No help from TUC

Public sector workers are being used to give everybody a lesson. First power workers were isolated and whipped in December 1970. That led to a mass movement. Then the postal workers were isolated and defeated due to lack of effective support from the trade union movement.

But the miners can win. Nobody should be fooled by the talk about ‘record coal stocks’. Everything depends on how the stocks are and whether the trade union movement allows them to be moved.

In the face of the Tory attack, the TUC refused to help on Monday even to call a meeting to discuss the miners’ strike and decided that trade unionists should do it on their own. The miners need the TUC to help. They also need public support. It would be a step towards better understanding of the miners’ struggle.

If the miners are to win, the responsibility falls upon the workers themselves, particularly in the trade union movement, to take effective action.

- There must be a total stop on the movement of alternative fuel and their use in power stations.
- Miners should shout mass pickets at rail depots and power stations and seek active backing from the workers in those industries.
- Miners and power workers must forge links at all levels for a united front against the government. Power workers themselves face a major struggle.

Rank and file action is the key to victory. If the entire trade union movement builds a mighty campaign of active support for the miners then not only would the miners control the whole of Britain, but the government itself could be brought crashing down.

THE MINERS’ STRIKE is a crucial struggle that affects every working man and woman. With the Tories and the employers mounting a major attack on wages and living conditions — wages, prices, welfare and rents — a victory for the miners is necessary. The labour movement is to defeat the government and the bosses.

The miners are determined to win. Their magnificent solidarity and fighting spirit is an inspiration to the whole trade union movement.

Each new threat from the National Coal Board — more pit closures, withdrawal of the final wage offer — has been met with determination. During the Coal Board and the government’s official policy has produced a situation where, in the first week of the strike, the miners are digging in for a long, hard fight against the government.

Miners feel they have been cheated. They know that the wages of those who remain in the coal fields are a scandal. An underground worker at Emley Moor in the Barnsley area was paid £9 a week for lying face down in a one-foot, eleven-inch space, head shovelling 16 tons of coal a day.

A miner from Newmillerdam Colliery in Yorkshire, married with two children and whose wife was not working, showed a 1971 pay slip for five full shifts — £14.60 net pay before he had paid any rent or mortgage.

While the number of men in the industry has been slashed by nearly two-thirds since nationalisation, productivity per man has shot up. Face-workers have nearly trebled output in the same period.

National Coal Board figures show that production from the mechanised Yorkshire coal faces has increased by up to 60 per cent since 1967. Wages have gone up only 25 per cent in the same period.

The miners are well aware they are taking on the Tory government and that their fight is every worker’s fight. The government has made it clear it is determined to inflict a severe defeat on the strikers. The purpose of the operation is to demoralise the whole organised labour movement.

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The The Solid Support for Strike

FIFE

Fife miners are backing the strike 100 per cent. R T McMillan of the Seafield Colliery strike committee said: ‘We men now see the most important task as winning support from rank and file transport, road haulage and railway workers in Fife.

The miners have called a special conference in the Beveridge Hall, Kirkcaldy, on Saturday for all trade unionists to discuss and call for support of sympathy action. Talks with local railway workers have already taken place. The result is that the NUM has blocked all coal from being moved from Longannet pit to the Cockenzie power station.

Miners from the pit are to meet Transport Union officials to request that road haulage drivers follow suit.

There are also plans for a mass picket of the mining and power station complex.

Coal deliveries from the Western open-cast coal workings have stopped as a result of a strike by NUM deputies working under the guidance of the Committee, and not by the Coal Board. Denburn railway workers are also refusing to move coal in or out of the station. Once again the Cockenzie power station will be hit.

NOTTS

The Nottinghamshire coal field has traditionally been one of the least militant areas. But its miners have responded to the challenge of the dispute with 100 per cent solidarity.

KENT

All three Kent pits are absolutely solid in their backing for the strike. On Monday workers at Betteshanger joined their colleagues in refusing to work for the Coal Board. Management had to replace them with scabs, but even among them feeling of solidarity is completely lacking — one surveyor at Tilmanstone has refused to do work previously done by strikers.

YORKSHIRE

Yorkshire miners are absolutely solid. The Masters S Works pit was blocked by miners equipped with pick shafts on Monday to turn away lorries intent on collecting coal. The police turned them away and the NUM would have anything to do with any those with drivers who can prove the coal is for old-age pensioners.

Solid Support for Strike

The situation at the Yorkshire power stations is as follows:

- The First Shift: miners at Bentley pit near Doncaster leaving work for the last time until the strike ends

by the weekend.

John Martin, Bradworth NUM, Yorkshire, writes: "A few days before the miners are due to vote for the strike, I want to warn the NUM members to do all the safety jobs.

HOLD COLLECTIONS FOR MINERS’ STRIKE FUND

Send to your local NUM branch or NUM 222 Euston Road London NW1
Black strike against racist regime spreads

By W. ENDA

In Windhoek a police raid had cleared out caches of clubs, knives and spears.

In a broad zone of 150 km. around Windhoek, the police are attacking all white residents. The police and army have been charged to clear the district of criminal elements in order to rewrite its history.

Meanwhile, in the white area, a strike is spreading, and the policies are losing their grip. The workers are refusing to return to work.

Where the Tories are the only choice

From DAVE FINKEL

American International Socialists

work with the workers and build back into the Democratic fold.

Several groups are fighting for the Democratic nomination, from conservative Senator John "Snow" Jackson to black militant Shirley Chisholm. The leading candidate so far is a &ndash; senator from Maine, Senator Edmund Muskie.

New York Mayor John Lindsay and Senator Edward Kennedy may also join the list and the party candidate in 1968, Henry Humphrey, will be a strong contender because of his closeness to the leadership.

The entire campaign unfolded through a series of successes and related events. The most notable was the defeat of conservative candidates Henry Ford, who supported the Vietnam war, and the presidential campaign of Governor George Wallace, who supported the Democratic Party, which is the equivalent of our Conservative Party.

The absence of a political party of the working class in the US permits the Democratic Party to keep its political foothold over the working class and oppressed minorities. Despite its imperialist policies, the US is the Democratic liberals who pushed through Congress the legislation allowing the wage freeze and controls which Nixon now relies on.

REBELLIONS

Their strategy for defeating Nixon will be to blame him for the breakdown of the economy and the resulting inflation and unemployment, accuse him of failing to move to wage and price controls soon enough, and promise to fight a campaign against the Republican Party, which is the equivalent of our Conservative Party.

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Danish shiit bosses victimise strike leaders

By RASMUS RASMUSSEN

The strike at Aalborg Vestfjeld shipping has led to widespread violence. The Danish government is supporting the company's policies, and the workers are seeking a new strategy.

The workers' strike at Aalborg has been described as a "mass strike," and the government has been thinking about ways to end it. The workers are seeking a new strategy, and the government is supporting the company's policies.

Pushed

Pushed believes that if the workers had known they had been promised support from 200 places, they would not have voted to return to work, as they did by a narrow margin.

He says management has declared victory in the strike, but the workers' strike leaders will not lead, and they will have to be teamed up in a different way for others.

The workers at Aalborg have been given 10% in place of the 5% promised, and the union has decided to continue the strike.

Railmen in prod deal battle

RAILWAY workers in Japan are striking against the company's policy of reducing the number of workers by 30,000 by 1982. The union is planning a strike in protest at the policy.

The bosses have run a persistent campaign, including threats of violence, to prevent the strikers from going on strike. The bosses have run a persistent campaign, including threats of violence, to prevent the strikers from going on strike.

The strikers are determined to press ahead with their strike, and they are confident they will win.

The strike is expected to take place on Monday, and the union is planning to call a meeting of the workers to discuss the situation.

The Kalemsky society (Revolutionary Commissar League) is collecting contributions for the strikers.

Several hundred rank-and-filer workers from various areas of Japan are expected to participate in the strike. The Kalemsky society is collecting contributions for the strikers.

In a similar workers' strike in the US, the union is planning to call a meeting of the workers to discuss the situation.
Gorky!

BY JOE GORMLEY on their side, you can't help feeling it's a bit hard that the miners have to fight the Coal Board and the government as well. The NUM president has made it abundantly clear that his heart is not really in the strike - and not just for the usual old flabby 'it will hit the national economy moment.

At a lunch last week with NCB boss Derek Ezra, Gormley put forward as one reason why he hoped the strike would not take place the fact that the miners would get a taste for militant action and might rather like the flavor.

An interesting glimpse into Joe's development as a trade union leader was gained from an interview in the Sunday Times: Down the pit in Bolton, Joe led (16,114) a wildcat strike out of sheer boredom.

We were working on the afternoon shift. I had a wife and two young children and I never worked on the afternoon shift. After the public relations you had to work from 11 am until one or two in the morning because of necessary overtime and to get the job done. One day, sitting in the canteen, I said, 'I can't have it.' I walked out and the lads followed me.

This spark of militancy was quickly diffused. Joe became president of the local NUM branch and there was a strike. I had to get up in the canteen and beg the men to go back to work. "It's fantastic, Joe," they said. "A few months ago you brought us out on strike. 'I know,' I told them, 'but now I have a position of responsibility. We have to negotiate.' They laughed their bloody heads off and walked out.

They won't be laughing this time if they put their faith in Gormley.

NEWS of a sensational divorce case in Israel centred round Defence Minister Moshe Dayan recalls the famous Prohmo scandal in Britain. While the future raged around the defeated minister, one British politician asked the then Israeli prime minister what

he would do if he caught one of his cabinet ministers in a similar position. I'd pull his other eye out," was the laconic reply.

Davies to know

Doctored

PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE exists China, the Anti-Imperialist Hospital in Peking has just been renamed the Capital Hospital. A newsvendor, James Renton recently had his appen- dix removed here by a superb surgeon. He seems to have left his mark.

Another hospital, the Anti-Imperialist Hospital, which treats Russian and East European embassy staff, has been renamed the Friendship Hospital, no doubt much to the relief of diplomats forced to go somewhere else. But Anti-Imperialist Street still retains its title, though rumour has it that it will be changed to the Street of the Second Hand-Car Salesman in honour of Nixon's visit.

LIKE ELEPHANTS, nasty right-wing farmers never forget. Farmer Cecil Vine of Willingdon, near Eastbourne, was annoyed by two milk men and the farmer's workers 10 years ago and he never forgave them.

Fierce last year and his last-published will leaves £2 for every complete year of service of his em- ployees - provided they have never been members of trade unions.

Soft landing

THIS FAIR AND PLEASANT LAND: A site of three-fifths of an acre in Hampstead, North London, has changed hands for £315,000 for resi- dential development. This is double the amount paid for it last summer.

The land, now carrying an empty Victorian-style mansion, is likely to be used for right to 10 homes costing between £60,000 and £80,000 each.

The property has been bought by籭ume who are still more affective sales offices in Broad Street Estates, who acquired the site for £107,000 several years ago.

The land was sold by auction for £215,000 in 1980.

Hampstead is in the London Borough of Camden. It has 1,000 formal members.

Savilles to know

WHILE Pleasany workers at Alexandria, Scotland, continue their marathon occupation to stop the factory closing and the machines being moved out, they will be glad to know that the management of the giant electronics based in a more generous with one section of the population than it is with its workers.

In the year ending 30 June 1971, Pleasany donated £10,000 to British United Industrialists, a Tory front organisation, and £75 in a direct handout to the Tory Party itself.

Grocer's bill

FOOD for thought when planning your next wage claim: a survey by The Grocer (magazine, not prime minister) shows that prices have risen by more than £60,000 to the country's food bill last year alone.

Per person by 48 per cent, cheese prices rose by 38 per cent, fresh fish and 43 per cent more, fresh fruit increased by 32 per cent and fresh vegetables, canned and po- dered milk rose by 15 per cent.

The index shows that food prices rose by 10.6 per cent last year. And The Grocer expects a similar trend for the first half of this year.

This means that, allowing for extra taxes, the absolute minimum wage demand should be 13 per cent.

Palsied Hans

PLANNING, the social democratic way. Hans Janitzech, greenie of the Socialist International, the umbrella organisation which houses such fiery militants as Hal Wilson and W Brassin, between 18 members and available plate to Dacca last week to welcome home their Mujahideen brother from imprisonment in Pakistan.

Sadly, as he left, the Shait was being headed West, arriving in London to see Toothy Ted before going back to Bangladesh. Ham's hoped-for publicity boost for the SI cause to nothing and he was left cooling his heels in Dacca. Outraged leaders of the International, embarrassed and by Hans' gaffe, are now demand- ing his resignation.

He flew East but it looks as if he will be going West.

Key to victory

Exactly the opposite is the case. It is the miners who are fighting for "the community" - in the sense of the great majority and defending jobs. It is Heath who is doing the injury and destroying jobs. How represents, who are doing the injury and destroying jobs. How represent Workers will lose the miners who are facing up to depression, devaluing children of milk, increasing health service charges and introducing the 'means test' to cut off the jobs of the old and rising unemployment.

The key to the victory of the miners - and of the working class is summed up in one word: Solidarity. If all workers refuse to handle coal, or fuels being used to substitute for coal, then the government will be brought to its knees. That solidarity has to be enforced.

It would be comic, if it wasn't tragic, to recall that the General Council of the TUC was established on the basis of movement and against bitter opposition from the right. It was meant to act as a 'general staff of labour', to plan the struggle against the employing class and to organise effectively.

To say not, the slightest reliance can be put on Feather and the present General Council to do anything. If they are all going to stay away with it, they will sell out the miners as they sold out the postmen, as they sold out the struggle against the Industrial Relations Act. They must not be allowed to get away with that.

The TUC must be forced to do the job we pay them to do. So too must the leaders of all the transport unions, the workers - themselves facing another dispute - and of the other relevant groups of workers.

Every effort must be made to get official calls for effective blacking as far as the handling of coal, where this falls blacking as far as the handling of coal, where this falls blacking as far as the handling of coal, where blacking has the duty to do their utmost to enforce unctious blacking. The part of the Industrial Relations Law that makes such action illegal is expected to come into force at the end of February. It is possible that the government will rush through the necessary order in time to be of any use. It will be defeated.

This is no ordinary dispute. On its outcome will depend whether or not real wages for most, if not all workers, will continue to fall and whether we are well aware of its importance and are prepared to act. Wales - the miners are determined to win. They must be beaten. The present government is in a desperate position, which is your position determined to win. They must be beaten. The present government is in a desperate position, which is your position determined to win. They must be beaten. The present government is in a desperate position, which is your position determined to win. They must be beaten. The present government is in a desperate position, which is your position determined to win. They must be beaten. The present government is in a desperate position, which is your position determined to win. They must be beaten. The present government is in a desperate position, which is your position determined to win. They must be beaten. The present government is in a desperate position, which is your position determined to win. They must be beaten.

The TUC must be compelled to the labour movement for more than a decade. This time the Tories must be compelled.
THE STRATEGIC position of the Maltese islands astride the sea lanes of the central Mediterranean, together with their natural harbor, secured them in ancient times from attacks by Carthaginian, Roman, and Byzantine fleets. They are today as strategically desirable as they were then. Malta lies in the Italian Strategic Area, and its importance is accentuated by the fact that it is the last port of call, and the first step from Europe to North Africa. It is a significant point of strategic interest, and has an important role to play in the defense of the Mediterranean and of the Western Hemisphere. The Maltese islands are thus of great importance to Great Britain, their strategic position being of the utmost significance to the security of the United Kingdom. The islands have an area of 565 square kilometers, with a population of about 300,000. The capital is Valletta, which is also the seat of government. The islands are divided into two districts, the northern district of Malta and the southern district of Gozo. The climate is mild and pleasant, with an average temperature of 20°C in summer and 13°C in winter. The economy is based on agriculture, fishing, and tourism. Malta is a member of the European Union and is one of the smallest member states in the Union. The official language is Maltese, a Semitic language that is closely related to Arabic and Hebrew.
Police shove pickets as they clear a way for scabs. The bosses see the defeat of the strike as vital to the campaign to depress wages in the South West against the poverty of the South West and led strikes, occupations and demonstrations.

They should have organised their union recruitment drives and promised full support to any strikers. They should have guaranteed financial aid and arranged for intensified blocking of goods and the stopping of supplies at any factories in dispute.

They should have told the Engineering Employers' Federation that action will be taken against them if they support their member firms. They should also have organised a campaign among the existing trade union members on why they should support strikes and collect money.

REFUSED

This kind of action could have been successful. None of the national union leaders even bothered to try. On the contrary, they did very little and Crispin's letter is clear proof of this attitude.

A number of unions have failed to give any support to the Fine Tubes workers. Most treacherous has been the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. This union has had the power to win the Fine Tubes strike by forbidding the manufacture of raw materials for the company. It refused to do so and no member of the General Council of the TUC has called for action against it.

Last year, the Engineering Union, which has a left-wing reputation, cut off strike benefits to their members at Fine Tubes on the grounds that they had paid them the maximum under rule.

At the September TUC, several strikers from Fine Tubes lobbied Vic Feather and demanded his active support. Feather told them that because they had once heckled him when he spoke at a Tolpuddle Martyrs rally in Devon, they "didn't want anything to do with them".

At a meeting just before Christmas, Harry Urwin, the assistant general secretary of the Transport Workers Union, told the strikers that unless they accepted Crispin's advice nothing could be done. When he was told that the unions should step up their blacking of Fine Tubes products, Urwin replied that it was impossible to do so as the Industrial Relations Act made it illegal.

In spite of these problems and obstacles, the Fine Tubes workers have bravely risen and displayed great spirit for 85 weeks. But last week, because of lack of support from the unions, they agreed to lift the ban on blocking and picketing.

CRITICAL

But unlike the union leaders they are determined to win the dispute and to defeat the anti-unionism of the company. The strike is now reaching a critical stage. The workers desperately need support.

The union leaders must be compelled to give them that support and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation instructed to stop supplying steel to Fine Tubes.

Important documents on the struggle for the revolutionary party in Britain £1 plus 5p postage

PLUTO PRESS
6 Carton Gardens, London E2 8DN

An invaluable book for all readers of Socialist Worker
SECOND CLASS STARTED STRUGGLING

by Valerie Clark

But how many men would be willing to look after the children while the wife went to a political meeting, her trade union, or a women's liberation group? It isn't necessary to do a full-scale survey. Just looking around at friends and relatives shows that it is true what Women's Liberation says: there is an expectation that men will work and women will look after the children. People are weary of this in a man's world, and they have a very inferior place in it.
The housewife cannot see a way out of this. To save her marriage and her sanity, she glorifies her prison. She devotes herself to the home, she sacrifices herself for her children. And she makes herself happy in this way. Everyone knows of the woman who "only lives for her family." But what happens when the family is gone, when the house has everything it needs - no more cushions to make or appliances to save up for? Middle-aged women often wonder where their lives have gone to. They have given everything for their family, and in the process they have had no life themselves. It cannot be right that some people exist just to be servants to others. Everyone is entitled to a real life of their own. That is not to say that women can't enjoy cooking or caring for their children. But this should not be seen as their only reason for being alive.
Some women say they are content with things as they are. They are not willing to give up the few courtesies they get from men, being paid for when they've taken over, having heavy parcels carried for them and so on. But then they're living with a second-class person, just to get a few perks, like staying in a certain job just because there's a good bonus at Christmas. In the long run, it is just not worth it.
It isn't the ruling class very well for men and women to blame each other for the inequalities of life, which is fact stem from the inhumanity of the capitalist system.

EXTEND

It is no wonder that men like to feel they have some authority over their wives and children. The only attitudes that must be fought. Women should not carry on the same system in their own families. They must try to break it.
And at the same time, women must understand why men treat women as inferiors. Women too should see that the enemy is capitalism, not men.

Women are fighting for the few rights they do have, and to extend them: the right to work, the right to a good education, the right to free contraception and abortion, if necessary, to enable them to decide when they will have children.
But to those who fight for equality with men, women must do nothing, unless they mean to live a better life. Women do not want equality with men. They want something different and many of the daily problems we face, we want things to be better - for everyone. A society where the children are not one in which men can be happy and free either.

1880s: the match girls

IF YOU TRAVEL by train from Liverpool Street station, past the dingy back streets of Bethnal Green, past to Stratford, you will pass a grimy, desolate, Victorian structure. It was once a smoking and bleak factory, as it was in 1888.

Bryant & May's, match-making factory and the year 1888 is significant. This was the year of the matchgirls' strike, a breakthrough for trade union militancy in the East End. The strike for better wages and conditions finally won.

They were organised - but full of indignation at the new management exploited them. They had a highly developed sense of community, why they were being exploited.

Before their famous strike, they had complained bitterly that one of the board had said, "They have no work to do in the factory." They had been given a "holiday" without pay on the day of the strike.

Many of them went to the ceremony armed with bricks and stones, prepared to hurl them at the offending piece of granite. But instead they began marching, and " militia.

The matchgirls were organised by a woman who immediately saw the potential inherent in their anger. She was Annie Besant, a name still remembered in London's East End. With her experience and knowledge and the matchgirls' fear of determination, they abolished the illegal docking of wages.

They also won a demand in which to put standards, thereby reducing the risk of phosphorus poisoning, and they gained a bonus to wheels in their buses, in no longer having to carry them on their heads. (a practice which had led to premature baldness).

Inspired

The most important outcome of the strike was the formation of a trade union. The historical significance of the matchgirls' triumph can be summed up by Ben Tillett, dockers' leader, who said their strike was "the beginning of the social revolution which produced the new Docks Union, the new Docks' Unions, the great Dockers' Strike of 1889 ...

The victory of the matchgirls inspired all manner of workers, both women and men to demand better conditions and to form unions. The matchgirls' action is only one example in the history of women's struggles for rights. At every servicemen's, women were among the first on the front.

In the Paris Commune of 1871, the proletariat, the most deprived and poorest women of Paris, fought and died on the barricades alongside the men.

In Russia in 1905, the starving women of Petrograd had the bread queues to march to the Winter Palace to ask the Tsar for bread. The outcome was bloodshed and the setting of the stage for the 1917 Revolution.

This present of all social upheavals began on International Women's Day. Women textile workers felt the first to strike, sending a delegation to the management to protest. The strike Organisers, the management, the tragic defeat of women who had given the
Low pay or the dole: the choice for women at work

FROM BIRTH women are taught that they belong to the home, that cooking, cleaning, shopping, washing and raising children are naturally women’s work and that real women find this more satisfying than employment outside the home which is men’s domain.

The majority of women then go out to work only when the family budget has reached breaking point. The latest available figures clearly show this:

WOMEN IN EMPLOYMENT

<table>
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<th>Month</th>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
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The number of women unemployed increased by 30,100 in May. The number of women in employment decreased by only 2,000. For every 100,000 more women are being forced to look for work in order to supplement the family income. Women are paid less for their labours is a well known fact.

In October 1976, the average pay for full-time manual workers in industry was £28.50 per week. The national minimum wage is £20.00 per week. Women on average earn less than half as much as men.

Forced to look

The reason why more women are seeking work is that dealing with the rising prices, stagnating real wages, with an unemployment figure of one in four million, when getting on for a million more women are being forced to look for work in order to supplement the family income.

Although women are paid less for their labours is a well known fact. In October 1976, the average pay for full-time manual workers in industry was £28.50 per week. The national minimum wage is £20.00 per week. Women on average earn less than half as much as men.

Women are on average even more likely to be the first to be made redundant, and whose husbands were made redundant, the government provided figures to prove that unemployment in the first year of birth were better-fed.

Married women who are made redundant, but whose husbands are working are denied full employment benefits. Married women are told that if they are redundant, they will have to find a job for themselves and their husbands.

More than 60 per cent of married women are not in any trade union. This is partly due to the fact that women tend to work as waitresses, cleaners, nurses, shop assistants, out of which men work in which it is difficult to obtain any degree of unionisation.

Lack of unionisation among women can be directly attributed to the indifferent attitude of trade unions and trade unionists. Women are not encouraged to join the unions, and even if they do they are treated as second-class citizens and are discouraged from playing any part in the running of the union.

Refuses to fight

This attitude was amply demonstrated when May Hobbs, who was made redundant as a TGWU night-cleaner, went to her union, the TGWU, for help. She received no help and was actually advised to join another union as the TGWU could not assist. This was at a time when the TGWU was running a recruitment campaign!

In some companies, women have been sacked and blacklisted for their union activities and efforts to fight on behalf of the organisation which is preventing her from getting another job.

By failing to take up and fight for women’s demands like job security, 24 hour child care centres and equal pay the trade unions are weakening all workers’ struggles. The TGWU women know only too well the advantages for them in a divided working class.

EQUAL RIGHTS WILL STRENGTHEN THE UNIONS

A third of the workers in this country are female — nine million women. Two-thirds of them are married. But “women’s place is in the home” still rings true for most of them.

Although they work, they also usually have the full responsibility for housework, shopping, and children. Many thousands of women are on the go from 6.30 in the morning until late in the evening, seven days a week.

Right from the start, girls are discriminated against. Compared with boys, they are badly educated and leave school earlier. The main reason for this is that girls are expected to get married a few years after leaving school, and it is still foolishly assumed that they won’t work any more and that education would only be wasted on them.

Girls from working-class homes are by and large prevented from getting trade, except those who do a secretarial course. 40 per cent of boys are apprenticed. Only 7 per cent of girls are apprenticed. The hairdressing trade.

So girls start work unskilled, with little chance of being trained.

Nobody thinks it worthwhile because ‘she’ll only get married’. Most girls in their teens don’t care anyway because they too have been led to believe their troubles will all be over when they are married.

But the truth is that, after marriage, they probably continue working. And when their children have grown up, they’ll probably need to go back to work again.

They are still unskilled and the boss won’t train them now — he’s got a new excuse. ‘They’ll only have time off when the kids are ill.’

The fact that women’s place is still in the home means that when the employers a whole bundle of easy excuses for paying women less than men, and gives the unions the same excuses not to bother to organise.

The employers are quick to use women as cheap labour, to under-cut men’s wages, or to take the place of well-paid male workers.

Women want a better deal now. But the unions and working men should see that it is not only for the sake of our exploits that we are fighting for equal pay and equal rights.

It is for the sake of a strong, united labour movement. The present differences between the wages of men and women make it far too easy for the employers to manipulate workers of both sexes.

by Sara Carver

Low pay or the dole was done to get women to work. Hundreds of day-care centres for working ‘chickens’ were set up; women were assured that bottle-feeding was better for babies than breast-feeding.

At the end of the war, however, when the returning men needed jobs, the ‘chickens’ were slotted down, and the government provided figures to prove that women at work caused juvenile delinquents at home, and that they were competing with men, and that eight out of ten babies who were bottle-fed in the first year of birth were bottle-fed.

Married women who are made redundant, but whose husbands are working are denied full employment benefits. Married women are told that if they are redundant, they will have to find a job for themselves and their husbands.

More than 60 per cent of married women are not in any trade union. This is partly due to the fact that women tend to work as waitresses, cleaners, nurses, shop assistants, out of which men work in which it is difficult to obtain any degree of unionisation.

Lack of unionisation among women can be directly attributed to the indifferent attitude of trade unions and trade unionists. Women are not encouraged to join the unions, and even if they do they are treated as second-class citizens and are discouraged from playing any part in the running of the union.

Refuses to fight

This attitude was amply demonstrated when May Hobbs, who was made redundant as a TGWU night-cleaner, went to her union, the TGWU, for help. She received no help and was actually advised to join another union as the TGWU could not assist. This was at a time when the TGWU was running a recruitment campaign!

In some companies, women have been sacked and blacklisted for their union activities and efforts to fight on behalf of the organisation which is preventing her from getting another job.

By failing to take up and fight for women’s demands like job security, 24 hour child care centres and equal pay the trade unions are weakening all workers’ struggles. The TGWU women know only too well the advantages for them in a divided working class.

In some companies, women’s work is defined as “men’s work” or “women’s work” and can be done equally well by both. This is a practice that is bound to increase after the Equal Pay Act.

As long as women are not fighting alongside men then the trade unions cannot wage an effective class struggle. They can’t attack the kind of working women’s living standards, against rising unemployment and against anti-working class measures like the voting laws. The TGWU needs to join the old tactic of striking workers united.

As long as men and women workers are divided against each other the other victories will be those chalked up to the bosses.
Wild talk on school violence

FROM time to time disturbing reports of the frequency of violence in schools break through into the columns of the national dailies. Even though such reports are relatively rare, if a union of teachers actually holds a special conference to discuss the problem, can it be that these isolated instances conceal a much more serious situation pervading the whole school system?

It is necessary first to examine the credentials of this teachers' union—the National Association of Schoolmasters. The NAS was founded in the early 1920s by a group of men who broke away from the major union, the National Union of Teachers, as they could not stomach the acceptance by that body of equal pay for women teachers.

With the final achievement of equal pay in 1961 the need for the existence of the NAS disappeared. However, largely due to the NUT's right-wing dogmatism the NAS managed to continue to attract members by a display of 'militancy', too often on basically reactionary causes.

Hysterical

Reports from the NAS Birmin- ham conference are remarkable for the apparent lack of hard evidence which could be produced to justify the hysterical outbursts.

In the speech by Mr. T. R. Case, after producing such flimsy examples as a middle-class grandmother who had complained to her husband that she had organised a gang in his primary school and of a teacher who had been threatened with assault and rape by a father (!), made a serious tactical error in letting out at his greatest potential allies—the head teachers.

His accusation of 'their moral cowardice' blurs in his mind that corporal punishment was not administered neither often nor severely.

Here is the rub of the matter. The fact that violence has always been common in the school-internal physical assaults by teachers—more often head teachers—upon the child often for quite trivial 'offences'.

The concealed violence of streaming, vicious divisions between teacher and child, the intense competitiveness, the examination system, the unconscious attempts to brainwash the kids to submit to a permanent inferior position in society—all these have their effects.

Can we be surprised, like those self-appointed press guards of public morality, that a deeply divided education system on occasions results in boys from 'comprehensive' and 'grammar' schools fighting each other?

If it really is surprising, however, disturbing, perhaps, very rare, some teachers have so well absorbed the inherent violence of capitalist society, continually displayed vividly before their eyes every evening on the television screen, as to attempt to solve a problem by stalling a schoolmaster?

In so far as there is any solution, while capitalism continues, Ashley Brannell, leader of the Inner London Education Authority, indicates one direction in which some improvement can be found. In The Teacher, the NUT journal, he said: 'It is more teachers, smaller classes and better resources.'

He has undoubtedly got a point in his battle for well-known and commendable support for the abolition of physical punishment. It is not still not enough. Rask and File, the left wing teachers' union, have persuaded the NAS to remove, in a recent conference, a section of its constitution which banned corporal punishment.

Massive

The export of British goods led to overseas investments. British industrialists and engineers built ports, railways, roads and bridges throughout the world. By 1867 Britain owned 50 million square miles of railway and road shares in the world.

A massive boom in railway building in India, especially during the period of the Second World War, guaranteed a return of 5 per cent by 1870. The foreign railway companies were the most profitable of all. 'A great opportunity for the British investor,' said the Financial Times. The foreign companies were paid for by the Indian government. The Indian people paid for it with their sweat and blood.

By 1870 the total British foreign investment was about £700 million, a quarter of it in the USA and a third in the Empire. Foreign investment stimulated the development of industry in Europe, Industrialisation went forward in America and France. Foreign investment was made up of capital and resources. British industry was greatly stimulated.

The foreign companies which occurred in large numbers were a part of the British economy, as it was to be a part of the world's economy. The foreign companies were paid for by the Indian people. The Indian people paid for it with their sweat and blood.

In the growing of crops on large estates, in the jute, jute, oil and wool, mushroomed

By 1914 there was hardly a part of Asia and Africa without some British investment. In some European power. At the Congress of Berlin in the 1880s the great powers divided up between them and only Liberia and Ethiopia remained outside colonial rule.

In Asia, only China and Thailand kept paper independence and they were divided into spheres of influence.

The exception was Japan, which had kept to the European line by a policy of isolation and then industrialised just in time, before the great carve-up was completed. And she could only survive by becoming an imperialist power herself.

What was behind this sudden expansion of empire to near-total control of the world? In the mid-nineteenth century, Britain was the 'workshop of the world'. Her industrial lead made it possible for Britain to dominate the markets of the world on the basis of free trade.

Part Five

Scramble for power led to world war

WHAT IS IMPERIALISM?

By STEPHEN MARKS

PART FIVE

in the second half of the century, as did tea, coffee and rubber from other colonial possessions. But the profits went abroad, instead of being used to build up the native economies.

Foreign investment followed foreign trade. This was due not so much to Empire as to free trade, and Britain's ability, as industrial power, to sell her goods anywhere in the world. But with the emergence of new industrial rivals in America, Germany, and Japan, the situation changed.

A few figures can show how quickly industry began to develop in Germany, the USA, and to threaten Britain's industrial lead.

Take the production of pig iron as an example. Between 1870 and 1898, British output increased their production by only 50 per cent, while the USA did so by 600 per cent and Germany by 690 per cent. In 1903 both Germany and the USA had surpassed Britain.

As other countries began to industrialise, they, too, like Britain, turned to overseas investment as well, and sought to protect their markets and investments by colonial slogans.

Capital export was especially important to British imperialism. By 1913 as much was being invested abroad as at home, and a tenth of the national income, equal to a quarter of all 'property income', came from overseas investment.

Thus when the later developers, Germany and France, began to catch up with Britain, the overseas investments of the past helped protect Britain from the impact of the new competition.

These changes coincided with a new technology, the steamship and telephone, which laid the basis of modern mass production. In steel, electricity, industrial chemistry and oil, British invention were made which increased the scale of industry, speeded up transport and thus increased the size of markets, and led to growing concentration of capital and the growth of large monopolies, adding to the world's search for raw materials.

World steel production grew 27-fold in the last 50 years of the 19th century. Modern electricity generating plans date from the 1890s. Industrial chemistry and modern oil production date from the same period. In each country a small number of big firms came to dominate the economy.

On the other hand, the later developers, Germany and France, began to catch up with Britain, the overseas investments of the past helped protect Britain from the impact of the new competition.

First it is necessary to explain the main mechanisms of power which led to competition for raw materials and power. The reason behind this was not only as an insurance against being left without.

Control over raw materials was a weapon in competition. So potential sources of raw materials are as important as ones currently in use, depriving one's competitors as good a reason as the materials themselves.

Export markets were also essential to cushion firms against fluctuations at home and to increase sales. And the export of capital helped expand economic crisis by providing new profitable outlets for invest-ment.

The changing structure of markets between the superpowers led to the new course of imperial politics. The imposition of tariffs, war and military and political threats to open markets to your goods, exclude those of a competitor. If the trading group favourable to your interests, all the way to out-competitorisation or arbitration as instruments of power politics in the service of ever-larger capital reached increasing intensity in the period of inter-imperial rivalries leading up to the first world war. And with the application of modern technology to the 'improvement' of armaments, military and paramilitary pressure of the arms race began to impose its own logic.
EVEN nostalgia has become a marketable commodity under capitalism. The current interest in the audiences of writers and filmmakers of America in the 1930s and 1940s has led to a proliferation of shows, books and television series like The Revue, which features illustrations from 1930s and 1940s America in the 1930s and 1940s.

The reviews are resplendent with gloom and good news. An old-time private eye thriller is being shown in a movie or TV show. The screenwriter, Benny Goodman, has been brought out of retirement to make a short film.

There is talk of a new hard-boiled detective being trotted out. The main character, a private eye, is said to be based on the chief of the Los Angeles police force. The story, which is set in the 1930s, is said to be a continuation of the 1930s detective novel series.

Class fiction

Their "heroes," Sam Spade and Philip Marlowe, are the lonely vigilantes fighting to stop the American dream from turning into a nightmare. The last of the middle-aged individuals, down-at-heel but invincible, are turning to the secondary novels of the 1930s, such as Hammett and Chandler.

Spade and Marlowe were not working-class heroes. They were thealois, making a living on their wits and guile. The last of the private eye heroes has been made to be like their creators: Hammett and Chandler.

Their books are concerned with the middle and upper-middle class. They needed no cops and no detectives to live their lives. They needed fighting to stop the American Dream from turning into a nightmare. The last of the middle-aged individuals, down-at-heel but invincible, are turning to the secondary novels of the 1930s, such as Hammett and Chandler.

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However, they are also concerned with the middle and upper-middle class. They needed fighting to stop the American Dream from turning into a nightmare. The last of the middle-aged individuals, down-at-heel but invincible, are turning to the secondary novels of the 1930s, such as Hammett and Chandler.
Missing lessons of People's War

AS YOU generously gave Martin Tomkinson a whole page to review Angus Calder's magnificent study of the Second World War (The People's War, 8 January) it seems a pity that he did not draw more directly on the political lessons.

One of the greatest myths that still grips the British labour movement is the one that runs 'The Labour Party may be losing power but it was bloody important'. That development from this particular myth is one that must fight to return to the party to its 'great traditions' of 1945 instead of breaking with reformism and building an independent working-class organisation.

The fact is that most of the highly praised planning policies of the post-war Labour government were not implemented at all. The failure of the continuance of the wartime coalition government was quite the amazing degree of planning in the wartime economy had nothing to do with socialism. On the contrary, it was forced upon the government by its necessity to save British capitalism from its Nazi competitors.

In order to generalise the whole nation, many cherished attitudes of the working class had to be broken down, and the West End expressed simply the position of the working class in an independent working-class government, and to the labour of the workers.

For all workers in struggle, we seek to build militant groups within industry. Against all weapons and militarist alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Against anti-immigrant, anti-black, anti-white, anti-brown, and anti-Indian policies. For real social, economic and political equality for men and women. Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as SALT, the superpowers and the Warsaw Pact. Against secret diplomacy.

Against all forms of militarism. We unconditionally give support to and solidarity with all genuine liberation movements.

For the nationalisation of the land, banks, transport, power and telecommunications and all other forms of production and distribution.

We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers' party and to organise the workers to build the unity of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time and it is for the working class to build its own movement and to organise the workers to build the unity of all revolutionary groups.

It is a battle against what it is about. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it. To build a world out of power to the world and build socialism, join us.'

Cathy for What's On must arrive or be phoned in by 5.30pm on weekdays when charged at £1.00 per line, six words per line, cash with copy or, if answered, by first post Tuesday. Notice of reply payment. No copy or contact means the ad will not appear.  

MEETINGS

END INTERVENTION! Withdrawal the Tories from Northern Ireland! Full hall to 8.30pm, Friday, 14 January, Manor Hall, Halkirk. For information, phone 0161-230 7300. 

BLACKBURN 15 public meeting, Wigan Youth Centre, Wigan. Blackburn Trades Council, 19th January.

WINDSOR 12 public meeting, 'The Revolutionary was killed', Michael Buerk's, Windsor, Berkshire, 24th January.


EAST BARNET Bus Meeting: How to fight the Tories, 26th February, 7.30pm, Upton Park, East Barnet. 

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THE FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN Socialist Leader on 28th February was about the problem of a lack of work for students. There is a certain amount of truth in this. The front page article went on to say: 'The problem is that the job market is currently very weak and that there is a high level of unemployment. This situation has been exacerbated by the effects of the economic recession, which has led to a decrease in demand for both skilled and unskilled workers.'

The fact is that the job market is currently very weak and that there is a high level of unemployment. This situation has been exacerbated by the effects of the economic recession, which has led to a decrease in demand for both skilled and unskilled workers.

There are a number of factors contributing to this situation. Firstly, the economic recession has led to a decrease in demand for both skilled and unskilled workers. Secondly, the skills of many workers have become outdated due to the rapid pace of technological change. Thirdly, the demand for certain skills, such as those in the manufacturing sector, has decreased due to the shift in the economy towards service industries.

As a result of these factors, the job market is currently very weak and there is a high level of unemployment. This situation has been exacerbated by the effects of the economic recession, which has led to a decrease in demand for both skilled and unskilled workers.

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Welshmen in battle to save jobs

THE OCCUPATION of the All-in-Chalmers factory in Mold, North Wales, continues into its second week. The 120 workers have taken over the plant as a matter of course. Since the factory’s machinery and production is to be moved elsewhere.

At a meeting with management on 6 January Hughie Hughes, AUEW convenor, was offered a pay rise of £2.50 per week. He called off the strike. To call this an ‘end statement’ would be an understatement; the workers have over 20 years’ service between them.

We have no social responsibility towards these workers,’ said the management. ‘Our only reason for being in business is to make a profit.’

This blatant attitude has only hardened the men’s resolve to continue the fight for their jobs.

Today the workers at All-in-Chalmers still fight the same battle, the same problems, the same system as those miners 70 years ago. The mine is now closed, but All-in-Chalmers must remain open.

Messages of support and finance to Hughie Hughes, AUEW office, 17 Ash Grove, Shotton, Denbigh.

by Roger Ros Wei

IT’S SIMPLY a sell-out. If we had taken action and linked up with the miners we would have defeated this government.

The two engineers using him had decided to initiate negotiations through district committee and shop stewards with individual employers on the understanding that settlement would be made to the employer of a policy which will be welcomed by the workforce.

Not only does it avoid a national strike and reduce the strain on the miners, but it also means that they can continue fighting the government's policy of high wages.

OUTLAW

The image of the miners will be restored.

The government will be able to accept the pay rise on condition that the miners accept the agreement. The miners will be able to continue their fight for a better future.

Back to back with the miners

by Frank Pritchard

How to fix the jobless figures

THE British Steel Corporation and the main steel workers union, AILSATA, have become so arrogant in their dealings with the workers that they have now taken to trying the unemployable figures.

They are doing this by taking 1500 of the men redundant at the Ilenan plant to accept what is claimed to be an average pay until 31 March. The men will, however, have to pay their own personal insurance contributions out of this at the self-employed rate.

Under this scheme many of the workers will find themselves worse off than they were on the dole. They also feel that their reinstatement for unemployed benefit after March will be endangered.

It is not yet clear whether the union is not concerned with such considerations - and it is feared that the figure of 1500 unemployed from appearing in the official statistics.

Socialists on trial for their lives

TWO militant socialist women members of the New York Independent Workers Union have been charged with the murder of a policeman in the course of a bank robbery two years ago.

Joe Dillon's brother, Patrick, was sentenced to six years imprisonment on bank robbery which he is supposed to have done four years ago.

Sentences for political activists are increasing sharply in the Republic of Ireland.

The government has not recognized the national committee’s resolution where it states that all new applications for the arrest of anyone by the factory's factory-bashing tactics are enthusiastically supported.

The unemployed of the ‘Left' and its sympathizers will never accept the injustice of the present government's policies to the workers. The New York Independent Workers Union was set up in 1921.

By Frank Pritchard

BACKING FOR THE MINERS

Power men

MILITARY-type workers are making desperate efforts to ensure that the miners get the full backing of the community. The task is hard, and both the power workers and miners were offered a sharp lesson by the factory employers.

The cost of living has risen by over 10 per cent in the last three years. The price of the miners' wages was put up 50 per cent.

'Stand in their shoes' the miners are told. Their work is of national importance. The miners say that the government is doing nothing to help them.

JOURNALISTS have been urged not to be party to any press conference by power workers in New York last week by the committee of the National Union of Journalists’ largest branch, Magazine and Book.

The statement was made to all national newspapers and the London offices of all regions, but was not reported in any of the press.

It expressed grave concern that the government and newspaper proprietors would use the press to convince readers that the miners were responsible for the lack of hot and power for people and industries.

It noted that the plight of the old is always with us in this kind of society because even when coal and power are in short supply the old simply cannot afford to pay for them.

That is why 10,000 old age pensioners freeze to death each month of the winter, and the government and newspaper proprietors, with ready control over the media, may well try to launch a smear campaign against the miners.

I would like more information about the International Socialists

Back to back with the miners

by Frank Pritchard

by Roger Ros Wei

STEAKS CLOSE

HOT SELL OUT

by Steve Jefferys

AUEW shop steward and Chrysler strike}

TWO strikes have virtually closed down the Scottish motor industry.

Workers at Chrysler’s Linwood plant and at British Leyland’s Bithartle plant both came out last Friday. A strike over a demand for a substantial wage rise, across the board, to bring the basic rates into line with the top rates paid in the Midlands.

At Bithartle the men had demanded lay-off pay and parity of wages with the British Leyland workers at Cowley, Oxford. In reply the management offered a maximum increase of £2.50 per week, payable in two instalments. The strike lasted almost a year - a wage increase of more than £2 for skilled and £1 for unskilled workers.

By Tommy Renton, secretary of the joint shop stewards committee, the £2 offer as an insult, which they said.

‘They offered us £2 for a week’s work. We have been working 10 hours a day for the last four or five years, and the offer is less than half of what they offered the British Leyland workers at Cowley, Oxford, and we were not even offered that.’

Workers at Chrysler were made three alternative offers to their 6,500 manual workers to prevent the strike.

An Agent offered his service to the factory. It was 12 months after the plant was closed.

But there were some signs that the executive officers of the miners involved have got cold feet. Bob Wright of the AUEW was reported as saying that negotiations could go on longer than expected.

The NUJB executive was to be told very quickly by some executive of the miners’ union that there would be no agreement without a pay rise of £2.50 a week; £1.50 a week.

All the stewards are conscious of the need to avoid the sort of end-on-end situation produced by Jones and Scelson at Fiddervale last year.

These two strikes showed that workers in Scotland are still prepared to make heavy sacrifices to protect living standards. Workers in the Haraway Accounts and the Industrial Relations Act.

They are trying to hold 1500 of the men redundant at the Ilenan plant to accept what is claimed to be an average pay until 31 March. The men will, however, have to pay their own personal insurance contributions out of this at the self-employed rate.

Under this scheme many of the workers will find themselves worse off than they were on the 'dole'. They also feel that their reinstatement for unemployed benefit after March will be endangered.

After their reinstatement, the men will not be concerned with such considerations - and it is feared that the figure of 1500 unemployed from appearing in the official statistics.

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by Frank Pritchard

by Roger Ros Wei

STEAKS CLOSE

HOT SELL OUT

by Steve Jefferys

AUEW shop steward and Chrysler strike
**Dockers plan counter attack**

by Bob Light

SHOP STEWARDS from all the major dock locations met in London on Saturday to discuss a counter attack to the latest moves by port employers.

The employees have declared their intention to get rid of as many as 3,000 men by returning to the unregistered register — a pool of dockers who are denied regular employment.

But if the port employers succeed in getting the unregistered dockers to return to work, the dockers will be left with a half-breaded staff.

Saturday’s meeting produced a nine-point programme for redundancies, no interference with the NDZs, implementation of the British recommendations on work containers, full pay for men temporarily on the unregistered register in the union’s dock delegations, holidays and retirement at 60 for all dockers, and nationalisation of the ports.

The meeting agreed that the dockers will not be held to the present limit of 80 by the Phase Two production figures. As a sign of their determination the dockers have called a one-day national strike for 26 January.

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**Big Tyneside battle over sack for 950**

by Terry Rodgers

Chairman, Tyneside OPC Committee

NEWCASTLE—A Dragnet union at C A Pareno, the Houghton Kingsgate Co’s ‘steering system’ factory, worked 24 hours a day yesterday to prevent the management sacking 950 workers.

The workers were sacked on short notice. They said they did not get any official notice.

The management have complained that the workers’ action and have told the local Labour MP, Geoffrey Rhodes, that they did not get any support from the trade unions when a similar action was carried out last year.

Mr Krause, managing director of Pareno, told the union leaders that he had been badly treated by the union representatives. He expected them to have the support of the workers.

The technical staff are implementing the factory’s anti-union propaganda on the company. Clerical workers are trying to prevent the company from breaking up the factory. The management have been forced to pay the workers.

The management issued 950 redundancy notices for the end of January. On Monday 3 January, the workers were given notice to remove all plant.

We simply reiterated our demand for payment of all wages, including any notice, any removal of plant.

The workers, who had not been informed of a 26-day stay of action, would not withdraw their action. A mass meeting rejected this call for an immediate strike.

The workers immediately told the managing director that they would not accept the decision. They have asked for a meeting with the company.

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**BENDIX THE INSIDE STORY**

by Malcolm Marks

AUGUST PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT

KIRKBY—‘It’s far better to occupy, to control from within rather than stand out in the rain and cold, the fog and wind, trying to stop scab vehicles.’

This was the message that Jack Sprigs, AUEW convenor of Fisher-Bendix, the washing-machine firm, gave a mass meeting of nearly 800 Laurence workers last week when they voted to occupy the factory, rejecting management’s plans to close it.

The workers are now occupying the building.

Decision-day, 5 January, began with 50 workers, led by Jack Sprigs, meeting management representatives, led by Sydney Carney.

Carney gave the management 15 minutes to withdraw the notice of closure and to make good its closing down of the factory.

When management refused and said their closure decision must go ahead, the workers gave them 10 minutes to leave the factory.

Jack Sprigs was given a series of responses from the workers, he introduced Ian Lewis, the deputy mayor of Liverpool, he had worked in Fisher Thorne, head of the Thorne Group that owns Fisher-Bendix, asking him to keep the factory open.

The workers decided to continue on strike, and to control the factory and the closure order and on the management’s plans to close it.

The workers offered a ‘stay of execution’ for 28 days when the closure would be deferred. The mass meeting rejected the offer, along with a promise of a ‘permanent committee’ into the whole affair.

Jack Sprigs told the workers: ‘We cannot be here and not get the advantage if we accept this offer. But if you come with us we will win.’

He added: ‘We have a golden opportunity to control the factory and the closure order and on the management’s plans to close it.’

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**Sit-ins are threat to the Tores**

by Jack Spriggs

SERIOUS TROUBLE started some six months ago when Thorne Electrical took over the factory from Parkinson-Green.

Thorn wanted to close the washing machine business in Spain. This meant 900 redundancies. We opposed the plans by withdrawing labour.

After nine weeks’ strikes we were completely isolated. The management withdrew their plans.

But most of us knew that the matter would not end there. We had to look for new ways of fighting redundancy.

The strike, however, made all the difference.

The men and women in the factory could see that redundancies were not negotiable and could be fought and could be fought and sustained, and were not negotiable and could be fought and sustained.

The management soon made it clear that they intended closing the whole factory by May 1972.

We organised a shop stewards’ committee to meet with the Thorne management.

On Wednesday last week we met with the Thorne management.

The management issued 60 redundancy notices for the end of January. On Monday 3 January, the workers were given notice to remove all plant.

We simply reiterated our demand for payment of all wages, including any notice, any removal of plant.

The workers, who had not been informed of a 26-day stay of action, would not withdraw their action. A mass meeting rejected this call for an immediate strike.

The workers immediately told the managing director that they would not accept the decision. They have asked for a meeting with the company.

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**INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS’ INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE**

The Struggles Ahead for the Working Class Movement in 1972

All trade union members who support the policies fought for by the International Socialists are urged to attend this Conference.

**Topical Discussion: The**

1. The fight against unemployment and factory closures.

2. The fight against the Industrial Relations Act.

In the coming year both these questions will be of vital importance for the working class as a whole in its struggle against the Tory Government.

We now appeal for all members to support this Conference.

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**UCC, A30-Chalmer’s and Písaio Alexandra**

Wolfs 424 hours local factories had offered assistance with picketing.

We need financial support and to set an example to keep our morale up. We have also called for a boycott on all Thorne goods or support for solidarity actions will certainly be forthcoming on Merseyside.

The aim of the campaign will be to stop the factory from closing down. Any other factory, building site or work in the area will also be affected.

The management have withdrawn their plans to close the factory.

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**by Jack Spriggs**

The management have withdrawn their plans to close the factory.

We are grateful to all those who have supported our action.

We have received financial support and to set an example to keep our morale up. We have also called for a boycott on all Thorne goods or support for solidarity actions.