

The Scottish lorry drivers have driven a gaping hole right through the social contract. They have forced the employers to cave into their demands. They have got £40 for 40 hours, an extra week's holiday after a year (with another week's holiday after four years) and there will be no reductions in mileage payments.

The flying pickets used to such good effect by the lorry drivers will still be out until next Monday so as to make sure that every single haulage contractor signs the new deal.

Still out on strike are busmen, underground workers, sewage workers and teachers. Whole groups of the Scottish working class are rejecting Wilson's nonsense about 'uniting the nation'.

The tremors caused by these struggles can reverberate throughout the rest of the Scottish working class and unleash struggles

south of the border.

The capitalist class want a much tougher policy than Wilson offers. They want all-out war against the working class. They know, however, that they are not strong enough to unleash such a war. Instead they have to hang on to the tails of the social contract, hoping to buy time. The longer the social contract is allowed to stick, the more time they have to prepare the offensive that they know must come if they are to survive as a ruling class.

The denunciations hurled at Wilson were seen by the Tories and their press as good blood-curdling anti-Labour propaganda. But the Tories know full well that their real enemy is those workers fighting the social contract, not their opposite numbers at Westminster.

More on Scottish workers' struggle — pp. 6-7.



Shrewsbury militants back inside!

Despite demonstrations like this recent one in London, Shrewsbury pickets Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson are back in jail. On Tuesday their appeals were turned down, putting Warren inside for at least 18 months more, and Tomlinson for 10 months. 'Don't worry about striking — a Labour Government will see us right' was the message of the Communist Party and other parliamentary dreamers. The result has been disastrous. Only a mass movement prepared to launch indefinite strike action can force Labour to free these militants and scrap the laws under which they were tried and jailed.

The case of the 'very convenient' bomb

THE RECENT SPATE OF BOMBINGS that have rocked the country come at a very convenient time — for the ruling class.

The Labour Government's repressive policies in the North of Ireland are meeting increasing opposition from within the very heart of the labour movement. A growing number of trade unionists, Labour Party members, and even Labour MPs, have joined the ranks of those demanding the total withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

FEARS

One of the most deep-seated fears of the ruling class about a Labour Government is that it will be forced, under pressure from its working class base, to make concessions which no self-respecting capitalist politician would go along with.

This applies to questions of economic policy, attitudes to industrial struggles, and to Government policy in Ireland.

But the ruling class always has at its disposal various means to bring a

Labour Government to 'heel'. Certainly, it can always count on the faithful backing of the state machine.

There are plenty of events in the recent past to show that the state machine (and not least of all its armed wing) takes its guide from what they see as the class interests of the capitalists, and not the orders dished out by Labour ministers.

The British army steadfastly refused to follow Government instructions and backed the Ulster Workers' Council 'general strike'. The Navy felt free to lavish British 'goodwill' on racist South Africa, despite Government policy.

Similarly, the recent past furnishes

us with a few glimpses into the sort of stunts that the 'dirty tricks' departments of the state machine get up to. The account of Kenneth Littlejohn about his bank-robbing escapades in Dublin for the British security service, and the confession (and subsequent murder) of Kenneth Lennon, concerning the frame-ups he arranged for the Special Branch, are only tiny drops in this particularly mucky bucket.

BOMBS

Evidence from several other countries — Spain, Italy, Portugal and Canada — suggest that bombs are a favourite tool of those attempting to frame-up the left and strengthen the political hands of the right-wing.

One of the items of evidence often trotted out to 'prove' that a particular bombing was the work of the IRA has been the level of technical knowledge involved.

But only one of the recent

bombings — that at Harrow School — bore the earmarks of the IRA (a telephone warning and use of pre-arranged secret code). However, there is another force that has all the technical know-how for such operations — the British state.

The most recent bomb 'horror' — that directed against Labour Sports Minister Denis Howell — was certainly convenient for the British state. What better way to put the wind up the six Labour MPs who marched in Sunday's 'Troops Out' demo, and ensure that the troops withdrawal movement is treated like a dangerous pariah by the rest of the labour movement.

Yes, this was a very convenient bomb indeed.

The ancient Romans had a pretty sound test for deciding who was most likely to be responsible for a particular event. They asked 'Who benefits?' That is a question we should be asking now.

Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)

IN FOCUS

Labour and the armed forces

The recent hullabaloo over the visit of the British Navy to South Africa raises some fundamental questions in relation to the armed forces.

We know that the army is not a neutral force, but on the contrary acts consciously to preserve and safeguard the capitalist state.

This, however, does not mean that the officer caste—which effectively runs the British army—has no views of its own. Nor does it mean that even within this framework it necessarily accepts and attunes itself to the views of whatever government happens to be in office.

The truth of this was first seen in the army's refusal to follow the policies laid down by a Liberal administration in relation to Home Rule for Ireland in the early years of this century. Backed by reactionary politicians in Britain and Orange leaders like Sir Edward Carson, the army officers mutinied. The Curragh mutiny, as it was known, led to abject capitulation by the Liberal Government and the abandonment of moves towards Home Rule in a united Ireland.

The links between the Orange landed gentry and the British army have always been close. The former still supplies many officers to run the army today. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that when the loyalist workers recently launched a general strike for totally reactionary objectives, the British army made it quite clear to the Labour Government that they were not prepared to tangle with the mass base of Orangeism.

A similar consideration undoubtedly played an important part in the 1964-70 Labour Government's decision not to react militarily against the Smith regime in Rhodesia.

In other words, even when a Government wishes to carry out measures which are perfectly consistent with maintaining the credibility of parliamentary democracy, the army can put its foot down fairly decisively.

In the unlikely event that a Labour Government attempted to carry out measures such as those of the Allende Government in Chile, we can be sure that the mistrust with which the army always treats even the most reactionary Labour Government would translate itself into some form of action. The *Economist* was brazenly proclaiming not so long ago that 'Ulster' had changed the character of many army officers, and they were now much less inclined to tolerate nonsense from Westminster politicians.

While it would be bizarre to talk in terms of transforming the existing army into a pure democratic army which would serve the interest of the working masses, there are nonetheless certain basic democratic freedoms which should be extended to the armed forces as a whole. The right to form trade unions, the right to belong to political parties, and the right to publish their own newspapers are some of the more elementary.

The military bureaucracy in Britain will fight a hard battle against any such moves. The hysteria which greeted Mick McGahey's reference to the troops during the last miners' strike shows this clearly.

In the 1964 election campaign, while speaking in Putney, Wilson recalled the famous debates which took place on Putney Heath soon after Cromwell's victory over the Royalist armies. What he should have remembered was that a number of these were concerned with the rights of soldiers in the army, and that most of those who took part were ordinary rank-and-file soldiers in Cromwell's New Model Army.

It is not a pure coincidence that one has to go back nearly 400 years to find instances of democratic discussion in the army. And surely it is not asking too much to insist that the labour movement fights to make this possible once again.

NF tries facelift, sacks chairman

THE NATIONAL FRONT is busy trying to give itself a facelift.

For years their leading figure has been John Tyndall—expert Jew-baiter, Nazi gaudinger, and an organiser of the now defunct 'Spearhead' fascist paramilitary force. But Tyndall has now been swept aside as chairman of the Front, and he only managed to hold on to the post of deputy chairman by one vote.

Tyndall's demotion is the result of the enormous outcry against the National Front in the labour movement. Thousands of workers see the mark of Nazism on the Front, and too many facts confirm the image. Tyndall's public anti-semitism and his widely known record of violence recall too vividly the synagogue-burning and Ku Klux Klanism of the British fascists in the sixties, and their Mosleyite and Hitlerite predecessors.

WORKERS

This comes at a time when the NF needs to increase its influence in the working class. To be of any use to the capitalists, the fascists in Britain today must try to mobilise sections of workers as well as the middle class onto the streets in support of racist and chauvinist policies. This would assist the rise of figures like Enoch Powell who have deep reservoirs of support among workers.

To do this they may well try to get a 'united front' with the Labour Party and trade union bureaucrats on the EEC. There is nothing better the NF and Powell would like than to march alongside workers demanding that Britain 'get out' on a chauvinist political basis. But men like Tyndall are an obstacle to this. His widely-known Nazi past would make it difficult for the Labour Party to keep such company. Already Labour spokesmen have refused to share joint platforms with the NF during the General Election.

Tyndall's recent obsession with making the NF's anti-Jewish views public are exactly what the fascists don't need with such a strong Zionist sentiment among Labour MPs.

But Tyndall's resignation will not do much for the Front's image. Neither does it represent a change in the basic orientation of the Front.

The 'populist' wing which deposed him is just as keen to whip up mass agitation for racist, anti-alienist and anti-Irish measures as those with a Nazi past. They are just as anxious to take such movements to the point of organised street violence, creating incidents which can really spur Powell and similar figures on their way.

And they are just as prepared to deal out blows to the labour movement if they are given the chance.

A. Jennings

Students to discuss 'no platform' — what are real issues?

At the NUS Liverpool conference last Easter the most demagogic speaker in favour of the amendment banning fascists and racists from student unions was by NUS executive member Steve Parry. Parry is also a member of the Communist Party.

Asking the conference 'did reasoned argument stop Hitler in the thirties?' he hammered home the need to implement the ban on fascists and racists 'by any means necessary.' The conference passed the motion.

It was the most controversial decision the NUS has ever taken. The press tore the NUS apart. Bernard Levin threw fits about 'totalitarianism'. Alan Watkins refused to speak in student unions.

TREMBLE

The Communist Party began to worry. Had they moved too far left? Some student unions were reversing the decision. The Party began to tremble at the thought that they were losing support inside the NUS. The cosy chats they had with the Department of Education and Science and academics became strained because the decision directly challenged the liberal freedoms of bourgeois society so jealously guarded by these academics.

The Party cracked under the strain. By the emergency conference, on 15 June, they had changed their position. Parry was still demagogic, but he found difficulty in concealing the dropping of 'by any means necessary'. The sell out was theorised. In their motion they explicitly stated: 'anyone who was in favour of democracy was an anti-fascist'.

The Communist Party's motion drew no distinction between workers' democracy and bourgeois democracy. It implied that there should be no separation between the actions taken in Cable Street and the liberal outrage in Britain and France at the 'surprising growth of fascism in Germany'. But a popular front against fascism is a non-starter. The working class can only rely on the unity of its own organisations to drive the fascists off the streets.

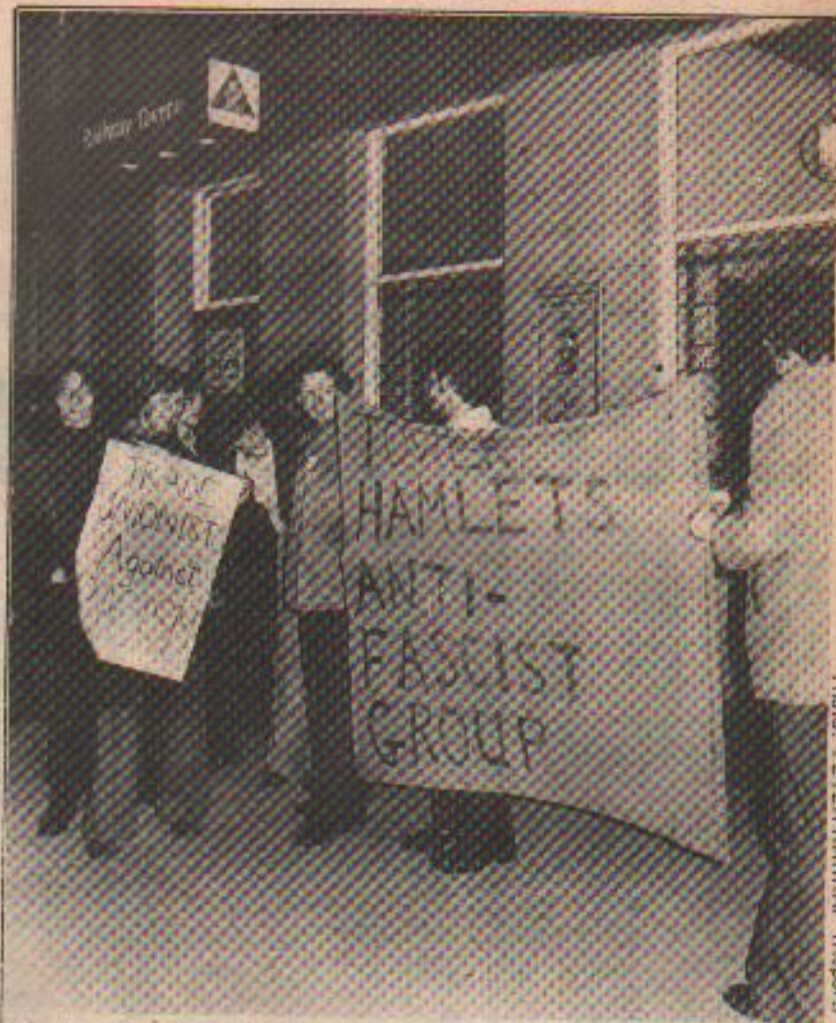
Nor was there any leadership from the CP-dominated NUS executive on this issue. Did the NUS send out mailings and material on what the fascists stood for? Did they mobilise in defence of the Imperial Typewriters strike? On both counts the answer is an emphatic no. It was hardly surprising that a considerable number of right wingers got elected to the conference to oppose 'no platform'.

CALL

In the face of such betrayals the call from Middlesex Polytechnic for socialists in the NUS to meet to discuss the 'no platform' position is a welcome one, coming as it does just before the Margate NUS conference where many students are hoping to reopen the debate.

If the debate is to be re-opened then the left must be clearer on the political basis for supporting the 'no platform, by any means' position. In a period of social and economic crisis with the effects of that crisis creating instability inside the Tory Party, and to an extent inside the Labour Party, racist organisations like the National Front can gain a wider audience than normally.

Fascism is not just round the corner; the fascists receive no real support from big business at the moment. The ruling class



A further successful picket of this racist Mile End pub—which refuses to serve blacks—was organised last Friday by local anti-fascist militants

prefers to try and extend the repressive apparatus of the state to deal with discontent from the workers' movement. This involves not just more repressive laws and the extension of police powers, but also more freedom in the use of these measures against the working class without parliament interfering too much.

It is possible if the Labour Party proves totally incapable of policing the trade unions with its social contract and the Tory Party remains in disarray, then sections of the ruling class will start looking for strong leaders and strong governments, like Powell.



ROLE

To have a strong government in Britain would require the acceptance of Powellite ideas by sections of the working class. Support for Powell's position on the EEC, on Ireland, and on racism is not small inside the British working class. While the bosses have been unable to defeat and split the trade union movement in the economic battles, they could well do so on more overtly political issues.

The National Front tries to cash in on this. It takes up these issues, but by using tactics that traditionally have belonged to

the workers' movement—strikes, pickets and demonstrations against the Irish and blacks.

Thus the no platform position has an immediate importance in

terms of the moves towards a strong government in Britain. The working class cannot permit its unity to be split by these political issues, nor can they allow the fascists to use traditional working class methods. A positive fight must be launched inside the labour and student movements on racism; for self determination of the Irish people and the immediate withdrawal of troops from Ireland; and opposition to the EEC on an internationalist basis. Such campaigns must be begun to counter the threat of not just the National Front, but also of the more 'respectable' right wingers like Powell.

The Middlesex Polytechnic conference offers the opportunity to launch such a campaign inside the NUS—on a basis that understands the relevance of the National Front and how we can fight them politically. There must be a large turnout at the conference at Middlesex Polytechnic on 9 November.

VAL COULTAS

Boost for Hackney anti-fascists

Over a hundred delegates and observers attended a conference on Sunday, 27 October convened by the Hackney Committee Against Racism and backed by the Hackney Trades Council.

Many local union branches were represented, as were the CP, IMG, LPYS, Chartists and tenants' organisations. The conference itself was divided up into workshops to discuss 'The Nature of Fascism', 'Racism in the trade unions', 'Youth' and 'Racism in Education'.

The conference passed a resolution calling for a united front of all working class organisations to struggle against fascism and racism and there was general agreement that attempts should be made to set up an all-London Anti-Racist Committee. It was also agreed that a delegation be sent to the Warwick Conference on 22/23 November.

While the conference lapsed at times into a mere talking shop, there were nonetheless important contacts established, and there is little doubt that the anti-racist work in Hackney (where the NF got a very high vote) has received a tremendous boost.

Foy Booth

3000 ON IRISH MARCH



Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)

'I believe that on Ireland our Labour Government is pursuing a bipartisan policy in the same line as Tory policy', Labour MP Joan Maynard told a rally at the end of the most broad-based demonstration yet mounted on the question of withdrawing British troops.

Demanding a change in the Government's policies, she pointed out that it was Labour which had sent the troops in 1969. 'A date should be set for the withdrawal of British troops', she said. 'I would hope that the date would be an early one.'

Although rejecting the idea of an immediate withdrawal of troops, she did make an extremely important proposal calling for a trade union conference to discuss what workers in this country should do on the question.

LABOUR'S DILEMMA

Last Sunday's demonstration saw 3,000 people marching from Clerkenwell Green to the Temple demanding the withdrawal of British troops. This in itself would be a significant fact, but the present political situation makes it doubly so.

British imperialism is in a mess, and the Labour government would like to hand over the Six Counties to the Loyalists. But the consequences of this in Britain, and in relation to the nationalist population in both Northern and Southern Ireland, makes such a blatant surrender unpalatable at the moment.

The contradiction confronting the Labour Government is as follows: it cannot delay for too long in convening the proposed Constitutional Convention in the Six Counties, but if it hands the apparatus of the Six Counties to the Loy-

WITNESSES PLEASE!

Would anyone who saw any of the arrests at the end of the Troops Out demonstration please phone 01-278 9526 as soon as possible.

alists on a plate, all hell will break loose.

An important factor preventing many trade unionists from supporting the demand for immediate withdrawal is the feeling that the troops are protecting the Catholics. If the Labour Government completed its surrender to the Orange Order, the possibility of a mass movement developing on the question of troop withdrawal would be very great. The existence of even a small organised force would present itself as a pole of attraction to a section of the masses.

It is this that worries British imperialism. That is why they would like to nip any emerging movement in the bud. We can thus begin to understand the harassment and witch-hunt atmosphere which surrounded the demonstration.

COALITION

The present coalition of forces which helped to make this demo a success has all the ingredients to make it a credible force inside the labour movement. That is why the state has reacted hysterically and organised a series of incidents to destroy this fragile coalition. That is why Trafalgar Square was placed out of bounds, as were Smith Square and Fleet Street!

A black propaganda campaign was launched and the services of 'friendly journalists' solicited. A

crude attempt to link the forces supporting the Troops Out campaign with the bombings was made—Clive Borrell write in *The Times*: '...they have provided safe houses and strategical advice, including the detailed geographical planning needed for making attacks on London.'

That is also why the police were desperate to provoke a punch-up and arrest some demonstrators on the demo itself.

NEXT STEP

Our next steps are clear. We have to fight to defend the movement and keep it together. This means taking up the defence of the comrades arrested, and showing how the police and press harassment has been carefully orchestrated.

Such a campaign must also include a defence of the 14 members of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign arrested on conspiracy charges.

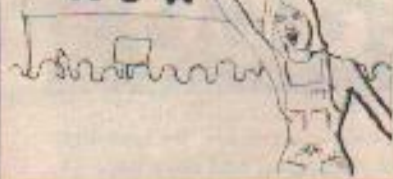
The key is not to give in to the intimidators. Further actions should be organised, and divisions in the Labour Party should be encouraged to break the bipartisanship on Ireland. The most important step forward is to build the trade union conference suggested by Joan Maynard.

The Troops Out Movement (TOM) has a major role to play in these initiatives. They have already shown themselves capable of assembling broad forces on a national level (including six Labour MPs). As we have pointed out before it is on a national level that the TOM can do its most effective work, and it is on this front that its strengths should be utilised in the coming weeks and months.

Brian Grogan

WORKING WOMEN'S CHARTER

EQUAL PAY NOW



LONDON

Little, unfortunately, was resolved at the first delegate conference of the London Working Women's Charter Conference held on 26 October, attracting over 300 people.

One problem, so far as determining future perspectives, and even electing a committee were concerned, was the lack of structure for the main policy session. This has necessitated a recall conference.

In spite of these problems, which understandably led to the frustration of many of those who came, decisions were taken to call for a national conference of the campaign and to publish a national bulletin.

The IMG stressed the need to go beyond just acting as a 'pressure group' on Trades Councils. The campaign must continue the type of activity organised in support of the SEI women. The campaign will have to be quicker off the mark in future and also plan ahead for the struggles in which large numbers of women workers will be involved.

But, as well as organising women workers, the fight has to be stepped up to win over male trade unionists. Many men workers, and even some women workers, believe that Labour's anti-discrimination proposals can solve the problems faced by women. If this view becomes accepted, it could lead to a big downturn in the struggle in much the same way as the fake 'Equal Pay' Act of 1969. The Charter must,

therefore, launch a large-scale campaign to show that Labour's proposals can in no way deal with these problems.

As a first step in building this campaign, the IMG proposed that a public meeting should be organised during the Labour Party conference to protest at the uselessness of the proposed Act. The IMG also called for a demonstration, organised with trade union support, to draw together all those who supported the demands of the Charter. Hopefully these proposals will be taken up at the recall conference.

BRISTOL

Bristol Working Women's Charter will be holding a one-day conference on Women and Work this coming Saturday, 2 November.

Support for the Conference is expected from those women workers at WD&HO Wills tobacco factory who were locked-out in the recent dispute. Three hundred of the locked-out women attended a meeting called by the Bristol Working Women's Charter Group on 21 October. This meeting was held in support of the locked-out women—all members of the Tobacco Workers' Union.

The women did not simply discuss their dispute but raised matters such as the holding of union meetings in work-time, creche facilities and full unemployment pay to married women locked-out because of the dispute.

It will be issues such as these that Saturday's Conference will be discussing. Speakers at the Conference will include a Tobacco Workers' shop steward, an AUEW shop steward, a sister from the Nurses' College and a NALGO member.

The conference will be held at Baptist Mills Community Centre, Horeley Road, Bristol 2, 10.0 am.

SHEFFIELD

The Sheffield Trades Council held a successful conference on the Charter on Saturday, 26 October.

Proposals put to the meeting were firstly: to initiate a campaign on the Charter culminating in a nation-wide demonstration during International Women's Year (1975). And secondly to invite trades councils to a national conference on 8 March—International Women's Day—to plan the demonstration and extend the campaign.



Photo: ANDREW WILKINSON (Report)

Last weekend's conference in London: Liz Knight from Hackney explains the need for the campaign to develop a strategy

Provos Disclaim Ward

The 18 October edition of the *Irish Republican Information Service (IRIS)* contained the following statement:

A statement from the Provisional IRA says that Judith Ward, who is at present on trial in Britain in connection with the army coach blast that caused several deaths, was at no time a member of the IRA and was not involved in any action carried out by the Provisional IRA.

The statement continues: 'It is evident from the course that the trial has taken to date that the English authorities are using a person who obviously needs medical treatment in a manner designed to satisfy a lust for revenge on the part of the British Establishment.'

IRIS is an official news agency of the Provisional Republican Movement. Such strongly worded dissociations from people on trial are unprecedented for the Provisionals. No doubt in this case it was prompted by much of the bizarre 'evidence' presented during the trial at Wakefield.

Judith Ward's alleged statements to the police have been used by the prosecution at the trial to discredit activities and people associated with the Provisionals. There was a very graphic illustration

of the reliability of her evidence at the trial last week, when she claimed to be the widow of an IRA officer, Capt. Michael McVerry.

The marriage took place, she said, in Dublin on 15 August 1973. But the *Irish Press* newspaper reported that no record of the marriage existed in the Irish register of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.



14 FACE JAIL FOR ARMY LEAFLET

Committal proceedings began on Wednesday against 14 people on charges under the Incitement to Disaffection Act (1934).

The police claim that the leaflet of which they were in possession contravenes the Act, in that the leaflet could 'seduce' soldiers from doing their duty.

Their 'duty', however, is to terrorise and brutalise the catholic working class in the Six Counties. More and more soldiers are now coming to question this duty. In addition, the morale of the army has received further blows with the actions which have been carried out recently against some of

their traditional rest homes and clubs.

The army is beginning to think that there is little sanctuary anywhere. What is more, the developing movement in Britain for the withdrawal of troops will undermine their morale still further. That explains why those charges are being brought now.

CONSPIRACY

All the people that have been arrested belong to the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign. More arrests are probably on the way, as it is only necessary to be in possession of one of the leaflets to be charged.

The state is obviously going for heavy sentences. Indeed, these charges follow the conviction and imprisonment of

veteran pacifist campaigner Pat Arrowsmith for 18 months, for giving out a similar leaflet to British soldiers.

The defence of these comrades is a vital necessity. Action against these people, the state hopes, will serve as a dire warning to the workers' movement to leave the issue of Ireland well alone. An effective defence of these people is necessary if the campaign for the withdrawal of troops is to be extended over the next period.

Workers, however, are well aware of the meaning of the conspiracy charges. Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson were sent back to jail on Tuesday on precisely this basis. It is in the vital interests of workers everywhere to end the use of these laws now.

Vietnam

The price of peace

The last few weeks have seen massive mobilisations in Saigon against President Thieu — the most significant and largest outbreaks of opposition in the towns since the downfall of Diem in 1964.

There have been giant rallies, pitched battles with the police, and newspaper strikes in protest against censorship laws. War veterans have demanded that Thieu should go, and even former pro-Thieu MPs have raised their voices in opposition, no doubt feeling the wind of change.

Thieu's regime has been tottering on the verge of disaster ever since the Paris peace talks. Hammered militarily by the NLF and economically by inflation and corruption, it has survived on the strength of its repressive apparatus and US aid. Its days, however, are now quite clearly numbered.

The US Government would not be averse to promoting Thieu's fall (and there are some indications that it is doing so) provided a relatively stable alternative can be worked out. While a Laos-type coalition would be ideal, in the South Vietnamese situation it would be like going for a ride on the back of a tiger. Thus a 'neutralist' regime which could compromise with the NLF appears to be on the horizon.

THE OPPOSITION

The recent statements published by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (PRG) and by the North Vietnamese Government (DRV) in which they give uncritical support to the call of the Veterans' Association (an extreme right-wing grouping) for a 'popular' government, reflect a serious weakness of the NLF, however.

The fact that they can make these dangerous statements under-

lines both ideological and organisational weaknesses. By ignoring the ideological and class basis of the opposition, and the alternative it offers to Thieu — i.e. dictatorship with a slightly more 'human face' — the PRG are creating illusions in a force which would continue to base itself on imperialist influence.

The PRG should instead call for the broadest democracy based on workers and popular councils in the cities, which could lay the basis for destroying the hold of capital in Vietnam. In other words, the struggle for democratic rights should be conducted within the framework of workers' democracy.

The very fact that, despite the enormous popular support which it clearly enjoys, the NLF has been unable to win hegemony in the mass movement in the cities, is



Urban unrest has been increased by influx of peasants from the countryside, forced to flee by fighting as result of Saigon incursions.

due not only to its international isolation but also to its underestimation of the role of the working class and the possibilities for launching struggles in the towns.

THREE FACTORS

There are, thus, three interrelated factors which underlie the PRG's positions:

— The role which Peking and Moscow are playing in relation to US imperialism ('detente above all else') means that aid to Vietnam has decreased. This is holding back the military victory which the NLF so richly deserve, and which the masses under their leadership have struggled for since 1960.

— The confused programmatic positions of the PRG and the DRV mean that they do not grasp that democracy is only realisable as part of the struggle for socialism. They thus lay great stress on a classless 'peace' rather than a strategy for all-out victory.

— Finally, and more encouragingly, we have to note (as do the NLF) the effect that a limited victory such as the overthrow of Thieu would have on the urban masses and on the disparate opposition forces. The confusion of the latter in the face of continuing upsurges after Thieu's fall could easily crystallise into a struggle for the overthrow of all reflections of imperialist rule in the South, and provided that the NLF gives correct leadership, could overflow into a complete victory.

David Johnson

SOUTH AFRICA

So — Lak

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT has decided to throw itself into the breach to defend the reactionary, racist regime of South Africa, which has recently come under fire in the Security Council of the United Nations.

The three African states on the Council are calling for the expulsion of South Africa because of its refusal to comply with UN resolutions against the brutal, racist 'apartheid' system.

AUSTRALIA

With support from the workers' states, the anti-South African group was previously just one short of the nine votes required to get its resolution through the 15-nation Security Council. The decision of Australia's Labour Government to back the expulsion move meant that the only way South Africa could scrape through would be for one of the Western 'great powers' (Britain, US, or France) to exercise their right of 'veto'.

South Africa is an important ally for these imperialist powers in Africa, but so are the pro-capitalist nationalist politicians in the black states. So, while they were all committed to saving South Africa's skin, each wanted someone else to go in to bat for white racism in the Security Council.

This risky deadlock was broken on Friday when Labour's Foreign Secretary, James Callaghan, publicly proclaimed the Government's support for South Africa in the UN, and stated that Britain would continue to have 'businesslike dealings'

with South Africa.

This is the second big political boost white racism in Africa has received from Britain in recent weeks.

As the *Times* newspaper explained about last week's manoeuvres between the British and South African navies: 'The joint exercises...are regarded by the South African Government and its supporters as a breakthrough in demonstrating the importance of the Republic's ties with the Western powers. They are seen as a tactical victory over the elements campaigning to increase the international boycott of South Africa.'

The South African Government was even more pleased when the Navy's ships visited Cape Town and gave a 21-gun salute to white supremacy. In exchange, black British sailors were allowed to become 'honorary whites' for a day in order to enjoy the pleasures of Cape Town, which are closed to the local non-white population.

SCANDALOUS

Labour's 'helping hand' for South Africa is especially scandalous because it comes at a time when the victory of the anti-imperialist struggle in the former Portuguese colonies has given a big boost to South Africa's oppressed black majority.

Despite the ever-present threat of repression, students at a black university in the state of Transvaal held a mass rally to celebrate the victory of the FRELIMO guerrillas in Mozambique at the end of September. When the Government re-

Spain - Doctors on the firing line

The bitter struggle between the working people of Spain and the repressive dictatorship that rules the country continues to spread.

In the wake of the recent wave of arrests of left-wing activists, it is the hospital interns (trainee doctors) who have been put on the firing line. In an effort to break a protest movement among the interns, the Government has locked out all interns from the public hospitals, denying medical care to thousands.

For some time now the interns have been demanding a sweeping overhaul of the repressive conditions under which they have to work. At the moment they are required to obtain a 'good conduct' certificate from the police. This system, of course, is used to blacklist medical

students whose political views are not acceptable to the regime.

The interns want this system scrapped, and are also calling for higher pay, representation on the boards which select interns for the hospitals, and the right to convene assemblies to discuss their common problems.

The interns have elected delegates to negotiate on these demands. But so far the Government authorities have refused to meet them, and instead have adopted these repressive measures to crush the movement.

This most recent struggle is another sign of the real weakness of the Spanish dictatorship, and show the tremendous range of groups that are involved in the fight against it.

The training of efficient civil servants dedicated to the new political situation.

Their economic policies seem to be a cross between Sir Keith Joseph and Harold Lever. From Joseph comes their solution to inflation: 'restriction of the rate of issuing money'; from Lever their policies for industry: 'support and aid through credit and other incentives for small or large firms who make a positive contribution to economic development.'

But the CP has no real plans for winning even these limited reforms. In the past it has continually refused to use the big mobilisations of the working class (such as that against the right-wing offensive in September) to win any practical gains, and it does not propose to do so now. All it can do is wait humbly for handouts from the Armed Forces Movement and the capitalists. But these will be a long time coming.

The only thing that was new at the Congress was a decision to remove the

expression 'dictatorship of the proletariat' from the CP's programme. This was done on the excuse that the term 'dictatorship' would be misunderstood and equated with the years of fascist rule.

But the simple fact is that the phrase was removed from the CP's programme because the Party ceased to struggle towards that goal years ago. Today they simply scratch their heads and wonder what on earth it could have meant anyway.

Certainly, the militant Lisbon shipyard workers saw things quite clearly when they marched through the streets with the slogan 'repression for the reactionaries—democracy for the workers'. The Portuguese CP may have abandoned the 'dictatorship of the proletariat', but the Portuguese working class will be driven by the logic of its own struggle to fight for it.

Chris Balfour

Portuguese CP Congress

FESTIVAL OF SELF-CONGRATULATION

THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST Party (PCP) held its first legal Congress in 48 years last week.

A revolutionary party would have seized on this opportunity to bring together its militants from across the country to exchange experiences and discuss in detail the way forward for the workers' movement. Such a gathering would have been a living demonstration in workers' democracy for the entire country.

But the Portuguese Communist Party long ago ceased to be a revolutionary party. The Bolshevik Party, even when it was a small group of revolutionaries, mainly in exile, used to take a full week to go through its political deliberations. But the Portuguese CP, despite the 'great responsibilities' it delights to talk about and the huge 'burdens of office' it has as the participant in a capitalist coalition Government, decided to get everything over in one day.

So the PCP's 'extraordinary Congress'

was reduced to a stage-managed festival of self-congratulation, in which the voice of the Party rank-and-file was kept under tight rein, and the leadership managed to side-step all the more embarrassing questions that could be asked about its political activity since 25 April.

After the Party Secretary, Alvaro Cunhal, made his hour-long opening speech, and a string of Central Committee members spelled out at length the Party's official line, only a tiny handful of rank-and-file members were able to speak. Less than 5 per cent of the 900 rank-and-file delegates ever reached the podium, and then they had only minutes in which to utter a few generalities.

It is hardly surprising, in this situation, that the major amendments to the Party statutes and programme, and the new 'emergency platform' of immediate demands should have been adopted without a single opposing vote.

The 'emergency programme' is supposed to meet three aims: '1. the reinforcement of the democratic State and the defence of liberties; 2. the defence of economic and financial stability, with a view to promoting economic development; 3. the continuation of decolonisation.'

The specific steps which the CP wants to carry out rarely go beyond the most pathetic reformism: e.g. 'the reorganisation of the military and police forces as forces for the defence of democratic order', 'reorganisation of the civil service, eliminating the habits of bureaucratic parasitism created by the fascist dictatorship.'



AFRICA UNDER FIRE AT UN

our backs white racism



Despite repression, black student held a mass rally to celebrate FRELIMO victory in Mozambique.

plied by arresting student leaders under the infamous 'Suppression of Communism' law (which allows them to imprison political opponents without trial almost indefinitely), 1000 students marched on the local police station in protest.

The demonstrators were invited to send a delegation to discuss their demands with the police. But when they did so members of the delegation were in turn imprisoned. The

students then organised an eight-day strike and occupation of the university.

This political ferment has also had its effects among black gold miners.

The conditions in the gold mines are notoriously bad. Tens of thousands of black migrant workers from other African states are kept virtual prisoners in the mine compounds for months on end, earning abysmally

low pay, most of which they do not receive until after they are shipped out of the country at the end of their 'contracts'.

All attempts to protest or fight for better conditions are violently suppressed by the police, often through the murder of black workers.

In the past year alone, 59 black workers have been killed in violence at the gold mines. The mine man-

agers try to blame all these disturbances on 'inter-tribal' rivalry. It is true that this closed and repressive set-up often throws the workers at one another's throats, but many struggles have hit out against the management and the terrible living and working conditions in the mines.

Recent events have shown how these struggles can develop. On 13 October a fight broke out between two groups of black workers at one mine, and was violently broken up by the police. The next day a protest strike was staged by 1500 workers.

A week later the struggle took a clearer turn when Mozambiquan miners moved into the leadership. A thousand of them tried to march on the administration building, but were blocked by police dogs and tear gas.

The typical racist arrogance of the management is shown in the mine manager's comment that dogs were unleashed on the workers 'just to show them we would maintain order'.

STRIKES

Again the workers responded to this repression by striking, and putting in a demand for higher wages. The strike movement spread and as of last Wednesday (23 October)—by which time another two miners had been killed in the suppression of a 'riot'—almost 10,000 miners in three different mines were on strike.

Both the demands of the Mozambiquans for higher wages, and the

demand raised by 1500 striking miners from the black African state of Malawi that they be sent home, are very worrying for the South African mine owners. For they came no more than three days after black workers' wages were increased by one-third (to the princely sum of 97p per shift, or about £25 a month), precisely in order to ensure the continuing flow of migrant workers from countries like Mozambique and Malawi.

Without these workers the crucial gold mining industry would suffer a very serious labour shortage, and the whole South African economy would be badly hit.

The situation has never been as favourable as it is at present to stamp out the evil of white racism in Southern Africa and launch a powerful assault on imperialist exploitation throughout the continent. This makes Labour's cover-up job for South Africa particularly treacherous.

The Labour movement must solidarise with their oppressed black brothers in South Africa, and warn Callaghan and his like in no uncertain terms that Labour's present policies are totally unacceptable. The Labour Government must be forced to:

*End all diplomatic support for South Africa—in the UN and elsewhere.

*End the Simonstown military agreements, and all forms of military aid to white South African racism in Africa.

*End all British trade with, and investment in, the white racist regimes.

HAY ALEXANDER

SCOTS WORKERS BLACK THE JUNTA

One of the most important aspects of the Chile solidarity movement has been the campaign to extend the blacking of Chilean trade.

The effect of successful boycotts on the junta cannot be underestimated. Yet there has only really been one area in Britain where blacking has been taken up in a serious way — the West of Scotland.



CARMEN CASTILLO FREED

A great victory for the solidarity movement was chalked up last Sunday when the Chilean junta was forced to release Carmen Castillo (above), wounded companion of dead MIR leader Miguel Enriquez. She is now recuperating in Britain.

At Rolls-Royce, East Kilbride, workers are continuing to black six Avon engines for the Chilean junta's Hawker-Hunter fighters. This is in defiance of the National Executive Council of the AUEW, and notably one of its right-wing members, John Boyd.

The AUEW has asked the shop stewards' committee to lift the black, since Rolls-Royce is a nationalised company and the boycott could damage its position.

But the workers have so far resisted this pressure, and the effect has been clear.

The junta has now demanded £10 million in compensation from the Labour Government for the loss of the engines. Their absence

is felt particularly keenly because six of the junta's remaining Hawker-Hunters have been grounded since May after their engines were found filled with sand. Some 200 Air Force officers and servicemen at the El Bosque Air Base have so far been arrested in connection with this act of sabotage by the Chilean resistance.

The junta is now trying to re-equip the Air Force by buying A-37 Cessna spotter planes and Northrop F-5E jet fighters from the USA. But here too they are having trouble, with moves in Congress to make any arms sales conditional on a 'relaxation of the policy of repression'.

SUBMARINES

While the blacking at East Kilbride has been the most effective action, there are also several other places in the West of Scotland where boycott action has

been taken.

At Faslane, naval shipyard workers have refused to service or supply the two Chilean submarines being built at Scott-Lithgow's yards in Greenock.

This follows the example by naval dockers at Rosyth, who refused to work on the frigates last April.

The submarines themselves have run into trouble. After being launched at the turn of the year, they have both developed technical faults in their pressure tubes. They are now back at Scott-Lithgow's and it is thought that it will take months to repair them — which reopens the possibility of some action here too.

Blacking is also taking place at Weir's of Cathcart, where work on pumps for Chilean frigates, being repaired in Newcastle, is being boycotted.

As the situation with Rolls-

Royce most clearly shows, the boycott actions have had a direct effect on the military junta. However the past actions of the Labour Government have done nothing to help the boycott campaign.

On the contrary, they have gone along with the other capitalist countries in the 'Club of Paris' in extending the loan facilities which have allowed the junta to purchase this weaponry and consolidate its repressive hold over the workers and peasants in Chile.

'Not a penny, not a gun — no aid, no trade' must be the key slogan which the solidarity campaign rights to take into the labour movement over the next few months. In particular, the demand must be raised that the Labour Government should refuse to hand over the submarines to the junta now that their delivery has been held up.

Similarly, the attempts by the Labour and trade union bureaucrats to lift the Rolls-Royce blacking must be strenuously opposed. The rest of the AUEW and the labour movement must rally to the side of the East Kilbride workers as a first step towards extending the blacking campaign.

The present situation in Chile — where, as we report elsewhere, the repression is now being stepped up by the junta in a desperate attempt to cancel out the effects of its worsening economic position — makes it still more vital that blacking is extended now, as a real contribution to the fight to overthrow the junta.

JAMES RIDGE

Two arrested for every one freed

John Marston

At least two new arrests have been made in Chile for every detainee in recent months, according to a report last week by the International Commission of Jurists.

This blows sky-high Pinochet's claim on the anniversary of the coup that the policy of repression would be relaxed, with the replacement of the 'state of war' by a 'state of siege'. Unnoticed at the time, the junta had in fact issued a new decree the day before ruling that in future the provisions of military justice in time of war would apply to a 'state of siege'. In other words—no change.

The ICJ reports that in fact poli-

tical repression in Chile is now 'more ubiquitous and more systematic than at any time since the coup d'etat'. It states that it has information confirming no less than 600 additional arrests since the death of MIR leader Miguel Enriquez on 5 October.

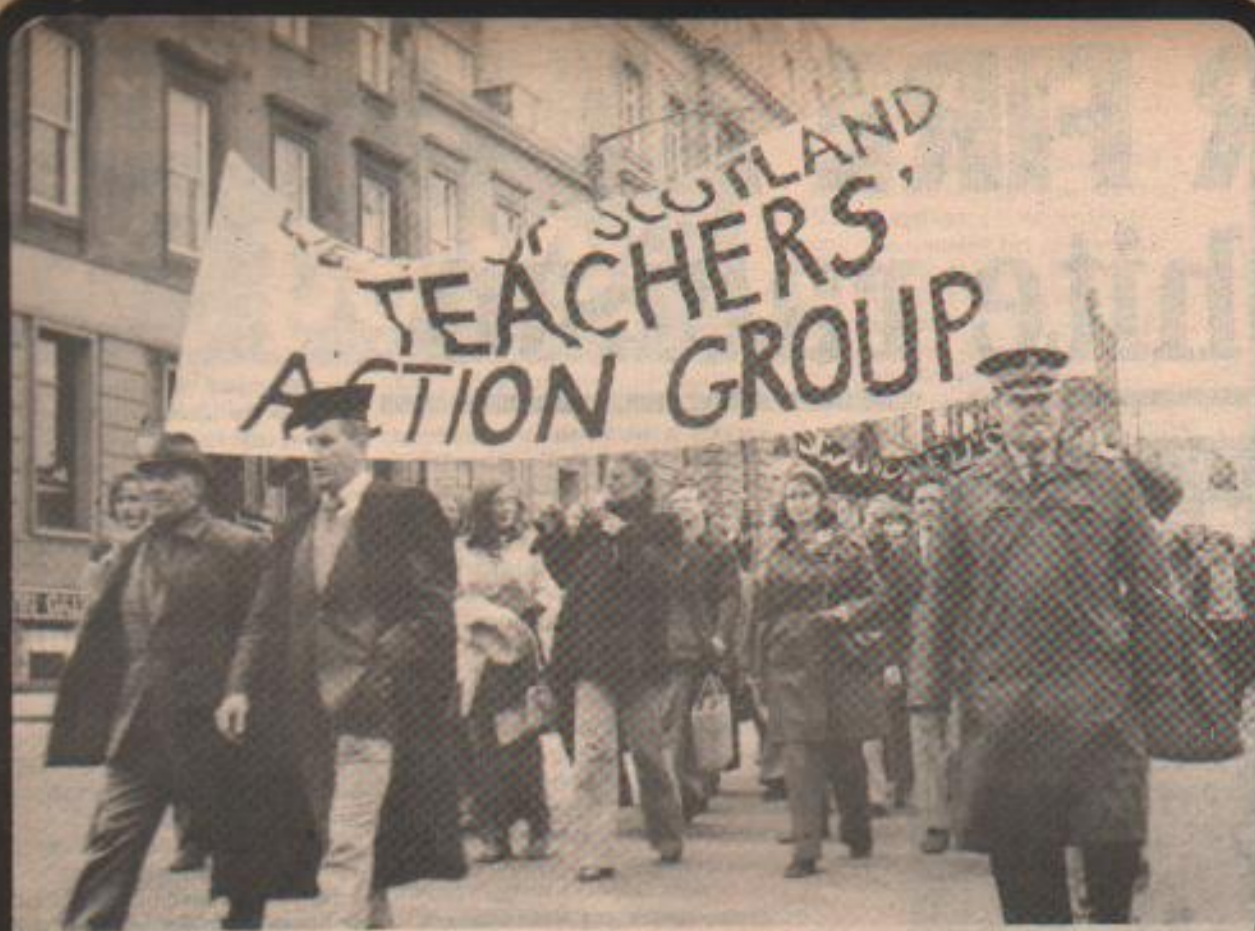
This exposure of the 'show and the reality', as the ICJ report is called, indicates the real extent of the problems now faced by the junta.

It is desperate to improve its international image, in order to fend off diplomatic and arms boycotts such as that now threatened by the US Senate. Yet so weak is its posi-

tion internally that threadbare gestures in practice all it can afford.

The worsening economic situation has already led it to make further slashing attacks on the workers' standard of living—at the beginning of October price rises were announced of 52 per cent for bread, 67 per cent for milk, and 31.5 per cent for cooking oil. Such attacks can only be carried through under conditions of the utmost repression.

These increasing restraints on the junta's freedom of action show just how great can be the impact of solidarity actions on the situation in the next few months.



West of Scotland teachers on the march last week.

TEACHERS FIGHT ON FOR '£15 NOW'

Thousands of teachers in Scotland have been involved in strikes to demand a £15 a week flat rate increase. They are demanding that the £15 be granted as of now, in addition to the annual settlement.

In Glasgow there is a chronic shortage of teachers. Many schools have classes of 40 plus. Reacting against these conditions the Educational Institute of Scotland—the Scottish teachers union—decided to impose a form of work to rule.

Local authorities responded to this by threatening to cut off designation allowances—a special allowance for disadvantaged schools. This action particularly affected Glasgow teachers who decided to set up Action Committees to organise strikes against this move.

In September the EIS decided to press for an interim 10 per cent increase. This would have given more to the better-paid teachers and less to those at the bottom of the scale. The West of Scotland Action Group rejected this approach and insisted that the claim be a £15 a week across the board increase.

Low pay

This move by the Glasgow teachers sparked off a response on the East coast of Scotland. On the East coast conditions are not as bad as in the West, but low pay is an explosive issue. An East of Scotland Action Committee was set up and a campaign begun for the £15 a week increase.

Edinburgh teachers played a big role in drawing together the two Action Committees as they wanted to set up an all-Scotland Action Committee composed of representatives elected on the basis of one for each 15 schools.

On Wednesday 23 October the all-Scotland Action Committee was proposed at a meeting in Cumber-

nauld and the first meeting of this body has been set for Wednesday 30 October.

The two Action Committees have not stood still. On 24 October over 2000 teachers from 210 schools in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire and Dumbartonshire, joined by teachers from Cumbernauld, Fife and the East Coast held a mass meeting in the Apollo Centre, Glasgow—scene of many strike meetings in recent weeks.

JIM DONOGHUE

The meeting decided upon a course of selective school strikes beginning on 4 November. Bernard Regan—a London teacher—briefly addressed the meeting telling them about last summer's London teachers' strikes. His remark: 'What Scotland has done today, England and Wales must do tomorrow' was warmly received by the audience.

The militant mass movement of the teachers has had its effects on the EIS. EIS vice-President Brough speaking in AIness said: 'Teachers need at least £15 a week extra to maintain their living standards.'

Although the EIS leaders make speeches about their members needing the £15, they have taken no action to get it. At the meeting of the Scottish Teachers' Salaries Commission on 28 October the Scottish Education Department told the EIS that any offers would have to be referred to Willie Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland. The spineless EIS have now given Ross another 48 hours to make up his mind about the offer.

Only if Ross turns it down will the EIS go ahead with its proposed strike on 31 October and selected

strikes afterwards. The EIS leaders are hanging on to the cliff edge by their finger nails.

They are desperately looking to Ross to save their necks. Militants must make sure that the bureaucracy do not organise a sell-out behind their backs. Glasgow teachers have already started a campaign for a special EIS salaries' conference. Teachers must fight to make sure all delegates are mandated to vote for a '£15 now' and insist that all negotiations are placed in the hands of the All-Scotland Action Committee.



The struggle for improved pay for teachers could be greatly strengthened by linking up with other workers in Scotland and developing a campaign utilising the best tried means of conducting the struggles: flying pickets, democratically elected strike committees, etc.

Investigation

The problems of Scottish co-ordination won't be resolved just through the pay struggle. The Conservative Government's £182 million cuts savagely affected Scotland. The £30 million restored by Labour is a drop in the ocean in the present context of inflation.

What is needed is a full scale investigation into the needs of the Scottish education system. Such an enquiry must be conducted by those people working in that area in conjunction with other trade unionists and workers concerned with the present state of Scottish education.

SCOTS STEER HIGH ROAD WORKERS DEMOCRACY

SCOTLAND HAS BEEN RACKED BY A STRIKE WAVE OF MASSIVE dimensions. It has drawn in workers from jobs as far apart as slaughterhouse workers, tugboatmen, engineers at Hoover, lorry drivers and busmen. The strikes have nearly all begun in the traditionally weaker sections of the working class, yet the level of militancy and organisation has exceeded what the best organised workers in Scotland have managed. For the first time for many workers, they have found themselves in control of their own strikes. Nearly every claim, if settled, would breach the social contract.

Success by the striking workers in weaker sections would also give huge confidence to the engineers and other strong sectors now preparing their factory claims—particularly with the AUEW executive's latest moves to put off a national struggle.

It is no freak that these developments have come first in Scotland. They are a direct result of the policies of British and world capital in Scotland and of the Labour Party and STUC's response.

HUGE DEBATE

In August of this year, the Labour Party in Scotland was racked by a huge debate. The issue under discussion was devolution: the proposal that the next Labour Government should establish an elected legislative assembly in Scotland. The two factions were broadly speaking, the trade union leaders who supported devolution and the Scottish LP executive who opposed it.

As pointed out in the IMG pamphlet *Scotland, Labour and Workers' Power*—published this month—

by
Alan Freeman

the victory of the devolutionists 'did not represent a late conversion to the politics of the Clydeside revolutionary, John MacLean. The trade union leaders had simply recognised that if the Labour Party in Scotland went to the polls with its present record and policy, it would suffer a catastrophe at the next election'.

This catastrophe would only have been the end point of a record of failure.

The Labour Party has offered the working class a three-pronged panacea—low rent housing, state assistance, and glamorous campaigns to attract industry to Scotland.

Yet in the last ten years its housing policy has collapsed under the huge shift from public to private house building (20 per cent in 1964 of housing starts in Scotland were private. The figure is around 50 per cent now.) Its attempts to attract industry to Scotland were ac-

Militants speak out on

Red Weekly interviews two members of the East of Scotland teachers' union

How widespread have the unofficial strikes been and what lies behind them?

GK: The last two one-day strikes saw over 4000 teachers out from 300 schools. Plaards I saw carried at a demonstration of 2000 teachers in Glasgow last Thursday explain graphically why this happened—'No Social Con-trick—a living wage now' and 'An end to cheap teachers—£15 now'.

Repeated cuts in education have led to a policy of education on the cheap with teachers bearing the burden of this cost cutting in the form of low salaries. Pupils and teachers alike suffer from deplorable working conditions.

The crisis of social expenditure is particularly acute in the West of Scotland where classes and conditions are the worst in Britain. It was a government threat to cut the salaries of teachers working to rule in protest against these conditions that sparked off the current wave of militancy.

What enabled the pent-up frustrations of teachers to be organised in such efficient strike action?

GK: Two things: a flat rate claim which unified teachers across the different salary scales and action organised via democratically elected strike committees. In the East of Scotland delegates are

subject to instant recall. They are elected from schools to an action committee which takes day-to-day tactical decisions. Delegates report back to the school decisions taken and if schools disagree they replace their delegates.

Similarly the co-ordinating committee of the school action committee is elected from the mass meeting of all teachers and is re-elected at every meeting.

The West of Scotland action group has a different system whereby delegates are mandated from the schools and have to go back to the schools to get a fresh mandate on each question as it comes up. This tends to make the process of reaching decisions somewhat slow, so IMG teachers in the West have been arguing for a change to the East of Scotland system. We have also been calling for the formation of an all-Scotland Action Committee to co-ordinate action on an all-Scottish basis.

What is the next step in your opinion?

PT: Willie Ross, the Secretary of State for Scotland, has intervened in the salaries negotiations to stop any immediate settlement of the interim claim. The government is holding out on a settlement, as with the other unofficial strikes.

The only way to force the state to pay will be through all out indefinite strike. Any further one-day strikes, or a long period of area rotation strikes, will only frustrate teachers and lose

ON TO

Y



curately dismissed by a recent report from the Scottish Council Research Institute (*Glasgow Herald*, 2 August): 'unemployment continues...as though regional policy never existed'.

Its most important failure has been its inability to relate in any way to the actions which the working class itself was taking in defence of its living standards and conditions. It was Michael Foot, the darling of the Labour left, who told the engineers to get back to work instead of smashing the NIRC. It was Jim Sillars, MP for Ayrshire and one of the most prominent Scottish Labour MPs, who openly denounced the firemen's strike. The Labour Party stood impassive whilst its own councils who tried to stand up against the Housing Finance Act caved in.

HESITANT

This meant that workers in Scotland, amongst the best organised and most class conscious in Britain, were confused and hesitant in their support for the Labour Party. They began to desert it for the SNP.

In fact the SNP's answers are a very dangerous con-trick. They are an attempt to get the working class to accept the social disruption and heavy damage to union organisation being forced on it by unchecked oil development, under the illusion that a Scottish Parliament will place oil in their

hands.

The Labour Party has only itself to blame for this illusion—for fifty years it has told workers that they can get their hands on British industry through a British parliament.

The strike wave of the last weeks has shown that the determination and the means are being created to struggle for real solutions—workers' solutions.

SELF-CONFIDENCE

But because the workers' strength and self-confidence has grown so much, they do not see the election results—in which Labour's vote went down—as a victory for the ruling class. They see the crushing defeat of their traditional enemies—the Tories. Most workers who voted for the SNP did not do so because they have turned against class struggle, but because they are fooled and confused by it—for which the Labour Party and trade union leaders must take full blame.

This was why, as soon as the election results were clear, the pay claims went in and the workers came out. Fed up to the back teeth with decades of useless Labour Party 'remedies', whole sections of Scottish workers have taken their future into their own hands.

But they cannot and will not be satisfied with chasing prices up the inflation spiral. Unemployment hangs like a spectre over the whole

of Scotland—every week a new factory closes. Two months ago even the McLaren Controls factory, site of a three month occupation and strike, closed down. Fifty-six thousand jobs have been lost in ship-building alone in the last ten years.

Housing in the West of Scotland is the most squalid in Britain, and is getting worse each year. In the East, the huge migration caused by oil development has forced workers into living in virtual labour camps near oil rig construction sites—1500 workers at Nigg are actually living in two ancient Greek troopships.

Housing prices in the oil areas have rocketed, and the social services cannot cope.

TOO WEAK

The Government is far too weak to smash up the strikes with a direct army or police intervention, and is unwilling even to accede to the demands raised by the SNP and Labour right wing that Foot should intervene directly in the strikes. For the Government to be seen even scabbing on strikes, let alone smashing them up, would threaten its precarious base in Scotland far too much. So the employers and the various state bodies involved have attempted to win time with concessions, isolate the most militant sections and drive them into a retreat. They have three tactics:

1. To pick off isolated, weaker sections with plausible deals: for example, the binmen have gone back on a promise of local talks if the national offer is not enough.
2. To make offers which split the core sections—notably teachers and lorry drivers—and which can be used to isolate the militants from their support elsewhere in the working class.
3. In the case of the lorry drivers, to use the threat of massive social disruption to bully them back to work—closure of factories, etc.—trying to isolate them from the rest of the working class.

SECRET DEALS

The leaderships of the trade unions have assisted these tactics so effectively that their actions smack of secret deals with the employers. The Transport and General Workers' Union has, after two successive attempts to sell the lorry drivers a deal they would not accept, now driven them to give Alec Kitson a blank mandate to negotiate with the employers—when the strike has not even been made official!

The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), the teachers union, has refused to make official a strike which involves nearly half its membership and clearly represents the overwhelming feeling of teachers in Scotland, and has continued to negotiate for a 10 per cent increase when seven of its local associations (including the biggest in Edinburgh and Glasgow) have overwhelmingly voted for a flat rate £15 demand. Jimmy Jack, the Secretary of the STUC, has vehemently denounced the strikers and urged them all back to work, in speeches trumpeted all over the Scottish press.

SCALE

The scale of this confrontation has raised the stakes for the working class. It means that entire groups of workers are now facing the employers and the State at Scottish level. The IMG successfully pushed for



The first workers to go back in Scotland in the current strike-wave — the dustmen clearing up the rubbish in Glasgow earlier this week.

the creation of a Scottish Teachers Action Committee last week. The lorry drivers and the Central Scottish Busmen both set up regional strike committees. The lorry owners' response, effectively, has been the threat of a regional lockout.

Scotland, Labour & Workers' Power



A SCOTTISH IMG PAMPHLET

Available from: RED BOOKS, 97 Caledonian Rd., London N1

Price: 20p (inc p & p).

Even though the workers who have been striking do not include the big battalions, their actions show the immediate need for the *organisation* of the working class at Scottish level and for a *programme of action* for the Scottish working class.

SOCIAL ALTERNATIVE

The wages struggle itself is no longer going to be enough either to safeguard workers' living standards or maintain the unity of the working class. A programme of action for the crisis must be more than a plan for organising strikes better. Such a programme must be a social alternative to the social contract, which undertakes to use the strength and organisation of the workers' movement to solve the problems caused by the crisis, at the expense of the employers.

The threat of the social contract to the unity of the workers' movement is clearly shown by what the trade union leadership has tried to do to split the strikers in Scotland.

Taking up a workers' solution to the crisis immediately frustrates the ability of the leadership to do this and wins much more widespread support from the rest of the workers' movement.

It is one thing to denounce teachers striking for £15 per week extra on the grounds that it does the kids harm. It is quite another to maintain that workers striking for adequate government expenditure on education are holding the country to ransom—even though adequate expenditure includes enough money to pay the teacher a living wage!

The importance of what is happening in Scotland is that the possibility of such action now lies within the grasp of the workers' movement. Any action, however minor, which begins to demonstrate how workers themselves can start to force the bosses to pay for the solution of the problems caused by the crisis will get tremendous support amongst Scottish workers.

To begin the planning, the collection of information, the involvement of the mass of workers needed to carry out such actions can precisely be organised by the sort of bodies that Scottish strikers have set up.

EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The Teachers' Action Committees, for example, have a base of support amongst teachers enough to organise an enquiry into the educational needs of every school in each area. The lorry drivers, through their flying pickets, have been able to have systematic discussions with factory workers about ways to ensure the strike has maximum disruptive effect on the bosses, and causes minimum hardship to the workers. The Scottish Labour Party passed one resolution that everyone agreed on. It called for the next Labour Government to 'bring about a fundamental and irreversible change in the balance of power in favour of working people and their families'.

The Scottish strikers have shown precisely who is in the position to bring about that change—the working class. The task of all socialists is to fight for the workers' movement to accept the responsibility for carrying it through.

Scots schools struggle

ers' co-ordinating committee, George Kerevan and Pauline Tierney

the action committee their current support.

I think we have to make use of the flying pickets to send groups of teachers to outlying schools to win support for this action. We have already used the flying picket to build support for one-day strikes. We need to expand on them and cover the whole of Scotland.

Is there any struggle over any questions other than the wages' issue?

GK: At present more than 250 schools are working to rule to force improvements in working conditions. We need to expand this struggle. The teachers unions and the action committees must begin to draw up a plan for educational expenditure and organise to implement it if the state will not concede.

One idea the IMG will be arguing for is that the action committee should organise a classroom by classroom census of the material needs of all schools in their area. The deficiencies should be costed and a bill presented to the local authority with the ultimatum that unless repair work has begun in school within one month then area rotation strikes will begin—and so on, school by school.

Do future plans include linking up with other strikers?

GK: I believe there is an urgent practical necessity for teachers to link up with

other public sector workers.

The problem of social expenditure affects all public sector workers and a united front will apply maximum pressure to the Government to give us a living wage.

Further, the whole question of a workers' plan for social expenditure requires that at the same time as teachers are organising their own investigation into the education system, they should be calling on other public sector workers to produce similar reports on transport, health, etc. so the unions can impose a unified plan for the public sector expenditure.

What about links with English teachers?

GK: A mass meeting of 2000 teachers at the Apollo Centre on 24 October was addressed by Bernard Regan, a leading member of the London teachers action committee and a member of the IMG. He brought greetings from NUT teachers and promised to organise support for the Scottish strikers in the South. Clearly all teachers are affected by the national crisis in education spending.

They have to take up common demands and a common struggle. It is obviously up to the NUT teachers to work out how best to do this in light of the response our strike generates, but what I think is vital is that we try to discuss together to arrive at a common line for the Houghton Committee.



The Scottish drivers unofficial strike committee, and TGWU officials, pictured at a meeting at the offices of the Conciliation and Advisory Services last Friday.

Crisis throws ruling class into shambles

POLITICS ON THE ROCKS

The last election was generally regarded as one of the most boring in recent history. But underneath the soggy cotton-wool of the politicians' election speeches, powerful class forces were at work.

The election was dull because all the major political parties were in chaos, unable to do anything more vigorous than mark time.

In this article ALAN JONES digs beneath the surface. He examines how the economic crisis has opened up big divisions inside the ruling class, looks at the big political problems this is creating within the main ruling class parties, and outlines the various solutions that are being debated by the capitalists and their representatives.

THE RUN-UP to the election confirmed very strongly that the dominant sections of the ruling class are moving sharply to the right.

Inside the main employers' organisation, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), leadership had been consolidated around GKN chairman Sir Raymond Brookes—the most extreme right-wing of all the major employers. The key journals of the industrial capitalists such as the *Economist*, the CBI newsletter, and *Management Today* continued to demand tougher measures against working class militancy.

The *Economist*, for example, fairly consistently supported and called for open strike breaking. *Management Today*, in its October editorial, spoke of the possibility of a 'once-for-all showdown with organised labour', while optimistically expressing the hope that 'given the innate conservatism of the British people, however, organised labour may well back down from a revolutionary posture in such circumstances—after disputes and disruptions'.

SPLIT

But the capitalists remained fundamentally split on exactly what policies should be pursued. There was a very clear division of interest between those sections of the ruling class based on finance capital (the banks, insurance companies, and finance houses) and sections of small-businessmen, and those based on the big industrial monopolies.

For the former group inflation is the menace, and they call for severe cut-backs in the money supply and the creation of several million unemployed. Sir Keith Joseph, for example, is one of the leading advocates of this policy; one of his main economic advisers is Samuel Brittan of the *Financial Times*—a newspaper which has fairly consistently represented the interests of finance capital. The industrial capitalists, on the other hand, have both an economic and political objection to this policy. Economically they do not want a slump, as it will hit their production and profit levels. And politically they are afraid that an attempt to increase unemployment massively would lead to a militant working class response. The *Economist*, for example, says that such unemployment would not be met with passivity, but by factory occupations and violence.

This section of the ruling class—whose ideas are expressed clearly by the *Economist* and the London School of Business Studies—believes that the correct approach is not a severe cutback of the money supply, but a showdown with the workers' movement in order to impose an incomes policy.

Naturally, the policies of both these sections of the ruling class involve a hard line against the working class. The only difference is that the first group wants to strangle the working class into submission via unemployment, while the second wants to club it into submission by imposing an incomes policy.

But this debate, which raged very fiercely during the election campaign, divides and weakens the ruling class thrust. It also has implications for the struggle that is now

opening up within the Tory Party over the leadership.

The election of Sir Keith Joseph, for example, would be regarded as a victory by the financial and petit-bourgeois wing.

TORIES

But the Tory Party has its own interests, which do not always coincide directly with those of the ruling class. The leaders of the Tory Party naturally serve the overall interests of their class, but they also want to get into office. For this reason the Tory Party has to pursue its own interests to some degree.

Historically the Tory Party has not been most closely linked to the dominant sections of the industrial capitalists but to various sectoral groupings—finance capital, sections of the ruling class massively dependent on foreign investment, landowners, brewers, the petit-bourgeoisie and the Northern Ireland bourgeoisie. This motley alliance was kept together, and the Tory Party kept in office, by an orientation of British capitalism towards foreign financial and commercial operations, rather than by building up the domestic economy and competing in the export of manufactured goods with other advanced capitalist countries. This orientation meant that the Tory Party was relatively able to avoid a direct attack on the British working class, and instead cultivated a 'paternalist' attitude.

With the collapse of this economic orientation in the early 1960s, however, the Tory Party's traditional scheme was upset. A clear representative of the industrial bourgeoisie, Heath, then came into the leadership of the Tory Party. The result was a re-orientation towards the Common Market and towards a direct confrontation with the British working class.

But while a new economic formula could be found, a new political

1972, this 'Tory bloc' started to come apart. It has continued to do so ever since.

In February 1974 the Tories finally learnt that if they continued on the old economic course without a new political formula they would be defeated by the working class. A hard line might please the ruling class, but it left the old Tory base open to the Liberals. In the run-up to this election, therefore, the Tories sacrificed the economic need of the ruling class for a hard line to the political need of the Tory Party to retain its old base.

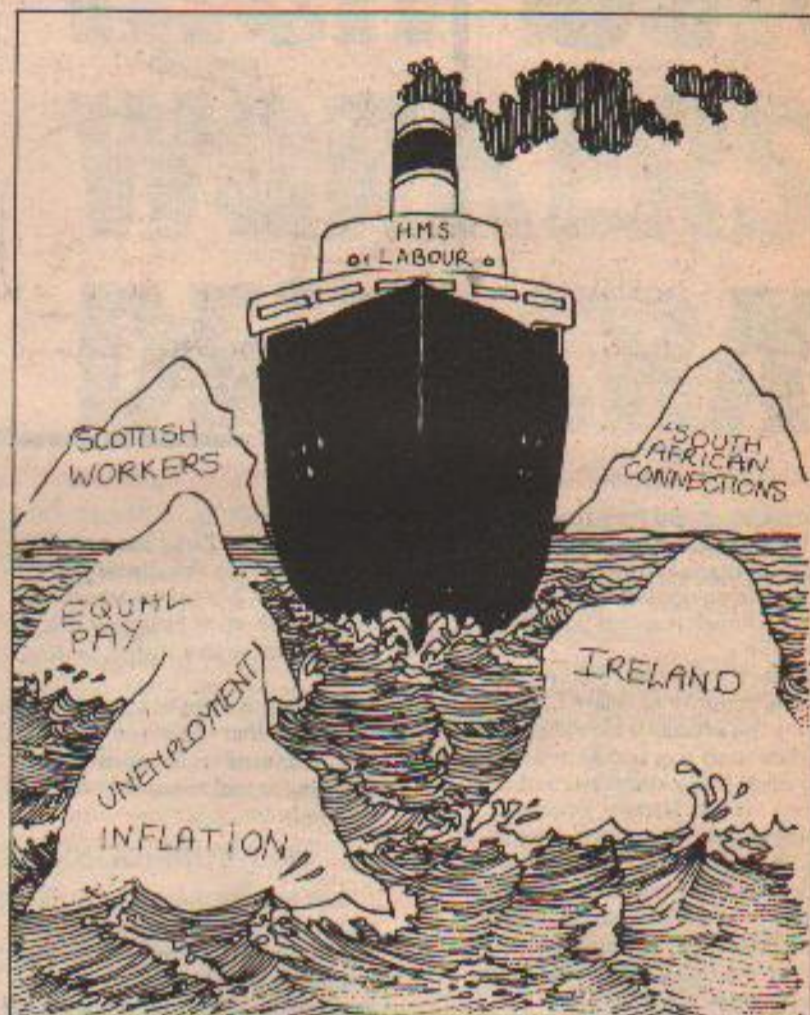
There is no doubt that if Heath hadn't reverted to all the old rubbish about 'National Unity' and had instead fought the election on a show-down type line, they would have been slaughtered at the polls. Even as it was, they were murdered by the SNP in Scotland and achieved their lowest vote of the century in the country as a whole.

More recently Sir Keith Joseph made a pathetic attempt to cobble together a 'political formula' for the economic hardliners, based on a crusade to save Britain's 'morality' by bashing the poor. But this attempt fell as flat as a pancake, and the Tories are back at square one.

LIBERALS

As for the Liberals, the Thorpe leadership took a very interesting turn. Sensing that the Tories' new 'softness' did not meet the needs of the ruling class, Thorpe flung himself headlong into a campaign to present himself as an alternative main party for the ruling class. On television Thorpe continually castigated the Tories for avoiding the real issues, and unashamedly advocated incomes policy.

There is no doubt that Thorpe made important gains in this way. The *Economist* and the *Sunday Times*, for example, openly support-



one could not. Heath and the Tories appeared merely as 'soulless' bureaucrats who, in the early period, openly announced that they would attack the working class.

Initially Heath succeeded in keeping together all the groups who traditionally backed the Tories because it looked as if his new economic policy would work. But once the spearhead of the attack on the working class was broken by the miners in

ed his policies—although they did continue to have doubts about the Liberals as a serious alternative to the Tories. But if Thorpe won over the ruling class, the problem remained that their policies are not politically acceptable to the working class or petit-bourgeoisie. Hence the Liberal Party achieved the feat of getting more support from the ruling class than ever before, but seeing its vote decline.

The run-up to the election, and the election itself, were defeats for both the Tory Party and the Liberal Party. But there is no doubt that important gains were made by two of the most politically dangerous representatives of the ruling class—the Scottish Nationalist Party and Enoch Powell.

The aim of the SNP was made crystal clear at this election. Based on a piratical section of the finance capitalists in Scotland, they are interested in getting the rake-off from the oil industry. This brings them into conflict with their big brothers in the City of London and therefore also with the Tory Party. So these Scottish bandits need their own state to protect them. To gain this they are prepared to throw a few short-term concessions in the direction of the working class.

Fundamentally, however, the SNP represents the most vicious section of the ruling class in Scotland, whose aim is a permanent weakening of the organisations of the Scottish working class. 'Scottish nationalism' is the ideology they use for this purpose.

While the working class in Scotland held off the offensive this time, the SNP has become the second most important party in Scotland. The treachery of the working class leaders will leave the SNP as a dagger aimed at the heart of the labour movement in Scotland.

PROSPECTS

Despite the small majority he achieved in his own seat, the election was also a roaring success for Powell. Although he still has some hurdles to overcome, he has succeeded in regrouping around him outside the Tory Party a mass reactionary base, access to huge funds, and a platform in Parliament.

His next aim is undoubtedly to penetrate still further into the workers' movement by forming a united front on the Common Market with sections of the trade union bureaucracy. By appearing in joint

campaigns with the likes of Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon, Powell will be given a further air of 'respectability' to spread his poisonous vapours inside the working class movement.

The prospects which face the ruling class after this election are very clear. Nothing can put the old ruling class bloc around the Tory Party back together again. The rebuilding of an effective ruling class bloc demands a new political formula to take on the workers' movement. The only answer which is viable is the racist, chauvinistic, demagogic of Powell—and in Scotland the nationalism of the SNP.

But 'Powellism' is a very dangerous option economically and politically, and the SNP can provide no answer for the dominant sections of the British ruling class.

For that reason the ruling class will not, in the short term, turn to such a solution. Several years will pass before Powell's day will dawn, but it is he who holds the only political formula for the ruling class. None of the other products on display can do the job.

The road the ruling class is travelling at the moment leads only to further disintegration of its dominant parties and alliances. Labour is too weak, too unreliable, and has too little control over the workers to be a practical alternative for the bourgeoisie for any length of time.

As the ruling class slowly begins to realise this, the 'Powellite' solution will be seen as the only politically viable one. A move in that direction, at first only by sections of the ruling class, will begin. Many bumbblings and combinations—Whitelaw, Joseph, reform of the electoral system, etc.—will doubtless be gone through before the day of Britain's 'Bonaparte' is arrived at.

But the severely wounded body of the old ruling class political bloc is beginning to rot, and as it does it provides a breeding ground for maggots even more disgusting than their Tory parents.

LETTERS

JEWS AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCISM

Tom Cameron's article (17 October 1974) on anti-semitism was, in its essentials, correct, although somewhat simplistic, since he fails to mention either the existence of the ghettos (in which Jews lived for 300 years) or the rise of political Zionism (which was a direct response to the existence of anti-semitism).

Clearly, to try and compress 2000 years of Jewish history into five columns is somewhat futile, but you are quite correct to warn of the dangers of anti-semitism. My organisation, which is in the vanguard of those Jews fighting the NF, has constantly warned of the dangers of fascism. Only a united struggle of the forces of the left and the Jewish people in this country will defeat fascism.

So much for the platitudes. Let us now look at the possibilities of creating such an alliance. It has to be recognised that the Jewish people outside Israel are, as Borochoff (the Marxist-Zionist theoretician) predicted, essentially middle class. They have no roots in the proletariat. Accordingly, this makes them especially vulnerable, since the ruling class will not hesitate to use fascism as a means of diverting the people's struggle away from them and against the Jews.

In addition to this problem, we have a situation in which Jews are oppressed not only by the ruling class but also by the Jewish establishment.

As if that isn't enough, the only real allies Jews would have in the struggle against fascism, namely your selves and the rest of the left, have decided to adopt anti-Zionism as part of your policy, thus completely alienating 95% of the Jewish community immediately!

Accordingly it's not surprising that Jews see the revolutionary left as much a threat as the fascists.

The object of this letter is merely to point out some of the problems facing the anti-fascist struggle. How to solve them is another matter. But I sincerely hope that your members will take the trouble to study the history of the Jewish people in order to (a) realise the 'ideological' basis of fascism and (b) to understand why the existence of Zionism and the creation of the State of Israel was an absolute historical necessity.

JOHN de FRECE (National Organiser, Mapam-Socialist Zionist Party).

We are of course in favour of united action with Jewish organisations in the fight against fascism. This in no way lessens our determination to fight also against Zionism, not only because of its role in the oppression of the Arab masses, but also because Zionism is itself an obstacle to advancing the anti-fascist struggle—Ed.

WRONG ON THE COMMUNIST PARTY?

As an appreciative *Red Weekly* reader, I regret to say I found your views of the Election incorrect as far as they concerned the Communist Party. However, my criticisms are directed even more to the CP, WRP and IS.

Your call for a vote for WRP candidates was entirely correct, and it is extremely regrettable that both WRP and IS (and CP) continue to be sectarian over the question of other left candidates.

However, I feel IMG is sectarian in relation to CP candidates. True, as you say, the CP programme is reformist. But the CP is more left wing and militant than the Labour Party — and many working class militants do see this. Furthermore, the mere fact of voting 'Communist'

with all the anti-Red brainwashing, would mark a step forward in political consciousness. I believe IMG should call for a vote for a CP candidate, while of course voicing all necessary criticisms.

At a time when the fascist National Front is growing it is criminal that the CP, IMG, WRP and IS cannot unite electorally in all constituencies where the NF stand i.e. one of CP/IMG/WRP/IS put up a candidate in opposition, and the other three call for a vote for the left candidate.

Not to call for a vote where, say, a CP candidate is standing and an NF is also standing, is, in my opinion, criminal sectarianism.

— N.L., Norwich

How to fight in the schools

I am writing in reply to Fred Draper's letter on 'Rebellion in the schools' in *Red Weekly*, 17 October. While the comrade raises some correct problems that we in the schools movement face, he in no way solves them.

The IMG fully recognises the danger that racism poses for school students. However we have not plunged in with the like militancy of comrade Draper, screaming 'Solidarity with the IRA'.

Instead, we have taken up the Irish question using issues that directly relate to school students. Several pickets have been held of army recruitment meetings, and schools have also been leafleted. That is not to say we are against raising this slogan in the schools — on the contrary. However it is only after having raised the Irish issue using questions that relate to school students that the solidarity slogan will have any impact.

Comrade Draper is of course absolutely correct when he says that the best way of combating racism in schools is for black and Irish militants to participate in and lead struggles. The April 1974 Brockwell Park Three strike was one of the best examples of this.

Then over 700 South London schools students came out on strike to protest against the sentencing of three black youths to a total of nine years in jail. This strike was jointly organised by the Black Students Action Collective and the National Union of School Students.

Recently Tulsa Hill Comprehensive was picketed to protest against the continued employment of a fascist teacher, and several schools have been leafleted, explaining to school students the fascist nature of the NF.

The question of the education cuts is also being taken up by school students throughout London and elsewhere. We are attempting to form local committees comprising school students, teachers, students and all others affected by the cuts. Happily most local NUT branches are more disposed to joint work with school students than ex-president Max Morris and his bureaucratic cronies, who have consistently refused to recognise the NUSS.

Comrade Draper's conclusion, however, can only lead to confusion. He says that the question facing school students is 'communism or fascism... Red Guards or stormtroopers'. While in an ultimate sense that is true, neither fascism for the capitalists nor communism for the working class are on the order of the day in the short term.

The bourgeoisie is, however, making considerable moves towards instituting a strong state. The increased use of racism by the bourgeoisie and the cuts in educational expenditure are both manifestations of this trend. Draper does not offer solution to the concrete problems facing school students, but instead prefers to yallow in abstract, souped-up militancy. —MIKE STEWART, Swiss Cottage NUSS

What happened at Warwick?

Red Weekly readers may have seen an article in the 'Student World' column of the *Morning Star* concerning the recent sit-in at Warwick University. We feel that your readers might be interested in what really happened.

The occupation began when the college authorities rejected the appointment of Jeff Staniforth as permanent secretary of the Students Union. To prevent us from paying his salary, they froze all Student Union funds.

We were faced with a clear issue of autonomy. If we gave in on this we could never hope to build a fighting union, independent of the University, and capable of defending students interests in the battles to come with the administration over prices, rents and accommodation.

Despite a call by the Union president for moderation, a Union meeting of over 600 voted decisively to occupy the new million pound Arts Centre. Nearly 2,000 students attended a Union meeting inside the occupation. Messages of support were coming in from other colleges.

From this position of strength, the Union executive—including its CP members—reached the shabbiest possible compromise with the university. The University agreed to give the union back its funds—money to which we were already entitled. In return, the Union was only to appoint Staniforth to a position dictated by the University—as financial controller.

The Union executive presented this settlement to the students as a 'victory', and the Communist Party made no attempt to dissociate themselves from it.

The real position was clear. The University had successfully asserted its right to interfere in the internal affairs of the Students Union, and we had retreated on the key demand of autonomy. Next time we clash with the authorities, they will be all the more confident.

A second mass union meeting of 2,000 voted to accept the settlement. But the vast majority of those students who had been actively involved

in the fight saw through the phoney 'victory' and argued in favour of escalating the action until we won. Over a third voted against the executive's proposal.

The *Morning Star* criticised the IMG and IS for demanding an 'autonomous occupation'—which they say would have limited active participation to the 200 occupiers. To this they counterposed the sovereignty of Union General Meetings.

But they misrepresent the position put forward by the IMG and IS, who called not for an autonomous occupation but for a *democratic* occupation. This meant daily mass meetings in the occupation, the democratic election of an occupation committee, and the principle that no settlement be made without ratification by a mass meeting.

The key question was not the constitutional one—it was the *political* question of the fullest possible democratic involvement by the largest possible number of students.

Once a Union meeting has decided to undertake a militant campaign of action, it has to hand over the running of the struggle to all those students prepared to actively argue that campaign.

That did not mean just the 200 who stayed in the occupation all night—it meant all those who were prepared to offer their practical support for the campaign by spending time in the sit-in, and by helping to win over their fellow students to support the struggle.

This kind of organisation of student struggles is an *extension* of union democracy not, as the CP suggest, a limitation of it.—MICHAEL BARKE, Warwick University.

THE REAL NAME

We are grateful for the coverage which you gave to our fight in your issue of 19 September. However, for the sake of accuracy I should point out that the mass picket outside the offices of Prebble & Co was not called by the Islington Tenants Campaign Defence Fund Committee, which has been set up as a body independent from the Campaign with the specific objective of raising money for the defence of the ten people being sued by Prebble & Co.

Further, the address of the Committee, which still calls for donations to defence costs, is 7 Barnsbury Park, London N1 1HH, and not in Liverpool Road.—G.McASKILL, Secretary, Islington Tenants Campaign Defence Fund Committee.

WHAT'S ON

SOCIALIST WOMEN in women's liberation are calling a meeting to discuss what women's groups are doing in London and to exchange information at North London Poly, Holloway Road, on 2 November at 2 pm. Creche provided.

HACKNEY RED FORUM on 'The role of fascism and racism, and the strategy for fighting them'—Tuesday 5 November at 7.45 pm in the Centreprise Bookshop (opposite ABC cinema, Kingsland High Street).

TYNESIDE Socialist Women's Action Group are holding a public meeting with trade union speakers to discuss the Working Women's Charter on Monday 4 November at the Bridge Hotel at 8.00 pm.

'BRITISH LEYLAND—An Economic Report', pamphlet on the background to the present crisis inside BLMC. 10p per copy, send cash with order to: 72 Cambridge Road, King's Heath, Birmingham.

NATIONALISATION or Expropriation?, second edition of pamphlet produced in 1973 by the Ligue Communiste, French section of the Fourth International. 10p per copy, send cash with order to: 72 Cambridge Road, King's Heath, Birmingham.

EDINBURGH CONFERENCE: Dossier of all report-backs, papers, demands, resolutions, etc. at 1974 women's conference is being prepared—please send to: Radical Women's Group, c/o Students' Union, University of Kent, Canterbury. Please type on A4 or foolscap stencils if possible. Also estimate of number of dossiers required would help.

LONDON RED FORUMS: Every Tuesday at 8pm in the General Picton pub, Caledonian Road (King's Cross tube).

HARROW/HILLINGDON Socialist Women's Group forum: 'Working Women's Charter—what will it do for you?' Monday 4 November at 8 pm in the Baptist Church Hall, College Road, Harrow. For more information, contact Gill at Ruslip 72345.

'PORTUGAL—What's happening now?' Lewisham IMG public meeting with speaker Robin Blackburn, Wednesday 6 November at 7 pm in Goldsmiths College, Lewisham Way, New Cross.

'BLOW FOR BLOW' the film plus speaker Dodie Wepler on the Working Women's Charter campaign—Lewisham IMG public meeting, Tuesday 12 November at 7.15 pm (film 7.45) in Goldsmiths College, Lewisham Way, New Cross.

LATIN AMERICAN FRONT presents 'Puerto Rico: Colony of the United States', with speaker Dr Jose Herrera Oropeza expert on the politics of oil in Latin America. Tuesday 5 November, at 7 pm in Architectural Association (top floor), 34 Bedford Square, London W.C.1. (Tottenham Court Road tube)

WORKERS FIGHT FORUM: 'Popular Front and Popular Unity—Spain and Chile', speaker Bas Hardy, Sunday 3 November, 8pm, at the 'George', Liverpool Road, N.1. (Angel underground)

'CAPITAL': A reading and discussion group on Marx's 'Capital' is being organised by supporters of Workers Fight. For details write to D. Russell, 15 High Ridge, Sydney Road, London N.10.



The 200 squatters and children in Elgin Avenue, Paddington, have won their High Court appeal against the GLC's mass eviction order. Spokesman Piers Corbyn (speaking above after the victory) said: 'We expect the GLC may now feel forced to negotiate with us, but we will maintain our barricades and anti-eviction forces in case they try new Court proceedings'. The Labour GLC must recognise that re-development involving mass evictions is no answer to homelessness.

Photo: PETER HARRAP (Report)

Grimy Victorian relics

for health workers

by Richard Owens
and
Janet Maguire



'We pay £6.79 a week rent for this.'

Leeds - United!

LEEDS UNITED by Colin Welland, produced by Kenneth Trodd, directed by Roy Battersby, BBC 1, Thursday 31 October, 9.25 pm.

No capitalist newspaper has ever supported a strike—unless of course it was a reactionary strike. But once the strike is over—and particularly if it has been defeated—the BBC is prepared to consider sympathetic documentaries or plays (though only if the playwright is fairly well-established).

Now Colin Welland has produced a play in the same tradition, though much more effective than any play I have previously seen on television.

Welland's theme is the strike of clothing workers in Leeds during January/February 1970. The bulk of the workers were women, many of whom had been working for decades in the industry.

The trade union bureaucracy had negotiated a national agreement which amounted to a complete sell-out, so the women at John Black & Co. Ltd. decided on direct action.

An unofficial strike was begun with an elected strike committee. Within days the strike had spread to the entire clothing industry.

BRILLIANT SCRIPT

The brilliant script and Roy Battersby's equally effective direction recapture the mood of the entire movement. Welland's passion for detail and his ability to reconstruct the meetings of the bosses, the trade union bureaucracy, the strike committee and the ordinary rank and file militants come over on the screen with devastating effect.

The CP shop steward Gridley will remind many comrades in factories of characters they have to deal with every day. The divisions among the bosses are also well portrayed.

The more intelligent boss is livid with the owner of John Black's for not giving in. He says

his line is more effective: give them a wage increase tied to a productivity deal, and thus strengthen the union so they can force the workers to accept lay-offs in the months to come.

LESSONS

The strike is finally defeated as a result of the machinations of the trade union bureaucracy and the CP, but the experience has been a lesson in itself. Where Welland is more effective than Allen is in portraying the richness of the lessons contained in the spontaneity of the masses.

In other words: workers involved in struggles have a much better idea of the tactics needed to strengthen their fight than many so-called communists. Where they fall down is precisely that they have no long-term view—no strategy.

The shop steward Maggie (portrayed by Elizabeth Spriggs) is an excellent militant. She hates the bureaucrats of whatever variety but a dependence on her centrist husband and the failure to elaborate an alternative to the bureaucracy means that at the end she sits helplessly as the strike is sold out.

Some questions arise: was any effort made by the strike committee to get support from other trade unions and local Labour councils? Was the obstinacy of the bosses related to the re-election of a Tory Government? Did any local Labour MPs take a stand on the strike?

CLASSIC

But these are relatively minor questions. Relative, that is, to what Welland is trying to put across. When all is said and done, *Leeds United* will become a TV working class classic.

It will educate many people and it should be used by teachers in schools and by socialists and women's groups, and that it is in moments like these that the hold of bourgeois ideas is immeasurably weakened.

by Tariq Ali

Labour leader James Callaghan recently said that Britain cannot afford to improve working class living standards, and will have to be content with trying to maintain them.

But Callaghan does not live in Ferndale Court in the London Borough of Lambeth, nor does he have to do the job of a hospital ancillary worker.

Mick O'Shea, a Transport and General Workers' shop steward at nearby King's College Hospital, asked us to visit Ferndale Court. He explained: 'A number of members of our union live in these flats. You hear all this stuff about safeguarding the nation's health, yet here are hospital workers being forced to live in the most unhealthy conditions.'

Mick introduced us to Mrs Mary Brown, who lives at 122 Ferndale Court—a grimy block of flats more reminiscent of a Victorian relic than Labour's 'new Britain'.

Mrs Brown showed us the three-bedroomed flat. 'It is not really three bedrooms—one of the rooms is so damp we just cannot use it. That means our five girls, who are aged 16, 11, 10, five and four, and our boy, who is eight years old all have to share a bedroom. Overcrowding means four children have to sleep head to toe in one bed.'

'All the rooms are very small. Damp is causing the paint to flake off the tiny bathroom's ceiling.'

'We have never had running hot water. Every time we need hot water we have to boil some. The children are always having colds.'

The boy of eight has bronchitis and has had to go into hospital twice for treatment. The eldest girl—because of these conditions—is having treatment for depression.'

'FEW MONTHS'

We asked Mrs Brown how long they had been at Ferndale Court. 'Well, we came here five years and two months ago. The Council told us it would just be for a few months and we are still waiting for a move.'

'They have only offered us one other place. That was in Railton Road. It had no running hot water, there was an outside toilet, and it was in a filthy condition.'

'We pay £6.79 a week rent for this. The rent of the place at Railton Road was £10.58 plus £4 rates. It was so bad and so expensive we just had to turn it down.'

'We have tried everything we can to get a decent place. Not only have we kept writing to the Council, but our doctor has also written on our behalf. Still nothing happens.'

£20 A WEEK

Mrs Brown explained: 'I get a gross wage of £20 a week for 37½ hours. After stoppages that leaves me with about £17. If I work overtime I might take home about £19 or £20.'

Mr Brown works on a building site on the concrete mixer, where he gets paid 61p an hour. He has to travel 23 miles there and back to work each day, and to earn anything like a living wage has to put in a 12-hour day.

Even with their joint incomes there is no chance that the Browns could buy a house. Nor could they possibly afford to rent a flat which could properly accommodate a family of eight at the rents charged by London's property dealers.

Mrs Brown is not an isolated case. Two other King's ancillary workers, shop steward Joyce Bernard and Hetti Edwards and their families

have been living in Ferndale Court for several years. Both were also assured by the Council that their stay at Ferndale Court would only be for 'a month or two'.

Mick O'Shea went on to explain to us that the shop stewards' committee at the hospital had written to the welfare officer at the Council on behalf of Mrs Brown.

'We intend to start a campaign for our members and other people in these flats. The union must be responsible not just for the wages and conditions of its members at work, but must fight for them on all these other issues too.'

BAD RECORD

The Labour controlled Borough Council in Lambeth is notorious for its bad record—some would say indifference—on the matter of housing. There is a waiting list of 15,000 in the Borough—a waiting list that swells by a further one thousand each year.

Despite this appalling waiting list, 800 houses, owned by the Council, stand empty. Unless many of these are occupied by squatters they are due to be pulled apart by local gangs.

The most dramatic move on the

...house or flat...that will be wind and rain tight but not necessarily up to the standard the Council would offer to permanent tenants. It will be offered under licence on the understanding that when it is required by the Council, the occupants will have to move to other similar short life property which the Council will make available.'

The Council's 'new' proposal is simply meant to skate over the problem at the expense of the low paid workers. People stuck into these properties will be overcrowded, pay high rents for inferior conditions, and have no chance of being housed from the housing lists.

In fact the experiences of Mrs Brown, Mrs Bernard, Mrs Edwards and the other tenants of Ferndale Court show exactly what happens to people who accept the Council's 'temporary' solutions.

As the Council goes running around seeking 'solutions', over 4000 houses owned by private landlords stand empty. But profit remains sacred to the Labour councillors in Lambeth, and nothing has been done to municipalise this property.

DIRECT ACTION

It is clear that the housing conditions of people at Ferndale Court and the other so-called 'short-stay blocks' in Black Prince Road and Edward Henry House will not be resolved by the policies of the Labour Council. In fact the crisis of capitalism—which Labour intends to solve by dishing out gigantic subsidies to private firms—means that there will be even less money for housing.



housing front made by the Council was its unsuccessful recent attempt to evict squatters from property in Villa and Wiltshire Roads.

This has obviously upset Colin Blan, Chairman of the Housing Committee. He has called on the Labour Government to 'act without delay to bring about a change in legislation so that illegal squatters in permanent council accommodation can be immediately evicted.'

Having failed to get one lot of squatters out, Mr Blan hopes the Labour Government will make sure that he succeeds next time. The presence of squatters in 108 of the Council's permanent houses and flats obviously gives Mr Blan some sleepless nights.

After a lot of head-scratching, the normally lethargic councillors have come up with some 'solutions'. Their 'brainwave' is to offer a

The move by the King's shop stewards' committee to take up the fight on behalf of their members is therefore very important. Other stewards' committees, union branches and tenants' committees, should join the King's shop stewards in that fight.

The past years have shown that the Lambeth Council do not intend to take any serious action to solve the housing problem. Such action must now come from the local labour movement.

A campaign to occupy all empty property in the Lambeth area should be started. Occupations should be defended by working class actions such as mass pickets and strikes.

Direct action should be used to force the local Council to municipalise rented property in the Borough, and carry through a genuine programme of rebuilding and repair.

If you are a militant in the AEU, your eyes will probably be focussed on the debate in the national committee this weekend. PAUL SMITH explains that the importance of the discussion, around the nature of the AUEW's claim to be presented to the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and then to the employers for 1975, means that more than just the AUEW is involved.

A look at the wage claims coming up, and those being fought now, shows two glaring problems. First the energy of the workers' movement is being used up in ragged, decentralised struggles. And second, no major group—with the fading possibility of the NUM—has the weight to pull this fight together.

The key to this is that the social contract has not been clearly smashed. This is not just because its woolly limits can be expanded or contracted at will by embarrassed ministers, but because no big sector has launched an all-out national fight for a substantial wage claim.

The result of all this has been a spread of claims and a rash of struggles. The AEU claim is therefore a watershed for millions of workers, at least on these issues. The Labour Government will certainly want it to be curtailed by the Government will certainly want it to be curtailed by the social contract—and seen to be curtailed by the rest of the working class.

GAME

So far Scanlon appears to want to play Wilson's game right down the line. His demand is for a consolidation of the basic rate for skilled and unskilled of 20 per cent. He argues for this in terms that it does not increase our

standard of living but holds it steady, and therefore it is within the social contract.

Acceptance of this proposal would mean an extra £6.40 odd on the basic rate of skilled workers, bringing them to about £38.40 a week. But even Wilson's game is not good enough for the bosses. They need their workers to accept a cut in living standards. The fact that the nervous Labour Government cannot move to this line without a prospect of being toppled does not engage their sympathy.

Meanwhile the militants are playing the numbers game. Their demand is likely to be for £18 for skilled, and the same proportion for unskilled. Whatever claim finally comes out of this weekend's deliberation is certain to set the corridors of power buzzing with discussion. It will meet with the same reaction in the workers' movement.

EFFECTS

A big claim would have some immediate effects. It would be less easy for George Smith of UCATT to complete his stumbling run to the right on the big builders' claim (107 per cent for skilled, 87 per cent for unskilled). And it would set up a model for groups like the local government workers to aim for in their own forthcoming pay struggles.



The real issue, inside and outside the AEU, is organisation of the claim and the fight. The impact of a claim which included the demand for permanent protection from inflation, through a nil norm threshold would be dramatic.

All the waffle of the social contract supporters would be immediately undercut. Low paid workers would see a formula protecting all workers' wages. A general offensive against the bosses, on a united basis, would gather steam.

BACK-OFF

More immediately important, however, is whether Scanlon will be allowed to lead his third back-off from a national fight. All the talk last time about not showing our cards and just passing an enabling motion allowing action 'up to and including

a national strike' was shown to be baloney.

The embarrassment of the Communist Party at the national gathering of engineering convenors at this time was so thick you could cut it. They had the facts about Scanlon and the EC's retreat, and they had the weapon in their hands to reverse it. But the sacred alliance with the left bureaucracy—even in belt-and-suspenders retreat—won the day again.

This time any serious militant must get the commitment to prepare for all-out strike action written in as the first line. And preparations for that must take place in the months to come. It would then be clear that the gloves were off in the workers' movement as a whole. A very necessary lead would have been given.

The see-saw struggle over the National Coal Board productivity deal continues. BOB PENNINGTON looks at the decision of the Yorkshire miners to throw out the pit-by-pit productivity deal, and spells out what their decision entails.

If Yorkshire and Scotland stand firm against the productivity deal the executive majority of 14 votes for, to 11 against will look a little sick. The 11 votes cast against represent a majority of union members. The Yorkshire delegates, well aware of Gormley's phoney majority, spelt this out in the resolution put to their delegate meeting on 29 October.

WARNED

A unanimous vote of the delegates warned the NCB that they would 'retaliate' if the Coal Board continues to distribute 'propaganda' on the productivity deal to individual miners.

The Yorkshire meeting also called for a substantial wage increase. Their spokesperson Arthur Scargill said he thought '£5,000 a year for face workers would be in line with what was needed.' His apt comment on the social contract was: 'The only qualm I have about the social contract, is that there is a social contract.'

The decision of the Yorkshire miners, a decision likely to get the support of the Scottish, Welsh and Kent miners, could lead to a fierce

battle in the NUM. Gormley the right-wing president and devoted fan of the social contract and a keen believer in productivity deals said on radio: 'What I am more concerned about is getting this 120 million tons of coal which we have promised the Government.'

Acceptance of Gormley's line will lead to the breaking of the national unity which was built up in the 1972 and 1974 strikes. In the meantime, as Scargill reported, the NCB intends to close down a whole series of pits once the productivity deal has been got through.

CLOSED

He says that most pits in Durham and Scotland will be closed. The rest of the remaining Cumbrian pits would go. Northumberland would lose most of its pits and the South Wales coalfield would be reduced to nothing. Even Lancashire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire and the Midlands would not be exempt from the NCB chopping axe.

The fight in the NUM is essentially about defending miners' jobs. Yorkshire and the other coalfields against the new deal must mount a campaign right through the coalfields. That means a fight to win the rank and file away from the right-wing leaderships in the other coalfields.

WOMEN STRIKERS WIN 'IMPOSSIBLE' VICTORY

The strike at Wingrove and Rogers in Liverpool has ended in victory.

The 125 women strikers are going back after 18 weeks of a bitter, weary struggle. They achieved a victory everyone thought was impossible: every woman is going back to work with a written promise of no victimisations, and they got a £3.50 rise even though the strike was only called for the then £1.20 threshold.

The only thing the AUEW did for this strike was to make it official. After four months the union saw it was time to do something to save face and end the unnecessarily long struggle. Once the elections were over they fixed a date for a one-day area strike—and Wingroves immediately crumbled. The AUEW only postponed the strikes until negotiations were completed.

The victory at Wingroves was due to the perseverance of the women. It was clearly won despite the official leaderships. The strike, in many ways a parallel of the defeated SEI strike in Manchester, could

easily have been sold down the river, had the women not organised extensive blacking throughout Liverpool and other cities, collected massive donations by visiting factories in the area, and publicised the strike. They explained why the strike should be supported by all trade unionists, and during the October election campaign publicly demanded support from Labour candidates.

This struggle of women workers contains a number of extremely important lessons. It shows that women must be prepared to be active to organise themselves to campaign throughout the labour movement getting support and explaining why their struggle is in the interest of all workers. It shows the necessity of national support campaigns, and for women to explain their actions and involve other women workers in order to strengthen this particularly weak section of the working class.

During the strike police were acting for the management trying to intimidate the pickets, while the AUEW looked the other way. The first large-scale involvement of the police took place on the same week as Ford's pickets were arrested by the SPG—so the AUEW could hardly say it couldn't happen to men in major sectors of industry and the unions!

Airbus work-in defies bosses' orders

Workers at the Lucas Aerospace plant factory in Wolverhampton have seized a file of 50 drawings and designs of the Hawker Siddeley HS-146 Airbus.

Lucas stopped all work on the drawings after Hawker Siddeley scrapped all work on the Airbus. The TASS shop stewards' committee have issued a statement saying the designs were 'withdrawn from the company's hands...'

The Lucas workers have acted in support of about 100 workmates at the Hawker Siddeley factory in Manchester who are continuing work on the designs. A workers' take over of the factory was staged in order to get hold of the blueprints.

At the Hawker Siddeley factory in Brough, Hull, workers are continuing work on the HS146 in defiance of the company's order to stop all work.

DECISION

The decision to begin the 'work-in' was taken by delegates from the three Hawker Siddeley plants at Brough, Hatfield and Manchester following their meeting with Benn on Friday. Benn told the delegation that in the government's view the 146 project was still as viable as it was a year ago, in spite of the fact that in the short term sales prospects were not as good as expected.

It was the only new civil airlines project on the drawing board at the moment, and Hawkers' decision had been taken unilaterally. Asked about nationalisation, Benn said that it would not be possible to get any nationalisation measures through immediately. In view of this statement, the unions decided to 'work-in' until such time as nationalisation was practicable.

At a mass meeting last week at Brough, members of AUEW, TASS, APEX, ASTMS, etc. employed by Hawker Siddeley voted overwhelmingly to support the work-in decision. Workers are occupying the factory's design offices to prevent the company from destroying the plans of the 146—as happened in the case of the TSR2 project. The workers correctly fear that as soon as the company decides that nationalisation is on the cards, it will do its best to sabotage the airliner project. It is to be hoped that this example of the implementation of workers' control as a necessary prelude to nationalisation will be taken up elsewhere.

At Brough 34-40 workers, mostly TASS members, were expecting to be made redundant at the end of this week, but several hundred are threatened nationally. And there are also more general fears of redundancies at Hawker Siddeley this winter. With this in mind, the unions also decided to allow no more work to be subcontracted out from the factory, and to call in all present subcontracts.

WORK TO RULE

APEX members at Brough have added to the company's difficulties in recent weeks by imposing a selective work to rule (especially in the stores and in relation to computing facilities) and other sanctions which have made a part of the shop-floor workforce idle. This dispute, which is about a pay claim, has highlighted a new militancy among the clerical workers, shown for instance in their first ever one-day strike. APEX have been supported by other unions and relations between the different groups of workers are better than at any time since the 1972 strike by the Brough engineers, when APEX members crossed AUEW picket lines.

In general the situation is an explosive one. There is a feeling among workers' leaders at Brough that Sir Arnold Hall and the Hawker Siddeley board are so enraged about the possibility of nationalisation that they will be prepared to allow the firm to go to rack and ruin rather than hand it over gracefully. If the workers get wind of such an attitude on management's part, the demand is very likely to go up for an occupation, immediate nationalisation and kick out the management.



Only united fight can save these men's jobs—NCB plans to wipe out South Wales coalfield. COLIN GROVES looks at Labour's latest 'union bashing' scheme.

In an astonishing proposal made on Monday, Labour Minister Michael Foot launched a new, partially started-up, version of *In Place of Strife*.

The proposal is to set up a 'sup-

er tribunal' which would 'try' cases of workers expelled from their trade unions by fellow union members.

Foot's fear is that the 'closed shop', won by the trade union movement and now to be recognised in law, actually will be put into practice. This new court will have other duties, dealing with unfair dismissals and other provisions of Labour's Trade Union Bill. The proposal that it should oversee the normal functioning of the trade unions has been smuggled in to prevent the court looking too 'pro-trade union' in the House of Commons.

This must be the funniest thing Foot has come up with in his long and 'witty' career. The principle at stake for the workers' movement is rather less funny. If this proposal is accepted then a basic element of control by workers over their own organisations will be lost to the capitalist state.

So far, the only response from the trade union bureaucrats has been a remark from TUC General Secretary Murray that some place could be found for Foot's scheme.

The fight against the Industrial Relations Act was a fight which involved the struggle for the right of the closed shop. If Foot and Murray get their way, it would now be surrendered without a whimper.

International Marxist Group

(British section of the Fourth International)

97 Caledonian Rd., London N.1.



I would like more information about the IMG and its activities

NAME

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New showdown at Kent University

ESSEX UNIVERSITY called them 'wreckers'; while at Kent they were 'International Marxist hooligans'. Now Sir Keith Joseph coins the phrase 'left wing bully boys'. Who are they referring to?

At Essex the wreckers were the hundreds of students who occupied the administration to demand lower prices and rents; the same students who were later systematically attacked and arrested on a picket line by over 200 police. At Kent the hooligans can only be the 600 students who occupied, and thus won the reinstatement of a victimised student.

Sadly for Sir Keith, the 'left wing bully boys' seem to be growing. With over fifty colleges taking some form of direct action this term, culminating in a demonstration of 2,500 in Birmingham last Wednesday, Sir Keith certainly has cause for concern.

'NO MORE CUTS'

The demonstrators in Birmingham, marching against further cuts in education spending, and taking up the slogan of 'freeze prices, freeze rents, no more cuts at our expense', gave warning that the fight against the erosion of students' living standards will continue. The presence of Pat Hickey, a local UCATT convenor, on the platform symbolised the need for a common fight by students, college and building workers against education on the cheap and for more buildings and better conditions.

If the campaign against the cuts is to be maintained, then no section of students or college workers can afford to be defeated. If the authorities can impose the cuts in one college, then others will take heart and follow suit. Hence a defeat on any issue for any section of students will have the effect of weakening the ability of students nationally to respond to 'education on the cheap' policies.

Kent University is again the scene for attempts by the authorities to expel students. Three social science students have been victimised for boycotting examinations last term. The administration have chosen this issue for a showdown.

They want to break the Students Union. They can no longer tolerate the existence of a militant, strongly organised,

Union which will struggle against their efforts to make students pay for the cash crisis they face.

The Kent Vice-Chancellor, while making the annual plea of 'don't rock the boat', recognised the link between the clamp-down and the cash crisis when he said: 'Those who get involved in these sort of things...are victims of their education and of the general climate of society.' The authorities also realise they are playing for high stakes. They have

threatened to close the University in the event of an occupation.

TIP OF ICEBERG

However, the clamp-down on student direct action, the victimisations, the use of the courts, and the police violence at Essex and Oxford last term, are the tip of an iceberg. This iceberg is now threatening to melt, drowning students and workers with a flood of moves to increase the strength of the state.

The use of the Special Patrol Group; the joint army-police manoeuvres; the goading of flying pickets and anti-fascists; the raids and harassment of the left and Irish republicans—these are all indications of what the future holds in store. It is

in this light we have to see the attacks against weak sections of society like students.

It is for this reason that we must condemn the remarks of NUS President, John Randall, when he added his weighty voice to the chorus whipping up feeling against student direct action. His speech earlier this term, lashing the wreckers who took direct action to defend their living standards, differed very little from the remarks of Annan in his whitewash to the Essex authorities.

Obviously Randall cannot openly join forces with the likes of Annan—he has to think of his voting base. But what he hopes to do is to cement a moderate alliance to police militant action from

within. He wants to do the State's job for it.

A defeat for the Kent students, who have been in the forefront of student struggles over the past three years, would be a national defeat. The Kent Students' Union have called a national demonstration on the Canterbury campus for next Wednesday, 6 November. The authorities have already pleaded with the students to call off this action—they do not want Kent to become a focus of publicity. Students, all over the country, must make sure that next Wednesday that is exactly what it becomes.

Ric Sissons



Thousands of building workers marched through Birmingham on Wednesday 23 October—the same day as 2,500 students also demonstrated in the city. The failure to link up the two was a missed opportunity in terms of building a joint campaign.

Bob Findley and Will Rich appear in the Chelmsford Crown Court this week.

They are charged with 'criminal damage' arising from the smashing of windows at Essex University last academic year.

The window smashing charge is clearly being used as a pretext to frame these two IMG militants, who played a leading role in last year's struggle at Essex. Such a frame-up is no new experience for Will Rich. He was expelled for his part in the occupation, but then re-instated after student action.

Student direct action protected these militants last term. The state is trying to victimise them again, but from a different angle. In the context of the increase in state repression against the left it is essential that these two militants are defended.

'We won't pay' say Sussex students

'Subsidise rents and put up all homeless students'.

That is what Sussex students told the vice-chancellor, Asa Briggs, last year. They occupied the administration and he duly obliged.

The same situation has arisen again. Briggs has put prices up 12 per cent, proposes to increase rents by 28 per cent and have increased the rents of students

living in town guest houses, and has refused to fully register those still on rent strike fighting for a rent freeze.

Last Tuesday 550 students at a union meeting decided to occupy the administration building for the second year in succession. They want subsidies for guest house tenants; the dropping of rent and price rises and the registration of all students.

The housing problem is not just a campus problem for Brighton with nearly

3,000 families on the council waiting list. Realising this the students have called a demonstration on 9 November in the town with the homeless, students, tenants, and trade unionists. (An important factor in the students' victory last year was the support from the local labour movement.)

During the debate on the call for an occupation a member of the Federation of Conservative Students said that Britain could not afford to meet such demands. Sussex students gave the speaker the answer. They certainly do not intend to be made to pay for a cash crisis which they did not produce.

Translated it means victory

Last week another management in the private language school business decided to have a go at union militants.

This comes just five weeks after a successful strike at the St. Giles School of Languages forced the reinstatement of Michael Cunningham, Chairman of the language teachers' branch of the General & Municipal Workers' Union.

The victims this time were the staff representative and his main assistant at the Cambridge School in London. They were accused of persistent lateness, despite alleged warnings (which were never put in writing), and threatened with the sack.

Pressure from the union eventually forced the management of the school to accept conciliation. Meanwhile other teachers were rallying round and coming out on strike, or promising to do so if Bendall and Pidoux were not promptly reinstated without loss of pay, and strong support was provided by the students.

On Friday of last week (25 October) management finally agreed to take the teachers back.

The next step is for the union to go straight back into the school to complete negotiations for union recognition.

Teachers in the private language school business were intimidated only recently (in May of this year) but are responding well to the pressures of frightened management. In an industry where profits are high and working conditions appalling (low wages, little security of tenure, pitiful sick-pay schemes), teachers are fighting back. Management is finding it increasingly difficult to get rid of union activists, and the union is gaining in strength with every attempt to dislodge it.

John Earl

FUND DRIVE £792

That's the total of our £2000 Red Weekly Fund Drive to date. Our thanks this week go to Greenwich IMG—£33.60, Bristol IMG—£20, Tottenham IMG—£21, and Swansea IMG—£5. And £5 from a supporter in Copenhagen—readers say our coverage of the international class struggle is second to none, and we are proud to receive international support.

Every day our costs increase. Last Sunday police attacked the Troops Out demo dragging off several comrades. Every penny that is stolen from the IMG by the police and courts is a penny less for Red Weekly. All donations to Red Weekly Fund Drive, 97 Caledonian Road, London N.1

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