The inside story of how the bureaucrats ignored the shop floor | FORD WORKERS FIGHT UNIONS CAPITULATION

JIM LAMBORN

ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 24, Ford workers, lead by the shop stewards movement, will begin the first trial of strength with the employers since 1965. The 9,000 sacrificial lamb, in the form of 4,000 union bureaucrats walked by the other side of the road.

Three hundred and fifty stewards voted on Tuesday night in an attempt to show the 'company's' weekend call for strike action unless the management offers an improved wage packet.

Last autumn, when the rising cost of living and a widening gap with Midlands car malts created great grievances among the shop workers, Ford refused to negotiate. Management said that a two-year pay deal signed in July last year was still in force.

A one-day strike was fixed for October 18 but it was changed to October 24 after the stewards had written to the unions offering to talk on a pay and a guarantee that the right to be paid while laid off should be restored.

Treated with derision

Then Ford's proposals were published. We included potential problems of skill and lay-off for 'national union action.' Such deals were treated with derision by the management and their pressure groups.

Members of the negotiating committee went back for fresh talks.

They returned with proposals of 6d and 1d per hour increase, 150 more in bonus share and two-thirds more pay for lay-offs. Sick pay and pension offer were withdrawn and holiday bonus increase and lay-off pay still left intact. The union management had written to the negotiating committee.

'You cannot understand how the unions could reject such proposals. We were offered the union but accept them when Ford cracked the whip.'

Voted to accept

On February 11 there was a busy meeting of the national negotiating committee. Fifty-two of 22 union representatives turned up and, without consulting their members, voted by seven votes to 5 with one abstention to accept the pay offer.

There was uproar when the news reached the shop floor. The stewards decided to take the fight to the men and then call £200 from their pay if they retaliated strikes at the heart of every man's principles.

The strike was given another chance on the plan of union tycoons Max Young, ETU, and Eureka's Holworthy-Jones, and Jim Conway, AFU-To the trade unions being conducted in the men's interest.

The stewards' meeting last Saturday gave total support for strike action. The unionism towards the men's action has also been increasing.

The Transport Workers' union which abstained from voting, decided the strike was not acceptable and called negotiations should be reopened. The AEP (engineering section) voted against the deal and said they would not sign and would support their stewards. The General and Municipal Workers decided to be fed up, too.

What a failure! The three major unions voted three different ways, yet that does not matter in opposing the deal. The unionism towards the men's fight is absolutely on top of the mark.

Jim Conway said on Monday night: 'They are just con-fronting their employers, and if they lose the battle, that will be a big hit to the shop floor. They have no confidence in the officials, but they are not going to be kept in their place.'

The men showed no Bon妮-Conway saying it is time that they come back from the shop floor. The shop stewards are in full strength.}


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Industrial militants under the hammer to boost bosses' profits

by MIKE MCGRAITH

Building worker AUBTW

WHAT IS THE MEANING for socialists of this kind of move? White Paper on trade unionists in Place of Strike and Peace on Prices in Place of Profits report?

It is vital that we understand the nature of this document; otherwise, we may overlook an important aspect of the struggle that threatens us all, the threat of a Labour government.

We must be prepared to defend our unions from any challenge and to ensure that our struggle for the restoration of the union movement continues until victory is achieved.

Wage increases will be insufficient to meet the rising cost of living and the need for a real wage increase will require a strong campaign against the cuts in benefits and services.

The government's policies will only serve to divide workers and encourage the spread of opportunism and individualism.

Therefore, we must stand united against any attempts to undermine our struggle and work together to ensure that our movement opposes the cuts and demands a real wage increase.

The struggle against the cuts in benefits and services is not just a matter of personal gain, but a matter of the survival of our working class and the protection of our social gains.

Let's work together to defend our unions and ensure that our struggle continues until victory is achieved.
NO STRIKE

WILL PAYTER, former miners' leader and communists, has demanded the Labour movement and movement of the former Communist Party on the newly formed Commission on Industrial Relations.

We should be aware that the Labour government is not acting in the best interests of the industry in its policies and that we should press toward a new direction.

THE cp movement is an important factor in the industrial movements of the country. It is not sufficient to simply be a member of the communist movement. It is necessary to actively participate in the movement and work towards a new direction.

In order to be effective, we must work together with other organizations and individuals to achieve our goals. We must also be prepared to face challenges and obstacles that may arise.

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ITALY.

**Clydeside Will March and Back Lobby of TUC**

This week a demonstra- tion is to be held in Glasgow to protest against the decision by the TUC to withdraw its support for Clydeside dockers.

**Socialist Worker Reporter**

**Clydebridge:** Halton, a dockyard engineer, was arrested by police in Glasgow on Saturday for participating in the demonstration. He is expected to be released later today.

**Labour and Socialism**

**TUC Plans:** The TUC has been accused of betraying the workers' movement by its decision to withdraw support from the Clydebridge strike.

**GLASGOW:** The TUC today announced that it would suspend its support for the Clydebridge strike.

**Strikers:** The decision has been met with widespread criticism from the working class across Scotland.

**Dust Strike May Spread**

**Socialist Worker Reporter**

**West Ham:** The West Ham strike has spread to other dockyards in the UK, with workers at South Shields and Sunderland also set to join the strike.

**Strikers:** The workers at West Ham have been joined by solidarity protests from around the country.

**FORD FROM PAGE ONE**

**Labour**

**Announcements**

**Resource Allocation:** The Lancashire Employers' Federation has announced plans to allocate 10% of its budget to training and development for the local community.

**Moneymakers**

**TUC:** The TUC has launched a campaign to tackle the rising cost of living for workers.

**Trade Unionism:** The TUC has called on employers to negotiate with trade unions to avoid a costly strike.

**We Want More Pay**

**TUC:** The TUC is calling for a minimum wage of $15 per hour to be introduced in the UK.