Rents UP, prices UP—and still more pay restraint to come

YOUR WAGES UNDER ATTACK

HOW WOULD you feel if your employer announced you had to accept a ten per cent wage cut, while his profits went up? You’d be bloody angry.

But that is what the government and big business are saying to workers in Britain. To all workers. They don’t quite put it that way, certainly not when they are demanding restraint from groups like the railwaymen.

They usually talk about ‘cutting inflation’. But occasionally they let the truth out, as the Bank of International Settlements did last week. ‘Real consumption is going to fall and labour will be obliged to shoulder its share of the cut,’ it said.

When Denis Healey talks about the next round of wage increases being no higher than 15 per cent, at a time when prices are rising by at least 25 per cent, he is talking of a cut in your living standards.

When Michael Foot tells the railwaymen the government cannot meet a wage demand which would only just keep up with prices, he is saying the same thing, although in less abrupt language.

FORCE

The government claims wages are to blame for price rises. But a recent report points out that real wages in Britain are the same as in March 1973—and before that they were frozen by the Tories’ Phase One freeze.

Certainly, the most recent set of price rises has not been caused by wages. Even the government admits that three-fifths of the most recent rise in the price index was caused by increases in taxes and cuts in price subsidies.

The decision to force up council rents by monstrous amounts certainly wasn’t taken by workers.

Yet workers are being blamed for inflation by the press and politicians. Even trade union leaders are suggesting ways of cutting back their members’ wage increases.

No-one who works in a factory, mine or office should listen to such talk, even if it comes from union leaders like Jack Jones or Hugh Scantlon, who the press calls ‘left-wing’.

If you do, you will face a cut in your real wages, a cut in what you can spend on yourself or your family, a drop in your living standard. And that is not all.

The same people who are after your wages are also pushing up unemployment and slashing back essential social services. That is why the AUEW conference was quite right to reject both the social contract and further wage restraint.

There should be a simple answer to those who demand that we accept such things. If they cannot make the economy work to satisfy people’s real needs, they should get out of the way and allow those who create the wealth to organise society.

A nationalised economy, under workers control, could mean a continued and planned growth of wealth for our benefit, instead of wage cuts and unemployment.

Meanwhile there is no reason why we should make sacrifices to solve their crisis.

By CHRIS HARMAN

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Question: Which ‘left-wing’ trade union leaders helped train the bosses?

No Return to Back-Street Abortion!

HULL PORT shop stewards are among many groups of workers who are to send a delegation to this Saturday’s demonstration in London against the Abortion Amendment Bill—a bill which if passed would bring a return to the horrors of back-street abortion.

They made this decision after being told by housewife Linda Gordon that the demonstration will be fighting for the rights of women just as the stewards are fighting for conditions on the docks. If the bill becomes law, working class women trying to control their own bodies will be dragged before the same judges who put the Shrewsbury Two behind bars and jailed the Pentonville dockers.

Every Socialist Worker reader should be on the march bringing your trade union banner

ALL OUT THIS SATURDAY, 21 JUNE
PORTUGAL ALL SET TO EXPLODE

EVENTS IN PORTUGAL were moving rapidly to an explosive climax as we went to press. A special session of the ruling military council was holding initial proposals for the setting up of an exclusively military government along with revolutionary councils of workers, soldiers and sailors.

The man behind it, Oito da Cunhia, head of the security forces, Coup, probably believes the revolutionary councils would enhance his own power. But his call could produce exactly the sort of activity that no middle-class officer or politician would be able to hold in check.

The fact that the military have been discussing such questions shows the extent of the crisis. After 13 months of battles and a left-of-center government, with 400 dead, the military were being forced to come down on one side or the other.

For the last fortnight, the right wing have been organizing actively to try to regain military power which the employing class has lost in the last few years. The army is one of the main units and over the press. They have been actively distanced by the leaders of the pro-NATO Socialists Party.

One key issue has been control of the daily newspaper República. Its director, a leading member of the Socialists Party, claims he is fighting to stop 'one of the last non-Communist papers' from falling into 'Communist hands'.

In fact, he is really trying to uphold the right of all newspaper proprietors to control the content—regardless of who those who print the papers think. He copies this on Monday, by saying that to restart production he would have to sack a number of militians. Left wing soldiers from Coup refused to help him in this, and handed the paper to the printers instead.

But the right wing have not just been backing the Socialists Party in its efforts for big business. They are also mobilizing on their own.

There are repeated reports of attacks on left-wing party buildings in the rural areas where the right is strong. There have been seizures of arms from certain barracks.

Last week saw a virtual uprising in the Azores islands, which contain a vital US base, with right wing demonstrators seizing control of airfields and government offices.

The Azores incidents could well have been a rehearsal for the right activities in mainland Portugal.

The working class is not standing idly by. On Tuesday evening, a mass demonstration was due to take place, called for the 'international revolutionary workers' and workers' councils'. The demonstration was planned by the right wing Constituent Assembly, for the formation of the revolutionary workers' council government and federal revolution.

The call for the demonstration came from a 4000-strong meeting at the Lisbon shipyards. After being addressed by members of the professional secretariat of the revolutionary councils, and by Carlos Antunes of the PFL (Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat), the meeting elected 400 delegates to prepare for a workers' council and to form links with other councils.

At the Sengue shipyard, 1000 workers voted for similar proposals.

The demonstration was due to be supported by the Iron and Steel foundries next to Lisbon, by union delegates in Lisbon transport authority and by the Republika print workers.

Details of the Lisbon meeting and the demonstration were broadcast from the radio station Radio Renascer, in defiance of the Socialists Bishop who owns it.

On the right wing and the workers' mobilization, massive conflicts can be expected in the near future. In the Colares area, the right wing Socialists Workers Party Portlandi—Fund—Pages 7 and 10.

PORTUGAL, SPAIN... ONE SOLUTION... REVOLUTION!

Army assassination links exposed

DISTURBING EVIDENCE has come to light of collaboration by British troops and Northern Ireland Loyalists in preparing for all-out attacks on the Catholic community.

On Sunday masked men raided an Ulster Defence Regiment armory in County Derry, 'seized' the six-man guard and spirited away more than 200 rifles, machine guns and pistols, plus thousands of rounds of ammunition—and two landrovers! During this record-breaking heist, not a single shot was fired. Nor was the alarm raised.

No-one in northern Ireland doubts the weapons are now in the hands of Ulster Defence Regiment Loyalists.

On 1 June, the Dublin Sunday World printed photographs of Ulster Defence Regiment men training with unauthorised weapons—armalites, Thompsons, M16 'Grease-guns—all weapons associated in the public mind in Northern Ireland with the IRA. The use of which any similar incident would be taken as clear evidence of IRA responsibility.

The fortnightly Dublin paper Hibernia, last week, printed a photo, taken two years ago, of the then head of the Loyalist terror group, the UVF, Jim Hanna, posing together with two British officers—a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Intelligence Corps and a Timothy Golden—probably of the SAS.

They were close friends with Hanna, as were two other officers, Captains Anthony Lien and Anthony Box, at a time when Hanna was involved in supervising a campaign of sectarian assassinations against Catholics.

Hanna told the Hibernia writer, Kevin Myers, that on at least one occasion, British troops had helped him when he was engaged in gun battles with Catholics.

Hanna is dead now, killed by other Loyalists. But the Loyalist groups clearly retain considerable influence in the sections of the armed forces, as is revealed by the discovery of army intelligence documents in their possession.

The demand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops is both urgent and necessary.
LAST WEEK'S government reshuffle and the hysteria in the press over the railwaymen's pay claim have had one simple aim: to prepare the ground for the biggest attack on workers' living standards since the 1930s.

A few weeks ago, Lord Wilson, head of the great food monopoly Cadbury Schweppes, threatened that, if the government did not behave more as big business and stop the industrialists would deliberately resort to measures which would harm the economy.

In the weeks since, particularly since the referendum, Wilson has gone out of his way to placate Lord Wilson. His friend the Industry Bill is to be pruned, to amend those clauses on 'disclosure of information' which annoy some industrialists.

Wedgod Bann has been shifted, not because of what he has done, but because of what he sometimes said. As the Financial Times put it last week, he was an 'obstacle to confidence' in the pound.

And now ministers are demanding that unions accept, 'in the next round', wage increases of only 15 per cent, less than half what is needed to keep up with inflation.

The steep slide in the value of the pound last week was part of the process of preparing people psychologically for such attacks. Those with wealth know that they can exert enormous influence on government policy merely by exchaging their sterling holding for foreign currency, and so creating crisis.

Ministers who call a threat of strike action by any group of workers blackmail will keep quiet about such financial means of forcing government's hand.

The Financial Times was able to report last Thursday that 'there are those in Whitehall' who think that an alarm about the pound is a necessary ingredient in negotiating new pay offers.

The fall in sterling was not caused by 'foreign' speculators but by big corporations, including UK companies. And there was virtually no intervention by the Bank of England, as would normally be the case.

But this organisation on the part of the employing class is in no way matched by the response of the working class organisations. A fortnight ago, union leaders like Jack Jones were threatening action if the government was restructured to assure the wealthy.

Yet the day after the devaluation of Wgod Bann and the sack of Judith Hart, they expressed 'satisfaction' at what Wilson had done. Instead of preparing to resist the government's attacks, Jones has been peddling his own plan for cuts in living standards.

The passivity of the union leaders has been matched by that of Benn. For 13 months he has been giving the impression to workers facing redundancy that if they only waited on him, he would solve their problems. And so workers occupying Imperial Typewriters in Hull raised the slogan 'we stay in 'til Benn says when', and some in British Leyland accepted the Ryder report.

The government changes mean an end to any government help for workers facing factory closures and a much more vicious interpretation of the Ryder recommendations.

Yet Benn has not put up even token resistance to the changes. He has happily gone from the Industry Ministry to the Energy Ministry, abandoning completely those who placed their hopes in him.

Socialist Worker supporters have, in the meantime, received a lot of stick in some quarters for putting up our own candidates. We think his behaviour last week proves how correct we were to insist that his fine words were not matched by his deeds and could not be trusted.

But the real question is not one of individuals. It is collective action. People like Benn or Jones talk in terms of managing the present system so as to get reforms that improve the conditions of workers. Such reformism sees work in periods of prosperity, when the employers can afford a few concessions for workers.

But, in a period like the present, every continuation of the crisis of the system still worsen, and those who begin by preaching reform end by scratching back from workers those concessions already granted.

The personal views of those who try to manage the system or work within it do not matter. They are forced to accept the logic of capital and the logic which means making workers accept the burden of solving the crisis.

There is an alternative, but it is only open to those who abandon the path of reformism for the path of socialist revolution. That has not, does not mean taking to the streets tomorrow.

It can mean organising rank and file workers against the attacks that are coming, pointing out that crises will continue to be with us. We think all Socialist Workers will finally put an end to the power of big business.

It's all the fault of the big battalions isn't it?

HOW OFTEN have you heard that the Social Contract is a good idea, offering the lower-paid a just wage, while wrecking the 'big battalions' of better-paid workers? The reality is rather different. In a recent Guardian article, Frank Field of the Child Poverty Action Group pointed out:

'Those low-paid workers who struck settlements within the Social Contract guidelines are now worse off in real terms. Only if workers break the Social Contract is one able to show that they have experienced a real increase.'

But won't restraint cut unemployment?

THE MOST common argument in favour of wage restraint is that if we don't have it, inflation will continue. This will cause unemployment to grow. Thus, if we only accept wage cuts, the dole queues will get shorter.

But there are countries such as West Germany where the Social Contract has allowed their wages to be cut back drastically over the last year.

This has not been the case in the United States, where the Social Contract has been quite low—about seven per cent. Nevertheless, West German unemployment, far from falling is still much higher. Last year's figures with a million on the dole and 600,000 on short time.

Even the Economist could comment last week that German workers were left with wages too low to cut employment.

FACT:

Last week, the railmen were attacked by Harold Wilson. They want another £2.

Last week, big business admitted to blackmailing the government. Wilson said nothing.

Labour honours a man whose trade is death

RALPH Melton Bateman, president of the Confederation of British Industry and chairman of the asbestos multi-union committee of the Brite Turner and Newall, was given an OBE by the Labour government in last week's honours list.

This surprise announcement will do nothing to bring joy to widows and other members of trade unions throughout the country whose men are made ill or killed by asbestos while in the employ of Turner and Newall.

Now they have it officially from the Labour government that all their misery and suffering was in a good cause—maximum profits for Turner and Newall and glittering social success for the worthy chairman.

In an advanced 'celebration' of Sir Ralph's elevation, 300 workers stopped work last week and had their pay cut by 10 per cent. That leaves the workers on the same rates of pay as before.

Wage cuts are being imposed with no real increase in production, and in many cases are accompanied by increases in prices. It is a policy that is designed to benefit the employers at the expense of the workers.

The government is trying to create a situation where the workers have to accept these cuts or face unemployment. This is a tactic that has been used in the past and will continue to be used in the future.

The workers have the right to resist these cuts and demand an increase in their wages. They have the power to do so, and they should not hesitate to do so.

It is the workers who are the victims of this situation, not the employers. The government is trying to shift the blame onto the workers, but the workers have the power to change this situation.

In JONES’ PLAN: WAGE CUTS

The plan for wages put forward by Turner and Newall's transport union leader, has received massive publicity over the last fortnight. What has not been made clear, however, is that it is a plan for wage cuts.

The Sunday Times carried some calculations on what it would mean for every worker or salary earner to get a 1% flat rate increase, as Jones suggests. They show, that once tax and national insurance contributions are taken into account, the rise would only be worth 26 per cent—which is hardly enough to keep up with the present rate of price rises.

For better-off workers, the Sunday Times version of the Jones plan means cuts of up to ten per cent in the buying power of your wage packet.

Yet the Sunday Times version is unlikely to be that finally adopted. The business press is now talking of a £10, not a £2 rise, all round. And that means massive wage cuts for everyone.

But some people argue, isn't that fair? For at least the rich will suffer as much as the poor.

That ignores the fact that the Jones plan says nothing about rent, interest and capital gains. Shares have already doubled in value since January.

Any cut-back in wage increases will raise prices, cut profits and lead to larger rises in share prices. It's no wonder that employers are pushing so hard for what Jones says.

IS THIS WHERE HE GOT THE IDEA?

PERHAPS Jack Jones first got the idea for his wages plan during last year's secret discussions between various trade union leaders and Sir Yves Dinan, head of Rio Tinto Zinc, on how to solve the crisis.

Readers will be interested to know how Sir Yves is suffering during the crisis compared to that of the TGWU member.

He had to make do last year with a cut in his salary of £7000, or a 12% pay cut. This year he has a salary increase of £27000. He clearly needs all the help Jack Jones can give him.

The laggers shop stewards forced the factory inspectors to act. Workers know what a black job it is and our branch committee can tell the story. Some members of the branch have been murdered by the company's agents.

It's interesting they never call in the police. They're afraid of health hazards, real and not perceived like the Glasgow dustcart drivers' disease.

In short, the British railmen have had a good deal more luck than their North American colleagues. The firm that controls the railways has had to come to them. It is time this happened in Britain.
THE UNIONS
Casting vote: It's legal if it's right-wing

THE PRESIDENT’s casting vote at national committee meetings of the Engineering Union has been declared invalid by the courts. But it was used again and again for most of the 1950s and 1960s by Lord Carron, then the union’s extreme right-wing President.

In 1969, for instance, at a rules revision conference of the national committee, the Left moved that members of section 9A of the union should be entitled to vote for district presidents. These long-standing members had been ‘diluted’ during the war and were being denied simple democratic rights. The vote split 17-6 and Carron cast his vote against the motion, which was therefore defeated. In 1958, the rules revision conference of the national committee was specially recalled to debate a motion by the right. It sought to end the system of elections every three years for union officials, and replace it with one whereby officials served only one three-year term and were not eligible for re-election, and, if re-elected, served for five years. The National Committee split 26-26, and Carron cast his vote for the motion, against regular three-year elections. The Press hailed this as a triumph for moderation and common sense.

If the right-wingers are thinking of fighting against the right of the President to cast his vote at executive meetings, they might reflect on this precedent.

In 1957, the engineering union called a nation-wide strike for more pay. When the employers slightly increased their miserable offer, the executive split 3-3 on it. Carron cast his vote for the offer and the strike was called off.

Once more, no one protested. No one went to the courts.

LORD GREENE: 'A strike? What will their lordships think?'

TERRY JAYNE, Massey Ferguson’s industrial relations director, couldn’t make the presentation at his employer’s Coventry factory on Tuesday last week. He had ‘another engagement’, speaking to a bosses’ teaching.

Organised by the Coventry Engineering Employers’ Management Training Centre, it cost ‘delighted’ £55 each, with VAT (£4.40) and accommodation (£17 a night). After eating and drinking, most washed through £100.

The aim was ‘to give the opportunity to take a broader view of contemporary developments in the whole field of employment policies and human relations practices.’

Mr Jayne spoke on ‘The Problem of Parity: a problem he knows all about. His left-wing colleagues first anticipated and then provoked the strike at Coventry precisely because of parity claims.

Massey’s conceded the principle of parity to workers at Perkins, Peterborough, after a strike two years ago, and are now battling with the Coventry workers because they can’t afford ‘out of their huge profits to pay decent wages to both sets of workers.

The 4000 strikers are members of the Transport and General Workers Union – Coventry Engineering Union.

Interesting then, that the other speakers at the teach-in should have included ‘left-wing’ leaders connected with those unions.

Class
Jack Jones, TGWU general secretary, spoke on ‘Conciliation and Arbitration.’

Bill Lapsedge, TGWU South Midlands District officers, addressed the assembled bosses on the cooperation at Marconi.

And Ken Gill, general secretary of TASS, the white-collar section of the AUEW, and a member of the Communist Party, spoke on ‘Staff Trade Unions and the Future.’

Mr Gill was sandwiched between Miss A Madeleine, manager of employee relations for Unilever, and Sir Anthony Bowley, 2nd Baronet, chairman of the Workers Together Campaign and a group consultant on industrial relations to GKN.

Branches of the TGWU and TASS will not remind remembering that the Coventry strikers were viciously attacked first by the press for occupying the plant, and then by the imperial High Court, which ordered them to get out.

They might, therefore, like to ask their general secretaries how, while these attacks were at their height, they could find time to spend a whole day hobnobbing with employers and lining up on a platform with the man waging this class war.

It isn’t even clear whether they got anything out of it for union funds (or for even themselves).

Asked whether there was a free attachment to the speeches, a spokes-

woman for the Training Centre told Socialist Worker: ‘Oh, I am afraid we don’t know, I am wholly sorry’.

Lionel Murray, Order of British Employers

THIS CUTTING, from the Daily Telegraph, is about an important occasion, the summer dinner of the Stock Exchange.

This year, very appropriately, the guests of honour were the top policeman in the country and the top churchman. Also present were Prof. Dahrendorf, director of the London School of Economics, Sir Maurice Severn, head of the BBC, and Sir Hugh Wonston, chairman of the Savoy.

There was also a large number of broken, jobbers, speculators and swindlers, everyone who’s anyone, in fact.

Wait a minute! Who’s that in the ninth line? Mr Lionel Murray? That couldn’t be... oh, no, of course not. ’Lem’, as everyone knows, is short for Leonard. And, anyway, I hope the dinner stuck in his throat.

Lionel Murray is always known as much. Just check in Who’s Who, p.2283, MURRAY, Lionel (Len Murray) OBE 1966, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress. Let’s hope the dinner stuck in his throat.
Why you should support the railmen

WHAT WE THINK

The leaders of the NUR have spent the week trying to find some excuse for calling off the threatened strike. They think they have made the moves necessary to calm the growing militancy among their members, and would like to settle, provided the government give a little ground.

They believe they will be helped by the nature of the claim itself, which demands only a little more than has already been offered.

But railwaymen need the full claim—and more besides—at prices soar at record speed. Many militants realise this. They also see that the union has immense strength, if they care to use it.

The trouble is, there is no national organisation at the rank and file level linking them together.

That is why we urge readers to make sure Socialist Worker is read by all militant railwaymen in your locality. If it is sold at union branch meetings, at railway clubs, at stations and on railway-owned housing estates, it can help build the rank and file strength that is necessary.

How a militant signalman was victimised

Dave Theodorn, a leader of last winter's signalmen's strike, has lost his job in a cynical act of victimisation.

After 25 years' service, he has been denounced to leading signalman—one of the lowest grades—and switched from Bakewell to Fenchurch station in East London.

Not only has it cost him between £20 and £30 a week in gross pay, it also means he has to start work at 6am, even though no trains run early enough from his Grays, Essex home to get him there in time.

This was his crime.

After the strikers had ended, he warned the area manager that he would bar him from his box a trainee signalman who had stabbed. Under British Rail's rules—which state that the signalman on duty is solely responsible for the safe working of the box—he was within his rights.

But Dave Theodorn was warned by the area manager, Mr Cooper, that such action would cause him to be taken out of the box and replaced by a relief signalman.

Dave backed down—and agreed to admit the wob on condition that he did not use the machinery or expect Theodorn to speak to him.

To no avail. Dave Theodorn was put on a number one charge which accused him of refusing admittance, which of course he had not done. He was duly sentenced to demotion.

This blatant victimisation is underlined by the case of another signalman on the same line, who, only two weeks earlier, had also refused admittance to a sacked. In his case, the case was barred from the box—but the signalman was suspended for a day.

Theodorn's 'offence' was far less serious, the punishment far more severe.

But perhaps this is hardly surprising. For Cooper, the man who sacked out Dave Theodorn, had cause for revenge.

Last November, Cooper was reported for breaking safety regulations on the Thamesmead and Thamesmead junction lines in Essex. Without informing superiors or signalmen, he had allowed trains on what is a single line carrying a great deal of traffic.

Exactly the same disregard for safety rules on a single line led to the recent German rail disaster, in which 29 people were killed and 65 injured.

And the name of the man who refused Cooper for this action: Mr Theodorn.
QUESTIONs ON THE CRISIS

As they fighting inflation-or you?

There is really no doubt at all about this. An authoritative OECD report on world economic prospects contains the estimate that average real wages in Britain have not risen at all for two years (since March 1973). So how can wage pressure be the motor of inflation?

It is not. The present inflation has a member of long run causes but, its immediate cause is not in doubt. It was the inflationary boom of 1973-74 that sent raw material prices soaring to too many buyerm a number of too few. Those boom has collapsed into the present world recession and raw material prices have fallen again. But big business has not cut back prices.

The present continuation of inflation is due to the struggle to redistribute income away from wages and towards profits, that is away from the workers and toward the rich.

Left wing rhetoric? Not at all. The semi-official National Institute Economic Review, which has just produced its latest anti-inflation plan—annual pay negotiations only with less than full compensation for past price rises—states that this 'does imply that pre-tax real incomes would fall 4% for wages, more for profits.

The underlying reason is now for inflation to slacken off in Britain, as elsewhere—though it will pick up again in the recession given way to a world economic revival next year. What keeps it high, and ever rising at the moment, is the determination to redistribute income away from wages and towards profits, that is away from the workers and toward the rich.

A FIFTH COLUMN

The disastrous results of talking to sailortos...

A COUPLE OF MONTHS ago Bill Heatherton, a Wallall social worker went to Cardif to address a meeting on the freedom of the press. On the train back to Wallall, he was the inflationary target and there he fell into conversation with a sailor, an ex-sailor and another person.

The conversation got around to the subject of police harassment, and the lack of civil liberty in this country. The sailors disagreed. 'You can't be serious' said one.

Heatherton had plenty of personal experience to contradict them. He explained how he was (and is) under surveillance, and distributing a leaflet 'Some Information on the Soldiers' produced by the British Workers' Committee Against the War and the Campaign, an anti-militarist group.

He got off the train at Wallall and went into the town.

On 14 May Bill received an unexpected and unwelcome visit from the Special Branch. A well informed bunch are the SB. They asked him a series of questions about the conversation on the train and went away.

The police were back on 5 June. And Bill found himself in Wallall nick overnight. The following morning he was taken down to London and appeared before bowe Soviet Magistrates Court. His crime? The conversation—which led to him being charged under the Incitement to Disaffection Act.

The cops didn't stop there. Since he was already charged (but not convicted) with contempt of court the police argued that Bill, a respected social worker, was trying to disrupt the magistrates.

So since then he's been sitting in British jails.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, points out the BWNF Defence Group, thinks it is illegal to talk to a member of the forces about a court case involving alleged attempts to communicate with members of the forces. As far as we know, what one is being charged with is like some sort of treason.

Indeed it is, but Bill is only one of many supporters of BWNF who is receiving the heavy treatment from our rulers.

KEEP QUIET-OR WE'LL PUT YOU INSIDE!

The Bill is the most daring encroachment upon the liberty of the subject since the Founding of the government has yet attempted at a time which is not a time of emergency.

It was a comment on the 1934 government's Secret Information Act, on the basis on which the 14 have been charged.

The bill is good news indeed. The British treason act is long-hated. Do-gooder, a red trouser-quick.

No, the comment came from Sir William Holdsworth, a Tory and

The Act makes guilty anyone who says a word about the intentions of the army. It was expected to reduce any number of IBM forces from his duty or allegiance.

Further, anyone who possesses material likely to lead to such a result, who the Crown can prove had the intent to cause riot, is also guilty. The sentence is a maximum of two years imprisonment.

The act represents a direct attack on the freedom of expression of the British Civil Liberties Union. It falls out to define 'information and publications and advice, and to that effect' carefully.

The Act could be applied to a great deal of literature, publications and advice and it is never intended for the forces to be the only target.

More possession of such material is an offence, if the prosecution prove that the accused person intended to use the material to try to subvert the forces or

help someone else to do so. It is, of course, impossible to prove this intent, because the law is so vague. You can't be sure that what you keep will lead to the forces' downfall.

For our rulers, it is indeed a splendid piece of legislation. And, with the conspiracy clauses tackled on, it relates closely to the anti-inflation law, a known case—the Shrewsbury affair.

If you're on strike, for example, and the Army is brought in, you might be tempted to leaflet the Professionals. If you do, the authorities may well be tempted to do you, just like they have done to the 14.

The charges the 15 are up on, said Dashi Lewis, an International Socialist, member of the Civil and Public Services Association P&P executive, and supporter of the BWNF Defence Group, are 'directly relevant to two central issues in the struggle today.'

First the attack on the unions by the use of conspiracy laws - and, second, Ireland. The defence of the 15 is a battle against these two issues.

The BWNF Defence Group can be contacted at Box 09, G/C 197, King's Cross Road, London, W.C. (Tel: 01-837-8799).

14 under the Army Act for 'aiding and abetting a person known to be absent without leave'.

Last March at Lambeth Magistrates Court they were convicted for trial at the Old Bailey on 29 September. The trial is likely to last two months. Since then the 14 have been joined by Andrew Lloyd of Leeds, he produce 'Information for Disobedient British Soldiers' leaflet' in Preston. A Manchester is expected to have 'Information for Disobedient British Soldiers' leaflet'. He has been bailed to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on 7 July.

The ARAE, with the War in Ireland continuing a lot of discontented soldiers in the Army. There are also a lot of sentences who are used as tools to support the authorities. Just this week—and Heatherton over his train conversations, Down in Darling it doesn't work quite to well. We had a BWNF trial and the Army sent some soldiers to snoop around. We didn't have the usual leaflet on display. Still the snail must have had some effect. One of the snooper's has gone absent without leave since...
THE BRITISH PRESS have returned to a favourite target: General Idi Amin, military dictator of Uganda. Amin hopes to bargain the lives of two white hostages for more British equipment for the 20,000-strong Ugandan army. If he cannot properly equip the army, which is his political base and home, he shows his weakness as its commander. And the army becomes weaker in comparison with former Prime Minister Obote’s forces in Tanzania, which tried to invade in 1972.

In Britain, you hear little or nothing of the real situation in Uganda, or Africa as a whole. The press pursue Amin as a target for racist abuse and so-called humour. Over the past week, they have thickened the mixture thanks to Amin’s latest pathetic exercise in barbarism—the threat to execute two whites if the British government does not oblige.

But while they focus insistently on the plight of the two white hostages, they say little about the blacks hunted down by the Amin regime.

SomeTRUGANDp defend the figure for the numbers massacred since 1971, when Amin came to power, at around 80,000, out of a population of 7.5 million.

The Buganda, the largest ethnic group in Uganda, who initially backed Amin against Obote, have seen one after another of their middle-class politicians massacred in ghastly circumstances.

**Terror**

Initially the Amin regime obtained a large degree of popularity. Large sections of the Ugandan middle class had been backed by the distribution of confiscated Asian business. Some former British properties have also been distributed.

But the regime has resorted increasingly to terror to put down any form of opposition. Trade unionists in the rubber and coffee sector, on the cotton and coffee plantations, and in the country’s one copper mine, have been crushed, a fact the British press have failed to mention.

But terror is nothing new to Amin. He served his time in the British Army, where he learned all he knows.

Amin came to prominence in Britain’s colonial army before Uganda won its independence. Brutality was the secret to quick promotion and success.

To keep Amin’s security, the British authorities cultivated certain minority groups. Amin was born into one such group, the Kakwa, which is where he found a ready pool into the army, and the King’s African Rifles.

Sediment was encouraged. The generals wanted no hesitation when they gave orders to shoot down villagers suspected of being terrorists.

They took to the tall, tough rugby-playing Amin. They used him and played him against the Maasai in Kenya, where the British Army let loose a reign of terror, and where Amin became the man he is today.

The techniques used against the Karamoju tribe were typical. They were supposed to be cattle rustlers and Corporal Amin was sent to disarm them. According to one of his colleagues in the British Army, he was very successful in his campaign for the top officers.

**Castrate**

Amin ordered the naked Karamoju tribes to line up with their genitals on the table. When they wouldn’t tell where their spares were, he threatened to castrate them.

A platoon under Amin’s command also massacred the whole village of Turkana because they were not. But these atrocities were either covered up or supported by the British press.

They liked blacks who shot down their fellow Africans. Amin was, one of his ex-officers put it, ‘a splendid chap, though a bit short on the grey matter.’

No doubt the British authorities thought that this shortage would make Amin an even better stooge after he overthrew—with British connivance—increasingly awkward Obote.

Naturally the free British press is not in the habit of condemning the activities of their own sadistic military crmmand. Ireland today has taught us that.

For them, Amin’s brutality and stupidity can be used to humiliate Africans in particular and black people in general.

They mock his failing to the Queen, the kilt and other Uncle Tom symbols of Imperial Britain. But who taught him to admire these pathetic things?

Britain’s ‘leaders’ taught him people who are infinitely more dangerous for being ‘brutal’ and not ‘caricatures’ like Idi Amin.

**Barbarians—but Labour’s aid goes on...**

AID TO the military dictatorship in Indonesia is to be continued by the British Labour government even though a decision had been taken not to furnish any more ‘development assistance’.

This complete turn-about has been forced through by Foreign Office officials, who refused to accept the government’s decision that aid should be cut off. The turn-around has been accepted by the government without a murmur.

Last week the Ministry of Overseas Development ruled that no more ‘development aid’ would be committed to Indonesia. This was no great radical step since British capital would still continue to flow in.

But at least the export bureaucracy that went under the guise of ‘giving aid’ would have been terminated.

The Foreign Office declined to accept this decision and steamrollered their viewpoint through. Late last month a token £10 million was granted and there will probably be more to come.

This latest chapter in the sad saga of support for the Indonesian dictatorship, which has 100,000 political prisoners, should surprise no one.

Top Foreign Office officials, no longer content to confine any aid only to the bankers and business men they mix with, have always ensured that the show is on.

Successive Labour governments have come to support such an arrangement more and more openly.

When the Foreign Office operations were re-organised by the 1966-70 Labour government, they brought in Sir Val Duncan to head the policy review committee.

Sir Val is chairman of Rio Tinto Zinc, the multinational mining giant with extensive interest in territories governed by Indonesia.

These facts help to explain why the present government refuses point blank even to issue a statement protesting about the plight of the Amin hostages.

The latest issue of the Journal, a key resistance periodical, cannot be sent to South Africa. It is being sent by air mail to the Dutch consulate in London. The postal service has not been affected. The post office is not aware of the problem.

**PORTUGUESE SOLIDARITY FUND**

This fund has been set up to send money to the PRP (Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat) to help finance the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee in Britain, and to help pay towards the cost of IS’s work on Portuguese revolutionaries and publishing our pamphlets in Portuguese.

Get your workmates to make a donation big or small. Use this slip to send to: Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund, 3 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

NAME

ADDRESS

AMOUNT

WORKPLACE (if workplace collection)

News from the Resistance

THE LATEST issue of Chile News from the Resistance is now available. It’s the fifth published in exile by MIR, the Movement of the Revolutionary Lefts, and contains an interview with Andres Pacheco, the MIR secretary general, articles on who finances the Junta, the state of the Chilean economy and a lot of information on the resistance movement itself. It’s available (32p, inc postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.
ON 15 JUNE 1966, the House of Commons approved a Bill to reform the abortion law. Thousands of women who put themselves at risk in back street abortions could get substantially cheaper, free, and more frequent care on the National Health Service.

Two hundred and twenty-three MPs voted for the Bill, against 95. Only 29 MPs voted against. Almost all the newspapers supported the measure. The ones that didn't kept very quiet. What changed? Not the government. In 1966, both Labour and Liberals were in power with a majority. But the economic climate has changed. In June 1966, Labour, newly elected, faced what they believed was a period of uninterrupted prosperity. The permanent boom of the 1950s and 1960s was confidently expected to continue.

In this atmosphere, there flourished a peculiar brand of politics called the ‘liberal’, who believed that reform could be pushed through Parliament without upsetting the economy or financial stability. So the law went.

DEFEAT THE BILL! Another name for the petition outside North London's Whittington Hospital

BACK-STREETS? I REMEMBER THE SCREAMS!

By Tommy Healey

These women lie for 24 hours in their halfway stage before they can become a patient.

They pretend that they're doing it for the best 'to save the child'. They've a clue of what drove a woman to this. How can the well-paid servants of the ruling class know what it's like?

DEFEAT THE BILL Hospital in London

"The latest issue of "Womens Voice" lists the trade union-sponsored Labour MPs who voted for or against James White's Bill. It also has a full rundown on the campaign. Copies available from: "Womens Voice", 1 Cottons Garden, London, E2, 01-759 2639 (6p plus 7p postage)."
DEFEAT THE ABORTION (AMENDMENT) BILL!

Demonstrate this Saturday, 21 June

LONDON: 7pm, Victoria Embankment (opposite Charing Cross station) Buses from all parts of London and speakers 4pm, Speaker's Corner, Hyde Park. All 15 branches (except Scotland) to attend Assembly by IS van at Cleopatra's Needle.

GLASGOW: 2pm, march from Byres Road through George Square to Caledonian supermarket.

DUNDEE: Assembly 1.30pm, Brown Street for march to City Square.

Delegates spoke on the battles black workers had fought against the attitudes of the unions, and the communication problems that sprang up when workers have to find their way through the maze of procedures, rules, and-lineamientos. It wasn't just a problem for immigrant workers. There is a great deal for white workers to learn," argued Roger. He told the conference about his own engineering union branch, which met in a pub.

There was a problem. The officer was a stickler—and he had no desire to see the branch co-operate within the trade union movement.

The solution? "We found a pub where he could go and have his lunch. And he had to have to pay for it. This is what happened to thousands of women workers into struggle for equal pay, against discrimination, against lay-offs and redundancies."

The strength has to become the force behind the campaign for free and legal abortion.

RACIALISM: How and why it must be fought

SCENE ENLARGED

When you go into battle against your boss there's one thing you can do without—spits in your own ranks.

The white workers have found the black opposition, beat strikers and hold down wages and guarantee rotten conditions. It's called racialism.

That subject brought together delegates from all over Britain and from a host of unions in Birmingham last Saturday. They were attending the Rank and File Organising Committee's conference on racialism and discrimination in the workplace, the unions and the community.

"A genuine rank and file movement must include the leading immigrant workers" argued RGC secretary Roger Jones. "We need to draw them into the movement and into the Rank and File. NOT because it's good for them—but because it's essen-
tial for the survival of the trade unions and the working class.

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Co-ordinator explained that, in one case, black women workers had joined the TGWU—and had come out on strike. "Sorry," said the TGWU official. "You can't be paid strike pay, you haven't been members long enough." They weren't told the special emergency fund which could be used.

Days passed before the officials appeared on the picket line. When they did, their message seemed to be—'Get back to work—as we are ready to talk to the trade unionists about the problems of black workers in this country.'

The consequences? Defeat, demoralisation—and black women leaving the union.

But it didn't stop there. The TGWU regional committee had recommended the scrapping of the local rule that two years membership was needed before workers could become stewards. The local TGWU's response? "We don't need the trade union..."

Even when the war was there, the language often wasn't. Delegates agreed that union cards should contain translation into other key languages like Urdu. This was where the local RFOCs could come in.

They could help translate rule books, journals, shop stewards' handbooks. Information about branch meetings should go out in different languages.

Another example came from Gerry Jones. "There are some good militants who don't realise that there is a problem. One excellent convenor in Coventry who didn't think there was a problem because there weren't any black workers in his factory."

There was a problem alright—management who discriminated in recruitment.

An extension of the same was where black workers were left with the labouring jobs, another Coventry AUEW delegate explained. They had no promotion prospects—and yet were expected to fight for a wage claim that benefited only the craftsmen.

There wasn't open racialism, but there was a division which weakened everybody.

The conference wasn't just about problems and defeat. In Ford Longbridge, a delegate told the conference, the convenor put all factory information out in two languages.

Then, when he was victimised, 'the Indian workers were out of formation. And the black workers committee even met! He had prepared the organisation to the black workers.

Fought

Racialism isn't just in the unions, or in the workplace. It runs through society. And behind it is the power of the state which can rush into the home and back workers out of labour and out of the community.

That is no incentive to fight. A delegate explained how the loss of a work permit could mean deportation. "Irish mili-
tants can be deported at the drop of a hat." For ITALIAN workers deportation could mean the firing squad back in Iran. For SPANISH workers it meant prison. This has to be fought—right here in Britain.

The delegates agreed that there has to be equality in jobs, shifts, apprenticeships—and there are going to be no more 'temporary' black workers.

Black organizers had to start appearing in the unions, but that was no easy solution. The message of the conference, the practical points, are going to be circulated throughout the country by the RFOC over the next few weeks.

The problem is all around us. The solutions began to emerge in Coventry last Saturday...
SOLDIER OF REVOLUTION!

CARLOS SILVA, a revolutionary soldier who has been in Portugal for some time, arrived in London last week to appeal for aid to the Portuguese working class and to get practical support here for the Portuguese revolution.

At a meeting in this city, Carlos spoke to 25 teachers in Hackney, London. He told them about the revolutionary councils of workers and soldiers who were being set up now, and explained the detailed work of the councils and their aims. He declared that the soldiers would resist Fascism and call if necessary to take over and come to England to help the revolutionary workers as they were helping in Portugal. The show of solidarity is important.

A tape and slide show is being prepared for this IS and Social Worker meetings, using an interview with Carlos. The tape was made on a visit to Portugal at the end of the Spanish Civil War. The tape will be shown at the IS meetings.

All districts should collect money for the fund. A special label and collection sheet will be available soon. Social Worker readers should take copies to collect from your workmates, friends and family.

The IS group met in London last weekend on the political situation in Italy and the Italian working-class struggle, the outcome of which depends partly on the Portuguese revolutionary movement and how this revolutionary movement is carried through in Italy. The Italian IS group can provide further details and help to organise the Italian workers. The IS group can provide further details and help to organise the Italian workers.

Students: convenors names in now

The IS group is working on a new form of agitation for the Italian working class, and several members inacio are needed immediately. Send them to 6 Commissariat, London E2.

IS notices

Agendas of the International Socialist Congress of Eastern Europe on 15th September, 22nd September and 19th October.

The IS group is working on a new form of agitation for the Italian working class, and several members inacio are needed immediately. Send them to 6 Commissariat, London E2.

IS contacts

Against all national and international aggression, fascism and racial discrimination.

For the building of a mass worker's revolution and the construction of a socialist society.

For the building of a mass working-class movement in the world, which will be the only way to power, and for the building of a socialist international society.

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or want to join, send your name to the International Socialist, 6 Commissariat, London E2 8DN.
**DIMBAZA:**

Do you hear the children weeping?

**IN DIMBAZA:** an African township in Cape province, South Africa, the authorities have changed their grave-digging policy.

Until recently, freshly dug graves were left open. Now they are filled with sand, which can easily be removed when the bodies arrive. A spokesman explained: 'The main advantage is that nobody can come and take pictures of the open graves any more.'

That is an oblique tribute to the film Last Jest at Dimbaza shot by two British cameramen in 1972. They smuggled their equipment into South Africa and captured scenes which are illegal to look at, let alone film.

Deliberate

When they returned to Britain, their film was damaged while being processed. So they went back, risking arrest every day, and shot it again.

Over the next two weeks, Socialist Worker will be showing it at public meetings around the country.

The film says more about apartheid than countless newspaper articles.

Some of the graves at Dimbaza are small, because most of the dead are children. More than half the children born in Dimbaza have died.

The poverty, disease and death in these African townships is deliberately created by the South African government. The Bureau of Census Commissioner in nearby King Williams Town explained: 'Racial groups are being moved to Dimbaza ... The people who work in this particular area of the township and who could not find work in the main business area had lost their jobs and could not find new employment; still and transport workers, peoples rendered unemployed. These people are "redistributed" because they are not being redistributed so that they can produce wealth for someone else. So they are deported from their homes, herded into townships, fed on government starvation rations, left unemployed and starved.

Three million African people have been moved in this way under the government's 'migrant labour' policies.

The film also takes us to the great urban areas, which are reserved exclusively for whites. Exclusively, that is, except for the workers needed in the factories and homes to do the dirty work.

In a touching scene, an African woman is feeding a fat, contented cow. The child has never been hungry and can afford to play with its milk. The child wants to coax it into eating. There is an instinctive affection between the two. But apartheid does not allow dogs to play with children in their 'quarters'. So her child went to a place like Dimbaza, and died because it didn't have enough to eat.

Now the woman is pregnant again. Her husband lives in a distant township. They meet, briefly, when their next child is born. Then they part. The baby will have 50/50 chances of survival. That is the experience of almost every one of South Africa's several million destitute domestic servants.

The film shows that such misery has been prepared to enrich the white minority at the expense of the black majority, and in particular to enrich the shareholders of the great industrial companies operating in South Africa.

There is more than enough wealth in South Africa to feed and cloth everyone in it in three times over. But the wealth is not used for that purpose.

It is used, partly on fantastic luxury for the white minority, but mostly to boost the dividends of companies such as Metal Box, General Motors, FGC, Leyland, CIA and Sable Walker.

Their enormous investment is also an investment in the concentration camps of Dimbaza. It finds its way to South Africa in spite of this barbarity, as the company PR men pretend, but because of it.

The film is far from perfect. It exposes apartheid without telling us how to change it.

**Profit**

It does not catch the great mood of revolt now sweeping through the South African working class.

It is a pity that apartheid is a bad thing which good men could end, instead of a class atrocity which has to be broken by the combined might of the growing African working class.

The change in the South African struggle from a boycott protest to a class war is not emphasised enough.

But this film must be seen. It must be shown to workers in firms which profit from apartheid.

A few weeks ago the shop stewards at a Hawker Siddeley factory announced that they would lobby the prime minister in an attempt to get the arms embargo against South Africa lifted. Such a lobby would not have been possible if the workers at that factory had not seen this film.

On the contrary, the film will help to arm those British workers who want to put an end once and forever to apartheid and the war and the black workers who work for the same companies in South Africa who have the industrial power to do it.

**Black workers must not be burdened with superfluous appendages like women and children**

"Black workers must not be burdened with superfluous appendages like women and children"- Gt. Walter R Outdoor, Soweto South African Minister of Justice

**Last Grave at Dimbaza**

Directed by LEGEND in SOUTH AFRICA: June 23 by BLACK film makers

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF DEAR HAZEL MAHONEY NELL BORN 16/4 1970 DIED 5/4 1970**

**ON THE BOX**

FRIDAY (20 June)
BBC 1, 9.30pm, The Dimbelye Talk-

MONDAY
ITV 8.30pm. Part two of WORLD IN

TUESDAY
ITV 9.30pm, The MI5 file: The C.I.A.

WEDNESDAY
ITV 8.30pm, A View from the Place in

THURSDAY
ITV 9.30pm, MAN ALIVE: WE'RE

FRIDAY
ITV 9.30pm, THE SECONDNING OF THE

Saturdays
ITV 7.15pm, Latest News Week

Sundays
ITV 7.15pm, Front@Front

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**SOCIALIST WORKER FILM WORK WEEKEND**

LEEDS: Sunday 26 June, 8pm, Room

BRADFORD: Monday 23 June, 7.30pm

COVENTRY: Thursday 3 July, 7.30pm, Lancaster Polytechnic.

WEST LONDON: Friday 4 July, 7.30pm, Kipps Hall, Seven Sisters Road, N4.

Tickets 30p, advance from local 15

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**Tickets 30p, advance from local 15 branches, 40p in the door.**

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And we subsidised this monstrosity...

FOOTNOTE to Ley Kay's excellent article (7 June) on the Leyland National "death-trap" bus: the Leyland National factory in Cumbernauld, built in 1964, was opened in 1972. Since it is an area of low pay and skill in Cumbernauld, Leyland got a handsome subsidy from us, through good grace.

It was the first bus plant in the country to operate a "line" production technique and the pay was miserable, between £8.50 and £35 in the first year, on 50 hours' overtime.

The worst thing, however, was the way the unions sold protective conditions in the fac- tory. There was no way for the men to control work speeds, stop for safety checks or breaks.

The unions agreed to a "probationary" period of 13 weeks, during which a worker could be sacked by his immediate manager. They agreed to compulsory shift work and "complete flexi- bility and mobility".

But they sacrificed more than conditions.

They let bad management and the desire for quick profits endanger the lives of hundreds of workers.

Leyland National drivers were not turned into the victims of the policies of British Leyland and the National Bus Company.

DAVID BEECHAM, London W1.

IT'S CALLED BRAINWASHING

I'VE JUST seen a BBC-I programme for school leavers called 'Going to Work'. It told us of work in a modern British factory where, if you work hard and join "the team", you can get on with this go-ahead company.

They explained that the company employs many women because of their femininity, dexterity etc., and emphasised the group's loyalty and the good relations between the men and the women.

Oh, and the name of the firm? Imperial Computer Systems. TOM BUTLER, Birming.
ELECTRONIC VICTORY CELEBRATION
Friday June 7th
Bentley Hotel, Rake Lane, Swinton, Manchester. Including West London Theatre Workshop performing General Strike 1926.

All trade unions welcome, entrance by small change at the door.

of every one of them. We have struck together, fought hard, fought cleverly, fought bravely.

Just as important as the pay increase is the fact that the workers have also won to hold full negotiations at local level. Management has had to make concessions, and then claimed that it was "outwitted and frustrated at every point."

The shop stewards believe that they are the first to win an important victory in this kind of major strike since the national "The Federation combine covered by an agreement covering all major trade unions."

"It is vital, as far as we are concerned," said Paul Dicksam, AUEW convenor, "to maintain the strike, and never to strike lightly. This is the end of the fight, just the beginning."

STEEL WORKERS MEET WITH SUCCESSTHEFEILD:
The nine-week strike at Sheffield Steel Workers’ attempt to break trade union organisation and refusal to talk on the pay claim has failed.

After threatening closure, they moved in at the height of this Ex. Steel. Machinery was transported to another factory, but the situation was saved. The nine-week strike ended, and there was a meeting with the pay claim has failed.

Now steel workers are keenly interested in the possibility of a new agreement.

The shop stewards are now hoping to negotiate a new agreement and put an end to the strike.

The role of the wets was vital: They caused the lockout of the workers and many did. They became part of the local committee and held a local side issue which raised more than £40. They marched through Sheffield town centre with banners flying and placards held high, demonstrating their support for the occupation.

The workers helped with the collection, and even locally, made the picket strings stretch when others would have thought it impossible. They have deserved a victory and they got it.

The Scythe Trade Union Committee are giving them full support to prevent management from risking the workers and closing the factory. Once your job is gone, you never get another one.

Stewards from Thompson and Capper have also been on the North Rubber in North London, the parent company, and in the Agricultural Credit in the London Rubber group. The North London stillok workers, who have just ended a two-week strike, are supporting the Thompson and Capper stewards.

THOMPSON AND CAPPER FIGHT ON!

PART OF THE anonymouse vote for continuing sick strike action at Thompson and Capper in Liverpool. The strike is for a wage and against management's threats to close the factory.

I the women have not decided to take a more active role. Dot Hathorn, shop steward, has been appointed to negotiate on the Spoke section of the shop steward's council, and the Welfare Fund.

The press have made out we were lacking in the sun. We were not. The strike committee's action is the support, security, safety, social activities, and of


determined to stick out for the £4, although threatened with closure if they stay on strike.

The Spoke Trade Union Committee are giving them full support to prevent management from risking the workers and closing the factory. Once your job is gone, you never get another one.

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VIVEL MADHOI Corporate Commercial Protection.

— You are a

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— You are a

VIVEL MADHOI Corporate Commercial Protection.
NOW THE LAW ATTACKS YORK BUILDERS

WARD AND GOLDSSTONE TRY TO SPLIT THE STRIKES

By Gerry Davidson, EETU

SALFORD: The strike by 400 AUEW, EETU and UCATT members of the common craft at Ward and Goldstone is, having spread to all 12 Lancashire factories in the group, in its third week. We are out because of management’s refusal to honour an agreed bonus scheme. This has meant a loss of £1.5m in overtime earnings and a reduction in profitability. Management have also refused to accept the latest claimed clause for cost of living increases.

We have been told by the management that Ward and Goldstone strongly believe that they have the right to strike, which they have done in making every effort to turn work against union organizers, unless their labor is evenly split. We are going to use pressure to form on the workers. We are in this together and we are determined to win.

In these circumstances that we are going to use pressure to form on the workers. We are in this together and we are determined to win.

The strike was decided upon in the meeting of the committee held last week. The committee had voted to recommend the strike to the workers, and the workers had approved the recommendation.

Union—We are not fully aware of the issues. Some members have not been helped, while others have been helped. We are going to use pressure to form on the workers. We are in this together and we are determined to win.

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LEAMINGTON—"Make no mistake about that, this is nothing to do with personalities, it is a concerted attack on trade unionism in this plant. If management succeeds in suspending the convenor then there is not much hope for the rest of us."

This view by an Asian worker at the Ford plant here sums up the feeling on the floor site. Since Thursday night the day and night shifts have come out solidly in support of the convenor. The company has refused admission to the plant last Thursday morning. The management has decided to operate the shop with assistant operators to work without adequate safety provisions. The shop steward has called off the job. Management have tried to present this as an illegal picket line after the staff, numbering about 20,000, gathered outside the closed gates.

OLDHAM—Only 192 workers were left inside the plant, with more than 1,000 outside the gates. Management have been unable to keep the convenor out of the office and the stewards have a strong position.

In brief

LIVERPOOL PLUMBERS

Some of the 1,000 plumbers at Merseyside main depot on the mersey have struck and are due to return to work. They are expected to be back in force this week.

Coventry

The equal pay strike by women workers at Kolls Royce in Coventry was supported by the trade union movement. The management have been forced to negotiate on wages, and this is the most important part of any equal pay fight.

KENT OIL RIG BUILDER

380 Oil rig builders at Steel Structures in Stroud were paid off last Tuesday with a week’s wages in lieu of notice. Those who had not been with the firm a month only get one hour’s pay. They are now facing the task because Phillipson Petroleum have withdrawn the contract from Steel Structures to build an oil rig for the Norwegian oil fields.

SCOTTISH PRINTERS

After two weeks of strike action in Edinburgh, the printers have taken over and defended not only their own management but also the Scottish Master Printers by forcing them to pay the demands for bonuses. This victory should be followed by other printers in Scotland who do not have the consolidation of their trade union agreement.

LONDON WAREHOUSE WORKERS

More than a hundred workers voted to strike against the large Lyle’s meat factory in Greenford. Workers who handle nationwide distribution of groceries, are demanding the right to negotiate contracts, Transport Union worker Keith O’Brien said. "It’s a new situation for the unions here. Composrs vary badly with the £10 of the $12 with the $12 of the $20. We are not going back to the old management’s offer of a £10 a week."

Strikers turned down the offer despite holding a 24-hour local time full official and the TGWU full day. Workers at this plant, part of the Beefeater group in Paye’s, put it. "There is a 24-hour picket, doing nothing. We will stay out till the bitter end."

Because of the enormous pressure on our time we have not our articles on the back page drastically, otherwise we know what is going on and the consequences of everyone affected.

FORD: No victimisations!

The faces of solidarity ... Suspended Ford Lemington Convenor Tony Barrow addressing some of the strikers who have come out in support of him. Picture: John Searue (REPORT)

SCOTTS oil workers who desist from the wildcat strike against the reality of standard rates and working conditions that have prevailed for four lives offshore this year are being blacked the Odeco rigs for the sacking of a man who was supposed to have been discharged.

Workers on the tiny island of Flaga in the North Sea, in defiance of two widows sacked for refusing to leave the rig, are demanding that 32 widowers and 32 widowers be reinstated. It is not an easy job. They refused to do so.

The British Union of Shipbuilding official flew in and persuaded them to board the plate for Glasgow. Last month, at a rig construction in Grangemouth, 2,000 men made a one-day token strike in support of a sacked worker. But this time the union leaders, who are a combination of officials and the man was not reinstated.

The strike is unprecedented in the company. It is they are appealing. A man can be sacked because he is not considered the best, interesting or professional enough. So far, the rig construction officials have been asked to negotiate a policy of total lay-offs at job completion.

"It is a long time since we have had to face the situation of multinational companies dictating the course of events. Even in the unions attempt to black the Odeco rigs, they are not compelling any offshore companies. The offshore companies are not compelled to shut down their operations only by one recognition one of two unions. They can go on with the strike and fall for oil oil Blackwall and call for the police to shut down their operations.

"But it is clear that this is only the first round of a new battle against the 'hitmen oil' on the moratorium. They will have to develop stronger rank and file links with the trade union movement and get the support from other unions."

DAGENHAM—Four hundred workers at the Dagenham fuel depot have made a stand against the union's direction, following the refusal of the company to make the fuel depot part of the union's direct elections. The company has refused admission to the plant last Thursday morning. The management has decided to operate the shop with assistant operators to work without adequate safety provisions. The shop steward has called off the job. Management have tried to present this as an illegal picket line after the staff, numbering about 20,000, gathered outside the closed gates.

The leadership of the shop stewards' committee and the union have made a stand against the management's determination to keep the fuel depot outside the union's jurisdiction. They have also set up an action committee to prepare for the possibility of the fuel depot becoming part of the union's jurisdiction. These are the two ways to build the rank and file and keep the management on the run.
WELSH IRONFOUNDERS' BATTLE HITS UP MARKET

Mass Management was intended to serve the men as the only way to collect overdue wage packets. It didn’t. What the strikers, claim officials and the workers’ unions have been involved in the struggle for the past eight months. The corresponding increases through all grades and wages is a success and the options to the bosses are distressing. The bosses have hit out at workers of SWASENA’s Aluminium Wire and Cables. The company was the target of a mass picketing last week.

Paul Foot of Socialist Worker was appointed to the Engineering Union’s National Conference on Monday. When Paul returned to the Electrician last week, he said, ‘We won our first battle.’

The final pressure on the union to give way came from the Labour Movement Commission. The Commission is made up of trade unionists and employers. The employers are not being given a chance to express their views.

It hasn’t worked. Now the High Court has driven them from the plant to picket the gates. The strike is on. The owners are trying to force the workers to accept a new agreement.

The bosses have hit out at workers of SWASENA’s Aluminium Wire and Cables. The company was the target of a mass picketing last week.

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