"PEACE" BETWEEN THE PROTESTANT LIVERPOOL AND THE BRITISH ARMY appears to have been re-established, for now, after a series of shootings, riots, and killings which very nearly became a full-scale conflict between the Belfast Protestant community and the forces of the British Government. William Whitehead, almost fell off his tithegate as Protestant common fired on the British Army and gangs of Protestants attacked Catholic streets and set fire to a Catholic church.

Ruffled and perplexed by the force and tenacity of the Catholic revolt, the working class Protestants are still determined to maintain themselves as the dominant community and to keep the artificial imperialist puppet state of Northern Ireland (with its 40% Catholic minority) as best they can do so.

Their problem is that Protestant domination is now the Six County state boils down fundamentally to privileges regarding homes and jobs and social services on a British (rather than 26 County) level - and, they believe, this in turn depends on the British connection, on the British Government. But that Government is determined to keep a tight grip on Northern Ireland and knows that 'normality' can never be restored in Northern Ireland until the more blatant forms of Protestant sectarian domination of Northern Ireland society are ended.

Thus the Protestants 'need' the British connection - and at the same time bitterly resent and oppose the British policy in Northern Ireland. That's why...

continued back page col. 2

RENTS

COUNCILS

MUST DEFY

THE FIFTEEN LABOUR councils in England and Wales which are defying the Housing Finance Act have been sent a threatening letter by the Government, stating that unless they raise rents within a month, they will be declared in default.

In Merthyr Tydfil, tenants are already organizing a mass demonstration for 4 November (the eve of the deadline for Merthyr council). In Walsall tenants are also organizing to support their local council in the default and the Government in the Government in the meantime.

If the council's remain solid, with the organised support of tenants behind them, they can defeat the Government.

For meanwhile the tenants' movement is snowballing, particularly in Liverpool and Manchester. There are areas - Toxted, for example - where it has not got off the ground, and others where it is not very strong. But new Tenants' Associations are

on October 6th Hospitals in Manchester staged a mass meeting and vowed overwhelmingly to support those on strike in Bristol; back industrial action in support of their claim despite that the TUC break-off talks with the government and oppose increases in rents.

October 20 there will be a half-day strike at a march. This action is supported by the Traders Council, Manchester University medical students, Manchester Royal Infirmary workers' dept, shop stewards committee, the University branch of the National Union of Public Employees, and the Manchester Rents Action Group.

It is only a few days since the Tory Party conference managed to squeeze in a last-minute about "defying the低位;", but it only takes that long to expose the Tory hypocrisy for the lie it is. One of the biggest concentrations of the "lower paid," the local government and health workers, are now being fought tooth-and-nail by this fat-cat government over a 2% increase on the basic.

The Manchester meeting, and militants elsewhere, have demanded a 6% increase on the basic - and the scrapping of 9 parts of the claim that fall for a 4 2% lead-in payment productivity bargaining, in selling jobs and a threshold clause (6 at 18, an incomes policy).

Even the 2% increase would only bring the lowest grade male manual workers up to £3 basic. Other vital parts of the claim are a 35 hour week and four weeks holiday.

The take-home pay of many male hospital workers is only £14 or £15 a week. And the women workers are faced in an even more straitened manner - between by management of those sections which in the past have been poorly organized - women and immigrant workers (which form a large part, particularly, of the hospitals' workforce) but substantially it has been the ability of management to act as vultures preying on the devotion of the hospital workers to the patients and to the egalitarian idea of a National Health Service.

And, of course, it is in this question of "What happens to the patients if the workers strike?" that the double-chinned businessmen and ladies in flowered hats who "peopled" the Tory Party Conference really get worked up. Earning a decent living has never been their problem so, to quote from a Gloucester militant (see p. 12) they talk of 'sadistic militants.'

a)

Working class people, however, must give full support to industrial action, including strikes, by these workers. The fact is that when Manchester went on strike they left a skeletal staff, when Gloucester came out they agreed to 70% of their prepared for duty standing at their jobs.

The vile accusations of sadism and callousness come from the Press and the mouths of the real callous men.

ALERDSTON TRIAL

IN WINCHESTER THREE MEN are charged with the February 22 bombing of the British Parachute Regiment in Aldershot.

The bombing occurred right after the Bloody Sunday massacre in Derry and within a context of British Army terrorism in Ulster.

Workers' Fight fully supported this bombing action taken by the Official Irish Republican Army and directed not against civilians but against the army. It was an act in the guerrilla warfare which the IRA is waging against the massively superior forces of the British Army.
ON OCTOBER 31 THE NATIONAL Ports Council will present a report to the Minister of Transport, John Peyton, on the function of the small ports, wharves, and jetties.

The report, which stems from the promises made by the Jones-Allington Committee to help end the national dock strike, will investigate the traffic handled by the non-Scheme (National Dock Labour Scheme) ports, their significance for the capacity of the ports industry, and whether the structure of the industry should be brought within the control of the larger ports.

The report is unlikely to hold much hope for dockers. Already one in eight dockers have left the industry, drawn away by the call of £4000 redundancy pay. There are plans to cut the labour force by another 15,000 in the next two years, leaving only 10,000 dockers to unload all of Britain's cargo.

But as the pattern of trade between Europe and Britain shifts, and fewer but larger ports come into operation (with the MAPLIN scheme), so even this number will fall.

The victory claimed by Jack Jones was hollow from the first day he announced it. He claimed to have won 19 points — not one of these was a clear victory.

TEMPORARY UNATTACHED REGISTER

On September 29 the Temporary Unattached Register — the pool for dockers not registered with an employer — was officially opened. On the same day one of the most dangerous attacks on the National Dock Labour Scheme began. A number of ports, some small, others bigger, began to recruit 'casual labour', or considered doing so.

On Tresco and Plymouth permission to open the dreaded casual register was given. In Bristol, Southampton, and Preston, the labour force is below strength at the moment. In Preston, before the strike, there were 53 men surplus to requirements — now the port is short and the port NDLB manager has been told by the London National Dock Labour Board office to take on only casuals.

What is worse is that some cargoes have been transferred from port to port. For example, a cargo of citrus fruit from Israel formerly went to Liverpool. It is now being unloaded at Humber, thenaham, and shipped under registered and non-registered labour. The Jones 'victory' has put nearly 5000 dockers out of their jobs, and weakened the NDLB in the face of even greater attacks.

PORTS UNDER NDLB

The argument put by Jack Jones to the dockers was that National Ports Council inquiry would attempt to discover ways of obviating work for unemployed dockers on the TUR through the elimination of the ports not in the National Dock Labour Scheme, and somehow ignored the question of the four major non-Scheme ports — Dover, Shoreham, Felixstowe, and the railway ports.

But no suggestion that the profit, smaller ports should come under NDLB rates and conditions will be impossibly opposed by dockland employers' interests.

And to an extent the issue of the small ports is a red herring, since if the four major non-Scheme ports are excluded there is little left in the way of employment opportunities.

Thus the National Ports Council report will more likely suggest that the management benefit is small, but in the status of the small ports. It may suggestider ports', and possibly uninportant wharves could be closed, but it will also say that the larger ports must become more efficient and productive to attract and keep trade. The report is more than likely to offer advice on how the small ports can be integrated into a national, and thus European, transport system, the main aim will be to preserve the small ports as one of the most important weapons against the NDLB.

The report will also reinforce the strength of the Trade Union officialdom on dockland. The forest Jones made about punishing militants for what happened at Transport House when the docks strike was abandoned is now being put into practice. Already branch secretaries have received letters asking for information, and dock officials have been told to enforce their authority on dockland.

DOCKERS' REPLY

How will dockers respond? The ending of the picketing of Midland Cold Storage by London dockers shows some of the difficulties. The pressure on Lord Vestey and all his cold storage depots through the picketing of MCS was relieved by Jack Jones. The struggle for jobs in the cold storage depots is advanced, but not guaranteed by the Jones-Allington Committee report, could only have been won by united action between dockers and road haulage drivers. It was the action of Jones in repeatedly refusing to make the picket official which helped the increasing split between the two sections.

However, the tactic of picketing depots one by one was limited, and only successful during the days of the mass movement of dockers before the strike. Since the ending of the strike the struggle shifted from offensive action to defensive action — when nearly 5000 dockers accept the money, no amount of picketing will replace those 5000 jobs. Only a fight for a shorter working week can show the way.

At present the struggle is run down. London, Liverpool and Hull are all drawing in their blacking on paper, local coal transport firms.

The National Ports Council report will show the real balance of forces; meanwhile the Jones-Allington Committee enter into Phase 2 of their report — looking for alternative employment for dockers outside the dock industry. Dockers must prepare.

The National Ports Shop Stewards Committee is concentrating on four of the nine points of its dockers' charter. But even though Jones-Allington made concessions on all those four points, the 5000 jobs have gone.

If the NPSSC is to single out points to concentrate on, the crucial demand is one of the five points presented left in abeyance — the 30-hour week. It is the demand necessary to break a counter-offensive. TOM RAINEY.
From AN PHOBLACTH, paper of the PROVISIONAL IRA

S.A.S. MURDER SQUAD SHOT BY IRA

BY AUSTIN MORGAN

AT 11 a.m. ON MONDAY 2nd. Octo
ber in the Catholic Twinbrook estat
on the outskirts of Belfast the driver of a "Four Square" laundry van was killed by gunmen from a following car.

These bare facts were shortly afterwards reported on a BBC news bulletin. The impression was given that it was "another IRA killing — part of the terrorist campaign". It was only when journalists attempted to contact the "Four Square" laundry and found that no such business existed in Belfast, that the real story began to emerge.

The van driver, the British army then admitted, was a soldier, a member of the Royal Engineers. He was, along with a female companion, a member of an army "non-aggressive" surveillance group. This van had operated in the area for several months. Clothing taken away was checked for traces of arms handled and fired and then returned, having been cleaned.

In this way the Army was able to observe closely the local houses and residents, and build up a profile of the local IRA units.

The Provisional IRA, who carried out the execution, later claimed that they had killed five soldiers in all — two others who had been hidden in the roof space of the van from where they could observe unseen, and a man and woman in a private flat in the Antrim Road area.

Local journalists have produced much circumstantial evidence to substantiate this claim.

According to Provisional Counter inteligence, the five executed soldiers were members of an MBF unit, which is attached to the notorious 32nd Battalion Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment.

PEACEKEEPING?

The Army has repeatedly claimed that this regiment is not based in Northern Ireland. Many so-called "mysteries" and "unexplained" incidents which have occurred here over the past two months, however, bear all the hallmarks of the SAS.

This regiment, who HQ is at Bradbury Lines Camp in Hereford, was well known to have engaged in similar "counter terrorist" activities in Aden, Cyprus and Kenya.

The activities of these British Army murder gangs gives the lie (if it is still necessary to do so) to the carefully fostered notion that the British Army is in Ireland to protect civilians and "keep the peace".

SAS-type activities have been in fact regularly reported. Several bombings, such as the McKee Bar and the Aberdeen Restaurant, where no warnings, are said to have been SAS jobs. The IRA claimed it was not responsible for these bombings, and they are believed by many including those po
tically opposed to them, who nevertheless have experience of how the IRA traditionally operates. It is the policy of the IRA to admit to all operations they carry out, even when they go tragically wrong as at Aldergrove.

British army undercover groups are known to have been responsible not only for bombings but also individual killings.

UNMARKED VAN

Recently in Leeveen Street in the Falls an unmarked van opened fire on some local residents. The van was later seen retreating to an Army post in the grounds of the Royal Victoria Hospital.

In June this year the following account of one of the actions taken by the S.A.S. in Belfast was published in An Phoblacht.

"But not alone is there danger from groups such as the U.V.F., there are also British armed units who are active in the North. Incidents here and there of information picked up when, compiled, point to this being a definite fact. One example illustrates the existence of such specialist squads happened on the same day that Sean Connolly and Joe McCarthy were killed.

Two brothers, Gerard and John Conway were shot in the legs in Whitworth Gardens, Belfast. A man and his wife awakened by the shooting, rushed to the window.

As the wife pulled on some clothes, the husband heard a man shouting: "Help me, I'm shot!" He saw a man staggering and coughing on the road holding a coat in front of him.

When the wife ran out to help him, the husband saw a gunman with a heavy pistol in his right hand, crouching at a hedge. He was wearing a blue pullover, jeans and suede shoes. As the woman came up to the street, the man approached her and ordered her to go quickly into the back inside.

The husband shouted: "For God's sake come in, or you'll get shot."

Just then, an army Saracen came down the street and to the man's astonishment, he saw the gunman raising his weapon, waving the gun in his right hand and gesticulating with his left.

His first thought was that the man was going to try to shoot the soldiers. He was, however, dispelled when the man turned to him and said: "You bloody sod and go, you shot the wrong man. That's not him at all, the soldier shouted. The other soldiers put the wounded man into the back of the Saracen and drove off.

A few minutes later two army foot patrols arrived and took up positions on opposite sides of the street. The driver of the van then strolled down to a blue/green BMC 1100, got in and drove off. The witness noted the number of the car.

Whitewall puts the seal of peace on terror

The army are employing what they call "counter terrorist" tech
iques. The IRA, largely the Northern command, has not been defeated by orthodox military strategies. They are therefore trying to lure the gets the residents of the Republican areas of the North to do the job for them.

The IRA will only be defeated when Catholic workers and their families begin to see themselves not as pawns but as masters and passively the volunteers of the Official and Provisional IRA. With the "activists" murders, the army is attempting to instil such a sense of fear into those who oppose imperialism in Ireland that they will give up the fight.

The Republican population has rejected theCommunity in Northern State and continues to resist any attempt at reconstituting it, even in a modified form. It is this situation that the British Army is trying to bring to an end. And to accomplish this, it uses, among other political masters Heath and Whitewell, engaging in a campaign of terror against those areas resisting British control.

Try overlord Whitewall remained noticeably silent on the series of "shootings" which have been reported recently. In a statement he said that such incidents would only "end when people living in working class areas of the city gave information to the army about those holding arms and explosives."

His game is quite clear — it is simply cold-blooded blackmail. He is saying that people who are willing to look civil and cooperative will be a potential target for army undercover agents until such time as the Catholic population of Northern Ireland give up their resistance campaign and surrender their weapons to the army.
Soaring prices are a comfort to no one. Or at least they are a comfort to the seller, or the owner of the object to be sold. Sky high house prices are therefore not a plague to the owner-occupier (after all, he's making money on his property) but only to the council or private tenant who wants to buy a house and become an owner-occupier.

The fact that so many tenants wish for the status of owner-occupier is not because of the reason usually given, that "it's natural for people to want to own their own property". It is because, to quote ex-President of the Board of Trade, Labour MP Douglas Jay - writing recently in the Financial Times - "Unthinkingly and unintentionally we have created a situation in which nobody who could afford to be an owner-occupier would wish to be a tenant. The contrast between the situation of the tenant and the owner-occupier has become socially indefensible."

Whether this situation occurred "unthinkingly" or "unintentionally" is open to dispute, to say the least. What will not wash, though, is to say that there are they 'Surely a situation'!

"Have the readers of this paper created a situation?" Of course not! There's no "we're" in it unless Jay means successive Lab-

... all the agencies of a rotten system determined to condemn them to such a miserable, sub-human existence...

Isolated, living in fear at night like caged animals, they wait to be removed. They smell the stinking drains and garbage strewn across the courtyard. The dustman does come, and the Council has not provided a dustbin to dispose of their regular quota of disinfectant. The only place the garbage is dumped is right outside the front door.

The month has passed since the television documentary 'The Block' was screened. The subject of the film was "Considering the consequences for homeless families, called Chaucer House, still has people living in it."

The council promised to rehouse the tenants by March 1970. This wasn't done. They issued similar promises in April 1971 and April 1972, both proving to be as empty as the first one. The headline in the local right-wing press early this year, 'April Fool! Chaucer Tenants', evoked anger from two years of frustrated hopes and aspirations. The barricades went up!

From morning to early afternoon the occupants of Chaucer, 87 families in all, demanded the right to go home. But instead of being dispersed, degraded, caught in the so-called 'Inner London poverty trap', they shouted at the top of their voices against the Council, police, Social Security, private property speculators, employers - in short, all the agencies of a rotten system determined to condemn them to such a miserable, sub-human existence.

The police who had removed the barricades turned up with their regular quota of disinfectant. The only place the garbage is dumped is right outside the front door.

"IT'S THE POOR WOT GETS THE BLAME!"
E.E.C. WORKERS LEARN FROM AKZO INTERNATIONAL SIT-IN

All of Italy’s electrical appliance firms, once pacemakers for the economy, are now in a mess. Fiat, Ford, Alfa-Romeo (sold to General Motors), Lanos has sold out to Phillips (Netherlands). Clearly Italian workers are worried and are determined that Zanussi - AEG Telefunken will be another Akzo.
These actions of international trade union solidarity are a harbinger of times more radical: the real working class issues raised by the Common Market than the crisis of ‘get British’ which dominated the Labour Party Conference. Our interest lies not in trying to prevent international mergers and takeovers (as it small British businesses never exploit anyone or make anyone redundant), but in combating the employers’ international cooperation with workers’ international cooperation.

Black activist faces frame-up

By HARRY KING

LOS ANGELES—The trial of Black activist Gary Lawton and two codefendants - a teacher and a white policeman - is now under way in the downtown Los Angeles federal courthouse, and it looks as if the defendants are going to spend the rest of their lives in prison.
Lawton and his co-defendants are charged with robbery and conspiracy.

Lawton was arrested last October 26, 1970, when he was out of the country and was serving a sentence for burglary in California. The judge ordered him back to Los Angeles for trial.

Lawton’s trial has been postponed several times because of the public’s interest in the case.

Lawton is a well-known civil rights leader and has been instrumental in bringing attention to the plight of Black people in this country.

The trial is being held in federal court. The judge is Judge Young, who is a former Black student leader.

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**INTERVIEW:**

Geordie Barclay (on the extreme right of the photograph) is a member of the Stanton Action Group, and a G&MWU steward in the steelworks. He is also a supporter of the rank-and-file steelworkers’ paper Real Steel News.

**Workers’ Fight:** The fight against redundancies is obviously important for Stanton, but do you see it as having any meaning for workers elsewhere in the steel industry?

**Geordie Barclay:** I think so. Apart from the local employment problems the real point is that to defeat the plant closures we have to fight to keep the steel industry alive nationally – throughout the industry.

The trouble is that every area seems to be waiting for someone else to give the lead. That is the trouble at the NCC (National Craft Co-ordinating Committee) Chorley, for instance, it was a case of “after you”.

**WF:** But isn’t that because although there are conferences like the Betterwell one, there is still little and all co-ordinating body and no united policy on fighting?

**GB:** Yes, as I said just now, the fighting needs to be carried out on a nationwide scale. What we really need is a National Shop Stewards Committee – after all it’s a question of solidarity in action the same as it is in the shop. The steelplant is one big job which is being replaced by a different type of job at lower pay.

We need to demand a 33 hour week with no loss of pay. If necessary worksharing to keep the steelplant working but there again there should be a minimum wage that would not mean a loss of pay. I think earlier retirement at, say, 60 with a progressive pension and a lump sum might help, but we have to be aware of a sell-out on that one!

**WF:** What sell-out do you mean?

**GB:** Well, there are two obvious ones. First of all they could make sure that they made the older workers redundant and gave them money but didn’t replace them. Now that’d be bad because although those men would not be on the dole we’d still be a man short on the job. In other words the so-called rationalisation is just the same as the other two. Unemployment for the next generation would simply be disguised as early retirement for the previous generation.

The other sell-out they try to work is on the pensions side. Because of the miserable level of pensions early retirement could mean not only a cut in jobs but also a cut in pay five years early.

But still I think retirement at 60 is a good idea. It is just that that demand has to be supplemented by demanding no cuts in establishment so that there are always the same number of jobs going and pensions at the level of the minimum wage.

**WF:** There’s a lot of talk in Stanton, I believe, about calling for an inquiry by the BSC into the Stanton closure. What's your attitude to that?

**GB:** That’s more complicated. You see even this Tory MP has been saying that he fully supports the inquiry. But I can prove that Stanton isn’t economically viable. See, his game is this: he’s got the BSC in the lion’s share of the hope he will be left re-elected. That’s the way he really avoids taking a stand. Of course you don’t expect any better from the likes of him. Anyway what this shows is that the BSC’s inquiry is nothing but a烟幕, a focus of attention, instead of rank-and-file action.

At the time the Labour MPs like Fletcher and Skinner were saying they were going to ride two horses at once. They say that they’re trying to get the Stanton decision reversed and at the same time they’re trying to get us made into a grey spot or a black spot or something.

This whole line always open them as their success, and if it doesn’t work then this special status they will claim that as their success.

**WF:** In other words both the Tories and Labour are calling for a inquiry and saying that the BSC should “open the books”

**GB:** That’s it. But the danger with “open the books” is that they can make their figures say what they want. It’s all right if “open the books” means that they can look on their going on because the Inquiry always means that they look at our going on.

If there are redundancies at Stanton it is then that we should be investigating. The other trouble is that lots of people think that if there’s an Inquiry we have got to accept their figures and what they want – more profit. But that’s not it. Where the BSC say they are going to close down plants they should be made to defend the site rather than “hiving off” to private enterprise.

We should demand that they maintain employment as their responsibility.

**WF:** What do you think of the BSC’s employee-director system?

**GB:** A sheer waste of time. It gives us, the shop floor, no real say or power in the industry. Employee-directors themselves don’t seem to me to represent the shop floor. Very few appear willing to work on it!

There’s no real democratic links. One of them can attend a Joint Consultative Committee but he only reports back to his own union branch. At Stanton that means only 500 out of 6000 are entitled to hear it.

Some of the lads see the employee-director scheme as a cheap-Church-of-London trick to allow massive redundancies to go through smoothly without opposition.

**WF:** Where have the Union leadership been while you’ve been fighting against these redundancies?

**GB:** They’ve been so busy trying to help management make the industry “healthy” whatever that means, that they’ve been prepared to sacrifice thousands and thousands of their members in the interests of profits. They’ve forgotten where they stand – and where their wages stand, may I say.

I’ll give you an example. You know the work from Stanton is planned to go to Worthington. Now Hector Smith of the NUB (National Branch of the BSC) went to see his Stanton members and he told them he couldn’t lead their fight. He claimed he had no influence with the Worthington.

He said all along that our fight was not with the lads at Worthington but with BSC. Smith of course doesn’t want to know what we used to say as an excuse to do nothing.

Then he tried to cover himself by saying that he would get his

**HOW THE WORKERS ARE FIGHTING TO STOP THE STEEL CORPORATION FROM SACKING THE SECOND-TIME SACKED**

**WORKERS’ FIGHT** spoke to one of the workers threatened with redundancy, Fred Jenkins.

He told us of the situation of many of the workers at Stanton who are faced with the prospect of joblessness for a second time. Many of the Stanton men, he said, were over 40 and had come from the Blaenavon area where his father was a Stanton worker and he told them he couldn’t lead their fight. He also had no influence with Worthington.

He said all along that our fight was not with the lads at Worthington but with BSC. Smith of course doesn’t want to know what we used to say as an excuse to do nothing.

Then he tried to cover himself by saying that he would get his

**cleared), Cochrane’s of Middlesbrough (picture above) and the iron-making plant at Riddings near Alfreton.**

"Ninety per cent of the foundry" said David Jenkins, "is made up of ex-riding men.

In this lies an important lesson, the expediency of going down without a fight before is bound to leave a mark on Stanton workers who are up for 're-red'

The task of the Action Committee now is that of spreading the lessons of struggles against job loss which have been successful – Pleasley boss, Bond's, VMR.
THE SWINDELL

Some years ago Stanton-Staveley works operated an internal insurance scheme in addition to the company's National Insurance scheme, whereby workers on the sick could get an additional £5. At first all male workers, but then one section was excluded. The concrete plant.

The basic reason is that the incidence of infantile paralysis is so high in the Concrete Plant that there is a fantastic turn-over in skilled labour of 40 a month. So what the firm does is 'redeploy' "redeploy" men constantly, replacing the relatively large numbers at the rate of 40 a month. In theory every single male worker could be deployed in this way — even losing his redundancy pay.

Worked at 46p an hour (plus a £5 bonus) coming to £25 before stoppages for "a good week". 10 weeks' average for Stanton — it is difficult to know which way you lose most — by staying on with wages and filthy conditions or losing a job and your redundancy pay too.

Either way, the idea of "dirty work at the Concrete Plant" takes on new meaning now.

For a national action committee with a programme of:

An inquiry by the British Steel Corporation into Stanton's viability

Open the books.

No redundancies, no cut in establishment numbers, no redeployment to other parts of the plant.

Not just a nominal pay rise, but workers control. Let the workers run the plant, let the government foot the bill.

Demand that Labour MPs use the influence of their MPs to get support for the campaign in the Labour Party for MPs elsewhere to do the same; sponsor a National Action Committee.

Last June saw the announcement of impending closure with massive redundancies, answered on the union side with a popular hardball of a determined fist.

Instead of preparing for a serious struggle against the British Steel Corporation's policies in general and the closure of the Stanton works in particular, the works NUB delegates were told to "organise for redundancy pay". At a meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee preparatory to a meeting with the management, it was decided, however, to set up an organisation to fight the closure. Letters were written to MPs in the area and to some union branches. In addition a petition was circulated in the district which included thousands of signatures. By July the men were thinking of taking their case further afield. They organised a lobby of MPs at Westminster and sent a delegation to Steel House, the EEC headquarters.

But they did not neglect the important task of mobilising the working people of the area and bringing home to them the need to fight unemployment. To this end a march was organised in Tipton. And it was this march that first showed up the petty and dirty combining of some local MPs. The Stanton committee had sent letters of invitation to speak on the march to the two Tory MPs for the area, Rost (Stour Dever) and Clark (Nuts). The type of letter was attempted—"after all cocktails and a feast at the Savoy weren't being offered at the end of the march!"

Still, at the last committee meeting before the scheduled march, it was agreed yet again to write to the two Tories. Hearing about this, the Labour MP for Tipton, Raymond Fletcher, wrote to the apparently illiterate Rost saying that the march was a Labour Party and Trade Union affair and therefore for no place for Rost. Rost, finally realising that "political capital" could be made of this letter, had it put in the local paper, so putting pressure on the Action Committee to make a special point of getting him to attend the march.

In the event, Rost did attend, while the arrogant Clark still did not even bother to write back. Of course, Rost used the opportunity to attack nationalisation. The march was a great success in getting people's attention focused on the Stanton situation, despite the attempt of some local Labour party councillors and Fletcher to turn it into a publicity boost for them.

Fletcher's speech at that demonstration was virtually left-wing, calling for an occupation of the works. But he has failed to follow it up with action to help the fight against redundancies"—using his influence to rally support, in the local area, or to help sponsor a National Action Committee. Instead he has allowed the weaknesses in the workers' organisation, saying that because of these weaknesses not much can be done!

The Action Committee continued, delegates were also sent to a policy-making committee from all sections of the plants from the G'MWU (Concrete Plant) and the Electricians. Unfortunately those sections who are up for the shop immediately are the most poorly organised, and they are less willing to fight on their own behalf than the more militant sections are to support them.

For instance, 600 members of the other G'MWU branch at Stanton (not the Concrete Plant), who are not immediately affected, attended a meeting which was addressed by an Action Committee speaker. This branch agreed to a walk-out in solidarity with their brothers in the National Union of Blastfurnacemen.

Later that month, an open air meeting at the Stanton Institute carried a proposal for solidarity action. And the meeting echoed with the question "What's Hector Smith (National Union of Blastfurnacemen's leader) doing?" (See interview, on left, for Smith's record).

At a further delegate meeting the Sun Plant pledged support, the Transport section pledged a one-day strike, the Foundry Plant pledged support in principle, but when the resolution for support was put to the office staff, the clean-cut hands went up not for support but for an amendment — "support within the rules of the G'MWU" (the G'MWU staff section) — which meant nothing at all.

From this point the Action Committee began to explore the possibility of a walk-in or a sit-in. There were different opinions on which tactic to adopt. But there was a general failure to work out any joint action of either so as to convince the others. As a result a certain consensus formed.

But now the NUB men, on whom the whole matter centred, seemed to want, if their delegates were anything to go by — unprepared to fight. They seemed happy enough with Hector Smith's pie-in-the-sky promise of "as much redundancy pay as the dockers" (as if it was redundancy and redundancy pay that was wanted?)

As a result, the redundancies have started with the thin end of the wedge, "redeployment". What these deployments consist of is taking men into the Concrete Plant where no one lasts long. This way the job is out of someone and don't even pay the redundancy money.

The rate of the redundancies may be as late as next July. But at the same rate, there are about 1500 redundancies, with about 400 of them in the staff section which received the least effective support for the NUB men.

Not even this situation, however, has deterred the Eaton (local MTAIP leader) to turn up at an Action Committee meeting — except the one he called himself.

Fortunately though there are men at Stanton who will fight!
A FEW WEEKS FROM NOW THE US electorate goes to the polls to decide which candidate of the two class will be President of the USA. And after that the sub-theatrical ballyhoo of the US political circus will subside for another 4 years. US elections are indeed an almost pure brand of show business, with money buying the all-important "glamour", money buying "good" speechwriters and their rhetoric, money buying "braintrusts" to produce "palatable" well tailored consensus politics, and money buying TV time for advertisers to sell the "package".

All in all the result is a "creation" put together in the manner of a Broadway musical. The only firm element is the drive for power of the candidate and his backers, and the fact that the hard reality of capitalist rule is never questioned or placed in jeopardy.

Thus are born politicians like the Kennedies — by money out of Madison Avenue, with Hollywood as Godfather. And the Nixon and McGovern try to fit themselves into the mold, posturing and grimacing on the stage, espousing causes they don't care about, saying what will please in hypocritical words that usually aren't even their own.

The disgusting antics of these political whores appear to be the whole of American politics. They are not. They are merely the politics of the dominant American bosses.

THE OTHER AMERICA

There is another America — that of the working people — which has had, and still has, its own politics: the politics of socialism and the working class struggle against capitalism. Eclipseed for two and more decades, it nonetheless exists and is now reviving because its roots are deep deep, and the corruption and decay of American society constantly testifies against the capitalist system.

A book published recently allows us to hear the authentic voice of American socialism in the words of one of the greatest revolutionary socialists America has so far produced: Eugene V. Debs.

Debs was five times the candidate of the Socialist Party for US President, the last time, in 1920, while serving a savage 10 year jail sentence imposed on him when he was already an old man, because he had made speech opposing the First World War.

Socialism then, ably and nobly personified by Debs, received nearly one million votes — the highest ever for any sect of socialism in the USA. And there was nothing tepid about Debs' socialism. He stood for the most militant class struggle of the working class, industrial and political, and stood openly under the banner of the socialist revolution.

Debs was one of the greatest socialist agitators in the English speaking world, an unerring fighter for the socialist revolution, propagator of industrial unionism and friend-at-first-sight of the Bolshevik revolution.

EARLY YEARS

Debs was born on November 5th 1855 in Terre Haute, Indiana. At the age of fourteen he dropped out of high school and went to work in a railway paint shop.

In 1875 he joined the "Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen" at its organising meeting. He was straight away made secretary of the Terre Haute branch.

Debs was to remain active in the trade union movement as an officer, organiser, editor and strike leader — officially and unofficially — for some thirty years.

Then in 1905 he helped organise the "Industrial Workers of the World" (IWW — often known as the "Wobblies").

But if Debs was schooled in the class struggle, he was in particular a graduate of the prison system. It was in Butte, Montana that first came in contact with socialist ideas while serving a term of imprisonment for being a strike leader.

The times in which Debs delivered the message he had learned were very different in some ways from today. American capitalism was not nearly as clear cut an issue then as it is today. The country at a tremendous pace.

Immigrants were still flooding in — especially from southern Europe. The internal problems of the country, the termination of the Indian peoples, the ceaseless opening up of new lands had meant that very many immigrants could become their own masters, get hold of land or engage in trade. Their period as workers was usually transitional.

The trade union movement was consequently tiny and organised only the skilled craft (i.e. permanent) workers in conservative and hierarchical unions. An attempt to organise a union for all workers, the Knights of Labour ("The Molly Maguires") was crushed in 1886, and the American Federation of Labour which succeeded it had been built on an entirely different philosophy, of "Business Unionism". This was narrow, craft-oriented and without an inkling of understanding of the class wide, above-class interests of the whole working class. Politically the working class was amalgamated within the populist movement of small farmers and "small people" generally which swept America in the latter part of the 19th century, and echoes of which continued even into the 30s and 40s and characterised many of the films of that period. The populist tendencies were incoherent revolts against the growing domination of the great capitalist monopolies. They revoluted in the name of democratic control by "the people". But they were impotent because "the people" were still largely an indifferenitiated mass, with the modern industrial working class only just crystallising out of it.

There was tremendous ideological confusion, usually the popular upsurge would be gripped by a belief in some panacea for all ills, as for example the proposal to make silver equal to gold as a money system. "Bi-metalism", or "free coinage", "expropriation", imported from Europe, shrivelled into sectarian impotence in the social crucible that was late 19th century America.

THE RED SPECIAL: Debs leans out window; man standing second from right is Tom Mooney.
IN BRIEF

**Boverr Bobby**

While the bovery boys in blue are giving Heat a bit of aggro and refusing anything less than a 30% pay claim, one of the force gives an explanation of his relation to the soccer "boiledgame." Sunday Times reporter Hunter Davies reports: "One of the force explained that it was a "crowd excitement" and that he had felt it when they were stampeding off the train. I said they were at risk in rotten jobs, from rotten homes, all the usual things. There was no other excitement in their lives." The policeman replied: "I suppose I can understand that. I'm in the police for the excitement, I suppose it's lucky. My excitement is legal. Thatsn't?"

**SINGERS OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM**

We have commented before in this column on the "Communist" Party Daily "Morning Star" bitter stance. Another recent example was its reporting of the Singer affair in Glasgow.

The Singer company attempted to throw its weight behind the Tories and help them to enforce the Housing Finance Act. It threatened to withhold its rates if the Clydebank Council didn't implement the Act.

If ever there was a case of ruling class solidarity coming to the fore, this was it. The Morning Star, however, didn't see it that way. It wasn't a question of class against class, but a national question. "This US-owned firm should be told that it can't interfere in our country's internal affairs, and pay up."

**THAT'S PROGRESS!**

Reading further through the "Star," one is struck by the cross-class attitude of the paper. Reporting the biennial National Women's Conference of the Communist Party, Star reporters approvingly quote Mba Skinner, a Communist councillor from Inverness. She says "Some younger women who were complaining about lack of progress in their fight for equality to remember what the big advances that had been made in women's status since Victorian times."

Now that's an interesting idea. Perhaps Mba would like to recommend that, say, the black people, "who are complaining about lack of progress" should remember the big advances since slavery; or maybe Mba would recommend this to strikers who could remember the "big advances" in pay since Victorian times." Etc. etc.

**WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS**

Do you believe in British coal? It seems that there are 300,000 people in this country who don't only "believe in British coal" but are being "mobilised" as 650 "salesmen and ambassadors for coal"! Such is the boast of the National Coal Board, the National Union of Mineworkers, and other unions. It's been put it in an advert in the Daily Express in the past few days. The advert vigorously publishes the saving that would be made if the coal "people" could be put in the advertising. It's a sad thing to have to watch these days, but what's surprising is the amount of money being spent in this campaign. It seems there was a school in this country, and now it's on a major scale."

"But", objected a Tyneside headmaster "what about areas with high unemployment? Why can't they advertise to other areas?" It really seems strange to see how much it feels to have to watch these days, but what's surprising is the amount of money being spent in this campaign. It seems there was a school in this country, and now it's on a major scale."

"But that", said another "is the expense of despair!"

"But it is a fact of life" replied the headmaster: "If we want to advertise to them in real citizenship, we should do it better, and then perhaps they can work to improve their living conditions."

"Oh no! That would be preaching revolution!"

"Perhaps you're right..."
WHERE WE STAND

CAPITALISM is inseparable from the exploitation by the bourgeoisie of the working class at home and across the world. Capitalism has one purpose — profit. Capitalism exploits people and the environment. Capitalism is the reason that we are in a global crisis. A crisis that has caused millions of deaths, forced millions more into poverty, and threatens the future of our planet.

The purpose of capitalism is profit, and that means that the owners of capital (the bourgeoisie) are the sole beneficiaries of the exploitation of workers and nature. This exploitation is not accidental or temporary; it is the very foundation of the capitalist system.

The bourgeoisie uses the labor of workers to produce goods and services. They then sell these goods and services to make a profit. This profit is what drives the capitalist system. It is what motivates the bourgeoisie to exploit workers and the environment.

The bourgeoisie exploits workers by paying them wages that are below the value of the work they do. This is called exploitation. Capitalists make a profit because they sell their products for more than the cost of production. This profit is what drives the capitalist system.

In this system, the bourgeoisie are the only ones who benefit. Workers, the environment, and society as a whole are exploited.

FRONTLINE STRIKE

FORD STRIKE — The Workers' Story by John Mathews. Panther Books price 40p

"The first and only book to be written on the subject from the "inside. This is the most comprehensive and detailed analysis of the Ford strike.

True to his word, Mr. Mathews guides us through the complicated and divisive issues of the Ford management and some of the union officials, always from the point of view of the Ford workers themselves. Beginning with the infamous "Blue Book" which every new start at Ford receives, the campaign for Parity is traced until the conclusion of the nine week strike on 8th April 1971. The book presents us through an intense class struggle between ordinary men and women and a powerful financial giant with nine national branch in Europe, which employ a staggering 90,000 employees. As Mr. Mathews states in page 20 "When Ford workers go on strike they are not taking on your average boss, with the state, the Press and the Sunday sermon on his side. What they are up against is an international organisation with enormous economic and political power."

ASIAN MODEL T

In the first chapter of the book some interesting information is given in the modern "Asian Model" as well as giving a flavour of the Ford workers. It also goes into a brief history of Ford as a company and the Ford management. The workers are portrayed as a fighting force that is willing to take up the struggle for better conditions.

When the workers strike, the Ford management will try to win back the workers back to the Ford factory. The workers are portrayed as a fighting force that is willing to take up the struggle for better conditions.

In his book, Mathews also gives a good account of the Ford management's response to the strike. He shows us how the Ford management was trying to break the spirit of the workers by using various tactics. But the workers were not deterred and continued their fight for better conditions.

The book is a must-read for anyone interested in the Ford strike and the broader issues of industrial relations and class struggle.

Particularly interesting in this dispute was the role of Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon. Jack Jones and John Mathews do workers everywhere a valuable service in giving us a detailed account of the way these two 'left' union leaders sold out the Ford workers. On the other hand, Jack Jones sold out the Ford workers. The Ford workers would be much better off fighting for their rights, and not allowing the union leaders to sell them out.

Well after the Jones/Scanlon settlement Moss Evans, chairman of the Ford NFC, received a phone call from Jack Jones on Tuesday evening 30th March, saying that approaches had been made to him by the management, and should be go ahead? Fours, not knowing that a deal had already been made, said that the management was talking money, they should go ahead.

Finally on Wednesday John Mathews and Jack Jones told the men of the deal. They had kept it a secret in order to give the workers time to get their heads round the fact of a management decision to sell out the workers. The deal was a disaster for the workers, and a victory for the management. The workers were sold out, and their rights were taken away. But the workers were not deterred, and continued their fight for better conditions.

The book is a must-read for anyone interested in the Ford strike and the broader issues of industrial relations and class struggle.
In Manchester and Liverpool the tenants' movement is forging ahead... MANCHESTER

There are tenants associations springing up everywhere. As of 11 October there were 20,000 tenants on partial rent strike in the Greater Manchester area. In the last two weeks the Communist Party and other socialists have got turnouts and associations going in Milngavie, Clifton, Clayton, Spade, Salthall, Ashton-under-Lyne, etc. On 15 October they are going out again to 88 Tであれば

At Droylesden tenants meeting on the 11th October, 200 tenants turned up. Connie Fahey, Secretary of the Manchester Tenants Action Group was the main speaker. Three councillors turned up to the meeting, including Cllr Riley, said we had the backing of the Labour controlled council (even if they are not implementing) and that there would be no evictions.

The official figure for the total on rent strike is now 30,000. Tenants are giving notice of their offices and will probably follow the rent man round, not because he has been harrassing the tenants, but to give tenants confidence in refusing to pay the increase.

Salford: The Council have sold out. But the tenants have an army and have refused to pay. The police tried to tell the tenants they could not use the force. Their response. One man said "we pay for this park, it is ours", others went in and the police addressed the tenants from outside using loudspeaker. The police gave up and moved off.

Bolton: The tenants have sold out. The police tried to tell the tenants they could not use the force. Their response was to say "we pay for this park, it is ours" and the police addressed the tenants from outside using loudspeaker. The police gave up and moved off.

In Bolton 500 tenants are definitively not paying the rent. With this relatively small number of tenants are asking: can we win? The landlords and councils are...
A meeting was held at the Westminster Town Hall on Wednesday evening, at which the London Alliance of Shop Stewards in Health.  

An account of the meeting was received in support of the claim at a small number of hospitals was given, but the highlights of the reporting the speech given by Bro. Bloomfield from Gloucester. This had been published in a newspaper with an almost complete press blackout, and had shown the militancy of health workers when they are well organised. The hospital workers over at 106 District Committee under the Common Craft Structure agreement (covering painters, plumbers etc.). At Birmingham solidarity was shown, but here the main demands related to low pay. The real issue was shown "Your power lies with your members. You will find the support you need if you think you've got it." Bro Bloomfield ended by naming the question of national action, which was postponed. He said, "Whatever London decides to do, Gloucester, Belfast, Walsall, Humber, Chester and Birmingham will back you. You won't be alone!"

With this example set the decisions on the present claim took a new direction.

We have received a letter from the Manchester District Committee and have printed an extract of it. The Committee has had to take direct action about our coverage of the Blackburn anti-fascist demonstration of 30th October.

Our report (WF 16) described the end of the demonstration as follows: "It was at this point that the majority of the fascists were shown by the demonstration was shattered. A member of the National Front showed himself through his loudhailer that the 15 contingent was too small to take it to the barracks and that the demonstration was over. A skinhead then headed to the barracks and the police had been effectively beaten by union action earlier on in the demonstration. The Is said: "we cannot beat the fascists" and withdrew."

This statement in the letter argues that "By the time the fascists had got into the Regency Hall it was clear that we were so dispersed that any further attempt at confrontation with them and their police protectors would inevitably result in pointless arrests and demoralisation."

We accept this correction entirely and withdraw the claim of 15 at the end of the demonstration. We apologise for the error made in our previous report, based on incomplete information on the part of the comrade who wrote the report.

Our Party. Despite the fact that she was re-admitted some months ago and that she is being made to accept before a reselection meeting.

In nearby Bedworth, however, it is clear that the Labour Party is being made to accept a resignation of a secretary of the council colleagues who have been exposed by local government. The council originally voted against Implementation, then for, then on October, against.

The ugly spectacle of a "red scare" has been raised in the Manchester Rents Action Group.

Militants are used to sort of tactics from the right wing. But it is ten times worse when it comes from the left.

The annual conference of the Anti-Interment League, on 9th November, voted overwhelmingly to reaffirm the AIL's "solidarity with all those socialist and Republic of Ireland organisations whose struggle is against British imperialism in Ireland.

The AIL also called for support for its demonstration in London on 12th November. At the present time, with sharp clashes between the militant Rents Action Group and the Scottish and Irish Association of the British Army, the army, the myth of the army being a stern but just force in Ireland is easier that ever to sustain. It is to those who understand that the army's real purpose to keep Ireland divided, subordinate, and therefore now it's time to direct the attention of British workers to the basic issue of whether the peace of Ireland, taken as a whole, should be determined their own destiny, through a massive mobilisation on the 12th November do not win wage rises in this country."

New tactics must be devised to maintain a dynamic standard of living. At the nearby dispute at Walmerley (Bury Ltd) the employers have adopted the same tactics but after nine weeks the men retired by occupying the factories. It was only after this that the management began to talk. Bradford Saunders are undoubtedly receiving a "pay off" from the Employers Federation Strike Break Fund, and are prepared to wait it out. The Radcliffe factory is one of a number of详见，醋酸-醋酸

The dispute, now 'Official', started on the 7th August after the Employers Federation decided to fix the Basic Pay issues at a Works Council between management and men. The men gave seven days notice of intention to withdraw their labour.

Since the expiration of that deadline the men have been on strike, with official backing. So far the management have shown no sign of wanting to discuss the issue. This 'hard line' attitude of the management is typical of the trend of wages disputes in the engineering industry. While 76 million fund the Engineering Employers Federation is out to tear the militancy of engineers by financing long disputes. Engineering workers must recognise this trend and realise that the old tactics of the 1950s and '60s over into the Protestant community. For British socialists there can be no ambiguity. The Protestant unions remain in the role of the bosses — albeit very unhappy with the way to the Protestant factions (UDA, LWA, Unison Party) divide and redivide on the issue of the IRA. But it is to Britain and to the Six County State which has persevered the Protestant Unionists. The Protestant Unionists, whom we have seen in the last few days. We support the Catholic Review, and for a new-style view against the British Army and the would-be pogromists, the UDA.

UDA from p.11

ROY RACILIFFE

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