Support grows for big anti-Tory turnout on 8 December

STRIKE LAWS
FIGHT HITS UP

SUPPORT is growing for a one-day national strike on 8 December against the Tory government’s anti-strike laws.

In the last week key groups of car workers, engineers and printworkers have declared their support for the strike, called by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.

Division A of the giant general printing union SOGAT will stop work officially on 8 December. As a result, the national press is unlikely to appear on that day.

SOGAT will be backed by the London Region of the National Graphical Association, the craftsmen’s printing union.

The executive of the British Leyland Motor Corporation combine committee has called a conference of its 4,000 shop stewards in Birmingham on 29 November to discuss action on 8 December.

Action Committee

Car workers at the Chrysler plant at Llandudno in Scotland have voted to strike. They will be joined by Edinburgh bus drivers, Stockport engineering workers, workers at the Ambrose-Shaldon engineering factory in Sheffield, and TGWUerry drivers in Liverpool.

And Liverpool Trades Council has set up an Action Committee to work for a widespread stoppage of work on 8 December.

The need for militant action to defend the government’s plans becomes more pressing with every passing day.

At private industry matches up record profits for the first six months of the year, government spokesmen declare that they have only started on their campaign to working welfare services, increase rents and radically alter the tax structure.

They have made it blatantly clear that ordinary working people – not the rich, not the affluent, not the privileged – will have to pay to boost still further profits and dividends.

The action committee proposals are part and parcel of this strategy. Legal restrictions on the right to organise and strike are vital to stop workers fighting for better wages and conditions.

Rouse workers

8 December must be a massive show of strength by organised labour, a fighting declaration that trade unions will oppose the government all the way.

There must be no complicity. Trade unionists and socialists must redouble their efforts in the coming weeks to ensure their workmates to the dangers of the Tory plans and the need for a great turnout on 8 December.

Mass meetings should be called in every workplace. Conferences of Action should be set up in every area and throughout the country.

Meetings and demonstrations should be organised in every major centre on the day of the strike.

8 December should mark the day when millions of working people stood up and declared in union: HANDS OFF THE UNIONS!

Next week’s Socialist Worker will have a full report of this Saturday’s conference of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.

100,000 miners out

YORKSHIRE MINERS pictured outside union headquarters on Monday while the executive voted on strike action. In the centre, with hand raised, is Arthur Scargill, delegate from Woolley Colliery.

The Leeds-Tyne-Clyde miners have now been followed by pits in Scotland, South Wales and Kent. 100,000 men from 125 pits have joined the battle for £5 a week pay increase.

The fighting determination of the miners has sparked off a vicious attack from Coal Board boss Lord Robens.

First he accused ‘reds’ of loading the strike, then he said that pickets were using ‘violence and intimidation’ to ‘pull out other miners. He described unofficial strike leaders as ‘delinquents’.

The only dictator in the coal industry is bully-boy Robert who dictates his workers a decent wage. Violence is completely alien to the miners.

TUC to back wage freeze?

TUC leaders are considering a deal with the Tory government that would offer Heath and co a year’s ‘voluntary’ wage freeze in return for a postponement of watering down the government’s anti-union legislation.

The story was published in The Guardian on Wednesday by Peter Jenkins, a journalist with close links with top trade union leaders.

If true, the story should serve as a grim warning to all rank and file trade unionists.

The TUC leaders have always been ready to bend shoddy compromises with the government of the day. But bargaining away their members’ wages would mark a new low for even these merchants of sell-out and defeat.

The Tories are unlikely to accept the offer. Once they see the TUC leaders on the run they will step up their campaign against the unions.

And there can be no compromise on this part of trade unionists, either. Wages and conditions are not up for auction.

The TUC leaders do not speak for the rank and file. The anti-union laws may be anathema to them, but they are determined to place a velvet glove over the workers’ knuckles.

IS to hold conference on union laws

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS have called an industrial conference on 3 December in Birmingham to hammer out a joint policy for rank and file trade unionists.

The two key debates at the conference will be on the struggle against anti-union laws and the campaign for democracy within the unions.

A spokesman for the IS industrial committee said this week: ‘As the Tory employer offensive intensifies, it is vital for militants to discuss their tactics and democratic control of the unions at an international level of the fight against the Tories.

‘The conference is open to all industrial workers in IS and to close sympathisers in industry.’

Write now for credentials to The Secretary, IS, 5 Compton Gardens, London E2 8DZ.

Printing union expels militant

JOHN LAWRENCE, a militating Fleet Street printworker, has been expelled by the executive of Division 1 of SOGAT.

Mr Lawrence is Father of the Chapel (shop steward) of the Print Association.

On Tuesday, a High Court judge granted an order that suspended the Division 1 executive from pulling the expulsion into operation. The order lasts until next Tuesday.

Mr Lawrence had refused to support the split in the union. Division 1 leaders now call themselves by their old title of NATSOPA and summoned Mr Lawrence to a disciplinary meeting. He refused to attend on the grounds that he was a member of SOGAT, not NATSOPA.

The High Court judge said he was not clear from which union Mr Lawrence had been expelled.

Opposition grows to union split: see back page.

Strike victory for women cleaners

The CAMPAIGN to organise cleaning workers in London netted up an important victory: the sacked shop stewards at the Board of Trade were reinstated.

Cleaners in the building – employed by Strand Cleaners – were sacked last week when the stewards were sacked.

The cleaners had fought back with strike action last week when the stewards were sacked.

Pickets were held every night and cleaner_-_in other London offices gave their support.

Background report: page 2.
Council workers show the way

WORKERS CAN DEFEAT the government. That is the message of the TGWU’s settlement of a big dispute with defence contractors. The TGWU regarded the strike as a test case. The main aim of their economic policy is to keep wages down while prices rise. They want to achieve this by a large scale co-operation of workers in an attempt to prove to other workers that militancy does not pay.

Council workers in the past have not been militant or well organised. Until their unofficial strike last year that is. The TGWU, which is an official union and, regrettably, many union leaders, thought they were incapable of taking strike action and making workers pay their bills with their wages and working lives.

But in spite of press attacks and the government’s threat of troops, the dustmen, the sewer workers, the grave diggers, the school caretakers and the district nurses all got their wages.

The 50s increase was not due to the kindheartedness of the employers or because of the impartiality of Sir Jack Scamp who led the ‘independent’ inquiry. Scamp is a veteran servant of the employing class, first as chief hiring and firing manager for Mussey-Fergusson and more recently as government ‘trouble shooter’. His report is involved in such pieces of work as the 1967 Longbridge dispute and the Devlin report on the docks.

Not all the workers’ demands were conceded. Many wage packages will remain miserably small, with men taking home less than £14 for a 40 hour week. And council workers will have to struggle over the next two years to get an effective report calls on the employers to introduce productivity deals before 1972.

Nevertheless, the council workers have made a vital breakthrough. They have induced some ruling-class spokesmen to hysteria and frenzied demands for government action to stop the rot.

The government’s intention is clear. Tory ministers are looking round for some workers to take on and defeat in open battle as a warning to the rest of us.

Threats of pit closures

There are threats that more pit closures will follow if the miners’ strike goes on. There is talk of referring the hospital workers the same incentive to work as the miners have. It is a suggestion that the TGWU should break with all their election ‘promises’ and introduce a wages freeze or ‘incomes policy’.

But this is a false deal. If workers learn the lesson of the council workers’ militancy, then the TGWU can be defeated on one industrial battle after another.

The miners are strongly placed. There is a world shortage of coal as well as just in Britain. If the power workers take action, government talk cannot keep the general managers running. Hospital workers have already staged token strikes at individual hospitals.

But action in individual industries is not enough. Blacking by dockers and transport workers is needed. If attempts to import coal or use substitute fuel, Sympathetic action must be ready if the hospital workers are forced to act.

Above all, the attempts to legally bind the unions together with the attacks on the welfare services need a response from all sections of workers.

As the Tories are defeated in one section, they broaden their onslaught to take on others. Only a unified, militant response from as many sections of workers as possible can counter their attacks.

Widespread propaganda is necessary at shopfloor level to explain the demands, the TGWU’s opposition and the need for united action. There has to be organisation from the rank and file upwards.

Action Committees, made up of representative delegates from as many factory organisations and union branches as possible should be built in each industrial centre. And the call must go out from the rank and file from the TGWU officials to try to lead the miners into real opposition to them on 8 December and after.

PASS LAW THREAT FOR IMMIGRANTS

THE PRESS has given details of the government’s plans for yet another immigration Bill. It looks like being the nastiest one yet.

The law will be changed in two important ways. First, there will be a clear discrimination between immigrants from Europe and those from elsewhere. Only the former will be allowed to bring their wives and children here.

Second, all immigrant workers will be regarded as ‘aliens’. They will be allowed in only to work at a particular job in a particular city for a particular time. Only after four years, ‘if a worker has been well behaved’ will they be allowed to stay for good.

Meanwhile, the state sends the non-whites in South Africa, which the police can make them produce at any time, without giving reasons.

The law will mean even more blatant racism. Many newcomers will find themselves with no rights at all. The police will be able to intimadate them at the border and the ‘family life’ will be denied to them.

But these measures will also be a threat to workers. If immigrants will depend completely on their employers to stay in the country, the employers will have a great deal of control over immigration in trade unions and other activity that might get them into trouble. The aim will be to use their own subservient labour force with a strong contingent of potential strikebreakers.

The power to demand passes from some workers will only increase the ability of the police to intimidate strikers and pickets. Unless fought, such racist measures will weaken the ability of all workers to fight for decent wages and conditions.

What the TGWU told the militant cleaner:

WHY DON’T YOU JOIN ANOTHER UNION?

MAY HOBBS, a militant office cleaner, tells of progress in the movement to organise cleaners into the trade union movement.

EIGHT YEARS AGO, ten of us—an all-women office cleaning group—staged a one month strike and once again the Transport Workers Union officials have been more of a hindrance than a help.

People like the International Socialists and Women’s Liberation groups came in a big way.

With their help we managed to organise four complete office buildings and various offices scattered all over the city.

We have been out night after night telling cleaners about TGWU and ETC. Applications for membership are now pouring in from all over the city.

As well as this, people in a number of different towns also offered their assistance—Exeter, Lancaster, Coventry—Birmingham—to help organise the cleaners in their areas.

I first started up I went to see a TGWU official. In a friendly fashion, he advised me that they thought I was mad.

Later I was told that I was too militant. I should really get someone else, more prepared to break the union, and not give them too much work to do.

"If you want to join NUPE," the TGWU official said, "I tried another union official that I was told would be a more appropriate man to organise the night cleaners.

I tried to contact him over and over again, leaving messages all the time."

"Too big a job."

"He never got on to me, but in the end I managed to catch hold of him. He said: ‘You’re too big a job, too big for NUPE."

He turned a deaf ear to this. I told him that if they didn’t wake up I was going to form a union. I held a Workers’ Control conference and told Bill Jones or TGWU secretary Jack Jones, if possible, how bloody they were in all the offices.

That seemed to buck their ideas. I was told I would have to work down to a meeting with the girls at the Beehive and I had 15 people signed up to the union.

I went to the Workers’ Control Conference and gave them a presentation. I privately told him of my organisation.

He told us: ‘You and your colleagues are doing a wonderful job. You’ve organised most parts of London, which was more or less impossible when you had a number of officials with fingers in the pie in different districts.

Embarrass the nobs

I’ve learnt a lesson—don’t trust union officials. You’ve got to move or less embarrass them to make them work.

Only since the Birmingham Conference where we could openly embarrass the TGWU big nobs with our success in organising in spite of the officials have we now got smiles out of them.

And I won’t stop worrying until every office cleaner is organised.

I told him: I organised more in three weeks than you could in eight years.

GOOD FOOD versus starchy rubbish

ALL THAT Maurice Woodland said in his speech to a London school meeting is perfectly true (7 November). But simply to provide cheap school meal service is not enough to solve the problems of malnutrition among working-class children.

My work is in a school canteen. The premises are modern, the food is cooked on the premises and the meals are generally wholesome and tasty.

What upset her, and the other cooks that I work with, is that whereas dishes such as roast meat and chops are cooked fresh, the lefthovers are enormous, Chips, baked beans, sausages, pies—all the foods that contain almost no nutritional value and are starved of vitamins and second helthens are demanded.

Many of the kids have been brought up on diets where meals, unaltered meat in a tray. They simply don’t like its unfamiliar taste, and in many cases eat it.

It reflects the fact that as prices rise, rents and wage packets refuse to stretch, thus the easiest thing to cut back on is food. Foods with a high carbohydrate content are cheap and at least you feel full. Even if you are not getting all the right vitamins.

One other point, that most of the kids are on a diet. Adverts for the same age and pets have been given all kinds of glamorous, mouth-watering images of foods that really are not much value nutritionally.

I feel certain that this is itself has an effect on diet. The recent fuss over breakfast cereals, which have become national habits in Britain and America, but contains almost no vitamins, proteins or any other thing except sugar. Can you imagine, my point.

As Maurice said, for many children the school meal is the only decent about a month they get. But even if school meals were cheap and full of all the healthy, nutritional foods that dietsaries say are good for us, they are likely be only partially solved.

Eating habits have been influenced—" by economic conditions. You can’t force a kid to eat nutritious food just because it’s got’ for ‘em even the rare occasions when it is available. He is used to, and likes, reet, chips, stewed beef, chocolate, etc.—ANNA PACEUSKA, London N7.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Hong Kong workers get a taste of Tory medicine

AS THE HEATH GOVERNMENT prepares to attack the unions, British workers should know what is happening to their compatriots in Hong Kong.

There are lessons to be drawn from the results of harsh laws against workers in this British colony. The only way to stop the same situation happening in Britain is for the workers to join in united, militant action to stop the reactionary legislation and to continue the struggle after 8 December.

The population of Hong Kong is four million but only 10% - the affiliated members of the left-wing Federation of Trade Unions and 73,465 are paid up members.

The right-wing TUC has 35,149 affiliated and 24,589 paid up members.

Membership of the left unions is increasing while the right-wing unions are declining.

But the attitude of the left unions is one of long-range political aims rather than changing the immediate situation. In the last year none of the strikes has been started by left unions but instead by right-wing unions or non-unionised workers.

One union official has said that 80% of the new strikes were initiated by Great Eastern Textile Workers in Kwan Tong. 1600 workers stopped work when none of their representatives, who had negotiated with the management for salary changes, were sacked. 300 workers were hired by the management elsewhere and brought along to the factory under protection of police and security guards. 300 of the strikers tried to stop them entering and the police, using force, arrested several of the workers.

One worker had to be sent to hospital afterwards. All were union members.

The incident was seen by Mr. H. L. Gibson, General Secretary of the National Union of Holystore and Knitwear Workers in Britain, who told a local paper that he would make a full report on the incident to the British government on his return.

In Hong Kong the Labour Department is supposed to arrange consultation meetings between workers and management. But when the management refuses to talk the negotiations are at an end. The present strike by the Cross Harbour Tunnel Workers is an example of the uselessness of this government department. The workers came out because they were not paid the wage promised by the sub-contractor who employed them.

Locked out

The sub-contractor sacked five of the seven union officials. On the second day of the strike an agreement was made through the Labour Department and the workers agreed to return to work the next morning. When they went back they were locked out and told they had "resigned" as they had been absent from work for 72 hours.

The employer refused to attend negotiations arranged by the Labour Department and the strike is continuing its second week with no immediate hope of settlement. The only hopeful sign is that the workers are still determined to press their claim. The situation is bad now, but it will get worse. A new Bill has been introduced before the Legislative Council to curb still further the power of the unions.

The amendments incorporated in the Bill are:

Section 12: Trade Union officials will be debarred from office if convicted of offences against public order.

Section 23: It is an offence to picket at an employer's or worker's residence.

Section 24: It is an offence to block any street or way in a strike.

The last has been dropped when it was decided that it was already covered by another ordinance.

Commenting on these measures on a recent visit to Hong Kong, Mr. Anthony Royce, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, said there were no grounds for reconviction of the amendments to the union laws. His opinion is indicative of the attitude of the Heath administration towards workers in both Hong Kong and Britain. In both places the Tories follow a policy of protection of big businesses.

Productivity Dealing and the Miners' Next Step

John Charlton

A WAVE of strikes has hit Spain. In Madrid last week more than 20 concerns were affected, including banks as well as large factories.

Police used baton charges to break up workers' demonstrations and made many arrests.

In Barcelona, 8,000 workers struck various factories, including the Siemens, Fiebdi and Seat plants.

As many as 50,000 workers took part in six strikes in Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao and Seville. The strikers demanded the release of political prisoners, payment of increased prices and opposed a new trade union law being drafted by parliament.

SHUTDOWN

Last week's events followed a rash of strikes throughout the year. Three building workers were shot dead in Granada to help during a strike.

A goslow on the Madrid underground culminated it its shutdown in August.

The strikes take place against a background of legislation that makes all strikes illegal. Free unions are forbidden and workers have the state controlled "unions" — the

from CELIA CUNNINGHAM

IN KOWLOON

has been a number of police interventions in wage disputes.

The most striking example recently was by Great Eastern Textile Workers in Kwan Tong. 1600 workers stopped work when none of their representatives, who had negotiated with the management for salary changes, were sacked. 300 workers were hired by the management elsewhere and brought along to the factory under protection of police and security guards. 300 of the strikers tried to stop them entering and the police, using force, arrested several of the workers.

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from a Special Correspondent

syndicates.

All industrial disputes are supposed to be settled by the dictate of the government bureaucrats at the top of the syndicates. Yet strikes still take place and are even reported in the government-controlled press.

No law can do away with the contradiction between the interests of the bosses and the interests of the workers. Even if there is a feeble attempt is made to channel militancy into verbal proclamations by the "official machine".

Workers have the right to elect shop stewards in the hope that this will enable the syndicates to discipline the real representatives of the workers. But this is not working either.

Many strikes take place because the workers refuse to accept the stewards as fit to negotiate for them either because they have given in to pressures from above or because the syndicate has replaced democratically-elected stewards by their own nominees.

In recent years a new cohesion had developed in the workers' struggle through the growth of the "workers' commissions", unofficial organisations of militants. Those draw together members of various political organisations at the factory level of which the Communist Party is the most important.

"PACT"

Many militants look for guidance to the Communist Party but it does not provide any clear perspective for them. In a recent issue of its paper Mundo y Trabajo it said that in some areas general strike conditions were approaching.

But it also calls for a "pact" against the government of all forces opposed to the regime, including sections of big business. The party claims that without such a pact the mass movement cannot succeed.

The space of the workers will go on. The government is attempting to impose a ceiling of 6.5 per cent for wage increases in a country where prices have risen by 90 per cent in the last 12 years.

Efforts to suppress the anger of workers by arresting militants have only deepened the mood of bitterness in the factories.
What the Tories propose

1. Appoint a Registrar of Trade Unions to make sure that the rules of registered unions are acceptable.
2. Make collective agreements legally binding.
3. Declare the 'closed shop' illegal.
4. Workers to be allowed NOT to join a union.
5. Make unions comply with an 'industrial code'.

How it would affect you

THE GOVERNMENT’S plans, if they become law, are a danger to every worker, every trade unionist in the country. They would gravely weaken trade unionists in the day-to-day work of improving wages and conditions.

Workers who break any of the new laws could be prosecuted, fined and even jailed.

Only registered unions would be allowed to call strikes — that is, unions whose rules have been approved by a government-appointed registrar.

But more than 95 per cent of strikes are unofficial. If the Tories have their way, 19 out of 20 strikes will become illegal because shop stewards’ committees, district and regional committees of unions would not be registered organisations.

Last year the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers went on strike. Because only the national executive of the NUM would be a registered union under the new laws, the Yorkshire regional executive could have been prosecuted.

Pressure on officials

Trade unions could be sued if they do not use their ‘best endeavours’ to end unofficial strikes. The strike funds of a union could be taken away from them by the courts. It would take some unions years to recover from such a loss.

There would be great pressure on union officials to get men back to work. And some of them don’t need much encouragement in any case. Now they would have the judges and the law courts breathing down their necks.

The sneaking phrase about ‘unfair industrial actions’ includes such basic union activities as blacking and sympathy strikes. Any group of workers or a union that blacked suppliers to a factory or strike could have an injunction imposed on them by a court.

Legal action could also be taken against workers who strike in solidarity with other workers in dispute. This means that the dockers would not have been able to strike in support of the miners. It means that groups like miners who cannot strike could no longer expect workers to strike on their behalf, as they did in the early 1960s. That would be illegal.

It would be ‘unfair’ to strike purely to attempt to stop lefty drunks from becoming trade unionists. It would be ‘unfair’ for workers to threaten industrial action to have blacklegs dismissed.

Newspapers fined

And it will be ‘unfair’ for anyone to ‘induce’ (that is encourage) anyone else to go on strike. Journalists and newspapers that encourage and support strikes and call for solidarity action could be heavily fined.

It would be ‘unfair’ to induce workers to break legally binding contracts, which the government intends to bring in. Last year Ford tried to take the AEP to court to stop them organising a strike. Under the existing laws, Ford lost the case. Under the Tories’ plans, the court would have fined the AEP for contempt of court while the employer would use the union for compensation.

‘Closed shop’ agreements would be ‘unfair’. This would undermine the shop-floor unity of trade unionists.

It would hit hard at unions such as musicians whose members face unemployment. The shop stewards union, closed shop agreement with the union badly as well. So would print unions and others threatened by ‘closed shop’ agreements.

Dangerous conditions

It would be ‘unfair’ to take an unskilled or dangerous working man’s year, when a young worker was killed at Carneggie, near Manchester, by tools and went home for the day death site conditions. Unskilled employee could be taken away by a company.

Any groups of workers who make ‘procedure’ (that can take up to a year for a Factory Inspector) in dangerous conditions could be won by 70 per cent between speed-up and productivity bargaining and more dangerous, workers need immediate action to stop deaths.

White-collar workers would be hit by ‘industrial unions’. Last year, the trades union, the regional branch of half-day, ten to six, strikers’ claim. This action sparked off the through which they won an increase a year.

The trades union would have been on at least two courts under the new laws - the demand for an extra day. Secondly, local branches of the registered bodies could meet action.

Ballots not decision

If the government felt the ‘national interest’, the bosses decided on the same time and place, and employees and workers from a to a job, the trades union, ‘industrial action’ compulsory. There would be no further action - the government could and the government could before any industrial action is taken.

There is nothing ‘democratic’ imposed on the workers by the bosses. Through mass meetings we can work on industrial action and industrial action, the television, workers, workers at the plant, the plants, and the government against the ‘national interest’. In fact, officially or nationally, we can raise the issue of industrial action.

The trade union movement is an independent movement, and it’s own plans, and it’s own plans for the benefit of the workers.
MY UNION WILL NEVER SURRENDER!

THE TORY LAWS can be smashed, even before they get through parliament, but only if the rank and file of the trade unions are organised to act.

Trade union leaders could stop the Tories right now if they really wanted to. A declaration that they would break the laws and go on breaking them would force the government to think again. And an official national strike would stop them dead in their tracks before the Bill gets its first reading in parliament.

But the sad fact is that the unions won't do the job. Vic Feather, the TUC general secretary, declared that strike action against the laws would be 'irresponsible'. The TUC has met the government just once and spent more time for discussion and decided to call an emergency conference... next year!

FIGHT TOOTH AND NAIL

What is needed is a militant strategy that will fight tooth and nail to stop the laws becoming law and that will disrupt and break them if the Tories do manage to get them on the statute book. Such a strategy must be fought for now by calling mass meetings at your place of work and winning support for it at every level of the trade union movement.

The government will set up national and local industrial courts. They dearly want to have trade unions, on these courts to rank them as an 'army of impartiality'.

No trade unionist should sit on such a court. Without them, their pro-employee bias would be plain to see. The courts should be declared black by the unions.

Attacks on unofficial strikes can be beaten by writing into every union rule book a clause stating that any action by the members is officially automatic.

To stop blacking from becoming an 'unfair industrial practice', every union should instruct its members that on no account must they cross picket lines or handle black goods.

No union should accept legally binding contracts. If one is imposed by a court, it should be broken with the full impact of the strike weapon. In such a situation, unions should refuse to abolish the closed shop.

As for national emergencies, if a 60-day notice is required all trade unions should keep the committee in a perpetual state of strike alert. Strike notices every 60 days will stop them getting away with accepted strike breaking. In practice, the trade unions have the power to bring the government to its knees.

SET OF DEMANDS

It's what we believe the following demands should be fought for:

1. Tell the TUC to abandon its futile attempts to get concessions from the government and announce its intention to resist the laws.
2. Executives of unions should announce that they will refuse to register with the new Registrar or assist in the work of the proposed industrial courts. They will refuse to pay any fines imposed under the legislation or accept any government-imposed strike breaks.
3. Unions should declare that they will not enter into legally binding agreements.
4. Unions should instruct their members individually that they will have the full backing of the union in refusing to handle goods that are black or deliver across picket lines or take part in any sympathy actions.
5. Unions should declare their complete opposition to state-imposed and employer-policed agency shops and should fight for 100 per cent trade union membership. There must be total opposition to any 'scabs' charter' and to any militant defence of the non-union shop stewards' committee and on the factory and work-place floor. And that is where the fight must be centred. Workers should be mobilised to action by:

Supporting the 8 December national strike against the government's laws and any other militant strikes and demonstrations.

Setting up Councils of Action in every locality made up of delegates from unions and work places to agitate among the rank and file for support for industrial action against the Tories.
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**The struggle for workers’ power—the only solution to race-hate and disunity**

BRITAIN today is faced with what social scientists call a ‘colour problem’. This ‘problem’ is made up of Britain’s history of robbery, colonial nation and from the recent influx into Brit- ain of thousands of black immigrants.

What should the attitude of socialists be to this issue? First and foremost, we must be crystal clear that socialists can have no truck whatsoever with any form of racial discrimination or racial prejudice.

Socialism is about the brotherhood of man, not his separation into black, pink, yellow and white. Fascism and racism are movements aimed specifically at restricting the united power of the working class—a socialist force.

There is no room for any suspic- ion of ‘socialist racism’. As socialists we stand for every single thing that the racist hates and fights to destroy.

The lesson of Nazi Germany: in the 1930s must never be forgotten. We are the ones who are the targets of the racism, anti-Semitism and fascism.

**Information**

But there are many workers who are affected by racist ideas. Our approach to them must be clear and practical. Our main task is quite simply to spread information. It is not widely enough known that:

1. **Every year more workers leave Brit- ain to emigrate.**
2. **Every year there are more non-white immigrants than there are black immigrants.**
3. **The average black immigrant receives LESS in social service ben- efits than does his white neighbour.**

Facts like these must be used to put people on their guard against the myths and prejudices that exist. But facts alone are not enough.

People choose various ways of thinking about the world, they choose between rival ideologies and they select different solutions for their problems.

In this way, workers either believe that their problems are caused by black men in Britain or they believe that their problems exist because of the unjust nature of the capitalist system that can never satisfy the needs and demands of the workers. Workers who hold racist ideas are insecure, frightened of what the future holds in store for them. They express these fears through irrational prejudice against people of a darker skin than their own.

In this situation, our job as socialists is obvious. It is to provide work- ers with a total alternative view of the world to the one offered by the racists.

That perspective is socialism—workers’ power against the houses, to build a new and better society for all workers whether black or white. Only by showing workers that there is a way forward, that a different system is possible, will we overcome racism and racist ideas.

The mistake made by the ‘liberal’ approach to race relations is to avoid this central, alternative perspective. The arguments of liberals in terms of equal rights like Enoch Powell and of quite nice chaps like Gary Sones.

**Stamp out**

There can be no two ways about it. You don’t negotiate or debate with snakes, you stamp them out.

But we must be careful not to give too much importance to such groups. Our main activity must always be to win socialists and spread our ideas. In the course of this activity, the ‘problem’ of colour can be dealt with firmly and clearly.

Socialists must be at the head of all groups fighting racism, showing how capitalism tries to use racism to divide the workers. We also sup- port unconditionally the right of black people to form their own groups and to form self-defence units.

This is essential in a country with a colonial history like Britain’s and this must be the starting point of our activities.

The enemies of the black and white workers are just the same—the ruling class of big business. As Enoch Powell said: ‘When I am kneeling down in church, I think to myself how much we should thank God, the Holy Ghost, for the gift of capitalism.’

That is straight from the horse’s mouth. Racism can only flourish and succeed when the labour move- ment is weak and divided and when socialist ideas have been defeated.

It is our job to make sure that this never happens. The warning of the past in Germany and Italy is too painfully clear.

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**The Meaning of Marxism**

A weekly column by Duncan Hallas

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW once said, ‘I don’t need a theory of value to tell me that the poor are exploited.’ He thought that Marxist economic theory was an unnecessary piece of hocus-pocus.

It is a common point of view and is often connected with the idea that Marxist economics is very complicated, boring and hard to understand.

Actually, the best idea is enough to grasp once you understand what it is intended to be used for. Every theory has a purpose.

Marxism, for example, analysing capital- ism was first to show how working people were exploited a second to discover what he called the ‘economic law of motion’ of the class struggle.

The first point becomes clear when you consider other system of exploitation. The surfb of the middle class is usually on his own plot of land and also worked two, three or four days a week on his lord’s farm.

He was not paid for this, so it was obviously a kind of fruit which the workers went to the lord. He was exploited.

Now the modern worker is paid for all his work. His wages are not underpaid by current standards but he does not, apparently, have to work in certain amount of time each week without pay.

**More work**

How can he be exploited in the scientific method? For example, there is nothing for the benefit of an exploit- ing class.

Marx’s labour theory of value explains how the labour theory of value is one of the most powerful ideas in the whole of sociology. Marx’s theory of the ‘value of labour-power’ is one of the most powerful ideas in the whole of sociology. It is in general: the organisation of work is a single person, that is, that the more time a person spends on the task the more useful it is. That is not the case. Marx’s theory of the ‘value of labour-power’ is one of the most powerful ideas in the whole of sociology. It is in general: the organisation of work is a single person, that is, that the more time a person spends on the task the more useful it is. That is not the case.

**Why does it cost more?** Marx’s answer is that, ‘the value of a commodity is determined in the first place by the socially necessary labour-time required for its production.’ To put it crudely, the cost of labour more work has to be put in to make a commodity.

This idea did not originate with Marx. As a labour economist put it, ‘the labour theory of value is one of the most powerful ideas in the whole of sociology. It is in general: the organisation of work is a single person, that is, that the more time a person spends on the task the more useful it is. That is not the case.’

Marx himself introduced a number of refinements. For example, ‘socially necessary’ labour-time means man- hours put in using the current tech- niques of production.

It would cost a lot more labour- time to make cars by the methods prevailing in 1900 than by those of today. But if cars, if produced today, would not have a correspond- ing increase in cost. They would have to be sold at current prices.

**Average**

Of course different producers at any one time are using equipment that is in a little more or a little less advanced than the average. It is the overall average that is taken as the standard.

It is also the case that the cost of a given commodity will vary from that of the or greater than the cost of the product that go to the TV set. But these materials are also commodities and their value is determined in the same way.

The value of the commodity is determined by the most extensive use of the TV set to the TV set. But these materials are also commodities and their value is determined in the same way.

The value of the complete product includes the value of all those materials that have gone into its production. It is determined by the average cost of the most extensive use of man-hours, on the average, for the whole process of producing the complete product and everything that goes into it, including the necessary transport.

What has all this to do with exploitation? The answer is that the capitalists gain revenue by selling commodities at prices which, as a first approximation, can be close to their values. The value of labour-power is determined by the value of the commodities required to produce goods, capital goods and per- formatrice the labourer... Wages... so determined are the wage minimums. Besides this mere physical element (i.e., in what necess- ity to keep the worker and his family alive and able to reproduce), Dixit, the value of labour-power in every country, determined by a trad- itional factor.

‘It is not more physical life, but it is the satisfaction of certain wants springing from the social conditions in which people are placed and which they want to maintain’.

In short the actual level of real wages depends, in part, on the out- come of the class struggle. There is a floor below which they cannot fall, there is a level of existence—above this they can be pushed steadily upwards.

**Surplus value**

However, Marx believed that workers have no control over the prices they have to pay. These prices are kept artificially high by monopolies and cartels.

It is worth noting that real wages in Britain has risen very very greatly in the last century but that relative wages are a share of wages in the total national income—have remained constant, at around 42 per cent, since 1870.

The difference between the value of the commodities produced and the value of the labour power used in their production is the surplus value of production. It is a very big difference indeed—it is called surplus value.

The surplus value belongs to the owners of the means of production. It is the essence of profit.

To sum up: provided that commod- ities, including labour power, sell at their true value when the owners of the means of production are paid, the workers will be the most enriched. It is the producers of the means of production who will be the most enriched. It is the producers of the means of production who will be the most enriched.

Having established this, Marx went on to consider the effects of changes in the productivity of labour in the distribution of the surplus value of the system.
It gets on your nerves...

'VAPONA,' says the television commercial, 'tracks down flies like radar... kills them quietly, efficiently, effortlessly.' Over one hundred million Vapona strips have been sold by Shell, in over 30 countries.

Vapona works by slowly releasing the chemical Dichlorvos into the atmosphere in the room where the strip is hanging. Dichlorvos is quite simply, a nerve gas. It interferes with the action of cell membranes, a vital reaction in the functioning of the nervous system of insects. And not only insects.

Last October, the magazine New Scientist published a survey of recent research which showed that Dichlorvos used in the home has been linked with human nerve actions. It was shown that a single strip could be recommended by Shell (one strip per room) for a month, but that exposure to a Vapona strip for nine hours a week was similar to more than the World Health Organisation maximum acceptable daily intake.

Warning label

New Scientist called for the withdrawal of Vapona from the market if Shell had even to suppose that the nerve gas claims were correct. So Shell did.

Meanwhile in the USA Vapona strips started carrying a label warning against their use in kitchens, restaurants, nurseries and hospitals. No such warnings are on Vapona strips sold in Britain.

The New Scientist published more evidence on the dangers of Vapona售票 rates and the difficulty of seeing Dichlorvos as a harmless military nerve gas but it can also cause genetic mutations.

Over a long period it can act on the hereditary material in human cells, and for many years the scientists did not know whether any adverse effect was the offspring of the person affected.

The New Scientist once again is calling for the immediate suspension of sales, and the continuing disclosure of Vapona is in the public interest.

'Strictest Confidence'

Although Shell refused to make public their evidence on Vapona's supposed safety, they did pass it on to the Pesticides Advisory Committee, the body which advises the Ministry of Agriculture on safety of pesticides and approved Vapona for sale.

The committee also refused to discuss the evidence but then they were bound to do so, because they were told they must be given it in 'strict confidence'.

The most worrying aspect is the attitude of the manufacturers whenever one of their products is questioned. The manufacturers of Thalidomide, even when they discovered what horrifying effects the drug had, and they could have withdrawn the drug but suppressed the evidence until they could think of something to replace it. It is in shocking carelessness about what should constitute 'strict confidence.'

As New Scientist puts it: 'Shell, with all its duty to its shareholders, very properly in its mind, no doubt benefited financial from the expression on Vapona's safety for fear of there being given wider currency and affecting sales of a more profitable product.'

Ken Green

COURAGE, Barclay and Simmonds, the braggarts, have announced a $100,000 increase in profits for the first half of the year and bigger dividends for shareholders. They also announced that, in line with other big brewers, they would shortly be putting up their beer prices.

Oh Brother!

LOOKING for a lead from the TUC against the Tory union laws? Don't strain your eyeballs. A circular this week from the noisy brothers of Congress House to union executives shows that, when it comes to a fight, they couldn't knock the skin off the proverbial rice pudding.

There is no strategy to fight the government's proposals. On the contrary, White Feather and his merry band are linking their pathetic campaign to the Tories' own parliamentary tactics.

The timing of the campaign, says the circular, will depend on the legislative timetable. The General Council are provisionally assuming that the Bill will be published about the end of November, that the Second Reading will take place during December, that the committee stage in the House of Commons will begin early in January, and that, if it is carried, the Bill will become an Act 'towards the end of March.'

Shining through the circular's piddling prose is the bureaucratic fear of rank and file trade union members taking action themselves to fight the government. Full-time officials are intended to explain the Bill to the workplace. Meetings will be organised for regional and district officers. But none of the members to fight!

Perhaps the thought: 'Some Trades Councils are already beginning to arrange local meetings on the Bill. We are advising Trades Councils that we think that the main effort should come early in the New Year when the Bill will be in committee stage and by then local speakers will be available as a result of the training programme.'

And then the final, inevitable

FEATHER: wary is caution warning 'The General Council strongly advise all affiliated unions not to support in any way the activities of unofficial bodies who may be arranging conferences or demonstrations or recommending stoppages of work. The movement must ensure that maximum united effort is put into the campaign being mounted by the General Council.'

Now, brothers and sisters, all together, put your heads on the chopping block.

HOW THE old lie machine rolls into action when workers go on strike. A Mr Hugh Faulkner, director of Help the Aged, joined the witch-hunt against the miners this week when he asked them to go back to work and 'lift the threat of sentence of death over old people'. Some 90,000 miners have died every year because of cold, and Mr Faulkner, Right. That is a savage indictment of a society that treats old people like cast-off shoes. Don't blame the miners. Jim on your sights a little higher, Mr Faulkner.

Happy Band

A COUNTRY PARSON is going to do a TV commercial for Blue Band margarine. He will have a free hand to write the script. Generosity being the hallmark of this column, here is a few free samples:

'It was the beginning of the marge... Yes, though I walk through the valley of Summer Country, I will fear no evil for Blue Band is with me... Faith, hope, Blue Band - these

three. But the greatest of these is Blue Band. Mind you, he'll never go to heaven. They don't take people who can't marge from butter. Eye, eye

OUR MAN IN NEW YORK writes: The only incident of any real interest during the Congressional election campaign was when a certain Waterkys, Democrat candidate for a state post, couldn't make a public appearance because his contact lenses were swallowed by an aide. The lesson is, don't wear your lenses in your tooth mug.

NO HEADACHES for the boys of Beechams, the giant drugs and toiletries firm. On Monday they announced pre-tax profits of $15,750,000 for the first six months of the year, compared with $11,465,000 for the previous six months.

Beechams results are in line with the general trend this year. Total company profits are up by 2.6 per cent and dividends by 1.6 per cent. Did someone say there was a crisis?

Up in smoke

CARRERAS, the Piccadilly and Rothman cigarette group, paid a $42,000 'nicotine handbills' to their former chairman, Mr C A Roebert. We understand he is greatly delighted. When W R S Plunkett left the company in 1967, he got $8,000 to help him withstand the rigours of the dole queue.

Ah well, that's inflation for you.

NOTICES

MINERS REJECT ‘GO BACK CALL’ FROM ‘LEFT’ LEADERS

by John Charlton

THE 119,000 STRIKING MINERS of Yorkshire, Scotland and South Wales have been rubbished by the Labour chairman of the National Coal Board, with a cool £250 a week, wishes to deprive miners of a living wage. He accuses them of ‘unethical and criminal practices’, convenient ignoring the clear majority vote for strike action in last month’s ballot.

He has dragged out the usual ‘Red Scare’. Desperate men will try any dirty tactics and Roberts is a desperate man, with 2 coal shortage looming and the Tory government breaking down his neck.

No one should be surprised by the vicious smear campaign being mounted by the Tory press, both nationally and locally. Where do these rich barons get their nerve from?

Owners like Lord Thomson and Rupert Murdoch have vast sums of money at their disposal to live in luxury. Their editors, too, struggle along on £200 a week. Yet they begrudge the miner £20 a week and peddle lies and smear to divide and disrupt the miners’ struggle.

ARROGANT

Right wing union leaders, like Sidney Shale of Yorkshire, have refused to abide by democratic decision. On Monday, after the Yorkshire NUM Convention had voted by 43 to 33 votes for strike action, the National Executive ordered the 33 to ignore the majority and to return to work.

The general secretary of the NUM, Mr Lawson, told the miners they must not be intimidated by the violent campaign of the houses and the press. They have joined the chorus of ‘get back to work’ lies.

They deserve the most serious criticism. If they are serious in their claim to serve the interests of the miners, then from the moment the vote was set for a strike ballot they should have known the country especially supporting the miners to follow a real militant lead.

Given the advantages of strike, Rank and file members had an even greater responsibility to fight for their principles.

EXPOSED

Instead, they have hidden behind an out-date and reactionary constitution. They stood against the official NUM of every miner who has sacrificed his wages for the past two years in the cause of national strike.

They arefaker who deserve never to be listened to again.

No, miners’ leaders, the strike is not stained up by ‘Reds’. Anyone who has been close to the fighting miners will realize they were angry and frustrated by the position forced on them over the year.

The thousand’s of men who are out most day to campaign to spread the strike feeling every where. The message must go out. The rank and file have more authority than the leaders who are sitting at home.

The claim that strike is losing ground.” Victory to the miners.

BATTLE FOR UNION RIGHTS

TWENTY WORKERS from the American-owned firm New Valley Mobile Homes at Royston, Northants, have been on strike for two months because 15 of the 55-strong workforce have refused to join a trade union.

The bosses assembled the 15 scabs in the canteen and promised them full support. The firm has advertised for blackleg labour in the local press.

The strikers belong to three unions: Woodworkkrs, Transport Workmen and Electricians’ United. After a joint speech, the EPDU area organizer refused to accede to the firm’s request and insisted that the five electricians back to work.

A patchy turnout

for Scots jobless strike

by Steve Jefferys

A.E.P shop steward, Thaysen, Linwood we won’t pretend it didn’t happen - it did. Tens of thousands of workers on the Clyde refuse to take part in a one-day stoppage on 11 November against Nationalisation of steel.

In Glasgow the strike went ahead. But in Paisley lack of support caused the protest to be abandoned.

So the shop stewards have been traditionally ‘non-political’ or ‘non-aligned’ and totally unconcerned. Linwood and Singers, Clydebank, the shop that made the Beatles, in fact where Communist Party militants have been well established, nothing happened. In Barrow, Redcar, and Rolya, Royalla, Haltwhael.

The exception was in the Ravenscraig steel works, which led the anti-strike campaign, and in the Daily Record office of the English Mirror, which backed it up unconditionally.

If we are to make sure that the bosses do not wipe the smiles from their faces on 8 December, we must look at what went wrong in Scotland.

Made no difference

The strike was ‘official’. It was called by the Glasgow Caledonian. The leaders had the full backing of the A.E.P and supported by the Clyde District of the Confederation of Engineers and Shipbuilding Unions. But this made no difference.

The job of organizing support for the strike was left to the local committees. Some had 10,000 members on the books, others only 100,000 workers, and these leaders didn’t appear in time for mass factory gate meetings.

The fact that the workers were not given the time to plan or to think - in fact, risk losing the job of getting the rank and file behind the 8 December because the 100,000 workforce, and these leaders didn’t appear in time for mass factory gate meetings.

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Let’s talk openly about the setback the workers have suffered in Scotland received on 11 November, correct the mistakes and the 11 November Liaison Committee conferences in London, go far better prepared to wage a successful war on the bosses.’