**Socialist Worker**

**WEEKLY PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS**

**EXCLUSIVE:** Unions agree to jettison fight for equal pay

**TUC SERIOUS WITH TO THE COMMONS**

**BIG BUSINESS** and the Tory government is now out to sabotage the Women's Equal Pay Act of 1970. And Tory employment minister Maurice Macmillan has made a secret decision NOT to use his powers to compel employers to introduce the Act's target of 90 per cent of male earnings for women by 1974.

To have any effect, Macmillan would have to make the order almost immediately. His decision not to wreck any possibility of full equal pay for women workers by the 1973 deadline.

In public the Tories continue to pretend that they are sticking to their time-worn promises and pledges on the subject.

In private they are dumping them with the same speed as their Labour predecessors abandoned their pledge to build half a million houses a year by 1970.

In a statement to the House of Commons on 13 August, Macmillan said he would shortly be taking steps to enforce employers' obligations under the equal pay legislation. The statement was eyewash.

A report prepared by his Manpower Economics Department and published on the same day as he made his speech spells out in bitter detail that the employers are making little if no voluntary move towards equal pay.

The reason for the Tory decision is simple. Justice is inflationary. And so at a time of massive profiteering, it is not just the dockers and the builders who are to be cut.

Millions of working class women are to be left behind in 1973. He has made this private promise to the employers of their obligations!

Early in the meeting CBI representative, undaunted and again that if the women's inflationary, then capitalisation could not afford justice. CBI director general Sir Christopher Adamson said: 'The CBI can accept that no make work should be paid less than a man could. 'But not women. Inflacionary difficulties are being taxed in the implementation of the Equal Pay Act.'

What goes on behind the sealed doors of 'reefer talks' reveals not a good deal of the suppliers and dealers and those who talk with in the working class community. It is the performance of the TUC leaders that is really resounding. When have we seen such violence against our own employers and professional and public officials?

At the 1 August NEDC meeting the TUC representatives stated that they did not expect the CBI to agree to a basic wage proposal to be implemented. It was to be a guideline for negotiations.

This means that the TUC too has abandoned equal pay, the most elementary justice for women, and instead for millions of other under-exploited, low-paid workers.

The TUC bosses have made it clear that their wage making reversal of the Trades Unions Congress's pre-condition for dealing with the Tories. In direct contradiction with Trades Union Congress resolutions, the TUC leadership hope to influence how the Act is received.

**NO PROTEST**

But the most scandalous aspect of the move is that the leaders of the TUC have given the nod and the word about government and big business intentions.

Not a majority of protest was raised. Not one jot of information has been put to the hands of the trade union membership.

The TUC leaders prefer to be public to protection. They too continue to send out letters reminding the government and the employers of their obligations. The TUC leadership knows how to be abandoned.

The reason for the trade unionism's behaviour is also simple. At a time when this corrupt and shaking government could be brought down, when millions of workers show their readiness to struggle, the TUC prefers 'reefer talks' with Heath and his big business pals in the Confederation of British Industry.

At the 1 August private meeting of the National Economic Development Council (the umbrella under which the TUC bosses talk) with the employers, trade unionists and Labour MP's - Maurice Macmillan said the following to the TUC representatives: Vic Finlay, Jack Jones, Hugh Scouler, George Smith, Sid Sidwell and Lord Cooper.

'Forces immense inflationary problems. I was in the presence of the discretionary powers under the Equal Pay Act and imposed compulsory, that it is 40 per cent of male earnings for female workers by the end of 1973. He made this private statement on the self same day. He told the House of Commons he was taking steps to diminish the employers of their obligations.'

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**NO ATTEMPT**

The slight interruption in chummy talks with Heath, occasioned by the replacement of five line rate and file tickets is thanks fully over to this but the TUC leaders are concerned. Having made and attempt to encourage the movement of solidarity with the dockers into a fight to smash the Act and the Tory government, the TUC leadership will be back for another session with Heath and Co.

Once again they will negotiate with Heath and the Tories and the big businessmen who decide the government's policies. These policies are of course meaningless — to find one way or another to make the poor pay the cost of the system's problems.

The nasty secret diplomacy of the TUC proves once again that a heavy burden falls on the rank and file of the union movement to lead the struggle against the Tories and the bosses.

**Docks: Round 2**

by Bob Light TGWU

JONES-ALDINGTON Mark Two has been hailed as the final solution in the docks. But it turns out to be a gift horse with fatal flaws.

Jack Jones produced two new cards from under his sleeve. The first was an inquiry by the National Port Council to discover whether bringing the small non-registered ports 'under the control of the larger ports' would be in the national interest. If these ports can show that the rates demanded by registered dockers would increase their port charges, then presumably that would not be in the national interest.

There is only one solution: bring all ports into the Dock Labour Scheme. There have been nine inquiries into the docks since the war and there is no guarantee that this one will offer anything more than the previous ones.

Jenkins-Jones also offers a scheme to improve a positive levy on containers that have been stuffed or stripped in a group depot employing non-registered dockers. But where will this be collected?

**INCENTIVE**

And what if the employers decide to by-pass the Dock Labour Scheme altogether and go through a non-registered port? In other words the levy could become a non-thing but not incentive to the employees to avoid the registered docks altogether.

Jenkins-Jones' scheme is expected promises. Jones of Jones-Aldington is the same man who was expected just 20 days before the strike.

Jones' aim throughout the strike was not to win it but to beat it. Yet with the confidence of Britain's dockers so much more could have been achieved. To satisfy the Port Shop Stewards' Four Points would take little more than a recon-deduction of dockers.

Jones didn't even try. His first public statement on the strike was to call it off. Throughout the 20 days there was no opposition party with the employers.

This time Jenkins came out top.

The National Shop Stewards' call was not-manifested and fell apart. The attitude of the men is the spirit level of any struggle and this time the men proved themselves unworthy of their shop stewards.

Round One went to Jones and Aldington. But Round Two has begun.

The shop stewards will not relent. They cannot — they are fighting for the life blood of their industry.
World News

Come Back Juanito, Hoodwink Left

by Vic Richards

For the past few months the Argentinean military dictator General Lanusse has been using every tool in the box to fire Force exponent Juan Peron to return to Buenos Aires. Lanusse has threatened to bar Peron from standing for President in the March 1973 elections unless he returns before 25 August. Lanusse has made clear that military leaders are pledged not to contest the election.

The army is looking for a way to step down from open conflict without causing too many problems to rally support as soon as possible. Since the coup in 1966, they have been unprepared to do so, but now they are desperate to begin the back-up of the labour movement.

This failure means that the main problems have not been solved. The Argentine has fallen. The economy is in a mess, with rapid inflation, hyperinflation, and black market exchange rates and foreign debts are getting worse.

Rapid

The success of the army in staving off the labour movement in Brazil means that now the army is more likely to go ahead in preference to Argentina. The lack of success has resulted in demoralisation among the officers. This has left the government of General Lansusse’s two predecessors, General Ongania and Breziner, in rapid succession by factions within the army.

The elections in March are being used to turn the limelight away from the vested interests within the party itself. Peron is almost certain to win, and this indicates a complete change in the attitude of the armed forces. They have decided now to do that, his political enemies withdrawn, and his supporters back in power. Peron is now a contender to become the leader of the armed forces in the nation.

Unfortunately for Lansusse, the announcement of the elections has triggered off a dangerous political ferment. Under pressure from that rank and file, the Peronists, leaders of the CGT (the Argentinean TUC) are making militant noises.

The army announced by freezing all union funds, which has brought charges from the CGT leaders of violent ‘revolution’, if the armed forces do not ‘respect the people’s will’. The workers take their leaders at face value, the consequences could be very serious. Time is running short and hence the haste to get Peron back to power.

Peron is not prepared to be the army’s stooge. Any suggestion of betrayal, and Argentinean workers, army, and union leaders have refused to take its seal on the party executive until this is accepted.

Peron has said he will return, but not by the army’s deadline, with the result that Lanusse’s failure may lead to his replacement.

But Lanusse himself is the army’s strong man. Another internal coup can only weaken and divide.

The army’s present strategy has reached the end of the road. The choice may soon be between greater repression against the labour movement, or a popular revolt.

Unjustified attack

The most important job which the labor movement must do during the days of the dockers’ imprisonment was not simply to organise workers to carry out the political nature and implications of this mass action.

The ‘workers’ propaganda on radio and television thrust forward their political line. ‘In a democracy no law must prevail. Even the most militant trade unions found this difficult to deal with, as the interview with the jailed dockers showed.

They said: ‘Weve got arguments with the police. In contrast to the current NIB, Socialist Workers in December 1972 fell to the workers with a clear understanding of the law, all laws and all courts, as instruments of repression.’

Socialist political leadership means opposing bourgeois ideology for the most militant sections of the working class—just not advertising their militancy or urging them to go one better. And in an old text of the ruling class and upstage the political issues in a trade union strike without a strike, it makes workers lose their jobs and wageearners.

The battle is over, but the workers are still fighting. The struggle is still necessary. And it is clear for Socialists and workers’ parties to carry on the struggle. This was the battle for the struggle for the workers’ rights.

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Japanese rail battle

Japanese workers have been engaged in a major struggle against the institution of Japanese National Railways. In a bold move to support workers’ rights, the Japanese railway workers have been fighting for their basic rights.

The Japanese railway workers have been fighting for their basic rights, demanding better working conditions and a fair share of the profits. The workers have been striking and demonstrating in their struggle for a better life.

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EVER WONDERED why the newspapers so often ignore important political stories, such as the current 'Angry Brigade' trial?

The trouble is that they are not spicy enough. A recent UK Press Gazette, the Fleet Street trade paper, carries an interview with Press Association court reporter John Morecroft, whose main claim to fame is that he broke the 'Lady and the Butler's story, carried extensively in the national press.

He explained how it happened: 'I had been listening to the 'Angry Brigade' case in Court 1. But as it was not yielding any copy I decided to go on circuit.

'Not yielding any copy incidentally does not mean that the case has come to a halt. Simply that there was nothing that Mr Morecroft felt worth reporting.

'He ambled into another court where a seemingly inescapable fraud case was just starting. After the first speech Mr Morecroft knew he was on to a good thing. And from then on he told the world of the enormous over-time activities the Butler went through for Lady Peak.

'Meanwhile, the angry Brigade case continued, unreported by the country's largest news agency. This does not appear to worry Mr Morecroft who reflects on all the 'good copy' the other paper produced.

What more could a reporter desire for a story? he asks. And what more could the system desire from a reporter?

Bristol fashion

INTIMIDATION—is that the new in-word for politicians and party and newspaper luminaries when describing workers fighting to defend their jobs and improve their wages. Even tougher language is being used down in Bristol in the building workers battle.

TELL THEM HOW INDEPENDENT
YOU ARE!!

JONES and Blend

 Trevor Stinch (1) of the local Building Employers' Federation described the strikers Frying Pan as a "viving gang of strong armed thugs" who are 'terrorising' workers into joining the strike. Such terror was in evidence when 20 of the 'thugs' many armed with that dreadful torture weapon Socialist Weaponist Jones went to picket Dunston's construction site at Avonmouth. While minutes these vicious men were belting out a 100 kg truck driven at them by 30 mph by Dunston himself. Undeterrently, a police inspector threatened to arrest the pickets for 'obstruction'. It's a bit much when a decent, law abiding Tory can't attempt to knock down strikers.

SMAV 11 De in the Leicester Mercury Wished third chop to share country cottage, must be Tory and educated. The Chase may have a long, hard search on their hands.

Shining Light

STRANGE are the ways of reformed revolutionaries, Sidney Bigwell, Labour MP for Southall, sent a message of support to a local rally against 'non-political' feel by that unpleasant 'burn-the-books' outfit, The Festival of Light, run by Mary Whitehouse and Lord Porneford.

Rèrcher Bigwell has also turned his attention to the question of the Uganda Asians. The Middlesex County Times cheerfully headlined his remarks "Southall can take no more migrants-", and reported that while Bigwell did not mind the gradual admission of Ugandan Asians into Britain who hold British passports, he was concerned at the possible effects of increasing numbers coming into such areas as Southall. He considers Southall cannot take more immigrants and expressed this view to the immigration minister Mr David Lane."

Bigwell said the government had a special responsibility not to allow the Ugandans coming to this country to go "willily-willy" to various areas. It’s not good enough for them to land up with their families in one room in places like Southall.

In other words, let them end up in one room somewhere else. Mr Budgell's own words flash at the boundaries of his constituency. Perhaps the next step should turn its attention to the pollution of his principles.

POSTSCRIPT to the docks strike back those, left that never was, has received one of the highest accolades in the land. The Financial Times named him as Man of the Week. The previous week it was John Partridge, wild bird of the Confederation of British Industry. We hasten to add that there is a major difference between the two men: Partridge would like the dock industry run down as quickly as possible, Jones as smoothly as possible.

Cracked China

ALWAYS anxious to play up divisions in the workers' ranks, the Tory and newspaper went to town on the worker-owners by Cornish China Clay bosses and workers during the docks strike. The strike, they said, was unnecessary and in the interests of the Wharf. Then we have Peter Walker's old pal Jim Slater who made £11 million profit in six weeks buying and selling of the shares. And there are the directors of Cornish China who Breit who increased his shareholding from 126,676 to 174,676 in 1971. At current prices (£4.25 per share) this amounts to a pretty little nest of cash around £200,000 pounds of a million pounds.

These are the people who benefit from the corruption. They are the people who benefit from putting dockers on the scrap heap. And what is the result? The community expects to make a clear £150 million profit from the re-development of the Hays Wharf London site, which is itself one of the company's many interests.

The names of some of the people involved in this re-development make interesting reading. According to the Guardian, those behind "the Hesp, the Blairs, the Grandes, the Duke of Westminster" and Sir Max Rayne whose wife Lady Jane Vane Tempest-Swett, is sister of the Marquis of Londesborough, and her father was the larger-than-life "Tommy Poet". Well, Peter Walker's old pal Jim Slater also made £11 million profit in six weeks buying and selling of the shares. And there are the directors of Cornish China who.

Conference rigged

The second lesson is the role of the press, radio and television. They have proved yet again that they can be relied upon to back the bosses through thick and thin, to lie, to distort and above all to suppress the acts of the ruling class. For example, how many TV viewers and readers of the 'popular press' know that the MINORITY of delegates at the Dockers Delegate Conference who voted AGAINST accepting Jones-Aldington actually represented 30,000 out of the 41,000 registered dockers? How many know that the conference was rigged by the gross under-representation of the big ports?

The third and most important lesson is the role of the trade union leadership, in this case the so-called 'left wing' leadership headed by Jack Jones. Here we had an official strike. What sort of encouragement and leadership did Jack Jones give? How many meetings were held by the TGWU leadership to strengthen the determination of the strikers? How many leaflets and posters were issued by the TGWU in support of the TGWU case?

None. none and none. Instead the TGWU leadership was desperately concerned about getting a settlement at any price it could hope to sell to the Dockers Conference.

Let us be quite clear about it. The four point programme of the National Shop Stewards was a modest and realistic one which could and should have been won. It would have been the first step to the victory of the trade union movement. It would have been an important step in the struggle against the right wing leadership, as well as by the mass media, voted to return to work. Unfortunately the price of that decision, understandable as it may be under the circumstances, will have to be paid in lost jobs. It should be absolutely clear now that one of the things that can happen is that whatever can be placed on 'left leaders' and that the development of an independent network of rank and file organisations that can and will fight for the right wing leadership is still possible.
The next threat to your pay

CLOSE ON the government's defeat over the jailing of the five dockers, following their drubbing at the hands of the miners and railwaymen, the Tories are once again bringing out the ruling-class armory the dusty old weapon of an 'incomes policy'.

They have failed to cripple the potentially Sunnison-like strength of the rank and file through frontal assault. Now they are returning to the subtler tactic of using the Deltah of the union leaders to quietly emasculate the giant.

And as the Financial Times made clear on 31 July, while only a voluntary wage policy was discussed at the recent meeting between the government, the CBI and the TUC, the threat of statutory wage restraint lay near to the surface.

In the early days of the last Labour government, the Labour leaders tried to sell their incomes policy to the unions as a lever for lowering the standards of the lower paid. Just as Labour then disavowed the reality of their wage restraint policy in terms of assisting the lower paid, so today the Tories are alluding to the plight of the worst off sections.

In order to hammer home the fact that under capitalism any 'incomes policy' inevitably means restraint on wages alone, it is instructive to see what actually happened to the lower paid under Labour.

A report on the lower paid published by the Prices and Incomes Board in 1971 stated: 'Over the first year period (of the prices and incomes policy) the relative position (of the lower paid industries and services) did not change significantly.'

The statutory minimums laid down by Wages Councils (covering 40 of the 77 lowest-ranking industries) rose by 1½ per cent per annum slower than average over the five years... Agricultural workers are on the whole a little worse off relatively than they were 10 years ago.

Local authority manual workers appear to have succeeded in improving their earnings somewhat in relation to those of other workers. In engineering low-paid workers have, if anything, lost ground relatively. Efforts to improve the relative position of low-paid workers in retail drapery have not succeeded.

Fury

In clothing, low-paid workers in the ready-made sector have moved up relatively, but those in the dress-making sector have fallen back. There is good reason however to think that low-paid workers in clothing and in the industrial civil service have gained relatively as a result of recent agreements.

In other words, those sections of the lower paid, such as the domestics, miners and textile workers, who from 1969 onwards were prepared to use their muscles, succeeded in improving their wage levels compared to better-off workers. The fact that these improvements were due solely to the militant efforts of those workers themselves, and owed nothing to the Labour government, is borne out by additional figures.

Between April 1965 and April 1970, annual increases for lower-paid workers averaged 4.9 per cent. But, between October 1969 and October 1970, the average monthly earnings of the lower paid increased by 13.9 per cent.

When the wave went on strike in 1966, the Labour leaders responded to the claims of this traditionally low-paid section with all the red-baiting fury they could muster. No further proof was required that Labour's 'incomes policy' had nothing to do with helping the level of the lower paid but simply with restraining all wages, high or low.

And, if Labour had had any real intention of actually matching with grips to the problem of low pay, or would have treated wage differentials to have narrowed as a result of government economic policy.

The PIB report makes quite clear that nothing of the sort occurred. On the contrary, 'pay differentials have a great capacity to reassert themselves. There appears to have been a remarkable stability in the overall distribution of earnings'.

The fact of widening differentials throughout most of the 1960s was also emphasised by the Child Poverty Action Group in their pamphlet Poverty and the Labour Government. They stated that in September 1966, the 50 per cent of manual workers with the lowest earnings averaged 71 per cent of average earnings, but that in September 1968 they averaged only 57 per cent of average earnings.

There can be little doubt that Labour's 'incomes policy' hit the lower-paid harder than it did the better-off sections. During the four years from October 1966 to October 1968, average hourly earnings (excluding overtime) rose by 27 per cent as against 33 per cent in the four preceding years.

Even Aubrey Jones, former chairman of the PIB, estimated that the net effect of the incomes policy was to have reduced average annual increases by just under 1 per cent.

The Terrible Twins: both Wilson and Heath say 'wages policy' will help the lower paid

In other words, no paper law could prevent well-organised workers from pushing up their wages in an effort to keep up with rising prices. But it could, and did, affect the position of those workers with weak or no union organisation.

The principal overall effect of the 'incomes policy' was an indirect, ideological one - preparing the ground for the spread of productivity deals.

Today the Tories, like their predecessors, are trying to get workers into believing that if only the higher paid would discontinue their wage demands, the increases they give up will go to benefit the low paid.

Persuade

But no carworker or dockers should be under any illusion that any increase he may win through strong union organisation could possibly be diverted under the capitalist system into the pockets of firm workers, catering workers or nurses.

If a carworker or docker gave up an increase, that money would go towards financing the pockets of Henry Ford or Bill Tonge. On the contrary, wage struggle is part of the better paid man's struggle to keep them in their pockets and ensuring the union leaders fight in the interests of their own class, not for the lower paid.

When Goodwin sells Labour's 'incomes policy' to the union leaders at pains to point out that such a policy 'is not against wages', it is not to save wages, but to stop workers from persuading the leaders to do anything to get wages.

First, there is the slogan that wage restraint is a brake on the productivity deals, that if only the higher paid agreed to give up some of their gains, it could be the means of preventing the productivity deals from spreading. This tread is of genuine profit to both the employers and the workers - profit to the former because they would have no wage increase to pass on, and profit to the latter because they would have no wage claim to enforce.

Secondly, the means of making this a reality is by persuading the unions to undercut their own wage claims as a means of underpinning the employers' profits. As with productivity deals, if only the claims of the higher paid are met, the lower paid will be satisfied with less. Profit for the employers and pleasures for the workers.
Britain’s imperial legacy in Uganda crisis

In THE moralistic weeping over the fate of 40,000 Ugandan Asians, the press in Britain has forgotten the fate of eight million Ugandan workers and peasants.

Like many African countries, Uganda remains underdeveloped and exploited, in spite of gaining so-called independence in 1962 from Britain.

Ninety per cent of the population remains in rural poverty, with 250,000 wage earners who depend on processing agricultural products at diurnal wages. The country still depends on the export of coffee and cotton to sustain itself.

Even these limited products benefit only 4 per cent of the population, who own 80 per cent of the plantations, mines and factories in Uganda. The monopsony position of British banking, commerce and industry remains intact since “independence.”

As a result the economy remains stagnant, depending for its revenue on exports, which are tied to the markets in Britain and America. Since the prices of these exports are controlled by large monopsony firms, the revenue from exports remains static at £8 million a year, in spite of increased production.

With a steady rate of inflation, the income per head is £30 a year.

Sustain

This legacy of British imperial rule has another dimension. In the 19th century, the British rulers imported Asians from their oldest colony, India, to build railways and roads to sustain their rule against French and German expansionism in East Africa.

This culturally inward-looking community was encouraged to fill the role of middle-men in the British Empire. The Asians, in many ways rootless, became hard workers and filled the offices of the small civil service.

Their culture and insecurity denied them complete integration with the vast number of Africans whose “special status” within the British Empire was actually a so-called “special status” role for the British rulers.

Amin race attack is cover up for plight of Africans

Amin’s imperial dream is more unfulfilled promises

Amin and his associates had become important in Uganda after the overthrow of the Asian masses in the 1950s. After gaining “independence” it became clear that the entire social structure had changed in Uganda.

The Milton Obote government from 1962 to 1969 played the role of protecting British interests and therefore the Asians, of whom 40,000 had moved to Britain for better citizenship.

In that period the Asians dominated commerce and part of the crucial cotton industry, which began a profitable link with the textile barons of Western India.

Banned

For the masses in Uganda “independence” meant increased exploitation and poverty. The traditional rivalry between the Obote government that had started to banish the expatriates and the army for the security police and the army, was an indication of a deepening contradiction.

In December 1969 all opposition political parties were banned. Obote suddenly announced a “leftward” turn that promised 65 per cent nationalisation of the economy and the slow expansion of British Asians.

In the army, mostly British trained, a right-wing faction had begun to set in. Obote could not carry out his radical measures because of his increased isolation from the masses and the powerful British interests in the economy.

It is still astonishing that after 10 weeks of announcing the 65 per cent nationalisation of the banks, 75 per cent of all African workers were fired, and the economy began to collapse.

With a million Obote supporters, the new regime—supported by the United States and Britain—seized power.

Amin’s imperial dream is more unfulfilled promises

In February 1971 the Obote government was overthrown by the army, under General Amin, with the help of British and Israeli officers. The coup solved no problems.

The workers and peasants witnessed another round of promises and plans. The takeover was welcomed by the British government, which never failed to speak up for Lord Aldington and his class. The Anglo-American hold over the economy was restored completely.

The new regime was never secure, because of the pressure from the masses for a better deal. The ex-British Army sergeant, General Amin, began creating foreign enemies to divert attention from a desperate economic situation.

He expelled the Israelis, became an ardent supporter of the liberation movements in Southern Africa and made friends with Libya and Egypt, all in a matter of a few months.

It is in this context of a hopeless economy, strangled by Anglo-American capital, that the expulsion of the Asians must be seen. Britain’s £5 million aid program is tied to British goods, so it is not likely to be withdrawn in spite of such talk.

Geoffrey Rippon’s visit to Uganda was primarily to assure Ammin of this and to make certain that the Asians come to Britain with a sizable chunk of their wealth.

For the rulers of Uganda it is a desperate measure to divert attention once again from the fundamental problem of neo-colonialism in the country.

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The new regime was never secure, because of the pressure from the masses for a better deal. The ex-British Army sergeant, General Amin, began creating foreign enemies to divert attention from a desperate economic situation.

He expelled the Israelis, became an ardent supporter of the liberation movements in Southern Africa and made friends with Libya and Egypt, all in a matter of a few months.

It is in this context of a hopeless economy, strangled by Anglo-American capital, that the expulsion of the Asians must be seen. Britain’s £5 million aid program is tied to British goods, so it is not likely to be withdrawn in spite of such talk.

Geoffrey Rippon’s visit to Uganda was primarily to assure Ammin of this and to make certain that the Asians come to Britain with a sizable chunk of their wealth.

For the rulers of Uganda it is a desperate measure to divert attention once again from the fundamental problem of neo-colonialism in the country.

ROGER TEMBO
Bootle, a dockland outpost of sprawling Merseyside, has been the centre of a small industrial dispute for the last 18 months. Only 17 men are involved—yet their struggle has national importance.

They have challenged the agreements of an entire industry, won nationwide support from thousands of rank and file electricians and been the victims of united opposition from both unions and employers.

The dispute has led to a court injunction, a disciplinary trial, several mass demonstrations and no lack of working-class tenacity.

Some of the battle is the con-
struction site for the new Inland Revenue Office. It was sparked off by the use of a notorious agreement between the right-wing leaders of the Electrical Trades Union and electrical contracting employers.

The agreement, introduced in 1968, set up a Joint Industry Board for the bulk of electrical contracting. The JIB represents national rates of pay, outlines local agreements and undertakes strikes and is backed up with powers that have more in common with King Charles ruthless and dictatorial Star Chamber than anything known in modern British industry.

Such a profit-oriented outfit was naturally built with enthusiasm by the last Labour government and it’s treated with equal favour by the Tories today.

The JIB strike started in February 1971 when the men walked out after months of useless talks. They were demanding the same rates of pay or other trades on the site. But the two electrical firms involved refused to give in, even though the other workers were putting as much as a week’s work more than the electricians.

Smuggle

And in the months that followed both firms did their utmost to smash the strike. One firm—J Scott and Co.—has been exposed recently for price-fixing under government contracts.

The firms sacked the men and made many attempts to smuggle non-union labour onto the site. On one occasion they brought unemployed electricians from Newcastle and Glasgow, met them at the station, rushed them to a plush hotel, collected them the next day and tried to force their way on to the site.

The men obstructed by electricians blocked the entrance and expelled the scabs. The bosses finally withdrew their attempts at strike breaking defeated.

As a last resort, the employers opened war with the electricians. The ETU declared a national emergency. But the men and other workers were free to steal the JIB’s jobs.

In the first week 125 electricians instructed their members not to assist the sacked men.

When scabs were finally introduced, the contractor on the site—the mighty Massey-Ferguson—found the struggle by getting a court injunction barring them from the site.

For five weeks and with the electricians ruthlessly sacking other workers, the 17 remainders were left in place as the more negotiations would take place. The process was completed and finally just 35 days the men were sacked and this time had the full backing of the Joint Industry Board ranged against them.

Threat

The Bootle dispute involves only a handful of the contracting industry’s 61,000 workers. Both the ETU leaders and their housewives associate view the issue as one of principle. Their demand headed local negotiations and weakened the hold of shop stewards.

Seventeen men demand the most elementary form of equal pay, regarded as a terrible threat to those same agreements. That is why rank and file bosses have dedicated themselves to destroy the workers.

But once again the solidarity of the workers quickly proved too strong. After a week the workers picked up the field in Newcastle.

Despite the opposition of the JIB, a leading employer defied the board and agreed to pay an extra 15p an hour over and above the standard national rate.

The consequence were immediate in the Bootle site. Using the Acorn victory the electricians again insisted on their demand for parity with others. It was rejected they resisted and reoccupied their picks.

That was on 25 October last year and today they are still on strike. In the last 18 months they have worked for just nine weeks and throughout this marathon dispute they have never received a single picket in strike pay.

The determination of the JIB strikers has frustrated both union and employers. In February they recovered—for the first time in years—the last of the JIB’s rates. It was agreed they would stick to the picket line when it was time to vote for a successor.

Dropped

Bootle JIB is now a 16 months behind in its scheduled payments.

The 17 men have faced tremendous odds against cheap, unity and honour. That means nothing to the highly-paid bosses at the EBU and the JIB. They have succeeded in their aim of dragging a strike which began before a summer time to its end.

John Byrne and his brothers are determined to fight on. They are in desperate need of solidarity and the electricians are the only men that are winning from the JIB battle ever since.

John Byrne, the JIB strikers and many others can help expose and defeat the brutal feudal authority of one man and one class and allow the workers to gain back the right to strike and to dominate the leadership of their industry.

Donations and messages to: John Byrne, 44 Sydney Street, Bootle 20, Lancs.

Labour loyalists combat mines militants

by Roger Rosewell

SW Industrial Correspondent

The Right-Wing officials of the National Union of Mineworkers in the Yorkshire area have set up an organisation called the Labour Miners’ Association with the declared intention of isolating militants in the country’s 71 pits.

The organisation proclaims itself to be ‘democratic’ was set up a secret meeting convened by NUM North Yorkshire Agent Jack Smart. Several prominent Labour Party members in the Yorkshire pits were deliberately not invited because Smart and his colleagues were that they were ‘too militant’.

The aim of the organisation is to demand pledges from Yorkshire miners that they are all ‘loyal’ members of the Labour Party and the NUM. The idea of loyalty is that any miner who does so

Our Norman

1. "Here you are, was old Alf’s machine before his accident..."
2. "Wouldn’t you join the union and the work study go on him?"

The Essential Left

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Lenin: The State and Revolution
Engineers get miserably deal

The PACT of this year's national engineering pay claim has been decided. The union leadership's determination to avoid a national confrontation and the employers' equal determination to resist any significant action has led to a miserable settlement.

The settlement is confined to minimum rates of pay and holidays. Coming as it did, a few months after the last deal ran out, the increases will be given in many parts of the industry, and by then in many branches of the industry, one year. Also it will be a fait accompli by the time the agreement ends.

The full claim was submitted only after 25 August 1973. This year's settlement will last not more than one year as the unions' claim— but at least 20 months and, by the time the next negotiations have finished, probably at least two years.

In those two years there will be no progress towards a shorter working week at this time of high unemployment. There will be no substantial all-round increase for engineering workers to protect them from the soaring rise in the cost of living. There will be only minimal progress towards equal pay for women in the industry.

All the employers conceded was one extra holiday this year, another in 1975 plus the following increases in the minimum rates:

- A skilled man's basic goes up from £19 to £22 now and £25 in one year. A labourer goes from £13 to £17.50 now, and £20 in one year, and a man from £13 to £15.50 now and £18 in one year. With a large number of engineers working above the basic, the deal will affect slightly their overtime and other premium payments.

The employers estimate the cost of the 5 per cent in the industry's wages bill over the next two years. At a time when employers are vigorously resisting wage claims at plant level, the role of national bargaining becomes much more important. Scallon and co stand condemned for their failure to lead their membership in a real fight for higher wages and shorter hours.

by Dave Lyndon

PYLMMOUTH STRIKERS FIGHT ON

PLYMOUTH—-An ultimatum to the management of Samuel Osbourn Steels, Sheffield, by the strike committee at Fine Tubes, will do more to bring the Plymouth management to heel than four months of official activity from the shop stewards.

"Until the beginning of this month," says Jimmy Greener, the strike committee chairman, we've been induced to give things to the officials, and see what they would do for us. Now we've taken things into our own hands and they've started to move again.

Greener and Frank Clark, the strike committee chairman, have just returned from a fortnight's tour of the Midlands and Northern cities in yet another attempt to close the net around Fine Tubes. Their effort is continued production at the factory is the supply of stainless steel tubes.

Bill by bill, in countless delegations, the Fibes representatives have had no lack of supplies of steel. In the past few years, the Steel and Iron Works have been supplied by a number of their suppliers. A recent letter from the Steel and Iron Works, to the Department of Industrial Relations Court, which has supplied the company for over two years, has been returned to them with the request to keep his members from the clutches of other unions. Greener told the men: "Your dispute can be won tomorrow."

How, then? Simple, replied Greener. "You must stand your strike!"

Clark and Greener are not going to call it a day. On 15 August they will TOWU shop stewards from Osbourn in a Sheffield pub and urge them to approach their management for co-operating on blocking Fine Tubes.

"We told them," says Clark, "that it will not be done! As far as we can see, there will be a dozen pickets from Plymouth and stand outside the gate at Osbourn until Fine Tubes is blocked."

The Osbourn stewards promised speedy action. This declared action has given a new heart to the Fine Tube strikers, who are now seen victory in their 116-week-old dispute as an immediate possibility. The blocking of Osbourn, taken together with similar promises of action at Glen Sankar, Ritzon, will mean real trouble for Fine Tubes.

by Frank Paul

TCOWU and AEWU when these unions were "picking" our members. After going on for some time about his "tooth and nail" fight to keep his members from the clutches of other unions, Greener told the men: "Your dispute can be won tomorrow."

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Engineers locked out for 11 weeks

Engineers locked out for 11 weeks

by Dave Peers

JARROW—One of the best struggles of the engineering pay campaign is being fought at Jarrow, where 22 Jarrow Engineers Union members have been locked out for 11 weeks.

Wages in the factory are £4 to £5 below the district average and the men are determined to stay out until this gap has been closed. The company is part of the giant Land Industries Group which made million profits last year—more than £700,000 per week.

Some men are still being produced by supervisors, superintendents and General and Mechanical Workers' members, who were instructed to accept management's offer by their union officials. Chief customers for these products are the Spitfire Co and Black and Secret and Smart and Brown.

Members support donations to: Bro Ake Milne, 20 Royal Garden, Doncaster.

I would like more information about the International Socialists

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More towns join pay and hours fight

**SITES STRIKE SPREADS AND ROCKS BOSSES**

**STEAK WORKER**

by Mike Miller

BELFAST—Since the British Army's invasion of the Republic in January, there has been a notable increase in the number of strikes. In this context, the situation in Northern Ireland has been tense. The British government's policies have drawn widespread opposition, particularly among workers and union members. The combination of economic pressures and political tensions has led to a significant rise in the number of strikes, affecting various sectors.

CAMBRIDGE—2000 workers are reporting a walk-out in Cambridge, joining a national strike. The workers are demanding a 25% increase in wages, as well as better working conditions. This is one of the largest strikes in recent years, with implications for the local economy and the broader industrial landscape.

The strike comes as a response to the government's austerity measures, which have led to significant cuts in public services and increased taxes. Workers across the country have been放在美国联邦储备委员会为了保持对经济的稳定，联邦储备委员会决定提高利率。这一决定引发了全球金融市场的一系列反应，包括美元汇率的上升和股票市场的波动。美国经济面临着通货膨胀加剧的挑战，而全球金融市场则在这一背景下展开了新一轮的调整和重组。更多的国家也开始效仿美国的做法，通过收紧货币政策来应对经济压力。