Jailings—the ugly face of the social contract

The labour government could repeal the Conspiracy Laws at any time, but they won't. They might have to use them themselves to see that the system isn't seriously challenged in the future. Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson are now paying a price that could have been avoided. George Smith, general secretary of the builders' union UCATT, sold these men down the river during the trial and is now saying he regrets his court's decision. Well, let's see the executive of UCATT call out all their members to free these men. Let's see the TUC, which was born out of struggles such as this, call on all its members to strike to free these men and wipe the Conspiracy Laws from the statute books—instead of ranting about the Tolpuddle Martyrs and the Peterloo Massacre. The labour government has ratted on these men. So have the TUC and the builders' unions. The rank and file must not do the same.

The rank and file call for action

A CALL for strike action to free the two men we issued, within an hour of the jailings, by Roger Cox, secretary of the Rank and File Conference Organising Committee. 'The lead in the fight to free the two lads will come from the rank and file, and we've got to organise to make it successful', he said.

The committee will produce an immediate leaflet calling for strike action and the building of local rank and file committees to ensure we get it. If we don't fight, our right to picket will be under grave threat. 'This brutal act must be condemned by all trade unionists. You can really see the violence of the forces of "law and order" now.'

The committee is organising the Second National Rank and File Conference against wage restraint and unemployment on 30 November. For delegates' credentials and copies of the leaflet calling for strike action to free the pickets (175p for 500) write to Roger Cox, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.
FOR far too long Britain's lorry drivers have settled for appalling wages and conditions while employers have been able to afford big wage increases.

200,000 lorry drivers are employed by the road haulage companies, which is one of the world's oldest and most well-organised of industries. In the late 1940s, the BRTA spent half a million pounds on a propaganda campaign against the Labour government's nationalisation of the road transport industry.

The result, was a man who later became a director of the Nationalised road transport industry. This industry has had no effective nationalisation of road transport in 1953—indeed the dropping of road transport nationalisation from the Labour Party's programme.

Since then the road transport companies have fought against all road traffic legislation. They've spent another £300,000 on road traffic regulations. They have enthusiasm for more and more government spending on roads.

As a result of these campaigns, the road transport trade associations have amassed enormous profits. No private industry in the country has been so free to

put on the profits as the road haulage industry.

The chief reason for these profits has been low wage costs. Because lorry drivers have not used their vast industrial power to force wages up, the hauliers have had it all their own way. The union leaders have co-operated in this task.

Now the drivers in Scotland and in Hull have broken through. Now it's up to lorry drivers all over the country—whether they work for private hauliers, for nationalised hauliers such as British Road Services, or on lorries owned by manufacturers—now it's up to all of them to follow this lead. The demand must be for what the drivers in Hull and Scotland have won: £40 a day for a 40-hour week. Not a penny less!

by John Stevenson

Manchester Local Transport Union member of the United Road Transport Union

The road haulage industry is a jungle. Nearly every company has a different wage scale, and it's the biggest firms that are always trying to undercut each other.

Drivers who have been in the job for years invariably get the shorter end of the stick in the right shoulder from driving thousands of miles with a draught from the wind. Hours spent on all-weather routes are often spent in hemoirhoids. Add to this the vibration and the noise, and it adds up to really unhealthy conditions.

This is just the inward car. But being a driver can mean being a loader too. More drivers are killed by road accidents than on the road. How many men fall off wagons while they're loading and unloading?

Inedible

Although it costs at least £3 per day, many drivers get the minimum accommodation allowance laid down by the wages councils—£1.75. Most of the double-axle trucks are inadmissible as accommodation, even though this is the worst advertised in the union papers.

The choice is no better on the motorways. Fords have a franchise of service stations and one condition of this is to provide reasonable, cheap meals for transport drivers. In fact, the meals are almost inedible and very expensive. It's time we picketed these places.

The life of a haulage driver affects your family. You rarely see the children. If you happen to be in the town, you can take your lad along to spend the day with you. So next time you see a kid in the cab, remember it's about the only time he gets to see his dad.

We are organised 24 hours a day by the drivers in the industry, and they're not afraid to stand up for themselves. To survive in a jungle, you either have to fight or be a wild animal or organise to change it.
Ireland gets an oily deal

by Eamonn McCann

The oil slick now smeared all over the place. A few news clippings, a perfect picture of the effect multinationals have on the economies of the third world countries where they operate. Gulf Oil built a terminal, one of the biggest in the world, at the Irish port of Rosslare Harbour Bay some six years ago. It was supposed to be a big deal, a small conservation groups, but generally welcomed as an area starved of development.

What now emerges, and what no one picked up at the time, is that Gulf sought and received an assurance from the Irish government that there would be no Harbour Authority set up at Bantry. That is, it was allowed to run the terminal itself without being accountable to the public. It gained the monopoly of concessions and freedom to take all profits out of the country.

Since then it has clearly ignored the interests of the area and got on with the job of making money hand over fist. Anti-seepage precautions seem not to exist. The company admits to 21 spills, Local fishermen put the figure much higher. Gulf first estimated the present spillage at six barrels. It turns out to be the biggest since the Torrey Canyon, possibly bigger, and there were no plans to deal with it. The result is that the livelihood of the fishing industry is threatened and the natural beauty of the area destroyed.

Meanwhile other multinationals are carving up the rest of Ireland's resources. Moneymore (salt), Baltra (gas) and Bula and Tara (Silver, lead and zinc) have already won their 'concessions'. But despite the presence of Labour in the Irish government, there are no plans to take this over, or even to try to control them effectively.

WHY I WORK

by Michael Smith

I work because I have to. I don't work because I want to. I don't want to work. I don't want to do anything. I can't do anything.

I don't want to work. I want to do nothing. I can't do nothing. I can only do something. I can only work. I work because I have to.

I work because I have to. I don't work because I want to. I don't want to work. I don't want to do anything. I can't do anything.

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It's been a good week for racists...

WITHOUT DOUBT racialism had a good week last week. The House of Lords decision on workers' clubs and the colour bar was heavily covered in the Birmingham Daily Mail, a working-class, anti-black, nationalist newspaper. It is likely that the post-war boom has been a cause for increasing tensions in the law on racial discrimination, and the National Front in its paper, The People, announced its intention to combat the "many injustices" that are being "perpetuated" by the law. The NFU's white paper on its role at imperial meetings must be met with resolutions of condemnation from TGWU branches. Dick Francis, BBC, Birmingham.

SOCIALISTS AND TRADE UNIONS must fight for the unity of workers, not just their black but at least we can drink together. Any attempts by social clubs to keep out black workers must be met with picketing and boycotting.
Capitalism causes famine — that's official

'FAMINE' is becoming a common word in the press these days. First there was mass starvation in parts of West Africa. Then Ethiopia. Now there are reports of the worst famine in India since Bengal 1943-4, when three million people died.

A typical report appeared in the Parisian Times last week.

'In West Bengal a woman burst into tears when she said she had been without food for two months. People are dying from malnutrition. A family of seven in Andhra Pradesh found their grain store empty so they ate a tin of mustard paste.

Unusually, the press give the impression that such starvation is the result of a natural calamity.

In Assam, North West Bengal and North Bihar the crops have been devastated by the floods that have been sweeping South East Asia. Over the rest of India crops are withering because there is not enough rain.

All that anyone in the West can do, it seems, is pray for a change in the weather and give a few bob to famine victims. How anyolutions made by the facts it presents.

Produce

As might be expected from a US government publication, it attempts to improve the present system as well as the same. Its illustrations can hardly be of any use to anyone other than the people in the United States, Canada, Australia and Argentina, who have been adopted policies which caused a decline in wheat acreage from 120 million to 81 million acres.

These four countries maintained the wheat area they had in 1967 and 1946, yields obtained from 1967 through 1972 would have produced over 90 million tons of wheat.'

When is a crime not a crime?

NEXT time you hear someone mumbling about equality before the law remember the case of Thomas Crowley.

Thomas, who is 20, was jailed for six months last week. Magistrate Neil McKillop recommended that Thomas should be deported when he was released.

McKillop took the case of a very young Irish-born building worker very seriously indeed. 'He comes here and gets a fair wage and work and then starts to swindle the Revenue,' he said.

But of one thing we can be certain: the real reason Thomas Crowley copped it has little to do with the fact that he was swindling the tax and everything to do with the fact that he is working class and Irish.

We can be certain about this because there are other people, of a different class, who get full dispensation from prosecution for tax evasion.

Exempt

Take Mr J Fox Andrews of Bristol. He was a proven tax evader, the police said, having a good deal more than Tom Crowley's £2 a day. But the authorities decided that Mr Fox Andrews could not be prosecuted because 'it would undermine public confidence in the law.' Mr Fox Andrews was a judge.

Not just judges are exempt. In the taxman's union journal, Taxes, a member wrote:

'Criminal... is comfortably conceived in class terms. Those who commit crimes are thought of as dangerous and deserving of all they get. Tax evasion, on the other hand... has been the preserve of middle, upper, respectable businessmen. They are at liberty to do it and boast about it in pubs and clubs.'

Which is why Duncan Sandys and his Lhontro colleagues, who salt their money away in the tax free Cayman Islands, are still free to go about their business and Tom Crowley is in jail.
I’m afraid we dug a little too deep, said the surgeon

WALTER SALMON looks an ordinary man of 48. Then you notice that he looks older, that he walks awkwardly, that he holds his back stiffly. His wife Kathy appears tense and seems to watch him all the time.

Fourteen years ago Walter, Kathy and their five children were a ‘well off’ working-class family living in Chiswick, West London. In his own words, he was a ‘blue collar worker’ who worked the hours and the conditions that were expected of him.

In December 1960 Walter had an accident while working on a building site. Cast-iron guttering fell from a roof, hitting him on the head and knocking him out. He fell back heavily and was taken to hospital, where he was treated for concussion and bruising and detained for several weeks.

He returned to work, though still feeling unsteady. He felt pains shooting up his back and extending into his neck, shoulders, arms and legs. He had occasional blackouts when the lower part of his back was touched. Repeated visits to the doctor threw up vague suggestions of lumbergia, arthritis or fibrosis. His complaints were given little attention.

Walter’s life changed. His comfortable home life fell apart. Unable to work because of back pain and increasing blackouts, he began to feel trapped and isolated.

The family suffered financially. Nobody mentioned compensation.

Walter returned to his doctor. This time the diagnosis was ‘nerves’.

The pains continued. So did the unsatisfactory answers from the doctor.

Walter became worse, so now Kathy went to the doctor, demanding he do something. Walter was having difficulty breathing and felt ‘shat in’ wearing a shirt and tie.

The doctor wrote to the West Middlesex Psychiatric Unit, where Walter was seen by a psychiatrist and admitted at once. Kathy was told he might be in for six weeks. They might better have said six years. That was 1963.

The treatment was a long line of drugs, each of which only made Walter gradually more confused and disoriented.

Kathy said she just wanted her husband back. The doctor calmly replied: ‘Oh, you’ll never get that. Why don’t you leave him?’

The doctors had certainly left him. Left him with part of his brain missing. Left him with little hope of ever keeping a job again. He still had the pain in his back.

Now he suffered feelings of violence, instability and hatred which he had never known before. His five children turned against him as he suddenly became a violent, madman. Violent scenes in the home grew more regular, until his son tried to stab him to death.

In the Old Bailey trial that followed, the psychiatrist gave evidence that the incident had to be seen in the light of Walter’s mental history. The operation had been a failure. Walter was now a ‘schizophrenic, psychopathic liar’. And so, disguising his own failure, the psychiatrist named Walter as the origin of the problem.

The judge dismissed the case at Walter’s request.

They had sent him to hospital eight years earlier with a mild feeling of claustrophobia, and had released him a schizophrenic, psychopathic liar!

Worried

The pressure of those years, visiting hospital every night, worrying at home, bringing up five children, suspecting that the doctors had done no good for Walter, had begun to take their toll on Kathy. Now she became ill herself, not knowing what to do for Walter.

She also became more aware of her position as a woman in society, as a woman in relation to her husband and as a woman suffering. It was not too long after this that she helped to found the Chiswick Women’s Aid Centre, the first of its kind in England.

Walter, meanwhile, felt still more confined and worried. He decided to leave London to live by himself in Bristol. That was in 1972. Slowly he began to fight back.

He was granted a minimal Disablement Pension—and discovered after all these years he could, in fact, apply for industrial compensation. Last June he appeared before a Medical Assessment Board.

But he made a shattering discovery. A consultant uncovered ‘scars which showed a “Z” shape which had formed in Walter’s spine as a result of an old, unhealed fracture’. This, said the consultant, could only have been caused by a severe injury.

The only such injury Walter had known was the building site accident of 1960. This fitted with the fact that the hospital had found him 16 inches shorter than before.

Evidence

When he came before the Medical Assessment Board this was apparently not considered. Walter, on his own, felt swamped by its cold bureaucracy and couldn’t present half the evidence he had. The Board decided that due to the head injury in 1960 he had lost his faculty to work and had been ‘10 per cent disabled’ for one year (1960-61). The assessment said it didn’t take into account his depression, paranoia and the stomach operation for stab wounds.

He was awarded £22, a lamp sum.

The devastation of his life, the 14 years of mental torture, the mental breakdown of his wife Kathy and the effect on the children, the Board apparently did not see as related to the original accident.

Walter, however, had by then learnt enough to reject the £22. Reunited with Kathy, he is trying to appeal against the assessment, with the help of the Mental Patients Union.

Walter and Kathy have both learned, by the most tortuous means, the political meaning of their situation. Walter, who after the operation on his brain confines in the psychiatrist that he has the feelings of a ‘murderous bastard’ and wants to kill, is simply told: ‘If you do kill or harm anyone, we’ll put you in Broadmoor.’

Kathy, expected to leave Walter or, if not, to support him, was the impossibility of her position as a woman and the need for change in society.

Meanwhile all society will ever offer them is ‘compensation’—and that only if they can find a good radical lawyer and sympathetic, competent help. Compensation will never change what they have suffered.

STORY: MARY HUTCHINSON AND RON SINGER. PICTURES: Ron McCormick
THE SCOTTISH EXPLOSION

This is Haggart, Glasgow. Somehow, the Social Contract didn’t quite seem to fit in round here. But they found a place for it—at the bottom of the Clyde

THE Scottish strike wave was kicked off by the workers at Hoover’s Cambusbarr. They have now been on unofficial strike for eight weeks.

It’s not been easy but the workers have stayed united and determined to fight a situation where they are on a miserable basic of £26 with average earnings before tax of a mere £32.

That’s why they’ve defined the all-out efforts of the AUEW executive to get them back to work without cash on the table.

The executive broke all records to deal with Hoover. Normally strikers are kept waiting weeks for an official announcement. But the EC dealt with Hoover before the first week was out.

EDDIE McAVoy, AUEW shop steward at Hoover’s, tells what it’s like to be in the middle of the strike wave—and face to face with the Social Contract...

‘IF WE HAD united working class leadership here in the West of Scot-
land the situation would be even better than it is already. If the Jones and the Scanlons were doing what they should be doing instead of being members of the government, we would have a fantastic battle. We could improve every single workers wage and clear up a few other injustices besides.

But workers aren’t getting that leadership. So they’re doing the leading themselves. We’re near to a local general strike. But instead of trade union officials running around trying to lead it, we’ve got leaders who’re only out to damp down the fire.

If we had a genuine alliance of trade unionists, we could link up the various strike committees, the employers could never pick us off one by one. The problem is people think we’d lose our separate identities if we joined forces. You have to set that aside in the interests of unity, for with unity the employers are on a hiding to nothing.

We’ve had four years under a Tory govern-
ment when our wages were under constant attack. And last year Hoover made £25 million profit. Now they’re saying that they’ve cash flow problems.

But they’re a multinational like the others. They’ve profits they’ve piled away abroad. They never invested it or nothing.

So we’re not going to pay for their small cash problem. They can damn well bring back some of their money from America.

None of us minds getting paid in dollars. We have fantastically low wages. That’s why it sickens me to hear Len Murray, Jack Jonis and Co making their speeches. They must be working for the CBI.

Take Jones’ speech at Motherwell. He said that high wages could cause unemployment. If you shut your eyes and ask who said it you’d come up with the answer—an employer. For it’s an employer’s argument.

If we accept the Social Contract we will end up with a wage freeze. In 1964 George Brown came up with a similar thing to the Social Contract. Only then it was the TUC-CBI declaration of intent. A year later our wages were frozen.

If you accept the Social Contract, they tell you quite openly your living standards will drop. Under this so-called contract, there is nothing to prevent the shareholders and the other people we call parasites increasing their profits.

I’ll never know how anyone has the nerve to tell a man going home with £27 a week to pay the rent and feed the family that he should pull in his belt. It is just despicable and any union which says we should accept the contract is selling the members down the river.

I’d accept a Social Contract, if everyone was equal and if everyone had the same stan-
dard of living. But until such time, I will not. Pushing such a thing now is nothing but a recipe for continuing the exploitation of the working class.

What causes unemployment is not our wages, high or low. Employers will shut places down even if they break even. They’re looking for what they think is a satisfactory rate of return.

They’ve never invested to help the working class. They invest to help a small minority who already own wealth and want to have more at their disposal.

As long as you have this situation you’ll have closure threats, shut downs and lack of job security. The only way to get job security is to take industry out of their hands, to nationalise their factories. You’ll never control them any other way.

Jones and Scanlon were part of the great leadership who were going to lead the working class to higher living standards. But now we see that Jones makes the capitalist and their profits the first priority. And I was foolish enough to think that trade union officials were supposed to be responsible to their members.

They were all great fellows under the Tories all attacking prices and how much they’d gone up. But now with wee Harold in there, they’ve changed their tune. They’re saying that profits are OK, if they can charge more on them. What a joke.

But they’re not on. Up here people are showing that they’re not going to tolerate the situation any longer.

All it needs is the organisation and leadership. People are sitting on the sidelines waiting and watching. If we had the organisation, there’s nothing we couldn’t do.

SPREAD STRIKES!

GLASGOW International Socialists have responded to the present wave of disputes in the West of Scotland by launching a mobilisation around this six-point programme:

1 EXTEND the strikes. Put in wage claims and take action now.

2 NO RETURN to work until the full claims have been met. No productivity strings. Not a penny less than £10.

3 GIVE the strikes official backing by the unions. No sell-outs by full-time officials.

4 FOR a West of Scotland all shop stewards’ meeting to give full support, moral and financial, to those in dispute.

5 FOR a West of Scotland Rank-and-File Strike Committee to link those in dispute and those putting in claims, and to organise a common strike fund.

6 SUPPORT the National Rank-and-File Conference in Birmingham on 30 November.

‘If we had the organisation, there’s nothing we couldn’t do…’
Shortages? We know the real culprits

by Gail Armstrong

OVER the past few weeks we have seen shortages of perishables and even meat in the shops in Scotland as the haulage drivers were stepping up their strike.

Now that the drivers are winning things may improve. But the bouncy are still standing firm and there are thousands and thousands of other low-paid workers who could well follow them into battle. So our problems could well carry on.

Story

One thing that all housewives and workers should remember is who is really responsible. The press and TV are all too ready to point the finger when workers demand decent conditions and wages.

It is a different story when sugar or petrol supplies magically dry up. We are told greedy Arab sheiks, penny-pinching women shoppers or natural disasters are responsible.

But there is another side to it. The lack of goods seems to come IT from time to time when we can recall that British supermarkets and looking after themselves and doing very nicely out of it.

Furthermore, it has been widely reported that retailing, even when presented to the public as a wonderful business, has its problems.

Double

They struck for an independent inquiry into the handling. But, needless to say, retailers rejected the idea. It's the bosses who cause the shortages.

Buses are also suffering from the drivers' money because they want more wages. Almost every day we hear the same story. The drivers are suffering as they are put off by the bosses and they are then told that we should vote our anger.

The Union is right at the centre of the storm in the West of Scotland as the TGWU. Longshoremen, workers, dustmen, engineering workers have all been on strike despite the fact that an all-union leaders' agreement, signed last Sunday, was to be followed by a national ballot.

Jones has got exactly the problem where he stands in this vital battle. Indeed his performance recently must destroy the myth that he is some kind of militant once and for all.

Only last month, every F and G branch received a circular from Brother Jones pointing out that although the TUC will meet with the government on the future of the TGWU, the TGWU Regional Office has given its blessing.

For a strike that is paid - strike-period of notice required under the contract of Employment has elapsed, and the TGWU must take the view that no strike action is justified.

Only one small number of pickets should be used and all offers of outside help should be refused.

In other words, Jones was saying: Carry on as though the TUC will meet with the government on the future of the TGWU, the TGWU Regional Office has given its blessing.

As though the TUC will meet with the government on the future of the TGWU, the TGWU Regional Office has given its blessing.

There is a large number of pickets who are saying they are not going to be used and all offers of outside help should be refused.

JONES' reputation as a militant has suffered most from the various wage restraint policies of recent years. But he has to be careful.

In the present situation Jones has some difficulties. Representing hundreds of thousands of low-paid workers he has to face the fact that he has suffered most from the various wage restraint policies of recent years. But he has to be careful.

And the even numbers of TGWU members currently on strike makes it extremely difficult for him to take too hard a line without provoking a massive revolt inside the union. After all he wants to avoid the moment. But give him time and he will take the hard line.

Disguise

Jones' reputation as a militant has suffered most from the various wage restraint policies of recent years. But he has to be careful.

In certain circumstances, to keep control of particular situations, Jones will be forced to make fighting noises. But in general he will move even further to the right.

TOMMY Drumhopper, THE

Disguising the truth, we have democracy, they allow contracts. The idea of

and maybe don't.

The Society is a two-way street in return for things done last time, the workers decided not to control.

by Peter Rain, TGWU

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JACK Jekyll, Jones, socialist militant, avoided enemy of the capitalist class wage

JACK Jekyll, Jones, supporter of wage freeze, austerity measures and bashing of the TGWU rank and file, is about to enter the scene.

by George Kelly, convenor, Glasgow Corporation electrical workshops

DECEIT

They are also buying two pounds low paid workers, a break through for a decent wage for those local authorities is a possibility.

£22.17 basic for grade three and £24.37 basic on a seven shift system.

With addition to bonus, some earnings might be £350 per week.

In addition, the Clyde Purification Board are pumping in a ton of liquid oxygen at a cost of £500 per day to help keep alive the river's plant life.

VILE WORK, VILE PAY

Despite massive pressure to freeze the decision of the dust- cart drivers and return to work on the basis of a shaky promise from the Corporation, Glasgow's striking sewage workers voted to stay out for £35 basic on Monday.

The vote was unanimous, despite the General and Municipal Union officials' remark that the men were fighting a losing battle and that no television workers were as bad off. What a condemnation of the union's inactivity over the years.

The strikers are the most dirty and dangerous jobs in the city's sewage works for pitiful wages:

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MARIA Burgess teaches at Victoria Drive school in South-
toun, Glasgow. But for five years she taught at Crumhill, a working-
class comprehensive.

Staff were always short there. And the shortages have been increas-
ing, thanks to low pay wages and the widespread feeling that if you were going to get low pay wages, you'd be better off teaching in a respectable school.

But now the teachers are on the move to get these low pay wages altered. They are deter-
mined to win their claim: £15 a week.

Their union is passeefooting like the others, though it is
having to make some moves. The rank and file action com-
mittees are handling the thing generally on their own, and are
not yet moving for determined all-out action.

But the teachers want cash in the bank now. And though many
still think they are a cut above such people as schoolkids and
the other strikers, their ideas are changing. Maria explains:

We've never been consulted about that.

One of the main reasons that working class people in the
mess we're in today is this whole bit about being reasonable. We've been too reasonable.

That's the truth of it. I saw that Len Murray had his tea at Brock's Club the other evening.

When someone mentions the Social Contract to
our people they just say: "What's that? We've
The Scottish Explosion

JOHN KEENAN, senior steward, Rolls
Royce East Kilbride:

THE FEELING of working people in the
north of Scotland is terrible. There's no
hostility to us strikers. Just the opposite.

I was walking to the picket the other morning and
I came on a street cleaner.

I said to him "You're about the only person left at work." He said: "I think I'll just have to
come out in support."

The Rolls Royce claim is for £10 for all the
three factories. Under the legal shackles we
settled not so long ago. It was backdated to April.

But we refused to sign the agreement since it was
not freely negotiated.

What surprised me was the tremendous feeling
for the claim. It just goes to show you the frustra-
tion that has built up about wages.

When someone mentions the Social Contract to
our people they just say: "What's that? We've
never been consulted about that."

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Two strikes, almost identical—but one won and one lost. Why?

"WE'LL march back with our heads held high," said one of the victorious strikers at Wmngrove and Rogers in Liverpool last week. After 17 weeks on strike they were elated and confident. They had won all their demands.

The same week, another group of workers in the North West was expressing vastly different feelings. After 11 weeks on strike, workers at S&I, a GEC subsidiary in Heywood, had voted despondently to return to work with only a fraction of what they wanted. Demoralized and demoralizing, the striker laid the blame for the defeat at the door of the local Engineering Union officials. "They sold us down the river," they said.

Yet on the surface the disputes were very similar. Both involved small groups of workers: manual workers who were nominally members of the AUEW but had little experience of organising disputes. Both were part of the recent explosion of strikes which workers have been forced into in an attempt to cope with rising inflation.

Both were doubtless stimulated by a government-prescribed threshold payment and the Pay Act 1982, legally entitling them to wage increases they weren't getting.

Fearsome

One ended in failure, one in success. Are we to conclude that the air in Merseyside is different from the rest of Lancashire, that it makes workers more militant and more likely to succeed? Or perhaps the Merseyside women were able to put their case with more eloquence and greater persuasion? Perhaps Winorgro and Rogers are less fearsome employees than the GEC women, or guaranteeing a greater chance of success?

Of course such ideas are nonsense. While GEC may be a more powerful set-up than Winorgro and Rogers, the response of both management to workers' demands for increased wages was the same—hostile. No management goes in for chauvinistic sentiment when profits are at stake. And the air in Liverpool and Manchester is equally filthy.

The difference in the two strikes lies in the way they were organised. These differences were crucial.

Women are a weak, poorly-organised sector of the trade union movement. For a century the history of more experienced trade unionists and women is to have been pass pious motions calling for equal pay. The sympathy is not enough, action is the key to winning any dispute.

The strikers at both factories got the sympathy of feminists and socialists across the country. Money was raised by trade unionists and women's libraries. But in Liverpool rank and file trade unionists sympathetic to the women on strike decided to organise action in their support. Their appeals for the blacking of the firm's goods were effective and lent considerable weight to the strikers' case.

So when AUEW members on Merseyside voted to hold a one-day strike in support, management didn't bother to wait for the vote but conceded the demands immediately.

The strikers were aided by the experience of other AUEW members on Merseyside, and they were themselves actively involved in running the strike and that it wasn't manipulated by union officials. Though some workers continued to work in the factory, they needed big police aid to cross the picket line and it was the united efforts of men and women trade unionists that won the strike.

Involved

But in Heywood the picture was very different. From the beginning the workers were divided, for the men workers weakened the strike by continuing to work. Some even struck workers scaled into the factory.

Worse still, the initiative of the strike was left largely in the hands of the AUEW officials. This meant the women strikers were not actively involved in winning support, but were left day after day on the picket line or posting appeal sheets—instead of travelling the country to win support.

The officials appealed to the men workers to support the strike, but in the absence of rank and file pressure from AUEW members in the area they did not instruct the men to come out.

The officials announced grand plans for a blossoming appeal—but never put them into action.

Appeal sheets were issued—but effective appeals round the GEC combine were never planned.

The strikers started to become demoralised. So, despite the good wishes of women throughout the country, the strike was failing.

Too late, rank and file trade unionists in Manchester decided to organise action in support of the strikers. Gerry Walic, a shop steward at Ferranti, said at a meeting organised by the AUEW that the N&F had not fought to gain support for the women at S&I. It is important for members to act at shopfloor level. A mass picket was planned for 26 October.

But the very lack of shopfloor involvement has taken its toll. On Tuesday last week AUEW officials, instigated by management threats to sack the strikers, appealed for a return to work. Uninformed support and misinformation by the officials, more than half of the women voted to return to work. The strike was over, the demands not won.

Many of the strikers quickly came to realise the role of the officials. Angerly they saw how they had been manipulated.

The lesson is clear. If weak sections of the workforce are to win, active support has to be organised involving the better-organised workers.
How I became a socialist

ROD McFIE fought a private battle against the docks at Liverpool, the only place he knew, until the Tower Hill rent strike convinced him that together and organised the workers could take on the bosses and win. He still lives in Tower Hill with his family and is a member of the Kentish Inter-union Committee, a group of dockers of the hewers of the earth. His first day as a social worker was 1 July 1920.

IT WASN'T reading books or watching films which made me a revolutionary. It was due to being brought up in poverty, fighting for my life in a Liverpool slum, having a father who had just returned from fighting in the Second World War and thinking he was fighting for a good cause—though I didn't at the time, thinking that it was his place to be one of the fighting men.

During my childhood it was constantly hammered home to me that I should be a good boy at school, that I shouldn't question what the authorities told me, and that I should join the Orange Lodge because the US was being invaded by the Communists.

When I left school at 15 with only a nominal education I was forced into a job as a junior clerk. There I spent 12 months of humiliation running errands for humped-middle-class no marks who didn't like 12s because of my accent and because I wore them. Finally they couldn't stand me no more and fired me.

At first I was quite pleased but then got married and had children. I was out of the dope queues.

One day in 1941 I was getting £1 12s. 6d. of which I had to give my mother £1 10s. leaving me with 2s 6d. With this I had to look for a job, not the easiest thing in the world. I used to get up at seven in the morning and walk around the waterfront looking for a job. The 2s 6d was spent on cups of tea.

FORCED

After a few months of this I thought: "My parents have told me to be good and honest, but what has it got me? 2s 6d a week." To get what I wanted and what society owed me I was forced into crime.

I was stealing to keep up appearances and at times to eat. I attended court five times and was eventually branded as a menace to society and sent down for three months. Three months of further humiliation, being treated like an animal for wanting a fraction of what the judge who sent me down had got.

When I came out of jail I was back at square one. No job and no money. I didn't want to return to a life of crime because of my limited intelligence I was no match for the supposed defenders of our rights, the police. I joined the army.

The adverts said they would teach you to think for yourself and be a man. Biggest load of crap I've ever heard. All your thinking's done for you. You're encouraged not to think. You're told what to eat and when to eat it. What time to go to bed and what time to go to bed. You're given a bible and told the Lord will protect you while you are killing your fellow human beings.

After a few months they realised that they had in me a man that was prepared to fight for himself and so they kicked me out of the service. I was obviously not moral enough to go around killing people.

I laugh now when I think of how many revolutions the army must have had in the last few hundred years. Each one of them another nail in the ruling class coffin.

BATTLE

Since the army I've worked for a number of bosses of various sorts. I'm married now and have three children and now know the problems of bringing up a family under this corrupt system. I now live on the Tower Hill council estate in Kirkby and it was here that I realised that I wasn't fighting the battle on my own.

It was during the Tower Hill rent strike that I realised I was fighting a political battle and not a one-man hate campaign. I realised that this was a part of the bigger struggle. I used the tremendous effort that was going on to stop rent increases that were being made in this battle against capitalism. I helped the local Communist Party capitate and I knew if anybody could win the battle for socialism it was the International Socialists.

I joined the International Socialists and I am now proud to call myself a member of the organised working class, a member of an organisation made up of people like myself, of people who have had a better training ground than the usual comms at Abbeywood. We've been training all our lives and the ruling class have been contributing to our training.

FASCISM

Books and films and folk songs are great as not as weapons in argument and for pointing out the greed of the ruling class, but when the revolution comes, as it surely will, we will have to be cunning, vicious and hard. We shall have to fight fascist movement as well because the alternative is fascism.

I will use these books now as an additional weapon to my experience but I can't stand behind a barricade and throw books at the army. What I shall throw at the enemy is a life-time of hate and humiliation backed up by the weapons the army has taught me to use, and we shall win.

We are working class. We have the power. We have the resources. Success is inevitable.

UP THE HAMMERS!

The Half Moon Theatre, the one theatre in London that produces consistently enjoyable socialist plays, presents an evening called 'The Hammers, about West Ham'. The play is based on the story of a West Ham supporter. Partly on display Alan Pater wrote about Hull City but has been adapted by an ex-docker, Billy Colvill, to fit Upton Park. In sketches, songs and songs-and-dances the play follows the fortunes of a Ham- mers fan. Ray, a master joiner. It's his chance to relieve the Hammers winning the FA Cup in 1964, the European Cup Winners Cup in 1965 and England winning the World Cup 1966.

It's directed by Pam Brightton, who laid on the excellent pro- duction of Brecht's St Joan of the Stockyards earlier this year, and has been packed out by local football fans.

PERFORMANCES are at 7.30pm every night except Monday until 16 November. The Half Moon is at 27 Alle Street, behind the Cross in Clapton. Phone 01-489 6465. Make a deposit or branch outing.

The Half Moon, who are doing their utmost to attract a working class audience, are open to negotia- tion for less expensive solutions for block bookings. Bring a bottle and sing all the Upton Park favourites.

IN THE PICTURE

Photographer Nancy Hellebrandt has been in the International Socialists for two years. During the same two years she has been taking photographs of workers in their homes. She took more than 200 of cleaners, typists, workers, drivers, cooks, gardeners, railway workers and pensioners. Some have been printed in Women's Voice and Socialist Worker and there has been a small exhibition in the London Bk Shop.

Thirteen are now on show at London's National Portrait Gallery until 3 November. The Gallery is behind the Gherkin in Queen Victoria Street and is open 10am-5pm on weekdays, 10am-6pm on Saturdays and 10am-4pm on Sundays. At the same gallery is another exhibition, 'The Camera and Dr Barnardo', also of interest to us.

A book of Nancy Hellebrandt's photographs called 'Half Hammers' is £2.95, available at the exhibition.
Defend Socialist Worker

By Miriam Eccles

TWO IS members, Peter Fielding and myself, were fined £10 each and ordered to pay £15 costs last week for being found guilty of blackmailing magistrates of abusive behaviour.

With two other comrades, we had been去看 the memorial service of a trade unionist.

Three years in a civil service jumping job. One dismissed. Yet that was the first thought that was National Policy.

We demanded to know their identity. One said "We are representatives of the National Policy." They spelled out, "We are going to change you all. After taking two weeks to change the police force we are going to win, you see our policy."

As we were driven to the police station, the police made it obvious they knew our names and addresses.

We were called up before the magistrate, who had been our landlord. He demanded to know why we wanted to go to the police station.

Our solicitor tried to stop this, saying that we were charged with obscene behaviour and the officers had no bearing on the case.

Steve Prew were our witnesses) were called to the stand by the police connected.

They jumped up and down, screaming. "Fuck off!" you fascist bastards!" said Peter. I was told later he had deliberately used his wet saw to cut off all the surnames of the police officers.

They denied using force to put us in this position and also when they said they had used it before that.

Both were asked to the prosecution counsel, George Graham, solicitor, on behalf of the Territorial Army, well known militant and friend of Kingsley Martin, the late chief of the British police in Britain, who lived in Blackburn.

Our solicitor then asked to see our warrant, which had been confiscated. He demanded to see all the evidence of the delegation of the IS committee.

The committee unanimously passed a resolution declaring the "calculated attempt to financially cripple a working-class newspaper" and criticizing the role of the Labour Attorney-General in the prosecution. It also called for a boycott on the Labour government's attempts to financially undermine working-class newspapers in the courts.

FIGHTING BACK IN URDU

The seventh issue of Chiilga (The Socialist Worker) was distributed in Urdu paper in Pakistan for the first time in the history of the newspaper.

In front page contrasts the struggles of Asian workers at Combined Optical, Slough, and Kentwood Components, Leicester.

The issue also contains the "contempt of court" trial of Socialist Worker and an appeal for money.

Also in the paper is an attack on the "socialist" sections of the party. The editorial on Labour's voting for the "socialist" candidate in the general election is included. There is also an article on the latest results from the Labour party which shows a decline in support for the party.

Making the links international

TWO fraternal delegates from the IS National Committee attended the recent conference of the Italian revolutionary group Avanguardia Operaia in Rome.

Several hundred delegates provided an impressive testimony to the growth and influence of the revolutionary left in Italy. They discussed the economic and political crisis in Italy—which is deeper than anywhere in any of the advanced capitalist countries in the world—and the struggle of Italy against Fascism, Britain—and the fight back of Italian workers.

There were two issues on display in the giant Fiat car plant in Turin, where the management is trying to impose another round of working, on efforts to build an anti-militarist movement within the armed forces, and on the resistance which Italian workers are putting up to fear and electricity increases.

The delegates were impressed by the day-to-day intervention of Avanguardia Operaia in the struggle class in Italy, although we have had many contacts with them since our last meeting.

Blackburn: Wednesday 7 November

Speaker: Jim Nicholl (National Secretary)

THIS IS THE meeting to which you are invited. It is a meeting to discuss our campaign for workers' rights at the National Secretary.

DUNDEE: Thursday 7 November

Trade Union Speakers

4pm, Roseglen, Dundee

FINSBURY PARK: Thursday 31 October

Laurie Flynn (Socialist Worker)

Harrow: 7.30pm, 127 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

TOWER HAMLETS: 7.30pm meeting:

LEWISHAM: Thursday 7 November

Speaker: Mike Hayes

8pm, Caron, New Cross Rd, SE8

WATFORD: Thursday 7 November

Speaker: Steve Ludlam (NUPE)

8pm, Trades Union Hall, Woodford Road

WINDSOR: Wednesday 6 November

Speaker: Gordon Peters (NALGO)

Wrexham: Friday 8 November

Speaker: Steve Ludlam (NUPE)

WINDSOR: Wednesday 6 November

Speaker: Gordon Peters (NALGO)

8pm, Fortescue Arms, Tooting Broadway

Rochester: Friday 8 November

Speaker: Steve Ludlam (NUPE)

8pm, Friendly and Trades Club

EDINBURGH: Tuesday 19 November

7.30pm, TU Centre, Picardy Place

IS Heath Workers' frac meeting: 6.30pm, 6-8pm, 20c Commercial Rd, Limehouse.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE IS Society 7.30pm meeting: 7.30pm, 175 Exhibition Rd, London SW7.

HINKLEY: 7.30pm meeting: The British Scissors Society, 175 Exhibition Rd, London SW7.

E M A N is a public meeting: The Russian Revolution-how it was led, how it was won, how it is going to be vital. A meeting of the Scissors Society, 175 Exhibition Rd, London SW7.

EDINBURGH IS teachers public meeting: In conjunction with the Teachers Association and Teachers Union, IS, 7.30pm, 2pm, Trade Council Club, 169 Great West Road, London SW7.

HULL IS public meeting: 8pm, Film Against the Socialist Labour, 175 Exhibition Rd, London SW7.

Meetings for IS members

IS HEALTH WORKERS' frac meeting: 6.30pm, 6-8pm, 20c Commercial Rd, Limehouse.

NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF IS rail workers, 175 Exhibition Rd, London SW7.

WEEKEND SCHOOL: 10am-5pm, 175 Exhibition Rd, London SW7.

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AUSTRALIAN is a public meeting in conjunction with the Socialist Labour, 175 Exhibition Rd, London SW7.


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Cancer devouring Britain's biggest union

FOR ALMOST 14 weeks, 450 workers, mainly Ugandan Asians, struck at the Empire Typewriters in Leicester. They received no money from their union, the Transport and General, and faced a barrage of vilification from the union's local leadership.

The battle continued with the other disputes involving black workers that had indicated: the union's attitude failed to deal with racism from within its own ranks—and specifically from its own full-time officials.

The union's Region Five (Midlands) has, after four months, finally published its report on the strike. It looks at the problem like a rabid look at a stoat. Interested, concerned—but petrified.

The strike started over a bonus scheme. The 450 Asians complained that production targets were being continually upsed to fuddle workers out of the bonus.

When the union's Representative Secretary George Bromley said: 'We would fight anything that was required firing, even to the point of closing the strike action ... Shop stewards have carried out tire surveys with management of the work required.'

The report backs the strikers. It says: 'We have made a detailed examination of the bonus scheme and we are firmly of the view that the scheme has many shortcomings. It contains no clause which allows for the mutual agreement of working conditions, and in cases where an operator exceeds 140 per cent efficiency the management reserves the right to re-time the job."

The bonus scheme is not in conformity with the union's national agreement and we recommend they be taken up in negotiations with the company.'

'We attach a great deal of importance to the union's national agreement. Which means that the national agreement was being flouted by Bromley and Imperial convenor Reg Weaver.'

Some of the Imperial strikers on their way to TGWU headquarters last summer to seek official support. They failed to get it ... Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

Why vultures want peace

They inhabit one of the richest countries in Africa—and they live in poverty.

The growing reluctance of the people of Angola to continue accepting this benefit of Western civilisation is beginning to reveal the thing or two about the Free World. Angola, the tribal core of Portugal's African empire, is rich in diamonds, gold, iron ore, coffee and oil.

But Portugal aspire more and more as merely a policeman for West European and international corporations to extract this wealth for Angola's welfare.

A quarter of the country's export earnings come from oil. Its coastline has been carved up by U.S., British, Belgian and French oil companies.

Slowly

With so much to lose, these firms and their faithful policemen have fought stubbornly against independence.

Portugal has been under pressure to decolonise, but things have moved more slowly than in Mozambique and Guinea Bissau.

A prime behind-the-scenes mover for a 'peaceful solution' has been General Mubtua, President of Zaire.

Government in Lisbon has made no effort to oppose this blatant attempt at the continued embroilment of the Angolan people.

When, in August, Angolan strikers in Lisbon defined a government ban and demonstrated in support of the liberation movement MPLA, riot police opened fire, killing one student and wounding several.

Wartime

The Provisional Government issued a statement saying that by continuing the armed struggle in Angola the MPLA was acting against the 'best interests and wishes of the Angolan people', and that they were not prepared to allow such demonstrations in Portugal, as long as the MPLA maintained its warlike existence.

The MPLA has warned all foreign companies that they will be thrown out of their assets exploited when Angola wins its independence. Massive demonstrations in the towns have demanded immediate and total independence. In June, Costa Gomes, then MPLA's Minister of Defence, announced that it intends to set up a military base in Mayotte, a small island off the Mozambique coast.

And the French government, another NATO ally, has just announced that it intends to set up a military base in Mayotte, as a new gesture of military cooperation with the free world.

Zaire borders the Cabinda enclave and northern Angola. Since 1962 it has received £20 million in military aid and £170 million in loans from the U.S.

One of the MPLA's main actions in Portugal was the organisation of a secret meeting with Mubutu and 'representatives' of the Angolan police (mainly tribal chiefs and white minority groups) aimed at setting up a provisional (and as far as possible) government in Angola. The general who replaced Spinola in his office, and who is continuing his resistance when he is in power, is the Angolan government's main man.

In 1975 the Angolan government's main man, and who is continuing his resistance when he is in power, is the Angolan government's main man.

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Nigel Fountain

Some of the Imperial strikers on their way to TGWU headquarters last summer to seek official support. They failed to get it ... Picture: Chris Davies (Report)
Why IS joined Troops Out demo

by Alice Murray

THE INTERNATIONAL Solidarity March was on a demonstration of more than 10,000 in London last Sunday which called for the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

Many people in Britain support the withdrawal of British forces. The event was well attended. The occupation of homes by the soldiers is not something that the British government is prepared to address. The army has been in Ireland for a long time and has been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people.

As soldiers, we give unconditional support to the people who are fighting British imperialism. The army is seen as a tool of the British state. In this case, the British state has been using the army to occupy homes.

We also support the struggle against colonialism and imperialism. The struggle for self-determination is part of this. We support the struggle against British imperialism in all of Ireland. We are there to see that capitalism remains intact and is strengthened and that any effort to change this situation is defeated. We want the army and the police to be taken out of Ireland.

THOUSANDS of police were called up for the demonstration in London last Sunday, and for most of the demonstration it looked as though their afternoon had been wasted. At the end of the march, there were only 400 demonstrators, a man protested (arrested). The only way that he was allowed to proceed was by being arrested. Another worker was arrested as he moved away from the demonstration.

THOUSANDS of police were called up for the demonstration in London last Sunday, and for most of the demonstration it looked as though their afternoon had been wasted. At the end of the march, there were only 400 demonstrators, a man protested (arrested). The only way that he was allowed to proceed was by being arrested. Another worker was arrested as he moved away from the demonstration.

We are for the self-determination of the Irish people and the right to get the troops out of Ireland.

Oppose

British has dominated Ireland for centuries. The British ruling class has boosted and plundered Ireland of its resources, both material and human. Britain has caused emigration, famines, and has caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands.

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We've had enough on the buses!

by George Fuller

BRIGHTON: From this week South- down bus drivers will be starting one- week on strike. We will be adding our muscle to the increasing number of local struggles by bus workers as well as local workers fired by anger at pay, conditions and service which get loutier by the minute.

We will be using our local union officials who try to get us fired because they are not local. We will be using our local union officials who try to get us fired because they are not local. We will be using our local union officials who try to get us fired because they are not local. We will be using our local union officials who try to get us fired because they are not local.

We're sick of the response of management to our claims, which aims to improve local public transport as a job and as a service. Our demands have been con- demned by the local union officials who are throwing around threats of industrial action and legal action.

One thing is now based on three demands, $45 for 35 hours, an hour- long meal break, and subsidised canteen meals. These demands are not negotiable. They are met for use.

OVERTIME BAN IN FIFE

by a Fife busman

FIFE—Bus workers here have imposed a ban on overtime, which includes Saturday and Sunday work. Three weeks ago a meeting of representatives of 20 depot workers in central Scotland told union officials they would accept nothing less than an end to overtime work. The workers held a one-day strike, set a November deadline for industrial action if management does not agree.

Management are trying to force us to the public that the men are being compelled to work against our wishes. They are telling us that we are not working on our own terms. They are telling us that this is overtime and we are under no obligation to work overtime. This dispute is about the wages that we are earning. The workers are determined to keep their jobs and are not prepared to accept any reduction in pay. The bus workers are determined to keep their jobs and are not prepared to accept any reduction in pay.

We're demanding...

$45 for 35 hours, the seven-hour, five-day week, every day ends at 6:00. We're demanding...

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$45 for 35 hours, the seven-hour, five-day week, every day ends at 6:00. We're demanding...
AEC PAYS JOKE

WEST LONDON.—Locked-out workers at British Leyland's AEC bus and truck plant in Southall had a good laugh at their weekly mass meeting last Tuesday when they learned of Labour relations boss Pat Lowry's letter to the AEC committee's official to his offices to tell them on the strike that the bus manufacturer is in the process of reorganising AEC's latest pay offer. They should accept it and get back to work, he said.

There was no vote. Last week the men agreed not to vote again until the next offer was made.

Shop stewards have set up a dispute committee which will operate daily from the local AUEW headquarters. It has begun to visit the AEC's factories and discuss their strike with the bureaucratic ruling class.

More and more Scottish teachers are taking up their right to strike in the face of the government's new education policies. The strike, covering the Scottish Comprehensive Secondary Schools (SCSS) in Scotland, is now in its second week and is widening. The teachers took action because the government's new policy for secondary education is not in the best interests of the children.

SCOTS TEACHERS

SCOTLAND.—3000 teachers from all over Scotland demonstrated in Edinburgh outside the Scottish Teachers' Union. This followed a call by the Scottish Teachers' Association's national executive body for a general strike to demand an improved pay and conditions package. The teachers' offer included a 1.5% increase in pay, a 20% increase in the minimum wage, and a 25% increase in the maximum wage.

The Scottish government rejected the teachers' demands, arguing that the costs of the strike would outweigh the benefits. The teachers continued to demonstrate, and their strike spread across the country.

For the building of a national rank and file movement which will fight for an end to the Nationalisation of the Socialists' Party, and the end to all forms of resistance to socialism, we must organise the working class in all its forms, defend the rights of the working class and the socialist movement. For the building of a mass workers' party, organised in the workplaces, which will fight for the building of a socialist society and the end to all forms of resistance to socialism, we must organise the working class in all its forms.

The International Socialists is a revolutionary socialist organisation committed to working with and for the working class to build a socialist society. We believe that socialists can only be achieved by the independent action of the working class.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORMISM

We believe in overthrowing capitalism, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it. We therefore support all struggles of workers against capitalism and fight to break the hold of reformist ideas and policies which only serve to maintain the system.

THE SMASHING OF THE CAPITALIST STATE

The state machine is a weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state, based on councils of workplace delegates.

WORK IN THE MASS ORGANISATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

We believe in working in the mass organisations of the working class, particularly the trade unions, and fighting for rank and file control of them.

INTERNATIONALISM

We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot succeed in isolation from other countries. Revolutions are defeated by isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers' struggles in these countries.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and all the energy of the International Socialists is directed to the building of such a party by fighting for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

5000 march against Lump

dave Ashdown

Birmingham

5000 march against Lump

The Lump is a depression in the trade union and the rank and file and the single election of all full-time officials. No mass organisation can be built, either by shop stewards or on the shop floor. There is no real organisation of the working class. The Lump is against anti-trade union laws and curbs on the right to strike and an effete picketing-the anti-productivity or efficiency check.

Against any form of incomes policy or state controls.

Against unemployment and redundancy.

For no-operative, bonusless trade unionism.

For trade union education.

For socialist internationalism.

HAWKER SIT IN TO DEFEND EMPLOYEES

Hawker Siddeley's Brough factory 600 workers are worked without company or trade union help. The workers are working on the threatened BSA 146. The strike was called last week in an attempt to prevent management closing the plant and risking redundancy. A company spokesman spoke only of 250 redundancies. Black-out preparations are now under way. The workers want the factory to be taken over by local workers. The National Executive Committee of the AUEW had heard the reports and was prepared to take action.

SHELTON STONE

Meadow Park, the local board of trade, has been one of the most active in the country for the sit-in of workers during the 1930s. In 1935 the workers at Shelton Stone occupied the factory and elected a council to run it. They were helped by the trade union movement, and the factory was run by the workers for several months. Documents were obtained, and the company was forced to agree to the workers' demands. The factory was then sold to the workers, who managed it for several years.

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For the building of a mass workers' party, organised in the workplaces, which will fight for the building of a socialist society and the end to all forms of resistance to socialism, we must organise the working class in all its forms.

International Socialists

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper, you would like to know more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: The International Socialists, 8 Cotswold Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Name

Address

Trade Union

Spencer's ghost stalks the coalface

The Ghost of George Spencer is stalking the coalface. Spencer was thelast man to work at the infamous North East coalfield. He was killed in a mine disaster in the 1930s. The story goes that Spencer's ghost haunts the mining community, haunting miners who work the same area as he did. The legend of Spencer's ghost is widely believed, and is said to provide protection to miners working in the area.

The myth of Spencer's ghost is used by miners as a source of pride and strength. They believe that Spencer's spirit provides them with guidance and protection, and that he watches over them as they work in the dangerous environment of the coalfield.

The legend of Spencer's ghost has been passed down through generations of miners, and is still told today. The story of Spencer's ghost is a reminder of the dangers of working in the coalfield, and the strength and resilience of the miners who work there.
Lorry men show the only way to victory

The lorry drivers in Scotland and Hull have won the biggest industrial victory since the miners' strike. They went on unofficial strike. They ignored the attacks on them by newspapers. When their union leaders begged them to settle for a compromise—they shot them down.

They would not take further cuts in living standards for a handful of unlikely promises, called a social contract. As a result, they won more in a few days then their union leaders had negotiated for them in 50 years.

In Hull the drivers won all their demands with a five-day strike. The unofficial, rank and file strike committee quickly forged links with the Hull dockers, many of them in the same union, the Transport Workers.

In this they turned the tables on union officials, who have insisted on keeping the divisions between dockers and drivers. The dockers welcomed the move.

The lorry drivers won a total victory: £40 for 40 hours and four weeks holiday a year. However, the TGWU official Alec Kitson that 'Neither side has got all it wanted' are nothing more than a face-saver for the employers, beaten by the strength of pickets organized by the rank and file committees.

But drivers for the government-owned BRS have no far being given nothing—and the drivers at Grangemouth, their own claims won, have pledged to stay out until the BRS drivers get the claim too.

Negotiations affecting BRS drivers all over the country are on Monday, and unless the claim is conceded the drivers will have to decide whether to follow Scottish drivers' ranks and strike.

That is the way to win, to end the years of exploitation in the road haulage industry, to win the wage increases all lorry drivers—and all workers—need to fight inflation.

The road haulage employers in Scotland assure they will put up wage rates by 25 per cent to pay for the wage increase, which they claim they cannot afford. But this is a desperate attempt to prove the contrary, and this they hope to prove the theory, put about by Jack Jones and the Labour government among others, that the wage increases cause price increases.

In the West Midlands the road hauliers have made vast profits in the past ten years. They have paid big dividends to shareholders and directors. Of these the companies could easily pay the wage increases.

If they refuse, they should be taken over and run in the interests of the people who do the driving and the people who have to pay those higher prices, the working class.

The case for the lorry drivers—page 2.

Defence Fund

From page one

SW supporters, Glasgow College NALGO
SW supporters, Redbridge Trades Council
SW supporters, Central London Trades Council
London SW reader, Croydon
SW readers, Norwich Trades Council
SW readers, North London Trades Council
SW readers, Watford Trades Council
SW readers, Westminster Trades Council
SW readers, Whitechapel Trades Council

Leeds University IS Society £25
SW supporters, Huddersfield £20
South London £20
South West £10
South Western reader, Croydon
South Eastern £10
South Eastern Trades Council £5
South Eastern Trades Council £5
South Western reader, Reading £5
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Breweries

by Jim Sheehan, RUTU shop steward at Watney Manns

7000 workers have been staging a series of strikes for the last four weeks. Production, distribution and transport workers at Watney Mennery have been forced to strike after management broke their agreement.

The dispute started when management sold off a company planing machine to another company, which was not profitable. The company management rejected the workers' proposal to keep the machine.

We have to intensify our action and organize nationwide action. We would like to hear from any other employees of Watney Manns or similar companies. Contact us at: 21 Langar Road, Manchester M11 Phone 061/233 7418.

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please display this on your notice board

Socialist Worker
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

STRIKE TO FREE SHREWSBURY PICKETS
Defend the right to picket