SCHOOL WORKER for workers control and international socialism

Tinkers: new scoop for slums and high rents

From COLIN FALCOVER

BIRMINGHAM: A vicious campaign waged against a small group of tinker families ended on Sunday when 100 police and 50 bailiffs evicted them from their site at Balsall Heath. Council workers moved in with bulldozers and a ditching machine to prevent other travellers from making the same intrusions. The tinkers are now being housed in a city residence.

As soon as they left Birmingahm they were told they would not be allowed to camp in neighboring areas. In March a match to the site of the tinkers' camp was led by Mr. Denis Bowley, Labour's Minister for 'Housing', who is a Birmingahm councillor.

And on Monday, the Tory Party, which controls Birmingahm council, held a press conference in the city's local primary school that had been the centre of the conflict.

Some months ago the travellers moved their caravans on to waste land in Balsall Heath, near the primary school. The site had been owned by local traders and the council refused to provide it.

Parents of 250 children boycotted the school. They accused the council of being a host to a child pervert. But yesterday they demanded their evictions by the council without delay.

No issue has aroused greater concern than that of Enoch Powell's notorious attempt to rid the district of all shades jumped on the back of the 'anti-social housing' movement. The travellers are the people responsible for the government's willingness to support the scheme of Birmingahm council that the low-income families of Balsall Heath cannot afford. One local councillor said: "This must be one of the worst mistakes of my life.""

FOLLOW

The tinker's case is one of the many that will be allowed to proceed without protest from local authority bailiffs and police. Birmingahm council has already made 100 arrests of tinkers from the south of England. The tinker's case is an example of the need for new council housing that the council in Balsall Heath cannot afford.

The council's action is unprecedented and the council's housing department has called for a fresh look at the situation. The council would be required to take action to remove the travellers and divide the ground into plots for families.

Meetings have been arranged to discuss the situation with the police and the council. The meetings have been arranged on the condition that the council itself will take action to remove the travellers.

Barbed wire versus students

OFFICIALS at Homay College, London, have erected barbed wire all at strategic points on the college's grounds to deter students who have been stealing bicycles and radios.

Last year 500 students were reported to have been involved in the thefts. The college authorities have now installed a network of 50 barbed wire fences around the college in an attempt to prevent further thefts.

On May 28 the students took over the college and destroyed the fences. They have also threatened further action if the barbed wire is not removed.
LETTERS

The following letter was sent to a member of the Socialist Worker paper in Czechoslovakia.

You think it deserves a wider audience. The letter was written by a woman in Czechoslovakia who, like many others, is finding it difficult to live on the low wages that she was used to earning before the Fall of 1989.

To: [Name]

From: [Name]

Subject: The Time of Darkness is Coming to Czechoslovakia

Dear [Name],

I am writing to you today to express my concern about the current situation in Czechoslovakia. The economic collapse and political instability that have followed the Fall of 1989 have left many people feeling uncertain about their future.

The economic situation in Czechoslovakia is dire. The country is facing a serious economic crisis, with high unemployment and low wages. Many people are struggling to make ends meet and are struggling to pay their bills.

The political situation is also uncertain. The country is facing a lot of pressure from international financial institutions to implement austerity measures, which are likely to further deepen the economic crisis.

I am worried about the future of my country. I believe that the government should be doing more to address the economic crisis and provide support to those in need. I also believe that the government should be doing more to address the political instability and provide a clear political direction.

I hope that you will consider these concerns and take action to help improve the situation in Czechoslovakia. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name]
Control not rights - the issue for tenants

STEWDERS BACK ENGINEERS STRIKE

By no means the only stewards voted unanimously last night to extend the national strike called for March 4 and 5. The stewards and the engineers, the National Union of Railwaymen, have now been in dispute with the Government for months. They are now in a position to call a full day's strike on March 4 and 5. The Government's offer of a 2 per cent increase for engineering workers is said to be a "symbolic" offer. The stewards' demand is for a 2 per cent increase for all workers in engineering.

COUNTERED

The union was fighting for a basic principle of a day's strike for all workers, not just for the stewards and the engineers. The stewards and the engineers counter that the Government's offer is for a 2 per cent increase for all workers in engineering. The stewards and the engineers counter that the Government's offer is for a 2 per cent increase for all workers in engineering.

YOUNG TEACHERS STEP UP FIGHT FOR MORE PAY

By CHANIE ROSENBERG

WAGES will be the key issue at the National Union of Teachers' conference at Loughborough this weekend. Young teachers, who start their careers on a basic salary of around £15,000, are seeking to increase their wages to £20,000. The National Union of Teachers, which has a membership of 800,000, has been calling for a 25 per cent increase in wages for all teachers.

Solidarity

The rash of unofficial strikes in 1981, the decision for regional strikes, and the solidarity shown when the union was threatened with the loss of a member, indicate that teachers will back a fight for better conditions.

The Left was led, up to about 1980, by the Communist Party, which had a history of fighting for teachers' conditions. In its 1980 strike, it had failed to extend its conditions to other social workers, who were better paid.

The National Union of Teachers, which has a membership of 800,000, has been calling for a 25 per cent increase in wages for all teachers.

Union ban

The management have been particularly hard on the teachers. The teachers' union has been fighting for a 25 per cent pay increase. Without the union's representation, the teachers' conditions will be worse.

One of the workers said, "It's the only way we can stop the contract being imposed." And another employee said, "We're fighting for the teachers' rights at the factory as the 'prison'."

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