Heath will try new sell out with Smith

PREDICTABLY, the Pearson Commission reported this week that the Tories’ sell-out plan to the white racists in Rhodesia is unacceptable to the Africans. But with their usual high regard for the wishes of the majority, the Heath government is already planning a further attempt to reach a deal with its “kith and kin” in Salisbury.

It is strongly rumoured in Whitehall that new talks will be held later this year with Smith—and this time the Tories will not say any agreement must be acceptable to the Rhodesian people as a whole. That little exercise in democratic policy, which the white minority is being forced to accept the best deal for the whites or whether it is the industrial heart of Salisbury or Bulawayo.

These talks are not because they thought they would be able to affect the situation but as a gesture, a regime which they utterly distrust of the Rhodesian people.

The barefaced double-talk of the Smith regime comes right out of the pages of 1848. In defending their practice of installing European majority membership in local authorities, they argued that they would be able to affect the situation but as a gesture, a regime which they utterly distrust of the Rhodesian people.

When the Europeans opened up to Rhodesia they may have presented the final say in the appointment of chiefs, but this was reasonable when it is remembered that the chiefs had become part and parcel of the government of the country.

In other words, when the invading Europeans solicited the help of the Africans, they were compelled to find stooges through whom they could rule.

Brutal

There was blatant intimidation by the government and employers during the visit of the Pearson Commission. Demonstrations against the set-out were met with brutal assaults from the police. In Kroko at least one African was shot dead and over 200 were killed in a march of between 7,800 Africans.

In the Chirara area four were wounded, in Umtali eight killed, 14 wounded, in Salisbury four killed and 24 wounded. In Fort Victoria, the equivalent of a small market town in England, there were 350 arrests in a period of a week.

The Africans’ resistance is an immense step forward in the struggle for the liberation of Zimbabwe. Their new awareness of the collective strength and ability to fight the regime will not easily be erased.

One of the interesting aspects of the events in January and February is the enormous solidarity that was taken. Thousands of miners, agricultural workers, mill and factory workers and many others, struck in the face of extreme police brutality.

Given the turmoil now existing, it is a matter of great regret that the leaders of ZAPU and ZANU, the two African parties, have been unable to act together.

But with the rising confidence of the African working class, the possibility exists now of building an internal movement to over throw the Smith regime.

Mike McGrath

Street fights in USSR

BETTER-street fighting broke out in the streets of the Lithuanian city of Kaunas on Monday. At least one policeman was killed.

The incident arose quite clearly from the opposition to the rule of the Soviet’s successor that exists in countries like Poland and Czechoslovakia. The immediate grievances that have been expressed by the growing movement of dissent in Lithuania over recent months have concerned such issues as freedom of religion and the language question.

TORY HUMBUGS in the House of Commons had the nerve to cheer last week when Ted Heath announced that the number of unemployed for May had fallen to 901,692. The figure of one million has some magical quality for the Tory witch-doctors: once the jobless figures go below that mark every thing in the garden is lovely again.

The reason is simple. For them unemployment is just a statistic. Socialists have a different attitude. They know that the Tories are the jobbing party and for them the May figures should shatter from the roof tops our total opposition to an economic system that condemns 900,000 people to the dole queue.

No one should be taken in by the Tories’ figures. Even Labour leader Harold Wilson, who did his bit to send unemployment soaring when he was prime minister, pointed out that the real number of jobless still does not reach 300,000. If you include those who do not sign on—as with the disabled and many school leavers—

and the Tories’ own figures are still the worst for May for 32 years.

The best indication that the Tory attack on workers’ living standards is still going ahead and that came with the Agricultural Minister’s statement on prices last week. They have gone up by 11.1 per cent for the year so far.

Since the Tories returned to power in June 1970, prices have rocketed at an astronomical 17.5 per cent.

GRIM PICTURE

Price rises tell only part of the story. Add on to them the soaring cost of rents, mortgages, rates, fares and welfare charges and you begin to see the full, grim picture of life under the Tories.

The Tory plan is a simple one: a massive assault on our wages and living conditions in order to boost the bosses’ profits—a plan underscored by the Industrial Relations Act designed to stop trade unions winning wage increases to keep up with the cost of living.

The lesson is equally simple: there must be no let up in the fight against the Tories and the anti-fascist line.

Unemployment CAN be fought by a militant trade union struggle to BAN productivity deals that sell jobs for pennies and for a shorter working week without loss of pay to force the bosses to take on extra labour.

Call in workers’ living standards CAN be fought by a battle within the unions to fight for wage increases of 20 per cent plus.

But above all this government must be kicked out—not by relying on the Labour front whose policies are virtually identical to the Tories’, but by building a mass movement dedicated to the overthrow of a system that cannot provide jobs and security for all.

ALL OUT SUNDAY 4 JUNE

Victory to the NLF! Defeat Nixon’s blockade!

Assemble Trafalgar Square 2.30pm— march to US Embassy Grosvenor Square

The march is supported by the International Socialists.

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Black militants speak out against integration

by John Lee

Black kids to white schools where they will be in a minority and under the direction of white teachers. They will be systematically indoctrinated with all the racist mythology which for hundreds of years has taught blacks to 'know their place.' They will be taught the history of the United States from the viewpoint of the white American middle class. They will learn of the emancipation of the slaves, of the civil wars, of the American Indian wars, and of the white racist indoctrination--all as gifts bestowed upon them and bestowed upon the white race.

They will never learn the history of the black people's struggle for survival against poverty and racism. Deprived of their own history, they will be able to resist the white man's definition of them as inferior beings.

The black militants who oppose busing see the necessity to keep black kids away from any form of integrated (white-controlled) schools. More important for them is the struggle for local (black) control of education. This would make possible the education of black youth by black teachers and would give the job of liberating working-class blacks from the weight of generations of white racist indoctrination.

So the militant seem to be throne themselves into solidarity against Nixon and white racists. The base of black control of their own education could not be further isolated from Nixon's mind. His only concern is that the American ruling class should have to accommodate as little as possible of the wealth it fished from the black race.

Lastly, all of this should go to blacks in the form of financial support for busing.

Centuries of racial discrimination mean that blacks are not competitive in the present sections of the working class. The black ghettoes are also the worst slums. Controlling the slum ghetto schools, without the support of the workers, will mean that the struggle to control ghetto schools must be part of a case of workers' struggle to control the forces that influence their lives. This busing issue means a step in the direction of a bolder line of the revolutionary class struggle.

This is the first time South Africa's students have demonstrated against the system of apartheid. The police were immediately called and arrested 13000 youngsters between the ages of 16-19, who were picked out as ringleaders. They are now in jail. There is no question of bail. They will be tried on 29 May.

The whites are terrified of any organised African opposition against their daily exploitation and oppression. Punishment, handed out to the students, serves to strengthen the position of the impoverished Bantustans and 'transit camps.'

Jamaica: where the cream goes to the skin parasites

by John Lee

The Jamaican general election was won overwhelmingly in February by the People's National Party (PNP), replacing the Jamaica Labour Party. The PNP's main slogan was 'Time for a change.' It is indeed time for a change in Jamaica. The island is afflicted by deep poverty. Malnutrition is widespread, especially since the island is not self-sufficient in food.

Unemployment is officially about 20% but in the capital, Kingston, in fact it is probably a good bit higher.

Educational facilities are so poor that while school buildings are 'compulsory' it is not in fact enforced. These children who do not go to school may find themselves in classes of up to 100.

But the struggle between workers of different classes--each of the parties is based on a trade union--for scarce jobs can lead only in increased bitterness and divisions in the working class. The real cause of Jamaica's poverty is the grip of imperialism, which constrains Jamaica's four main industries--agriculture, mining, services and transportation.

The basic industries are the 'crop' of FFF, now owned by the notorious US fruit company, which pays its workers like serfs in the 'marginal' conditions of black life in Jamaica. The FFF strikers, whose wages are at least $4.50 a week, have been attacked several times.

The murder of defence minister Michael Manley was the signal event in a spate of political violence this year. This has been described as a 'power struggle' between the Manleyite and the 'Magnificent Seven' (Roberts) factions of the PLP. The former has been obliterated, the latter has been strengthened, and the prospects for a political settlement appear remote.

The plantations of FFF are owned by the multi-national IPC, which pays $1.50 a day in wages, $3 a day in 'allowances' and a small ration in return.

The Bauxite mining is in the hands of three companies--Two American and one Canadian. Recently wealthy Jamaican mining companies have been given 10 years to develop the Bauxite industry.
Tell union leaders to stop appeasement

BLACKING damages the public, fellow workers and the employers of those fellow workers. It does not damage those who do the blacking. They draw their pay. It is an unfair weapon. But unlike most weapons it has no life of its own. It manages to destroy the very people that use it.

So says Sir John Donaldson, head of the National Industrial Relations Court and former President of the National Federation of University, Conservative and Liberal Unionists.

What he means is that blacking is, in some circumstances, a very effective weapon against the bosses—that is the significant thing. But so is it against the trades-union-inspired Industrial Relations Act which he is paid to enforce.

Strangely enough, or so it must appear to political innuendo, blacking is impossible to stop. Even though the Trade Union Act and shop stewards are breaking the law, as are all the dockers concerned, no action at all is to be taken against them. Instead yet another operation, backed by threats of further fines, is served on the TGWU. It must ‘discipline’ its members. That is to say it must act as an agent of the bosses and their government and the court.

There could be no better illustration of the purpose of the Industrial Relations Law. What Donaldson calls an ‘orderly system of industrial relations of which we can all be proud’ is a system that encourages trade union leaders to be bosses for the bosses. The whole value of the Act to big business depends on trade union leaders agreeing to do just this and to let the bosses govern the dockers by blacking. If the dockers stop work court orders were prosecuted for contempt of court.

The big business weekly, The Economist reports the consequences. ‘The trade union leaders were all too well aware of one year’s imprisonment… Thousands of union members ranging from journalists to liquor board employees to miners and dockers stopped work in protest… Strikers took over a dozen of the major docks and blocked the roads around the St Lawrence port of Sept-Iles. 33 trade union officials who were appealing against sentences imposed as a result of the April strike denounced the conditions of their bail and marched up to join their leaders in prison. In every sense except the physical Mr Bourassa (the Provincial Prime Minister) was more a mole than he was a leader.’

Bourassa rushed out a statement that all the union men would be released if only they would appeal to the higher courts. He gave the broadest of hints that appeals were certain to succeed.

This is exactly the sort of situation that our Tories dread. This is exactly the sort of situation the political opportunists of the TUC do not want. Sir John Donaldson took no action against the dockers. This is why the new policy of ‘co-operation’ by the TGWU leadership and the TUC is a process of capitulation to government control. Donaldson, who did not appear before the High Court is not only a waste of time and money but a dangerous diversion.

In May the strike that has been in progress for over a year will end. One way or another the present dispute will be swallowed up in a national dock strike. It is reliably reported that Jack Jones is willing to back this as a way of getting off the hook. Of course all socialists must give whole-hearted support to the dockers in the event of a strike that will help to solve the problem of preventing enforcement of the law.

The court will try again and again. Every order obeyed and every line paid will whet its appetite. Remember, appeasement never pays in the long run.

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

NIXON’s visit to Moscow at the very time he is stepping up the US air offensive in Vietnam to unprecedented levels is an emboldenment to the Russians. This Nixon visit in the month of March makes his Moscow visit the occasion for another outburst on the theme of ‘Soviet-American collusion’.

But wait a minute. Isn’t the object of the Nixon visit precisely to allay the suspicions that the West views the Russian, China and the USA? Isn’t this what both Kosygin and Nixon have said it is for? Why then is it ‘regrettable’ to speak the truth?

We hold no brief for the government of China but on this question they are entirely correct. And if anyone is so naive as to think that a successful sophistication will make Nixon visit has its effect on the situation in Vietnam then he is not only the government of China that has good grounds to fear such a prospect.
Workers taking over whole towns. Liberated radio stations broadcasting revolutionary songs. Canada's May Days 1972

FROM PAUL ÖFLIN in PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO

The local police force was powerless to prevent 1000 strikers from marching in and taking over the local commercial radio station. They broadcast strike bulletins, information about demonstrations and the songs of, among others, Pauline Julien, a Quebec nationalist imprisoned without trial during the October 1970 crisis.

People sat up and listened. For the first time, their radio was actually relating directly to their lives and their concerns, instead of relaying aggressive ruling-class drivel, and advertisements for plastic railheads. By 11 May, police reinforcements had moved in, and law and order, riot and rebellion had been restored. But it was too late. The news was out.

In the next couple of days, a dozen radio and television stations were seized across the province and people caught a tantalising glimpse of what a real, post-revolutionary culture might be like. More importantly, they learnt about the strikes in other parts of the province and stopped feeling isolated as they organised their own campaigns.

Miners in Port Cartier, Gagnon and Fermont poured out of the mines to join the spontaneous general strikes in Thetford and St Jerome. Workers were occupying buildings workers in Montreal downed tools.

Militancy

And so it went on: the Quebec Labor Council, the Workers' Coalition (the TUC) was forced off the air by the workers' strike, and Labrador Railway was similarly subjected. Top union leaders, of course, were terrified by this explosion of rank and file militancy. They desperately tried to keep their members calm. Donald MacDonald, president of Canadian Labor Congress (equivalent to the TUC) told reporters in shocked voice: "It's grim, really."

He said the CLC's main fear was spontaneous general strike because they're not strikes, they're revolts. A hundred united workers' unity councils stand when the crunch comes.

The Quebec Liberal government was plunged into crisis and uncertainty, although some of them relented.

The Tory press was scathing. "Le Journal de la Montée, the Times of Canada, berated the Quebec government for capitulating to the workers' mass meetings of the marchers in the streets, in the factories, and in the workplaces."

LIVELIEST LETTERS ON THE IRISH TRADE UNIONIST BEHIND BARS

I AM AN INTERNEE and I have been held a prisoner without charge of trial from 9 August 1971. I am a member of one of the Republics clubs associated with the Official Republican Movement, a member of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, and member of 11/30 branch of the Transport and General Workers Union, Dunagunn.

Before I was arrested I was working in Turner Bros (subsidiar) in Dungannon and I was the TGWU local secretary for this branch of the big Turner and Newall combine which has interests all over the world and has large asbestos mines in the area. Although much red tape, the finance and general purposes committee of the TGWU agreed to back us officially if we went out on strike. This was about the end of July 1971 as far as I can remember and the rest of the shop stewards and myself had various meetings with the workers about the proposed strike.

However on 9 August I was lifted and so was removed from the area. I have since got my cards. After this things ran on in the factory until November last the workers accepted the £1.30.

One thing which our union would never give us was the various rates and terms operating in the factory areas in Rochdale and Hindley Green.

We could not get in touch with any of the shop stewards working there as they had been dismissed. Would you be able to help me in this regard? This is one thing which I believe must be done: there must be regular communications between the various trade union organisations' oppressive legislation be to.

For too long the working classes have remained in isolation from each other. We must not allow this to continue.

The situation here in the North of Ireland is critical. The indiscriminate burning of people's homes and the coming together of the three alliances, are all leading to a civil war situation. This will not benefit the working classes in Ireland, let alone here. It will lead to destruction of the Treacy Treaty.

We get copies of the Socialist Worker here every week so we are kept up to date on the main things which affect the working classes. The coverage that you give to the struggle in Ireland is appreciated.

Any information will be a help to the present senior shop steward in Turner Bros, who is now involved in another wage claim. This is the basic rate for 40 hours and he had to last January-PATRICK McCUSKER, Hut 17, Cage 2, Long Kesh Concentration Camp, Lisburn.

Socialist Worker has passed Brother McCusker's request for information to the Industrial Committee of the International Socialists.

Against Labour or Tories?

BARRY WOODLING is quite right (13 May). It is seriously misleading for papers of the revoluiotnary Left to join in the chum of 'get the Tories out' raised by the entire range of Labour Party hacks from right to left.

This is, of course, because anyone would want to delay that a Labour govern- ment would make no difference, in a general election, to the domination of the state by the capitalist class.

Before we can challenge the Tories we must defeat the Labour Party. The general election must be fought on the issues of the workers. If we don't, we shall merely play into the hands of the Labour Party.

As Chris Harman's useful article on workers' control makes clear, the Labour Party's strike makes clear, there is not much that is positive about the Labour Party. It is the current wave of government union-bashing on the Industrial Relations Act. The way for both was open up for Wilson, Gestetner and Lord. Both parties now act quite differently.

Against Labour or Tories?

BARRY WOODLING makes a dangerous mistake when he opposes the slogan 'KICK OUT THE TORIES'. Of course, he is right in saying that Labour is basically no different. The difference is that as workers, we have to act as workers, today, and did as they always do - turned on the working class. Would be should 'KICK OUT Labour?'

But the conclusion to be drawn from this is not that we should just shout 'Down with Labour' unless you are an independent revolutionary, who demands that it be put down in practice. That is, still, the key way to challenge the Labour Party, and to prove it does not need to exist if it is to be replaced.

No matter how disillusioned workers may become with the Labour Party, I just shout 'Down with Labour' unless you are an independent revolutionary, who demands that it be put down in practice. That is, still, the key way to challenge the Labour Party, and to prove it does not need to exist if it is to be replaced.

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Left unity

YOU often and your reports with 'The only road forward is a united working class front'. Here are a few comments to keep. I am a member of the Socialist League, and the trade unions, S SMITH, Bromwich, Staffs.

Having the same language and vocabulary has also been a huge advantage. We can bring down the Tory government and force the Labour Party and trade unions and the majority of the workers.

Their organisation is getting with greater priority than that, in the face of the leading unions and the trade unions, S SMITH, Bromwich, Staffs.
THE SACK is an ugly word. It’s an ugly business. That’s why the bosses—and most of the newspapers—prefer the sugarcoated word redundancy.

Redundancy may look prettier to them—but it didn’t to the 300,000 workers who were laid off last year.

For the bosses redundancy often is prettier, for it often means their profits will be lifted and cheap at the price. Redundancy payments are counted as a normal business expense for tax purposes. So the scheme is generally regarded as redundant from every point of view.

The average redundancy payment last year was less than £60, the equivalent of only eleven weeks’ average wages. With unemployment assistance, £40 is poor compensation for the loss of a job.

But the latest is just sufficiently attractive to divide and widens the workers involved. The bosses, of course, will readily volunteer to reduce workers ready tovolunteer for the chop.

vanished

Recently, the tide has begun to turn. A few hundred points—even factory free—begins to look a poor option as unemployment mounts and the chance of finding another job recedes. This applies particularly in places where the cost of unemployment and, as recently, only two jobs are offered at the local employment exchange.

But at UCS redundancy payments have taken their toll. Since last August, 3000 workers have seen their compensation and varied. The redundancy payments have been paid and, as a result, some of the staff and his men have lowered their sights—and all of them are looking for work, with many workers still in the yards. Whatever the outcome of this period of time, there are over 2000 jobs now for the shops to up the spot for good.

The Redundancy Payments Act was created by R. J. Snell, then Minister of Labour. He recently resigned from the Labour Party. The scheme was worked out in close collaboration with the British Employers’ Confederation.

setting up a central Redundancy Fund was to encourage the individual employer to cut his labour force by spreading among all employers the cost of buying off the workers affected.

As Guardian explained to the Commons on 26 April 1963: ‘We do not want any firms which are contemplating the introduction of new equipment involving some reduction in the labour requirements to be deterred from going ahead by the cost of compensation which will they have to purchase themselves.’

A traditional trust principle of ‘last in, first out’ is embodied in a formula which gives higher compensation to older workers and those with longer service in a particular firm.

But no less than the age of 32 gives a pension if declared redundant, not does a worker who has been with the firm for less than 2 years, whatever his age.

No wonder.

LENGTH of ‘service’ (as they call it) counts more for the older workers. For each year of service over the age of 43, the worker made redundant gets 1½% less. For each year from the age of 22 to age 46, one per cent. But ‘service’ from 18-21 counts for only half a week.

As the term ‘service’ implies, the whole basis of the scheme is essentially feudal. ‘Service’ to the employing class as a whole does not count, only service with the particular employer who is doing the firing. So a worker made redundant after changing jobs is liable to get nothing or very little. A worker paid off from one firm in a job in a very bad position if his next job is threatened with redundancy.

In calculating the size of a redundancy payment only the wages earned in the last four weeks before dismissal are taken into account. Overtime does not count. Pieceworkers can invariably be lured because of lack of work over this period. Colas workers over 40 or old find it increasingly difficult to obtain another job. So if made redundant at 50 he could face a life on the dole.

Redundancy pay is limited to £1,200. To achieve this, the worker must be over 60 when sacked, must have worked for the same employer for 20 years, and must be earning at least £40 per week in the month before dismissal. There are few precious workers who can manage these qualifications.

Redundancy for the upper classes is a quite different matter. In The Times of 2 November 1971 it was reported that when Lord Hall was prematurely ‘retired’ as chairman of the Post Office, he was given a cool £50,000 to spend on him. When Mr. Lionel Joseph was sacked for gross incompetence as managing director of RSA, he got a golden handshake of £35,000 to soften the blow.

The redundancy scheme is tethered to the wages of the worker and the wages of the employer. Only the last 20 years of service with a given employer are counted—any extra beyond 20 years is ignored. No wages or salary above £40 a week are counted.

Part-time workers doing less than 21 hours a week are completely excluded from this scheme. This hits particularly hard at women workers—1.5 million of whom work fewer than the hours needed to qualify.

The Act states that where workers have been laid off (or kept on short time for more than half the working week) for four successive weeks (or for a total of six weeks in any one) they are entitled to the same redundancy pay as if they had been sacked.

provoked

This may look generous. But as one worker from the Chervoni plant at Burton, Coventry, explained, ‘When short time was being worked in the plant, the bosses proved having to pay out redundancy money by paying in the labour force just often enough to prevent them qualifying’. Another letter for the employer was that redundancy money is not payable if a lay-off or short-time is caused by a strike and this strike need not be in the same firm, or the same industry, it could be anywhere in the world. Many unemployment firms have purposely withheld strikes when demand was falling and they wished to get out of having to make redundancy payments.

Redundancies CAN be fought successfully if the workers who occupied their factories in Keston, Loughborough, and its Alexandras in Scotland have recently shown.

When the Tories took power in 1970 the Labour Party suddenly began to express deep concern and outrage at the high level of unemployment. But Labour’s redundancy scheme was expressly designed to produce a rapid fall in redunady at the lowest rate of economic interest.

Of course, unemployment must be made as expensive as possible to the capitalistic class, but real hands-on to select few workers are no solution.

We have to fight a long war for the unemployed, no matter what the cause of unemployment and unemploying benefit for as long as unemployment lasts—not cut off after a year as now.

But the real fight must be prevented, now that unemployment benefits demands must be Five days’ work or five days’ work or five days’ work, no. 36 hour week. No company overtones.

We must demand redundancies successfully, organize and occupy.

Learn to speak topsy-turvy Toryese

The following is a quick lesson on how to speak topsy-turvy Toryese in one easy lesson.

In 1964, George Orwell’s famous study of a future Britain ruled by a brutal dictatorship, the ruling class develops a version of English called Newspeak in which expressions always mean something else. A gentle phrase, ‘peace’ means ‘war’, ‘plenty’ means ‘starvation’.

In spite of recent government measures, we are still a long way from that type of society, but the recent speeches of Tory leader Edward Heath and his cronies have certainly come close to the style of Big Brother.

Here is a dictionary of the new-style vocabulary to help our readers fully appreciate the subtleties of government propaganda:

BOUNDARY CHANGES: fixing votes to make sure the best next time.

BOUYANT: state of economy when shares are booming after collapse of strikes. See GRIEVIOUS below.

CONFRONTATION: what the unions are working with the government.

CONSUMERS: section of society that excludes trade unions and which government must protect against excessive wage demands.

DEFEND: -ation of unions when asking for more. See REGRET below.

DEMONOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT: government elected to carry on the work of the electorate. See RATIONAL below.

EQUAL SOCIETY: see NATION below.

FAIR RENT: savage increase in price of house to make tenants on to private house market where specialists are making killing.

FEATHER: Wild man of trade union movement.

GRIEVING: state of economy when strikes win and shares fall. See BOUYANT above.

HOUSEWIVES: people to be fooled at all costs.

INFLATION (first version): something caused by import controls and taxation, not higher wages—Edward Heath before the last election.

INFLATION (second version): something caused solely by excessive wage demands—Edward Heath after the election.

INVESTMENT: quick fortune made by Tory MPs through doubtful business practices.

MINORITY INTEREST: 10 million trade unionists.

NATION: eight per cent of the population who own 80 per cent of the wealth and want to keep it that way.

NO CONFRONTATION with the unions: fines TORY £250,000.

OBSCURE: union leader who sticks it out at all costs.

PUBLIC: mixture of CONSUMERS and NATION.

QUEEN: costly ventriloquist’s dummy now learning to mime in French.

RATIONAL: holding the country to ransom asking for £300 million.

REFERENDUM: un-British way of doing things—'the device of dictators and democragogue—currently being used in railway disputes.

REGRET: attitude of management when saying no. See DEMAND, above.

SENSIBLE: union that settles for less than war in cost of living.

TOTALITARIANISM: where MINORITY interest is taken up.

UNJUST: wage increase for the Queens, MPs, judges. See UNJUST, below.

LAME DUCKS: firm that can’t be helped because leading government ministers have no chance in it.

LAW AND ORDER: minimum rate of promotion. See LEGALISM above.

MINIMUM RETURN on INVESTMENT: quick fortune made by Tory MP through doubtful business practices.

YACHTING HOLIDAY: fun hole for frightened prime minister.

ZERO-HOUR: see GRIEVIOUS and KNIFE-EDGE, above.
Corruption swept under the carpet

Paul Foot writes...

As soon as Robert Carr's front door was blown in on December 1970, the coppers went out from Downing Street to investigating detectives in Tintagel House. Did they stand on ceremony? If necessary, the 'Judges Rules' about 'cautioning' and charging a suspect and allowing him to consult a lawyer could be ignored.

They were. The courts remained silent.

The mounting complaints in recent months from the National Council of Civil Liberties that the liberties which protect the citizen from arbitrary police action are being gradually whittled away have been swept aside as the meaning of 'softies'. From Lord Halsham, the scattered Lord Chancellor, downwards, the word has gone out to senior police officers and the magistrates and judges that these civil liberties, won in struggle over 150 years, are irrelevant relics of the past, and that the 'war against anarchy' (in Lord Halsham's interesting phrase) can only be conducted under proper martial conditions.

After all, runs the argument, why worry? It is so near impossible for a policeman, let alone a detective, to extend his powers as it is to fit a camel to enter the eye of a needle...

A casual visitor to the Old Bailey on 3 March this year might have got quite a different picture. On that day, two Scotland Yard detectives, Detective Sergeant Harris and Detective Inspector Robb, were convicted and imprisoned on charges of corruption involving the payment of a criminal.

This case received rather more publicity than usual because the criminal had gone with his story to The Times.

On the same day, two self-convicted criminals, Parkhill and Peter Sutcliffe, were acquitted of conspiracy to rob the Westminster Bank at Crook End Hill in North London. The men's defence was that they had been framed by unnamed members of Scotland Yard's Flying Squad who had fabricated and planted all the evidence against them.

The judge clearly agreed with these allegations and summed up for acquittal. The case was not reported in The Times or any other national newspaper. Another unreported case that day was that of four detectives charged with robbing a mini-cab driver. The police evidence against them was to have been given by Detective Constable Stuart Walker, who was on the same day remanded at Old Street magistrates court on a corruption charge.

On the same day, five more Flying Squad officers appeared at Wells Street magistrates court charged with various offences of dishonesty.

A few weeks later, the head of the Flying Squad, Commander Kenneth Druy, resigned from the police force after an internal investigation about a newspaper report which pictured him casinoing in Cyprus along with a Soho strip club owner.

Commander Druy appeared on television and in a press conference denying the 'right' of detectives to keep in close contact with their clients in the underworld.

Shortly before Druy's resignation, Mr Robert Mark had taken up his job as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and had set about with a will in a desperate attempt to clean up the force.

He had before him the detailed report of a former head of the Carlisle and Cumberland police, Mr Prank Williamson, the epitome of the honest cop, who recommended that the police force as 'service', had been commissioned after The Times revelations to inquire into allegations that the two convicted detectives were part of a 'firm' within a firm.

He found that the case was that and in shocked tones called for a spate of prosecutions of police officers all over London.

The prosecutions were not an embarrassment to the force. Instead Mark has swept the dirt under the carpet by 'replacing' key officers and men from the uniformed service who he hopes can clean up the organisation which he is now underappreciating, apparently the 75 per cent of police convictions are unlikely to be upheld.

Another problem for Mr Mark is in his drug squad. Even the Scotland Yard Drug Chief, Detective Inspector Kelaher, was involved in a trial last summer at Mid Quarter Sessions, the drug squad appears to have wound up.

RESIGNED

In the Middlesex case, constables following a delivery of packages containing cannabis were charged to find Mr Robinson co-operating with the men were later tried and convicted of handling drugs.

Mr Kelaher explained that the men was his information that did not save the man seven years imprisonment.

A police inquiry into involvement of Mr Kelaher, as a part of the Lancashire and Essex Regional Force, has not been acted upon and has resigned from the force.

The plain fact is that problems are widespread and the police, with the force in modern society.

For the maincrop society is robbery, the drugs, the rich and powerful in control of the world and the masses are the pox of the production.

International Socialism 51

International Socialism on Ireland—John Palmer on how, despite the apparent independence of the Southern regime is fully integrated into the British imperial economy.

Paul Geranart analyses the facts of sectarian discrimination in the North.

Brian Trench describes the 'two nations' propaganda that keeps the Protestant workforce on the losing side.

Eamon and Seán Mac Diarmada on why the revolutionary left in the Six Counties had no success within the civil rights movement.

Yard Chief Quits

Druy goes... now top CID men may follow

The man who flew too high: ex-Flying Squad boss Kenneth Druy.
Frame-up by the state

Angela Davi: enormous support from blacks and young whites

The prosecution case in the Angela Davis show trial ended last week in a tangled web of confusion and intrigue. The State of California is attempting to build a conspiracy by Angela based on her letters to George Jackson, the black militant gunned down by guards in San Quentin jail last August.

But the only conspiracy to emerge is one by the state against Angela—a conspiracy involving the FBI, police and prison officials.

Angela—a member of the American Communist Party—is accused of plotting to free the black 'Soledad Brothers'—including Jackson—from jail. State Prosecutor Albert Harris has built his case on the claim that her love for George Jackson led her to mastermind an attempt by an armed group to kidnap hostages from a courthouse in August 1970.

According to Harris, the hostages have been used to secure Jackson's release. The courthouse drama ended in a shoot-out in which a state judge, two black prisoners and Jackson's young girlfriend, Cornelia, who led the armed raid, all died.

GRISLY

The prosecution spent several weeks attempting to produce a coherent version of the events in the courthouse where the shoot-out took place. Harris tried to sway the all-white jury with grisly accounts of the deaths, including a description of the judge's head being blown apart by a shotgun blast and the fate of one of the hostages who grabbed a gun from Jonathan Jackson, shot several of the prisoners and then shot himself and left paralysed for life.

But the real testimony revealed that the shot that killed the judge had actually been fired in the chest rather than the head, and that the state accuses Rudolph Magere, on trial for murder and kidnapping. It is possible that the judge was accidentally shot by the hostage, an assistant district attorney.

Harris went on to read letters written by Angela Davis to George Jackson, supposedly showing a passionate love affair between the two which would have driven Davis to any lengths to free him. The court allowed Harris to introduce the letters as evidence even though this violated constitutional rights against the seizure of private papers and property.

The account of how the state obtained the letters is the most interesting part of the trial so far since it offers strong evidence of a consciously planned political conspiracy to railroad Angela to prison.

An FBI agent testified to making two illegal searches of Angela's home in Los Angeles last August, during which he took photocopies of some of the letters. He had apparently been told that any material connecting Angela with George Jackson would be wasted by the prosecution.

A prison guard admitted photocopying a letter from Angela to Jackson, in violation of prison rules. He passed it on to the guard captain who engineered the frame-up of the Soledad Brothers.

A woman deputy sheriff admitted stealing Angela's type-written from her prison workroom at night. She typed a sample to be used as evidence that Angela wrote the letters to Jackson on the machine.

So it appears that from a time long before George Jackson's murder, the state was collecting 'evidence' to link Angela with Jackson in order to prepare charges against her.

With Jackson out of the way it was easy enough to seize his papers and gather all the correspondence between the two. The state has attempted during the trial to force John Thorne, a lawyer for both Jackson and Angela, to provide further evidence on the correspondence, a violation of the rights of confidentiality between lawyer and client.

The capitalist system of 'justice' allows no channels for investigating the extent of collusion between various arms of the state in their efforts against Angela.

There is no question about the enormous depth of sentiment for Angela Davis in the black community as well as among younger whites. For many Americans who once accepted the word of the government as fact, the public exposure of the conspiracy to murder the Black Panthers in every city and to destroy other black and radical organisations has undermined the ability of the state to convince them of the truth of the frame-up charges against Angela.

The defense case was due to open this Thursday and is expected to last a month.

Report from Workers Power, paper of the American International Socialists

JUSTICE
The struggle for Britain's unions

AT THE height of the London Docks Strike of 1889 there were 3000 men doing picket duty—no wonder socialists of the time saw it as the symbol of a new movement among the working class, and it still remains one of the most famous struggles of organised working men in Britain.

Ben Tillett, a dockside warehouse worker, had started a dockers' union in 1887. At first he had little success—but a grievance had long been simmering over the bonus system in the West India Docks. This was to be the spark.

On 7 August 1889 Tillett wrote a letter of complaint to the dock employers. It was ignored. On 12 August dockers unloading the Lady Armstrong were involved in a bonus dispute and stopped work.

Two days later all the workers in the South West India Dock joined the strike, demanding a minimum wage of 6s 8d an hour (day workers were then paid by the piece); and the removal of the hated ‘contract’ system of piecework which caused so many bonus disputes.

The strike for 'the dockers' banner' had begun. Soon the stewedors' union agreed to support the struggle, while an elaborate system of pickets was arranged—within a week, the whole port of London was paralysed.

Massive marches and demonstrations kept up the dockers' morale, and brought their demands widespread publicity. An appeal for financial support was launched, with relief carefully distributed by the strike committee.

The dock employers were taken completely by surprise, and failed to prevent the rapid spread of the strike. But they appeared immovable in their rejection of the men's demands.

By the end of August relief funds were running low, there seemed no prospects of a settlement, and the strike leaders were becoming desperate. Fearing that the dockers would be starved into surrender, they decided to appeal for a sympathy strike of all London workers.

But this turned out to be unnecessary. On 30 August it was announced that a dockers' trade union was sending £150 to the strike fund; and this was followed by a steady stream of similar donations—amounting by the end of the dispute to more than £50,000.

The general strike call was withdrawn, the dockers returned to work, and on 6 September the employers began serious negotiations. A week later a settlement was reached: all the main demands, including the dockers' banner, were conceded.

Impact

By the end of the strike, Tillett's Tea Operatives' Association had enrolled 10,000 members. It was now reorganised as the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union. and extended organisation to Bristol and other ports.

The dockers' victory was the signal for the formation of more 'new unions' in all parts of the country. Groups of workers who had been totally ignored by the old trade unions: dockers, seamen and road transport workers, engineers, building labourers, chemical and timber workers, brick-makers and many others. Scarcely an industry was left untouched by the new movement.

The impact of the new unions on established organisations was equally notable. At the 1890 TUC, representatives of the new bodies—claiming to represent nearly 400,000 workers—were posted to the platform. Resolutions were carried calling for state intervention to solve social and industrial grievances, which only a few years previously would have been overwhelmingly rejected. The almost total commitment of the old unions to laissez-faire capitalist ideology was breaking down.

For socialists, this was seen as the natural result of their years of effort: a triumph which would rapidly lead to an escalation of militancy and an explicit commitment to socialism on the part of British trade unionism as a whole.

The new mood of optimism was summed up in 1890 by Engels: 'The masses are on the move and there is no holding them any more. The longer the stream is dammed up the more powerfully will it break through when the moment comes. And those unskilled are very different fellows from the fossilised brothers of the old trade unions; not a trace of the old formalist spirit, of the craft exclusiveness of the engineers, for example; on the contrary, a general call for the organisation of all trade unions in one fraternity and for a direct struggle against capital.'

And in 1893, not long before his death, Engels again emphasised the point: 'The old unions preserve the traditions of the time when they were founded, and look upon the wages system as a once for all established, final fact, which they at best can modify in the interest of their members. The new unions were founded at a time when the faith in the eternity of the wages system was severely shaken. Theirs founders and promoters were socialists either consciously or by feeling. The masses, whose adhesion gave them strength, were rough, neglected, looked down upon by the working-class aristocracy, but they had this immense advantage, that their minds were virgin and entirely free from the inherited 'respective' bourgeois prejucials which hampered the brains of the better situated old unions.'

'And thus we see now these new unions taking the lead of the working-class movement generally, and more and more taking in tow the rich and proud old unions.'

Solidarity

This optimism was misplaced. New unions did indeed mark a new phase in the history of British trade unions. Organisation was permanently extended beyond its previous narrow base, and the compliant acceptance of unregulated capitalism was abandoned.

The formation of the Labour Party in 1900 was a logical consequence. The dock strike was of continuing significance in showing the unsuspected potential for organisation and militant activity on the part of an apparently passive section of the working class. It also demonstrated that real solidarity could lead to success against the most tremendous obstacles.

Yet 1889 was not, as many believe, a prelude to revolution in Britain. NEXT WEEK: How the unions lost their sting
WAR AND PEACE
a true story by Taku Ogawa

AFTER I'd left my university, I worked for a weekly magazine for three years. But in those days I felt uninterested in anything.

So I went to South Vietnam in November 1968 to change my mind. It was my first experience of taking pictures in a battlefield.

When I got on to the aeroplane at Haneda International Airport, I thought perhaps I would not come back to Japan. And when I reached Saigon it was very hot and I saw many bloody American soldiers. On the third day I went to a battlefield which was 10 miles from Saigon. I was surprised that American soldiers brought refrigerators with them to the field. They were fighting with hot coffee, coke and big steaks and perhaps they should kill the Vietnamese with a laugh.

On the first night in the field, a Japanese photographer told me: "If we are attacked by the NLF at midnight, you must get into the octopus trap." There were many octopus traps (shelters) full of water. Shortly the soldiers slept deeply and I lay down in a grassy place. But I couldn't sleep. For a while I forgot myself on the field because of starvation and thirst.

And I noticed a small fire which was lighting in the dark. It lit at intervals of about a second and moved.

I thought the soldiers of the NLF would attack us. The fire seemed to be the signal. I wanted to get into the octopus, but it was between the fire and me. I repented of coming to Vietnam, and I remembered about my family and friends. It was a very short time. After that, I could not sleep.

I looked at the small fire, but by and by it disappeared.

The following morning I went with four to the place where I had seen the last fire. When I reached it there was a temporary shelter made of huts and some soldiers were frightened by cigarette fire which a soldier had been making in the toilet.

WILCOX FAREWELL GIVES MAN ALIVE A CHANCE

DESMOND WILCOX is now Head of Features, BBC Television. This helps to explain why the stories and formal content have been happily absorbed into its television family.

The discussions will return to Man Alive as people take their views on conditions they remain unknown, then the story of the radio community. Mr. W. E. Rider from the NLF Institute in London has been joined by the National Auditing Corporation (NAC) in the Radio and Television, a project which will examine the NLF, its policies and its intentions.

The Week of Man Alive has been to the office of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and a look at the future of the office. The film will be made for the BBC for its own viewing.

Homes
The film cited a previous warning, the Inner London communities being broken up and dispersed, the incense of mental illness by 750 per cent. A case for the mentioned demand of heavy compensation?

Max Allain's masterpiece, The Dead, has now been shown four times. Its presentation is an attempt to show what we need living life, family, working for children's lives and an abolition from drugs (of which Gaia Parsons died).

The present situation is that we need living life, family, working for children's lives and an abolition from drugs (of which Gaia Parsons died).

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Religion
Theatre censorship, capital punishment and the legislation on homosexuality and race relations are analyzed, but not abortion or divorce reform. The only woman to appear in the series is the courageous, folk singer.

At present, 98.9 per cent of the people of Britain want to bring back hanging. The series shows that, when the legislators, in the shape of Lord Gardiner, bothered to consider the matter, they came up with a compromise, which would be, in 20 years' time, to be 98.9 per cent of the people of Britain who want to bring back hanging.

Religious belief, reform or revolution?

The question was posed in an Oxford Union debate, including Bertrand de Mottet and Day Al. By day Al the class in the question in the series How Can You Be a Londoner? was asked, "What do you think of the British parliament when the Belgian parliament in its new legislation, which is the same ratio of people ethical position?"

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Unions: the noise tightens... 

David Lyndon

THE MOST significant judge- made law so far by the National Industrial Relations Court was the ruling by its presiding judge, Sir Edward Donaldson, that the Transport Workers Union had just 21 days in which to dispose of a strike shop stewards on the Mersey docks.

Donaldson, the ex-Tory parliamentarian, industrial judge, spelt out loud and clear one of the key elements of the Industrial Relations Act— to create a situation where union leaders are forced to decide the strike or the rank and file. Earlier judgments of the court had stressed that a union was responsible for the actions of its officials. In the TLUK action against TASS's closed shop agreement at C & A Factors in Newcastle, the court quoted the relevant part of section 16 of the Act that defines as official:

"Any person who is an officer of the organisation or who... being an officer of a union, is acting on behalf of the union, or is, or appears to be, an officer elected or appointed who is, or appears to be, an employee of the union... Shall be deemed to be the agents of the members whom he or she represents."

Benefits

Registration would also force unions to no longer receive government-appointed Registrars who have wide powers to ensure that legitimate disciplinary procedures are included in the rules. The unions would be forced to prove measures for dealing with discipline and to abandon the "benefit" of compliance with the Taufeez law.

Big steel cut-back threat to workers

The security and working conditions of all steel workers are threatened by the government's joint announcement with the British Steel Corporation that it intends to limit steel expansion to no more than 36 million tonnes a year while reserving the industry to reduce that target to as low as 24 million tonnes a year.

The lower figure is only one million tonnes less than the present capacity of the industry. It is clear that BSC has already focused its attention on multi-year planning to meet a real threat of closures. They have already promised the cut-off to 24 million tonnes to the unions in line with the government's future plans. When the forthcoming closures are announced the unions must be ready for a fight as it will not be the end of the line and the government's plans for the industry are very much in place. It is clear that the future threat of closures is a programme for the industry and the unions to fight as it will be a fight to have the last word.

Through the increased cost of the new programme the government will force the unions to accept the new closure plan, which is a threat to the steel industry. The new programme is a threat to the steel industry and for all those who work in the steel industry.

Disagreement

Donation disagreed with this argument in his judgment on 12 May. He quoted three further passages from the TLUK judgment, which is a crucial document in the battle of the TASS action. It is a crucial document in the battle of the TASS action.

The trouble for socialism is the central problem of our time. Workers' power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing mark of man's power over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly worth fighting for.

Copy for What's On must arrive first post Monday or phone Monday morning. National service at 36 per page in 7 point type, with display 10p per line. Cash on approval. No guarantee. No posting or advertising can be sent.

MEETINGS

FREE ANGELA DAVIS Film Portrait of a revolutionary, 6 p.m. at Scalapini, 30-31 White Lion Street, Holborn, WC1A 2AX. Directed by Emile de Antonio. Tickets £1 from Scalapini.

CAMBRIDGE Weekly public meeting, Socialist League, 84 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, 8.30 p.m., every Tuesday.

LONDON POST OFFICE WORKERS national practice meeting 10.30 a.m. in London on Monday. 6.30 p.m. in London on Monday. 6.30 p.m. in London on Monday.

SOCIALIST MEDICAL ASSOCIATION Private Practice—Who's Winning? Speeches by Mrs. T. Kilpatrick, 11.30 a.m. at 1, 211 Broadway, London SW19.

LONDON REGION INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS Sunday meetings at 4 p.m. every Sunday at 10 Exhibition Road, SW7. Admission 10p.

TUESDAY 3 JUNE: CAMDEN 10 hold fundraising social—ticket dancing and the film, "The Earth's Drift" at 7.30 p.m., Century Cinema, 107 Shoreditch High Street, N1. Admission £1.50.

THURSDAY 5 JUNE: SOUTHAMPTON Community wind band perform, 7 p.m., St Thomas's Church, SouthamptOn. Admission 60p.

As the national movement of tenants against抵押 was cresting some small, but notable victories have already been won.

In March, on the back of a demonstration at Houghton and Stafford, the council has now announced that rent rises imposed in April will be reversed. These examples show the importance of tenants' organisation, but there is still a long way to go.

The East End tenancy organisations, in particular, have made great strides in negotiating rent reductions for their members.

Belfast battles take new pattern

The past two weeks Belfast has witnessed the worst outbreaks of seamen's fighting for nearly three years.

The spastic battles between the trade unionists and their employers, working from the Catholic areas, continue. But new pressures of seamen's fighting are being superimposed on this, and for the past two weekends Protestant seamen have put up barricades.

The imposition of direct rule from Westminster two months ago has no way weakened the resolve of the British ruling government and big business over Northern Ireland. The wave of rent strikes which has swept the country in recent years, is but little more than a paper organisation, claiming a mere 30,000 tenants affiliated.

The situation demands that the housing committee consider its policy of co-operating with the Rent Board.

Finally, we have the trade unions.

Scotchmen and Scotchwomen are greatly interested in the situation of the tenants, but they have no power to check the rents.

Jackson: 'An incomes policy is impossible with this government and these policies.' But he made quite clear, he gave a detailed outline of his own blueprint for an incomes policy, that the public sector, including rents, should be nationalised in order to save them from the worst effects of the depression.

No doubt, this is a measure that the government will take, and it is to be hoped that the tenants will be relieved of their burdens.

There is no evidence to back such a claim, but leaders of both wings of the IRA have made clear their opposition to any move towards a political solution.

But the republican organisations, particularly the INLA, have been able to provide no clear strategy since the IRA cease-fire. Without direct rule, and without any of the Provisional's rank and file can begin to negotiate with a government that is under the control of the British, any real change in the situation.

For 1200 years Protestant seamen have been led by Tory politicians to vent their frustrations on the working class Catholics. Now that so many of us are faced with a new and different kind of state, we must be prepared to fight against it.
Engineering unions all set for pay talks somersault

by Roger Roswell, SW Industrial Correspondent

BACK to national pay talks—that looks like being the somersault policy of the engineering unions now that their strategy of local negotiations has led to the isolation of workers in Manchester and the signing of widely divergent deals.

The reason for this change of direction is that some of the deals being agreed are so low that the unions feel the only way out is to nationalize the negotiations.

January after the breakdown of talks between the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and the engineering employers. The unions had demanded increases of up to £1 a week, a 4-day working week, four weeks' holiday, better off-and-shift payments and immediate steps towards recognition for women in non-productivity grades.

The employers had offered an increase of only £1 a week on skilled minimums and no improvement of conditions. The unions then decided to fight the claim on their own.

But no pleas were drawn up, no committees were chosen to come under fire, no districts selected. The union leaders decided any responsibility for a national campaign and left the decision to the discretion of the branch officials.

In Sheffield they stopped 45,000 workers from organizing a city-wide strike over £1 a week and an 8-hour day, then went on the general that it would be an"indefinite". They tolerated the Manchester decision to organize a district strike in support of the claim but then told other districts that such action was "contrary to policy".

Total cost

Now the confederation has accepted a national deal for 100,000 shipyard workers for up to £1.50 a week after 11 weeks' strike action.

The employers have not bothered to consult them as at this deal. In a statement they say that it is an "inexperienced" minimum rates and a general agreement that as a result of the "indefinite" strike, the total cost of the strike to the industry in terms substantially being over the amount of time spent on the present time.

The fact that the January policy, the return on the fight for an increase, the 4-day working week and a 7-hour day, would soon nationalize the union's views are that before the August national strike the unions will not attempt to make an agreement.

If the August national strike is not successful it is most likely that the agreement will be made with the employers for an increase of £1 a week and a 4-day working week.

The full-time staff at the Manchester factories strike and the national workers are under pressure to reach an agreement in order to avoid a strike.

Such a deal would mark a major step forward for engineering workers and would avoid a major conflict with the government over wages. Proof of this is shown by the fact that the confederation has already engaged in discussions with the government over the possibility of calling a national strike or organizing nationally.

The engineers' full-time staff at the Manchester factories are under pressure to reach an agreement in order to avoid a strike.

The national workers are under pressure to reach an agreement in order to avoid a strike.

Manchester struggle coming to an end

by Glyn Carver

THE TERRIFIC struggle of the Manchester engineers is coming to an end. There has been an officially announced plan for the closure of the large GECAE Trafford Park plant and many other factories have been forced to close for cash and holidays only without any conciliatory powers on the shorter working week.

At the start of the struggle no one expected the AEGI plant to put up much of a fight. It has not experienced any real

stewards' credentials. If it does not rather it is threatened with more heavy fines and even more forceful measures in all the ports in every dockers to lift the blocking. On Monday the Hull dockers gave their answer: an overwhelming vote to keep on.

In London the dockers have not only maintained the blocking but the leadership of the National Stewards Committees has stepped up their action. The Dockers' Court chairman and the Dagenham and Southend depots are now being blocked by the dockers.

All along the strategy of the TGWU is to persuade the dockers to substitute a national strike for a series of local actions.

This was supposed to go on despite the demands and actions of the Industrial Relations Act. But this is by far the biggest and one that can always be forced against the TGWU's national strike. It is like getting a cold-shoulder order from the police. The unions would never again be able to operate under the authority of the Industrial Relations Act.

Manchester Ports

WEYMOUTH—At the 75th conference of the Transport and Allied Craftsmen's Federation last week the right wing had little difficulty in obtaining support for recognition of the National Industrial Relations Court and acceptance of the ending of the old work rates.

A resolution was passed on unemployment, supporting productivity deals and pushing for a shorter working week and lowering the work rate. Fatigue was imposed that the TGWU get off the Industrial Relations Act hook along with the other unions and that their court simply made use of the old court to remove the old rates. The delegates were told that the national dockers' strike would have to be taken to every dock by the unions if they did not go through with it. Despite the efforts of 80 students from three schools attempted to hold a meeting.

Rudy's Bar.—Seven women have been picketing the firm of James Carr after the management had accused a woman worker of a sexual affair with a union official. The women have been picketing the factory for the past few months and were said to have come to an agreement with the management for the union to join the AEEU.

The women had agreed to pay all their contributions and management was unperturbed by the move. The union said it was a "no" until after the pay deal and that the workers were ready to continue the picketing until the agreement was signed.

There are still several factories holding out for a better deal. Some have only just joined the 40-hour dockers have been accepted for nearly eight weeks. One (Metal, Alliance) last week issued an ultimatum by taking complete control of the works.

The large number of occupied factories which have given back this week have generally come down to this with AEEU's, with substantial improvements in terms rates and the closure of the strike areas.

But even these are not enough. What is the problem? That is where the real problem is.

The national dockers' workers have not been satisfied with the promises of the employers so they are now fighting for a better deal under the AEEU.

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