WE CAN WIN!

Mass movement can beat Tory anti-union Bill

140,000 TRADE UNIONISTS on one of the biggest demonstrations ever seen in London proved that there is growing and massive opposition to the Tories' Industrial Relations Bill. The size, the spirit and the determination of the marchers proved the lie that the British working class is apathetic.

If the struggle is stepped up, if a campaign is waged against the Tories in every area, every factory, office and workplace, hundreds of thousands more workers can be brought into action and the Bill can be killed.

The success of that struggle depends on the rank and file of the unions. In spite of the strength of Sunday's demonstration, the TUC leaders still refuse to take serious action to stop the Bill becoming law and defeating the government.

On Monday the TUC's Finance and General Purposes Committee again turned down a call for strike action against the Bill from the Transport Workers and the Engineers. Feather and company say they do not want to alienate 'public' sympathy by going beyond protest marches.

SPECIAL CONGRESS

Yet Feather himself said that every marcher on Sunday represented five workers. That is a substantial section of the 'public' - and the militant slogans and demands for a General Strike showed just how determined they are to fight the Bill with all the power at their command.

The TUC leaders have to face the Special Congress on 18 March. They are so worried that the delegates will vote for a militant policy of strike action that Monday's meeting decided to allow no motions from the floor.

The action of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is in sharp contrast to the dithering of the TUC. On Monday they stage the first of their one-day strikes against the Bill.

Carr's Bill can be defeated by strike action and firm declarations now that unions will refuse to cooperate if it should manage to become law.

SHOWDOWN WITH TORIES

As the postmen and Ford workers fight on and are likely to be joined by railwaymen and other public sector workers, it becomes clear that the forces are mobilising and gaining strength for a showdown with the government.

Every trade unionist should support the 1 March and 18 AUEW strikes and show their readiness to fight to defend their rights.

Every trade unionist should redouble his efforts to commit his union to a fighting policy against the Bill and demand that the TUC leaders are forced to call a General Strike until Carr surrenders.

We can win. Sunday's mighty demonstration showed the enormous potential of the labour movement. Armed with a militant policy we can defeat this reactionary bosses' government and begin to lay the groundwork for a movement dedicated to the struggle for a socialist society.

Raise money for the postal strikers!
21 February 1971

by PAUL FOOT

THE POSTMEN’S STRIKE is the biggest since the war. What started as a simple exercise in class war by the Post Office, is now the government that has barricaded its faces.

They hoped to pick off in a few days a group of men and women who had no experience of industrial battle. After nearly two weeks, they are stumbling back first to their defences and mourning about courts of inquiry.

The strike was anticipated by the Post Office more than a month before. But Ryland and his master, Christopher Chataway, Minister of Posts, see the strike as something rather more important than a battle of wits. Their eyes are fixed on a different and more important weapon — the corporation’s final offer.

The statistics of Post Office finance are simple enough. Postal services make losses in 1969-70. Post Office sales make vast profits. (44 million in 1969-70.)

The more the postal service is run as a service, the more losses it makes. If the government wants to make the postal service profitable, it can.

The postal service is the best in the world because until recently the 'profit' motive has been too low to pay for the cost of providing the service. Now, if the government wants to sell the service, it can.

Chataway, Ryland and Company Ltd. know of no such principle. They know that only telephones make huge profits. They also know that telephones are more expensive to run than the telephone system. They know that the government must finance not profitable services else.

But the strike is more today in its direct effect on working men and women. It is a battle to save the Post Office from the same fate as the National Savings Committee, which had to be nationalised.

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Rank and file unity can win key fight for parity

THE RESPONSE by workers in the Ford strike, now in its fourth week, was described as a "massacre that had never been seen since pre-war days", by Sid Harraway, AUEW chairman of the Ford National Convenors' Committee. Attempts by the Ford management to deny facts about the amount earned by the workers has only served to make the men more determined to continue their fight for parity — equal pay — with those doing the same jobs for other car companies. Ford has the highest profits in the car industry, yet their workers are the lowest paid.

One year ago, in the 1979 campaign for parity, the men were by now walking for £4 without a fight. Tommy Oram, AUEW member of the Joint Works Convention of Dagenham Ford, Dagenham Rillit, and Ford Thames at Dagenham, added: "Ford had no idea what was coming behind them from other Ford factories in Britain and that was the beginning of Ford's long-term decline.

Dagenham has moved along with other British car plants into a new dimension that has even been ahead of the stokers and convenermen, who claim they have learned something from men's spontaneous militant action. In most plants mass meetings were a pure formality and lasted only five minutes. Tommy and Charlie James, AUEW shop steward in the Body Plant Press Shop, said: 'This time, the men have been educating us.'

Tommy Oram said: 'It is very significant that at the moment no one is asking "when do we go back?"'

Arrogant

Sid Harraway added: 'It was a unique experience to see 3,000,000 members of the Dagenham workers at Dagenham in their feeling intensely and developing the number of people expressing opposite views could be counted on one hand. The word conveys the usp, the un-Germanic, the non-Englishness of the Ford management. They thought we were no good, that we had no right to stand up for ourselves, that we were not men.

'They felt that they could recite the shop steward's names and numbers. They thought the mass of workers would not support the Ford Convenors.

'Mick Murphy, TGWU convener of the Esperia steel workers, said: 'They had released informally the Ford management that they were not necessary and that they would not be needed in the new factory. They showed the arrogant spirit of the management as a response to the workers' revolutionary spirit, based on the Ford strike.'

Smash

Mick Murphy said: 'I think the management offered £2 for the following reasons: it would provide a high degree of unity, and a form of the government and it is no secret that Bill Barby, Ford's managing director, had discussions with Robert Carr, and the strike would not have been so easily defeated.'

He added that Robert Carr is pushing the idea that something has to be done about the strikes and that Ford management feels that they will either have to pay up or pay off. They feel that they can smash parity once and for all.

Sid Harraway pointed out that the parity campaign only started when the National Convenors Congress in 1978 reconstituted two years ago to include rank and file representatives from the factory floor. 'In 1978, the union officials had moved in and put their seal on this dispute or at least that was their intention. We all knew that all Ford workers would be out but the people who had responded better this time than ever before. The way to win this battle is to win the Ford strike, which began unofficially, would have been completed an "infection", according to Tommy Oram.

'We felt the Bill law now it would not have made the slightest bit of difference said Charlie James. 'How would people have dealt with 400,000 million men to actually telling the shop stewards what to do?

'They felt that the younger workers were the factory and they would play a key part in the attitudes in this strike. The younger people had lost their background. They aren't so easily radicalized. The older men who came out of the army after National Service, who were controlled by superior officers, have a different outlook,' said Charlie James.

'New workers think: Why the hell have we got to work so hard for little pay? They will not accept the idea that a grown man has to hold his head up before he can go to the toilet. This view was echoed by Tony HYATT, a worker in the Body Plant.'

Problems

'Shop stewards at Ford are attempting to form a liaison committee within the motor industry, particularly now that British Leyland and others are trying to kick out piecework and bring "Modern Day Work in", said Mick Murphy.

'There is a real need to look into the role of shop stewards and committees to ensure that we will be informed enough to deal with the many common problems we have to face.'

The parity campaign at Ford can inspire and indicate activity in the general movement as a whole. 'Parity has tremendous significance for other workers' said Mick Murphy. 'Of course it means something different to different workers. But other workers are seeing the way up and down the country and our struggle is relevant to their success in their battle for higher wages.'

Northern Ireland: who is responsible for the violence?

Both Catholic Goulde in and the Dublin leadership believe that Protestantism and Unionism engineered this to prevent a Catholic majority from forming the government in the nationalist areas.

'Of course the Provisionals — an organisation of working class militants led by middle-class revolutionaries with a grassroots strategy — cannot provide the necessary socialisation. On the other hand, socialists, like our comrades of the People's Democracy, have made it clear that no such leadership could command the support of Catholic workers, which does not oppose the upsurge of the nationalism and the presence of the army of occupation.'

Concerning the British, they will only succeed in winning a single militant Protestant worker. Ireland's refusal to take such a stand has nothing in common with the policies of the international Socialists— SEAN TREACY.

Antonio Zamboni An introduction to his thought

by A POZZOLINI

90p(18s)

Pluto Press

6 Cottons Gardens London E2
TELEVISION, radio and newspapers are always being accused of bias. The frequency of these attacks tends to full those working in the media into a bored sense of smug self-satisfaction. If we are to call ourselves unbiased, we must be all right, is the line taken. Nothing could be more dangerous.

In newspapers the bias caused by ownership is widely recognised - whether as a joke or a scandal depends upon your sense of humour. But television is supposed to be different. Parliament has imposed upon it legal obligations to be impartial.

The Television Act under which ITV operates demands that due impartiality is guaranteed on the programming of the programmes as respects matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy. The B.C.C.'s Charter is vague but the intention is the same.

The first thing to notice about this obligation to be impartial is that it is already being jettisoned by the nature of the industry's ownership. As we see it, and as we shall be quoting, there is a moral conscience of the mass that is intended to be used by the IRN.

This means that an impartial television service will always be a conservative force.

Governments have demanded impartiality of television like radio before it, for technical reasons. Because it is only possible to build radiostations with a certain number of channels, what goes on at the air at any given time will be under the direct control of a small body of professionals. For instance, two men decide what is seen on the BBC and I.T.V. For a small number Programmes Committee fulfils a similar function.

Great power

It was clearly seen that this small group of men will be the directors of political propaganda. So they are not only asked to be impartial, they are also under the control of public bodies. The Conservatism of the BBC and the Independent Television Authority, both bodies sponsored by the government, are intended to protect you and me, the viewers. But in both cases the government intends to use it to the full for its own ends. The government is to demand that
to be impartial, and to demand that the programming of there follows, its propaganda, that they are the only
to another channel or switching off.

Hook viewers

It follows from all this that the competing schedulers of I.T.V. and B.B.C. have the opportunity to get the maximum number of viewers. Their work could be backed by claims to be unbiased, to be impartial and to hold the strings of the other channels, which means that it is biased.

Hook viewers is the expression given to a type of advertising before viewers change channels. The hook is, therefore, able to get the maximum number of viewers. The way this is done is that the advertising is a view so that the viewers change channels. As an example, the advertisement for a new soap powder would be backed by claims that it is unbiased, that it is impartial, and that it is the only advertising that you will ever see.

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Gramsci: brilliant contributor to Socialist ideas...

by Anne Shuster

Antonio Gramsci, one of the founders of the Italian Communist Party and one of the most important contributors to Marxist theory since Lenin, is only now becoming known to the English-speaking world, years after his death in fascist Italy in 1937. Born in Sardinia in 1891, he first joined the socialist movement in 1909. He was imprisoned for political activity in 1919 and in 1926 was sentenced to 20 years in prison for activities in support of the Popular Front. After his release in 1934, he began to write in the profound pessimism from which he never recovered.

In Turin he was impressed by the militancy of a highly organised working class, the most advanced in still predominantly agricultural Italy. He joined in the activities of a group of young socialists, most of whom were university students. They were influenced by Benedetto Croce, the leading philosopher of Italy. The ideal of mass resistance to Fascism was the core of the new Italian nationalism. Croce believed that the most effective means of resistance was to engage in cultural and intellectual activities to undermine the foundations of Fascism.

Gramsci began to write in the socialist press just after the First World War and entered into the debate about the nature of fascism. He became one of the leaders of the Italian Socialist Party and its newspaper, L'Unità. He continued his journalistic activity which attracted attention both at home and abroad. His criticism of political activity was reviewed in articles on Fascism and Italy in Turin.

Translate

Gramsci was the first to support the Russian Revolution and saw it as an affirmation of a world historical event instead of waiting for fascism to come.

A group of young communists (including Enrico Berlinguer and Giacomo Mattei) in the spring of 1919 as part of the international emerged as a distinct political force in the Italian context. They were intellectuals and had been active in the socialist movement and they worked to create a new political movement which had deep roots in the Turin area.

These young communists were not the only ones interested in the new movement. The Turin region had been the focus of socialist activity during the war, and there was a sense of urgency to create a new political force. The new movement was called the Communist Party of Italy (PCI).

The PCI was founded in 1921 and had its origins in the Italian Socialist Party. The PCI was a working-class party that sought to overthrow the capitalist system and establish a socialist society. The PCI was led by Antonio Gramsci.

The PCI was successful in organizing workers and gaining support among the workers. It was able to win elections and gain control of the government.

The PCI was the first socialist party to be banned by the Fascist government in 1926. The banning of the PCI marked the beginning of the end for the PCI. The PCI was eventually forced to dissolve itself and its members were imprisoned or went into exile.

Not allow

There is another interesting way in which television's need for pictures warps its coverage of industrial affairs. Many firms will not allow you to film their premises unless they are sure that the camera will be welcomed. How can this situation be remedied?

It is the owners of the premises who must put direct pressure on the TV and the BBC by complaining about issues of bias as often as possible. The broadcasting organisations need to be aware of the political climate.

The right wing has always understood this and is good with the telephone calls to the right place. Every current-affairs producer in television knows this to his cost. So I hope industrial unions and the TUC use the occasion of the ACCT report to complain vigorously.

2. We must fight for the splitting up BBC News and Current Affairs. I think we must accept that there will always be biases. The news outlets are always subjective and it is not possible to be completely objective. The news is produced by people who have their own biases.

A particularly good member of the council on programming played up the number of blackheads and blights to mention that 220,000 people were on strike. Members were on strike.

Remake

Part of this task was to begin to construct a new culture and to get politics concerned more for the working-class class to establish its own particular control over society through a socialist revolution. This control is the key to the future of society. The key to the future of society is the control over the working-class class. The control over the working-class class allows the working-class class to establish its own political control over society and to establish a socialist society.

Gramsci, then, was a revolutionary socialist who sought to establish a new form of society that was based on the control over the working-class class. He was interested in the role of the working-class class in society and in the role of the state in society. He was interested in the role of the state in the control over the working-class class and in the role of the state in the establishment of a socialist society.

And despite the greatest depravities, the working-class class has not abandoned its support to fascist offers of a pardon if it rescinded its political activities. The working-class class isolated him from many comrades in prison because of his attacking opposition to Stalin's "third period" policies. This was a form of political action against the regime of enlistment and of support to Stroessner's earlier socialisation.

Gramsci's work remains a monument to the revolutionary, internationalist tradition of Marxism.
Tories aim to smash shop floor strength

An interview with DON COOK, AUEW convener, London Transport Acton Workers

THE TORY GOVERNMENT is pressing ahead with its proposed anti-trade union legislation. How would its operation affect the organisation of the work force? We would be affected in so many ways that it is possible for me to give you only a few examples.

Threatened

In the first place we operate a closed shop inside the works and no one can come in without a trade union card. The Bill would obviously affect us in this vital area, but it is directed mainly against the shop floor organisation, and it is at this level that our struggle to defend and advance the conditions and earnings of our members would be most threatened.

Inevitably there are stoppages in the works over a whole number of issues, ranging from homes to safety. These are normally short because they are quickly dealt with through the normal negotiating machinery.

Indeed, many are avoided altogether since the mere threat of a stoppage works as an effective management's negotiating table.

The Bill will not only fail to deal with the basic problems, but by hardening the attitude of management over it will make for more bitter and drawn-out struggles. We should not underestimate the action that the effect of the Bill will have on us. For example, take the work study programme the management are trying to introduce now.

Backed by the Bill, the management could easily deal with our efforts to safeguard the interests of the members. Last but not least, this is a firm within the public sector. The government has already clearly indicated in the way it deals with the council workers, the power men, and now the post office workers that it has made the attack on conditions and wages in the public sector a cornerstone of its economic policies. The Bill will greatly strengthen their hands in this respect.

Do you support the idea of an industrial alliance of the unions in the nationalised industries to counteract the Tory offensive?

Quite obviously we should strive to stop this, and in the greatest unity possible, London Transport itself we have been fragmented for many years in different philosophies and split in different sections such as the subside, the road side, and the depot.

Collective

This has weakened our struggle. Today partly because of rank and file presence and partly due to the management's own recognition and in its at all of the various departments, the case has been strongly made for the trade unions to act as a collective, with each section aiming the others when they are involved in dispute.

What do you think should be done to defeat the Bill?

No collaboration is the answer. At the meeting of the works staff against the Bill, for example, a resolution was passed and the management's threat to the Bill in no way would we accept the disappearance of the closed shop once the Bill is law.

The AEF national has also emphasised the importance of this as a fundamental issue. We should insist that no contract should be legally binding.

There should be no dealings whatever with any of the bodies set up by the government to administer the new legislation. We should have nothing to do with them as long as these bodies are in existence.

It should be made quite clear right now that if any trade union official is fixed or impersonated it will be a will of the Bill.

For all trade unionists and trade unions to support any action deemed necessary to defeat the Bill.

The present industrial struggle in the months preceding the introduction of the Bill is also called for. In respect this help which the trade union movement is getting to the postal workers in part and parcel of the struggle against the Bill.

Socialist Worker has emphasised in recent months the threat against the Bill at all levels and has called for a full and vigorous response to the localities. What do you think of this call?

I support it. Any step taken to put together militants in opposition to the Bill.

The Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions has shown the tremendous role that rank and file organisations can play. Councils of Action can make an important contribution.

Militancy

I also think that they should deal — and are particularly suited to deal — with a whole variety of issues: rents, prices, rent increases, etc., we should be used to oppose all aspects of the present government's attack on the working standards of work.

To increase the general level of militancy in this period is essential, I can't overstate the need for militancy.

And therefore I fear that the ruling class will be putting all their might and people like Powell will come charging. A greater political awareness is required, and I think we have that this will not happen.

The only way forward: an international strategy

Eric Heffer speaks to Socialist Worker

A hard-hitting interview with Labour's spokesman on the Industrial Relations Bill appears in next week's issue
'Land is the people's farm'

EVERYONE knows about the Luddites, but fewer people know about the wave of machine breaking and arson that swept the English countryside in the first decades of the 19th century. 'Captain Swing at the Penny Gaff' which opened last week at Unity Theatre, London, tells the story of the wave of protest against the terrible oppression of agricultural workers.

A series of Enclosures Acts had, by the 1820s, made the English countryside virtually extinct and had created in its place a vast army of agricultural labourers who did not work their own land but were employed for pitifully low wages by big tenant farmers who in turn leased their land from enormously wealthy landowners.

The galloping infiltration that followed the Napoleonic Wars ate into the value of the already tiny wages of the agricultural labourers and the introduced diseases attacked the animals, led to wide-scale unemployment.

Straw is a scarce food, farmers throughout the country began to reap. Reaping was a banditti- destroyed, farmers known to be harsh employers found their hay racks burnt in the night and received letters warning them to mend their ways. This is the story of Captain Swing. Although, like Ned Ludd, Captain Swing probably never existed, his name struck terror into large tenant farms and landowners in the early 1830s.

Terrible results

It would have been too easy for the authors of Captain Swing at the Penny Gaff (Paul Thompson, with Bertsem Edwards and Arthur Duncan) to have presented this story as a rather indigestible piece of 'social realist' documentary. Thankfully, however, they have avoided the temptation to dwell on the words of speeches, while still becoming the terrible results of the mindless anarchy of capitalism.

They do this by making a 'play within a play'. The whole of the second act is presented as a music hall (or 'penny gaff') featuring a group of interested artists performing a play entitled 'The Labourer's Discontent'.

It is this play within a play that rams home the political message of Captain Swing along with some very good songs and two of the funniest villains I have seen since Macmillan and Khruschev retired.

Political plays seem to be enjoying a limited vogue at the moment among the trends of NW1. But on the whole it is a bit of a joke, with lines like 'the land is the people and the people remain very rare.'

Plays like Close the Costume Door that are immensely entertaining while getting their message across, political message are ever rarer. Captain Swing is a high point.

Sean Thompson

The play will be performed every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until 28 March. Tickets, 40p (1) are available from Unity Theatre, 1 Goldhawk Road, W12 9EG, 887 8847. Reductions for block bookings.

CROSSMAN: Cruz of the matter

IS E - WELL ILL TRY Anything on...

The piggy story was disappointed at the complete lack of violence on Sunday’s mass march against the Bill. What they don’t understand is that there was no need for violence. With 140,000 workers on the streets, the police respectfully kept their places, sitting in side streets, attempting thin smiles at the slogans and jokes from the assembled hundreds.

Paper sellers did a roaring trade in Hyde Park and the police made no effort to point out that it was a ‘royal park’ and such selling is illegal. Had it been a small student affair, there would have been considerable hooliganism and many arrests.

But what self-respecting copper is going to mix it with a South Wales miner, a Geordie boilermaker or, least of all, a barnum Wigan weaver?

At Marble Arch underground station, the crowd of trade unionists en route for the park forced the authorities to reverse the downward spiral. Up moved the workers in mechanised comfort while the Park Lane bourgeoisie, banned from their cars for the afternoon, were forced to use the old-fashioned stairs. They scurried away from the unwary sight of the people who provide their wealth and flabby opulence.

It was a pleasing symbol, the shape of things to come.

On the march, the colourful union branch banners, many of them decades old, contrasted with crumpled pavement posters. Don’t be a Fair Deal Serf, you need unions. Jack (on a background of the Union Jack), only the wages of sin would be safe, so this is our better tomorrow and no doubt from the Association of Pest Destroyers - Hands off our

Pensioned off

IN last week’s New Statesman, Cruz, who wrote the London Diary, advised his readers to note an article in the magazine Political Quarterly that demolishes the belief that income

WHO makes history: kings and queens, a handful of enlightened individuals, or the clash of social forces, namely the剥削者-owner and slaves, landowner, and serfs?

The education system and the communications industry both sustain the idea that working people are the mere playthings of history and have no role in changing the world. Conversely or not, such an attitude is a vital weapon in the hands of the ruling class. If workers can be force-fed the idea that ruining society is the task of the educated few it will be easier to keep them in their ‘place’.

The overwhelming majority of television programmes are of this nature. Two much-discussed series, Elizabeth R and Civilization, both excellent in their way, are no exception to this rule.

Elizabeth R, now showing on BBC2 on Wedsdays, follows the highly artificial life of Queen Elizabeth II. Carefully documented, well-acted and attractively acted, the play catches the intrigue and back-stabbing of the Tudor court as the various factions of the ruling class fought for supremacy.

The trouble is that Tudor England is just as remote as the court we rarely leave the cloisters. There is no feel of the masses, how they feel, how they lived and worked. They are reduced to the occasional stock walk-on character, the forelock (tugging, ‘god bless yer, majesty’). Similarly, the rising capitalist class hardly figures. They had their court mouthpieces, but the religious smokescreen covers their real embryonic form.

Of course, drama is never history in the round. I can see the demands of the medium necessitated the replacement of people with spokesman or figureheads. The idea of a group of figures heads that I am complaining about.

What exciting viewing the Peasant Revolt of the 14th century would make, or the inspiring struggle to form trade unions in the 19th century against savage repression.

Bestowed

If your immediate reaction to the 'rat race' is to say, 'What a lot of political theatre, why don't we do something more serious', ask yourself what Elizabeth R is really about.

The re-run of Kenneth Clark’s Civilization series (BBC1, Tuesdays), takes in art and the arts, which is about as committed reactionary. Lord Clark is always the same as it’s a view that art and beauty alone constitute civilization and that they are bestowed on the world by a self-perpetuating class of elegant people fighting a rearguard action against the ugly and illiterate masses.

Lord Clark’s aim, he says in the Radio Times, is to give us one hero per programme, as people do in a serial. Fortunately we can choose them, sir.

He mentions down the centuries, showing us the undoubted contributions that painting, sculpture and architecture have made to the western world. His views are strongly expressed, going so far as to say a Roman sarcophagus in southern France is an example of what only a ‘well-ordered and disciplined society’ could produce such towering skills.

The trouble is that it is sometimes hard to see how his joy for always in the forefront of the magnificent art and architecture, music and painting of the Renaissance series. As we are allowed no say in the programmes presented for us, the best way to enjoy this thing and passionately dislike the presentation.

David East

Blessed are...

A NEW BOOK, The Vatican Finances, reveals that His Holiness has a little less than £60,000 invested in a variety of industries, including luxury hotels on the Spanish Riviera, the major European manufacturer of machine guns and a chemicals firm that makes the contraceptive pill and sells it behind the iron curtain. He won’t go for loaves and fishes in his old age.
UPW needs solidarity action

by Dave Percival

THE FIVE-WEEK OLD postal dispute involving some 240,000 workers has become the biggest struggle in terms of days lost through strikes since the early 1970s. For this reason, a deal would be a serious blow to all workers fighting the two offensives. But, with each day that passes, the danger is growing of the postal workers being isolated by the TUC.

The bosses' government is determined to put up the tremendous disruption in order to defeat the efforts by public industry workers to keep up with the rising cost of living.

It is clear that financial aid is not enough. The strike must be spread to the Post Office Engineers and the railwaymen whose own position will be very weak if the UPW is defeated.

Tom Jackson has claimed that this is not a political strike, and that he has given Lord Dafydd (Gw) (POL) and the Sidney Green (L) an excuse for doing nothing! Jackson is serious about wanting to put the UPW 'on the backburner'.

Is this a call for sympathetic action from the workers, even in the face of the anti-political effort in the trade union movement?

Thursday's solidarity strike by the London region of the PUE shows the need for public support for the UPW.

The UPW has reduced their claim to 13 per cent and there is a lot of growing hope that this is increasing more rapidly than ever. It is reported that the executives are seeking a stop to the Labour Party policy of a court inquiry. This is hardly different from arbitration and would almost certainly involve productivity being dragged down.

It is clear from the reply to the claims of railwaymen this week that the TUC is preparing to attack all public industry workers. The fight for all unions in these industries grows close!

NOTICES

SAVE ANGELA DAVIS march on Sunday 24th February, from Southwark Park, 3.30pm to Grosvenor Square.

AUCL: A March strike demonstration on Monday 2nd March, Piccadilly Circus 11am, to Trafalgar Square.

SOUTH LONDON 18, John Pepper on Struggles for Socialism, Sunday 28 February 8am William Morris Hall, Woburnside Bury. 16- London branch General meeting on Sunday 11 March, 8.30pm, 16-30 Grosvenor Gardens E1.

PASSAGE FOR TWO MILES TUESDAY 3 MARCH, All Scottish demos in Glasgow on Sunday 7 March, all of them for John Egan.

STOKE ON TRENT 18, public meeting on Wednesday 17th February, 8pm Paul Street, 8pm, Monday 19th March, Cherry Street, Stoke on Trent.

WANDSWORTH 18 public meeting at The Lion, 17 St George's Rd, Brixton, Wednesday 10th March, 8.30pm.

Calendar of events across the country. All details correct as of 28th February 1971.

Poly students start sit-in

STUDENTS at North West Polytechnic, London, started an indefinite occupation of the main administration building in Kensington Town on Tuesday as a protest against the appointment of Professor Terence Miller as director-designate of the new North London Polytechnic.

The students consider Professor Miller unsuitable because of his dubious record in the racist regime in Rhodesia. A similar occupation was due to begin on Friday at Northern Polytechnic.

The students regard their action, as a test-case for the gaffes made in recent years for student participation. Other colleges throughout the country are asked to take solidarity action through sit-ins, collections, etc. Messages of support should be telephoned to 01-267 5335.

No Sellout—Teachers

by Duncan Hallas NUT

Two meetings in Hayeswood this week decided to take on the house, 700 UAWC strikers were more determined than ever to stay out at the Bankside plant last Saturday.

On Sunday, at a meeting of 600 workmen from the cabinet-making plants, the crisis of 'Not till Christmas' went up when Lea Hite and the other strike leaders got together and decided to meet again. Finally, a resolution from the floor calling for a meeting on three weeks' time was carried.

On Monday, at a meeting of 2,000 workmen, 8000 workmen from all three plants at Hayeswood, decided to meet again on 10 March, after they were addressed by John Evans, TGWU and RAG Bird of the UAW.

The bosses' government is not determined to put up the tremendous disruption in order to defeat the efforts by public industry workers to keep up with the rising cost of living.

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Ford strikers rattle bosses

by John Setters

The switch to decimal currency has led to many food prices being "adjusted" upwards. On Monday British Rail confirmed that, for the first time in 12 months, fares will shortly be increased. In March these will rise by 25 per cent for passenger services in the North West, Eastern and London Midland regions.

Against this background, the Tongue will hold down wages will result in workers suffering a cutback in the standard of living.

The battle for higher wages has nothing to do with "greed". Union workers succeed in winning pay rises because standards of living will fall while the profit of big business will rise.

Roche joins Irish political prisoners

by Brian Trench

IN THE Casper trial that ended at the Old Bailey last week, Frank Roche - who threw the gas to the House of Commons - was found guilty on two charges of possession of offensive weapons. He was sentenced to 12 months and 18 months, to run concurrently.

Bowe Egan, charged with conspiracy, was acquitted of the same charge and discharged. As Roche had been found guilty, his sentence was immediately reduced by the Home Secretary.

The schemes of Chief Supp. Reynolds may yet have been turned into a scheme of justice but for the evident desire of the political police to arrange for the same trial to take place at the Old Bailey. It came at a time when the military command in the North of Ireland had decided against further use of CS gas. It might have been a deliberate attempt to have the CS issue raised.

Mispred

Reynolds' attempt to stage-manage a show-trial misfired when his efforts to prove Egan a convicted terrorist failed. Although it is unlikely to set a precedent it was indeed a black mark against the defense counsel and then the judge recognized the need to hold an inquiry into the case of "smirched, political motives".

Roche and Reynolds were two of 20 Irish political prisoners in British jails. Roche and Reynolds may yet be released. But we must continue to demand his release, precisely because we take those political motives seriously.

Shop floor leaders speak: page 3.

The COST OF LIVING is rising faster than ever. Last Saturday the Department of Employment announced that the index of retail prices had risen by two points between December and January. During November to December it rose by one percent.

These increases are nearly double the rate of increase reported in January last year and it seems likely that the situation will continue to get worse. The cost of petrol has just been increased again for the fourth time in the last eight months. This will clearly result in higher transport charges.

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