Terror in Chile: eye-witness report on military regime: p6

STOP FINES
IT
BOSSES

A FURTHER savage attack on the unions was launched by the National Industrial Relations Court on Tuesday.

It found the giant Transport Workers Union guilty of an "unfair industrial practice" at Heathrow Airport and liable to pay compensation to a firm called General Aviation Services. No sum has yet been fixed but it is thought the TGWU may be fined at least £100,000.

Heathrow workers fought a protracted industrial battle to prevent the American-owned GAS being given a contract at the airport to service planes. They blacked the firm which they considered would bring in substantial redundancies and would act as a springboard for back-door denationalisation at the airport.

ATTITUDE

Because of the blacking, GAS withdrew from the airport but later sought compensation through the NIRC. In his judgment, NIRC president Sir John Donaldson said that as the majority of the shop stewards at the airport were TGWU members, that union should be responsible for paying compensation.

The grim irony of the situation is that the TGWU leaders attacked the airport stewards' campaign and also appeared at the NIRC to defend themselves. In spite of this gavelling attitude, Donaldson has determined to strip the union of its assets.

Already airport stewards, angered by the NIRC ruling, are demanding that the TGWU refuse to pay any fines and stop appearing at the court.

They are right. The NIRC is the creation of the Tory government's anti-union laws. It is a bosses' court, designed to attack the very roots of trade unionism—the right to organise and the right to defend jobs.

In spite of all the fine words by union leaders against the Industrial Relations Act, one by one they have fallen into line and recognised the court. Only the engineering union has set up a principled opposition to the court but it has still not allowed Donaldson to lift its funds by its refusal to meet industrial action to stop further fines.

There is only one way to stop the fines—and that is to fine the bosses. Strike action costs the employers millions of pounds in lost production. It hurts them in their most sensitive area—the pocket.

TGWU branches and shop stewards' committees should flood their union leaders with demands that they publicly declare they will not pay the GAS fine, will boycott the NIRC and will prepare for massive industrial action if any attempt is made to seize their funds.

Miners can beat Tories

THE magnificent and overwhelming response by the miners to the fight for their pay claim means that all-out strike action by them, backed by solidarity action from other key groups of workers, could spell the end of the crisis-ravaged regime of Heath and his profligates.

Trevor Hall of Lee Hall colliery in Staffordshire commented on the NCB's latest offer: 'The extras they have come up with don't really affect the main issue—what are we going to get on the basic wage, .The Tories are working hard to mobilise public opinion against us, but that will not help them.

'Never in our long history have we been in such a powerful position. This power, it seems, terrifies some of our leaders. They are frightened to use it. Well, the time to use our power is now'.

He is right. Working people have suffered for too long at the hands of a government that has set out to cut living standards.

The mounting anger of the workers must be translated into action. The key to the defeat of the government lies in united action between the miners and the engineers, who also have a major pay claim on the table.

That is the vital importance of the present struggle. The miners can smash Phase Three. They can inspire other sections into joint action that can finish the Tories.

Special article on centre pages

Barricades on Athens streets

THE GREEK COLONELS' bloody dictatorship was rocked last weekend by massive demonstrations of workers, students and peasants. Resistance against the regime flared in Athens Polytechnic. A pirate radio run by students called for strike action to overthrow the regime. Workers poured on the streets and it took days of terror by army and police to restore 'law and order'. Full report on page 2.
ON TUESDAY last week, with the minimum of ceremony, the Tories’ ‘summer time boom’ was laid to rest. It had been frail from birth, was limply throughout its short life and was finally dispatched with a dose of credit squeeze and economic gloom.

Not realising the creature is dead it is possible that the Tories will make another death-defying attempt at dominion by announcing new credit squeeze and local government spending and even higher prices before long. Just how deep Heath’s break-through to growth really was could be told by the attitude of business. They all believed the boom was going to last and, as a result, have been reducing stocks by increasing industrial investment. But by not adding to and modernising industry’s productive capacity, British businessmen have only created another boom in the years ahead.

Fanciful

Just in the gowth of prices and shortages have been made worse by the fact that the whole capitalist world was in boom in the same time, 1969 and 1970 will see recession and unemployment in these countries multiplied by the effect of the slowdown of the world economic boom.

In some sense talk about ‘another 1929’—inflationary and speculation? As it was from 1945 until now. But there are important differences. By 1929 almost until the outbreak of the Second World War prices and the cost of living actually fell. It was only a sign of a widespread sagging of all prices; nil or very low growth, then stagnation and recession. The question here is what is likely to be the outcome of the present situation? Will conditions lead to the world recession provided by the world recession through the wars and the world recession through the depression? Will conditions lead to the world recession provided by the world recession through the depression? Will conditions lead to the world recession provided by the world recession through the depression? Will conditions lead to the world recession provided by the world recession through the depression?
the wintry reality

this year were placed on a world-wide agreement on currency reform and a faster international trading system. But, partly because of political pressures arising from Westgate and partly because it had already been announced by the Russian ruling class, Congress has decided to maintain the gold standard. And the Americans are also obstructing negotiations for currency reform because they say they can work to the advantage of the US, which is larger in population, has a larger share of the gold market, and is a more important player in the world system. The danger now is that international agreement further off than ever will be achieved, and the US will protect its own interests at the cost of the world economy. The US's requirement that countries maintain gold reserves, control capital movements, price controls, and exchange rates will only lead to greater instability and rising discontent with the international monetary system.

Complicity

We must point out that it is government complicity through the use of force, which can be used to control the population and maintain the status quo. This can be seen in the use of police and military forces to disperse demonstrations and protests, as well as the use of propaganda and surveillance to maintain control.

statement by the IS executive committee

windows they are condemned to spend the rest of their lives behind bars.

Whatever reservations socialists have about the bombings alleged to have been carried out by Dolours Price and her comrades, we have nothing but the greatest solidarity and support for them. The struggle they fight for the basic aims for which they stand, a united Ireland free from British imperialist domination.

Socialists and trade unionists should not ignore the implications of increased repression against republicans. The British ruling class has drawn itself up to protect not just their line in Ireland, but their position in the world. This means increased repression and increased support for the ruling class in its struggle to maintain power in Ireland.

Condemn sentences on Belfast Nine

with Trotskyists in Russia in the 1920s.

The loss of spontaneity would be well compensated if the delegates were actually adding something new to the discussion. And let us not forget the argument of Trotskyists of the time, that the use of unlimited force and the creation of a dictatorship is not a right that is justified in all cases by any argument against Moscow.

If only the party would develop a more coherent strategy of educating the masses on the need for a revolutionary j Exercise the axis of 'socialist policies'.

In a crude exercise of the stage theory, William Wainwright now reveals that democracy is not a real alternative to capitalism.

ATTITUDE

Given the party's dedication to the parliamentary road there can be no arguing with Wainwright's thesis. That the Communist leadership has forgotten or never learnt what revolutionary leadership is about and what lessons the Russian revolution taught has seldom been more clearly demonstrated.

Only one delegate seems to have maintained any connection with the traditions of the communist movement. Bill Westbrook called for 'the adoption of an uncompromising and independent line on all issues'. He explained that difficulty in discussing these issues with the majority of the party. He was critical of the party's efforts to maintain control over all aspects of the movement.

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Emergencies laws - 'bosses' weapon to counter workers militancy

THE CURRENT 'State of Emergency' is the fifth that has been declared in just over three years of the Heath government. The last time that emergencies were declared with almost similar frequency was in the late 1920s when class conflict was at similar heights.

And it should come as no surprise that it has been the miners who have made the first stand against the bosses. The miners have gathered support from other workers and have been able to build a strong movement.

Lloyd George: fight with missiles local organisations can be formed which will directly link civil and military forces and thus arrest and imprison on a large scale is now a reality.

The speed of the Emergency Powers Act 1920 brought the rapid end of the Tolpuddle Union of the NUR, and it was to reach a climax as a result of the fact that we will not, and cannot, make war on a large scale to fight the miners. In any event, DOIRA was not involved with the Munitions of War Act 1913 and took steps to break strikes and arrest workers.

Deported

Government papers reveal that in November 1933 the state of emergency led to the use of DOIRA against the Clyde Workers Committee. They recorded that ‘workers were being removed from the dockyard and the result was a war on the dockyard and against the Clyde Workers Committee, including Esher House, Chesterfield and Middlesbrough, who had been imprisoned or deported from their work as a result of the use of these powers in DOIRA.

In August 1920, Churchill’s government declared a state of emergency in Russia, the British government took the necessary steps to put down the workers’ movement in the north and south, and as a result of the pressure on the government, the government had to act. The workers were allowed to form a new organisation, the Workers’ Defence Committee, and were regarded as a menace to the ruling class.

The government rushed through the Emergency Powers Act on 31 March and issued regulations mobilising the armed forces. Levy was cancelled, reserves were called up and Hyde Park, Regents Park and Kelvington Gardens were turned into army camps.

But the general strike never occurred in the way that was known as Black Friday, the trade union leaders were round up and the workers were forced into the disarmament of the state and, to the disgust of millions of workers, allowed a wage cut to be forced on them.

Pretexts

Five years later the Act was used in the 1926 General Strike. For several months before the strike the government had made extensive preparatory arrangements to mobilise the armed forces and the semi-military Organisation for the Maintenance of Supplies.

On 1 May 1926 the Emergency Powers Act was signed and published in the London Gazette. During the short-lived strike hundreds of arrests were made under all manner of pretexts and police and troops were used throughout the country.

Since 1945 the Emergency Powers Act has been used on several occasions—-in the 1949, 1949, 1949, 1970 and 1970 dock strikes and the 1953 railway strike—by the Labour as well as the Tory governments. The British government has repeatedly used this class legislation in its most vicious form, in the 1966-1971 era, to attack the workers and workers’ rights.

An important and dangerous development was the introduction in 1966, when the government amended it to the make Defence Regulations the only way of ensuring that the armed forces are used to this end. The government has also used the Act with parliament on ‘urgent work of national importance’.

Subsequently governments, particularly Heath’s, have had no hesitation in using the Emergency Powers Act in recent years with the current government having recently seen in the firemen’s
Lip workers hold out for 40 sackings

A SPOKESMAN from the workers of the Lip watch factory in Moscow, Russia, warmly applauded when he spoke at the Socialist Worker Conference in Manchester, England, describing how, when the Lip workers were threatened with large-scale redundancies, they seized the factory and its stock of watches.

Since then, they have been producing a million watches a year, sold at reduced prices through a network of workers' cooperatives. The strike was organised and led by the Communist Party, as well as the official factory committee of union delegates, the CFTD. As well as the official factory committee of union delegates, there was an action committee, largely dominated by the CFTD. The last big strike was in 1986, when we won a 5 per cent increase, without the usual 5 per cent increase, which was the accepted norm for the Russian workers.

From 15 June, the action committee had launched a new campaign. It brought about a real democratization of industrial activity, and united union members with the non-unionized. Instead of the struggle being carried on by a few union delegates, it became the act of all the workers, with full discussions in their general assembly.

The decision was taken to sell watches, and by the end of July 800 workers had dropped out and taken over the factory.

The current situation is that the CFTD wants the action committee disbanded, is trying to persuade the government to stop the strikes, and is trying to bring the workers back to the factory. The action committee, with the support of the CFDT in general, is holding out. Its demands are "no sackings".

Determined

"We must still work for solidarity from other workers. At present we can only produce 100 watches a day, compared with thousands when we were occupying the factory, and our stocks will soon begin to run low. But we are determined to fight on for the restoration of all our jobs."

BRIEFING

A GROUP of 50 helium inflated balloons was sent to the streets of Melbourne, Australia, in the shape of an equal pay campaign. The campaign began officially some months ago by a group of workers forming a balloon crew, calling themselves the Milkman Insurance Co-operative. The campaign has been followed by a newsletter for clerical workers, Clerk and slice, which is aimed at encouraging people to pressure and launch a campaign, but the main thrust of the campaign is to spread the word among the leadership, which it says won't do it on its own.

The campaign has also seen the formation of two new groups, the United Women's Group, and another group of union delegates. The two groups have already been able to assemble the ar"...
Footprints

THE Coal Board use mining firms in most of the 70 collieries in Yorkshire, says the Observer (Continued).

Two weeks ago I reported that Owen Briscoe, who is challenging the right wing for the general secretaryship of the Yorkshire miners, has been complaining of a leaflet issued by Cenamet, a mining firm, offering £10 a week to Coal Board miners for contract jobs dished out to Cenamet by the Coal Board.

Cenamet, I pointed out, is owned by the Trafalgar House Group, which also owns Carlowon Contractors, whose directors were sent to prison earlier this year for corruption offering contracts to building contractors and bickering councillors to make the ‘right’ decisions.

Now I find that there is an even closer link between the Coal Board and Cenamet—Harry Longden, chairman of the company and a director of Trafalgar House.

Mr Longden started life with the British coal companies before the war. He went to a good public school and was president of the board of at least three Yorkshire coal companies quite quickly. When coal was nationalised, he was deputy chairman of Cenamet, which eventually became chairman.

All through the 1960s the close relationship between the Coal Board and Cenamet prospered, especially when Billy Sands became chairman of the Board’s Yorkshire division in 1957. Mr Sands, you remember, was the man who got John Foulson to design the Coal Board’s headquarters in Doncaster and, coincidentally, had a big slice of his nominal share in Foulson.

In those years Mr Longden would have had ample opportunity for the closest liaison with the Coal Board and its chairman, Lord Robens, those days Lord Robens lived in Burtlet Dun Road in the picturesque Swadith of Bury.

Mr Longden lives in South Hawke, Woldingham, just down the road.

Prince Rainier of Monaco is paying £500 to the Prince Hair Dresser, Alexandre. The prince wants the expert to prepare for Monaco to comb the palace dogs.

Fight Heath’s price fraud

‘WE’RE A BLOODY SIGHT better off than most people, I suppose,’ says Mary Phillips, who lives in a council flat in South East London. ‘I don’t know how they survive.’

John Phillips, her husband, worked for nearly 20 years in local government before applying to become a student at the City of London Polytechnic. The family income—which is his grant plus family allowance—works out at just under £33 a week.

Mary Phillips explains how the money goes:

‘Food, milk and school dinners for four cost us £16.60 a week.

‘I’ve kept a record of it. In January 1971 I spent just over £5 on these items. But we are eating much better than then for £83—more than we used to.’

In those days we’d eat meat or fish once a week. Now we can afford to buy liver, meat, fish or cheese more than once a week. Now we live mainly off potatoes and eggs.

‘I have to buy faggots instead of scrap wood, coal instead of best back. The figure changes every day. Just this morning I bought a tin of evaporated milk—10p. It was last week.

Bad Pendry

TOM PENDRY, Labour MP for Stalybridge and Hyde, has been picking away—nagging—about prices or low wages or anything else that matters, but about the quality of the poem which the Poet Laureate, Sir John Betjeman, wrote in honour of the Royal wedding.

Pendry thought the poem was disgraceful. The Daily Mail urged him to write a better one. He agreed. I offer the third verse of Pendry’s four-verse poem to the workers of Stalybridge and Hyde in the hope that they will find themselves as soon as possible of the Royalist quick who sits for them as a Labour MP.

WILLIAM BRIDGES

WAGES WORTH

1. You must have the dignity to go home tired in the evening.
2. Your clothes must not quality products.
3. You must earn enough money.
4. You should enjoy your days’ work.
5. You should be proud of?

On your joint don’t hang here.

A notice sent out to all 300 workers at the Lowthorpe bus building company of Willowbrook by its boss, George Hughes. I understand it has been received with rapturous applause. Hughes has mortgaged all his factories and buildings to Slater Walker (founder, Secretary for Trade and Industry, Peter Walker) for £760,000.

Law of the Rolls

A FEW years ago, there was a row in parliament about the Road Tax. Some Labour MPs demanded that the drivers of big, expensive cars should pay higher taxes. The Conservatives replied.

The ‘administrative costs’ of charging different taxes for different sizes of car would be more than the extra tax would bring in.

Now the government is about to introduce a ‘tax’ on speed. How much petrol you will get depends on the size of your car. Owners of big cars get more petrol than owners of little cars. Different coloured coupons have been printed for different-sized cars.

Quoth of the Week

‘Every day people pick up the paper and read about some disaster or scandal. I think they are more relieved to read about something that is genuinely happy and good.’—MARK PHILLIPS

Kick in the West

EARLIER this month Mr Keith Joseph, Social Security Minister, wrote a letter to the unions representing the ambulance men to tell them that their agreement with their employers for substantial extra pay talks about which they have been going on for 18 months—couldn’t be paid.

So we have to be satisfied, according to Sir Keith, with their present £23.32 for a 40-hour week plus £2.25. That makes £25.57.

Now Sir Keith and his family have declared some 135,000 shares in his family’s business, the large building and property company. Dividends from these shares during 1973 will total just over £3400; that’s £65 a week, nearly two-weeks half time money for the ambulance men’s wages. It is in fact probably very much more for Sir Keith and his family probably have more shares inched away and are now names of names and secret trusts.

There is no way out. While the ambulance men work as hard as anyone else in the country for their money, Sir Keith does nothing at all for his.

THE SUPERINTENDENT SOMETIMES FORGETS

A TERRIBLY embarrassing thing happened after Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the London police, had gone on television to attack crooked lawyers. After a day or two it looked as though it was the first crooked lawyer to be uncovered was the Attorney General.

Former Detective Chief Superintendent Herbert Hannam wrote to The Times and Daily Telegraph telling of a murder case in 1951 when he was attacked in the witness box by a barrister defending two murderers.

After the case, when the murderers were convicted and hanged, the barrister has written to the superintendent apologising for his conduct. Hannam said he felt his actions were unfair, but those were my instructions.’

Some sharp journalist discovered that the barrister in the case was Sir Peter Rawlinson, who is now better known as Attorney General and champion of the Distillers Company.

Chaos followed at the Attorney General’s office. A hurried meeting was arranged between Sir Peter and his barrister, Mr Hannam.

After the meeting Mr Hannam wrote again to The Times and Telegraph apologising for the ‘memory was at fault’. Sir Peter had written him two letters and accused Mr Hannam of being ‘malevolent’ and of being ‘on the wrong side’.

‘I have a friend who, acting as a superintendant for the M40, has discovered that they are giving standard letters to all younger members of the Public’.
CHILE TERROR: DON'T THINK IT WON'T HAPPEN HERE....

6 PEOPLE in and around South America used to refer to Chile as "L'Inglaterra de Sud America"—the England of South America. This was because it was thought that the middle-class was liberal and cultured, and had such deep traditions of democracy, that the army did not involve itself in politics.

Now those people who prided themselves on their liberalism, their life is like jungle gorilla. And what happened in Chile can happen in Britain—make no mistake.

These are the words of a member of the Chilean revolutionary socialist organisation, MR, who has now got out of Chile and spoke to Socialist Worker on the situation there. He cannot disclose his name because this would enable the junta and their agents abroad to pinpoint him.

There was the most blood-thirsty violence used in putting down the workers, the unemployed and the poor peasants. The shooting of six dockers from the Port of San Antonio for holding a union meeting is entirely typical, as was the fact that they were shot in trying to escape.

My organisation, MR, did a great deal of work in the shanty towns in Santiago, where people live in abject poverty. We helped to run the common food policy and organised political meetings.

The junta launched a very quick attack on the left shanties Nuebo Le Hanva (New Havana) for example, and that was supported by the workers.

In Santiago the strongest attacks on the workers, the factories which had been seized earlier this year and where the

Refugee from junta talks to Socialist Worker

cordones—area workers' committees—drawn the revolutionary militias altogether were strongest.

They really moved in on our workers in Rengo, an electrical goods plant formerly German owned, and on Sunday they started looting.

Another battle that has been going on in the events at the Loja coal mine. Loja is isolated and a great centre of Popular Union (the Alliance coalition).

The troops went there speedily when they had taken the key steps to control roads in Chile and launched a surprise attack. There was massive resistance but the troops won out. Now there is forced labour at Loja. The workers are discriminated against.

Trade union militants have been shot or detained on a huge scale and almost any kind of open independent organisation is impossible, although the workers may be back in action on account of the terrible burdens will be forced on them.

Starving

They have also savaged wage rates, withdrawing the Alliance government's social benefits. And food prices have rocketed. To give you an example a bus driver now pays about 7500 escudos a month. By the time I got out of the country I knew the rent of a meal alone cost 1500 escudos.

And now that the common food policy of the Alliance government has been smashed—all food distribution has been handed back to "established businessmen"—the poor must start to die.

The junta turned their guns on the workers on the rank and file of the working-class movement. But this has not meant that they have left the top, constitutionalist men in the movement alone. Far from it, for they

Police firing on crowd

set out to smash all independent working-class organisations.

You can see from the junta's official bulletin just how proud they are of what they've done. The Chilean equivalent of the TUC, the Confederation Unica de Trabajadores, has been dismembered and banned.

Calderon, the secretary general, has been murdered or interned in one of the secret prisons. Luis Figueroa, the president, and other central committee members are believed to be in custody. But they could just as easily have been done to death.

Terror against the working class and peasants is paralleled by persecution of students and foreigners. In Chile there were many refugees from other military regimes in South America. The junta really went after them.

They dropped leaflets titled "Which Chileans are brothers?" from helicopters. The leaflets encouraged people to denounce foreign so-called extremists, the refugees.

Hundreds and hundreds of the political refugees were hounded into the National Stadium. The claim is that this has all been stopped since the arrival of the United Nations Commission.

But what happens now is that people are not taken into custody, they're just murdered in some quiet spot so that no one will notice.

After the first few days, the junta became selective. They had started loping up to the British and the Americans. So they became careful who they picked.

But if you are a political refugee from say Brazil or Uruguay then you have had it. There are indications that the Brazilian and

uruguayan death squads have been brought in on these operations.

Why did it happen? It is inevitable. For some months before the coup there was a great radicalisation in important sections of the working class.

Most crucial of all there was a strong revolutionary influence in the cordones, the workers' committees, which included revolutionary Communist party militants.

Warning

This was because for months before the coup it was clear the military were operating as an independent force. They were using the Armed Councils as the present to attack workers. They had broken with the government.

Allende's answer was to take them into the government.

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Students demonstration dispersed by armed police: all opposition is under attack

in the navy spoke out about what was going on among the senior officers. Rank and file sailors demonstrated against a coup. They knew it was afoot.

Not only were their warnings not heeded, but the sub officers who had spoken out were arrested. Their actions and those of the men who denounced by the Popular Unity government as "an ultra left conspiracy."

Popular Unity was opposed to any political work in the forces. It's not that Allende was a reaction to the working class. Not at all. But if you denounced never to deviate from some supposed peaceful middle road then you were dealt and end up in disaster.

It is also vital to be clear on the part the Communist Party played. I've seen some of the things they've been saying in their publications here in Britain. Here they're really saying that the coup was inevitable.

But their comrades in Chile didn't say anything of the kind. The leaders of the Chilean party refused to believe a coup would come. They fought like tigers against those who were waging and preparing.

There is a very highly organised campaign by the Communist Party under the slogans "No to civil war."

This was also crucial in ensuring that the armed forces didn't split.

The Communist Party leaders went on and on about "unity" and how the revolutionary was undermining and wrecking it. Then when the comrades, the workers' committees, called meetings, the party called separate meetings next door at the same time through the official trade union machine.

It is a great tragedy, a disaster, that the troops has had to be learned in blood. But every socialist must learn from this.

You have to split the armed forces. And, you cannot do it with the means of power. The workers must seize power from the factories upwards.

There is no other way.

The Meaning of Marxism

by Duncan Hallas

2627 Books

262 Seven Sisters Road

London N14

by LAURIE FLYNN
THE GREAT REVOLUTIONS: Part Eight of Duncan Hall's popular series

Press rehearsal for October ...

The further east one goes in Europe, the weaker, meaner and more cowardly becomes the capitalist class, and the greater the cultural and political tasks which fall to the lot of the working class. On its strong shoulders the Russian working class must and will carry the work of conquering political liberty.

'('This is an essential step, but only the first step, to the realisation of the great historic mission of the working class, to the foundation of a social order in which there will be no place for the exploitation of man by man.

This statement appeared in the Manifesto issued by the first illegal national Russian Marxist conference in 1899 and it was right. 'What these pioneer Russian Marxists were saying was: The backward, half medieval Russian empire needs a capitalist revolution like that of England in the seventeenth century or France in the eighteenth but the Russian capitalist class is incapable of leading it. The workers must do the job.

It was a matter of timing. Russian capitalism was a very late developer. It did not exist in 1848 when the European capitalist classes took their decisive turn to conservatism for fear of the growing working classes.

There was then no modern industry and no modern working class in Russia. Most of the Russian people, the peasants, were illiterate.

But the Russian capitalists saw that socialist ideas had taken root among workers in some of the more advanced countries were spreading even in backward Russia. Revolution was not the sort of thing, the Tsar, the Tsarist regime, the Tsarist order. It was as obstinate to rapid capitalist development just as the absolute monarchy had been in England and France.

So the Tsarist regime was forced, despite the protests of foreign monarchies, to accept the fact that the Russian revolution was inevitable.

The duma elections, as Lenin called them, were the greatest defeat for the control of North China and Korea. The Russians were beaten, a direct result of the capitulation and backwrodness of Tsarist Russia.

It was the first time for more than a century that an Asiatic power had been in a European one and this had a profound effect on the colonial world. The white man was put in a new light by all nationalist movements in the Third World countries. Great Britain now had a great, but the largest immediate effect was in Russia itself.

The attitude of the masses towards war in faroff Manchuria was at first one of indifference,' wrote the Bolshevik historian Potesnikov. 'It was only after repeated mobilisations had begun to draw away workers when many villagers had lost one-third or even one-half of their able-bodied men, that the masses began to murmur. The murmurs soon became a roar.

On Sunday 9 January 1905 a priest, Father Gapon, led a vast crowd of Petrograd workers to present a reform petition to the Tsar. It was respectfully enough in tone. It began: 'Sire, We, your workers, our children and wives, the helpless old people who are our parents, we have come to you, sire, to seek justice and protection...'

People wore their Sunday clothes... Trotsky recorded, 'to some parts of the city they carried icons and church banners... The march was a peaceful one, without songs or speeches.

Ironically justice and protection they got bullets. In the great square before the Winter Palace a barge sounded and the troops opened fire. The killed and wounded fell in hundreds. The crowd was so dense that the fire could not miss its mark.' Bloody Sundays took place in new years in Russia controlled Poland, Finland and Belgian states as well as in the Caucasus, slowly but surely the Tsarist forces stamped out the rebels' units.

The reaction was savage. Military courts handed out 5000 death sentences, Anti-Jewish pogroms, a speciality of Tsarist, swept the Western borderslands of the empire in which a majority of the world's Jews still lived.

The naked face of Tsarism was slightly concealed behind a 'constitution' which Tsar Nicholas had been forced to concede at the height of the revolution, but the reality of despotism remains.

The socialist organisations were decimated and driven back under the ground. The Bolsheviks survived best. It was in this period of reaction that the differences between them and the other groups became fully developed. During 1905 all the socialist organisations had put forward the slogan for a democratic republic. The Bolsheviks maintained that it could be achieved only by an alliance between workers and peasants, the 'liberal' representatives of capitalism would be on the other side.

The Mensheviks, Bundists and other right-wing-moving groups relied on the co-operation of the liberals and came more and more to fear the consequences of working class and peasant revolt.

The split took a particular form in Russia but it was part of an international development. In France, in Germany, in Italy, Britain and the Austrian empire, it was becoming clear that the right wing of the rapidly growing socialist parties was in reality pro-capitalist.

It was not yet apparent that the centre, the majority, was revolutionary only in words. When, in 1914, the First World War revealed the truth, the Russian Bolsheviks were already a separate, genuine revolutionary organisation.

NEXt: Preparing for October...
BRITAIN’S MINERS are preparing for what could be the biggest battle in the pits since the 1926 General Strike. They have submitted a massive freeze-busting claim for increases in basic wages.

The Tories are making much of the fact that the Coal Board’s offer would give miners an increase of more than 13 per cent, or 16 per cent if the proposed productivity deal is included. But the problem for the Tories is that this is not enough. The only miners who would really benefit would be the permanent shift workers—only 14 per cent of the workforce. The NCB is trying to revamp the deal to arrive at a more ‘beneficial’ share out, but even this is unlikely to curb the militancy of the rank and file.

Massive

Everywhere miners are voting with their feet and leaving the industry. Nearly 11,000 men left the industry last year and this year the figure is closer to 14,000. Over the past couple of months the figure has soared to the staggering total of between 500 and 600 a week.

During the period of the last Labour government, massive numbers of miners were forced out of the industry as a result of the closure of pits. At the height of the preparations this had led to the mine at the rate of one per week. But today the industry is undermanned in many areas.

As one embittered militant put it: “This is the end of trade unionism as we know it.” The statement may sound alarmist, but in a way it is true. If the shop stewards’ movement is to defend itself adequately in the present period, it must respond in new ways to the tactics of the employers and the government.

Peter Jones writing in the latest issue of International Socialism on POLITICS AND THE SHOP FLOOR, the lessons of the past 12 months at Chrysler.

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THE MINERS WANT: £8 to £13 a week more to achieve a wage structure of £15 a week for surface workers, £40 for underground workers and £45 for workers on the coal face.

THE COAL BOARD HAS OFFERED: £2.30 for surface men and £2.87 for underground men, plus an ‘annual social shift’ payment of 17p an hour for hours worked between 8am and 6am and a threshold clause of 40p if the cost of living rises above 7 per cent a year.

THE TORIES are faced with a problem. Either they pay the miners a decent wage, or they face an outright conflict with the men who kicked them in the teeth in the early months of 1972. This time Heath knows that there can be no ‘special cases’. The ruling class cannot allow the miners to smash a hole in Phase Three which every other section of the working class could push through.

They now face an overtime ban throughout all the pits in Britain, which threatens to explode in an all-out strike action, unless right-wing NUM President Joe Gormley can juggle his way out of it.

Joe has not done so well up to now. All his ploying together with the Coal Board since the last strike and his manoeuvres so far to avoid a confrontation have come to nothing.

Ratified

When the executive of the NUM decided several weeks ago to recommend a total overtime ban to a special national conference, the delegates accepted it unanimously. This has now been ratified by the overwhelming majority vote in every NUM branch in the country.

The proposal for the overtime ban, including an ‘annual social shift’ payment of £2.30 for surface men and £2.87 for underground men, plus an ‘annual social shift’ payment of 17p an hour for hours worked between 8am and 6am and a threshold clause of 40p if the cost of living rises above 7 per cent a year.

Gormley was hoping that by taking such a ‘drastic’ action he would be able to split the membership and allow him to hold an early ballot on an offer from the executive which would win a majority for acceptance. What Gormley stated that the pits would ‘grid to a halt within a few weeks’ he knew that the effect of the ban on overtime working at weekends would be very uneven.

It could result in many miners being laid off for days at a time, drawing no pay, while others worked almost normally. He was no doubt hoping that this would damage the morale of the men, setting one group against another, which would make serious inroads in a united vote for strike action.

It is already apparent that this tactic is not working. The rank and file have entered the struggle with as much if not more determination than they began the ban two years ago. The effect on production has already been quite staggering.

Picnic

After just one week, even before the effect of the week-end ban was felt, production in Yorkshire was cut by almost a quarter. In Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire production is down by a sixth.

Miners are in fact treating the overtime ban as a work to rule as well, which shows clearly the strength of feeling at rank and file level. Providing that Joe Gormley continues to fail to divide the miners, this winter could see a strike in the coal industry that would make the strike two years ago look like a picnic.

The miners are occupying the centre of the stage, and the eyes of every worker who has seen his living standards plummet due to the Tory freeze are on them. And if the miners move there is a very real chance that many other sections of the working class will follow them with more than their eyes.

THE TALK in the press about 11 to 12 weeks’ supplies of coal at the power stations has to be taken seriously. The Central Electricity Generating Board has taken measures to prepare for a lengthy siege.

During the 1972 strike the miners did not only stop coal getting into the power stations, they also put a block on the movement of oil and Hydrogen, both of which are crucial to operations.

Most large stations have since been equipped with their own hydrogen-producing plant, while smaller stations have been stockpiling supplies.

Stocks of oil have also been built up. In the same week as the date for the beginning of the miners’ overtime ban was announced, two traintoads of oil were moved into the new giant power station at Eggborough in Yorkshire. Workers in other stations report that all the oil is not being used.

At the end of last year, the coal miners’ pay settlements have now been settled and in the main they have accepted their agreement—this time the miners later faced with. The productivity of the workers is now the result in the station gates. Workers at

THE BOSSES
NEILS PREPARE

similar moves—such a current enthusiasm is operating across the country—and oil-burners are being replaced. The number of stations has been reduced, and some are now on a mixture of oil and gas. Some stations have already closed.

Readers, reporting that the gates are now being manned by private police from Securicor, the firm of legalized snooper that Home Secretary Robert Carr was a director of a couple of years ago. When the gaunters at Eggborough were declared redundant, the Electricity Board claimed a saving of less than £100 a week. They are now paying Securicor £500 a week for the same service.

Relations between Securicor's private police and the official boys in blue seem to be very sweet. At Eggborough there have been at least two occasions over the past few weeks when police have pounced out of the gatehouse on home-coming workers to charge them with offences relating to their cars.

Miners should beware. This month's mounting offences will well be next month's conspiracy charges against pickets.

Message with Sylvia Charlesworth and Jean Lewis.

SAM VERNON was born in 1908 in Singapore. At the age of 12 he started work for his father's firm as a canteen boy and by the age of 21 he was allowed to work underground at the age of 21. After working five mines in the mines he moved to World War One and in 1918 he left the army to go back down the pit.

Sam married Alice in 1920 and started a marriage that lasted 84 years, three of whom died in infancy. They now live in Upton near Pontefract, Yorkshire, a one-time mining village where the pit has now closed and where miners travel to 10 miles daily to work in other pits in the area.

Grateful

Sam worked 50 years in the pits and is now left with chronic bronchitis and emphysema, a miner's pension of £29.50. They live in a Council flat in Aitch, last year, at the age of 75 finally gave up work.

For 11 years Alice travelled from Upton to Halina, a distance of 20 miles, every day, to work in a biscuit factory every day. She had to work at 8am and arrive home in the evening at 6.30. She worked five days a week and received £1.75. She was not allowed to have a child because it would have interfered with her work behind the factory.

When she left work, they gave her a £10 cheque and a bouquet of flowers. She said that only recently was the factory unionised and before the miners pay claim pamphlets and if the miners are to get anywhere, they have only themselves to blame. "The miners and TV may think you are much better off these days, because there is more money around, but we have nothing left to spend on luxuries. I only ever buy a new shirt to wear in my wife's line and that was when I left the army and received my demobilisation money.

Sam and Alice are luckier than a lot of old-age pensioners for they have their unmarried son, Bill, living with them. He is 70, but has the luxuries—luxuries such as fresh fruit from the nearby market in South Elmsall, figures such as a pint of beer for his 70th on a Saturday night, his only night out, and luxuries such as the bus fare for his trip to the cinema. He has visited Alice and Alice's daughter on a Saturday afternoon in Pontefract.

Struggle

Alice has not had any new clothes for the last four years and depends on her children to buy new underclothes for Sam when he needs them. "We are really in a position whereby she is struggling along and doing the best she can to get her house cleaned, but since the miners' benefits are cut, they are telling her not to bother about the thing because the government has cut her pension by half." Sam has himself considered himself a militant all his life, and although he left the mining industry some 10 years ago, he still looks after his interests in it. He says: "Gormley is for peace at any price. I believe what is written in the miners' pay claim pamphlets and if the miners are to get anywhere, they have only themselves to blame. "The miners and TV may think you are much better off these days, because there is more money around, but we have nothing left to spend on luxuries. I only ever buy a new shirt to wear in my wife's line and that was when I left the army and received my demobilisation money."

FOR THE MINERS TO WIN THEIR CLAIM—AND DEFEAT THE TORIES—they will have to move to all-out strike action.

The overtime ban may be crippling production, but it will take months before the ban alone can cripple the rest of industry, and it is not until the profits of big business are threatened by massive power cuts that the miners can be assured of victory. When the miners went on strike in 1972 they dealt a blow to the Tories, but they did not begin recovery from then until they let the dockers out of Pontefract last summer, and attempted to carry out the end of an official wages policy backed up by the law and the end of Heath's anti-working class government.

It is for this reason that the Tories have taken so many precautions. The trial of the Shrewsbury 24 for effective picketing during last year's building workers' strike shows that just as the miners struggle, they can expect much tougher action from the police this time.

Weapons

The massive stocks in the private police and the State of Emergency the Tories rushed to instigate, show to the world that these stocks are another indication that the Tories struggle might be harder this time.

But against the millions of the miners, the Tories have very powerful weapons. For a start they have the police.

Secondly there is growing evidence that the Met Police have placed a file for the executive to approach in any cases of picketing and there will also have a massive claim lodged against the Shrewsbury 24 joint action. Although neither Joe Gormley nor Hugh Scalfon want such a thing, the police are feeling for it among their members and it is one of the reasons why the Scottish Area of the NUM is moving towards a joint action. It is very important that this Conference of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions at district workers that the time could not be better for putting in for a handsome licence themselves. Contrary to the illusions of Fleet Street, the question of the constitution of the trade union movement is one of great and genuine interest.

Rank and file are capable of making the links and of overcoming the cowardice of the NUM officials, and this winter could provide the most important opportunities for the first time in a long summer of discontent.

NEW FROM SOCIALIST WORKER

Two important pamphlets describing the life and political struggles of Russian revolutionaries - Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky.

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workers' revolution.

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A socialist thanks to Anthony Eden...

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

THIS WEEK Under the Influence where socialists write about the books that helped make their revolutions is written by playwright ALAN PLATER.

Alan Plater is the author of Cloak the Coathouse Door, which has been described as "A hymn of unqualified praise to the miners—a group of men who forged a revolutionary weapon without having a revolutionary intent." He has also written many radio and television plays, including the trilogy To See How Far Itis.

SENATOR Joe McCarthy may be dead but his soul, like John Brown's, goes marching on. Woodward Wyatt, his every heart-beat in tune with those cold war heroes, Frank Chapplle, electricians union president/general secretary, and Lord Robens, last week presented the programme Red Under the Bed (Anglia TV).

Wyatt has subsequently had the unmitigated gall to write to The Times complaining that anyone who makes such remarks is forbidden to comment on the whole matter. If anyone thinks that the guts gave the programme a look in, the concluding remarks to the programme.

SURVEY report on the 1972 International Socialist Political Conference, in the缔 they were to take place in the 40-odd minutes actually filmed, added to its death knell. In particular, the parliamentary, the illusion, the need for a revolutionary party and rank and file involvement.

Woodrow Wyatt is a multi-millionaire, so he can't afford to waste this for the money. Presumably he believes the reactionary nonsense he peddles. Beside casting doubt on his intelligence, it also explains the low quality of his programmes.

JIM HIGGINS

TELEVISION

NOW PONYPUBTURGERS!

HERE IS THE NEWS, read by Lancelot Groove, Today has been a day of woman and remained the beautiful Princess Yasme married Major Mark Stratton.

All thoughts of economic crisis, states of emergency, oil shortages and strikes were dismissed from the minds of the happy populace as the Royal couple celebrated their nuptials. 45 0000 card board cutouts of happy beings lined the streets of London to cheer as the Princess and Lieutenant-Colonel Stratton made their way by horse-drawn carriage—a generous concession to the energy shortage—to Westminster Abbey where Archbishop Sir Alf Ramsey presided.

In a televisi television version of the wedding—Match of the Day—was seen by an estimated global audience of 20 billion. Action replay confirmed that the Princess promised to 'love, honour and obey' her husband.

Prince and Princess Phillips, wearing their clip-on smiles, greeted their subject people as they left the Abbey and announced that in view of the energy crisis the honeymoon Britannia would use no fuel but would be provided by the Shrewsbury 24 in a galley boat for the happy occasion by Sir John Donaldson.

Mr Bobby Moore, sweeping up at back, said that 20 tons of hot manure had been collected from the Royal route, that it would be cut into small squares and distributed to the poor and feed along with their Maudy pennies.

Mr Jack Greedy, chief of the Fire department, said that this was a splendid idea and he would like to see the whole house of Ponypuburgers, 50p a dozen or 5p a box. Scots should be the proud owner of a death certificate.

And above all, for some of other news. Six workers were killed in an explosion in a Birmingham munitions factory today. The manage- ment condemned this clumsy attempt to detract attention from the real value of the day...

And here is a lates news flash. The Buckingham Palace press office, Mr Malcolm Allison, has announced that Princess Yvonne and Major General Strattons are expecting a pound next June...

JOE STAGG

NEXT WEEK:

Valarie Clark writes about the influence of music and books on her growth as a socialist.

OUR NORMAN

You do the shopping, this week all the REM.

ELEVEN POUNDS FORTY PENCE 4

WEDNESDAY NIGHT COMING OUT TOMORROW? ER, NO.

DAVID EAST
A couple of years ago two actresses, Jean Marsh and Eileen Atkins, had an idea for a TV series. It was "to contrast Edwardian life, upstairs and down." It turned into Upstairs, Downstairs, and I talked to Jean Marsh about it.

Marsh, now in Stoke Newington, in North London, and living in Islington and Kilburn as a child. My mother was in service, and so was my father. If I had been born at the time I suppose I would have been too.

Her father is a socialist and was an assistant printer until he retired. She started as a child extra and has been an actress ever since.

She's an unaffiliated, thoughtful person and her seriousness with which she approaches the programme helps explain its success. The cast are good, so are the production staff.

The good thing about Upstairs Downstairs for me is that it isn't particularly nostalgic about the period. There is an unhealthy obsession with '20s' days' when everyone was down on their knees cleaning the upper class' garments.

Upstairs Downstairs has been fairly successful in avoiding this by its accuracy about the way that the people in that society saw themselves. Which of course is a real challenge.

Take Hudson (Gordon Jackson) the Butler. The real Hudson (1910) was doing all their writing from a group of parrots. I'd never seen that like it, but as a man ordained by God to serve—and any attempt to change world was a threat to his survival.

I'm not for the parrots. They believed that they were meant to be waited on. And in return would feel generous to those fortunate enough to serve them.

Take a look at the Royal Family (as there, and it is still going strong).

It's undoubtedly true, pointed out by my nan, who would go on dressing up and putting on uniforms. I met a middle-class woman who was a bit peculiar, and she said to me "What a good thing the series was because I should have been one of those parrots. I'm glad I wasn't."

And then there are plenty still around. This will go on. One thing that has changed a lot is there is still quite a lot but now it is based more directly on money, she said.

I imagine the two people who would have suffered most from the collapse of that old way of life would be the parrots (the part she plays). They lived completely by those rules and if anything other people, they lived without sex at all and the end they would have been left with nothing.

Which is one of the ironies— that a group of people who were employed, through the social system turned out to be least employed by parasites as well.


THE END of the First World War brought not the promised 'Land fit for heroes' but catastrophic unemployment and austerity measures. Among other things these excluded children of under six from school, reduced teachers' wages and cut expenditure on the National Health Scheme and the tuberculosis, maternity and child welfare services.

As long as unemployment lasts the state welfare shrank. The two million men and women thrown out of work were therefore largely dependent on the tender mercies of the churches and local charity organisations who opened their halls. 'Come in from the Cold', a cap of tea and a bun, possibly a game of dominos or solo was the usual fare in such places.

On the streets, in the gutter, bearded unemployed ex-service men were graze for every scrap of food. But the unemployed began spontaneously to organise themselves.

In 1921 the National Unemployed Workers Movement arose to give coherence to the struggle of the unemployed worker. 'Stop begging and fight'. Unfortunately, Hannington's book vividly describes the efforts to organise that generation of unemployed men.

Hannington, a Londoner, son of a coal heaver, had become an early member of the British Socialist Party, stocky in build, a forceful speaker, resourceful and courageous, became a national organiser of the NUW. He soon applied his abilities to welding the vast local unemployed committees into a national organisation.

He had learnt and successfully applied the lesson taught so well by John Burns and Tom Mann, that the unemployed struggles 40 years before to demonstrate that the workers' strength was in the ranks of dockland but in the heart of London. It was this projection of the issue of unemployment into the centres of power that made the NUW resonated throughout the country.

Hunger marches from the mining valleys and the industrial towns of Britain to London served the working class. Along the routes, despite reformist bickering, the unemployed marchers inspired solidarity and united support. With upturned faces, tingling with hunger and enthusiasm, a hundred thousand London working men and women packed their welcome. All through the 1920s the NUW demonstrations activated thousands.

Hannington tells the story of the Arthur’s mass. In the early years after the war, 11 November was the shining moment of establishment humbug and hypocrisy. When thousands of unemployed ex-service men were forced to seek outdoor relief at the Boards of Guardians, the annual ceremony at the cenotaph was the social event.

In Whitfield, ministers and MPs’s crowned heads administered the King and the royal funkeys gathered for the parade and the wreathing of state.

At the first stroke of eleven all London stood still. That was the social climate. The departure of crash express trains were delayed so that the silence would not be disturbed. Traffic stopped, the heart of the capital city of the Empire stopped in memory of those fallen—so wrote the gutter press. Not to doff one’s cap and stand still at that moment in the West End, was as irreverent as farthing in church.

As the official parade passed the warm-edged social elite, three-quarters of a mile away on the Thames embankment, another parade assembled. Twenty-five thousand ex-service men barred from joining the official parade were nevertheless determined to march down Whitehall. With NUW banners draped in black, which were pinned in

With war medals, the unemployed started to march.

At their head a huge wreath was carried with the inscription 'From the living victims—the unemployed—to our dead comrades, who died in vain.' The stark contrast of government and royal pomp for the dead and dire poverty for the living was never more effectively demonstrated.

What helped to make possible the building of the NUW into a really national organisation was the rich accumulation of talented working class leaders all over the country.

They were men able to do the programme of immediate demands and with a hundred agitational facets and so organise widespread support.

Whatever the turn of the situation at any time, the NUW programme of work or full scale subversion was fought for. At the local councils, in the Labour Exchanges, at the Labour and Trade Unions Congresses, in Downing Street and at the gates of parliament...""
Print union faces NIRC action by 50 expelled 14 years ago

The National Graphical Association, the print union which is affiliated to the National Industrial Relations Act, is now likely to receive an application for re-admission to the National Industrial Relations Court following the blacklegging of the major 1983 print dispute.

During the 1980 official strike of the print unions 50 NGA members at the Shrewsbury Chronicle newspaper refused to support the strike and continued to picket the paper. After the strike the Shrewsbury Chronicle management blacklisted the union members who had struck and forced them to find work elsewhere.

To maintain union discipline against the strike, the local Typographical Union branch decided to obey the scale. This decision was upheld by the union executive.

Now, with the services of the Industrial Relations Act well advertised, the expelled members have moved.

First they went to the Registrar of Trade Unions and Employers' Associations and sought his support for re-admission to the union. Interestingly enough he did not support them. This is probably because the NGA is virtually the only major union involved in which the TUC policy and decided to register under the Act.

Excludes

Next step for the brave men of the Shrewsbury Chronicle was to go to a local Industrial Tribunal to seek backing for re-admission. They got the tribunal and they are now applying for re-admission to the union.

The NGA, one of the most craft-conscious unions in the country, did not attend the tribunal.

The employer will now be re-applied to the NGA for membership, a union spokesman confirmed. He would not comment on the union's response. But there are firm signs that the union leaders do not intend to admit them. This is likely to lead to a new application from the Shrewsbury Chronicle to the National Industrial Relations Court.

If the NGA general secretary, recently appointed when he told 400 NGA members at a recent conference that the NGA would not attend the tribunal, found out what is happening it will be interesting to see what the NIRC does. NGA policy is that a union which is in contempt of court and which is also evasive in any form it might make it re-admit the man.

And the proceedings could lead to a situation where members of a registered union are fighting off the attentions of the NIRC with industrial action. For the NGA, as a craft union, is extremely flexible in its interpretation of the NIRC's rule as the Industrial Relations Act requires him to do. But the NIRC might just step in and do the job for them.

THE CAMPAGN FOR A £400 INCREASE IN WAGES AND CONDITIONS FOR THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION IS GETTING A HEAD OF STEAM. MORE Than 100,000 WHITE-COLLAR workers in the public sector are involved.

Special meetings have been held in all local government branches, most calling for some form of industrial action. A meeting of the national central council of the NALGO weeks ago was attended by more than 2000. For a union which has 130,000 members, this was a small official statement of the unequivocal call from the rally for strike action was unexpected.

But it is clear that the right-wing of the union decided to call a strike, which is a direct challenge to Phase Three. The rally was called and a strike called of a public notice stunts, aimed at the press and TV rather than a call to action. No allowances were called to the call which was issued at the end of the meeting. And it failed even as a publicity exercise — only two national newspapers mentioned it.

After three long speeches from the platform, Geoff Woolf, of Lewisham NALGO, who is a member of the International Socialists, made an attempt to propose an amendment calling for a series of one-day strikes starting on 7 December, for effective action against Phase Three, and for local government committees to mobilise the membership.

INTEND

He pointed out the need for a united campaign by all trade unions to defeat the government. Even after two-thirds of the hall had stood up in support of the amendment, the chairman, Fred Jex, refused a vote. As the rank and file amendment was moved, the microphone was mysteriously switched off.

The level at which the NALGO leadership intend to fight was indicated by a speaker, GLC Labour Councillor Beryl Harrington, who reminded the rally that 'A General Election was due' and appealed: 'Don't meddle with the demo's process.'

But further calls went up from all the floor for strike and picket campaign committee meetings. Rita Donoughly, of the national universities committee, stressed the need for action by all NALGO sections.

The right wing's attitude was made crystal clear at the deputy director council meeting, where the only vote worth considering was that of suspension of standing orders.

Bob Ford, of Islington NALGO, moved a motion calling for a sustained campaign of industrial action, organised by a rank and file committee. The leadership feared every bureaucratic trick in the book to break this motion, which now effectively leaves control in the hands of the working class.

The motion which was finally passed included calls for local and national demonstrations in support of the full £400 increase in the London weighting "allowance and against the government's incomes policy. It supported a complete overtime ban, no covering of work created by the closures, adoption of new services until full manning is achieved and full voluntary redundancy, with agency staff, and no compulsory redundancies.

The motion also supported one-day strikes and a selective strike strategy.

But the really key part of the motion was defeated, this called for the campaign to be organised by a rank and file committee. Instead, it is to be handled by a 'working party', which will not include lay members.

ACTION

The attitude of the union leaders is already clear. They have been devoting their efforts largely to trying to develop a common front with the employers. These in turn have made all-crafted expected of each £110 to £150 which, while over the Phase Three minimum, is way short of the claim. Whether the claim will be paid is another question. But the union leaders are implying to the members that they themselves do not need to fight anything since, they claim, "the employers are on our side."

In this situation a hard fight is needed for a rank and file NALGO Action group which played a large part in the Central Hall rally. The need is to get the London issue into the focus of a real fight for Phase Three, linking in the union's members outside London where wages also come under the hammer.

Campaign committees at the branch level must link the fight for effective action, involving the majority of the membership. The decision of the National and Local Government Committee of NALGO to call special district and national conferences seem a chance to strengthen effective rank and file opposition to Phase Three.
We stood together and wept for Govan

UNITED WE STAND—that should be our motto in Dundee Ambulance Service from now on. For the ambulance service is split in two. The staff are split between Dundee City Ambulance Workers and the National Union of Public Employees.

The first time that Dundie has stood together and it is the first time we have had a decisive victory over Dundee County Council, which has been elected on an anti-union ticket.

Four years ago the authority and the unions got together to try and arrange bonuses for the ambulance men. But both came to the conclusion—it is not possible. The simple reason being that the county council runs the service on a shoestring.

The corpse that whispers

IT FELT good being amongst thousands of trade union comrades at the St John’s Church Union rally on 11 November but I was bitterly disappointed at the poor attendance by representatives of the postal workers—the largest single body on the day.

You wouldn’t think so, would you? Well, let me explain. At St John’s Church Union Rally of 1971 and the sell-out General Union of Working People leaders, and who still have to work a 43-hour week.

To collect union subscriptions from box to box, one has to go to an office in a sophisticated sort of way. But the UFW exists in name only—because of the lack of rank and file activity.

Postal workers have been fighting for a raise for the past 15 years. Since 1971 it is a long battle, and no one who has been a member of the union for 5, 10, 15 years, can ever forget the struggle for a raise.

There has been a battle to get the postal workers to improve their working conditions, and to get the management to treat them with respect.

I have just read the article by J. M. Bennett in the “Mail” (November 11) about the postal workers’ struggle. It is a fight for better working conditions, and a better standard of living for the workers.

Postal points: Powell, trunks, slogans, and a day’s pay

POWELL AGAIN On Saturday evening, 24 November, Enoch Powell will be speaking at a dinner given at Durham University in his honour. The North East, with its constant unemployment, is the sort of area where Powell and his friends would like to establish a strong presence.

It is therefore vital that wherever he goes he is met with a strong demonstration of opposition. The counter demonstration is being organised through the Alternative Assembly at Durham University Student Union.

I would appeal to all your readers, especially members of the Manchester Anti-Fascist Committee.

A HUNK ON THE TRUNK I went on Saturday, 3 November, to Debenhams in Southport to buy a trunk—it was £7.99. But I was very nearly put off the idea of buying a trunk because of the cost of raw materials. The trunk was made from wood and the cost of raw materials could apply. This was a clear rise of about 18 per cent. So much for Phase Three. —S CATCHPOOL, Southport.

END ‘BOY’ REVOLUTIONARIES NOW! You may find that young people achieve some of the Social Worker Industrial Conference’s aims—that of extending the role and influence of Social Worker—by reporting news without dogmatic comment.

It was well worth buying the paper only to read the piece on Social Worker (17 November). Some facts at last about surplus housing, that earns a 40% grievance by supposing that they must only be fed soup and the ‘correct interpretation of events’. For one can be sure that these young people have cut out the boy revolutionary in the police and the press. —ROBERT SCOTT, London.

MORE WHERE HE CAME FROM It’s all very well quoting Richard Nixon (Socialist Worker 17 November). You could just as well have done an expose of Kennedy. All workers are just the same.—KEN DOW, Maidstone.

LOOKING FORWARD At last the royal wedding is over. As Anne and Captain Phillips drive away in the royal yacht Britania we are told to mount a curtain of criticism of the event. ‘The people’ enjoy these obseous spectacles.

Working people of this country have far too little to look forward to. We look forward to a long age of pensions buying single fish fingers, or unsupported mothers trying to ‘support’ themselves and children on subsistence level, of lower paid jobs, of children of lower reality of life. We do have the power workers’ and miners struggles coming ahead and a chance to change things for the better and a defeat for the Tory government.

A general strike, a National Party and Plan Cymru by the workers and a change of the hated Tory government in place of a working class of rights that they have won for themselves.

One small point: Prince Anne, your one day holiday to Scotland while the miners were on strike was a few pence. Many women had to take time off work to work on the fields. All this is what a day’s work is worth these days.——ALISON LANGAN, London.

The Palestine question: What are their legitimate rights?

The FOOTPRINTS comment on Harry Selby (Socialist Worker 17 November) really talks back to theavour of this to the man who managed to lose the safe Labour seat at Govan.

Selby’s position on the Labour Party is an abject failure to him, but his stand as a Labour candidate was a clearHY, his position is paradoxically ugly. At a campaign meeting in Govan on 29 November, Mr Sillars, speaking for the Nationalist Socialists, asked for answers to questions from the audience regarding the situation in the Government’s election campaign.

Selby and Sillars in agreement on his attacks on the striking firemen. No on to point in offering sympathy to an old ‘Trotskyist’ whose result has no less than a left wing cover for the calumny of the Labour Party politicians.

We have been told in these days that we believe, that the working class will win through and stand alone in the present circumstances. Workers involved in struggles are becoming increasingly and in the end to form an independent revolutionary party which will be the only answer.

It is not possible for anyone with any respect for his own country and the building of such a revolutionary party, even in such an organisation as the Nationalist Socialists who do not know personally Jimmies Mccallum, Glasgow.

The arrogant braggard of your column (Footprints 17 November), when he wonders why thousands of Glasgow workers are voting for the SNP, can only say ‘quackery’ must not go unanswered.

The veto Labour got is not a veto on the SNP but an electoral manifestation of the appeal of nationalism to those workers who do not feel they can be in a working class party and thus return the SNP to the ranks of the press and the workers.

The SNP and Welsh voters have been and still are strong advocates of socialism but their actions have always been guided by the SNP’s national policies.

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST NEWS
FORWARD TO A SOCIALIST
WHAT'S ON

HALF-DAY SCHOOL for all branch members of the Socialist Worker Industrial
Committee. The theme will be the struggle in India, Pakistan, the Middle
East and South London. Details from Sandip Nagi.

ASIL 101 public meeting: What's next for the
Socialist Worker Movement. The meeting
will be hosted by the ASIL 101 branch.

LONDON IS FACTORY BRANCH 101 public meeting: "End the
unending round of factory branch branch
registrations and branch meetings. Branch
leaders are aware of the need for a
REVOLUTIONARY ANSWER."

LAWNSIDE public meeting: Kick out Phase Three.
Speaker Paul Foot: Thursday 25 November, 8 pm, hq. of Socialist Worker, 18 Gordon Row, London E4.

TEESIDE IS public meeting: George Perry: "Socialism and the Trade
Unions: The Challenge of the New Century."
Speaker George Perry: Thursday 8 December, 7 pm, town hall, Middlesbrough.

BIRMINGHAM IS 101 public meeting: "The Future of the Factory Branch."
Speaker Peter Leveson: Saturday 24 November, 7 pm, Red Cross Hall, 16 Walsall Road, Oldbury. Limited
Tickets 50p on the door, or 50p in advance. For details call 01-469 7711.

PETERSFORD IS public meeting: The Great East Clip. Speaker Paul Foot: Friday 16 November, 8 pm, hq. of Socialist Worker, 18 Gordon Row, London E4.

LAWNSIDE public meeting: KICK OUT Phase Three.
Speaker Paul Foot: Friday 9 November, 8 pm, hq. of Socialist Worker, 18 Gordon Row, London E4.

KENTISH KLOVERS: Mr. Chirnside's speech on "The Great East Clip" was
supplied by the Kentish Kolvers, London. "The Great East Clip" is a
revolt against the Labour Party's "Socialist" policies, the Kentish
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Labour Party's "Socialist" policies.

COVENTRY IS 101 public meeting: "The Future of the Factory Branch."
Speaker John Smith: Sunday 18 November, 2 pm, The Head, 25-27 Newmarket Street, Coventry.

LEEDS DISTRICT 101 public meeting: Speaker Paul Foot: Tuesday 20 November, 8 pm, Whg Hotel, Lower Bridge St, Leeds.

HRW, 57 Queen St, 10am-1pm, 10am-1pm, 10am-1pm, 10am-1pm, 10am-1pm, 10am-1pm, 10am-1pm, 10am-1pm, 10am-1pm, 10am-1pm.

BRIGHTON District 101 public meeting: Speaker Paul Foot: Wednesday 21 November, 8 pm, Windmill, 42-44 Queen St, Brighton.

POSTERS: The big red Socialist Worker and ASIL 101 posters are now available for £1 each, post free. Please order by writing to ASIL 101, 18 Gordon Row, London SE1.

LEAFLETS: The Socialist Worker advance leaflet, "The Future of the Factory Branch."
Speaker John Smith: Sunday 18 November, 2 pm, The Head, 25-27 Newmarket Street, Coventry.

MEMBERSHIP BOOST
The Socialist Worker Industrial Conference has led to a boost in IS membership, especially among workers in the big industrial area. In the last three months, 15 new members have joined, in addition to the Union shop steward who joined after the IS campaign. The total membership is now over 500.

Tower Hill rent strike
WE REGRET that in our report last week of the Tower Hill rent strike by the Socialist Worker Industrial
Committee, we failed to include the statement by Ethel Singleton. "We have
just looked at the Tower Hill rent strike in Kirkby, Liverpool, and we are
appalled at the way in which the strike committee is being treated by the
Company. The strike committee is made up of 15 members, and the total
membership of the company is approximately 500. The tenants do not think
Their rent strike is justified, and they are willing to pay the rent fixed before the Housing Acts. A meeting was introduced.

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Ambulance men at Freeze

Ambulance men march on Durham Town Hall, Ronnie Young is third from left. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

DEFENCE begins at pickets trial

SWY Reporters WE HAVE WON! We want the last ambulance from Durham as they marched on County Hall last Friday.

The men had won payments of £2.85 for a five-day week and £3.38 for a seven-day week from a county council which had "adamantly insisted for two weeks that this was the absolute limit."

In between, the Durham men went on strike and proved what the Glasgow firemen proved: that money can be found from the most unlikely place if the industrial action.

But the Durham men are still far from satisfied. They have no answering emergency calls only.

Ron Padmore, branch secretary of the public employees' union NUPE, Durham branch, told Socialist Worker: 'This is only the beginning. Our next aim is the national claim for a decent wage.'

John Wilkinson, NUPE branch chairman at the New Washington depot, said: 'The lads are really determined to fight on the implementation of the national pay referendum, which we have agreed with our employers, but which has been blocked by the government.'

Ambulance men all over the country have shocked the employers, the government and the trade unions with mass outbreaks of militant action.

Ambulance men have declared a total ban on all calls except emergencies. In Lancaster, union officials just managed to swing the vote against 24-hour strikes.

At the outset, the feeling of the meeting was for a static strike, but Ron Keating, NUPE official, declared that the union was prepared to 'stop the stoppages', and would not support any action which would disrupt the NHS services. 'Small sections, especially in the public sector,' he argued, 'was not above.'

After an hour's persuasion, the chairman was finally forced to call a vote. On a show of hands, 20 voted for, 19 against motion 32 for, and against the conclusion which followed. The 20th man — a new member for motions 32 for on ambulance calls — then gave his vote for the ambulance call. A chorus of cries of 'NO! NO! NO!' came from the ambulance men, who threw their cards and threw them at the podium. Most of the 30 ambulance men were in the lobby and not answering the ambulance calls.

On Monday, the stewards had demanded another meeting to get the results of 'last Thursday's vote'.

Out for seven weeks

MANCHESTER—The official strike by nurses, members of the Midwives' Union, at the six Ferrari factories is in its seventh week.

Working class solidarity, particularly from the transport workers, plus 24-hour picketing is countering Ferrari's lying propaganda and use of the police.

Socialist Worker (For a year, for £2.60, for six months, bulk orders available on request—post free.)

Medical workers, both nurses and ambulance men, must be given the wages won at the end of the strike. The call to stop the strike must be made now.

There is a real danger of this newest picketing being the last, as the company once more faces closure until next year.

This is the time to act now and get the support of the public behind us. Recovery of the ambulance men's fight is the key to the link between ambulance men and the NHS and the NHS fight. Ambulance men should be supported until their demands are met.

Hull-Amul: The strike was won for workers at the factory who are fighting for a 10% pay rise and against redundancies.

Clay Cross: The Tory press and Tories everywhere have given a tremendous boost to the staff of Clay Cross Councillors. In response to the council's suggestion that the council's 90 manual workers should be paid no more than allowed by the Pay Board.

The council's suggestions were rejected by the Labour party who, in response to the council's suggestion that the council's 90 manual workers should be paid no more than allowed by the Pay Board.

Hull: A group of Hull Socialists have won the right to picket the factory which is ready to be closed down. The workers have won a 10% pay rise and against redundancies.

Widnes: A meeting of 1000 workers at the factory was supported by a large demonstration of official union leaders. The workers have won a 10% pay rise and against redundancies.

Wokingham: The picketers at the factory have won a 10% pay rise and against redundancies.

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By union action we can win a better deal for all workers.