Socialist Worker
for workers control and international socialism

Government moves to knock 1d off building workers' rise

£17 a week OR WE STRIKE
SAY MOST WORKERS

By FRANK CAMPBELL
(Amalgamated Society of Painters and Decorators)

The decision to freeze the building workers' pay increase to 1d a week has been denounced by most building workers and by trade union leaders.

A negotiated increase of 2d a week for craftsmen and 3d a week for labourers has been rejected by the government. Building union leaders like Lowthian, Weaver and Smith have been criticized by trade union leaders as being too soft in their negotiations for the 2d and 3d a week.

Bakers turn to feel the lash

Now IT IS THE turn of the bakers. The bakers are being told by the government that they must accept a 2d a week pay increase.

An increase of 1d a week for Scottish bakers was voted down this week by 220,000 shareholders of the Bakers Mutual Union, who initially wanted a 3d a week increase.

The main cause of anger in the bakers' ranks is the considerable increase in the share of their wages which has been distributed to shareholders. The increase is due to come into effect on June 1.

The main cause of anger among the bakers is the management's refusal to negotiate with the trade unions. The bakers have been told that they will not be able to negotiate with the trade unions.

Without exception, the top craft trade union leaders in the building industry have condemned the government's decision to freeze the 1d a week pay increase.

Their opposition to the decision was made clear when the government's officials were forced to hold a special meeting with the trade union leaders.

Our members and our union

Ivy Bridge Lockout—back page

The lockout at the Ivy Bridge power station has now been in force for six weeks. The power station is one of the most important in the country and its closure has caused considerable disruption to the power supply.

The main issue in the lockout is the demand for a 10% pay increase for the workers. The workers have been on strike for six weeks and have received no pay increases.

The government has been forced to grant a 6% increase to the workers, but the union has refused to accept this offer.

Prosecution of CUT

Two COAL Longboats have been seized by the government at Port Talbot. The workers at the Longboats are protesting against the closure of the Longboats by the government.

The workers have been on strike for three weeks and have received no pay increases. The government has been forced to grant a 6% increase to the workers, but the union has refused to accept this offer.

ETU CHOPS MILITANT MORPHEW

FRED MORPHEW, a leading member of the Electrical Trades Union, was sacked from his job at the National Power Company last week.

The sacked worker was an active member of the ETU's national executive and had been involved in industrial action against the company's management.

The ETU condemned the sackings of the workers and called for a demonstration outside the company's offices.

Protest march

The GLC Tenants Action Committee organized a protest march against the decision to freeze the building workers' pay increase. The march was held on Tuesday and attracted a large crowd of workers.

The marchers were led by the GLC Tenants Association and called for a national rent strike and the resignation of the government.

IS calls for May Day campaign

The International Socialists (IS) have called for a May Day campaign to oppose the government's decision to freeze the building workers' pay increase.

The IS campaign is calling for a national rent strike and the resignation of the government.

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Unfair to the pacifists?

YOU ACCUSE the "naggy pacifists" of wanting to "stop all wars" and "demanding peace at any price" in Vietnam. If I recall correctly, you also accused them of "sabotaging the war efforts" by opposing US military actions.

Peace News calls for a withdrawal of all US forces as the first step to end the Vietnam war—is this "peace at any price"? Is this basically any different from your own call for a "national" lottery, for immediate recall of British troops from abroad as our first step towards ending colonial exploitation?

"Peace at any price" presumably means accepting one of the highly publicised "peace offers" made over the years by H.R. L. A. Woolner, also of Peace News. I know of no such Peace News editorial calling for such an offer.

Peace News does not, of course, try to whitewash the NLF, and it calls for negotiations after the US has taken the decision to withdraw. But do you yourselves believe that the NLF is above criticism? And do you not think that at some stage in the war some kind of negotiations is inevitable?—TREVOR GARROD, Trinity College, Oxford.

Treachery

ALTHOUGH basically agreeing with the line of the editorial in last week's paper, I feel you should have pointed out the treacherous state of Stalinism.

It should be pointed out that Russia had welcomed the formation of the "peace" talks. This is definitively an attempt to sell out the interests of the Vietnamese people so that we can continue the policy of peaceful co-existence.

This is of course in line with the Russian government's attitude of the Russian Revolution and all it stood for since the mid-20th century. Also the likelihood of a sell-out to the North Vietnamese government under the "peace" talks is nil. Of course they have been fighting imperialists for the last 20 years, but we must not forget their Stalinist heritage such as the murder of Trotskyists.

In sum, we fully support the NLF and North Vietnam as long as they fight to defeat American imperialism. It is our duty to criticise them so as to clarify our own position. And when you speak about the "naggy pacifists" or the "naggy" Howard, the "realism" of the "realist"—HARRY MILLS, East London.

Nude nun chased by unfrocked vicar—page 5

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WHERE WE STAND

SOCIALIST WORKER is the organ of the International Socialists, a movement of revolutionary socialists who believe that the present form of society, with its bourgeois institutions, is incapable of reform and that the solution lies in the replacement of the bourgeoisie by a revolutionary socialist class. This movement seeks to weaken the working class's ability to resist the capitalist system, to build its own power, and to change the world.

International Socialists is organised into branches, each of which strives to organise within the working class, with the aim of building a strong socialist group that seeks to organise the working class in its struggle against capitalism. International Socialists is committed to the principle of freedom of speech and expression, and it does not tolerate any form of harassment or discrimination.

We are opposed to racial discrimination, a weapon used by the ruling class to divide the working class. Immigration control must be ended, ensuring the free movement of peoples regardless of race and colour. Black and white workers must unite and form their own labour organisations to fight for racial justice and socialism.

PLEASE READ FURTHER DETAILS OF THE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS ON PAGE 5

Send to: Socialist Worker, Paxton Works, Paxton Road, London N17

JUST REPRINTED...

A Revolutionary Socialist Manifesto

an open letter to the party
written in a Polish prison
by Jacek Kuron and Karol Modzelewski

46th inc from IS BOOK SERVICE
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What makes Merseyside so militant?

Almost any day you look in the papers, you find more or less bomb-throwing đỏ-strikers on Merseyside. Seamen, dockers, engineers, builders, miners, and even friends of building workers, dustmen are in a strong position on Merseyside. The Dockers and the Builders are particularly strong and the dockers in particular are putting forward a determined fight to stop the Merseyside docks being closed down.

Seamens

Seamens are a bit more trouble-making than the others on Merseyside. They have a lot of problems to fight against, such as employment, the lay-off system, and the introduction of new equipment. They are also opposed to the government's policy of reducing the size of the merchant fleet. They are determined to keep their jobs and to fight against the loss of employment.

Dockers

Dockers are probably the strongest and most militant group on Merseyside. They have a long tradition of fighting for better conditions and are always prepared to strike to defend their rights. They are determined to keep the docks open and to resist the government's plans to close them. They are also fighting against the introduction of new equipment that could make their jobs obsolete.

Builders

Builders are another strong group on Merseyside. They are fighting against the closure of the docks and the government's plans to close them. They are determined to keep their jobs and to resist the government's plans to reduce the size of the merchant fleet. They are also fighting against the introduction of new equipment that could make their jobs obsolete.

Common needs

This job is of course much harder than Wallace's. Wallace's empty denunciation, his misadventures, the way he calls on workers to rely on welfare state welfare, is also possible for the workers on Merseyside. They can see the differences between the two and the need to fight for their own rights. But workers on Merseyside are more determined and their movement is more united.

Unfortunately, the possibilities of viewing the workers on Merseyside as a group is more limited. They are divided into different groups and are fighting for different goals. They are also divided by the government's policies and by the employers. The government is trying to split them and the employers are trying to exploit them.

Wallace's is an attempt to adduce a particular set of workers' movements, the dockers, the builders and the seamen, as an example of how the workers are fighting for their rights. This is a mistake because the workers on Merseyside are divided and their movement is not united. They are fighting against the government's policies and against the employers, but they are also divided by their own differences.

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By SOCIALIST WORKER REPORTER

THE ENGINEERING STRIKE, postponed on October 18, could still take place. Slowly the truth is dawning on an inconsiderable Department of Employment and Productivity and a frightened Engineering Employers Federation.

All the attempts of Fleet street's labour correspondents, to appeal to the public for an atmosphere of calm and satisfaction among the workers and to assure the middle classes that some sort of agreement will be forthcoming from the October package have come to nothing.

All over the country groups of engineers and their representatives have voted against the Government's proposals, which are on paper, are asked to grapple with the demands of the workers, and to settle the dispute. The employers now realise that the real threat to their profits is not from union officials, nor from nationalised industries, but from wage-drift—that is to say, by piecework earnings won by shop-floor militancy.

Aid bosses' plans

That is the movement which the bosses hope to stop, and, despite the fact that most of the unions from the threat of strike, the productivity compensation offers of the employers.

On Wednesday, November 6, the government has moved an amendment in the Old Bailey in London. Mr. Miller, an engineer, who has been charged with offering a bribe to a trade union official, and, during the course of his trial, a number of other similar cases were brought to the notice of the court. The prosecution case was that the employer had offered a sum of money to the union official in order to stir up trouble among the workers.

The trial lasted for three days, and the employer was found guilty of offering a bribe. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

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