The biggest trade union demonstration in living memory takes place in London on Sunday 21 February. Workers from all parts of Britain will pour into London by plane, train and coach to join the TUC march and rally against the Tories' Industrial Relations Bill.

A TUC spokesman said on Wednesday that he expected 50,000 to take part - 'but that figure might easily be doubled.' The marchers will assemble in Hyde Park and move off at 1.30 for a rally in Trafalgar Square addressed by TUC leaders.

The massive response to the call for the march shows the growing determination by the trade union movement to kill the Tories' anti-strike measures. Socialist Worker calls on all its readers and supporters to join in the preparations for the demonstration and to back the march in London.

It is vital that the demonstration is a real show of working class strength. The march marks the end of the TUC's feeble campaign against the Bill - they now expect it to become law. Trade unionists have to declare that the fight must go on after 21 February and that decisive action NOW by the unions can kill the Bill stone dead and stop it getting on the statute books.

Tories aim to break workers' power

Militants and socialists have a tremendous opportunity next Sunday to bring their policies to a wider audience of workers. They must emphasise that the current Tory offensive is a political one aimed at breaking the power of floor workers and driving down wages and living standards.

International Socialists will be out in force on 21 February with their trade union contingents and selling thousands of extra copies of Socialist Worker on the march, at stations and on trains and coaches.

It must be a day to remember - a day that will show the strength and potential of organised workers to the handful of rich parasites who control our society.

N. Ireland: army provokes violence

British troops in action, guns and tanks against the people of the beleagured Belfast ghettos. The troops have been ordered to provoke fresh violence by the Westminster and Stormont governments. REPORT: page 2

Build Action Councils to kill the Bill
UNIONIST PANIC SPARKS BELFAST MURDER WAVE

by SEAN TREACY

A DESPERATE STRATEGY by the Chicster-Clark government to prevent its overthrow by Unionist right wingers lies behind the latest outburst of fighting in Northern Ireland. The violence in the Catholic ghettos in Belfast has been deliberately provoked, the result of a political decision by the Stormont bosses.

In an attempt to escalate the fighting followed Chicster-Clark’s visit to London earlier this month. At a meeting with Maudling and other Tory leaders, the Stormont premier tried to persuade them that the only chance to stop his government being ousted by the extreme right led by William Craig was to get the go-ahead from London to open the internment camps.

Westminster was not enthusiastic about this policy. It would have made life even more difficult for Jack Lynch’s government in Dublin.

In this way, Stormont hoped to provoke a response from the militants in the Catholic ghetto that would allow them to wipe out the “provincial” wing of the IRA.

Chicster-Clark hoped to rally the unionists of the region, who might otherwise sabotage the take-over by the Craigites.

The troops have lived up to their new instructions in the past few days, with more than 500 people were arrested through the streets at high speed—

Bankrupt system

After nationalisation Rolls-Royce will be dominated by a board of directors chosen from among the ranks of the large industrialists and big banks. Its aim will still be to make profits in competition with other aircraft manufacturers. Its workers will still be subject to the absurd system that means that they are told to keep down their wages in order to be competitive with foreign firms, and that foreign firms tell their workers to endure low wages in order to compete with Rolls-Royce.

The fact that the Tories are forced to resort to measures of nationalisation shows how bankrupt the capitalist organisation of society is— it can only survive by relying on its opposite, socialisation of industry. Yet this can only put off for a period the problems of the capitalist class. In its present form, it can do no less for the workers.

Workers at Rolls-Royce will be faced with redundancy and resistance. Even if they escape unemployment they will usually be working on military projects that might protect the profits of big business but do nothing to boost the wealth of society.

All the measures of nationalisation to hold up the present system of society but something quite different: the taking over of society’s wealth by the majority, the organised working class, in the interests of the whole of society.

By arguing now for nationalisation under workers’ control, with those whose hands have built the union nationally to hold up the present system of society but something quite different: the taking over of society’s wealth by the majority, the organised working class, in the interests of the whole of society.

ACTION KEY TO DEFEAT OF TORY BILL

THE DECISIONS by the AUEW and the TGWU to call for one day strike against the Tory Bill and for a boycott of the machinery that will be set up if the Bill becomes law represent a clear victory for militant policies.

As we have argued repeatedly in this paper, only decisive industrial action can defeat the Tory measures. And even if the law does come into effect, a decision by a significant section of the trade union movement to deliberately flout the law, by refusing to register, refusing to hold ballots and ordering their members to respect picket lines and black goods, could still stop the law on the ground.

The government would be faced with the choice between admitting that no law can bind the organised working class or facing the repercussions that the vacant law will bring.

The AUEW and TGWU decisions represent an important step towards the admission of the trade unions. The decision to strike and to boycott is a major step forward.

Both unions intend to put such policies before the TUC Special Conference on 18 March. No doubt many of the more ‘moderate’ of the unions will try and follow from the most ‘extreme’ policies of boycotts if the majority at the TUC disagrees with them. That is why it is essential that rank and file bodies and trade union branches in all industries should support the TGWU and AUEW call to boycott the law on 18 March.

Narrow reporting on campaign

THE ARTICLE about May Hobbs and the campaign to unionise night cleaners (30 January) did not mention the help May has received from Women’s Liberation Workshop, the Socialist Woman group, and Camden Trades’ Action Group. The article gave the impression that IS is the only group helping her. It is embarrassing for IS women working in the Women’s Liberation movement, in unity with other left groups, to explain away the “for IS only” by IS positions in Socialist Worker. I am sure that Frank Vroom did not intend to be sectarian but was merely tactless. — GILLIAN SIMMS, Harrow, Middx.

During the postal strike short letters and reports can be telephoned to Socialist Worker on 01-739 2639. Letters must be received on Mondays, reports and advertisements on Tuesdays.
CUT-THROATS IN CRISIS

THE COLLAPSE of Rolls-Royce, the pride of British industry, has exposed spectacularly just how shaky western capitalism really is.

The Tory press cannot even pretend to blame the 'crippling effect' of the world recession for this crisis. Instead they have tried to lay responsibility for the biggest bankruptcy since the war at the door of a technology-minded Labour government embroiled in a dubious contract.

This hardly hides the fact that the Rolls-Royce affair is only a symptom of the crisis affecting the whole aerospace industry. The crisis is rooted in the fantastic 'technology race' in the industry since the war. In 1953 the Dart engine sold for £7,000. In 1964 the Spey engine cost £65,000, while the more famous RB211 engine for the Lockheed Tristar would have sold — at a loss — of £10,000 per engine — for about £20,000.

This great leap in costs is due largely to the enormous research and development expenses involved in producing these fantastically complex engines.

Huge loans

The failing rate of profit in the aerospace industry means that companies like Rolls-Royce have to rely on huge loans to finance such projects. But a loan has to be repaid and they can only do this if they make plenty of profits.

However, with the drive towards bigger and bigger engines, passenger aircraft can be carried on fewer planes. This has reduced, for example, BOAC's fleet was reduced from 68 to 53 even though there is no significant increase in traffic.

In America the bulk of the airlines carry little more than 20 per cent of the maximum weight allowed. As costs shoot up the size of the sales market shrinks even more so, the result of the complete anarchy of the aviation industry.

Manufacturers resort to even fiercer competition — Rolls-Royce spent £400,000 in persuading Lockheed to buy the RB211 — they use the most aggressive research and quote lower and lower prices in the hope of getting a government contract and so to capture the diminishing market.

And the cut-throat wars that follow bring more risks to be taken and the situation has become so explosive that one mistake can bankrupt and large redundancies are expected in British Leyland.

The Tories are hoping that this will be the big stick to beat the workers into submission. But the action of the Glasgow stewards in pushing a £5 wage claim regardless of the crisis suggests a different response.

The unique combination of a disheartened ruling class, severe unemployment, continuing shop floor militancy and growing political awareness must be explosive. The Tories could get a good deal more than they bargained for.

As more crashes loom, workers must fight to save their jobs

The RB211 engine: £450,000 just to check the deal

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by John Devenport

DUNDEE—2000 militant workers marched on Sunday in an officially sponsored trade union demonstration against the Industrial Relations Bill. It was supported by workers from the nearby towns of Perth, Forfar, and Brechin.

The trade unionists marched through the town to a meeting attended by 2000 in the Caird Hall. In the chair was Alexander Dunnet, chairman of the Scottish TUC and the main speakers were Jim Sellars, Labour MP for Dundee, and Peter Doig who had been deposing on the platform. Rank and file workers who had carried the burden of organising the demonstration and meeting were angry at the lack of fight by the STUC leaders.

After two hours of platform platitude, only 10 minutes were allowed for speakers from the floor. But they made up for the lack of time with the clarity of their demands for militant action.

A UPW striker received a warm reception for his speech in which he demanded that the TUC leaders call a national general strike to defeat the Bill.

THE EMPLOYERS' OFFENSIVE — productivity deals and how to fight them

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RECENT EVENTS in Poland—the shooting down of demonstrating workers before Christmas, the recent wave of strikes and the strikes since-have once again forced many militants and socialists in the West to ask themselves what the regime of Eastern Europe has got to do with socialism.

The first thing to understand about these regimes is that they cannot be broken down by fighting the workers’ revolution. Communist leaders were able to come to power in those countries because of an agreement between Stalin and the western leaders Roosevelt and Churchill at the close of the Second World War.

At the Yalta conference, a division of Europe into spheres of influence was agreed. Stalin was allowed a free hand in Eastern Europe. In return he ordered Communists in the countries in the rebuilding of the non-communist and the Austrian Allies. Communist leaders had been forced to the side-purposes of increasing the trade and profits of the multinational and international nature of the working class. A single socialist state cannot satisfy its needs for purposes of suppressing the workers’ revolts.

In Europe the Communist Party has been formed for the sake of the capitalists and the national action of the working class. A single socialist state cannot satisfy its needs for purposes of suppressing the workers’ revolts. Communist leaders have been forced to the side-purposes of increasing the trade and profits of the multinational and international nature of the working class. A single socialist state cannot satisfy its needs for purposes of suppressing the workers’ revolts.

In Poland, a good example. It had no Communist Party at all from 1956 to 1980. The regular election of all full-time officials. We are firmly opposed to secret regulations and believe that air may be balanced or repeated by mass meetings.

We are against anti-trade union laws and arbitrary interference with the right to strike, whether the strikes are ‘official’ or ‘unofficial.’

We are against production, trade union and right to strike and are for the recognition of the full rights of the working class to education and labour.

We are for the introduction of a social security system which resources can be devoted to the need of the workers.

We are against all ruling class ‘national’ or ‘international’ action of the working class. We work to build a revolutionary work and support the unity of all revolutionary socialist groups.

The struggle for socialism is the fight for the future of the working class.

Workers’ power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing of men’s power, over nature, over the power of man over man, is certainly worthy fighting for.

It is no use just talking about it. Over a century ago Karl Marx wrote, "The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it." If you want to help us build the world and build socialism, join us.


JANUARY 1971

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MIDLANDS: Birmingham/Coventry/Nottingham/Liverpool/Widnes

The working class fights back... and the tanks roll in

THE HISTORY of Eastern Europe since the war has not only been a history of oppression but also a history of the fight back against oppression by the working class. On 16 June 1953, building workers in East Berlin went on strike against increased work norms. When they demonstrated through the streets, thousands of other workers joined them. By the next morning the whole city was gripped by a general strike as demonstrations continued.

Intervention by Russian troops provoked bitter fighting. They eventually managed to clear the streets, but not before the revolt had spread to every industrial centre in East Germany. Prisoners were broken into and government buildings were burned down. Only massive use of force enabled the authorities to put the revolt down.

A similar spontaneous revolts, growing out of strikes by a key group of workers, hit the Polish town of Gdansk almost exactly three years later, in 1956. Again police stations were attacked and government buildings burned down.

Again rapid intervention by troops succeeded in quelling the disturbances. But the outcome of the rising was different. At first the authorities tried to blame "imperialists agents and the reactionary underground" for the rising.

Big concessions

The tide was turned as it became clear that only mass resistance to the workers could placate popular unrest. Gdansk, previously in prison himself, was brought into the government. Considerable wage increases were given to workers. Workers' councils were promised the right to control the factories.

Yet the gains of the workers were to be short-lived. Within a year the workers' councils had been relieved of most of their powers.

Although the "reform movement" began among a section of the bureaucracy itself, together with intellectuals and students, the working class became the chief force pushing for democratization of society. After the Russian intervention in August 1956...

Workers' disgust

Mass meetings of workers in the factories and other trade unions—particularly the Metal Workers' Union—continued to protest the demands of the Russian regime for long after most of the original reformers had changed sides.

The December fighting in Gdansk, Gdynia and Szczecin is only one link in a series of explosions of the disgust of workers with the so-called "Communist" regime. And reports that workers' councils are again being established in Poland and other countries indicate that workers there are beginning to realize the real nature of the present system of state capitalism and what exists in their own country.

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**THE MEANING OF MARXISM**

A weekly column by Duncan Hallas

Out of isolation, the rise of Stalin’s dictatorship

THE DEFEAT of the German revolution early in 1919 was a setback for the revolutionary international and a decisive break with the unreliable ‘independent’ and ‘centrist’ Labour opposition in the Comintern’s international, holding its founding conference in Moscow in March 1919.

Within three years it had gained the support of mass Communist parties in Germany, France, Italy and the former European countries, on the basis of an uncompromising internationalist and revolutionary programme.

Unfortunately by that time the crisis had passed, European capitalism had been temporarily stabilised and the Soviets outside Russia destroyed. But the next crisis would, it was hoped, provide revolutionary opportunities with a strong working-class base.

Yet the Communist International was inevitably critically influenced by what happened in Russia and by 1921 the Russian Soviet regime was facing a desperate situation. The long-term outcome of this crisis was to demoralize and ultimately destroy the International and to parallel the working-class movement for bolshevization.

The end of the civil war left the Soviet government with an empty treasury and isolated also from the mass of the Russian people — the peasants. So long as there was a real danger that the Tsarist landowners might be restored, large sections of the peasantry supported the Bolsheviks. Once this danger had passed they became actively hostile to a government that had been driven to rely on forced requisitioning of grain to feed the cities.

The entire system rests on the discipline of the party, on organised famine in the cities, on requisitions in the countryside, wrote the communist Victor Serge. The rise of the revolution in Kronstadt and, even more ominous, the strikes and demonstrations led by workers who were losing working class support too. It was becoming a dictatorship not of the proletariat and the remnants of the working class.

Reactionaries argue that this was the inevitable consequence of the ‘original sin’ of revolutionaries. But this is to know better, that this is due to the lack of understanding of Lenin and the existence of a disciplined party, Tha is rubbish.

The essence of the matter had been stated by Marx years earlier. ‘When the working class destroyed the political rule of the capitalists, that will only be a temporary victory, so long as ... the material conditions are not yet created which make necessary the abolition of the capitalist mode of production.’

Renegades’ sabotage

On its all European scale these conditions had been created. In Russia by itself they had not. This was well understood by the founders of the Communist movement. Since 1917 there had been so much misrepresentation of this basic fact that one can observe in some quarters an increasing tendency to identify the present-day Russian bourgeoisie, that satan in and still describes itself as a ‘Soviet Socialist Republic’, but in fact a totalitarian dictatorship, developed in Russia. It is not possible here to trace the sophisticated agents for the rise of Stalin. A good summary is given in the IS pamphlet ‘The Great Purge’ by Chris Harman (5th ed.). But the effect of this development on the Communist International changed the whole of the future of the Comintern.

In the early years those parties were far from being in a good position to Moscow. In 1919 the French and Polish parties had protested vigorously against the attacks of the Russian bureaucracy — the Stalin faction — on the Communist opposition in the USSR. But with the receding of the revolutionary mood in Europe the parties became more attached to the party leadership and more dependent on it. Advice from Moscow became the most important source of their political influence.

Increasingly the Russian bureaucracy, which dominated the executive of the International, began to interfere with the internal life of the parties. Telegrams from the executive sought the intervention of the Comintern to put ‘seemingly’ amendments into the bills of the parliaments of the Western European countries to protect the trade union rights of Russian workers. Harold Wilson and the Labour Party were involved. Care was then taken to protect the common interests of the working class against much more frequent. A wit described the CP of the USA. A move to many people is the division of Russia is a move to many people is the division of Russia. The Stalinists used genuine political disputes within the movement to promote leaders for whom the decision of Moscow was final. Gradually the more independent leaders and the more serious marxists were eliminated.

The collapse of Stalin and his colleagues on the CP were partly determined by the factional struggles inside the Russian party — until 1929 when Stalin became the supreme ruler, enacting by the requirements of Russian foreign policy.

Defeat in China

In the middle-20th century semi-feudal fac- tion were adopted and they led to a number of avoidable disasters. Most spectacular was the defeat of the Chinese revolution of 1925-27. Stalin urged the Chinese CP to ‘unite’ with the Kuomintang — the party of Chinese capitalists.

The Kuomintang was to be pushed into power, and its leaders were to curb the violent uprising of workers and peasants in the interest of ‘national unity’. Chiang Kai-shek was actually made a ‘honorary member’ of the executive of the Communist International.

The results of this adventure were the smashing of the Chinese revolution and the creation of an authoritarian dictatorship under ‘Comrade Chiang’.

Worse was to come. The German party, the strongest in the International, and with the whole German working class movement, was to be crushed by another defeat. The consequence was the victory of fascism in Germany.
CINEMA
A SEVERED HEAD is the film version of the novel by Iris Murdoch, about the stage play by her and J B Priestley. I have not read either play or novel and cannot say whether the film is a worthy interpretation of them, but feeling that a little subtlety is in it except for shallow fantasy and a rather heavy-handed attempt at simulating a modern dream sequence, the film was made on a shoestring.

Of course there is nothing wrong with fantasy, but if you are looking for relaxation, away from the hearing sores and ironies and 'sad struggle' type of film, then there are better films around than this one.

The characters have little credibility. The dialogues are new and 'trendy'. The action is pretentious and the people belong to a world alien to anything I know or understand.

Abundant and decadent figures appear like Palmer Anderson played by Richard Attenborough. He is a phony psycho-analyist whose catch phrase is: 'I cannot be honest about this'.

Antonia, the middle-aged spool breast around whom all action revolves (played by Lee Remick), is an irritating figure, frivolous and totally uncommitted to any stable relationship.

Most of the characters are like her in so far as they fail to relate to anything or anybody.

Michael, the wealthy wine merchant, an example, played amusingly by the excellent Shakespearean actor Ian Holm, takes the title role of an adulterous husband. He is not in love with his wife (pretends to be) nor his girlfriend.

Half-sister, Oxford Don, Dr Honor Klein, played by Vivien Merchant, is like a prowling panther, ascetic and witch-like. Michael is fascinated by her, he is also interested in Japanese art and culture, and only she can understand the abstraction. The film is called A Severed Head. The guide and mentor of all the characters is the maxim so often used by the analyst, 'we are all civilized people'. Using this meaningless phrase, the individual characters interpret it as they will, while quietly swapping partners in a seemingly endless barn dance.

Ginny West

CAPTAIN SWING at the Penny Goff is the title of the new play opening at Unity Theatre, London, on Friday 11 February. The subject of the play is the 1430 uprisings of agricultural workers who had been reduced to starvation.

The Captain Swing never actually existed but his name was enough to strike terror into the hearts of the landlords. The workers' movement spread from county to county throughout the south of England.

The play will be performed every Tuesday and Saturday from 19 February to 28 March. Tickets are £4.50. For further details or bookings, contact Unity Theatre, 1 Goldington Street, N11, 367 6647.

REGULAR climbers of this column will recall our recent item about the South African building industry. A major building project in a posh white area had come to a halt when the government discovered that its apartheid labour code was being flouted by the use of black labour to do skilled jobs such as plasterers and bricklayers.

The contractors, concerned more with their profits than with principle, got round the difficulty by surrounding their black workers with garden terraces, pieces of wood and rag to do their jobs. This reclassified them as 'unskilled' and the work could continue.

Under pressure from the building bosses, the government has now decided to regularize the position. This week it allowed the building industry, suffering acutely from a shortage of labour, to employ black workers in the skilled jobs of bricklayer and plasterer.

But enter a whistle in the wood piles. Leaders of the white-only building trade union complained angrily at the decision and walked out of talks with the Minister of Labour.

Said Brother Gert Benge, the union secretary, 'the decision is shockingly the funeral of white building workers.' The Minister, he added, had 'struck the union representatives dumb.'

That alone could be construed as a small blow for progress.

A TOP-SECRET committee has been set up by the government to co-ordinate the work of the police and the army in the event of civil revolt in Britain. Perhaps they'd like to give us a ring when it breaks out.

Alf's nest-egg
IN CASE you were worried about great workers' friend Lord Robens

Robert Powell (Jude) and Alex Marshall as his wife, Arabella, in BBC's serialisation of Jude the Obscure — see TV column

GIEREK: with you went here... having a tough time... making ends meet on his pension, we are happy to report that the sacked Coal Board chief has just lined up two part-time jobs.

He is to become chairman of two firms, Johnson Matthey, the precious metals firm and Vickers, the giant engineering combine. Both will pay him more than £10,000 a year. A little more than retired miners.

And just so he feels at home, Johnson Matthey have a fine record of anti-union strike busting.

Cough up
MORE THAN 2000 working and retired miners are planning to sue the Coal Board for damages because they contracted the dust disease pneumoconiosis. Their cases are being handled by solicitors instructed by the miners' union.

This is not a result of action by the NUM. It has always been noted for its reluctance to do anything on this issue. The miners were spurred into action when one ex-miner sued the Coal Board off his own bat and received £7500 in an out-of-court settlement. It makes a change from giving public money to the former owners of the pits.

THE DEVELOPMENT of television in the 1950s from the cozy, middle-class narrowness of the BBC to the dominating sector of the mass media is one of the great stories of our times, and it is one that people say that we would quote together with the decline of our industrial towns and the rise of cultur-al idioms and would forget how to read. In fact, the opposite is the case and the standard model of borrowing from public libraries has increased tenfold in the last 15 years or so.

In BBC's brand new standard of 'classic serials' has played an important part in this development. The new serial is a television stimulator: I, for one, have been encouraged to read Chairman of the Board by J. B. Priestley and to see the serialisation of its work. Now it is the opposite. The view of Thomas Hardy, a writer of whom I must confess total ignorance, has always assumed from its strange title that Jude the Obscure was a reformer, but an informative article by D. A. N. Jones in the current Radio Times says it is just the opposite, an outspoken attack on the class system that the book is now being serialised by BBC1 on Saturday evenings (repeats on Fridays). Jude is a Yorkshire country squire whose dream to become a college don is smothered by a burning ambition to become a man of affairs. Jude is a hard man, backed by the village attitude that education is not 'for the likes of us' and by the solid class walls of the university that keep out the working class. The plot however is too turgid for the screen to work, but it is at least an attempt to take a place, with a spoken introduction, of a series of one-hour serials and to introduce a sizeable chunk of the book's oppositionist. It is not a very promising start. I don't think Jude had grown up, drifted into a hopeless marriage, shown his delights for farm life by refusing to kill a pig and, losing his wife, more determined, to work for the university town.

This is a start, however, by the scruff of the neck and carried us into the story at breakneck speed. Jude's characterisation and the plot line appear.

Torture
WHAT WE REPORT on television is a strange experience. I like football butt I cannot bear to watch it because I am a West Ham supporter and I don't want to see any of my team scored against. So I can't watch, and secondly, the sound of those goalposts clanging, the ball in the net, makes me want to get more than my flesh and blood can stand.

It is a strange experience and, like patriotism, enters into English soccer matches. Last Saturday a BBC film on Alan Shearer was almost sobbing with emotion as a British to-talitarian sported around the rink in the European championship. What a performance! What a job for Britain, the whole country will be proud of him. The appalling weeks lasted on and on. Then a sharp change of gear and no matter as a Russian and Czech took the tie and turned in performances that were better of fear against the British champ.

I was left cold and, of course, 'our' lad squared into third position. But there was no doubt in the country, or anywhere, about who should have won. We can't get used to seeing the next sport: Commander Shepard is almost ready to hit the lunar adventure in with his team and the database just doesn't move: it's all just a jolly game, totally unrelated with world politics. The public is used to domination between two competing superpowers.
Postal strikers fight on

by Dave Percival

THE POSTAL STRIKERS are still battling on. At the start of the dispute the press was full of tales about a collapse of the strike but they never refer to it now. Union leaders are confident that the movement will come up with improved offers this week.

The strike has given both the Post Office and the government a shock. They thought they would never have to define the postal job.

They were confident that without strike pay the postal workers would quickly return to work, but that impression dissipated as the 200,000 strikers have proved them wrong.

The strike leaders have said repeatedly that the strike is not a political dispute. They are fighting for their jobs.

The Toffs are attacking all the public sector workers. Railways are the next in line.

The only way this offensive can be fought is by forming an Industrial Alliance of all the trade unions.

The Toffs would then be faced with a united front of millions of workers. Under such circumstances it would be difficult for them to continue with their present policy of trying to split each group of workers on the question of strike pay.

Such an industrial alliance would ensure a much quicker victory for the postal workers in their present dispute.

Sacking threat: Styles

HEAVY RENEWALs threatened the Post Office, UPA executive member Malcolm Styles told a large rally in Leeds on Monday.

Describing Post Office acting chairman Bill Ryland as "living in the Middle Ages" and "not a fit man to run a 20th century public service", Styles said the union and management had failed to reach any agreement on the future of post centres from 1200 to 3441 locations.

One of the mechanised units was "opened last September but the Post Office now threatened to close it in February", he claimed. "Equally significant is the refusal of the Post Office to ensure adequate provision of time to the 110,000 postal workers employed in the 2,000 post offices.

A resolution moved from the floor of the meeting called for postal workers to give the new management notice that they are aware of the threat of job losses and the fact that they are fighting for their jobs.

A resolution moved from the floor of the meeting called for postal workers to give the new management notice that they are aware of the threat of job losses and the fact that they are fighting for their jobs.

Strikers in press protest

This costsy advertisement appeared in the national press this week putting the Ford management's case for the strike which has cost the public £350,000 a day by distortions, Dagenham strikers protested on Tuesday outside the offices of the Daily Mirror and London Evening News.

EUROPEAN SOPHISTICATION... ACTION BACKS FORD STRIKE

by COLIN BEADLE

Dagenham Body Plant, TGWU

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY action from Ford's European plants will strengthen British workers in their fight for parity with Midlands car rates. The strike is now entering its second week and there is 100 per cent support for it at the Dagenham plant in the country.

Conversors from all Ford's British and European plants met in Belgium last weekend to hammer out a programme of action to strengthen the strike. One immediate result is an overtime ban at Genk and Cologne.

Production of the Cortina and the Pinto will be curtailed and will stop, switching extra production abroad from its strike-bound British plants.

Moves may also be taken to get backing from the Auto Workers' Union in the United States. These steps illustrate the practical value of workers' international links to fight the strength of the multinational combines.

CONVINCED

The demonstration of the British strikers has shaken the Ford management with the result that they can no longer afford to be on the side of the other workers in their unions, the workers are convinced that this is why they will continue to support the strikers in all the Ford plants.

As a result of May Day, Ford workers are at the bottom of the car wages hierarchy and are as much as £17 a week behind the rates at Chrysler's Coventry factories.

6000 on anti-Bill march

BRADFORD: 6000 workers marched through Bradford to demonstrate against the Industrial Relations Bill. The demonstration was organized by the Yorkshire Industrial Council and was supported by large contingents from trade unions, English Electric, Croft and International Harvesting workers.

Workers from Metal Box Plc, Shipley, who were on an eight-hour strike, also joined the march and postal workers were on strike. Six thousand marchers converged on the three halls booked to hold the demonstration.

Five hundred women workers from Sale's television factory dealt threats of an afternoon lock-out to take part on the Bradford march.

MILITANT CAR WORKERS

PLAN GRASS-ROOTS PAPER

A SUCCESSFUL car workers' conference was held in Birmingham last Sunday. Delegates from 11 factories attended the meeting and discussions took place on parity, Measured Day Work and the general situation in the industry.

The conference agreed to set up a rank and file car workers' paper with the following programme:

1. Opposition to anti-trade union legislation and any restrictions or penalties on the right to strike.
2. Support to all strikers in defiance of workers' interests.
3. Opposition to Measured Day Work, job evaluation and productivity deals.
4. Support for 'multiots' on all issues.
5. Five days a week or five days' pay instead of lay-offs and short time.
6. Support for all demands for parity and equal pay.
7. Opposition to redundancies and factory closures.
8. Support for the demand for the proposed Ford strikers' bonus.
9. For effective combination of workers' organisations throughout the whole industry.
10. For international cooperation and solidarity between car workers.
11. For rank and file decision of the collective trade union elections.

The conference agreed to an early publication of the paper. Details can be obtained from The Business Manager, 73 Lloyd Baker Road, London W3, 037-3470.