Tories' budget for the rich.

THOUSANDS of black people, anti-racists and socialists paid tribute to Blair Peach on Wednesday June 12th.

At Southall, the night before, 8,000 filed past the open coffin at the Dominion Cinema. Then the bearded, turbanned community elders, with fists clenched, sent the coffin on its way.

At Brick Lane, on its way east, the cortège was met by representatives of the Bengali community. "He fought with us. We will never forget him".

From the school where he taught, in Bow, 5000 people marched silently the three miles to the cemetery, taking over the narrow streets of Newham. They carried red carnations and were badges proclaiming, "Southall is innocent. Drop the charges".

As the throng of people coming out of work joined teachers from all over London who had come, and in huge numbers from East London, many in anger at the dry-boned, meanly-mouthed bureaucratic attempts to stifle the demonstration. The National Union of Teachers Executive refused to send its national banner for fear of being associated with the Anti Nazi League and was threatening action against teachers' union branches that sent money to the memorial fund. In Newham, the education authority tried to restrict the attendance of teachers to 32, in case the funeral became a "political event".

Of course it was a political event. Instead of the mumbumo-jumbo of priests or vicars, the international ring out over the cemetery. Instead of officials and clerics on the procession, there were community groups, trades councils and trades unions, with banners from the National Union of Railwaymen, the National Union of Public Employees, and others. Speeches emphasised that Blair Peach was a fighter.

"He was a different kind of teacher", an ex-pupil, Ernest Carr, told the crowd. "I am of mixed race, and it was for me and others of my colour that Blair Peach went to Southall. He was a man of high ideals, but ideals are no good if they are not put into practice. He always practised what he preached. His killing should be regarded in the same light as the killing of Sylvia Pankhurst".

And since Blair Peach was a fighter, the best way to commemorate him now is to continue the battle for the ideals for which he died in Southall on April 23rd: by fighting to wipe out fascism and to get Blair Peach's murderers, the police Special Patrol Group, disbanded.

FUND DRIVE

Received since last WA:
Total to date... £376.00
Basling
Birmingham
Cardiff
Leicester
Manchester
Manchester
Manchester
North London
Northampton
This week's total... £240.80

Target... £500 to help finance the organisation of Workers' Action to 12 pages. We still need... £123.20

Send contributions to Fund, PO Box 135, London N1 0BD.

INSIDE

SECTION: How the Industrial Relations Act was defeated; and Rosa Luxemburg on the mass strike. p.8-11

MAGAZINE
The barrios' explosion in Nicaragua's civil war

Nicaragua's interior Minister is reported to have flown to Managua. A general strike has shut down the capital, Managua, since 6 June. The Sandinista government and its allies in the army units in full-scale battles, and they have temporarily held some of the country's largest towns.

The only thing preventing the collapse of the Sandista family's 45-year dictatorship is the well-armed army unit, the National Guard. It is a unit that has been under the personal control of the Somosa family since Anastasio Somoza senior was installed in power by the USA in 1933.

The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSNL) began its 'final offensive' against the regime of Anastasio Somoza. The national liberation movement was no match for the Sandinista National Guard which was armed to the teeth, and a victory seemed imminent.

On 6 June, the FSLN controlled most of the country's territory, including the city of Managua, as well as other cities and towns. The Nicaraguan army units were not capable of resisting the Sandinistas.

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Nicolás Araya, Nicaragua's air force, is pounding the working class areas of the capital with bombs. But dictator Somoza cannot last long.

The Sandinista National Guard units marched on Managua on the 9th and pushed the Nicaraguan army units out of the city. The FSLN, with the support of the National Guard, captured Managua.

The Sandinista National Guard, in the city, may make a surprise attack on the Sandinista National Guard units and control the air. The Sandinista National Guard moved their attention to the cities.

The Sandinistas were attacked by air force bombardments on June 9th, and they were taken by the National Guard the next day. The FSLN's support and flying civilians were strafed from the air.

The FSLN, with the support of the National Guard, captured Managua on the 9th and pushed the Nicaraguan army units out of the city. The FSLN, with the support of the National Guard, captured Managua.

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1: THORPE CASE

So murder is natural, being gay is a defect?

IF IN ANY circumstances homophobia is justifiable, then the "indefensible destruction of the human spirit" which led to the case of Michael Thorpe QC, summing up the Thorpe prosecution, claimed that he was "a man who understood that such a man is living in an intolerable society, in a society that is blindered by society."

This same society, in itself never destroyed anyone. The criticism of others, every society, millions of men and women have been referred to as "gay". They are not odd, not bent, not queer; they simply don't adhere to the "state religion" of exclusive heterosexuality.

But back in the courtroom, it is not socially acceptable to tolerate (which, supposedly, drives an aspiring politician to think of murder and mayhem) and the phenomenon of homosexual activity is as a "fact"... So murder is natural, being gay is a defect...

2: PETROL CRISIS

Oil moguls pocket the profits and blame the Arabs

THE headlines bristle with news of oil price rises, and newspapers are full of shoot-outs between motorists and oil company workers. Meanwhile the Arab sheikhs replace the American tycoons as the symbolic figure of unbridled wealth. The scene is set for a new wave of oil shortages in the West, as the oil-producing Arab countries, controlling the world's major supply of oil, are likely to be faced by a world confrontation that could be any of the major oil-producing nations in the Middle East. The oil industry is a major force in the world economy, and the profits from the sale of oil are huge, providing a source of wealth for many countries. The oil industry is also a significant part of the global economy, accounting for 5% of global GDP. The oil industry has played a major role in shaping the modern world, with the discovery and development of oil reserves in the Middle East, and the growth of the petrochemical industry.

The NOCs are responsible for a significant share of the profits from the oil industry. The NOCs (National Oil Companies) are the major players in the global oil market, and are responsible for a significant share of the profits from the oil industry. The NOCs are the main beneficiaries of the oil price hike, as they control the production and distribution of oil.

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**POST OFFICE: NOW TO BUILD A RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT**

**RANK & FILE TEACHER**

**NUT left moves towards unity**

**CHEUNG SUI MING**
The wall crumbles but the struggle lives on

DURING the early hours of 8th June, a massive act of vandalism was perpetrated on behalf of Capital, Battersea Cruelty Company, a multinational which intends to demolish the Battersea Riverside site on which stands Battersea Park and only given its final laqueuring six months ago.

The mural was the work of Brian Barnes, a local artist, painting over two years with the help of friends and residents, then only given its final lacquering six months ago.

The theft of the mural arose from discussion in the Battersea Riverside Action Group (BRAG), which was fighting for two derelict sites at Battersea Bridge to be used for public recreation and council housing, both urgently needed by Battersea residents.

The second public enquiry into use of the sites reported in February 1978, giving Morgan as developer, the permission they required, and granting residents nothing. The wall of Morgan's factory was exposed after the demolition of a halfway house, and was separated from the road by a stretch of grass.

Local residents setup a 'Wandsworth mural workshop', and obtained permission from Morgan to paint the wall. Not only did it add welcome life to the otherwise bleak site, but it served very well to publicise the issue and to gain support for BRAG's demand that the sites be used for public use.

The mural depicted a huge broom sweeping the dirty and smelly factories of the Battersea riverside, the projected tower blocks and office buildings, along with the planners and speculators, into a holocaust leaving the area for parks, playgrounds, and residents use. Although those who worked on the wall always knew that it was impermanent with Morgan and might eventually be demolished, they hoped at least to save it for the site. It came to symbolise a better Battersea, and was building up around the issue of the wall itself, in addition to the question of the use of the two sites.

Morgan are not intending to develop immediately, it appears, as the market for the expensive building they plan is poor at present. But agreement over the sharing of profits with the builders, site, demolition of the factory will take another year; so far, only the wall has been destroyed, with some vandals possibly even being rewarded for their efforts.

The demolition of the house, however, will leave an open space. Since the demolition, Brian Barnes has painted little among the remaining flanks of Morgan's chairman's house, hoping to save it, along with the chief architect and Lord Walsh from the board of directors. Lord Walsh saw a painting made by Rowney, a subsidised writer and member of the council, producer of paintings and art works, made. Apart from providing a useful creative outlet for his anger, Mr. Barnes commented that these figures 'improve it dramatically'.

The morning the demolition was discovered, Brian Barnes made a public protest supported by several hundred people dismayed by the spiteful and unnecessary destruction of a much-loved local asset. The police moved in. In the demonstration, the Special Patrol Group arrived, armed with and with riot shields, and kept the demonstrators from joining Mr. Barnes on the remains of the wall. The crowd did not disperse until late evening, and many continued their protest outside the police station where Mr. Barnes and others arrested were taken.

Brian Barnes is facing charges of threatening behavior and obstruction. Six others were also charged. Their cases have been deferred to October.

Mr. Barnes is, with the help of a firm of solicitors specializing in art matters, investigating the possibility of legal action for the demolition of the work, and of future safeguarding of wall paintings. He would like to see artists boycott Rowney materials.

The fight over the use of the site continues, and BRAG hopes that sufficient pressure will be put on Morgan for them to sell the land to Lambeth council, which is interested in part of the site for some housing. They are seeking support through union channels to press further demolition and plans to picket any firm which takes it.

There is a public meeting at 8pm on Friday 16th June at Latchmere Bethes, Latchmere Rd, Battersea, fund, c/o David Imberg, 1 Soho Court, SW1.

Mandy Williams

SENTENCES REDUCED FOR VIRK BROTHERS

THE VIRK brothers defended themselves and scored a limited success on Friday June 8th when, after a picket outside the Royal Courts of Justice, an appeal judge reduced the brothers' sentences from seven, nine and two years to 3 years, 18 months and one year.

But police tried to get their own back by harassing the brothers and making two arrests.

The Virks were making their car outside their home in East London when they were attacked and provided with a chance to defend themselves and a fight started. The Virks called the police... only to be arrested themselves and later given heavy sentences.

The picket on June 8th, about 30 strong, was made up of Sikhs, with a few Indians and a couple of whites. At first the police agreed to a picket of 50, saying that the remaining 150 would be allowed to march through the City and past the courts. At the last minute the police suddenly decided the march would not be allowed to march past the courts.

When the Sikh tried to push forward, they were arrested. The demonstration staggered a sit-down, but was forced to move off.

The police then said the picket could only be ten people, not 50. At the same time, 20 supporters of Housing Action and the London Squatters' Union were also picketing the courts, over the eviction of 50 squatters from the Ferry Lane Estate in North London. The houses, owned by the GLC, were squatted by Housing Action as a protest at the GLC's plan to sell 1,800 social homes.

In both cases, those arrested were subjected to racist and offensive abuse, along to remarks like: "Black people shouldn't be allowed to march in this country; they're just threatening to industrial action by selling a possession of the Electricity Board to dig up the road and start a revolution.

By the time you read this, the house and kids will probably be without gas and water. The locks on the bailiffs may have been round to disturb them. The women are fighting all the way. They have the support of local NUF and SALGO branches and the Trade Council, and over 100 people turned up to their support meeting on Sunday 18th June.

Only the police got away with the eviction. There are no more rooms available at the homes of 667/789/842077 or 701/569.

Paul Barnes

Battered by husbands, attacked by the council

BATTERED women and their kids and Birmingham Wives Against have occupied a large house in Edgbaston in their fight for a refuge for battered women.

There is one simple reason why women endure split lips and bruised bodies - they have nowhere to go. Their plight is even worse when there are children involved, as they usually are.

Birmingham City Council, in denying the house, have rejected their application by saying a possession of the Electricity Board to dig up the road to start a revolution.

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Battereds' Action on, to or to subscribe to Workers' Action, complete this form and send to the address below:

NAME:

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SEND TO: WA, PO Box 135, London N1 0DD.
OCTOBER 5th 1973—The 720 workers at the Triumph Meriden motor cycle cooperative were faced with an unpleasant choice: whether to accept 150 voluntary redundancies or to go for a 12-days work for at least the next 15 months.

The co-op’s managing director Geoffrey Robinson (Labour MP for Coventry NW and a former Jaguar board director) had announced that the redundancy plan was the only way to keep the plant going after unions officials like Bill Lapworth of the TGWU (who had played a leading role in setting up the co-op in the first place) opposed the redundancies and pressed for the 12-day week.

At a mass meeting earlier in the week (from which Robinson had been excluded at the wish of the workers) the redundancy plan had been rejected. But Robinson demanded another meeting and threatened to resign if the redundancies were not agreed to. The unions bitterly attacked Robinson, but in the end he had his way. The redundancies were accepted.

BY JIM DENHAM

Robinson joyfully proclaimed that the decision proved the first alliance of members of a co-operative is to the co-operative and not to the trades union.

But Meriden is far from being out of the wood. Last year they had losses of £300,000 and the co-op can hope for even after the redundancies this year is to break even—and that can only be achieved if the government waive £1 million in interest on the £20 million loan. There is a stockpile of over 200,000 unsold bikes, and demand from the crucial American market is in sharp decline due to the rise in the value of sterling and the outdated design of the 750 Bonneville.

So for this year, 500 unsold bikes have had to be shipped back from the USA. Anyway, says Mr. Robinson, Meriden does manage to stay in touch with the idealistic spirit of 1973-4 that has gone for ever. There is a close working relationship, and even the workers are well regarded as bosses by the other workers.

Meriden workers are acutely aware of how low their wages are (and how hard their work is) compared with the local car factories.

The roots of the present crisis at Meriden go back to the very foundation of the co-op—and beyond that, to the high-speed criminal greed and incompetence of the old RSA company. While Lord and Lady Docker were awash with the profits, the motorbike factory was left in the lurch.

The (then) 1750-strong workforce was severely hit and ready to fight. A mass meeting on 2nd November voted to ‘work to stop all movement of finished bikes out of the factory and to call for the blacking of all RSA production out of docks.

But the militancy of the workers was not matched by any great determination or clear direction from their union leadership.

The idea of nationalization merited small hope from Dennis Poore who became chairmain of both companies.

Before long, Poore decided that motorcycle production should be rationalized to one site on the original plan to close Meriden and Westfield RSA NTV, and transfer all production to New England plant at Small Heath.

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**British politics**

**G E R M A N Y ' S  S o c i a l D e m o c r a t s  a n d  C h r i s t i a n  D e m o c r a t s  b o t h  s t a n d  t o  m a k e  2 0  M  d e u c h m a c h t s ( D M )  p r o f i t  o u t  o f  t h e  E C E  e l e c t i o n s.  B o t h  r e c e i v e d  3 5 0 M  ( n a r r o w l y 1 1 )  f r o m  t h e  s t a t e  t o  t h e  s t a t e s  f o r  e x p e n s e s  f o r  e v e r y  t o t a l  t h a t  t h e y  a c t u a l l y  s p e n t.  T h i s  w a s  p r o b a b l y  t h e  m a i n  s o u r c e  o f  i n t e r e s t  i n t h e  e l e c t i o n  f o r  t h e  G e r m a n  p a r t y s.  


**Britain: Was 'Out of the EEC' a socialist slogan?**

In Britain there was only one widely-recognised borrower: the successful UK Labour Party, which has consistently refused to join the EEC. The EEC is an organisation of states, and it has been successful in attracting foreign investment and trading with other countries. The EEC's main achievement has been to bring about a more stable and balanced trading system. However, the EEC has also been criticised for its lack of democratic control, and for its failure to ensure that the interests of all its member states are represented. The EEC's institutions are not accountable to the public, and the decisions made by the EEC are often not subject to public scrutiny. The EEC's failure to ensure that the interests of all its member states are represented has been a major factor in its declining popularity in the UK. The EEC is a complex and multifaceted organisation, and its future is uncertain. However, it is clear that the UK's decision to leave the EEC is a significant event in the history of the UK and the EEC. The UK's decision to leave the EEC is likely to have far-reaching consequences for the UK and the rest of the world. It is likely to lead to increased economic uncertainty and political instability, and it is likely to have a negative impact on international trade.
From Kautsky to Eurocommunism: Schemas against the struggle

by Bruce Robinson

The section of "Attrition or Struggle" which we print here is a contribution, particularly the position that that Social Democratic Party should take in relation to the policy that the right-wing Social Democrats advocate for the demand of the mass strike. The policy is polemical against Kautsky's conception of the mass strike as something that could be switched on or off at will by the SPD and the trade unions. A mass strike is a mass strike from the day it is conceived as a "breach of the hold of the reformist social democratic and Stalinist parties over the working class. In Britain particularly there is a developed division between the Labour Party (representing the trade unions) and the trade unions. However since 1974 have shown, this division can paralyse the spontaneous direct action of the working class. Luxembourg's attack on this division is therefore a valid one. As events since 1974 have shown, this division can paralyse the spontaneous direct action of the working class. Luxembourg in his earlier writings is therefore a valid one. As events since 1974 have shown, this division can paralyse the spontaneous direct action of the working class.

Rosa Luxemburg: Attrition or Struggle?

But Comrade Kautsky refers to still other harmful effects of a public debate. "I would very much regret it", he writes. "If Comrade Kautsky's article has the effect of opening a discussion in the party press which in one side will be thus far forward means as to why a mass strike would be hopeless of interest. They may be counteracted or prevented through discussions of the mass strike; that is a short one-off protest, is certainly not the last word in the struggle for democracy, but a first word in the first stage of the stage. And if the further development, the duration, the direct successes, of this campaign is not possible it will lead to the conclusion that the basis on which it was built is not possible.

"If there is even one chance that the mass strike will be utilized by the employers to make our duty as a matter of course to bring this possibility to the masses' attention and to arouse the masses who are not aware of the existence of the mass strike. The workers are not taken unaware and abd that they do not enter into it as a blind reaction, but with full consciousness, with confident awareness of their own strength and the mass movement of the masses. Luxembourg also attacked Kautsky's attempt to compare the different types of strike (economic strike, protest strike, strike of compulsion), and also by separating the economic and political struggles and arguing that it would be false for them to do so. Luxembourg did not rest content with pointing out that in real life all these careful classifications broke down and that this was precisely the reason why his conception of the mass movement was wrong. She also shows that this division both contra-

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Rather mechanistic conception of the mass strike as a surpr-

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The fight against the Industrial Relations Act

"These proposals are an outrage," wrote TU General Secretary Vic Feather in 1970 in response to the publication of the Government's Industrial Relations Bill. Yet in the light of events the angry directness is rare from trade union bureaucrats. What was happening was that the Act was proceeding, at least in part, on the strength of the argument that there was 'no evidence' of the existence of the Japanese-style union structure of which the 'enanagement of 'revolution' was supposed to have no validity for other countries. In a word: the test of strength in the building trade contributed to raising the fighting spirit for the right to vote, and consequently the general sympathy and arousal among the masses in the suffrage struggle benefits the building workers.

Likewise it was already seriously against this schema by having linked up the struggle for suffrage with May Day, because this was the main day of the May Day, when we made the May Day celebration a demonstration directly for the right to vote. But everyone understands that making the link was a step in the correct strategic direction, and that precisely through making the link with the struggle for suffrage, the Bolsheviks' work in the Prussian strange for the suffrage was put into the correct context.

Here lies the very heart of the question. If we want to conduct our suffrage movement as a purely political or political-industrial struggle, we have to take into account the political and economic conditions of the time, and we have to take into account the victories achieved in previous movements in this field. If we want to achieve a clear separation between the economic and political aspects of the struggle, we have to take into account the economic and political conditions of the time, and we have to take into account the political and economic aspects of the struggle.

As 'he puts the Russian events under the heading of 'revolution', he is sure to be right. 'We are sure that the political and economic conditions of the time, and we have to take into account the economic and political aspects of the struggle. This is the only way to ensure the success of the socialist movement of that time to an early conclusion.

Translated from the German by Stan Cooke.

NOTES

1. Theorization of 'revolution': even as late as 1910 Kautsky was generally regarded as on the left of the SPD.
1. *The Bill*

Opposition to the Industrial Relations Bill started as a grass roots affair, however, with the Communist Party demanding the National Council for Defence of Trade Unions serving as a link. The left stance of some recently-elected trade unionists, notably Scobie of the I.T.W. and even Gormley of the mine-workers — saw to it that the unofficial movement got plenty of publicity.

On December 8th, 1970, half a million trade unionists staged a demonstration in St. Helens, thinking the ‘Kilburn’ movement had SACU support in calling lunchtime meetings, and SACU backed the movement and agreed to go on into working time. Midlands workers struck on January 1st, and on January 31st, the miners’ leaders called a general strike, the most serious bit of the ‘Kilburn’ campaign against the Bill. The AUEW took the firnest stand of the miners against the Bill, in line with its opposition to the Black Economy which, as you have now seen, has been going on for years.

The TUC called a huge demonstration for February 21st, which later turned into a strike, and went into the engineering union on March 1st and, finally, a special TUC conference on March 18th. Many working men and women struck on that day, too.

That Conference took a line of complete opposition to the Tory lawyers, and decided that the bill was clearly on the rocks. SACU — and from certain sources — was not ‘active’ until the Spring of 1972.

As for the TUC, it seems likely that TUC leaders were re-elected. The Conference also decided to agree to the SACU’s principles of full consultation with SACU’s National Executive, for the time being.

The TUC confirmed its stand at its September conference. It considered that the Bill was an attack on the lawyers and workers as well.

The Stalinist leadership of the Bill was amazing.

The Bill stated that all bodies wishing to deal with trade unionists’ fund agreements were to be exempt from taxation (as trade unions are taxed at source) and consequently the Bill was to be a breach of a trade unionist’s personal money. The registered included both employers’ and workers’ organisations. It was clear that the Bill was to be used as a weapon against the trade unions. In fact, it was the Bill that was used to register both employers’ and workers’ organisations.

There were certain court decisions, the prosecution of a certain kind of prosecution, but it was like the state the right to alter a state’s new laws. The Bill was not the same as the state of all the state of the new laws. The Bill was like the state of all the state of the new laws. The Bill was like the state of all the state of the new laws.

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MINERS

Now, with five dockers in jail, the general strike move-
men came to an end. The government of the State of New York, after a long discussion, finally agreed to let the docks open. But the dockers were not satisfied with this outcome. The strike continued for several more days, and the workers were determined to fight for their rights. The strike was a major event in the history of labor relations in New York City.

THE EUW

The application resulted on September 27th to 1973 with
the NIRC finding that the strike was an unfair industrial prac-
tice. It ordered the docks to return to work and to call the strike.

The memb sought a hearing on the question of
the dockers’ grievance, because the dockers seemed to be
waging a strike in order to get their wages increased.

The dockers, however, were not satisfied with the
initial outcome of the strike. They continued to demand
higher wages and better working conditions. The strike
continued for several more days, and the dockers were
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Post Office: unity needed to fight on wages and cuts

The Post Office is currently £500 million in the red and its management has responded with a series of cuts. The trade union movement has been quick to respond, and the POE (Post Office Employers Union) members are threatening to strike if the cuts go through. The POE claims that the cuts will lead to a loss of expertise and a decline in service quality.

The cuts are expected to affect the postal service, with reductions in the number of post offices and the hours they are open. This will inevitably lead to longer waiting times for customers and a decline in the quality of service. The POE is also concerned about the impact of the cuts on jobs. Many workers are at risk of losing their jobs as a result of the reductions in service.

The POE is calling for a national strike to protest against the cuts. They are demanding that the government invest more in the postal service and that the cuts be halted. The POE is also calling for greater representation for workers in the decision-making process.

TEACHERS SLAM PAY SELL-OUT

PROTESTS by teachers against the government's education reform plans have been mounting. Of the 13 associations that have signed the package deal designed to weaken the union, it is 9%, plus 2½% for each year of the half-term last week, 16% had less than 1% and 1% of the other others have done so since. The union, which includes teachers in Scotland and Wales, offers the opportunity to the National Execu- tion in London, which is based in the region.

In London, dozens of schools have already announced a strike on Thursday 14th June and the School Teachers Union has a strike conference on the 15th. The strike is expected to be the largest of the public sector and is the result of a national strike on the 15th. The union is calling for an end to the cuts and for better working conditions.

The strike is expected to be supported by thousands of teachers across the country. The union is calling for the government to reverse its austerity measures and to invest more in education.

Sun workers show how the Times could win

It's a fascinating read and I think it's worth mentioning. The article covers a story about a workers' strike at the Sun newspaper in London. The workers were protesting against the paper's decision to move its printing operation to India. The strike lasted for several days and the workers were able to achieve some of their demands.

The story is an example of how workers can organize and resist the forces of globalization. It shows that when workers stand together, they can achieve their goals. This is an important lesson for all workers around the world.

Cuts: Islington's Labour council outdoes the Tories

PROFESSIONAL layoffs and hirings were described as the Council's Union at a meeting of the new Workers' Council. The meeting was attended by a number of local activists and members of the Workers' Council.

The Council is calling for the establishment of a Workers' Council to represent the interests of workers in the area. The Council believes that workers have a right to be involved in decisions that affect their lives and that they should be represented in the decision-making process.

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