STOP TALKING AND START FIGHTING

—that's the demand every trade unionist should raise after the latest round of talks between the TUC, the Tory government and the bosses' organisation, the CBI. After Monday's "triumph" discussions there is a strong possibility that the union leaders will agree to a policy of severe pay restraint in line with policy handed out by miners, dockers and railmen. And the union chiefs are just as brightened by the rising militancy of the workers as Heath and co. Instead of using the massive strength of the rank and file to improve wages, cut unemployment and smash the Industrial Relations Act, they are willing to reach a shaky agreement to hold down pay in return for a confrontation with the Tories and the bosses.

By ROGER ROSEWELL

The extent of the TUC's surrender to the Tories can be seen from the fact that only two members of the General Council voted to break off the talks. They were opposed by the right-wing of Lord Cooper and Sir Sidney Greense and the leading left's Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon, who attended Monday's talks. Despite all their militant speeches, Jones and Scanlon are now partners to a new government that foists the September TUC policy of no pay restraint.

Incomes policy is a fraud. It will not help the low paid, a confidential report prepared for the government by the National Economic Development Council says that a £20 minimum wage would be inflationary.

Incomes policy attacks wages alone. Prices are still out of check and even if dividends were frozen the rich would see the gory later in the form of capital gains.

The AIM

Company profits rose by 18 per cent last year. The top 50 firms made average profits of £161 million. Any attempts to hold down wages will only increase house prices and that is the aim of the Tory scheme which the TUC leaders are willing to accept.

Via Feather, TUC general secretary, says that the main obstacle to reaching a deal with Heath is how to hold prices in check. The answer, as he should know, is that they can't.

Of the 25,000 members the government's incomes policy, Joan Mitchell, a former member of the Prime and Income Board, admitted that it was impossible to record, and that it is impossible to obey it. There are several million changes a year. And she adds that prices should not be restrained because high profits are the main incentive to invest.

Prices continue to rocket. The Tories are attempting to force the Sli to £1 increases on five million council tenants. The new Vale Addition Tax due to start in February will take a further bite from workers' pay packets.

The TUC's miserable retreat must be stopped. Firmer action from the rank and file.

1. Full support, including industrial solidarity action, for all workers and unions that defy any wage-freeze deal and fight for substantial increases.

2. Organise for a massive campaign for a 25 per cent wage, equal pay for women and a 16 per cent pension.

THE AIM

SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER

DIGESTIVE CIVIC HALL

11am-5pm

Please send credentials to:

Address:

Send to: Fine Tubes Strike Committee
Chairwoman, Elvet Street

Plymouth, Devon. Tel: 0175 63459-65587.
Israel is getting richer

A COMRADE recently returned from Israel. We cannot reproduce his account in full, for example. Now a lot of this has been eradicated from the Jewish community by assimilation and by materialism.

Hence it is seen most strikingly in the attitude to military service. Of course some will argue that the average man has no choice but to serve, but they were thoroughly ashamed of doing so. How can you be ashamed of doing a noble work?濑中的 apparently boast of failing the psychological tests.

At one time the young people on the kibbutzim all wanted to be officers, paratroopers, or fighter pilots—which means longer service, more responsibility and money. Now they are not at all interested in becoming front-line warriors, with a few small privileges and none of the responsibility.

This would not be surprising in other countries, but this is something abnormal. Among workers, especially oriental Jews, there is a very zestful atmosphere and great enthusiasm. There is a public square in Tel Aviv called Dizengoff Circ where you can see a public meeting every night, with dozens of discussion groups and political meetings.

In general the attitude is very healthy and normal.

I heard one man saying: "I tell you, in five years you will find black domestic servants in the African ghettos, part of an enormous plan which in the next five years will prevent at least 60,000 African workers making their homes in the area where we live." This would surprise you.

Housewives complain that it was unfair to make their working-class servants travel every day to the male or female hostels. This was not of humanitarian feeling—they were worried about how to get up in time and without having notices to be, bed, bath run, their clothes laid out, and their breakfast cooked.

The servants have to put up with temperature and noise of tossing off their own room (usually a cheap one. They do not like it. Being in the hostels the prisoners like real talk on them.

For the hosts the permission is strict but not unreasonable.

In the African ghettos there is a very distinctive sort of society, it's much more

A ROW has blown up over the South African government's decision to remove thousands of black domestic servants from the vicinity of the homes of their employers in the suburbs of Johannesburg.

The hosts are sent to specially built hostels in the African ghettos, part of an enormous plan which in the next five years will prevent at least 60,000 African workers making their homes in the area where we live. This would be quite unusual.

White housewives complained that it was unfair to make their working-class servants travel every day to the male or female hostels. This was not of humanitarian feeling—they were worried about how to get up in time and without having notices to be bed, bath run, their clothes laid out, and their breakfast cooked.

The servants have to put up with temperature and noise of tossing off their own room (usually a cheap one. They do not like it. Being in the hostels the prisoners like real talk on them.

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In the African ghettos there is a very distinctive sort of society, it's much more

The Israeli general election is now set for 2 December. After 23 years of conservative government, a Labour victory seems likely. The ruling Liberal and Conservative parties have suffered a series of by-election reversals and the role played by former Israelis is growing as the country's economic and strategic interests in the European Community. More disturbing is the rise of the Christian faction known as the "Egalitarian Labour Party" for its party, to take its power in a significant coalition with the Labour party, and extract a political dividend from the Labour party's policies. The party's policies are designed to promote the interests of the Jewish community, particularly in the occupied territories. The party's policies are designed to promote the interests of the Jewish community, particularly in the occupied territories.
A taxing problem

THERE is a story that in the early 1930s the Russian government sent a representative to a disarmament conference sponsored by the League of Nations — yesterday's United Nations.

The conference had been in session for many months and the delegations of the various governments had professed their support for the principle of disarmament and had engaged in much weary discussion on such matters as the maximum size of guns to be allowed on cruisers and proposed limits on the range of bombing aircraft.

But Livanov, scandalised and disgusted the assembled diplomats by standing up and proposing, in mild and courteous language, that all the governments represented should forthwith pledge themselves to disarm by abolishing their armies, navies and air forces. The man was obviously a bouncer, a rank outsider, quite unfit to participate in such an important matter as a disarmament conference.

Yet perhaps Livanov's approach may be helpful in the current discussion on incomes policy. Mr Heath tells us that we will have to pare back the consumer boat, that every one of us should pull together and avoid these wasteful and destructive strikes about wages.

We suggest that this could best be achieved by paying everyone the same basic wage and abolishing all unearned income with certain agreed exceptions such as pensions, maternity benefits and so on.

No special cases

Consider how simple, easily workable and eminently fair such a system would be. There would be no room for argument about dividend restrictions. There would be no dividends.

There would be no difficulties about special cases. There would be no special cases.

Mr Heath would be relieved of the embarrassment, that we are sure he feels acutely, of having to urge wage restraint on workers earning £20 a week while his salary £226 a week. The problem of equal pay for women would be solved 'at a stroke' as somebody once said.

The only really difficult problems that have caused so much concern in previous incomes policy discussions would disappear. It would no longer be necessary to assess the relative contribution to society, and so the appropriate financial reward, for dustmen as opposed to stockbrokers, agricultural workers as opposed to company chairmen or nurses as opposed to property speculators. Lord Viscount would receive the same reward for his contribution to polo as Bernie Steer would receive for his contribution to shifting cargo.

It may be argued, and indeed we concede that there is merit in the argument, that some of the jobs that are now most highly rewarded are actually useless or even harmful to the public good. But we are practical people. Half a loaf is better than no bread and, provided that the principle of equal rewards for all is accepted, we for our part would be prepared to agree not to scrutinise too closely the positive contributions of Harold Wilson, Elizabeth Winfield or Paul Getty. After all, we do not want to increase redundancies at this time of high unemployment if we can avoid them.

Nothing to do

Naturally, our scheme is not without certain difficulties. These must be squarely faced. For example, there would be the problem of massive redundancies among our fellow trade unionists in the Inland Revenue. With the disappearance of the whole elaborate system of coding and graded deductions, differential tax on earned and unearned income, dependants allowances and 'educational trusts' for private schools there would be nothing for them to do.

Also many accountants, tax consultants, solicitors and others would find their trades going the way of the hand-loom weavers. Heath and his group of ministerial parasites would have to be made to avoid real hardship in such cases.

For our part, we believe that the old principle of 'full work or full pay' should be adopted for those suffering from a new nomenclature, but we can hardly expect to get everything at one blow. If the present tripartite talks lead to an incomes policy based on equal wages for all, we can be satisfied that real progress has been achieved towards Mr Heath's ideal of 'One Nation'.
THE DRA's sit-down shop stewards wish to thank the International Socialist for its most sincere for the assistance and coverage in Socialist Worker you have given us in our recent struggle against the management of the firm. We wish to stress that we will one day work the organisation down.

The DRA shop stewards committee wish to co-operate with all those who are working on behalf of the firm to the fellow trade unionists who supported their fight for a fair wage increase over the last 24 weeks. All three firms concerned—Babcock and Wilcox, Yarrow and the British Steel Corporation—have resumed work for a trial period of guaranteed bonus pending new negotiations.

The response to their appeal was nationwide and came from a variety of jobs—miners, shipbuilders, plane-makers, and workers in the building industry working under the Outside Steelwork and Sisam Generating Plant Erection Agreement.

It is to all these brother trade unionists that we say thanks once again for your support and generosity.

—Yours sincerely, Babcock and Wilcox workers, DRA power station construction site, Goole, Yorks.

Provos

MIKE MILLER writes in last week's paper that he does not blame the Provisional IRA, for supporting republicanism is of course this quite correct. Socialism and the Republicanism of Northern Ireland and the working class movement in the rest of Ireland by the IRA. The Provos appeared on the scene.

The Provisional IRA movement completely misses the point: the Provos are a product of this tragic situation. The IRA is an organisation that developed in the course of the struggle against British rule in Ireland.

When they came into being as a response to Protestant attacks on Catholic areas, today they are primarily a反应 to the Provisional movement. The campaign against the Protestant community as such and the Provisional movement succeeded in only further dividing the population in Ireland. The Provos brought the problem to the point of civil war.

Mullen talks of the Provos as a threat to British imperialism. By now however it must surely be obvious that the only obstacle to a united Ireland is the Provisional IRA movement and that nothing would please the British government more than to be rid of the whole problem.

There is no Machiavellian Tory plot to keep Ireland partitioned. They have no objection to a united Ireland so long as such recognition and the fact that if the Provisional IRA were to be abandoned and the army pulled out, the civil war that would inevitably follow would inconvenience British business interests more than much else the present troubles.

Mullen uses 'imperialism' in a wholly fashionable manner than we are not analysing a category and consequently completely misunderstands the entire situation. The Provisional IRA movement considers itself to be British not because it is pro-imperialist but because of the historical development of British imperialism as an integral part of the British economy.

The enemy of the Provisional IRA movement is not British imperialism but British capitalism. This is why they are not willing to go up to join the Provos. This is why they are members of the NICRA and not the NICRA. This is why the Provisional IRA movement has never been a part of any anti-imperialist organisations.

The charge still stands. Mullen has put up his support for a bigger and more militant movement, in the Provisional movement. Mullen's position on this question is utterly unanswerable. JOHN NEWSINGER

London E11.

Population

A CLEAR and consistent line in the struggle of those who concern themselves with the environment is that there are too many people. This is particularly relevant when it comes to population and fertility and to the problems of overpopulation and underpopulation.

Population is a critical issue in the battle against imperialism and the struggle for socialism. The struggle against population growth is part of the battle for a world without exploitation and oppression. It is a struggle to ensure that the rights of all human beings are respected and protected.

Peter Rankin's article on the population issue was an important contribution to the debate. He highlighted the need to consider all aspects of population control, including the social and economic factors that contribute to high birth rates. Rankin emphasized the importance of education and awareness-raising to address the issue effectively.

Rankin also discussed the role of technology in population control, arguing that while contraceptive methods are crucial, they must be complemented by broader social and economic changes. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of high birth rates.

Rankin's article was a valuable contribution to the debate on population control and the struggle for a better world.
Lincoln’s Labour renegade
MR NOGG WANTS TAVENER TOWN

THIS is a story with a happy ending. It is about the triumph of personal friendship and old school ties over political differences. William Tavener was born in Lincoln, went to Charterhouse school during the Second World War. There he met Dick Tavener, who had also been born in 1928. The two men became inseparable.

In 1944, Dick Tavener got a scholarship to Balliol. Both were interested in politics and had a strong social conscience, so they went down to the Oxford Union.

Bill became a left-wing Tory, and Dick became a right-wing Labour man, but no one could tell the difference. Bill supported Dick for Oxford, but Dick never made it. Bill became president in 1951, and then dropped out of politics, to move to the Oxford Union debating team.

The way they combined in debate, you would have expected that they would end up in different political parties.

Arriving home, both men started out at once on their political careers. Tavener went to the Bar, and Mog went to the Financial Times. Mog fought the Chester-le-Street by-election as a Tory in 1956, and again in the general election of 1959. Tavener became favourite on the Labour National Executive Committee constituency short lists for parliamentary candidates.

In March 1962, Dick was elected MP for Lincoln in a by-election. He was well known about law reform and civil liberties. He was destined for bigger things.

In 1966, Dick became a partner in the law firm of Leggatt, Leggatt and Tavener.

In 1968, Tavener left the Home Office, and, again with Jenkins, went to the Treasury, where he eventually became Financial Secretary. He was the chief assistant of the April 1970 Budget which was more than any other single fiscal measure that had ever been passed. He was rewarded with a knighthood in 1971 and 1972.

Out of office, Tavener continued along the road to the ‘enlightened capitalism’ in which he believed. In December 1970, he launched the Institute for Fiscal Studies, with a national budget of £100,000, the aim of which was ‘to promote a deeper understanding of the economic and social implications of existing taxes and different fiscal systems’.

The Institute, ‘reporting The Times’ on 17 December 1970, has powerful political, City, business and academic backing.

Tavener was also active in the European Movement and the Labour Committees for Europe, for which he wrote a pamphlet on Monetary Union in 1971.

HYSTERICAL
Meanwhile, William Rees-Mogg was doing just as well in journalism as his friend was doing in politics. In 1960, he moved from the Financial Times to the Sunday Times, where he became deputy editor. In 1967 he became editor of The Times, where he started an almost hysterical campaign in favour of British entry into the Common Market.

Unlike Mogg, Tavener had to justify his ‘moderate’ policies and his constant shrug of shoulders with big business to the Labour Party rank and file. For a short time, he became ‘grovellingly concerned’ at the heavy unemployment which his 1970 Budget had created. Twice in two years he has moved adjournment motions in the House of Commons protesting against high unemployment in Lincoln.

But it was too late. His vote for the Tories in October 1971 was the last straw. The Lincoln Labour Party declared no confidence in Tavener and his house was gone.

In times of trouble, people return to their friends, and Tavener turned to Rees-Mogg. Party differences were soon forgotten in the need to fight ‘the danger from the Left’.

Mogg sponsored a few polls, duly printed in The Times, which showed a substantial section of the electorate in favour of a ‘centre party’. He persuaded Tavener to found the Labour Party and stand as an independent, moderate and decent fellow in a by-election. After some hesitation, Tavener agreed, and all the resources of Thurston House were put at his disposal.

The following facts should have been known by the editors of Lincoln:

1. A Vote for Tavener is a Vote for Mogg.
2. Moggs is still a member of the Conservative Party.
3. Should Tavener lose in the election, he will not be unemployed.

In the week he announced his decision to stand, the Equity and Law Labour Assurance Society announced the appointment of Mr Richard Tavener as its director.

October issue now out: 20p, or £1 for a year, from IS JOURNAL, 6 Cottons Gardens, London EC2 8DN

Socialist Worker 21 October 1972 5

Jobs: ravaged by heavy walkings
LINCOLN is a heavy engineering town with a large agricultural hinterland.

Off the 53,757 employed workers in the area, 14,500 work in engineering, vehicles and metal goods while other "manufacturing industries" employ only 130.

The unemployment rate is nearly twice the national average—at 5.5 per cent. The male unemployment is as much as 15.7 per cent.

For more than a year Lincoln’s engineering industry has been pulverised with bankruptcies.

Chiefs responsible are GEC, which took over the Ruston Horney works, which make below normal profits; Ruston Horney, which since 1939 had been making losses; and more than 600 jobs have been saved 'through' retrenchment. The local newspaper has announced a further 396 redundancies, and it is likely that the heavy engine business of Ruston is moved to Newton-in-the-Wilnis by next year.

At Ruston Buscot, which makes except the Sinclair clib, which sold 11,111 units of the shares, the workforce has been dropped by half—1,908 last year to 750. Similar redundancies have taken place at the AEC Electric Motors, a subsidiary of a Derby-based firm.

Way of life
Ruston Horney recently sold their boiler business to John Thomson, the largest North East heavy engineering combine, which instead sold out to its main rival, Clark Chapman, and the two companies are threatening to trim the 3,800 workforce.

In the past six months there have been 200 redundancies at Clayton Dounanie, a supplier of breakdowns to Sydney’s big mining industry, and even the cost of 100 people in the AEC Electric Albums, a kit of which is made by the company and sold in the world.

A GE Group, AEWU organiser for Lincoln told Socialist Worker: ‘If something doesn’t change quickly, this will be a way of life for a whole generation.’

Labour and the Classes
The Classes, a group, has brought the property speculators. A plan for the ownership and management of the old city of Lincoln and its replacment with offices and shops has been blocked by the City’s City’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s picture of the Sowerby Group, a subsidiary of GKN.

The group, AEWU organiser for Lincoln told Socialist Worker: ‘If something doesn’t change quickly, this will be a way of life for a whole generation.’

No veto
If the Sinclair development does go ahead, it will greatly benefit the shareholders of the Sinclair Corn Exchange and Market company, which is part of the development consortium, which owns one of the development land. The Corn Exchange chairman is Sir Francis Hill, a solicitor and a leading member of the Conservative group on Lincoln council and a member of the Conservative group in the first place.

The Labour group on Lincoln council, which won control last year, has not vetoed the Sinclair development, and in spite of their firm stand of Tavener, the Labour group, has given Sinclair permission, in spite of the problems of Sinclair can be dealt with by careful co-operation with the government and private enterprise.

Lincoln’s Labour council on the ownership and management of the old city of Lincoln and its replacment with offices and shops has been blocked by the City’s City’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s city’s picture of the Sowerby Group, a subsidiary of GKN.

The group, AEWU organiser for Lincoln told Socialist Worker: ‘If something doesn’t change quickly, this will be a way of life for a whole generation.’

Accordingly, Town and City Properties has been handed over to the developer of several acres around Sinek Street in the city area.

The Fourth International

Lessons of the Sin in the Decline of Reformism

Time for action: "Let the Left be" India

International Socialism 53

"The Experience of the Indian Working Class in the Fourth International"
How Godfather Vestey puts country democracy in cold storage

RONALD VESTEY, elderly Godfather of the millionaire family, which includes Lord Sam and Edmund of Midland Cold Storage fame, has some dirty work in a little corner of his vast territories in Mid-Anglia.

His sights are set on developing a beautiful tree-lined meadow in the heart of the village of Witherfield, on the Suffolk-Cambridgeshire border. Through a family trust he has applied for permission to build six houses on the land, which, like every other plot in the area, is Vestey-owned.

The development would certainly be a violation of the village, which is beautiful even by Suffolk's high standards. But in the normal way of things Vestey, former High Sheriff and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the county, would find no difficulty in achieving his purpose.

This time, however, the villagers of Witherfield are ready for him and his Monthly Meeting. An alliance of middle-class residents and working-class tenants of council cottages has created an action group to fight for the preservation of the meadow against Vestey vandalism.

Their task is not an easy one. The local planning authority, Clare Rural Council, is often referred to as the Vestey Board of Guardians. Chairman of the council for the past five years or more is Keith Roberts, who farms the biggest Vestey farm.

Defend

Chairman of the plans committee is Sir John Mowbray, old Etonian and chairman of the Vestey estate.

Vestey's son-in-law, Reg Clifton Brown, who also runs a Vestey farm, is chairman of the council. Vic Horsley, another Vestey tenant farmer, is Vestey's legal man.

And so it is John Rickett, who, in addition to being a Vestey farmer, is also the Witherfield representative on the town council. Rickett is still simmering over the damage done by Vestey to the village, and over the old man's original plans for the new houses.

These involved the building of 11 houses, crowded in an unruly row along the main road of the village. They were prepared in great secrecy and in a move to beat the April deadline.

Villagers prepare for battle with the vandals

line an unresolved outline planning applications. The parish council in Witherfield did not alert the villagers about the scheme. Rickett in his capacity as chairman of the parish council. The villagers learned of the plans only a couple of days before they were due to be approved by the council.

Led by wealthy advertising consultant Peter Moss, they prepared a petition and wrote to the planning officer, a glossy memorandum of amenity and legal arguments to the county council, and most successfully of all, a brief to a barrister specializing in planning law.

Trumped

Robert Rickett, Mowbray and Rickett told the villagers that the application was merely a holding operation. It would be deferred and amended to produce a much smarter layout on the basis of only nine houses.

While this was done the lawyer was there to meet them and produce the ever-so-smart paper that trumped the entire Vestey pack. It was illegal to amend after the procedure had been put forward before the deadline.

The village is moving again, with a completely new scheme for the same site. The villagers are preparing their arguments and are in a move to beat the April deadline.

Education keeps you in the right class

Education keeps you in the right class

FOR many working-class children education is a grim, tedious and disillusioning experience. By the time you're 15 your main concern is to get out as quickly as possible and escape from the old world you feel you can tolerate no more.

There were them, the teachers, and us. The class was divided into a few creeps, a few middle-class and the majority who were cowards who would have preferred to have been with the militants, but were scared.

Every house we've been through working a school class can remember the days before this where the situation almost degenerated into a continual battle between kids and teachers.

Yet there is no reason why school, why learning about the world in which we live, should be dull. With the right facilities and approach to teaching, it can be enjoyable.

Wealth

Yet children who are happy at primary school are fed up and apathetic, if not completely unenthusiastic about teachers, the time they leave secondary school.

Why? Because education, like everything else, is subordinated to the State and the State.

The basic single influence on education is the need of big business for labour of certain skill. It needs workers educated to different levels to do different jobs. And this determines the sort of schooling that is handed out to different sorts of children.

Big business needs a mass of workers who labour to create the wealth. These get an education that provides them with the limited ability to read simple blueprints, fill in forms, make simple calculations, and receive their ideas from a reading of the mass press.

Meanwhile, education sees that the ruling class, who control the vast mass of the wealth, are provided with a high level of skills and confident mental attitudes.

Rich

So workers get an average 10 years schooling, from the age of five to 15. By contrast, get 20 years—three to 23. Their preparation for working-class jobs is practically nil. They are in playgroups and nursery schools. Children from different ethnic backgrounds have widely different sums of money spent on them.

The five per cent of children who are from the ruling class are mostly richly endowed, not only by their parents, but also by the state. Fees for public and preparatory schools are subject to tax relief. So the exchequer hands out more than a third of the cost of the fee.

The schools themselves also get tax relief as they are usually registered as charities. They receive 65p. million from the government in this way in 1970. In addition, they are provided with millions in the form of the profits made by big business.

Children at these schools are taught in classes of 10 to 15. For them the overcrowded classes, the makeshift facilities and the shortage of materials that plague many state schools.

The results of this privileged schooling are easy to see. Two-thirds of the men under graduates at Oxford and Cambridge in the mid-1950s had been to public school or to direct grant schools (public schools funded directly by the government). All of the entrants, three-quarters were from the professional and managerial groups and only a quarter came from manual working-class homes.

During the 1960s the number of working-class children dropped.

Even in the state system the better-off, middle-class children have a privileged position. In 1968/9 the amount of money spent on working-class children who left school at 15 was only 37p. in the £1 spent on those children, chiefly from the middle class, who stayed on into the sixth form.

Education is not only concerned with teaching skills. It also involves, in our society passing on to children the 'right' attitudes for their allotted role in the system.

An important aspect of public school education is being taught to command other people. This is done both formally by the immense stress on sport and drill and informally through a system by which the elder pupils terrorise the younger ones.

Opposed

The attitudes schools try to pass on to working-class children are quite different. They are required to be passive and obedient, not to ask too many awkward questions and to accept their position at the bottom of the pile.

Teachers are themselves caught in this system in a way that ensures they perpetuate it. For most head teachers and education officials come from the middle classes, and any teacher under them who advocates ideas at all opposed to the status quo will quickly find himself

self or herself. Persistent opposition as a teacher is not rewarded. Again, school take for granted conformity, in which is run by nice milks and in which is run.

Finally, the motion system all the stress on individualism, encouraging only that a few top, and that remain where they are.

This system also has its own counter isolation, and it is run by nice milks and in which is run.

School students fight back

by Mary Attenborough

President, National Union of School Students

This summer the 100,000 school-leavers examine under pressure of thousands of other school-leavers who have already left, in a move never before taken.

The reasons for this are in controlling pool failures and thus improving their chances of finding a job or any lack of jobs. The system is responsible for this system. The system is responsible for this system. The system is responsible for this system. The system is responsible for this system.

Our schools are plagued by rigorous examination methods, shoddy and often inadequate educational activities and examination conditions.

Schools are now in uniform and worn ready to accept the system. However, the lives of those who are driven.
The school that tried to break out

by Michael Duane

RISINGHILL SCHOOL was closed after a short takedown, deposing area of North London. Crime and delinquency were common.

Within a handful of years the school was where boys were drinking clubs, gambling and drinking clubs. Unemployment was high, and chronic poverty and illness were rife. A survey of literacy, carried out shortly before the school opened, revealed that the rate of illiteracy was the highest in London.

Some officials of the London County Council had opposed the opening of the school on the grounds that it would be a shambles within a few months. They told us that it would be a 'more comprehensive' take on kids of all levels and from all sections.

So we started with the 'normal' assumptions that kids should wear uniforms and take exams. More than 90 per cent of the kids were manual workers, mostly unskilled, and we set out to make school as interesting and enjoyable for them as possible.

Labels

We taught them maths in practical ways, especially in the engineering workshops. We visited their homes and got help from the social services. We persuaded the police on occasion to allow us to deal with a kid on the street.

At one time we had 30 kids who were so paranoid that they were so stupid or disturbed that they were labelled 'educationally subnormal'. But all but three had the labels removed.

We showed films about sexual children to put their parents and discussed them before showing them to the kids. We started a series of meetings to explain what we were teaching, why and how, but that was stopped dead by the closure of the school in 1967.

Sometimes a kid teased a teacher too much and she shouted in anger because he was making it impossible for her to interest the rest of the class. If he did not stop interfering with her, we would have him down to my room, ask the teacher to describe what happened and then ask him if he agreed with her.

If he agreed, I would simply say, 'George, teachers aren't saints. Were you really surprised she shouted?'

The kids agreed, and that was that. When teachers were accused of making a genuine mistake, the good ones stood down. Since the fear of the cane had been removed, we found that kids were less afraid of the truth, especially in the presence of other children who were trying to do was establish the right of children to learn.

But not all the teachers were happy about this. Some bitterly

repeated the fact that I did not simply accept their word against the child's without question. They had been brought up and trained to think in this way—and their hostility increased when we set up a school council elected by pupils and staff.

But most staff saw it as a first priority that we should attend to the kids' basic needs for play, interest, enjoyment, that we should give them the feeling that the school was not hostile towards them or their parents before we could expect them to pay much attention to academic work.

The person who was really upset by the decision to abolish the cane was the local LCC Inspector. For him school meant passing exams, wearing uniform, being respectful to teachers.

He was backed up by a report produced at the instigation of the LCC's Chief Inspector. The first third was a sustained attack on myself. Had it been produced during my first year, I would not have been surprised.

But coming as it did, when the school was much more orderly, when results were considerably better, and all but three had the labels removed.

The basic aim of the education system is to teach us to accept the capitalist system of exploitation. There is no mention of any alternatives.

School students have no democratic rights, no right to freedom of speech or assembly, no democratic participation. We are punished by being physically beaten. We can be expelled or suspended for almost any reason.

There are many who would recognize the bad conditions and the anti-democracy of schools, but would question the need for 'children to organize'. One reason for the need for a school students' organization is so that we can show we are capable of thinking and making decisions, and that we are prepared to set out to change a situation we will no longer accept.

For a schools union to be successful, it needs to organize in such a way as to attract the majority of school students. The NUS unites people of differing political opinions, life, causing many working class children to develop the same, to feel inadequate and inferior. This in turn turns them against the school, so that they are failures, unable to learn.

Marking, grading, sifting, creaming becomes the way of matters; collective effort in which differing individual contributions are equally valued.

Bewildered

In this way the rat race is drummed into children. The child who has put his whole soul into an exercise, a painting, a project, becomes quite bewildered when he does not get a mark of merit. A couple of such experiences and he will be the apathetic fourth-former who can't wait to leave school.

The ground is fertile for them to be instilled with submissive attitudes to authority and the belief that their inferiority is inherent.

CHARIE ROSENBERG is secretary of the Hackney branch of the National Union of Teachers in East London, and a member of the executive of the national Rank and File Teacher.

The British press & Northern Ireland

Eamon McCann

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THE BRITISH PRESS & NORTHERN IRELAND
The shooting dead of a British intelligence man in Belfast a few days ago has brought to light the activities of army undercover agents to the attention of the world.

For months the Tory press has ignored the grim tales of their murderous activities in working-class areas of Belfast, and it was not until their cover was blown by the Provisional IRA in a dramatic fashion that the full extent of their operations became known.

Since the shooting of "Laundryman" Stuart, the spy who used a bogus doctor to obtain official security clearance, the military machine is determined to catch on with that particular brand of repression.

Just before a massive car bomb exploded in Lesson Street last week soldiers took up positions on the roof of the nearby Protestant Royal Victoria Hospital, the alleged headquarters of the British Army's Special Air Service (SAS), who were watching their evil work from a safe distance.

Bombers

A few days earlier two soldiers in plain clothes were attacked at an Ulster Unionist party meeting. When the check-point in East Belfast the men were travelling in a civilian car and were equipped with two-way radio concealed in the arms of the two men. They were carrying 'secret files'.

The IRA claim these men were also SAS.

It was after an incident involving plain-clothed SAS agents at Shankill Road last May that the British Government decided in the presence of undercover surveillance units to be involved in attacks on unarmed civilians in Catholic areas.

Also in May, Paddy McVeigh was shot dead while trying to escape from a police road check in Anderston. His father, Mr McVeigh, told a friend in Breachmount:

"I don't blame them, but on both Loyalist and Republican sides, that was the beginning of a new phase of terrorism and numerous other activities. The Republicans have accused the British Army of a number of incidents which they claim were designed to discredit them. The Allied veteran in tight Claudy town bomb is two of these.

On one occasion a plain-clothed soldier who was drugged from his 'top' was identified as a member of the SAS. Another man who publicly claimed to be from the SAS was hit by a car, and the IRA, who claim responsibility for these incidents, was found through the media in mysterious circumstances after the attack. One of the leading lights of the British Army, Major General Frank Kitson, more or less revealed the role of these secret units when he wrote in his recent book, "Low Intensity Operations", about the need for 'the disposal of unwanted members of the public'.

Kitson was the man responsible for the methods employed in the torture chambers of Holywood Barrack.

He advocates the greater involvement of the army in dealing with 'subversion' in Britain too. Subversion, he says, involves strikes and political activity, and he regards it as legitimate to dispose of 'subversives' by killing them.

But why is the British Army involved in these sordid activities?

Firstly, they enable the army to kill off 'unwanted members of the public' without having to justify its actions. This enables them to continue to talk peace to the minority while still engaging in war against them. It also enables them to confuse the IRA, alleging that mysterious killings are the result of internal faction fights.

Secondly, the use of terror against the minority in this fashion can help them undermine their will to resist. If the cost of continued defiance is to be daily slaughter and bombing of homes and recreational facilities, then the minority will be more willing to come to terms with the Tories.

If loyalists are blamed, then the logical outcome, if these incidents continue, seems to be civil war, as the Provos begin to take retaliatory action.

Tory overlord William Whitelaw, who must condone these murder attacks, will hope that the Catholic community, having experienced civil war on a small scale, will finally reject the IRA in favour of the pro-pluralist Social Democratic Labour Party, thus enabling imperialism to stabilise its rule in Ireland.

Popular thinking in Britain seems to be moving towards the demand for the removal of the British Army from Ireland. Although this demand is not being raised out of any feeling of solidarity with those who are struggling against the military presence here, it nevertheless indicates a rejection of the view that Britain has a right to be in Ireland in the first place.

RAPID

This is a healthy development. It is up to societies in Britain to explain why the removal of British troops is in their own interests as workers, as opposed to 'Britishers'.

But genuine solidarity from British workers will be easier won when the struggle against imperialism is given a clear working-class socialist content.

The British Army is not in Ireland to maintain law and order, or to bring peace. The activities of its plain-clothed assassination squads is a clear indication of this.

Its task is rather to destroy systematically the popular will to resist the oppression and exploitation by the Ahrarite bosses. The methods of its uses in so doing are themselves both horrific and criminal. Until it is removed from Ireland, none of the problems here can be solved.

The figures that prove the TUC is being taken for a ride

The retail price index—calculated each week by government statisticians—looks like becoming a major threat to living standards.

A 'threshold agreement' based on the price index is part of the deal which March and the TUCs are being offered. The agreement proposes that if the retail price index rises by more than 2 per cent in any one month, members of the TUC can take an extra 20p in their wage packet for every 1 per cent rise above the 2 per cent threshold.

Yet this whole approach is based on false premises. The price index is the only available measure of the movement of living costs and not itself systematically understates increases in the cost of living of working-class families.

A cut, for example, in the stamp duty on property, may not be reflected in the index, while a rise in the price of food paid to doctors and dentists, or the ending of state trade union fringe benefits. But other excluded items are major elements in the household budget.

INCOME TAX: This is an enormous amount, in recent years and especially for workers earning less than £30 a week, the amount paid in income tax has risen faster than earnings. This is because the amount of the tax-free personal and children's allowances have not been raised by enough to meet inflation.

The stamp

The result has been a steep drop in the tax threshold from more than 6 per cent above which a worker starts to pay income tax. In 1967, a man worked with two children and a tax-free personal allowance was earning 10 per cent more in wage income. By 1970 the figure for a non-smoker was 6.5 per cent.

NATIONAL INSURANCE: The cost of National Insurance, which is not included in the national insurance stamp index has been increased far more rapidly than the general rise of prices in recent years. Since 1962, while the price index has gone up by 80 per cent, national insurance contributions have increased by 180 per cent. Especially for the lower paid, national insurance expenditure has become the major item of income below the poverty line. The rent component is based on rent allowances and on the market value of the house.

The government provides a mortgage rebate in the house, but then it is tied to the market value of the house. If one is an owner-occupier, he is getting charged in the long term. If the actual mortgage repayment is likely to be lower than the profit, the effect of the profit is that the price index massively understates the increase in living costs and the rate of increase in mortgage payments.

In recent years, all of the above items have risen more than the average cost of living. Their rise is reflected in the price index. If the index falls further and further behind the actual amount by which the cost of living has increased. It is also the case that the above items are not included in the retail price index, free school meals, rates rebates and other benefits, as housing wage inflation takes household above the income limits which qualify.

A further type of distortion arises because the single price index is calculated for the entire country, whereas prices and spending patterns vary considerably in the different regions. In 1971, an expert committee produced a report on these regional variations. It recommended that the single index should be reduced to 4.5 per cent higher than in the south of England.

Rents and house prices in the London area are not typical of the national average. The average rateable value per £100 of houses was £49.22 in flats to £88.14 in London. The average amount paid in tax on each pound paid in tax was £2.12 per £100 rateable value for homes of the north of England to £2.77 in the south east.

It is clear that the occupation of agents of a single price index produced far less of an increase in living costs than would otherwise be the case. A similar rise in house prices would have had a much more significant impact on the household budgets of Londoners.

Presssure

The expert committee made a firm recommendation that a separate regional price index should be issued for each region. So far, the government has failed to respond to the recommendation, claiming that the national index is based on the present single national index. The employers argue that regional variations are held to pressure for higher wages in areas where it would have a greater effect than elsewhere, especially as wage rates north of the border are lower than the general average in England. A similar rise in house prices would have a much more significant impact on the household budgets of Londoners.

Pensioners

The government now issues a special index for pensioners and generally it rises more than the main index used for the rest of the population. The reason for this is that pensions and the basic necessities on which pensioners spend most of their limited income than the average household. The main index fails to cover the basic necessities such as food and services. In 1971, for example, prices rose by 5.6 per cent, but food went up by 13 per cent, and petrol and electricity by 11 per cent.

But there are many other groups whose spending pattern is more like that of pensioners—broadly weighted towards basic necessities. The unemployed, elderly households, single old, long-term invalids, families with many children and a limited income are all affected by the fact that the national price index understates the real rise in the cost of living. The faster the price rises, the more serious this understatement is.

The reasons for prices index should not be used as a wage rego rate for its underestimation of the real rate of inflation is clear.

Any union leader who tries to use the price index as an argument that wage increases will only cover up for inflation is putting his members under severe pressure and the inevitable result will be even shorter working hours.
Paul Foot reviews the new film,
'The Assassination of Trotsky'

SCHOLAR'S WORKER 24 October 1972 9

Towards the end of the interview, Burton asked him: 'Films like this never tell the whole story, which are very much to do with unreported stories of important people, and The Servant, which is never finished or released, and this latest film The Go-Between, all of them in a sense are about extremely narrow human relationships, and not about the big sweeping themes of Marxism, and the things that you embraced as a young man. There's a paradox. Can you suggest some reasons why you find yourself in this area?'

'Well, there are a lot of reasons. In the first place, it's very difficult to make a film like this. Nobody has ever come to me, nobody at any point in my life, has ever come to me and said: "We're going to do a film about the assassination of Leon Trotsky."'

TROTSEY'S KILLER
--OURS NOT TO REASON WHY?

As he talked, Lowey must already have finished the film, for it seems to be about a film which dealt precisely with the 'murder' of Trotsky. It is a film about the assassination of Leon Trotsky.

All the evidence points to the fact that Lowey, in the preparations for this film, had first an idea, and then a film. He chose for his two main leads the two most notorious hacks in European cinema: Richard Burton as Trotsky and Alec Guinness as the admiral.

His purpose was, of course, all of that was of script-writing.

The story of Trotsky's assassination has been told in meticulous research details in Ron Lowey in his book 'The Mind of the Assassin, published in 1970 in which he said: 'I found it obvious and necessary question: why was Trotsky killed?"

Some assassinations of politicians are caused by the clash of two political parties, a political conflict, Lowey's book proved beyond any doubt. Trotsky's assassination was the result of an international political conflict, which the International Communist movement, organised over a period of years by Stalin, Lenin and Levie. Stalin's role was this: why was Stalin, the leader of one of the most powerful states in the world, so obsessed with the activities of Trotsky, and in Mexico, barred from all public political activities, and disposed of, branded as a guerrilla, and condemned only by a handful of supporters?

CYNICAL

Stalin, Lenin answers, knew too well the nature of that class, and that of the Western democracies, and the collapse of capitalism society, which he envisaged sooner rather than later. He knew that the argument among the Western democracies was that of political, economic, and military front, where the survival of Trotsky was at the top of the agenda.

The attacks on Trotsky, from Moscow was, as Trotsky put it: 'The end of the first part of the struggle to implant the international socialist revolution, that is to say the whole of Western Europe, because Trotsky was the most dynamic of the leaders of the Soviet revolution.

Lowey's book proved that the murder of Trotsky was the work of a Spanish Communist whose métier was the most senior GPU agents in Europe.

The film, which is supposed to be for the specific purpose of infiltrating Trotsky's memory, is not, in fact, a film, but a film of the HPC, accomplished by the most excellent of masters of the GPU, Trotsky's mother, Sylvia Agénoff.

After the failure of the first, actual attack by Mexican Communists on Trotsky in 1940, Meredos, with the help of his mother and her lover, the GPU agent

Ettlinger, plotted a murder attempt from inside the Trotsky household, which Ramon had already perpetrated.

Ramon killed Trotsky, but did not escape. He was shot 20 times in a Mexican prison, but never admitted any association with Russia.

Lenin's powerful book was handily secreted in the year after it was published when Meredos was released from prison where he was kept, the Irakurta Cagin as a hero of the Soviet Union and a leader of the GPU in 1941. We do not know whether Mr Lowey has read Mr Lenin's book or even heard of it, for it was not an idea for his film. He simply put the basis for his film another book on the assassination which came out this year and was written by the third Russian, Kustjimov, of the Ossetian Husseyn, Lutfushe, coiner known as Nesterovsky, who fought bravely in the Russo-Finnish people and their problems.

Meredos wrote the screenplay for Lowey's film, a director's deal of university lecturers and their mates, and seemed to Lowey just the sort of chap to write about a Russian revolution.

PETER WEISS's play Trotsky in Exile, published in Germany in 1970, was not well received. The plays and of the central figure of the Russian Revolution have been described most not only in the Soviet Union, but in the "Free West." Weiss's sympathetic play shows Trotsky's life in exile with the historic events of his life, the World War, the revolution in 1917, and his imprisonment in Mexico in 1940.

Ramon's life is dramatic enough in itself. The Brussels conference of 1963--which resulted in the Trotsky's murder in 1940--is a dramatic event. The trial after the 1963 Revolution, the October Revolution of 1917, the up- rised in Krasnaya in 1921. The play reflects Trotsky's evaluation of the significance of his life: I have never known personal tragedy. My life has been bound up irrevocably with all the successive phases of the revolution.

The play's greatest virtue is its treatment of important political debates on the Russian Revolution, the state of the world as it is now, and the evolution of Trotsky's political thought. The play is intended to be read and discussed. In this, it succeeds. There are no new ideas, but they are presented with simplicity and elegance.

In this film there is no attempt to create dramatic effect. He mixes speeches and events from different periods to illuminate the events of the past. He does not attempt to make his film a vehicle for his personal views, but he aims at giving an account of the Russian Revolution in a way that is relevant to our own time.

Review by Peter Weiss, Methuen, hardback £1.45, paperback 70p.}

Celia Deacon

Making the dramatic into a drama

that takes people and says at face value and doesn't look at why they were said and as what was happening at the time. Those great moments in world history were not made by Trotsky or Lenin alone—but by the mass of the people, and specifically by the Russian working class. Concentration on the role of individuals is bound to exaggerate their historical importance.

This failure is continued to the end, where Trotsky is left making dozy statements about students and the type of revolution in the third world, leaving out the central preoccupation of his life, the power of the workers to transform the world. But it remains a good play.
WE STAND FOR

WHATSOEVER

THE RENTS BATTLE

Flying tenants protect tenants

by Tony Boyle and Mickey Keating

THE RENTS BATTLE

The action of the tenants in Merseyside has spread rumour that the action committee is not determined tenants, and has tried to give the impression the rent strike is not solid behind it by some members. The council has said that their rents for landlord they have in unoccupied.

The council has also tried to conceal the rent rise by increasing the man by non-paying from 90 to 50.

An estate on total rent strike in Or The Bridge, one of the oldest areas in Liverpool, which is bounded by two open sewers, the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and the River Mersey. It is a mixture of docks and industries with corporation houses, flats and maisonettes in poor condition due to lack of maintenance.

Unemployed families from a garrison, renting a flat and fed up with the high

incentor in Europe get the residents as they step outside their front doors.

The laughs are under a range of social services, as well as higher property for social services. As the rents for tenants so that no one feels isolated. It tenants a weekly newsletter, and has the policy to exclude windows with stickers and pastes. Association flying tenants have been formed and are on four days a week. Most tenants in the area are dockers, and the docks shop stewards committee has pledged full support if there are threats of any evictions.

SALFORD: The city council have decided to support the Tenants' Action at an emergency meeting of the council last week.

The meeting started with a speaker and God was certainly needed to mend our minds. The party (and its MPs, Stan Orme and Frank Field) have fought a long battle against the fade of the action and have won the backing of the government for their action against the Tenants Action plan. But there was opposition to this council. Salford Labour, man, 1800 out of 16000 council houses in Salford which was below standards, and pointed out that there were charges for the rents.

The council is one of the Labour councillors who spoke against the increase in the number of houses due to the 1972-73 housing crises. The council is pledged to a partial rent strike as soon as the council lays down a month’s time. If there are any vaccinations, it will become a total rent strike.

The council has written to all trade unions and shop stewards' committees in the area about pledging of industrial action this happening.

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THE LAST of eight meetings by the Workers' Association for the Democratic Settlement of the National Conflict in Ireland will be held in the Central Hall, Westminster, London, on Saturday, 26th October. Organised by the Post Office, the meeting is free and open to all. All proceeds to the strike fund.

WINDSORSHIRE: Public meeting: The Fight Against Racism, Baptist Church, Higham, Reading, 8 pm, Monday, 28th October.


BROOKHAVEN: Public meeting: "The Fight Against Racism, Baptist Church, Higham, Reading, 8 pm, Monday, 28th October.

LAMBETH: Public meeting: The Fight Against Racism, Baptist Church, Higham, Reading, 8 pm, Monday, 28th October.

Conference of Radical Scholars of Socialist Action: Jointly held in conjunction with the Socialists' Association of Socialists in the UK. The conference is sponsored by the Workers' Council for Socialism and Socialism Against Racism.

KICK OUT THE TORIES: CARDIFF is PUBLIC MEETING: "The Fight Against Racism, Baptist Church, Higham, Reading, 8 pm, Monday, 28th October."
Fair Rent = Rent
We Won't Pay the Rent

Council promises:
No evictions

THE Labour council at Greenwich have given a pledge that no tenants will be evicted for refusing to pay the increase. This has given a boost to the tenants who hope to spread the rent strike.

In Islington, however, the Labour council has so far refused to give this assurance.

There were angry scenes last week when 250 tenants in the public gallery of the council chamber demanded it. The councillors left by the back door to avoid meeting their tenants.

The tenants then decided to step up the pickets at the rent officers to spread the strike.

Barnsley—Rent strikers are under way in many estates in the area.

Last week, 1200 tenants picked off in the council meeting last week. The councillors, however, refused to answer the questions being put to them. At the end of the meeting, the tenants had run in the gauntlet of jeers from angry tenants calling them traitors and demanding their resignation.

One of the most important movements is at Tandridge, where there is a total rent strike. Well over 200 people attended the last meeting.

The events of the past two weeks in Barnsley have given heart to every tenant not yet on rent strike. It seemed that their movements were just not bothered by the whole business of the ratepayers on the estate were gloomy.

Yet, come the day of the rent increase, about 100 tenants refused to pay. Many had never been to any tenants' meetings. Nevertheless, they have taken part in the protest of the estate, well over 1000 tenants being involved in the struggle. Many said they would not be able to pay rent any longer than any previous meeting. The job of the councillors, some of whom are on rent strike, has been made easier thanks to the lack of money in the council chest.

The message from Dodworth must now be spread to other communities.

Back to work

Order, but electricians strike on

Birmingham—Electricians in the Lucas factories voted on Monday to continue their strike for better pay, in defiance of an agreement signed by the national executive of their union the Friday before.

The dispute began in July when the electricians rejected a company offer of £6.45 to £6.99 a week. The workers then joined the rest of the local workers and took the strike for five weeks.

The Lucas factories have been closed since then. A general meeting was held on Wednesday last week, where the members of the union were present in large numbers. The meeting decided to continue the strike and deferred the negotiations until next week.

The management of the Lucas factories has always maintained that the strike is illegal, and that the union is trying to force the company to accept their demands.

The strike has now lasted for 16 weeks, and the workers are determined to continue it until their demands are met.

Liverpool—1100 men and women are continuing their total action at the Lucas/CNAV factory at Fazakerley to prevent their total closure.

It is the old story of a big company taking advantage of high government of higher than average unemployment.

The factory produces the company's long-line injection pump for the lever type of vehicle industry. The Lucas takings over of Simms in North Road, London, a couple of years ago created an alternative product producing.

With the introduction of the new factory in Gillingham, the fate of the motorized Fazakerley workers was sealed.

Beaten

CNAV would like to move the machinery from the Liverpool factory south after having bought it cheap with taxpayers' money.

Lucas can be beaten, but it will call for greater solidarity from other factories in the combine. The leading stewards at the CAV Acton plant in London gave the Liverpool workers a cool reception last week.

It may be necessary for the Liverpool lad to picket CNAV factories to appeal directly to the rank and file over the heads of the local factory leaders.

International Socialists

Union delay stabs miners in the back

by Bill Message

When miners' president Joe Gormley said the right-wing majority on the executive carried a resolution opposing the miners' demands for wage increases, it was viewed as the final blow in a series of defeats for the workers. The miners have been hit by a series of strikes, which have been called in response to the miners' demands for higher wages and better working conditions.

Hitherto, the miners' movement had been able to maintain a united front, despite the divisions within the movement. But the latest set of strikes has not been able to build on the previous successes, and the miners' movement has been left vulnerable to attack from the right.

Support

Most of the leading andrewing of the miners' movement has been by the left wing of the movement, who have used violent tactics to harass its opponents. Meanwhile, striking students are receiving messages of support from all over the country, and Scottish universities have decided to grant a day of the strike. The miners' movement is gaining new momentum, and there is a feeling that the miners' movement can be strengthened by building a broad front of support.

Last shift

Strikes are starting to die down. The miners are now preparing for a general strike, which is likely to be the last of the series.

Yorks miners are up in arms over a new pay offer. A delegation of the Prince of Wales Colliery Colliery Workers' national executive has met the miners and has offered a new pay offer. The miners have now decided to accept the offer, and the strike will be called off.

Send to: is, 6 Cottons Garden, London E2 8DN

I would like more information about the International Socialists

None

Address

Socialist Worker 21 October 1979
Despite a top-level move from officials of the Transport and General Workers Union, London's dockers have declined to sign a contract with a group of shipping lines at Midland Cold Storage to allow negotiations to take place.

This gives up the dockers to suspend their picketing to the latest in a series of opportune manoeuvres by the union hierarchy to keep the TGWU out of the Industrial Relations Act and ensure the continued security of what the leadership sees as the skeleton of trade unionism, brick, mortar, and passion.

After the House of Lords decision to register the TGWU on the GMB, the union told dockers that the Midland picket was in breach of its registered status and that this statement has been repeated several times, presumably for the benefit of the Vesty and Sir John Donaldson.

The fact that the picketing is nowhere near as effective as it was last year when the campaign to bring containers back within the control of docks trade unionism began last year, Midland was one of the targets chosen for blocking by the docks group, a decision backed by the union national executive.

Now the decision has simply been reversed undergroundly by those at the top of the union.

The most recent Vesty threat to return to the National Industrial Relations Court has also had its impact on the TGWU leadership.

Last week Fred Rechnitz, unofficial leader of the TGWU strike leaders in London, and a Vesty official, sent a letter of thanks to the TGWU officials in Green Lines, North London. After a meeting with a group of top officials, Rechnitz announced that the letter is due to be sent to the TGWU officials in Orange Lines, which, until now, have been outside the Midland depot and elsewhere.

That the officials of the TGWU have been caught up in the aspect of the newspaper stories last week, calling that the strike is not an effective campaign, is a matter of out work, that is another genuine part of the struggle as the TGWU is going completely unsupported.

The TGWU officials in Orange Lines have the property on London's Rowleys, 60 dockers on the strike list can be contacted at this address. The work of the part is being transferred directly to the Midland Cold Storage depot.

Refinery strikes

LANLARDY, South Wales—1000 workers at the BP oil refinery voted last week to come out on strike. This is the first strike in the 51 years the plant has been owned by the company.

The strike is a direct confrontation with the bribery of the men's union, the Transport & General Workers Union, the refinery workers asked for a substantial wage increase. The employees came back with a direct offer: £2 per week flat rate increase across all grades.

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Social Worker 6 Cottons Gardens London E2 6DN

12 SOCIALIST WORKER 21 October 1972

6000 walk out in protest against WOLVERHAMPTON—As Robin Chichester Clark, Minister at the Department of Employment, arrived to visit the Villiers motorcycle factory on Monday more than 6000 workers walked out in protest.

The shop stewards of the Engineering Union, were protesting against the Industrial Relations Act and the Tory policies on prices and incomes, rents and unemployment.

The factory's Transport Union shop stewards also called on their members to down tools as the minister toured the plant.

The Engineering Union shop stewards had met when they heard that Chichester Clark was to visit the factory. At the meeting there was strong feeling that though TUC leaders might talk to Tory ministers, they would not—not and they called for a deal.

A THOUSAND PRODUCTION workers at the British Steel Corporation plant at Lackenby have submitted a claim for parity with workers in South Wales who are earning £8 a week more.

Four years' stand-downs on the North East coast have meant that their pay was well below that of such plants as Hartlepool and Port Talbot. Characteristically, the full-time officials of BUSKA, the main steel union, have done everything in their power to hold off any attempts to bring Territorial wages up to parity.

On Tuesday officials from the BUSKA no 5 branch, who have submitted the claim, had to travel to Wales themselves to obtain information on the rates. Represented were two metal workers and verbal statements to full-time officials produced nothing. The District Office of BUSKA, which had released a letter of introduction to the works representative.

To demand a revision of this kind in the face of a seven-year stand-down is not easy. Members of the branch are well aware that they could face a long struggle with the Steel Corporation, backed by a TUC-approved scheme. They are not expected that, as is traditional, of the occupant of the BUSKA (District Office will only appear on the scene as and when required by the-management.)

The parity claim could and should be taken up by every BUSKA branch in the North East and, for that matter, beyond. Most areas are on similar pay parity to Territorial. Already a number of other branches in South Tees steelworks are completing a similar lodgment claim. One member of the 935 branch committee told Social Worker: "After years of submersion, we are not gratified. We want continuity, and we believe that the BUSKA and the TUC will never be the same again."

ALL IS MEMBERS TO GIVE MAXIMUM SUPPORT LEICESTER ANTI-RACIST MARCH Saturday 21 October

ASSEMBLY Spinning Mill Park Merle Rd gates at 2pm for march through city centre

Leicester leads on (near Kings Cross & St Pancras stations) at 9.30am