SADIE WALKER
FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

ISE STUDENTS SAY OPEN COLLEGE REMOVE POLICE

From MARTIN SHAW: LSE

STUDENTS AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, locked out since Friday, are fighting a national campaign to reopen their college without victimisation or police measures.

The authorities, their prison gates removed, have installed the police on the campus. Staff are preparing to collaborate in sending their students to jail.

The press has prepared a witch-hunt against socialism in which it has against industrial militants on the shopfloor. The students’ only allies are their fellow students and all those in industry, on council estates and in other schools who are feeling the whip from government, bosses and local councils.

Train small elite

Why have LSE students been fighting on so many issues in recent years? At universities and colleges, taxpayers’ money is used to train a small elite to be the bosses and officials of tomorrow. The quick “well-behaved” students the press adore are those who do not question what they are being trained for and what they are taught. But sooner or later, these are the students in and around the socialist societies. They question the relevance of their education to the real problems they see in society.

They take practical action to help those fighting the bosses and the government in defence of hard-earned wages and conditions. They aid tenants fighting rent rises. And they support the working people of Northern Ireland against the Tory police state and the Vietnamese people against US bombs.

At the LSE it became clear that socialist ideas were being taught less and less. Last week, the students occupied the building in support of the Vietnamese demonstra- tors. Despite press denunciation, Martin Tomkinson, lost by only 25 votes in more than 1400.

Bossses crack down

Afraid of challenges to their power, the authorities acted to crack down. A repressive disciplinary code for staff and students was introduced. At the same time they fired many of the students’ representatives. The students were forced to take this action.

The俚ors in students’ minds were crumbling. The authorities replaced them in steel-soled symbols in the student’s imagination and as weapons against any student action in future.

Against this provocation the students acted. First, on January 17 by invoking the demand of the gates. Then, when the authorities did not act, by forcing immediate negotiations on Friday January 24. And when these negotiations failed, they voted to open the gates.

The LSE students were not prepared that evening with a minimum of police of 100. Hours later, when the students had split up, the Director closed the school and brought in the police. Students in the LSE bar, more than a quarter of the total, were forced to file between rows of police and professors and other academics who stood these to them.

There were arrested, and more than 30 in the street outside LSE and later in New Street, where they marched to demand the release of their comrades.

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PENSIONS plan leaves wealthy untouched

BY COLIN FALCONER

The government has once again failed to impress the Labour government in its plans to improve the pension system. On Tuesday at the Labour Conference, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Richard Crossman, said that the scheme was a major step forward in the fight against poverty. But it has been repeated twice.

This is in sharp contrast to the government’s refusal to consider any proposals from the trade unions and the National Union of Teachers. The scheme is based on the provision of a basic pension ranging from £3 to £6 per week.

The government is also introducing a scheme based on a tax credit for low-paid workers.

Dubbed "the worst hour of the decade", this scheme was condemned by the National Union of Teachers, who feel that it is a “political stunt” to bring the movement to a standstill.

The proposals are intended to come into effect on April 1, 1969, and are aimed at helping the government in its fight against poverty.

France’s government is also bringing in an emergency pension ranging from £5 to £7 per week.

The scheme is financed by a 5% tax on the profits of companies and a 1% tax on the incomes of those earning over £5,000 a year.

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Steel: rank and file unity vital to fight threats to jobs
by HARRY JONES
A Scunthorpe steel worker

Spectacular
New fuels, new forms of energy, and the potential of nuclear power have led to a new development in the steel industry. The old, coal-fired blast furnaces have been replaced by new, gas-fired furnaces, and the result is a dramatic increase in productivity. The old, steelworkers who were accustomed to working in the noisy, dusty environment of the blast furnace, are now working in a quiet, clean environment, with the benefit of automation and improved safety. The new technologies have also led to a reduction in the workforce, as fewer people are needed to operate the new equipment. The Steelworkers Union, however, is determined to fight against the threats to their jobs, and has already made several successful strikes to keep workers on the job. The union is also working to ensure that the new technologies are not used to replace workers, but to improve the working conditions and safety of the steelworkers.

Coronets
Because of their bureaucracy and their lack of action, the Steelworkers Union is not well thought of by its members. The leaders of the union are often seen as out of touch with the needs of the workers, and are accused of not doing enough to fight for the rights of the workers. The union is also criticized for its lack of transparency, and for not being able to adequately answer questions about its finances and operations. The Steelworkers Union is also criticized for its lack of representation in higher-level positions, and for not being able to attract new members to the union. The Steelworkers Union is also criticized for its lack of support for the Steelworkers Union in other countries, and for not being able to effectively negotiate with the steel companies.

Reorganized
Steel workers know that their union has shown previous little interest in them. Some parts of the country have created new local unions, which have been successful in organizing new members. The Steelworkers Union has also been successful in organizing new members in other countries, and has been able to negotiate better wages and working conditions for its members.

Resistant
The Steelworkers Union has been resistant to change, and has been slow to adapt to the new technologies of the steel industry. The Steelworkers Union has also been criticized for its lack of support for the Steelworkers Union in other countries, and for not being able to effectively negotiate with the steel companies. The Steelworkers Union is also criticized for its lack of representation in higher-level positions, and for not being able to attract new members to the union.

DearEditor

The Steelworkers Union is determined to keep its members on the job, and to fight against the threats to their jobs. The Steelworkers Union is also determined to ensure that the new technologies are not used to replace workers, but to improve the working conditions and safety of the steelworkers. The Steelworkers Union is also determined to negotiate better wages and working conditions for its members, and to ensure that the Steelworkers Union is represented in higher-level positions.

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Greater London Council threatens tougher measures against tenants refusing to rent increases, an activist takes a critical look at the movements on the estates.

Only class politics can break down isolation of militant tenants
by JOHN PHILLIPS
Chairman of the Southwark Federation of Tenants Associations

From its inception, the Labour government has effectively treated the whole problem of housing as essentially a local authority matter and the only policy agreed to deal with it was a further cut in local government funds. This policy is not only insufficient to meet the needs of the time but also unable to deal with the effects of past failures.

In particular, it is the Labour party that has a responsibility to address the housing crisis. However, the Labour party has failed to take any decisive action on housing issues.

Rosenblum, a member of the Southwark council, has called for the Government to take urgent action to tackle the housing crisis. He says, "The Government has failed to address the housing crisis and we need urgent action to ensure that everyone has a safe and affordable home."
Rootes car men in long battle against MDW

by Bernard Ross

The PUCF at the Rootes plant at Kirkdale has been locked out by the Tirffur management for a third time in eight months. The latest lockout began at the new year on the New Atlas and Ford vehicles. The Tirst men to lock out were the workers on the high-capacity Stakeman assembly line. The workers are demanding of the management that the company will give them a chance to continue their work.

The situation at Rootes is complicated by the fact that the company is a major employer in the area. The workers are working under the leadership of the Trade Union Congress. The workers are demanding the right to have the company conduct a secret ballot on the issue of whether they should continue to work at the factory.

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