THE RELEASE from prison of the five dockers is one of the greatest victories ever won by rank and file trade union action. Despite the pressure of the Tory judge, Sir John Donaldson that he was influenced by the House of Lords’ decision in the Heaton case, there can be no doubt what caused the gates of Pentonville Prison to open.

But for the massive wave of solidarity strikes, they would still be shut. The strikes have dealt a shattering blow to the whole Tory strategy of using the law to prevent a fight by workers against the government’s policy of low wages and high unemployment.

The Tories attempted to bind with legal fetters one of the strongest sections of the working class. Within days they were forced by the reaction of hundreds of thousands of ordinary rank and file workers to abandon the attempt and beat an ignominious retreat.

But to lose a single battle is not to lose a war. Already the Tories are preparing their counter-attack.

In a significant legal manoeuvre, the hearing of the House of Lords’ Heaton’s appeal case was rearranged so that it took place before the Official Solicitor’s case was heard on the Industrial Relations Court on Wednesday.

In other words, the Tories were not prepared to let the five out until they had ensured they had another of their attacks.

**END STRUGGLE**

Beneath the legal jargon, the decision in the Heaton case means that instead of the courts taking on the dockers for themselves, they are pressuring Jack Jones to do it instead.

They have told him that he will have to face increasing fines unless he takes all possible measures necessary to get the dockers to end their struggle for their jobs. They have said that the courts will not imprison the stewards—instead Jones must put an end to the democratic right of his members to elect their own representatives and take the stewards’ credentials away.

The changed tactics are not surprising. The representatives of the ruling class have watched closely the behaviour of the official trade union leaders since the Industrial Relations Act was first proposed two years ago.

They remember the way in which fine words about boycotting the court were instantly ignored the moment Donaldson imposed the first fine on the Transport Workers’ Union.

They saw the swarming of the trade union leaders, the begging for interviews with Heath while the action against the dockers was being prepared.

They also noted who took the initiative this week. It was not Jones who organised the sympathy action.

**SW Political Correspondent**

Feather preserved his strong words against the government until four days of overwhelmingly unofficial sympathy action had already ensured the release of the dockers.

And even then, the decision of the TUC was not for an all-out General Strike to smash the Industrial Relations Act, but for a one-day stoppage only.

The TUC believes that they can save the the Industrial Relations Act now by confronting much leaders with fines rather than the rank and file with prison bars. They can be proved wrong. But only by the organised action of that same rank and file.

Dockers must resist any pressure to call off their action against cheeky-cashiered container docks and unregistered ports. This must continue until a real guarantee of their jobs is given.

Any plans by the Transport Workers Union leaders to discuss with the employers while the legal action remains in force must be resisted. There must be no negotiations under threat.

There must be a return to the original TUC decision to boycott the court. The TGWU must be forced to abandon its previous plans to pay fines.

We must reject the idea that the money rank-and-file members pay in subscriptions can be seized whenever shop stewards obey the decisions of their members as opposed to the dictates of general secretaries who are elected for life.

The way to defeat the Industrial Relations Act is not by retreat and compromise. Even the TUC belatedly recognised this when they broke off their talks with Heath and called for a one-day strike.

The way to respond to fines is not to pay them, but to refuse a single penny to Donaldson’s Court and to organise a general strike if any attempt is made to enact union funds.

Unfortunately leopards do not change their spots. The fact that is a moment of panic the General Council called for industrial action against a court decision, does not mean that our official leaders have lost their instinctive cowardice when faced with the law.

**FINAL LESSON**

It is imperative that the rank and file who responded so magnificently this week prepare now for the future. That means in each locality bringing together genuine representatives of the sections of workers who have taken sympathy action. Councils of Action that are capable of co-ordinating and leading further moves need to be built.

One final lesson has to be learnt. The urgent need is to build an organisation within the working class to argue for the militant policies needed to overthrow the Tories and, further, to point out how government policies follow from the absurd logic of the system to which Heath and his friends are dedicated.

An organisation is necessary that rejects completely the laws with which big business tried to bind us and the rules with which it attempts to divide us—in other words, a full-blooded, revolutionary socialist organisation.

**DOCKS REPORT BLUEPRINT FOR REDUNDANCIES: PAGE 2**
DOCKS REPORT: BLUEPRINT FOR HEAVY REDUNDANCIES

THROUGHOUT the current strength of the Socialist Worker Relations Act, the government, the dockers employers and the leaders of the Transport Workers Union have looked to the Jack Jones-Lord Aldington report to get their hands on the dustcoat and the official trade union movement off the hook.

On Monday this week the report was hurried out for the eager and waiting national newspaper journalists who would then rush off to print with tales of the big handouts to get dockers to leave the industry and the major concessions on the question of container working.

Support for the post operation would have been to divert attention from the five dockers languishing in jail, head off solidarity action in other industries and provide the basis to retreat to a mini-state to 'normal working' with its problems kept outside the industrial court. The working class movement owes a great debt to the striking picket workers for putting the skids under this strategy.

While the Jones-Aldington report contains recommendations, few thought any such committee would make a start on the basic problems that afflict dockers as a section of the British working class.

The report does support the abolition of the temporary unattached register, the dockers' limbo on the road to permanent unemployment. A bill was one of the key planks in the National Port Shop Stewards Committees policy.

It also states that work which has been moved out of the ports into containers and unregistered container work being carried out in the port areas should be the registered dockers' prerogative.

The container industry should be rationalised to get rid of the cowboys and registered dockworkers should have priority of recruitment in container basins and in cold stores and warehouses that have moved their work out of the Port of London, says the report.

Where non-registered workers are employed side by side they should have parity of wages and conditions with the dockers.

So Jones-Aldington contains some major concessions to the embattled dockers in their fight for survival. There is little doubt that these are due to the splendid rank and file campaign of blacking and picketing in defiance of the Industrial Relations Act rather than Jack Jones.

But Jones has consistently refused to take the dockers' initiative on their own specific trade union issues and develop them into an official fight to drive forward for really significant gains out of the struggle. And at no time has he considered officially backing the dockers' lead in opposition to the Industrial Relations Act.

Jones-Aldington in no way reverses a half to the massive run down in the port industry. Far from it. The purpose of boosting the minimum and maximum service payment for quitting the industry to £2000 and £4000 respectively for the last five months of the year is precisely to continue the run down and make it smoother.

With unemployment on a high level in this country already, and with the closure of the dock industry in particular, it is nothing short of criminal that Jones continues to trade jobs for bigger gains elsewhere.

In contrast to the negotiations that reached a nadir with the Jack Jones leadership (suitably camouflaged in punchy resolutions about the scandal of employment, the plight of the old, the threat of pollution), the new top management of Stewards Committee has always put the question of defending the register at the heart of the struggle.

What they mean is that no more jobs on dockland should be sold. Their policy has been that technological plus should not be used to boost profit margins by throwing workers on the scrapheap.

Shrewd

Rather technology should be put to social ends by the mass action of the labour movement. This is the thinking behind their demands for retirement on full pay at 60, more holidays, a shorter working week and the reindroduction of nationally fixed manning levels.

The TUC will not countenance a second win.

This would give the dockers the right to work containers which is, why under pressure from the employers, the last Labour government dropped the report.

And the truth of the matter is that many if not all of the Port Shop Stewards' proposals could have been extracted from the present situation if the dockers' struggle had been backed by the might of the TUC.

This would have led to a clear and active defiance of the Industrial Relations Act.

Dent

Where the Jones-Aldington report is at its most dangerous is on the question of containers and the unregistered ports. There is no victory on the question of the liquidation of the unregistered ports where containers only the way the dockers will be able to win the decision by a continued vigour and mass pressure to police the agreement.

And there is absolutely nothing on the unregistered ports where em- ployers, and not the TUC, have been left to undertake the dockers' demands. They are simply to be approached to payutory contributions to the Dock Labour Scheme.

At the press conference that launched the report Jack Jones made no reference to the imprisoned dockers and concentrated on the big boost on the golden handshake front. The purpose of their operation is to get back to some ideal normality where human progress can be achieved through employer-union negotiations.

Message

To build such a position is to learn nothing from the present struggle, those that have preceded it and those that will follow. The Hays Wharves of this world have nothing to learn from their own experience.

Any advance contained in the Jones-Aldington plan is but a fragment of the magnificent struggle. The message of its pages is a plea for a small modification of the existing struggle.

In its no sense should the report be allowed to provide yet another excuse to avoid a fight. A fight is needed to beat back this corrupt and totering government. Unions in action, and armed with an understanding of the potentials of our society and the working class itself there is nothing that cannot be achieved.

London dockers unfolding a banner: 'dangerous work done in all weathers' by Arthur Malone

The Industrial Relations Act must go, and hopefully this strike will smash it. As for the government, I'm not sure.

The toppling of the Tories must be in the back of every workers mind.

Those were the words of Walter Cunningham, of the Hull Port Shop Stewards Committee, yesterday. Cunningham was the man who refused to appear before the Industrial Relations Court back in May over the blacking of containers at Hull docks, and defied the court to jail him.

"I personally feel there should have been a general strike called on Monday," he said yesterday.

The Jones-Aldington proposals are simply not good enough... but people have been used to softening up the TUC to accept a wage freeze deal for all workers. The proposals that the strike workers still sees a break between union struggles and politics.

Lesson

"I feel as if we're learning more in the past if we'd been more political. One thing is certain, if the Labour Party, back, unless the transport dockers' case, then try to bring something similar in we must and will fight them. We won't accept any anti-union legislation. The TUC was supposed to make things more efficient, ease the position of goods and reduce the cost to the consumer.

We can see it has done such a thing. The very people who have lost through containerisation have been workers, both in jobs and prices. The fight against containerisation in the past that for many years in Hull but only recently has it become newsworthy.

Twisted

"Container work has always been dockers' work. It is only because the mass of dockers throughout the country have only now taken up the fight that the problem has got twisted around. Other workers have been allowed in the past to take those jobs and now everyone sees them as having a right to them.

"This would not have happened if we had insisted on this being dock work from the start. We must stop the cowboys—the people who do a lorry-driving shift and then do some 'stuffing' and 'stripping'.

"In this way the employers are using containerisation simply to get cheap rates. The people they employ are working under conditions we fought against 10 years ago, and, if they are allowed to, the employers will go on to use more dockers in many more unregistered wharves.

"Saying that all work in container 'depots must be done by registered dock labour is not necessarily the answer, we still have to get our men off the unregistered register, we still want jobs, all dock work must be done in the Hull dock area.

"In saying this, we have no fight against lorry drivers or any section of workers, but, unfortunately there is no short-term solution to the division among workers which is being used by the employers.'

He was asked what his opinion was of the actions of the official union leaders during the dockers' struggle.

"There has been no leadership. That is why an unofficial committee has been necessary. The leadership seems only concerned with getting more members.'

Keith Bell

To hold such a position is to learn nothing from the present struggle, those that have preceded it and those that will follow.

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Stamped on
FREEDOM, the anarchist weekly, has caught the Post Office with its trousers down and added a nice footnote to the Younger Committee's report on privacy. As we said last week, the Younger recommend that are of little value to the vast majority of people because the committee was refused permission to include state intrusions of privacy in its terms of reference. And it is the official snooper who poses the greatest threat to workers' and socialists' civil liberties.

Last week when the Freedom staff opened their mail they found two Post Office forms mixed up with the letters. Forms that showed conclusively that there is an investigation division at the Post Office that reads the mail of left-wing papers and organizations. We have never known that this happened—it can't be just inefficiency that comes from first-class letters to take three days to reach us—but it's nice to have proof.

The forms carried the imprint of the Investigation Division (Special Section) at St Martin's-in-Grain, the main headquarters of the Post Office. With a pithy aroma, "Special Section" is contracted to "SS" on the forms. The form reproduced here is an "express' label for forwarding suspicious mail to the SS division. The other form inadvertently sent to Freedom is an "advance of dispatch" and form of receipt" which is signed by an executive when the investigation has been completed. A note on the form reads: "This form should be returned where acknowledgement of the receipt of items or documents of a special or confidential nature..." Someone, somewhere wants to read a letter from you.

COLLEAGUE Laurie Flynn is taking bets that he can lay claim to a new world record, the shortest serving member of a union executive. Last Tuesday he was elected to the council of the journalists' union and 36 hours later he was deposed.

when a fresh scrutiny showed that the election figures had been incorrectly apportioned among the candidates under the "transferable vote" system. But no joy for the lack-bureaucrats leader of the NUJ at the rapid departure of F. Flynn. He was replaced by Eric Winter, who stood with him on a joint platform for "radical reform" at the annual conference. The word from NUJ headquarters is that officials are preparing for the "winter of their discontent."

Summing up

THE LABOUR PARTY appears to suffer from bad arithmetic as well as bad politics. The latest issue of Labour Weekly carries the headline: 'Common market for Europe: a stalling conference' and notes that the following are the main points of the conference:

Who is the leader of the system? Only Labour politicians and some union bosses—certainly not judges. Agreeing last week to disallow a marriage between a dental surgeon and the daughter of a miner, Mr. Justice Ormonde said it was not surprising the marriage had broken down 'because there was a wide social and cultural gap between them.'

Square peg

ALARM at the rocketing house prices is not shared by the fortunate shareholders of the housing developments, Northern Developments of Blackburn. The group has just recouped tax profits of £2,840,000—a 95 per cent increase over the previous year.

Meanwhile, whatever happened to the CBI's 'price restraint' policy? The bosses' organisation agreed to peg prices at 5 per cent, but scant regard seems to have been given to the pledge.

Retail prices are rising at 6.8 per cent between December and June and several giants are hiking their prices up: the London Bank company is putting prices up by an average of 7.5 per cent—a move that will have serious repercussions. And if, elsewhere, the unions can do nothing, just ICO is raising the price of its nylon yarn by 5 to 10 per cent. The stage is set for the price of the country's top-selling Seven Dials by 10 to 15 per cent. Nothing inflationary, you understand.

READERS will be pleased to learn that Harold Wilson's pet Labrador, missing for a week, was found half a mile from home last Friday. The dog's name: Paddy. Perhaps it was not so much as training its displeasure at Master's attitude to Ireland.

'Timber!'

THE New York Herald Tribune reveals that back in the late 1960s a contingent of foresters from the US was sent to Malaysia in an attempt to help the US by putting the country's top-selling Seven Dials by 10 to 15 per cent. Nothing inflationary, you understand.

Believe it or not, the Pentagon was using scientists to develop artificial fire storms in South Vietnam to help flush out the NLF's forces in the same forest.

Along with the chemical defoliation and artificial rain-making, the military operation is to wreck the countryside in its forest attempt to defeat the Vietnamese freedom fight.

It is reported that many members of the Agriculture Department were killed in the process.

Flying high

JOBLESS readers may care to reply to the following ad in The Times:

Personal Assistant required for a 30-year-old single millionaire. Duties include looking after an overseas family trust, general financial matters and dealing with a string of racetrackers. The candidate should be young with a pleasant manner and have an air of authority behind which an addition should be prepared to work around. The final meeting will be held on Trafalgar Square. Salary is upon experience and ability. Write in first instance to Box 23364, The Times.

Socialist Worker

For Workers Control and International Socialism, 6 Cottesloe Gdns, London E2 8DN

The war goes on

THE RELEASE of the five jailed dockers is a milestone in trade union history. The magnificent solidarity strikes that swept the country and paralysed important sections of industry has shown that when the strikers stand and fight together then the power of the government and the law courts can be beaten.

But it doesn't rest on our laurels. We have won a battle. The war is not yet over. The government will not throw in the towel and abandon its strategy of attacking the living standards and rights of dockers. It will try new tactics but the general offensive will go on.

The decision of the law lords on Wednesday underlines this point. They overturned the appeal court's decision in the case of Heston Transport and the Transport Workers Union. They ruled that the union must pay the original fines and that it is responsible for the actions of its shop stewards.

This is a decision that affects every militant in the union movement. From the day the Tories first published their Industrial Relations Bill, this paper has stressed that the law lords would be the final line of defense for the right-wing employers and politicians, especially Frank Chapple or even Jack Jones of our movement. On the contrary, it is devised to cripple the unions at their grass roots by taking their lower basic position: the closed shop, blacklisting, picketing, sympathy action.

The union leaderships have a key role to play in this scheme: to act as 'industrial policemen', disciplining their members, conniving at the first breaths of the law for fear of the heavy fines which the NIRC can impose. From the outset, the opposition of the union leaders to the Act has been confined to a bare front of compliance, while behind them parliament and government. They have been anxious to avoid any action that would upset their delicate balancing act between workers and employers.

This cosy relationship has been hit by militant pressure from the rank and file against the Act and registration. This did not have to be the case. By now, there must be more than a dozen TGWU members on the TUC—but the timing of the law lords' decision this week will make it much harder for him to wriggle off the hook a second time. In the wake of the mass movement created by the dockers, it will be very difficult for Jones, with his 'left' image already dented, to give in to the courts.

Thanks to the fighting determination of the rank and file this historic week, Jones and his fellow members of the union leaders will have to stand up and be counted. If the dockers decide to maintain their campaign against container depots, Jones will have to choose between taking official responsibility for their action and fighting fines and court action or do the copper's job, expel the shop stewards and knock out completely the TUC's law. It is vitally important that TGWU members demand that Jones refuse to pay the fine and support his stewards' actions.

Those who let up in rank and file opposition to the Act. Almost without exception, support for the dockers came from below, reluctantly and belatedly forcing the union leaders to organise a one-day strike. There will be no continuing struggle against the law and the Tories unless the mass of ordinary trade unionists force their leaders into action.

But what of the 'political arm of the labour movement'—the Labour Party? Political leaders have assured the TUC leaders and the TUC leaders should amend the Act so that only the employment minister could take workers to court. In other words: keep the Act, continue a crucial decision unions, but don't let wild-cat employers get out of hand.

Other voices are singing a slightly different tune. Wedgwood Benn assures the dockers and emitters Lombe wrung out his 'left' image already dented, to give in to the courts.

The fight against the Industrial Relations Act is part of a political fight against the Tories and the system they serve. The success of that struggle will be won if we organise the rank and file in the Labour Party, with 70 years of betrayal and surrender, but in forging from the strength and determination of working people shown this last week a genuine socialist party that will organise and spearhead the battle for workers' power.

Telephone 01 739 9043
editorial
The council that took 20 years to put in hot water

by Sus Jackson

JUST over 20 years ago, a family of seven moved into a three-bedroom council house in Coventry. They considered themselves lucky, for because of the influx of families into the city looking for work, there was a shortage of houses.

The house had three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and an inside toilet. There was no outside water, only two electrical points, no lighting in the bedroom, a stone step and a bath in the kitchen, and the whole house was mice infested.

It took the family seven months to get rid of the mice—but it took the council 20 years to get rid of the mice.

It is probably typical for people living in old council houses. It’s not like having a home more like accommodation. It’s not like the owner-occupier of an old house, you can get the money to do improvements, and if you pay for it back over several years. But if you’re a council tenant—council when they eventually do the improvements will add 35 a week for two years. The council does not allow you to improve on your own.

If you’re paying for your improvements yourself, you have to pay interest on the amount that you’re raising, and that eating up the amount. And you’re raising this amount and the tax is paid, but forever.

The government is pushing for the improvement of old property by giving grants, council have to take the opportunity to jump into the biggest racket ever.

Take one area at a time, move the tenants to different houses, do the modernisation. Then push the tenants back again with an extra 1.50 added permanently to the rent.

**Suffer**

You might not think this unfair, but it is expected to take 60 years to pay off a mortgage on the house, and many are earlier than that age. The average rent of an old council house is £2.50 a week, and since the council spends £300 a year in maintaining these houses, they make about 35 a week per council house. That’s 35 a week profit. So much for modernisation—they have a grant to pay for. Half the work is done, and the tenants pay the other half over and over again. As you can see, the council will not suffer any great reduction.

You are lucky if you live in a council house for years and never miss a rent payment, then two weeks you can’t pay, for some reason. A letter arrives about “being behind in the rent, and the council doesn’t allow you to improve on your own. In other words, do it again and the housing committee will have to “review your tenure.”

Not the sort of treatment an owner-occupier would receive.

In some new areas, councils are allowing the tenants to have their own gardens, but other people inhabit as “undesirables” into these areas. Seeing the whole class line up, that with “I’m superior to you” or “I’m better than you.”

Perhaps a family doesn’t like gardening, so they don’t bother with it, but that their children play there. The council says they have to have gardens, they can have their gardens, but that the area is free for anyone who takes the council away from them and dump them in a flat.

What can one tenant do against the might of the council? Very little. But the time has come for tenants to write to fight for a better deal. For after October council that follow the government’s housing policy will put up rents, but will make big profits out of their tenants.

**TORY RENT ROBBERY AND HOW TO FIGHT IT**

A property to any tenant’s fight.

**The tenant’s fight**

So it is that council tenants are forced to move or more the rent. Cash with orders to IS (Housing, 3, King Street Gardens, London E2-BDN.

**Edwin Noell, Baron Plowden, KCB, KBE, has devoted his life to the service of British capitalism.**

Groomed from the youth in the class and ideas of the ruling class, he has held easily from merchant banking to such public posts as chief planning officer to the government’s Economic Planning Board and vice-chairman of a NATO committee.

He is at present chairman of the Tube Investments group, a huge multi-national company with assets of £340 million. In this position he has laid great emphasis on the education and training of managers.

He is also chairman of the governing body of the London Graduate School of Business Studies. This institution specially trains bright young men just out of university to make British capitalism more efficient and productive.

The workers at Tube Investments, Walsall, have found out what this means in real terms—higher profits and more sackings.

Lord Plowden, at a so-called liberal economist, weeps crocodile tears about this. The very day 5000 workers were demonstrating in Walsall against the closure plan, he was blandly saying:

"Only those with long memories can now recall the misery, the affront to human dignity, which was caused by mass unemployment in the inter-war period."

We have today much too much unemployment—to which my own company has unfortunately been forced by the circumstances to contribute—but we know how to get to full employment if we choose and that in fact we are now moving in this direction."

These hypocritical words befitted Lord Plowden, director of the National Westminster Bank and of the Commercial Union insurance company.

**As nearly 5000 workers marched through Walsall on 8 July in protest against the threatened closure of the town’s Tube Investments factory, the chairman of TI, Lord Plowden, was just a few miles down the road receiving an honorary Doctor of Science degree at Aston University, Birmingham.**

He then, in turn, presented students with their degrees. One was a student employed at Tube Investments. The chairman gave her a degree with one hand while taking away her job—and those of 1500 others—with the other.

The following Friday, 14 July, workers from the Tube Investments Action committee met Plowden to argue the case for keeping the factory open. They went armed with the speech Plowden made the Saturday before, in which he said he had great experience at the Treasury of how to achieve full employment.

TheTube Investments workers received no joy. All Plowden offered was about 290 jobs at other Tube Investments factories spread within a 30-mile radius across the West Midlands. His advice to the stewards was: ‘Your members’ interest would be best served by co-operating with management in organising the run down of the factory."

Generous to the end, he said there was a cup of tea waiting for them after the fasting meeting.

Once TI had cleared out the factory, he argued, it would be possible for other employers to move in and create work. To start clapping their hands to hear that Pipe Tubes of Plymouth, where a strike for union recognition is now in its third year, had in the morning after the TI closure announcement to see what was in it for them.

After the meeting the action committee had a lot to think about. The massive TI empire is certainly not going to rush to union recognition, and is in any case now looking for work. Who else will be interested in opening on former TI sites?

It seems only too likely that their forecasts were wrong and three weeks ago the loss of 1500 jobs as part of the closure of the Green Lane factory.

**REFUSAL**

But management documents shows me by the action committee reveal that TI is not going out of the stainless steel tube business. A letter to the MP, Tom Young, in June, tells him not to worry about the Green Lane factory.

"You will have noticed that only the long-length stainless tube factory is definitely closed. The decision to close the Green Lane factory . . . We intend that in the remaining stainless tube area we will emerge with greater strength in a changed market."

TI’s intentions are obvious—to close down the factory, sell unwanted plant, machinery and raw materials and move what they need to other factories.

Lord Plowden’s refusal to discusskeeping the factory open clearly opens up the action committee with one question to say forms firmly that there will be no redundancies and fight the closure.

Six unions are involved—the Engineers, TASS, their technical section, the Toolmakers and Machinists, the Mechanical and Managerial Staffs, and the Association of Professional and Executives.

**BANNED**

The action committee has started a massive campaign to inform workers at other TI factories, and the trade unions, to assure them that there are 333 workers in the company and that there will be a massive campaign to inform workers at other TI factories, and the trade unions, to assure them that there will be no redundancies and fight the closure.

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Ireland: our duty is to criticise

TO SPEAK of the statement of the IS executive committee on Ireland as "without question, the most dishonest and odious in last week's Socialist Worker", is a gross understatement. The concept represents an abdication of ideological commitment.

It is precisely because of our duty to support, without conditions, the anti-imperialist struggle of the Irish people, that we should denounce tactics which can only consolidate imperialist policies. The IS signature ("which is driven by the Provo but only drove over 50 per cent of the working women and working class workers") still closer to Orange bigotry, but in any case we are facing a sectarian, extremist policy of the Catholic majority of the working class.

Socialists, who believe that working people must play in the Life of the Nation their full role and not only may appeal to semblance, but in their name, defend the policies which enabled the Provo leaders to betray in secret with the British authorities. The duty of revolutionary socialists to the Irish people is to defend the socialist alternative which comrades in Ireland are striving to implement, and which is a constant opposition to imperialism and colonialism (which IS has never failed to advocate) and the dominant position of the British "provisionals" - SEAN TREACY, LONDON SW9.

Letters to Socialist Worker must arrive no later than 12 noon on Thursday and should be typed or written on one side of the paper only. Letters may be cut for reasons of space.

HONOURABLE REGGIE and the untold Tales of Hoffmann...

HONOUR - Sympathy - Integrity.

These were the words that flavoured Fess Parker's film presentation to the resignation of the subject "Moneybags" Maudling.

Surviving from a dozen every pore of the editors and political pundits as they strained their vocabularies to tell their millions of readers what an honourable man had been "kicked out" as Home Secretary.

But even the pipping from the gold medal in the acrobatics was the Daily Express editor, Derek Marks, who, apart from proudly announcing how he had "helped to kick off" "together as a nation" expressed "enlightenment" that the man in charge of the nation's police force should resign over the "Irish" issue after all public attention were it not for the absence of a few journalists and a large number of Londoners.

For many months Ray Fitzwalter (broadway, Telegraph and Argus, Alex Mitchell (Western Press) and Paul Ford (Telegraph) have been fighting to keep the story of Maudling's "involvement in the 26-county state" to the public. And they have, if not yet beavered down to the bottom, at least given the public the assurance that the man the man who is revered by the public and the police, is not the one who has been involved in cover-ups and dirty tricks investigations.

Stupidity

Marks actually wrote: "The Home Secretary is only the latest and most flagrant case of a policy detective whose ignorance the man who is a "policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a policy detective is a 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The International Socialists is a democratic socialist group whose membership is not restricted to any particular philosophy or status. It is open to all who are willing to pay the registration fee and work to change the world and its organisations.

We believe in independent working-class action and the replacement of a capitalist society by one of socialism. We organise and work for that goal not for profit.

We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism.

Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world and the international production of goods is for profit.

The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A single socialist state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international, independent of any national states.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist theory with the day-to-day struggles of workers of all classes and to support all genuine demands that take a step forward in the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight for rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials.

Against secret negotiations, we believe that trade union stewards should be elected by re-emergent lists and for 100 per cent trade unionism and the democratic control of the unions.

Against anti-trade union laws and any cuts on the right to strike, whether the strike is legal or illegal.

Against productivity deals and job evaluation and the present trade union unity and joint shop stewards committees both in the present and on a combine basis.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

For a minimum wage of at least £2.50 work.

Against unemployment, insecurity and day offs. We support the demand: Five days’ work or five days’ pay.

For all workers in struggle. We seek to build militant groups in industry.

Against racist and police victimisation of black workers.

Against immigration restriction.

For the right of coloured people and all oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as the NATO and Western Pact.

Against secret dipломacy.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditioanally give support to and solidarity with the national liberation movements.

For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation and under workers control.

We are against all new cross-class alliances that try to reorganise the machinery of oppression under the guise of some national liberation movements.

For the generalisation of the struggle for socialism in every country.

For the unity of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers’ power is the only way to stop this world slide toward destruction. The plan of the other (A C Lloyd Ltd) has submitted no accounts to Companies House since 1977. This is of course legally illegal, but then who’s bothered?

Lloyd’s is one of five TWIG firms which were late out of the old Regent Canal Dock. This puts the lie to all those claims that the dockers are no longer a useful working class. The dockers made sure that the company was closed down. The war years of Regent Canal is busier now than for many a long year.

IT WAS moving to read last week of the big container firms’ concern for the public and for registered container worker.

The message put over by their new organisation TWIG (Transport and Warehouse Industry Group) was simple. Container workers had to defend their right to work and the docks, even though a strike was always the last resort of wages.

The “we” of the message was only the right to work and not the right to take action. The word “registered” was a misnomer for a group that does not register the dockers but the workers who have the right not to work.

The main firm behind TWIG, Hays Wharf, has its subsidiary, and the docks some time ago. It bought the Dagenham dog truck in 1969, shut down its upper Thames wharves with the loss of 700 jobs and transferred the work to the Dock manager, where it now employs 76 men.

Boosted

With so much to lose, it is not surprising that Hays Wharf has been quick to become a threat to workers already on strike. It has used its power to exploit their situation to get them to work for less.

But Hays Wharf’s claim of allies for the workers is not convincing. The workers know that the firm is not really interested in the dockers and only interested in the dockers as a way of increasing its profits.

This scheme of things is similar to the ‘push’ in the construction industry. The workers are given a small amount of work and left without any help to complete the job. The dockers are used by the anti-union needs of the big firms to employ them.

Illegal

One firm stated that it was not involved with the TWIG scheme. This was not true. They are all interested in anything that will make them more money. The workers are used as a means of getting more money.

The company is not interested in the dockers, but only interested in their situation to get them to work for less.

The workers know that the firm is not really interested in the dockers and only interested in the dockers as a way of increasing its profits.

If the workers do not go along with the company, it can use the workers to employ more dockers and reduce the workers’ wages.

The workers need to know what their rights are and how to protect them.

Twiggies is the employers trying to put it last week.

They paid the pickets. Midland Cold Storage and Dagenham Cold Storage were sent letters for their men to man the counter pickets at Chobham Farm. One firm actually booked its workmen off and off work on the line. For Chobham was a victory that provided the basis for uniting all dock and container workers. The agreement that the MCB and picketers saw no one sacked to make way for the dockers.

Here is where TWIG and the capitalist press came at the object. The message was to be able to see the biggest dock network the London container bijou and the London International Freight Terminal.

Delicious

But the jailing of the five dockers was enough to enforce the attempt to split TGWU members. Counter-pickers lifted their pickets when the news came through that the state was to jail five trade unionists on midland Cold Storage’s behalf.

But intriguers always have a smiling face. It is this that makes TWIG’s printed propaganda so effective. It is dressed in concerned for rising food prices. If dockers were to win container workers, then food prices would be lower. The TGWU Chairman knows this but they have already risen more than a little.

In any case food prices bore no relation to workers wages. If they did, then perhaps the pitiful wages of the dockers and picketers would be reflected in the local supermarkets.

In fact if Hays Wharf and its fellows were chased off the map and the workers in TWIG are driven to work for less, the dockers and picketers would be driven into the workshop.

What’s on

Copy for What’s On must arrive by first post Monday or be phoned Monday morning. Charges are 50p per line, see display 10p per line. CASE WITH COPY. No insertions without payment. Invoices can be sent.

MEETINGS

SUPPORT THE DOCKERS

WALTHAMSTOW 10:00am, American Legion Club, 651 Romford Road, Walthamstow

KINGSTON 10:00am, Solidarity with the dockers’ meeting, Spencer, Harry, 41 Lachtok Road, Kingston upon Thames

NEWCASTLE 1:00pm, Public meeting, Free Fireplace, 67 High Level Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne

WANDSWORTH 10:00am, Solidarity with the Dockers’ union meeting, Harry, 61 Lachtok Road, London E14 4RA

NOTICES

BRITISH MUSEUM SOCIALISTS GROUP gives full support to the strike of Ben & Jerry’s Printers.

The daily battle of the workers is going on. Lists only upon all workers for information.

Woman’s Voice, No. 1. Copies still available from Margaret Head, 50 Mountville Road, London NW3 6AA

ROJNET

NEWSPAPER

Newport, 4th December 1980

In this week’s issue, George Gobain, Northern Ireland, describes the strike at the new plant in Zentuno, Italy, and challenges them to hold a second strike at the factory in Vierumaki, Finland.

NOTES

BOOKS

Newport, 4th December 1980

The Dockers are not only the men who work on the docks but also the men who are the dockers’ representatives at the National Maritime Union. They are the men who organise the dockers’ union meetings and the dockers’ union locals. They are the men who are the leaders of the dockers’ union and the men who organise the dockers’ campaigns.
ARMY ON OFF-BEAT AFTER BIG BOMBS

Belfast—The same Tory politicians who organised the murder of 13 unarmed civilians in Derry on 30 January have reacted with hypocritical moral outrage to the bombings in Belfast last Friday in which 11 people died.

They used the explosions as an excuse to put into effect a long-planned renewal of the military offensive against republicans.

The new get tough policy began earlier in the week. The Catholic ghettoes of Belfast filled with massive Saladin tanks, each with a 76 mm cannon mounting submachine guns. Military experts had insisted in the past that these tanks would never be used in urban areas.

The IRA claim has been reserved for one side only, although loyalist gunmen continue to operate openly. In the past few weeks they have killed at least twice as many people as died on Friday. Yet not one loyalist house has been searched.

Arms continue to flow into Protestant areas and Ulster Defence Association men found with guns and ammunition are able to produce licences for them and go free.

The Provos’ blitz on Belfast was undoubtedly a response to the renewed military build-up. The IRA claim to have given sufficient warning for all areas to be cleared and it is unlikely that they intended to kill and maim on this scale.

But 20 bombs going off in one afternoon, even without killing anybody, could only have been intended to provoke an immediate response from the loyalist camp. It seems that the Provos wish to make it clear that the IRA themselves, now that the Torries have taken over, do not intend to.

The IRA’s racist response was predictable. Craige has called for full-scale mobilisation of its volunteers in the loyalist areas. Loyal servant Terence Miller, ex-principal of University College, Rhodesia, has pledged, with a view to sucking, W.P. Jenkins of the Department.

The blood-price charges, 12 in all, range from failure to ensure payment of students’ fees on time, to ‘disloyalty in the face of student opinion. It is no coincidence, however, that Jenkins was active as chairman of the technical teachers’ union. ATT’s leverage has been a constant critic of Miller’s appointment and his reactionary policies since taking office.

ATTI has demanded his reinstatement.

This WEEKEND the national conference of tenants and trade unions ended the month with the usual protest against the Housing Finance Bill, which will raise rents throughout the country.

The conference, called by the National Association of Tenants and trade unions, was held at Central Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, with delegates from many tenants’ associations, trade union branches and shipbuilders’ companies.

The crucial question for the conference was the £1 an hour increase which up to a week which millions of tenants will face in February. They argue that although the rent increase is fair, no tenants’ associations, trade union branches shipbuilders’ companies.

The conference was concerned that the rents should be a direct way to increase the cost of living. They have been a direct action of the Government to increase the prices of goods, which they have already increased by 30%.

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Fleet Street workers spark militant stoppages all over Britain

THE FREEING of the five dockers, a tribulation of all to the tremendous movement of solidarity that grew up within hours of arrests.

The first response came Friday afternoon when other dockers struck, first in Sunderland and then across the country. By Monday morning every port in the country was shut, with dockers of all ages not noted for militancy in the past.

The closing of the national newspapers in Fleet Street was probably decisive in giving a lead to the rest of the country.

The evening immediately after the prison visit, people the house of organised rank and file-trade unionism to the rescue. It was worth the dockers.

It is worth remembering that the TUC has never before voluntarily called a strike of dockers.

From the first day, the TUC was ready to get the stoppage started.

On Sunday, the main London dockers meeting at the weekend, and the next day the decision of the dockers in Fleet Street was announced. They were ready that day to call the London-based leaders.

That morning, although many of the key organizers had been kept off the ground, the strike was affected by the annual holiday, the movement was not the industry's holiday all over the country.

LONDON:—On Monday lorry drivers, newsagents, employees by the employers that Scottish dockers workers joined the printers and agreed to pay immediate strike benefits to everyone standing on the picket line. The all the dockers for the strike have come from the strike. The union officials have refused to take a hard line on members of liberal employers— the London Trades Council for instance—crossing picket lines.

It was against the backdrop of a strike rally, it is expected that the stoppage will be total. The big Poverty Development has been stopped and the response to the call for all dockers is expected to be strong.

Many workers completely new to trade unionism are to be seen in the pros of the picket lines, many were the core of a strike that had been good.