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UCS: stewards retreat

by Steve Jefferys

Glasgow: After months of publicity for the fight to stop the Tories batchering the four yards of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, the leading shop stewards last week reached a study agreement with Tory attack on a trade and industry John Davies.

Davies estimated that the orders placed with the new Tory mini-company—Clyde Shipbuilders—will include only the Gowan and Linthouse divisions of UCC—would be fulfilled. And Hugh Stewart, the ex-Treasurer of the Scottish Tory Party, and a new chairman of Gowan Shipbuilders, agreed to address a 'readiness' inquiry to see if the new company would employ additional workers at the Linthouse division.

In return for these 'concessions', the union stewards agreed to discuss the future of the Clydebank division (learnt from 'agreement that in talks on productivity and wage rates with Gowan Shipbuilders.

Smashed by Reid

In the face of the Tory threat to smash even the Clydebank division to the wall, the shop stewards committee have made it clear that they are not going to come to anything. They still want all factory agreements, and are ready to cooperate with the government on the basis of reforming Clydebank.

A John Brown shipyard stewards welcomed the agreement was signed by stewards' chairman Stewart, the new chairman of the Communist Party, and the Clydebank area's most militant policies to fight the Torkin attack.

Mr. Reid also said that it was no longer a question of trying to stop the UCS but to stand solidly behind the LTS.

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And Inter-Intemperance League Rally.}
Labour gets Heath off the Market hook

LEADERS of the Labour Party next week will make sure the Tory government stays in office. That is the warning by Labour's majority in the Commons in the debate on Common Market entry on 26 October.

Wilson is worried. He has agreed to a free vote for Tory MPs in an attempt to get Labour to do the same and allow Roy Jenkins and his group to vote with the government without any threat of disciplinary action.

But Heath also knows that despite the manoeuvres and the speeches of other Labour leaders, they do not take Jenkins' desertion too seriously. It does not require any great insight to understand the reasons for Wilson's behaviour. He knows that he has to make long anti-Tory noises in order to cash in from the general unpopularity of the government's policies. But he is also aware that all Heath's policies were pioneered by himself only 18 months ago. Further he knows that the power of the Socialists who could be compelled by very powerful forces within big business to follow in the Tories' footsteps. For Wilson, this is exactly a part of elaborate game he is playing to win votes. After all, if he ever prime minister again, he will by that time be able to pretend that it is too late to withdraw from the Common Market.

Jenkins is unwilling to play his part in this game at this particular moment because of his deep commitment to Britain's entry into the Common Market outside. Wilson feels that he personally cannot afford tovell the way he does to keep the Tories in their place.

The leaders of the Labour Party, 'left as well as right', are completely lined up against the Tories. That makes all the more important the building of a movement—above all at rank and file level in industry and the trades unions. This is why it is so important to try to form a front government and to take action to stop any Labour alternative continuing the same policies.

TORY LIES ON JOBLESS

At the TORY PARTY conference last week, the Chancellor, Anthony Barber, inadvertently let slip the real reason for the government's policy of encouraging unemployment. It is a direct appeal to unemployed workers to turn against those who want jobs.

Every man who is out of work today,' he said, 'should go to those who still have jobs and say: "You are the majority. You have the power to stop these strikes which are clearly unjustified, and you have the power to stop the redundancies, the cuts that are going to take place."

He is simply trying to use the unemployed to cut wages. But his arguments are deliberately false.

Firstly, as events have by now been 'evidenced', Over the last year average earnings have risen by 11.5 per cent. That seems a lot, until you remember that prices have risen by 10.3 per cent in the same time.

And that is not all. When prices rise, they rise really big. When wages go up as a result of a third of the rise is taken exactly by the power that claim socialists, or even reforms for the working class, can be won through 'pressuring the Labour Party'. Wilson has only to nod in their direction. The only thing they have to do to keep the Tories in the government.

The result of this is that they are able to keep the Labour Party expenses etc), go bankrupt or just reduce pay. These are some industry in unemployment. Some of those so-called 'entrepreneurs' would quickly with their new methods.

Uster Protestants

ROBERT ST-CYR raised a number of interesting points in his letter to last week's paper. He noted that the 'Ulster Protestants have developed over history into two distinct groups'. He called on them to create an 'incomparable nation' in its own right.

British rule in Ireland over hundreds of years has contributed to the development of British and Irish for the development of the Ulster Protestants. It has been shaped to frustrate the development of an Ulster Protestant identity.

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BSA SACKINGS: BRUM RECALS HUNGRY 30s

BIRMINGHAM: At 10am last Thursday the Coventry Road was closed to traffic for 45 minutes as more than 4,000 workers from BSA's Small Heath motorcycle works marched in protest against the bosses' plans to make 3,000 of them redundant by 1 January 1972.

The picketing was the biggest demonstration against sackings since the 1930s. At Small Heath park they gathered round the bandstand to hear speakers stress the support of the whole labour movement. The examples of UCS and Pressed Steel Fisher were frequently referred to.

The sight of the mass meeting was an inspiration to new trades union official Frank Carter. "Demonstrations like this are morale boosters only," he said. "In seven to eight days' time 700 redundancy notices will be handed out. What you do there is what counts. If you allow those people to go out of this factory you can never hold your head up again.

A statement issued by the stewards and committee calls for a government inquiry into BSA's failure. In the meantime they insist that the motorcycle factory should be kept going for "continuity of employment" is their call. They promised that in the rough times ahead they will call frequent picket reports.

DEPARTMENT

Birmingham, once a symbol of prosperity, is now near to becoming a depressed area. The City Council, the Trades Council and the Chamber of Commerce are sending a joint deputation to see Trade Minister John Davis.

The marches condemned board members for what they called "their bastardisation policies... their bandannas proclaims: 'Monty Turner's Flying Circus'." Let's be frank, Barclays Bank you've put the squeeze on Bikes."

As for the unemployed workers - 1000 workers. BSA chairman Pk Carter's resignation last week. Barclays Bank is the straw that broke the camel's back. BSA is very much a local employment and social services operation. The Spirit of Great Britain is in the last vestiges of its life. The trade unions must act fast. BSA's actions are being strongly condemned by the trade unions in the area. BSA's actions are being strongly condemned by the trade unions in the area.

Softly, softly on Ulster troubles

ANOTHER VIOLATION and overwhelming majority on a question to the public produced some searching and existing pieces of investigative journalism through the "Open 50" programme on BBC Radio 4. The Insight team did this again this week with their story of interrogation brutality in Ulster by "security forces in Ulster."

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It was a sustained report, unprecedented and unprecedented, based on statements smuggled out by detainees who have undergone periods of interrogation torture at Ballykinlar Barracks.

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EAMONN McCANN: A front-line round-up of the history of October 1968— an oppressed people got off their knees... 

THREE YEARS AGO, on 5 October 1968, an RUC baton-charge on a civil rights march in Derry detonated the second civil rights campaign which still rock Northern Ireland today.

The Civil Rights March was to have been organised by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association which had campaigned for the ending of racial discrimination in jobs and housing, the derecognition of electoral boundaries and at times, by using the brute force of the RUC and the B-Specials to crush any effective opposition which emerged.

By discrimination they had managed to buy the support of the Protestant working class, while totally alienating the Catholics.

In another context, was a vast, sprawling machine which dominated every aspect of political life. It comprised a whole series of intersecting orders and institutions—the Unionist Party itself, the Orange Order, the Apprentice Boys, the Black and White Clubs, etc. Such unfeeling seemed its grip and so totally did it dominate the consciousness of the Protestant masses that, up to 1968, most Catholics saw no hope of change—and most Protestants saw no need for it.

First taste

But the blood that flowed in Derry on 5 October 1968 unleashed a howl of elemental savagery. Northern Ireland was to be the scene of brutal, ruthless and unrelenting violence for the months afterwards every area with a sizeable Catholic population was an area of civil rights struggle. For some both Catholics and Protestants in a city it was a heady experience, for the vast majority of them it was the first experience of involvement in significant political events, their first taste of any sort of political power.

To the Protestants it all looked different. Frightened that their martial privilege might be chipped away, they began to rally to the Rev Ian Paisley and his shag of ‘In’ to them the civil rights marches looked like the Papist hordes, the half-remembered nightmare of every true-bred Protestant, striking the streets in the clear light of day.

The Unionist government under Terence O'Neill at first made concessions. The moderating leadership of the Civil Rights movement accepted the reforms and called off a march. But the truce was smashed by a student march from Belfast to Derry which set out on New Year’s Day 1969.

The students, organised into the People’s Democracy, whose ‘forms’ were meaningless, making the point that demilitarisation and decolonisation were rooted in the capitalist system and that unless the system itself was challenged the old evils would reassert themselves.

The Belfast-Derry march was one of the crucial turning points. It was a horrific 73-mile trek which dragged to the surface all the accumulated political filth of 50 Unionist years. The march was attacked by troops organised by local supporters of Paisley. The 87 students who set out, less than 20 arrived in Derry uninjured. But in the course of their four days’ marching they had gathered behind them thousands of Catholic workers who were in no mood for talk of truce.

O’Neill, paralysed by the opposing pressures, held on for a few months. To the Catholics he was a proper tricker—the Protestants a potential traitor. In April 1969 his balancing act ended and he was replaced by Major James Chichester-Clark. But Chichester-Clark could do no better than O’Neill. Northern Ireland drifted incurably towards the catastrophe of August 1969.

On 12 August 1969 a traditional Apprentice Boys’ march was to pass the edge of the Bogside. This happened every year, but the Catholics were no longer willing to sit in sullen apathy as this display of tribal jurisprudence west past.

A confrontation between Bogside youths and police guarding the march developed into a 10-hour pitched battle as the police tried to take the Bogside and the people resisted. On 13 August fighting spread to Belfast, B-Specials, police and Protestant civilians invaded the Falls Road and Ardoyne to ‘teach the Catholics a lesson’. Thousands of people had to flee their homes. Hundreds of houses were burnt to the ground. Nine people were killed, 200 police used machine guns on unarmed Catholic crowds and watched while the Orange mobs burned Catholic streets.

On 14 AUGUST the British Army intervened and fighting stopped. The Army was welcomed by many Catholics as a Derry—Irish city under British occupation.
olic, heroic struggle against N. Ireland's police state

But within a year they and the troops were in bloody opposition. The British government had sent the Army to 'surprise and insist on the implementation of the reforms already promised and the further reforms—the dissolving of the police, the disbandment of the Specials—which were subsequently to emanate from a committee under Lord Hunt. The Army was also there to see that things did not go beyond that.

Direct threat

The 'difficulty' was that after August 1969 there was no chance of a reformist solution. The Catholics were literally forced to pose 'the national question', to demand all end to the state itself. It was the machinery of the state itself—the police force and the B-Specials—which had threatened their destruction. Securing the physical safety of the community meant striving to smash the state. This focused the semi-dormant republican consciousness of the people of the Falls, the Bogside and the Ardoyne. It gave a new dynamism to the IRA which multiplied in numbers and in available fire power.

This development posed a direct threat to imperialism. The British government might have tolerated—despite the 'demonstration' of Northern Ireland. They could not tolerate a movement which united to overthrow the state.

The first major battle between the Army and the IRA took place in July 1970—just after the election of the Tory government. The Army invaded the Lower Falls area in an attempt to capture arms and smash the IRA organisation. They met fierce resistance. Four people were killed. As often happens, none of the four had been taking part in the battle.

The Battle of the Falls was the definitive end to the honeymoon between the Army and the Catholics. Since then the role of the Army has been increasingly to suppress Catholic disturbances by any means available. At first the Army relied mainly on CS gas, rubber bullets, water-cannons and the fire use of batons and boots. But it didn't work. The Catholic working-class phlegm was not intimidated. Their resentment grew and their republicanism intensified.

This republicanism has had its most dramatic expression in the activities of the Provisional IRA. The Provisionals broke away from the official IRA because they blamed the official leadership for the lack of preparations. In August 1969 and because they mistrusted the official's emphasis on political rather than military activity.

Socialists in Northern Ireland have been strongly opposed to some of the Provision tactics—the bombing of some civilian installations for example. But it is important to remember that the Provisional IRA represent a genuine understandable and legitimate feeling which is widespread in working-class Catholic areas—the feeling that only by ending the Northern Ireland state can the security of the community be guaranteed and that only military means can achieve this.

British workers find it difficult to understand this. But the entire political experience—especially the recent experience of many Irish Catholics—compels them to some such conclusion.

In the political struggle, the British government and the British Army came to see the IRA as the main enemy. The IRA was projected by the press

as a gang of ruthless cut-throats and blamed for every atrocity that happened—such as the recent bombing of pubs, which was certainly not.

Within the Protestant community, Paisley has gone from strength to strength. Impatient at the Army's failure to show anything, Catholics and drive them back into the second-class citizenship which Paisley believes to be their proper place, an armed right-wing Protestant force certainly exists and has been responsible for some at least of the recent bombings.

THIS WAS the situation at the beginning of August when interment was introduced. All those interned came from the Catholic side. To the Catholics it was the last straw. Beaten and brutalised, denied any share of political power throughout their life, they opted out of the system.

Even the ultra-modern Social Democratic and Labour Party led by Norman, Molyneaux and John Hume was forced to renounce membership of the Stormont government.

Barricades went up and many are still up: payment of rent and rates ceased.

In Belfast and Derry units of the Official and Provisional IRA flung themselves at the Army when it came to take people off to internment camps.

Cheap labour

Parliament was recalled and both party conferences have debated the situation, but to no purpose. The ringing speeches at Westminster and conference rhetoric which captures the headlines and forms the basis for a thousand television discussions means nothing at all to the embattled communities of Belfast and Derry. There is no reformist solution to the Northern Ireland problem.

The only solution is to defeat British imperialism. British imperialism is responsible for all that has happened in Northern Ireland. The discrimination against Catholics which created a cheap labour pool had wages in Northern Ireland at 80 per cent below the British level, to the profit of British industrialists who controlled the Northern Ireland economy. The fact that workers were, as a result, at one another's throats prevented the development of any working-class mass movement which could have put up a real fight against exploitation and thus kept the system and the profits safe.

New because of the perceived political history of the area, the struggle against imperialism in the North of Ireland is being conducted almost exclusively from within the Catholic community. It is the responsibility of Irish socialists to strive to give it a clearer direction to get across to the Catholic workers that only a socialist programme can hope to succeed. Only a socialist programme has the potential to engage support in the future from Protestant workers.

Meanwhile the struggle will continue.
The Suez Canal crisis, which took place 15 years ago this autumn, was the fruit of a long history of oppression of the peoples of the Middle East. The Suez Canal was built with Egyptian blood and sweat, in the middle of the 19th century.

British troops occupied Egypt in 1882, and, despite formal political independence in 1922, they remained there until 1955. For the Egyptian people, British interest in the area meant grinding poverty, loss of land, and exploitation. A tiny minority of rich landlords owned the great majority of the land. Britain's 1956 new pattern was appearing in the Middle East. United States imperialism, greatly strengthened by the Second World War, was spreading tentacles around the globe.

The Middle East was an interesting area for two reasons. It was a vital link in the chain of military bases around Russia and a rich source of cheap oil. American interests in Middle East oil output grew from 16 per cent in 1944 to 58 per cent in 1955.

A further complication was the newly-created state of Israel. From 1950, when Israel supported the U.S. in Korea, she was clearly an ally of U.S. imperialism. The British, meanwhile, were in retreat, and in 1954 agreed to a complete withdrawal of British troops from Egypt.

These changes opened the way for the appearance of a nationalist movement in Egypt. In 1952, a group of army officers threw the weak and corrupt monarchy and, after a power struggle among themselves, Colonel Nasser became Prime Minister in 1954.

Under Nasser, strikes were viciously smashed and communists imprisoned. Propaganda and reforms made no real changes in the position of the Egyptian peasant. Recent important social reforms were introduced, and the foundations were laid for the growth of industry. In part, at least, Nasser was challenging the right of foreign powers to suck blood from the Middle East.

Egypt was not the only Arab country where there was a demand for change. Algeria, a nationalist rebellion had been growing ever since 1954. In February 1954, the elected French Prime Minister Guy Mollet was able to be soft on the rebels, visited Algeria, and was pelted by European settlers.

Nasser was a leader of entertain- ed no further ideas of independence. Most French politicians were quite unable to believe that the rebellion was inspired by Arab discontent, and saw Nasser as the sinister figure who was stirring up trouble. In fact almost all the rebel arms were supplied by the French. Comparisons between Nasser and Hitler were made freely on all sides.

The great powers of the world were jockeying for the right to exploit the Middle East. Nasser, quite correctly, tried to play them off one

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SUEZ

Gunboat diplomacy ends with a whimper

By IAN BIRCHALL

The British in Suez... but not for long

The raid was accompanied by a million leaflets, but these had little effect since those who wrote them were so determined to give the impression that the inhabitants of Cairo were semi-savage savages that even the exaggerated claims of Nasser's prestige groups were taken seriously.

On 1 November Eden was asked in the House of Commons whether or not Britain was at war and was unable to give an answer. Although British and French troops captured Port Said and a strip of the Canal, the adventure came to a rapid end. The US denounced the action, and two of Eden's ministers resigned.

On 6 November, Britain, France and Greece agreed to withdraw and allow a United Nations force to take over. In January Eden resigned.

The whole Suez affair was a vivid illustration of the degree of corruption in politics in Britain, France, Libya and press bribery were rife. Official documents were destroyed to save reputations from the prying eyes of future historians.

Only four members of the French Cabinet were in full possession of information. The US informed of events too late to do anything about them. Eden could not possibly practi- cably live in benzolines (curiously enough Tony Cirelli had never complained of this particular instance of drug taking).

It is the view of Hugh Thomas that when Selwyn Lloyd, the Foreign Secretary, told the House of Commons that there was no prior agreement with Israel, he was telling a lie. When another Tory Minister, John Profumo, later lied to the Commons about how he had been sleeping with, he was found guilty of public life. Selwyn Lloyd now holds the respected position of Speaker.

One of the things that stopped the Suez adventure was widespread opposition in Britain, especially from the Labour Party. In France the main opposition party, the Communist Party, was too busy defending the Russian blow in Hungary to do much about Suez. But it is vital to remember that básica was that the hamstrung way the operation was carried out, and not to the principle. There was no one to unconditionally support the right of a poor exploited country to strike back at the rich parasites living on its back. When nationalisation of the Canal was announced Labour leader Hugh Gaitskell was unable to carry the party with his hand-high and totally unjustifiable step by the Egyptian Government, while A.H. Bevan called for a stop of arms supplies to Egypt.

Labour's paper The Daily Herald had to publish the statement: 'Even Aneurin Bevan, still the golden boy of the Labour Left, later commented: 'If the sending of one's police and soldiers into the darkness of the night is to seize somebody else's property in nationalisation, A.H. Bevan said the wrong terminology. And as late as August Gaitskell declared: 'Force is justified in certain events'.

In short, there was no one prepared to take a clear class line and to link the fight against British imperialism with the interests of the working class. This was the tragedy of Suez.

For Eden's war came in the middle of a rising tide of industrial militancy. 1957 saw the highest strike rate since 1926. And if no one in the labour movement saw the links, The Times, an acute representative of ruling-class interests, was able to connect quite clearly.

Next week: October revolution in Hungary
Crushed by the class divide

THERE is one thing more frightening than being alone in a world one does not understand and that is to find that one is playing an important part in the world.

A young boy goes to his father's house for his natural self because he was born in the Boer War. He finds that his friend's family is rich, but his family is poor. He feels self-lavishly, that they behave in a strange andobbish way. Suddenly he finds that he is playing an important role in a love affair and nobody will tell him what it is or why.

The film is Joseph Losey's The Go-Between, and it is about the boy and his family. The family is new to its wealth and is living in a beautiful Norfolk manor house. They are not used to the overweening viscount. They intend their daughter (Juliet Berto) to be married, but they make sure that she shall see tragedy and respectability.

But the local farmer (Alan Bates) has won the love of the daughter. And in order to secure the affair in secret, he gets the boy to act as a messenger.

There are two conflicting moods in the book and the prevailing one is nostalgia. Every detail of the gorgeous house is recreated lovingly, every touch exact, but too exact. Fize Christie and her family move through the beautiful house as if they were made of the world, looking at themselves and at the viscount, oblivious to the world outside. They see themselves in the mirror and measure everything by their wealth.

Splendour

The furniture alone would make a field day for Arthur Nana. The oil paintings look real. The location used was a direct step from the original owners and the original owners have since been observed returning to gawp warily at the restored splendour.

The second mood is dislike. Dislike of the rich, dislike of the kind of social stalling society which forbids marriage outside its class. The theme is, in fact, dislike for the violent emotions which possess men and which they are unable to control.

When the young boy returns to the house later in life we see him as a rich child, a rich child who was denied the discovery of the true, violent nature of love. And we see that Miss Christie, beneath her brilliant late wrinkles, has been similarly destroyed.

Gone is the naive, however, a third mood, of terror. And indeed as the mother (Margaret Leighen) moves from the picture and begins to drive from the house what he knew about her, the theme of the book is the destruction of society by the destruction of the class.

Here is the frightening birthday party in a thunderstorm. He is dragged by the mother through the rain to find his coat, to show what he has helped to create. But what does he find at the end? Alan Bates arriving manfully through a cloud of dirty underwear on top of a haystack. I'm sorry — it wouldn't have dried me up for life. I should have laughed outright. That is what I mean about the film being too exact.

James Fenton

DENNIS POTTER has dramatized in his TV plays, over the last six years, many of the issues of our day: a strong left-wing point of view, and in such a way as to enhance that political play. His latest play "Traitor" (last Thursday, BBC-2, 9.30) with an English and Oxford-educated top Foreign Office official, Adrian Harris, who defects to Russia, plays on substantial secrets to the Russians. The film is set in a Russian hideout and rather drunken Harris in a small Moscow flat, preparing himself for an interview with some sympathetic Western journalists. Harris makes no secret of his hostility to Russia.

In one of the scenes we see the film's back up to the formidable experience of being 83. His father fills the child's head with the idea of King Arthur's ideally marvellous 'island valley of Avalon'. Yet in the father's upper self-satisfaction and pomposity there still room only for country commissar from father to son.

Similarly to children the boy's abilities are not encouraged. His natural instinct is to be like his father, his schoolmaster. For all their material comforts, the class gap cannot eliminate repression in the schools where their successors are being educated.

The schoolmaster strikes the young man for painting a picture and we quickly switch to a shot of police on horseback chasing striking men in the 1936 General Strike, which is happening at the same time. Later Harris makes the connection between these two very different facets of his father's brutality.

In Potter, who appeared on last Thursday's 'Late Night: Live' as the boy, there is the feeling that although certain events, like those in the film, might push someone towards radical belief, this does not at all underwrite the politics of the play.

When grown-up Harris is still not able to understand the dream of Arthur's mythical kingdom and not by maxims. And the individualistic activity of any person who sees the situation as a family is to be praised, to see the situation as a family's becomings. For he goes increasingly drunk and pathetic during the interview, we realize the depth of his commitment to something, as compared with the journalists' panicky dressing for the Father's last play, about journalists. Paper Tigers (one of Lena's favourite, this commitment has come to nothing. He drinks performance at the interview will be discovered because of the hidden microphones. The mission will still roll through Red Square. The British workers will still have to fight the capitalists here.

The success of Potter's play lies in its uniting the psychological aspects of early childhood with a reasonably correct political and social analysis, thereby enriching both.

Anyone who wonders about Alan Bates (the son of BBC's 1,100) could not have failed to be impressed with his performance. Out of the most unlikely ingenuity he manages to create the phraseology of the brutal 'sport' of boxing and the boxing ring, and in a gayly and energetically pitched performance that he himself is picturesque, black self-respect. The man is an artist.

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NEW RULES GIVE UNION LEADERS A LET-OUT

SW Reporter

THE opposition of the Transport Workers to the 1983 Railways Act is being undermined by a new let-out from the rules that will be in force next year.

Whatever the union’s leaders say, they have given themselves a nice let-out, for rule number one says that the TGWU ‘shall be a registered Trade Union’.

The rule book was argued out of a conference in Florence, when the implications of the 1983 anti-union Bill were still quite unclear.

Other unions are also using similar rules to win over members to the new legislation. Currently the TGWU is referred to as the ‘new supergraded Friendly Society’ and ‘has nothing to do with the new Act’.

Emergency

The TGWU is on the provisional register and so far as is known has made no effort to get on the final register.

Dockers and motor industry branches of the union have called for an emergency rule revision conference to get the rule changed.

A TGWU spokesman said a rules revision conference was being called, but he could not say when.

Clive Jenkins looking for a loophole

THE letter written by Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the supervisors’ union (ASTM3), removing the union from the provisional register virtually promises that it will not stay on the register for long.

It says Jenkins has been ‘advised by counsel’ that he does not have the legal power to deregister. The basis for this ridiculous claim is again a ‘registered Trade Union’ reference in the rule book, again a new doctrine of constitutional rights referring to the extinct Friendly Societies Act.

Jenkins’ letter says it is deregistering ASTM ‘as a loyal affiliate of the TGUC’, giving the impression that the stop was forced on him by the TGUC, and not uncontested. He is also under instruction from his own union’s annual conference.

600 at IS rally

SIX HUNDRED members and supporters of the International Socialist Party marched in London last weekend and took part in a lively discussion on the crisis of capitalism, building the revolutionary party and the history of the international revolutionary movement.

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Ralli and File Technicians (London) and File Technicians (Glasgow)

The Rank & File Conference will be held at the St Andrew’s Hotel, 25-27 Victoria St, London SW1. For details contact the Rank & File Organiser, Rank & File Office, Rank & File House, 70-71 Old St, London EC1A 7JN. (071-636 6999)

Swans ES; Public meeting Friday 29 October, 7.30pm. Wise Cabin on the north side of the River Thames, near the Thames Barrier.

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