Uganda threat brings out the racists

THE ANTI-IMMIGRANT lobby is on the march, and the Tories, like their policies in all fields are meeting increasing opposition from working people, right-wing politicians and the Tory press have seized on the issue of the Ugandan Asians in an attempt to divert attention from their own policies and the main issues of the election.

The press are screaming about a "threat to Britain" of opening the floodgates to an "ocean of refugees." The pretext they are using is a speech by the Uganda Prime Minister, Mr. Am沛 Anesin, saying that the British were "a danger to the country all those people of Asian derivation would now be living here when the country became independent.

There are widely conflicting esti- mated figures in the press about the number of Asians involved. The real figure seems to be about 40,000 plus. This figure, far from leading to massive overcrowding as the Tories pretend, will in fact mean that we have an average also football ground with 40,000 people in it.

It will become the same Tory politicians who are responsible for a million unemployed in Britain, and a general of house breakdown and boredom in the country that they run and who will now be made worse by continued dismem- beration of the West Indian communities.

Press

But the Asians feel the need to ward off popular resentment. The Asians, the papers and the return for, although they do the main work, they are generally better off than the whites. The Tories in Britain are trying to exploit the plight of the Asians for the same purposes. People like Duncan Sandys and Enoch Powell have little or nothing to say about the urgent issue facing Britain today, but they can remember the easy popularity they earned in 1958 when a similar outrage arose in the case of Asians from Kenya.

At that time the organized labour movement, especially the Trades Union Congress, showed solidarity with the Asians in Kenya. Republicans and the left-wing papers and their press were in a few days and weeks the "great whites" in parliament in one afternoon a few despairing Asians of their rights.

Socialists and trade unionists must resist the racist propaganda and prevent the same fate befalling the Ugandans. The British are조과이히 about as divided as the case of Asians from Kenya.

The fight for the Ugandans is the first stirrings of a battle against the racism that is poisoning British society.

THE NEWSPAPERS’ stinging campaign over the dockers strikes is now growing to symphonic proportions.

The strike, of course, has not been for the dockers knocked to the ground after a vicious police baton and had completed their demands. Now for the three pickets arrested without justification in Colchester.

Not for the Liverpool and Dublin dockers cheated out of Social Security payments after they had voluntarily handed special ships and given their pay to charity.

No, the press campaign has been directed against the dockers’ efforts to avoid the dole queue and to stop the assassination of a whole industry in the pursuit of profits.

The papers have been full of stories about the fate of little Gilmour and its sister, whose family doctors have said might get stuck in the docks, of vast of nurses who might explode of thousands of tiny ballot boxes that might be thrown to the rubbish heap or a bit rather by old seamen troops to moved in to shift agency workers.

And everywhere it is argued that the dockers are to be blamed for this situation. No one points at the wealthy firms and individuals who have run down the docks and threatened the livelihoods of thousands of men. Nowhere is it explained that the Jones-Aldington agreement takes for granted a continuation of this profession and its price—burdened redundancies and longer dock operation.

Many of the firms that have been involved in this strike have also been crying of bankruptcy. They claim that they cannot afford to pay the wages and take on the numbers of workers that would be demanded if they were registered, organised dock operations.

Of these firms, the most determined to maintain the wage and conditions is Hays Wharf. This firm has taken its struggle against the dockers well beyond the payers to make counter-pickets.
WORLD NEWS

Allende’s retreat is turning into a rout

by Vic Richards

THE continuing retreat of Allende’s Popular Unity government in Chile is now in serious danger of turning into a rout. Allende’s political opponents and his own cabinet members have begun to distance themselves from the government, which had seemed to be on the road to victory. The latest blow came when the government was forced to call a referendum on the merits of the Popular Unity coalition which the government had hoped would secure its victory in the election.

Chilean farmers occupy land seized from big landowners. Allende’s government has failed to carry out promised land reform.

Despite protests by the rank and file, Allende’s Socialist Party sided with the Communist Party. The cabinet was reshuffled, with a new Communist minister, Pedro Viscovic, the most left-wing of the former cabinet, was sacked. Negotiations then started with the Christian Democrats. But having sensed the government’s weakness, the Christian Democrats soon wanted no less than total surrender. With the breakdown of the talks, and with proof of the cowardice of the Popular Unity coalition in strength and in principle, the right wing is in a stronger position than ever. The Minister of the Interior, Hienaro del Canton, has been forced to resign in Parliament by the opposition after three weeks’ suspension. He was charged with not existing peasants from the farms they occupied, having detained a right-wing newspaper editor, and corruption.

There were no other less newsworthy but more serious steps. Allende’s government mayors and agents have been overthrown by parliament and in some cases taken to court. The courts are becoming increasingly regressive against all left-wing and popular mass actions.

The US is again exerting pressure on Chile’s foreign debt. A law is being passed through parliament to authorize the army to ‘control armed groups’, in other words, revolutionary and peasant self-defence groups. The government has hatched agrarian reform, so landowners are now able to seize government and place to safe places (there is now no legal constraint to prevent them).

Workmen’s control becomes a bad word.

Allende’s retreat has led several Popular Unity parties, or sections of them, to dissociate themselves from the attempt to negotiate with the capitalist parliament of the Christian Democrats. To prove their honesty, they have since then been burning the attack and demanding that the left, including members of the majority Popular Unity parties, should wage a struggle not only against the Christian Democrats, but against the whole capitalist establishment.

Clearly enough, there are no two roads to go on. There is a road to prepare the way for a further advance or there is a road to prepare the way for a further defeat. Either way, the road the parties must follow is leading to the international working-class movement and the international struggle of the communist parties.

There is a clear danger that demoralization will really take root in the worker movement, if the Christian Democrats in recent union elections are a serious warning of worse things to come unless the popular movement is strengthened.

And this is the strategy of the right wing: to wait for defeats and retreats to pile up, with the consequent loss of heart by Allende’s supporters. As Allende is not likely to use his undoubted popularity to lead a real attack on capitalism that could stop the rot spreading, he will probably go the way he came—by the ballot box, in a blaze of publicity.

Meanwhile, the army waits. None of the parties has ever attacked it, and it is as united, and better armed, than ever. To defend the constitution, of course.

Evidently the Party’s ideas about freedom of the press do not extend to those who try to criticize it in an area where it believes it has a divine right to say what goes on and what happens.

Clearly, the Party has not only acted in an illegal manner, but has also committed a clear breach of the constitution. It is time the Party, which is the most important of the Chilean parties, was brought to book.

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Easy Ryder

ONE of the latest voices to join the chorus of top people demanding that unions and industry unite to hold down the level of wage rises is SIR DON RYDER, Chairman of Reed International, who is British mill owner, editor of the Daily Mirror, Sunday People and most weekly magazines.

At the company's annual meeting Ryder declared that 'without response from the unions price restraint could not continue in the face of rising wages.' But if anyone thinks that is a far point, they should look at the rest of his speech. According to the Financial Times he disclosed that group pre-tax profits in the first quarter to 30 June of the current year had risen by 35 per cent.

On the same day it was reported that in the same period wages were rising by only 11.7 per cent a year - a comparison worth remembering next time the Mirror complains about wage inflation.

THE story that workers are responsible for all the ills of the world is, of course, confirmed by Britain. Sir Tom Sayers, an Italian-American who opened a factory in the village of Ballygery, in Galway in the West of Ireland, several months ago, is now closing it down. He claims that the girls he took on were lazy and production was slow.

Not only that, but the diabolical, idle creatures insisted on getting 50 per cent more in pay than was suggested by the town's industrial development association. So their wages were at the quite inflationary level of £6 for a 45-hour week.

Exposure?

WHEN Harold Wilson raised the question of the ownership of Midland Cold Storage in the Commons last week, he really got stuck in. It seemed, was Harold, brave and bonny fighter for the truth.

London docks unload a barge: dangerous work done in all weathers

Not only is socialism wonderful, it can even perform miracles!' was the comment of one reader when he saw the picture above printed in our 26 July issue. Certainly the caption makes it look as if dockers have found a way of reversing the law of gravity. It should, of course, read: 'London dockers loading a barge.'

Except that Colin Rose, chairman of the T Wallis stevedores' committee in London's Royal Docks, wrote to Wilson twice early in July telling him he suspected the Vestey's owned Midland. Harold said and did absolutely nothing until the commercial press started suggesting Socialist Worker's exposition of the Vestey's.

Harold could of course have made the allegation without the proof that any newspaper requires. He, like all MPs, is protected by the rules of parliamentary privilege. Still, better not to get involved with battling dockers. After all, it might have been Harold's anti-union laws they were defying.

The City of London is building the most expensive ever council flat. On top of the Cromwell Tower on the Barbican site, it will cost a modest £450 a year.

For that sum, plus £100 a year rates and £100 for parking, the lucky tenant will enjoy four bedrooms, a dressing room, a bathroom, one shower, a miniart gallery (1), living/dining room, bedroom area, kitchen, utility room, store room, conservatory and roof terrace. So far nearly 70 flats and houses have been let on the Barbican at astronomical rents.

They are much sought after by the businessmen whose firms pay the rent for them to have a little place in town.

Breakable

MANAGEMENT of English China Clays, known for its devastation of the countryside in Cornwall and giving workers several nice varieties of lung disease, have been actively storing in the Wrecking Country.

They've got their employees so frightened for their jobs that they have been 'persuaded' to take 'positive action' unless the dockers open up the three Cornish ports. It has been suggested that the chinaware workers should load and unload ships themselves.

Lord Aldington, chairman of the London docks' employers and close friend of Edward Heath, also doubles as a director of English China Clays. Very handy.

Black eye

PRIVATE EYE, the radical magazine, printed during the recent newspaper shutdown, and the gay young things on the business side were not slow to seize the chance afforded by the absence of the national newspapers. The print order was boosted by 10,000 copies, giving a nice little extra profit of at least £600.

London docks shop stewards were quick to find out about the goings on and asked editor Richard Ingram for that issue's extra profit to be turned over to the dockers' strike fund. It took a couple of days, but the answer came through. No. Or was it 'poo off'? It fell to the three National Union of Journalists' staff members at the Eye to save something of the magazine's tarnished honour. They did send a collection to the dockers.

The TUC plays poker with a gangster wages are stakes

ONE VICE the leaders of the TUC could never be accused of is bearing grudges - particularly against those they meet across the labour movement. A fortnight ago the House of Lords decided that unions were liable for massive fines because of the actions of their members defending their jobs in the docks.

This month exactly seven days later the TUC General Council was prepared to sign an agreement with the main employers' organisation, the Confederation of British Industry, to set up an 'independent conciliation and advisory service.'

No house would have been more surprised by the decision than Vic Feather. According to Feather, confrontation means bloody noses for everyone. We want conciliation and settlements.

To prove the point, the General Council even included in the agreement that suggested as conciliator the leader of a union that had been suspended from the TUC for remaining registered under the Industrial Relations Act - John Borfield of the Graphical Reproduction Workers Union.

The TUC stance is most amazing because the government and employers have made no concessions at all. The Industrial Relations Act remains in force. Unions are being paid by millions of working-class families now have to follow the law. Only the day after the agreement was signed, the government took emergency powers to deal with the docks situation.

In aid of profits

Talk of 'independent conciliation' in such circumstances, whether from the right wing or the left wing of the General Council, is rather like taking of a fair game of poker when one of the players has a revolving gun under the table.

The fact is that the various anti-working class measures taken by the government over the past two years have not been accidental, some strange aberration that better communication and mutual understanding between the two sides of industry can overcome.

They are driven by the urgent need of big business to boost its profits at a time when competition from its foreign competitors is getting more bitter. It has no other way to do this than by somehow making a dent in working-class living standards.

The miners, the railwaymen and now the dockers have shown that this policy can be resisted. The magnificent response to the builders' strike in many parts of the country has shown that even those previously outside the orbit of trade unionism can be drawn into the struggle for better wages and conditions if they are given the lead.

The lessons of this period have not been lost on those who live off the backs of the rest of us. For instance, the major stock-brokering firm of Simon and Coates writes in a duplicated circular to its clients:

Proving military pays

'Now three major industries, the mines, the railways and the docks, have taken on the government and won. Although these are all declining industries, their workers have shown their fellow trade unionists that militancy pays. The prospects of such high pay as union employers are successfully pursued by means of strikes and general disruption can hardly appeal to either government, employers or responsible trade unionists.

'Let it be these 'responsible trade union leaders' that the government and employers are turning to save the situation. The case can only be defeated to beat them too heavily with the knout of the Industrial Relations Act if they agree to push for lower wage increases than otherwise. And the trade union leaders can only lead to a greater strike campaign.

'But that is no reason for the rank and file to be fooled. The government and the employers have no intention of reversing their policies for solving the problems of British big business at the expense of the working class.

'The deal shows that the fight to ward off these plans is easier and more effective than in the past. They must be beaten to save the jobs of all workers and to beat back the plans for the development of a genuine, democratic, socialist polity and file control over the unions—a struggle not only against right-wing leaders, but also against many of those who make militant speeches at the conference rostrum and then return to negotiations as usual.'
BRITAIN's building workers have been engaged in a two-month-long struggle, with selective strikes, for a basic wage of £30 and the 35-hour week.

Construction workers are among the most exploited and oppressed in this fair land of ours. A modern-day system of slavery, the union-busting 'jump', has been spread wide at the instigation of the employers. This allows men, frightened and intimidated by being outside the law, to be exploited with ease.

Building workers toil long hours, depending on their overtime to get anywhere near a living wage. The accident and death rate is the worst of any industry, including the mines.

In short, construction is a jungle of misery and corruption, kept that way for years by the ruthlessness of the employers and the spinelessness of the union leadership.

But Britain 1972 saw a completely new mood abroad. The miners, the railwaymen and the dockers proved to hundreds of thousands of workers that struggle paid. And in construction the many fine militants saw their will to organise and fight spread to whole new layers of the workforce previously thought to be beyond organisation. In recent weeks a massive head of steam was building up for an all-out struggle to settle with the employers.

But in the past ten days, it came increasingly clear that the leadership of UCATT, the building workers' union, was moving fast for a settlement with the strike. How could they sell this deal?

Two Basic reasons put to the press involved the duties of the building employers. In this, the strike was a symptom of the employers' desire to return to their old ways of dealing with their workers.

The less returned to type, the pursuit of sweetheart deals with their clients, the more the building employers. By doing this, they have done their best to wring an unprecedented opportunity to build the base of a real movement that could begin not only to organise the industry's appalling conditions of labour, but could start to tackle the many broader social issues that arise right out of construction's relationships of production.

**ROBBERY**

For this was not just a struggle about money. The only reason the money went on the strike had been received from lamp and other employers. Workers were that they could bring deep changes in the quiet something was going on.

But UCATT's leaders are keen to go back to 'normal working'. Who is it that they have chosen to side with? Who are the firms they are prepared to treat with to maintain their reign of robbery and exploitation? And what is 'normality' in construction?

When the British Steel Corporation got ready to build its new basic oxygen steel-making plant in Scunthorpe, the biggest civil engineering contract ever awarded to British, McLalpine came in second on the bid prices, after a smaller civil engineering outfit called Construction. But all the works for the project were awarded to the Northern's, not to the BSC's consulting engineers and magically the contract was awarded to... you know who.

Every few years, redevelopment work on London's South Bank has been handled by McLalpine, who just seem to have a way of obtaining all the juicy contracts. They are now building the new Covent Garden Market, they are building the new National Theatre, they built the Shell Centre. They are also building the last part of the Barbican, that famous scene of alleged communist subversion 'exposed' by a witch-hunting Labour government committee of inquiry, which in fact an employers' play to raise their contract payments by stalling the job.

**KILLED**

The Barbican is now the single most expensive housing project in Britain. Each flat is subsidised to the tune of £600 a year from public funds. The levels of rents, before subsidies, ensures that only city gents, bankers, architects and the odd trade union boss can live there.

John Luigi, the 20-year-old Italian bricklayer. But the news often... A young Italian, Luigi, 20, was killed in a scaffolding accident. Two days later, the body of another Italian, Luigi was found.

Sad and tragic. But is this the result of the rational planning, so often advocated by Labour government spokesmen? The Barbican, a project that has been described as the 'greatest' of all, has been beset by delays and cost overruns. The construction has been marred by corruption and inefficiency. The building workers have suffered as a result.

For more than two years I worked as a construction journalist on a commercial newspaper. At the time I was already committed to the cause of the working class, to socialism. So I knew something of the poverty, misery and exploitation that lies just behind the myths of modern, humane Britain.

But that equipped neither myself nor the other young men and women with whom I worked for what we were to learn. We began to understand and write about the realities of the world of construction. It was like seeing the world from a different perspective.

For Britain's construction employers areטים debarred as pitifully exposed. It is not that they are any smaller than the others, just that the whole nature of the operation makes for the exercise of naked and corrupt power.

Construction in Britain is dominated by two large outfits, the McLalpine and Laing. Both are family firms of obscure origin but now of immense economic and political power in our society, and set the style for all types and sizes of construction firms. Between them they have the two employers' associations carved up, with Laing's orchestrating the National Federation of Building Trade Employers and McLalpine recruiting the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors.

McLalpine emerged rich and powerful from nineteenth century railway building and endeared themselves to successive Labour governments for their habit of exploiting the army to the full. A century later the situation is little changed, except that the operation is more profitable nowadays. McLalpine exercise a quite unbearable influence in the industry. This can been shown by their ability to pick up on contracts in spite of the formalities of bidding and competing for jobs.

Nothing about us in the papers, again - they can't think we're lazy or greedy!
HOLIDAYS and weekends are for workers like oases in the desert of capitalist society. 'I'll be all right on Friday' is the attitude to the working week, and 'Roll on the holidays just about sums up the attitude to the rest of the year.

It is a chance to relax from the boredom of working to make someone else richer, a chance to give family and children the attention they deserve but are denied. For shift workers, it's a chance to see the family. Both offer a few precious days for genuinely creative work or hobbies.

But the capitalist system, though ready enough to keep a million workers idle, is less generous when it comes to giving holidays. Millions still do not have the right to paid holidays, and millions more get the shortest possible breaks.

For the lucky ones, there is a whole industry that makes profits from offering the chance to escape for a few days, usually to some sunny dictatorship, where there are no unions baulked and costs minimal. Different forms of the 'silla' perhaps, but still something. The idea is that, if nothing else, it is cheap and reliable. That idea, like most things in the bosses' business, is false.

The Financial Times said last week: 'It is generally accepted that package holiday prices next year will be as much as 20 per cent higher.' But the Financial Times wasn't telling you about their new brochure. 'Czechoslovakia, Blue Sky, Horizon Midland and the Castle Group are going ahead with packages priced based on pre-Budita [of the pound] exchange rates, continuing month-by-month in Times. In other words: let them think they're getting a good deal and they'll be paying the real prices after they've booked.'

Cheap

Further price movements daily: 'The Tour Operators Study Group has met to decide' prices. 'It happens too often when it debacles financial matters, the truth of 2.2 concerns agreed to disagree.' Small wonder.

The advantage of these changes is that you pay for your holiday well in advance, in the knowledge that the prices won't go up. The worker sacrifices spending power over the holiday, but the firm uses the money for a holiday. There is then a profit margin is throttled by a floating pound either, as the pound drops in value. With Ian Smith's customers about next year's price. Just remember, that's a constant figure if you also book a travel agent's services.

Men who make a packet out of package deal trips

Satisfaction for whom? For the shareholders maybe, but not the family who had one of their holiday ruined, or for the greatly underpaid servants in Spanish and Greek.

Horizon has three subsidiaries: Horizon Midland, For Horizon, and The Travel. All are owned by one man—Victor Rees. It's a financial fact that the Financial Times frequently mentioned recently, 'packed up a cruise or two in bringing Horizon Midland to the market'.

Mr Rees has said that he has just been ported for the third time. Malcolm Horrocks of Rail International has just joined the board of Horizon and Horizon Midland. He gave as his reason 'that I am fascinated by travel'. With 10 per cent of the market and growing, who wouldn't be? To people who wanted to cruise on the S.S. Phoenix are probably fascinated as well.

Cosmos Tours is not so well of just the market. It lost about £100,000 last year in a disaster over the cruise ship Queen, owned by the Galaxy Company which went into liquidation in December having taken the pre-registration of cruises in Malta. And they still say there are sharks in the Mediterranean!' If you spend your year saving for a Great Universal Store, owned by Sir Isaac Wolfson, then you can relax on a Global Holiday—Global is a GUS subsidiary.

Vicious

A similar Symphony Laste-Poly, which is a subsidiary of Trafalgar House and Oceanic, is also doing well, with its profitable charter and charter business. After various competition, to a group consists of the Midland Bank Trust, House Trust and the Automobile Association. Between them they paid £2.2 million. So the last honest travel agent has passed into the hands of the big money boys.

The holiday which could widen the horizon for the working man now has become part of the same system that crushes and limits his horizons the rest of the year round. The travel agent is still giving the lucky ones a package tour, but we, the bulk of the workers, are given expenses of less fortunate workers in more exploited countries.

M萝卜

Labour, from the safety of opposition, once again prove their commitment to the people, a man of high respect, the Alliance Labour, the Alliance Labour... the parliamentary, the failure... the parliamentary... the party... the party... the parliamentary... and the... We have a more hopeful dedication to the evolutionary future of this country. Socialism.

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UNIONS AGAINST THE LAW: IT MUST BE BROKEN

Workers won freedom - despite the courts

A SINGLE THEME has run through the statements of both Tory government ministers and their Labour Party opponents since the jailing of the Penonton five - that the law in Britain has safeguarded basic democratic rights from time immemorial and no section of the community, however large, can be justified in defying the law.

Harold Wilson was saying, even as hundreds of thousands of workers were being directed by direct action that the dockers were released from jail. "We have always said that a law, even a bad law, must be obeyed."

But in fact none of the much vaunted "liberties" of which our rulers boast would exist if working people had not been ready to break the law in the past.

Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to form trade unions, these were not handed down from on high because of the benevolence of parliamentarians and governments. They were won only because of the struggle for working-class movement was prepared to defy governments and the law to fight long and bitter struggles against court judgments and acts of parliament.

The first working-class trade union and political organisations to be formed, at the end of the 18th century, invariably found themselves defined as "illegally". The experience of London bookbinders in 1786 and 1787 was typical. Fed up with working an 84-hour week, they demanded that all hours be cut off their 14-hour day and even had the audacity to go on strike that demand.

The Glasgow Mercury of 19 May 1787 reports with satisfaction that "the bookbinders were brought up before the Judges of the Common Pleas, where it was proved they had been conjointly engaged against their masters, and demanding of them an abrogation of their customary labour, and leaving their masters without work when refused."

The Judges of the Bench were Messrs Ashurst, Bullock, and Grose, who, upon hearing the charges against them, were subject to a fine, acting with great impartiality, and at the same time, the Government opposed such daring attacks upon the liberty of the State and the laws of the constitution.

Mr. Justice Ashurst took the lead in the business, made many trips and judicious

reservations, and very cunningly spoke of the society of the masters towards their journeymen. Therefore, he was convinced that the latter was required by the masters, and before they abolished at Hobart Town, the trial was commenced in Newgate, which according to the law, it could not exist too long. In order to think the growing evils in combinations in a trading and free country, and people who were present, still possessing the same feelings of humanity, were shocked to think the misguided part of the body of a large should be so severely attacked by the Government. It is to be hoped that this sentence will be a warning to everybody in general, and prove the means of avoiding such combinations in the future.

Even the ability to exact such penalties was not good enough for the ruling class. In 1799 they passed through parliament still more strident laws, the Combination Acts, which made trade unions illegal.

The aim was to prevent the workers from the new factory and mining areas created by the industrial revolution from organising any form of resistance against their employers. Yet it was in this period that trade unions were really born.

A police informer wrote from Sheffield even while the Acts were being passed that there was a "general spirit of dissatisfaction created in every class of artisans and mechanics by the late Bill,...which I am afraid has caused more to combine than would otherwise have thought of the measure but for the Bill."

It has been estimated that in London skilled trades had never been more completely organised than between 1800 and 1820. Such was the strength of this mass movement that of the authorities did not dare use the Acts to defeat them.

When a massive strike of textile workers spread through Lancashire in 1819 after a minimum wage bill had been rejected by the government, the law was not used.

JAILLED

Other workers were not so fortunate. Two years later miners in the North East struck to improve their conditions. They were forced into submission by military force and their leaders were jailed.

Again, in 1817, a strike of Scottish weavers was broken and their union smashed when the leaders were jailed. Even when the Acts did not lead to prosecutions, they gave the authorities ample chance to brow-beat and intimidate workers. A report to the Home Office from the West of England described how the Combination Acts provide a very convenient excuse for summoning and examining upon any suspicion of person."

Yet the workers' organisations continued to grow. At secret meetings working people would come together to give one another mutual support and to defend their conditions.

By the 1820s middle-class reformers like Francis Place were beginning to regret that the Acts should be repealed because they induced working people to break and disregard laws... They make them hate the employers with a rancour that nothing else could have produced."

In a tone reminiscent of Harold Wilson today he argued that the repeal of the law was "the way to prevent disputes".

Place has often been credited with obtaining the repeal of the Acts through parliamentary manoeuvres, but his own testimony proves this was not so. The ruling class only listened to him because of the growing workers' movement against the laws.

The repeal of the Combination Acts did not end the persecution of trade unionists. Strikes and picketing were considered virtually illegal for years after.

And it is held in secret to protect workers from victimisation by employers and "the law" as the Tolpuddle Martyrs found to their cost.

At a typical union meeting in Yorkshire in 1820 extraordinary precautions were used to prevent what passed in the room from being heard. "No windows or doors were left open," wrote a member of the union; "and meetings a guard was stationed at the outside of the door."

It is recalled that if all those engaged in such activities were tried and returned 400 West Riding of Yorkshire."

TAX ATTACK

The same strict illegal activities were now the usual method of the police.

Parliament had decreed that all newspapers should be taxed in a deliberate attempt to drive it out of the hands of the working class and the government minister openly admitted: it was not against the respectable press that this Bill was directed, but against the paper that printed the articles in question.

If the Left press had fought back "revolutionarily", it would not have been able to survive to keep fighting. Instead, it died out without putting up a fight. For selling such papers 700 men, women and children went on trial and were sent to prison.

Each of those charged were either acquitted or would have to take their place.

By 1831 one magistrate had to admit that the government was "totally powerless" to enforce the law. A year later the law was abolished.

THERETRED

Under today illegal pressures the ruling classes eventually granted workers the right to vote for better conditions and to express our opinions freely.

But when the mass pressure has subsided, those rulers have often felt tempted to try to crush any such right - particularly when their profits have been threatened.

Even today the government can, if it chooses, show itself willing to pass a law outright, merely by invoking certain clauses in the Emergency Powers Act of 1920, which make it illegal to possess a "subversive document"... calculated to cause serious disturbance or to instigate unlawful acts... and to hold a "terrorist" statement...\[calculated to cause disturbance...\] As the result of the General Strike of 1926 hundreds of people were arrested - and some of them were sent to prison.

And the government is certainly trying to exercise the ability of each and every union and political union to act together to improve the conditions of the workers.

Such onslaughts will only be ended when the rule of a minority of the property owners over the rest of us is ended. Until then, it would be fraud if not a crime to pay any heed to those who tell us to "obey the law", even a bad law."
STRIKES

Some councils are claiming that they are "working within the framework of the law" to deal with rent arrears. But the rents for tenants in this area are much higher than the average in the country. The rent for a two-bedroom flat is over £1, the average increase is still 75%.

A strike has been called by the trade unionists in the area. The左 Lum同志会 and the National Union of Sportspersons are both supporting the strike. The National Union of Sportspersons has 3,000 members, and the left Lum同志会 has 2,000 members. The strike is expected to last for two months.

NEW TENDENCIES

The situation in the area is tense. The government is trying to deal with the rent arrears in the area. The left Lum同志会 and the National Union of Sportspersons are both supporting the strike. The National Union of Sportspersons has 3,000 members, and the left Lum同志会 has 2,000 members. The strike is expected to last for two months.

THE RENTS BATTLE

The next two months will be critical for the tenants. There is a lot of activity in the area to involve all tenants and prepare for a rent strike in October. The full cooperation of the trade unions in the area has been sought to organise a rent strike that will include all tenants that councils try to intimidate.

Only a militant fight now can resolve the rent issue. If sufficient people become involved in the rent strike and the rents are negotiated, then the Tenants can be forced to retreat on this Issue as the councils found them to retreat on the Industrial Relations Act.

Police arrest 19 on shipyard picket

GREENOCK.-The Lower Clyde shipbuilders last night arrested 30 pickets and police in an attempt to break the strike by 750 engineers.

The men, who have been fighting for the last three weeks over their demands, are not yet as well off as those in the lower Clyde where the rent strike has been called.

The situation in Greenock is tense. The trade unionists are demanding a 10% increase in wages. The management is offering a 5% increase. The strike is expected to last for two weeks.

Boilersmakers sign and UCS yard is sold

GLASGOW.-With the Boilersmakers union and the Cambridge Trades Union Agreement, another chapter is being written in the struggle at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders.

The pickets refused to allow the lorries in and sat down in front of one. When police arrived, summoned by the company, the men still refused to budge. Finally, after holding the lorry up for several hours, 15 engineers were arrested and charged with obstruction.

Marched

The situation was reported on Saturday when,-ended, four men, were arrested.

More than two thousand engineers, electricians and carpenters were present in the Ferensport Glasgow and when the arrested pickets were taken up on Sunday. The local full-time official of the Engineering Union, Ian McAs, spoke to the demonstrators, telling them that the picketing would be withdrawn.

The pickets’ case has been adjourned until October.

Workers fight anti-union bosses

WORKERS in three factories in East Kent, an area where trade unions are weak, have started a fight against the employers’ arrogant anti-union attitude.

When two Transport Union men tried to recruit workers at the Pride and Clarke depot of the Toyota car firm at Lyddon, near Dover, they were immediately attacked. The company refused to negotiate with union representatives in London and a fortnight ago 27 workers walked out. The firm then sacked them too.

The same day members of the engineering and electricians’ unions at the Fairey factory in Sandwich also struck. The management had sacked the chairmen of the works committees in a desperate attempt to break an overtime ban and work-to-rule.

A similar battle has been going on at 2 Griffiths, part of the Mercian group, in Chatham, near Catenby, where maintenance engineers were on strike when management insisted on five-and-a-half days’ work before a ban was put on overtime.

Strength

The men had cut out working week from 75 hours to 40 in pursuit of a wage improvement. When a union negotiator arrived for a pre-agreed meeting with the company he was told that he was trespassing.

Workers involved in the three disputes are in constant contact with one another and with dockers in Dover. This is giving them a strength they would not have otherwise. Nevertheless, they all have the strongest possible help from elsewhere.

Messages of support to: Toyota, E streamer, 53 Farrow Street, London, 80 Mercian—8 Manchester, 50 Nicholas Road, Oxford, Fairey—G Buckingham, 56 Gordon Road, Margate.

Strikes over £50,000 fine

COVENTRY.—More than 100 Transport Union shop stewards and branch officials met last night for the first time since the huge fine on the Coventry Branch.

The official leadership of the union has been condemned for their object retreat over the Industrial Relations Act.

The leaders of the union have been condemned. From the district committee calling for a one-day strike and demonstration on the issue of the Industrial Relations Act, the group are being asked to explain themselves before a recall by the union’s executive conference included in the resolution.

The meeting of the whole of the Coventry will be paralleled for one day at 50,000 branches after a day of meetings.

I would like more information about the International Socialists

Name

Address

Send to: IS, 6 Corners Gardens, London E2 8DN
Police arrest pickets at strike-breaking wharves

POLICE attacks on dockers’ pickets at wharves still working during the strike have highlighted another assault on dockers’ jobs and trade union organisation apart from container shifted outside the docks labour scheme.

One of the best-known police raids on was at the Yorkshire River Authority.

The strike, which began on 18th November, has since spread to other areas, including London and the East Midlands.

Police have been using various methods to try to break the strike, including raids on picket lines and arrests of picketers.

The Yorkshire River Authority has been particularly active in attempting to break the strike, and has been involved in several raids on picket lines.

Some police raids have been violent, with police using batons and pepper spray to try to break up picket lines.

The strike has been supported by workers and trade unions across the country, and has been met with strong resistance from the police.

The strike has continued into the New Year, with no sign of a resolution in sight.