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3d.

The Crisis in  
Br. Honduras  
Explained

(See article p. 2)

## MORE TORY ATTACKS ON RENT CONTROL

THE Labour Government added Regulation 68CB to the Defence Regulations. This gave local authorities extra powers to house workers in property where accommodation was available if the householder or tenant wished either to sublet or to take in lodgers.

If the landlord objected, or even if there was any provision to the contrary, in any lease or tenancy between the landlord and householder, the local authority was able to grant permission. The local authority entered "the accommodation and terms in the register..."

Thousands of these registered lettings were agreed to throughout the country, especially in the towns, during the term of the Labour Government. On 7th December, 1952, Regulation

hundred registered lettings. About 750 new units of accommodation are being built this year and there are nearly 10,000 families on the waiting list. Local authorities will consequently have yet another burden put on to them which may be impossible to solve.

The revocation of Regulation 68CB, required so as to fulfil just one clause of the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill indicates one of the main objectives of the Bill. The Rent Restriction Acts are under attack.

### MORE EXAMPLES

Not only are the Rents Acts amended in this respect, but in Clause 28 of the Bill, lettings by local authorities, development corporations, housing associations and trusts are excluded from the Rent Acts. For example, working class families living in Peabody and Guinness Trust buildings, with 6 months of the passing of the Act have no protection ("shall not be entitled... to retain possession as a statutory tenant"). These families can be evicted or have their rents increased without even the conditions laid down in the other parts of the Bill (biased though they are in favour of the landlords).

More than ever is it necessary for the N.E.C. and Parliamentary Labour Party to take the fight against the Bill from the House of Commons and mobilise the opposition of the entire labour movement including labour-controlled Local Authorities. If the Bill becomes an Act it will strengthen the Tories in what is now their obvious intention—to smash the whole structure of the Rent Acts.

*Cllr. D. Finch*

### Change of Address

The new address of the Socialist Outlook to which all correspondence should be addressed is

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68CB was revoked by the Tories, but accommodation already registered by local authorities under the Regulation, still remained protected.

The Tory Minister of Housing and Local Government has recently (12th Feb.) issued Circular 10/54, which warns Councils that the Regulation is to be completely revoked by December, 1954.

Whereas the Regulation (Paragraph 4) had stated categorically that the householder was protected by law against actions by landlords for breach of covenant, the Circular states just as explicitly, that there will be no legal protection when Regulation 68CB is revoked. Accordingly, the tenants concerned "may become responsible to their landlords for breaches of the terms under which they hold their tenancies."

### SUB-TENANTS' DANGER

In short, the householders are likely to find themselves outside the protection of the Rents Acts should they permit registered sub-tenants to remain after December of this year. The sub-tenants will not be covered by the Rents Acts either, should they continue in occupation.

Provision for this action to be taken is made in the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill (clause 36). In explaining the clause the Circular is quite explicit and states that if the clause is accepted by Parliament, the occupants of registered lettings still existing when the Regulation is revoked will not enjoy security of tenure under the Rent Restriction Acts.

The obvious purpose is to allow the fixing of a higher standard rent for the whole dwelling. This is admitted in clause 36 of the Rents Bill which declares that the Rents Acts will not apply to registered lettings until there is a subsequent letting after a "fresh standard rent" has been imposed (my emphasis).

To protect themselves from eviction, tenants must inform their registered sub-tenants to find alternative accommodation as soon as possible and certainly no later than December.

With thousands on the waiting lists of local authorities where are the new homeless to find alternative accommodation? In Lambeth, for example, there are two

# German Workers Oppose Rearmament British Labour MUST Support Them

DO you want to be a soldier? A Public Opinion organisation recently asked this simple question of 1,500 young West Germans. *Seventy-one per cent. answered... No!*

In the German Labour Movement today anybody who wants to retain the slightest influence must publicly voice opposition to both German re-armament and the so-called "European Defence Community". For this reason, Herr Ollenauer, the leader of the German Social Democrats (Labour) Party defied all pressures and cast his vote against at the recent Con-

ference of the Socialist International which debated E.D.C. and German Re-armament.

Only those who have been taken in by fifteen years of anti-German propaganda will be surprised at the existence in West Germany of a mass working class opposition to capitalist militarism. Those who know the true history of German Labour will not be surprised at all.

### HISTORICAL REMINDER

They will know that the carefully-built up picture of the German workingman as some sort of congenital fascist thug was a

### By the Editor

piece of war propaganda pure and simple.

Since the end of the First World War, the German workers twice took up arms—in 1918 and again in 1923—to overthrow the hated German industrialists. Having realized that Parliament could no longer be relied upon to keep peace between Capital and Labour, the Krupps and the Thyssens of German industry financed Hitler's gangs of middle-class hooligans, trained them and let them loose on the great Labour Movement.

The German workers were, in fact, the first victims of German Fascism.

Now, after twenty long years of

Fascist terror which culminated in a disastrous war, poverty, death and destruction, German Labour has arisen again. And, as if to confound all those "socialists" who preached hatred of the Germans as such, German Labour is today right in the forefront of the struggle against world reaction's dastardly attempt to unite all its forces—American, British, French and German—in a war to win back for capitalist exploitation, Russia, China, and the countries of Eastern Europe, including Eastern Germany, which have been torn from the plundering rule of private capital.

The East German workers—despite their expressed hostility to the dictatorial regime have shown absolutely no desire to exchange a planned economy for the insecurity of the profit-making system. Adenauer's "liberation" forces—if ever they are permitted to march—will be bitterly resisted by Germans in Eastern Germany! In the West, the workers are flatly opposed to the creation of a capitalist army of "liberation".

### A BETRAYAL

Seen against this background, support by British Labour for the re-arming of German capital is, first of all, a gross betrayal of our fellow workers in Germany.

It is a rejection of unity with the German workers in favour of unity with the German capitalists. It is a murderous violation of international working-class solidarity in favour of support for international capitalist reaction. For, make no mistake about it, despite differences of opinion among French capitalists, the men of property, the industrialists and the bankers of all the Western Powers are in favour of German re-militarisation.

All of them are united because all of them fear the revolution which, since the end of World War Two, has broken out of the distorting straight-jacket of an isolated Soviet Union, spread to China, S. E. Asia and Eastern Europe and now presses relentlessly on the bankrupt capitalist economies of France, Italy and Britain.

It was not Stalin, nor is it Malenkov, who planned this extension of the revolution. It is, primarily, the utter inability of "private enterprise" to offer the workers, either at home or in the colonies, anything except wars and the preparations for wars.

Opposition to the re-armament of Adenauer's Government is obligatory on all socialists. But to defeat the reactionary plans of Eisenhower and Churchill (of which German Re-armament is but a part) it is necessary that our opposition be now extended into a vigorous resistance to British re-armament, for Churchill's guns point East as well.

### —here's one of the reasons why!

The ancient city of Cologne after British 'saturation' bombing



## Lessons of the E.T.U. Strike

### Victory—But at a Price

ELECTRICIANS employed in the contracting industry have obtained a 2d. an hour increase and the employers have dropped their infamous proposal to reduce overtime rates. This victory was gained only after a magnificent nine-week strike.

Why did it take the employers nine weeks (from January 6th to March 9th) before they were agreed to terms which the Union had proposed in the first place?

In a large measure, of course, the success of the strike, the uncertainty as to the fulfilment of the employers contracts and the weakening of many small contractors, some of whom had signed agreements with the E.T.U., was responsible. But there is another reason.

### ENGINEERS' CLAIM AT STAKE TOO

The electrical contractors were in the front line of the employers' effort to defeat the Engineering Wages claim of 15 per cent. which would have been greatly influenced by any increase made to the contracting electricians.

They received the full support of the Engineering employers. "I have a fellow feeling for you," said Sir Percy Mills, engineering boss, and this "comradely" relationship was obviously cemented by more tangible financial support.

The employers had obviously calculated that an acceptance by the E.T.U., after an exhausting struggle, but before the Engineer-

ing Union had reached a final decision, would induce, not only the Engineering Unions but all other unions with wage claims pending, to accept the shabby minimum recommended by the Court of Enquiry.

Thus the increase, which will cost the Contracting Employers only £15,000 per week in increased wages, is the forfeit that the em-

### By An E.T.U. Member

ployers as a whole were prepared to pay to defeat the claim for 15 per cent., the real stake involved in the contracting electricians' dispute.

### SOME LESSONS

Since the first phase of the industrial battle which was opened by the threat of a national rail strike in December, 1953, the employers, together with the Tory Government, have manoeuvred with consummate skill and class solidarity. The same cannot be said of the T.U.C. and the Engineering Unions.

They left the E.T.U.'s contracting electricians to engage in an isolated battle, and called off the ban on overtime and piecework, to enter the Court of Enquiry, at the very time when the E.T.U. was counting on the support of the big T.U. battalions.

Nor is the E.T.U. leadership it-

self absolved from the same criticism, although of course it demonstrated incomparably greater fighting spirit.

The powerful Engineering and Supply sections of the E.T.U., who have far greater strategic weight than the contracting electricians, and whose active assistance could have shortened the strike, were merely asked to give financial assistance.

While the E.T.U. confined the strike to a small section of its membership it can hardly be wondered that sympathetic action by the other unions was merely confined to sites affected by the strike.

It is certainly true, however, that had the E.T.U. enlarged the strike, they would also have provoked the T.U.C. into citing this as "evidence" of a "Communist attempt to disrupt the economy of the nation."

### RANK AND FILE FIRM

Yet the real answer to all these hesitations was shown by the amazing rank and file response to the E.T.U.'s strike action.

From the contracting electricians themselves whose discipline and high morale throughout the strike wrote a glorious page in militant working class history. From the Trade Union branches, Trades Councils, and Labour Parties, who utterly ignored the "red herring" propaganda of the capitalist press and solidarised

themselves one hundred per cent. with the E.T.U.'s fight.

### SUPPORT FROM OTHER UNIONS

Whilst the Beaverbrook and Rothermere press were pouring out their vicious slanders, trade unionists from all sections donated the staggering sum of £1,231 2s. 7d. to the E.T.U. strike fund.

The E.T.U. was flooded by messages of support, so much so that Strike Bulletin No. 9 on the last week of the strike published five pages of messages and donations, and added... "The volume of support is growing daily from ever-widening sections of the Trade Unions and Labour Movement."

It is clear that, in complete contrast to the Right Wing T.U.

● Continued on page 4

## German Rearmament is PROFITABLE

### War Stocks Rise in West Germany

War stocks are a good investment in West Germany today. Here is a selection of prices of the stocks of several firms engaged on re-armament projects:

	July 24, 1953	Sept. 30, 1953	Jan. 28, 1954
IG Farben	89.50	99.70	141.50
Siemens Electric	109.50	134.00	151.00
AEG Electric	86.25	109.00	119.00
Kloekner Steel	198.00	258.50	279.00





**George Padmore**

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