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BENNET: THE GREAT PRETENDER


COURTAULD CLOSURE: 500 PROTEST

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BLANK FROM TUC

TRADES unionists at Hammersmith Hospital, West London, who came out on strike to support the last TUC leaders to lose their jobs have been involved in a most revealing correspondence with TUC general secretary Len Murray.

Hammersmith NUT branch secretary Bill Geddes wrote to Murray on 6 February: 'This Branch believes that only massive public action will secure the release of Des Warren and Ricky Tolinson, the two justice agents in jail.'

We therefore call upon the TUC to name an early date for all affiliate unions to take strike action in support of our two gallant colleagues. We strongly deplore the "low profile" attitude the TUC has adopted on the Hammersmith workers' strike. The opinion is that the TUC failed to learn the lesson from the Pentonville Five case, that not only mass working-class action is sufficient to defend the right to picket.

"Let you will bring this resolution to the attention of the TUC General Council. We would be grateful if we could have an early reply to this letter.'

The resolution is now in the NUT's branch hands and is causing a massively swelling feeling of contempt. It was a blank pre-printed card.

by Chris Harman

HIGH COURT judges were recently awarded damages in the case of the government. The report by Lord Justice Scarman into the events in Red Lion Square last summer leading to the death of Kevin Gately shows what they are paid for their ability to use the most torturous forms of logic to protect the police and the authorities.

Scarman claims that Kevin Gately's death was accidental: 'something happened either he stumbled and fell or a flying stave or pole caught him a glancing blow behind the left ear... I find that there occurred some unexplained minor incident--a fall or an apparently minor glancing blow.'

But the evidence he quotes points to a different conclusion. According to Scarman, Kevin Gately died during a 'second major' surge on the police line. The mounted police were here in direct contact with the demonstrators. During this time the 'mounted police tried to draw and use their truncheons.'

Nor was that all. 'A number of demonstrators gave evidence which, if true, meant that from being confined to self-defence, truncheons were being used to "chop down" people on the ground.'

One of the mounted police, 'Inspector Fidgeley, openly admits striking a demonstrator a glancing blow to the head.'

"Blow"

Even Scarman has to admit that 'some mounted officers did hit demonstrators with their truncheons. Some blows may well have landed on the heads of the demonstrators.'

At the end of these incidents, Kevin Gately was seen lying face down, emerging from under the feet of the demonstrators and the police. He was dying from a brain haemorrhage caused by a blow to the head.

How did Kevin Gately receive that fatal blow? Any logical person may suspect, from 'some mounted officer' or 'from someone on the head.'

"Not so," says Scarman. "I have asked him that question. He replied, "I don't know."

"You don't know," I said. "Tell me that you don't know." He replied, "I don't know.""

Firstly, Gately was tall and no one remembers the incident. Secondly, he was never in the front rank of the demonstrators, or against whom the police were fighting.

But anyone who was on that front line will tell you that Red Lion Square will have no difficulty in explaining why no one saw Gately. The police were on the mount on these officers moved forward with their horses, shooting their carbines and more concerned with protecting their horses than with the shooting of the detail everything the police were doing was done with screaming order.

The second claim, that Gately was shot in the front line and so could not have contact with the police, is nonsense. As the mounted police moved against the demonstrators, the front rank broke apart, people fell back in panic, and demonstrators several rows back suddenly found the horses upon them.

If it was a police truncheon that killed Kevin Gately there is one person who would probably know--the policeman in question.

But as Scarman himself notes: 'in the course of the inquiry I heard that one inexperienced officer had panicked when he heard the death of Kevin Gately and had falsely declared that he had not drawn his truncheon. Another officer, who at first denied using his truncheon, later agreed, after seeing photos, that he had done so.'

In other words, police on the spot certainly believed that truncheons had been used with sufficient vigour to have killed some one, and lied to evade any responsibility.

In the issue of Socialist Worker after Red Lion Square we wrote: 'The police killed Kevin Gately.' The evidence presented in the Scarman Report suggests this was probably what happened.

Cordon

But Scarman, having cleared the police of blame, shifts it elsewhere. He claims members of the International Marxist Group were responsible for Gately's death, by 'starting a riot' in the first place.

He claims they were about to break through the police lines. But his figures show that at most 500 demonstrators were involved in pushing against the police, while 400 police were on the spot and 20 mounted police in and around Red Lion Square, as well as on duty.

BID TO MODIFY LAW OF CONSPIRACY DEFEATED

An attempt to modify the conspiracy laws so that there would be definite limits on the jail sentences judges could impose was defeated with the direct consent of the Labour government on Tuesday.

Labour MP Stan Thorness moved that the most serious charge wasn't a head-on challenge to the conspiracy laws.

His proposal would have left the law intact, so that trade unionists could still be hounded down on charges of conspiracy to intimidate. But if found guilty they could only get a maximum sentence of six months jail, the same as on a straight intimidation charge.

Stan Thorness's move in the House of Commons was met by a storm of abuse from the Tory benches. But it was defeated by the mass attention of certain Labour members, including left-wing MPs and trade unionists.

Benn is not the first brother Benn has sold the house on the TUC. The recent parliamentary Labour Party meeting on the House of Commons debate on Shrewsbury, Benn abstained.

LOBBY

The Labour government is also engaged in a battle against the conspiracy laws which reconvene the unleashing of the Criminal Law revision of Britain, the Police Powers and the rest of the law and order lobby on the subject.

These manoeuvres indicate that only sustained rank and file action can win the battle to secure the release of the pickets and the general trade union immunity from these vicious laws.

THE TUC General Council again decided to defend the Shrewsbury issue at its meeting last Wednesday. Alan Sapper of the cine technologists moved a motion for a one-day general strike. The meeting resolved to turn the issue over to its finance and general purposes committee.

This is a familiar device for stalling. They hope that the TUC will be quietly pedalled and then the TUC can claim to have done something.

WELwyn Garden City and District Trades Council has called on the TUC to support a general strike to secure the release of the jailed pickets.

WELLINGBOROUGH Trades Council has passed a resolution in support of the demonstration outside Leicester Polytechnic.

THE West Cornwall AUEW district shop stewards' quarterly meeting next week is to feature a showout of a film on Shrewsbury as part of the campaign to bring pressure on the government and brothers in defence of the Shrewsbury Two.

THE National Union of Teachers executive has also refused to support five teachers at South Hackney School who face disciplinary action because they took part in the official TUC Shrewsbury demonstration. The union's acting general secretary, Mark Morris argued that it was not on the union's agenda. But Rank and File supporter on the executive was unable to obtain the 15 signatures needed for a move to reverse the previous refusal of support.

Hackney NUT Association is supporting the five teachers fully. It is producing a broadsheet leaflet to argue their case. Resolutions, messages of support and financial support should be sent to the National Secretary, Hackney NUT, 58 Allerton Rd, London N16.

The conference called by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unionists on Saturday 22 March in London can do very little when the whole working class is threatened by the attack, but wages are under attack by the Social Contract form of government and, when perhaps most important of all, the trade union brothers are still in jail for picketing.

The conference could step up the fight if it endorses the call for rank and file strike action from 1 May to 22 March and demands support from the Rank and File Organising Committee. It must be clear that the call is not falling to make that call officially.

THE Committee of the International Socialists fully supports the conference and urges all members and readers of Socialist Worker to send demonstration money from J Hills, 137 Wanset Park Rd, Holford, Essex.
THREE JAILED OVER PROTEST AGAINST NATIONAL FRONT

NINE anti-Fascist demonstrators were arrested outside a National Front meeting in Hastings in January when all got away at Hastings Magistrates Court last Friday. Three were sentenced to three months in detention. The others received re- ceived three-month sentences suspended for two years and one year.

The nine were part of a 45-strong demonstration which increased to more than 80 by passers by who joined them on their way past the National Front meeting.

They were charged with 'vicious assault' on the police. Evidence against them was weak, inconclusive or so shaky that at times it was an embarrassment even to the prosecution.

At the time the police had ignored attacks on themselves and on the demonstrators by the National Front thugs.

There will be a demonstration on Saturday 20 March in Hastings (time and place to be announced later) to show solidarity with those jailed and to express contempt at the magistrates' decision. Hastings Trades Council has expressed support for those charged and concerned at the sentences.

RAIDED

The demonstration is part of a campaign against Fascism in Sussex. Any contributions or messages of support to be sent to: Brighton and East Sussex Defence Committee c/o Students Union, University of Sussex, Brighton, Sussex.

The day after the sentences a house in Brighton where two members of the International Socialists lived was raided by five policemen under Commander John Morrison of the Serious Crimes department of the Metropolitan Police. The commander is making inquiries into the alleged forgery last year of a Swiss bank statement in the name of Edward Short, deputy leader of the Labour Party.

He too was an ISF member for questioning, and asked in great detail about his activities last year as a member of Northampton IS. He is known by his colleagues to have copies of the IS Internal Bulletin and showed great interest in other IS meetings.

If any ISF members are similarly probed, they should contact him and his men, Socialist Worker would like to know who is inquiring closely into these remarkable allegations—and their origin.

FOUR weeks before closing down two factories in Hull and Liverpool, the multi-national giant- multi-national combined in America, operated a financial fiddle which allowed them to profit from the closures.

As a result, every penny which the company spent on their British subsidiary—Imperial Typewriters—will be used.

If a subsidiary of a British or American company goes bust, that company doesn't lose a penny on the value of its shares in the subsidiary company.

It does have to pay tax on any money loaned to the company.

When Lilliput's announced they were closing Imperial last December, they found to their horror that they had few Imperial shares but had loaned it £9 million when it was set up in 1967.

If they closed Imperial then and there, they would have to hand back £9 million.

They acted fast. On 20 December last year, only four weeks before they announced the closure of the factories, Lilliput spent £12 million on 24 million shares in Imperial Typewriters. They bought those shares knowing that the company was worth virtually nothing, yet they paid £12 million less tax as a result.

They have lined theirnest against the effects of their own blunder. Lilliput have gone on the offensive. The attack against the workers at Imperial in Hastings is aimed at £4 million, the factory and are holding it in ransom for jobs.

ROBBERY

Lilliput last week announced that Hull workers would not be paid wages for the last week's work at Imperial until the occupation is called off. They are trying to force the point that it even breaks the law. Employers are bound by statute to pay wages for work done. The Department of Trade and Industry (Secretary of State Anthony Wedgwood Benn) has announced that Lilliput's action is illegal—and that nothing will be done about it. Said a Department spokesman, "We hope that Lilliput will change their attitude."

Civil servants at Benn's department are still keeping quiet about their plans for the two factories, although they have secret information which exposes the full horror of Lilliput's exploitation.

The occupying workers have had another invention this week from the Humberside District Council, whose massive Labour majority voted only ten days ago to 'congratulate and support' the occupation.

On Monday a letter to the occupation committee announced that the council was holding the occupation responsible for the rates on the factory—and were charging £400 for the past three weeks. The bill, said the letter, would climb at the rate of £10 a day while the occupation continued.

Despite these attacks, the mood of the occupying workers is militant and fighting. They have good reason to feel good heart from the support of other workers all over Britain, from Marathon Shipyard's on the Upper Clyde—and the former U.S.S.R's, where a hang-in took place in 1971 to stop a projected closure—was allowed into the factory with a cheque for £600.

Even more encouraging in the action is the political commitment of the blacking-out Imperial typewriters and machine workers. The equipment and machines that is being removed from the Imperial factory at Lowdham, which is not occupied, is exported to Germany.

BLACKING

The Hull docks shop stewards intend to ask the national port shop stewards' committee at its meeting this Saturday to extend the blacking-out at the Hull shipyard on the grounds that the occupation must organise more support for the workers class outside the factory.

Union officials and some members of the national committee are still arguing for a passive occupation—for hoping that something will turn up.

This would be disastrous. All experience proves that the spirit of the occupation can only be maintained if the workers initiate their own industrial support from outside. They can organize meetings by the occupation committee, to explain its situation, its demands and collections and regular levies, won by the occupation outside.

If the occupation committee takes responsibility for organisation, instead of waiting for the union officials, they could organise the support groups to switch on the power.

They could organise film shows, meetings and discussions, creche facilities, a family day in the factory. Post Office engineers to connect the telephones, a march through Hull.

The workers must be on the attack against the workers at Imperial in Hastings. The attack on the factory is part of the attack on the workers, and they are holding it in ransom for jobs.

WE THINK

Back to work with Labour?

We need not waste many words on the Right Hon Reginald Prentice. His future career is plainly marked out. It is only a matter of time before he becomes yesterday's Prentices—Par Parry Gunter, Alf Robens, Dick Taverner, and the rest of the snivelly Labour and so many, many others—in well rewarded company chairmanship and so forth.

But what about Michael Foot? Why is he annoyed with Prentice? Because Prentice's 'tactlessness' makes it harder for Foot to keep union members deceived by the Social Contract. And that is the role that the TUC's union members are playing in this government, selling the Con- Trick.

Twelve months ago the Labour Party got into office after an election campaign which concentrated on denouncing the Tories' 'three-day week', on explaining that wages were not the main cause of inflation, that it was essential 'to attack inflation directly by controlling prices' as Harold Wilson put it on television.

The Labour Party leaders went further than this. They promised in their election manifestos 'a major redistribution of both wealth and income'. A major redistribution they said. More for wages and welfare of all kinds and therefore less for the profits made by the TUC's shareholders.

That, then, is the basis on which the Social Contract was originally sold.

What has happened? Hundreds of thousands of workers are on a two-weeks strike. Price controls and support costs are falling and have been for some months. Yet pre-deadline-week with the government claiming that it is all the fault of the workers. Just like the Tories.

Why this complete turnabout? Because an effective system of price control means extensive government control of the economy and that is violently opposed by 'industry'—in plain words by that small but rich minority which owns and controls industry (and runs the Tory Party too).

And the 'major redistribution'? Well, there has been some—mainly as a result of the Heath's last budget. Only it has been redistribution away from the working class towards the rich. You don't believe it? Take it from the horse's mouth, more exact words.

Foot in his Hefter and other leaflets of yesterday are supporting all this and trying to put a 'left-wing' gloss on it.

They used to explain that only by taking over industry and running a democratically controlled planned economy could the waste and chaos of capitalism be ended.

They were right. That was and is true. Only their party and its government are doing their damnedest to prevent it happening.

Neither CIA nor KGB

The Tory press has been engaging in a furious demonstration of its own hypocrisy all week. Leader writers whose normal job is to sing the praises of near-slave conditions in the South African mines or of the Shah's Iran, where trade unionists are tortured and shot, have been attacking the TUC for agreeing to meet a Russian trade union delegation.

Their complaint is that Russia's trade unions are led by Shelepin, the former leader of the Soviet KGB. The fact that for years the TUC has been meeting with US union leaders heavily staffed with CIA men has never worried them.

The people who have been most clamouring about the TUC meeting a thug like Shelepin are revolutionary socialists, who have in the past made clear their opposition to participating in CIA fronts or fronting as the Shah. Shelepin does not come with a throng of Russian workers than the CIA represents the interests of US workers. We are in favour of real solidarity with Russian and American workers—which means solidarity with those who are on the receiving end of the repression of the KGB and the CIA.

Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS
Phones 01-739 0185/0631/0511
A letter to Hugh Scanlon

LAST WEEK I wrote the following letter to Hugh Scanlon, President of the AUEW.

Dear Brother Scanlon,

I am writing once again to ask for your assistance. You have agreed to attend the National Committee of your union.

When I wrote to you last year with the same request you refused it. By way of explanation you wrote:

"The group of Labour and Industrial correspondents, who have no connection with our union, should be the body with whom we correspond and whose members shall be admitted to our conference."

Regards

I have been in touch with Mr David Young, of The Times, who is the only member of your shop and Industrial Correspondents Group. He tells me that neither he nor any other members of his group regards the list of his members which he gives you as being exclusive in any sense—let alone of all for attendance.

Mr Young told me: 'I can see no reason at all why your correspondent should not attend the AUEW conference. I have every confidence in Mr Scanlon and his union executive—nothing to do with us. It also needs to be said that the Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group is not part of the National Union of Journalists.'

Hugh Scanlon, a trade unionist of over 30,000, and it is concerned with reporting the matters under discussion at your conference.

By Paul Foot

Our journalists are trade unionists. Can we therefore apply again for credentials?

Our application for credentials has the full support of many people in the union, including Bob Wright, the President of the national union, and Bob Smith, his general secretary. Bob Wright told us last week that there would be no question of a refusal to any reporter—provided he or she is an honest member of the appropriate union and deals with industrial reporting.

Assume

In the next few weeks, before the National Committee meeting, it is vital that all those who support our application should raise the matter in their union branches, shop stewards' committees etc.

The reason for giving us so far do not stand up to examination. There's no sound explanation—so we can only assume that the ban is a crude political victimisation.

The unions

What's wrong with the AUEW?

LAURIE SMITH

49, has been a shop steward in the engineering industry for 25 years, and has been involved in the recent strikes at Essex, Ethic in Kent, which was sold for 2,000 weeks and made a productivity deal. Laurie Smith is a member of the AUEW Divisional Committee for 25 years of the Ethic District Committee for 25 years. In an interview with the industry's organiser, John Deacon, Laurie tells us what he thinks is wrong in the AUEW as he sees it.

Q: WHAT DO you think are the main reasons for the apparent success of the right wing of the AUEW in the first round of the recent elections?

A: First of all, the right wing candidates have received enormous support—free printing, free plugs in the national press, and all the usual goings on. They have obviously stepped up their organisation. The Communist Party organisation and their Black Left seems much weaker, especially at factory level. Elections are held in a vacuum, without strong and militant organisations.

But it's also true that the so-called left-wing officials have failed to give clear lead on bread and butter issues like wages. They have vacillated all over the place, at one point giving a good lead over the Industrial Relations Act, then failing to mobilise for meaningful national wage claims, and facing up to the struggles involved.

Never has the value of real wages been eroded so much as now. The basic role of a trade union is to strive for a greater share of the wealth produced. It is not to capitulate to a Social Contract. This disarms workers in the face of most serious threats to our organisation and living standards.

Instead it would have been, and still is, possible to mobilise the engineers around simple fighting claims, for longer hours, higher wages and shorter hours, not encumbered by strings. We can learn a lot from the miners.

Q: OK, I agree, particularly in view of the disastrous abdication of leadership by Scanlon and his pals in their plant by plant bargaining strategy.

A: If we don't fight together for meaningful national claims the Engineering Employers' Federation would never have picked off individual factories and districts as they were able to do in the 1972 pay claim battles.

But many workers argued that it was too late to change, that we were now in the middle of an economic crisis.

Q: What happens if the employers claim they can't afford to meet the cost of increases we want? How can we defend living standards when threatened with redundancy and short time?

The AUEW on the march. Given the lead—the members will respond

Expense

The Workers are a serious crisis developing. Without doubt those that own industry and commerce, and the politicians that represent them, are very interested in solving their problems at our expense.

Their system creates inflation and overproduction. Why? And the working class bear the brunt for their problems.

The deeper the crisis becomes the more we have to struggle to ensure that we do not accept the sacrifices. Of course the problems posed by a system that cannot work will not be solved by us for trade union alone.

We also have to organise for a fundamental change in the social system.

A union leadership serious about maintaining living standards would have to campaign for such ideas and gather all out to counteract the daily flow of propaganda from the papers and TV. It would not be a party to a Social Contract and the consequent wage restraint.

A: How do you visualise a trade union leadership capable of such campaigning? What about the argument officials say thatScanlon often use—that the membership are not prepared to fight as we're democratic it's up to them?

A: That argument is used, it's a cynical excuse for not leading. Our members have shown again and again that they are prepared to fight on the widest range of issues, given a clear lead.

As a shop steward and councillor I've always insisted that the shop stewards and committee make a recommendation to action on one issue is being considered.

No stewards worth his salt would go to a mass meeting saying 'it's up to you', without also giving a lead. Quite rightly, the membership expect to know what their stewards think before deciding.

Elected representatives are elected to lead. We need national officials prepared to do the same, when recognising that the final decision must always rest with the members.

Rights

Q: How can the potential, and power of the AUEW be used to bring about the changes you stand for? Are you satisfied with the present structure of the union?

The constitution of the AUEW is one of the most democratic of all unions and contains rules that safeguard the rights of members in many ways.

But we should never be complacent. The postal ballot means that discussion about respective candidates is dominated by the ideas of the gutter press like the Mirror and Sun. Better organisation is needed, based on full discussion of election candidates on shop floors.

We have to strive for a better structure of shop stewards' organisation. The officials' fear of shop stewards could stem from a lack of understanding of how they put their privilege and position above our concrete needs.

National officers committed to the cause of fighting for a better world will win the leadership battle. When a successful shop steward emerges he can play a major role in putting forward a clear analysis of the way forward.
vote no, vote against the bosses

The International Socialists are internationalists. We stand for international working-class unity. We know that there can be no solution to the problems facing working people—neither in their economic nor in their political struggle—nor to the rise of fascism, unless a united, transnational, ‘Little Britain’ is defeated.

The fundamental thing to understand about this movement is that it is not, in any sense, a step towards an international, socialist trade union, or against the workers worldwide. It is, as Chris Harman wrote in November 1975, “an attempt by European capitalists to strengthen their workers.” It is part of the same system, the same anti-socialist, capitalist movement.

We are ‘pandering to nationalism’ to be against it than becoming anti-American as we have always been.

The International Socialists support the workers all over Europe who have written in disagreement with the paper’s stand on this issue because they want a Community Market. Their point is that a Community Market is the only way forward.

In other words, we live in a capitalist society where the only way to socialism is the Community Market. We hope that the Community Market is not a Community Market which is the only way forward.

The Community Market is a capitalist society which is to say that it is not, in any sense, a step towards an international, socialist trade union, or against the workers worldwide.

The International Socialists say NO to the bosses common market.

Socialist Worker called on workers to vote Labour in last year’s elections. Now the Labour Party is leading a Community Market campaign - a Tony one, Britain remains a European country.

But it is not at all true, in our opinion, that we should therefore abstain in the electoral fight between Labour and Tory. Why not? Because we believe that Labour in power is a lesser obstacle to the growth of the revolutionary left in Britain than Labour in opposition.

Like it or not, the Community Market is one of the ‘real issues’ today. And it will make a difference to the immediate prospects of the revolutionary left whether or not the pro-Community Market forces carry the day in the referendum.

Does that resolve the indicator issue or explain away such a candidate?

The Economist, say that a NO vote would be a triggering disaster for Britain.

As a matter of fact not reality because it fears that if the wrong side wins this referendum Britain will come out of the Market.

Not what you do -but who does you

THIS attack on the working people was the last ditch account of the fancier and right-wing elements who tried to turn it into the latest battle in their campaign. They assaulted socialists and took over buildings and fired on workers killing many of them.

The quote comes from the United Miners’ strike. The paper of the National Union. It’s a description of life in Northern Ireland. Unfortunately it isn’t. The next line reads: “The government asked for the intervention of Soviet troops who assisted in defeating the counter-revolution.”

The writer is giving his description of the Hungarian revolution—where the workers of Budapest were shot down by the Red Army. The struggle for a free, united workers’ public is not supported by choosing the army of tanks you would want any man to be mowed down by.

Good arguments against socialism

Extra Special

The SPECIAL edition in Birmingham is to be published by a detective inspector, two detective sergeants, five detective constables and three officers.

This was at a recent meeting, between the leaders of the city’s Lord Snowdon’s Committee, chaired by the Lord Provost, Mr Jack Kennedy.

Mr Kennedy, at the Community Party soon after the war when it was looking as though continued membership might spill its chances of being elected as a councillor.

He includes his local miners’ Welfare conference in his list of clubs in ‘Who’s Who’ but not the fact and a Labour government debt of Labour Party works once on the payroll.

Jack Kennedy told the local and national miners: ‘It’s nothing for coal miners in return for the threat of job cuts.’

Punishingly his campaign is also clear about making common cause with the mainstay of the city’s £1.5bn chief constable, Sir John Innes, and the MPA, the chief constable in the city who is the chief constable in the city who is the chief constable.

The black workers were transferred... and the other victim was suspended.

Of course, the blacks are the same as the whites. This is a different issue.

The same week that Williams lost his job at the Tribunal, the Special Branch was made redundant at Redlands.

It meant that the officers in charge of the community teams that they were leaving the job and not the job, not the job, not the job, not the job. They discarded the job.

It’s up to the trade union to intervene in the situation. But it’s up to the trade union to intervene in the situation. But it’s up to the trade union to intervene in the situation.

And it’s up to trade unionists to say: are you being of the black workers?

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Shootings threaten left-wing Republicanism

by Eamonn McCann

The objections to the Official's policies which led to the formation of the IRSP were substantial and from a socialist point of view defensible. The Official's increasing domination by the Communist Party, the lack of internal democracy and the reformist approach to the North and to trade union struggles convinced many genuine socialists that a break had to be made.

After the split the factional violence was five years exclusive of the Officials who were determined to stop the IRSP getting off the ground. IRSP members in Belfast were systematically shot at, beaten up and threatened with death. One was killed, eight wounded.

**Join**

What seems to have happened is that a few IRSP members in Belfast eventually lost their cool and struck back in like manner - at which point undercover agents of the state may have joined in to keep the Head rage.

The IRSP has done itself no good by denouncing exclusively any of its members who have been involved in any retaliatory action. This has simply made their genuine demands - of the G adjusts some - seem plausible.

The refusal to take action against - except if necessary - members who, however understandably, mounted armed counter-attacks of members of the Officials in Belfast has further compromised the entire IRSP organisation. Those IRSP members, possibly a majority, who do wish to build a revolutionary alternative to the sectarian and reformist Republican tendencies will quickly have to assert themselves or go down in bloody confusion.

How can workers in Barcelona shock Franco?

**SPAIN**

Minister of Labour resigned last week. After six years in the job, during which he has supported the worst atrocities of the war, he resigned.

The Spanish trade union leaders, who have been told to support the government, have the right to strike to be legalised.

Behind his resignation lies a growing realisation among a section of the Spanish ruling class that the law cannot be effective against the rising tide of working-class struggle.

A new example is the strike out of the Petrol Industrial city of Barcelona where the car workers at the SEAT, the largest car factory in Spain with a workforce of nearly 40,000, have been in a strike for pay and conditions.

On 14 November thousands of SEAT workers, mostly colon workers from banks and offices, were in a strike at the factory in Barcelona.

The strike is the most serious on the industrial front and has been going on for two weeks.

**CAMBODIA**

Cambodia has sneaked up into the news again. The US Congress is haggling about allowing President Ford to give the pro-People's government of Lon Nol the 300 million dollars it needs to survive.

Without these funds, Lon Nol's government which controls the capital of Phnom Penh but virtually no place else where in the country, will collapse.

While the US government desperately fights to keep Lon Nol in power, the Cambodian people continue all through the night. At the beginning of the year, 400 workers were shot and 20,000 again locked out of their factories.

In those weeks there were demonstrations in Barcelona with workers chanting 'End the dictatorship' and 'SEAT will win'. The riot police used teargas and batons and workers were able to break up demonstrations, sometimes successfully.

A few weeks ago the SEAT workers decided to return to the factory, as it is the only place they can meet without immediately being attacked. Even with the success of changing the atmosphere in the city, communist and nationalist assemblies have considerably increased in numbers and the place and at the on streets, with militaries and workers with more freedom than since the Civil War of the 1930s.

Puerto protest

The US Embassy in London was picketed last weekend by Puerto Rican political prisoners held in US jails. The prisoners, who are fighting for independence of Puerto Rico from the US, leaving the longest political sentences anywhere in the world, have been held for 21 years.

**YOU EARN 30p a day. You live in a hotel alongside a police post staffed by beatings. You work with molten steel in a factory where the temperature exceeds 90 degrees centigrade. You will probably have gained daily at the factory gates to get a job. You work at the Newaz Alloys steel plant in Southern Iran. It is typical of factories all over the coun-

try. If you are angry enough to try to stand against management and lead a stoppage you may be shot. That's if you are lucky. If not unlucky you will be tortured. You will be shot at. It is not a scene from a bad dream. For workers all over Iran these are the facts of life. In Iran life expectancy is 30 years. Half of all children die during their first few years.

Yet all this happened in a country which, the press tells us is going to be the savoir des capitalisme by lending large sums for Western development. It's in this country where the US government, they say, is going to be a superpower in ten years time, and which the Shah, long-dead, declared a one-party state.

The Shah has clearly not been using Iran's wealth to improve the country's living standards. Other things attract him more. Other buys four-fifths of all the arms exported from the US.

One place these arms are being used is in nearby Oman, an oil sheikdom in south Arabia, here one of the Shah's friends, Sultan Qabus, has been trying to crush a popular uprising. 10,000 heavily armed Iranian troops have gone to back him up.

The British government too has sent aid - guns, arms, aeroplanes and 2000 mercenaries to the Shah. Iran and British forces have been responsible for setting up the client state of Oman, bombing their homes and encampments, capturing and torturing dissidents.

Demonstration: British and Iranian troops (of Oman) Assam House Guard Avenue, near Trafalgar Square, London SW1, March to Downing Street, March 16th, 1975. Sunday, 9 March, 7pm.

**Torturer ally of the Labour government**

by Phil Marfleet

These are the facts of life. In Iran life expectancy is 30 years. Half of all children die during their first few years. When Iranian workers have tried to change their conditions they have been viciously attacked. In 1971 2000 workers from the Zanjan tea factory marched to the capital, Tehran, to protest against rising prices and pathetic wages. Halfway along the road they were met by armed police - 20 were pumped down and dead. Scores were injured.
Will the Union Jack save jobs?

By CHRIS HARMAN

WILL ALL the workers save jobs? Are the sackings and lay-offs which are causing chaos for so many workers all over the country the fault of foreigners—either foreign businessmen or foreign goods?

Could we get our jobs back by taxing foreign goods, or foreign workers, or foreign businesses?

A large meeting of workers took place at Plessey, Liverpool. Workers matched through the town shouting against the Swedish firm, which has won an order for post office equipment, which the Plessey bosses always regarded as theirs by right.

The occupied factory at Imperial Typewriters, Hull, is decorated with posters calling for the Yanks To Get Out. One poster says: Keep the factory open to help the British economy.

The union leaders of every political shade encourage this sort of argument. Delegation after delegation goes to the Board of Trade to 'demand' from government ministers that Japanese cloth or French or Polish boots be kept out of the country.

Jobless

A leaflet issued recently by the Leicester Communist Party asks: 'How can the Board of Trade solve this problem?'

'Already Leicester has lost out to the Japanese and American corporations in the heavy machinery industry—soon we will be importing little-designed machines from abroad, while Leicester engineers remain jobless.

'In fact all these remedies spell nothing but danger to workers. They do not solve unemployment; they do not bring down prices; they weaken trade unions where they matter most—on the shop floor.'

Suppose you work in the shoe industry. If the clamour to ban shoes imports succeeded, what would happen? First, the price of shoes which other workers have to pay would go up.

Maybe a few jobs in Britain would be saved—but at whose expense? At the expense of lower living standards for other workers here—and unemployment for shoe workers somewhere else in the world.

Result

What would those foreign shoe workers then do? Campaign in their countries for import controls of goods made from Britain.

If they succeed, more jobs are lost in this country, so the wretched merry-go-round goes on with workers becoming more and more hysterical about the national interest and bringing out faster and faster in all countries.

While different groups of workers try to shift the unemployment burden between each other, and while unemployment and prices rise as a result, the shoe bosses are protecting their profits.

Sir Charles Clare's Sears Holdings, which controls the bulk of the British shoe industry, made £5 million profit last year—that's nearly £1000 for every worker. He wouldn't lose a penny from import controls.

Campaigns for import controls divide the workers movement.

How can we get unity between shoe workers, who want import controls to protect their jobs, and other workers, who will have to pay more for their shoes because of the import controls?

DURING World War Two, the bosses had problems. American bombers (supplied by Boeing of Seattle) were bombing car factories (supplied by Fords of Detroit) in Cologne.

Still, they all made it up after the war, when the bosses got down together to the job of screwing the workers. The German side of Luft Hansa was re-equipped with Boeings, the British Army set up the Volkswagen plant at Wolfsburg (originally built by Hitler), VW sold their cars to the USA, and German workers complained when VW announced plans to set up factories in the USA.

Having done their bit for the German war effort, IFT set about establishing themselves around the world, culminating in their 'de-stabilisation' of Allende's socialist regime in Chile.

The British got back into the act by nixing the plans of a revolutionary new motor bike made by DKW just after the war. They sold it round the world in the 1950s under the name of the BSA Bantam.

The way to fight successfully against unemployment and high prices is to make the bosses’ profits come from their own processes, as caused by the international system of white slavery which cannot plan its resources, and moves inevitably into slump and inflation to protect its profits. These people must be fought. When they threaten to close factories, the factories have to be taken over and the machinery and property held in ransom for the jobs.

Victory

If big business won't respond, its usually the same—the government has to be forced—as by holding the company and the company itself to stop realising its profits. Such propaganda only sets workers of different races against each other's throats. And leaflets such as the one produced by the Communist Party in Leicester serve only to increase those divisions because they concentrate on the British or the foreign—not whether they are employed or workers.
ANTHONY WEDGWOOD BENN is the most popular Labour Minister among socialist workers since Aneurin Bevan. Large numbers of shop stewards and ministers who have little confidence in the Labour government are prepared to make an exception for him.

Five years ago, nothing would have seemed less likely. As Minister of Technology, Benn symbolised the disasters of the 1964-70 Labour government. He masterminded that government's industrial policies. He presided over the creation of enormous private enterprise monopolies. He was ever new to the company of tycoons.

When Labour left office in 1970, however, Benn's tone changed. He identified himself with the struggles of workers against the Tory government—especially with the battle for jobs on the Upper Clyde. He developed a new theory of Labour Party politics.

Two extracts from his speech to the Labour Party Conference of 1971, in which he led the standing vote for the UCS workers, summed it all up.

Active

"But I say to you from the platform that the changes we contemplate cannot be made by parliamentary action alone. It requires the active work of the industrial movement," he said.

"I confess frankly, that the power I see generated by technology is too great for the Labour Cabinet to control unless the people are unshackled to control it themselves."

These arguments brought new hope to Labour supporters who despairs of the impotence and inactivity of the previous Labour government.

Benn was arguing that the next Labour government would force through socialist measures with the help of industrial strength on the shop floor. Socialist legislation, he suggested, would be made possible by strikes, sit-ins and other workers' actions which would deter the ruling class from sabotaging the Labour government as they had done in the past. Some phrases by Benn in the past year, during which he has been Secretary for Industry, have tried to hold this line. His recent assault on the management of Imperial Typhamasics, for instance, and his declaration that unemployment and short time working were "unacceptable" have helped to keep up the spirits of his close supporters.

The vulgar hysterics of the capitalist press, who have portrayed him as a Comintern monster, have also won for Benn the instinctive solidarity of a large number of workers.

But the test of his politics is not in the plausibility of his speeches or in the headlines of the Daily Express. The real test is what he does in office.

This month Benn has brought forward what he regards as his most important effort as a minister: The Industry Bill. It is theynch-pin of Labour's industrial policy. It has the almost unattainable support of the Labour Left and their paper, Tribune.

The Bill has three main objectives: to increase industrial investment, to bring about industrial democracy and to disclose information about industry.

INVESTMENT. In 1970-73 profits from British industry rose by 60 per cent, but industrial investment fell by 26 per cent. Unsurpassed since the 1930s. The Bill is intended to maintain workers' jobs and living standards—by providing."
by Dr Gerry Dawson

THE anti-abortion argument has a lurid simplicity. Abortion is murder. Murder of a particularly horrible kind because it is practised against an innocent, unborn soul.

How can socialists be in favour of the destruction of life itself?

Our reply is simple. Unless you are religious, the idea of murder as a capital crime only has the potential of such a crime, a primitive arrangement of cells resembling themselves in the direction of human life but no nearer than it is an atom in an oak.

Indeed if life is present in the embryo then murder is not only a contract violation such as the law which depend on disdosing the newly-formed ovum from the uterine lining and are used by more than 60 million women, are murderous too.

Socialists have now grown fully-developed embryos in their cells, so, according to the anti-abortionists logic, an idle male masturbation might cause the destruction of several million souls. Or, to ask the question the other way round, if the fertilised egg long before birth, are we to conclude that if a two-month foetus was kept going in a test tube that it could in any sense be called life?

Anti-sex

Put like this, it all sounds rather silly. But there are sinister implications. For underneath all the elevated talk of the dignity of motherhood, there lurks a didactic attitude to women which wants to put them back in their 'rightful place'—on their backs in a permanent cycle of getting pregnant, giving birth and bringing up babies, whether they like it or not.

There's a real anti-sex attitude too, if one should be named of sex for pleasure not procreation.

As long as there has been pregnancy there has been abortion. The earliest method of birth control was the murder of the newborn. Every society not to control population has had its informal and highly dangerous methods of abortion.

A 1935 inquiry estimated that 1,900 women died each year, horribly and secretly, as a result of misusing various objects into their vaginae (vaginal) as a means of contraception like washing soda and caster oil into their wombs. Another method was the use of poisons, which caused convulsions and vomiting so severe that the foetus was aborted as a side-effect.

Clinics

The Lane Commission, in 1974, concluded that legislation had little effect on the number of abortions. Where abortion is banned, it is gone on nevertheless in private clinics for the rich, and comes back to haunt them.

It would be much better to have really efficient and trouble-free clinics that are better able to have a society where children are born with the knowledge of the rest of their lives without any fear for their future.

The case for abortion on demand

But to argue for contraception without arguing for abortion too to enjoy the fruits of birth control without facing the consequences of its failure.

It is particularly silly now that new medical methods involving vacuum aspiration have made early abortion a half-hour procedure which can be performed by nurses and is considered safer than having a tooth out under anaesthesia.

Although the abortion issue arises in all classes, working-class women have fewer, better doctors, less access to good contraception, many more social pressures and no chance whatever of flying off to a different country. So it is the working-class women who do the suffering and the waiting, especially those who are unemployed, unmarried and short of money.

Middle-class male priests', doctors and 1970's psychiatrist are able to decide what's good for working-class women's bodies: like shelter and bankers having power to put women out of a job.

Stella Browne, the first person to refuse to give an abortion on a public platform, exactly 50 years ago and a founder member of the Communist Party, directly linked 'workshop control' with women's control over their own fertility.

One could not exist without the other, she said, and argued for the fundamental right of the mother to bear life gladly or not at all and for the unborn to be wanted and welcomed. The right of refusal on part of socialist ethical . . . The freedom of sexual relationships from legal or economic coercion.

Taboos

Working-class women in Austria and Germany in the 1920s, inspired by the immediate introduction of abortion on demand after the Russian Revolution, fought for abortion when that meant going against all the social taboos.

In Britain the Co-operative Women's Guild in 1934 defined middle-class morals by calling for abortion to become a legal operation which can be carried out under the same conditions as any other surgical procedure.

It looks very much as if the working-class movement will have to take up the challenge again as theIEWS White and the Festival of Light reintroduce a virtual ban on all non-medical abortions and permit the triumph of the Church. Stella Browne explained in 1935, 'a survival of the resilient face of the barricaded and the locked door, of all the pain and fear inflicted since the grip of ownership and super-

British capital's only polar field'...
WE MUST OPPOSE IT— AND LEAD THE RESISTANCE

The Second World War reduced capitalism to the position of junior partner to its American counterpart. For German, French, and British imperialism it had been disastrous. During the war, European capitalism had displayed itself as a pillar of economic power. France and similar phenomena elsewhere. Since the war this trend has put on "democratic" clothes resulting in moves to unify European capital first to compete with non-European rivals, particularly America, secondly as a defence against working people. Many British workers fight this as a threat to their class interest. Their opposition express itself in nationalist terms but their underlying class instinct tells them to resist.

For International Socialists to abstain from this struggle would be disastrous. The opportunistic opposition to the EEC of the Communist Party and Labour Left would go unchallenged and some backward workers would undoubtedly be attracted by the narrow nationalism of the National Front.

It is the task of socialists to place themselves at the head of the working class opposition to the EEC, leading into constructive channels, mobilising the NO vote and all the time explaining the class character of the EEC and its socialist alternative. A socialist Britain as the first step to a socialist Europe is just plain common sense—E. EUSTACE, Twickenham.

RELIEVED?

The letter by Michael Kidron in Socialist Worker (23 February) gives the impression that some of the US would benefit if Britain left the Common Market. But the Economist last week paints an entirely different picture. It says of the US State Department, "they are intensely worried" that the referendum vote will go against the Common Market.

The Administration would like to say this but it has decided that if it speaks too openly, resentment of American interference will make the removal of EEC-selling oil to the British referendum harder than it already is.

No doubt the state department would be very much relieved if the revolutionary left followed Kidron's advice and did not campaign for a No vote—C. HUMPHREYS, London.

SEISIM—According to Francis Radice (22 February) working people buy paper bags, bus tickets, and grocery goods and are often unaware of the employers' exploitation. Luckly he has the answer for Socialist Workers. He suggests that if the State Undersecretary could see women strikers in bathing costumes on a beach the whole thing would be over. As Mike Oliver tells us "women enjoy being admired by men!" If the bosses in the State Department aren't satisfied with the Socialists' aren't satisfied with the Socialists' men that the women strikers are not the problem. It could be a solution to all the world's problems. We need to read this one of the most important articles from socialist critics like Francis Radice who take a sympathetic approach—STEVIE DRAKE, Colchester.

RED READS—Most libraries have few socialist books but if you fill in a request form they will get almost any book. I've managed to get 'The Oxford History of England' by Christopher Hibbert and and Chris Harman's Bureaucracy And Eastern European Addicted to our local library shelves. Perhaps Socialist Workers should print a list of socialist books readers should get into their libraries—NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED.
Malcolm X:

Struggle by any means necessary

BY KAY STACY

of Workers Power, the paper of the International Socialists (United States)

As the civil rights movement grew it also began to change. The movement was originally organised through the traditional forces in the black community such as the churches. It became a mass movement, and began tapping the anger, drive, spirit and creativity of masses of black people. It had to break these bonds, and develop new forms of struggle and organisation.

While Martin Luther King was saying, 'If any blood be shed, let it be mine', Malcolm X began to say blacks would struggle 'by any means necessary'.

Parts of the movement were becoming revolutionary. They were rejecting the overall integration of its leadership. Some looked to Malcolm X's ideas and his leadership.

Malcolm began to foresee a revolutionary struggle to transform this racist society—rather than to separate from it. He began to fight inside the Muslim for organising the political struggle of black people. This fight caused his final break with the Nation of Islam.

Remain

The urban rebellions broke out. Martin Luther King showed the true depths of his non-violence by calling for the police and army to crush them.

Nixon has said, 'It was bloody in 1963, it was bloody in 1964, and all the causes that created this bloodshed still remain... blacks will struggle by any means necessary.'

This society is wrong, he said. It is racist, exploitative society and it must be transformed. We can do that, Malcolm said.

Black people needed their own organisations, he said, organisations that could make alliances with whites to build and organise the struggle against racism and for human dignity.

And he realised permanent change would only come through organised struggle. The ghetto uprisings were violent explosions of anger against a rotten and decaying system. But they were spontaneous, disorganised, and lacked leadership.

Without a united and militant defence their gains could be quickly wiped away. Pride and self-confidence could be quickly replaced with defeat and despair.

Malcolm X's greatest contribution to the movement was his ability to combine the best experiences of black people in struggle.

From these experiences he developed an outlook better than both the separatist movement and the civil rights movement.

Revolutionary change he learned from the Black Muslims—but separation he rejected. Mass struggle he learned from the movement of tens of thousands of his people. But to transform, not adjust, society. Malcolm X was developing a programme to rally the struggle for black liberation with the necessity of revolution when he died.

The return of crisis to the capitalist system raises these questions again today.

Fraser looks at HONOLULU in his new book THE WORLD OF FRASER. Thursday: BBC-1, 9.20pm. In a rotten week PLAY FOR TODAY—JUST ANOTHER SATURDAY could be an exception. It will be written by Terence Davies and his last moment at the annual Glasgow Orange March. He wins up drinking in the Catholic church in Glasgow. The cast includes BILLY CONNOLLY, the Scottish comedian/singer/banjo player who makes his other comedian in Britain look like a bowl of radish porridge.

Friday: BBC-1, 11.42pm. The film of French writer Jean Genet's THE BALCONY—deals with life in a brothel—with a revolution going on outside. But inside the judge, the cop, the figures of authority continue their normal, real fantasies.

WHEN TO SWITCH ON

FRIDAY

TV (London area only): 11.20pm. Many have not seen THE LION IN WINTER, the good film, the reviewer hasn't seen it.

MONDAY

BBC-1—11.35am. Panorama will doubtlessly be looking at its role in the current debate about the status of black people. It is mainly about the role of another royal Hampshire. It is mainly about the role of another royal Hampshire.

TUESDAY

TV (5pm): Alan 'would you buy a second hand package tour from this man?'

bring in International Women's Day at a

Grand fund raising benefit for Women's Voice

the paper of International Socialist women

the London women of The International are a women's film which use the campaign by the Cleaners Action Group to organise London office cleaners in 1972 to show the problems of women workers, the attitude of the employers and difficulties in organisation.

plus social and disco featuring women singers and musicians from Aunt Mafia, Jackie Brown and others.

FRIDAY 7 March, 8pm—11.30pm. 50p.

Holborn Assembly Rooms, John's Mews, Northampton Street, WC1. Behind Holborn Library.

LEAF IN THE LUNCH...

CAST, the pioneer socialist theatre group, have come out with a new 40-minute play on the Labour Left.

And it is about the rise of Jeremy Corbyn, MP, his rhetoric, his exploits and his betrayal. In 1945, Miggins is a shop steward and a Labour backbencher who bullies the Red Flag in the Commons and breathes fire and defiance at Churchill. Miggins has him screaming at the war-mongers and shouting down the hecklers. CND has him still chocked in rhetoric but welcoming in the Earl Court Woodcraft Folk.

But, slowly he learns the score, he can voice his reservations (though in a very quiet voice) but he's only the leader of Harold Wilson's reformist list. It's always him who gets taken for the ride.

By 1974 the steelworker who has been asking since 1945 about when socialism starts deciding to get on and do it himself.

The play is performed with CAST's gymnastic style and brilliant use of a handful of props. It can be put on in a pub room or a Town Hall. And it really takes the Left Reformer argument seriously and so is ideal for opening up serious debate with socialists in the Labour Party. It's ideal to kick off a joint meeting or discussion on the Labour Party.

The show is still finding its feet but CAST may be able to do a few public shows in the London and Home Counties area over the next two months. Contact Roland Maddox (01-462 6687).
Again-Asia's flock to IS meeting

THE GROWING interest in socialist politics among immigrant workers was shown again last Saturday at another packed IS meeting of black workers. More than 60 Indian and Pakistani workers packed into Slough's Labour Hall last Saturday afternoon.

Cliff stressed the internationalism of the working class, and the need for unity across class and race boundaries in the fight against inflation and unemployment.

He refuted the complaint that Indian and Pakistani workers shouldn't take part in the working class struggle. He told them to work for the benefit of all. IS members have printed and distributed collection sheets, organised signature drives for the leading trade unions in the city, and collected money.

A special branch meeting last week organised emergency action around the occupation. A party for round-the-clock action at the factory gates has been drawn up. The paper order has been doubled. A public meeting in support of the occupation was organised.

York IS branch has been contacted by the NWUC, which is arranging a national meal for young immigrant workers. It has been estimated that the occupation force could double if proper cover was provided.

The Sunday meeting of the branch will discuss the issues raised by the occupation.
HOSPITAL managements in South Wales are trying to stop private patients in use NHS facilities.

On Tuesday 400 nurses and other hospital workers in mid-Glamorgan hospitals were staging a two-hour walk-out while a patient has a vasectomy operation. The consultant concerned had suspended his operation privately.

Two weeks ago hospital workers all over Glamorgan in a protest against a private operation. Management were brought in by a Public Employees Union (NEPU) branch resolution at Morriston Hospital, Swansea, to ban private patients. Their attempt has shown how ineffective union action can be against the resistance of hospital management.

Miss Margaret Voel, chair of the Welsh Woman's National League, visited the action to see if it could help in the battle against the hospital.
'Use troops to break strike' call

In Glasgow, the dust cart drivers first went on strike last October, the council bowed to a writers' pressure group and offered to settle, but now the national government is preparing to have their drivers working for private handlers, the council will be forced to accept a break the promise. Glasgow is now beset with a plague of rats if the rubbish left uncollected, and the Environmental Health Officials are becoming increasingly worried.

In the north, the American workers are locked in battle with the local council. The problem is that the scab workers refuse to handle the rubbish. The council has been forced to call in the army to break the strike.

Sparks hand Wilson a 'crisis' all of his own

Meanwhile, persistent round-the-clock picketing has helped to close Glasgow’s main airport to all passenger transport. All shuttle services are cancelled and all holiday charter flights have been diverted to Manchester.

The strike is still going strong, and Wilson has yet to reach an agreement with the workers. The council is being pressed to call in the army to break the strike.

The strike of Scottish local authorities is now in its seventh week and the EETPU executive has not yet reached an agreement with the strikers. The strikers are demanding that the council should continue to get the same rates as their previous companies, under an old procedure.

A large demonstration was held on the outskirts of Glasgow and was attended by several thousand workers and supporters. The demonstration was peaceful and the police were kept at a safe distance.

The strike is still going strong, and Wilson has yet to reach an agreement with the workers. The council is being pressed to call in the army to break the strike.
BAC: 'We have only just begun'

Tony Rawlings said: 'Almost immediately we set up a plan of campaign. We got the night shift to block the main gate in the morning to stop management coming in. A raiding party of stewards infiltrated the main admin block. Two senior stewards informed a day shift meeting what was happening and the meeting joined the occupation.'

The occupation had an immediate effect. There were four-vehicle traffic jams in both directions, the main road into Bournemouth. Commer, BAC chief executive was stopped by police on the motorway and driven back to Bournemouth. In an attempt to patronise the workforce, he said that there had never been an 'air war' attitude at BAC, and that if company resources could be used to help all employees with their swimming pool like his own.

The occupations are still going on. A management strategy to end the occupation is not yet in effect. The workers have not given up and the occupation continues.
Message to all signal men: This is your fight-join it!

by Eddie Provost, TGWU steward, Royal Docks

DOCKERS from all three enclosed docks in London are now on strike. In Tilbury and West India docks on Thursday, men refused to work on scow lorries that had crossed our picket lines at Dagenham Cold Stores. Road baggage employees included lorry drivers to retaliaate by picketing Tilbury Docks and two registered container carriers.

By last Thursday, they were all at a standstill: which is why shop stewards voted to put the block on any shipment transferred from Tilbury. The last lorry struck was the container section of the company's lorry fleet-their pocket line-but within hours the strike began.

This is not an irrepression dispute, as the press and TV are working overtime to suggest. We are fighting for our right to work, and nothing more. For more than a decade now, since the first introduction of containerisation, dockers' jobs have been threatened. In ten years we have lost 15,000 jobs.

Dockers have seen employers such as the massive Vestey organisation systematically disinvestment in the docks and waterfront wharves, sucking thousands of registered dockers, only to see the work those men handled syphoned off to one of Vestey's unregistered cold stores and container carriers, such as Midland Cold Store. There, Vestey isn't hindered by such things as the Dock Labour Scheme, which removes our control over hiring and firing and discipline.

And Vestey is the rule not the exception. We've seen Hays'Wheel close their entire waterfront sheds, kicking 3,000 dockers out of their jobs, only to direct the cargo to the Dagenham Container. Even now, in London, at least 50 jobs are under the shadow of the sack.

ACTION

AT 7 Walthamstow Docks the employers had made a last offer of £31 a week on container work. The dockers were sacked from a factory because they were trade unionists, and had fought for and won reasonable wages. Food profits and the London economy would not have been what they are today without the dockers. The TGWU at Walthamstow Docks Group did not want to see their wages reduced. They were tired of being a target. They were tired of the employer's absolute position. The TGWU did not say the campaign had said time and again that if it is not our job to take the stick, it will be the last one in the strike. And when we can continue to work, like Dagenham Cold Store, it will be on the same formula as we won at Chatham Farm in 1972.

By Eddie Provost, TGWU steward, Royal Docks

Dockers meeting last Monday; now is the time to take a stand

PORT SHOP STEWARDS ARE KEY TO VICTORY

The TGWU Docks Group Committee have met twice in order to discuss the situation. Dockers were involved in all decisions and discussions. The National Port Shop Stewards staged the fight in 1972. They warned dockers that the Joint-Labour Board would give as nothing. The press, radio and television. The outrageous neglect of signal men by the NUR has been a direct result of the April '74 pay award. The signal men were the only grade not to receive responsibility payments.

We are therefore fighting for a ten per cent responsibility allowance, five per cent differential and a sign on and off allowance. The last four pay deals have seen a widening away of the differential between signal men and others. But the NUR leadership has done nothing whatever for us in comparison with other grades. It treats us with contempt and a minority group.

Under the new pay re-organisation deal last month accepted by the NUR, drivers get a responsibility payment of £10.65, £10.45 and £4.50 on top of their wages. The signaller's claim for similar payment was turned down. There is now only 30p difference between a signal man and a petrol attendant.

We have been abused and vilified by our new (elected for life) General Secretary Sid Weighill (£160 a week) and the rest of the overpaid NUR leadership, through the press, radio and television. The outrageous neglect of signal men by the NUR has been a direct result of the April '74 pay award. The signal men were the only grade not to receive responsibility payments.

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