

Not the Red Flag at this workers' meeting, but the Union Jack - the 'bloody butcher's apron' and chief emblem of the fascist National Front. Egged on by the Front, they were gathered last week in Leicester to do the bosses' work - demanding the victimisation of militant black strike leaders. (Photo: Workers Press)





freeing of the Pentonville 5, "a troublesome piece of legislation" to many bosses and to trade union leaders not normally concerned to defend the working class. It disturbed the comfortable relations between bosses and trade union bureaucrats, and the fight against it gave militants a focus around which to organise against the trade union bureaucrats and the Tory government.

Crucial

For the Labour leaders, its repeal was something they could promise in response to the deeply felt antagonism against this bosses' weapon, knowing that it was something that cost nothing to capitalism concede, and more particularly when this concession was given in return for the glowing prospect of a 'social Contract'. But though the Tories are probably relieved to see the

Clear out National Front infiltrators!

Johnson, it concentrates his The National Front denies unionist can ignore. All historical experience mind wonderfully.

which this union organisations.

When a man knows he is organisations of the white workers have scabbed turn, that means a mass purge with or for the National Front going to be hanged in the Mussolini-Hitler type on the on militant blacks, is a of militants, 'Communists', are morning, said old Samuel ruins of free trade unions. warning no sensible trade etc — at the very least.

that. Some of its working Rallying to the message of demonstrates that, once it The fact that Bill Roberts, class members may not fully racism, many workers go on becomes powerful enough to AUEW Convenor at Edbro's know it. Nevertheless that is to give the NF a hearing on do it and the bosses need to in Bolton; is to stand as what the fascist programme other issues too. The main have it done, every fascist parliamentary candidate for for the trade unions always drift is that the NF is for the movement smashes the the National Front in the next has been, and what the real "British Nation". (The fact independence of the trade general election should NF plan for the unions is now. that the labour movement, unions, binding the workers concentrate the minds of Today the main 'selling including the Labour Left and hand and foot to the bosses. trade unionists on the rope point' of this organisation, led even the 'Communist Party' fascist by Hitler-worshipping Nazis with their irrelevant organisation is preparing for like John Tyndall and Martin obseession with the Common the labour movement, Webster (though certainly not Market, have a basically including the mass trade all its members merit such a nationalist basis makes the small and the bosses don't yet description) is anti-black NF line appear normal and support it, British fascism can positions.

National Front infiltration racism. That in itself is a big acceptable.) It says that this use slippery phrases about of the unions will, if not enough threat to the interests Nation needs 'responsible' 'responsible trade unionism' checked, first cripple them of all workers: racial division trade unions. through racist division of the and the conflict of groups of That means 'trade unions' interest first'. This allows it to infiltration — and of the working class, and then 'native' and immigrant linked in a 'responsible' work for the destruction of racism which has provided a

SLIPPERY

Today when it is relatively

knowingly or unknowingly working as fifth columnists and scabs.

They should be treated as such. Members of the National Front should be banned from membership of the trade union movement. It is a disgrace that some people who openly flaunt their membership of the NF, and even stand for it in elections, are allowed to remain in the trade union movement, and in some cases actually hold stewards' or convenors'

The labour movement needs to organise a campaign and 'putting the national to purge itself of fascist unions, with the State superannihilate them by workers in a whole series of partnership with the bosses in the unions from within them. fertile breeding ground for

settlement following a deal

between the Turkish, British

Act go, they're nevertheless fighting tooth and nail to make sure that the Trade Union and Labour Relations Bill will be, by the time it gets onto the statute books, very recognisably the Son of Industrial Relations Act.

The minority voting position of the Labour Government is allowing a situation where this Bill (designed primarily to repeal the Industrial Relations Act) will be passed with crucial Liberal Tory and amendments (mainly passed in the House of Lords, where the Tories have an inbuilt majority) some of which are almost exact copies of sections of the Tory Act.



So far, amendments include:

The requirement of a minimum rule book for all intending certain aspects of internal union affairs. "Every worker has the right not to be excluded from membership of a trade union, branch or section of a union ... " (This was the issue in the Goad case under the I.R.Act; it means nobody can be 'branched' or disciplined for breaking union rules, scabbing, etc.) Conversely, workers can leave unions if they give 'reasonable grounds' and, having done so, have legal recourse to keep jobs in a closed shop. That more than one union can be recognised in a closed shop. (e.g. staff association, company unions etc can be backed up by law if they try to break a closed shop.) "Those who encourage others to break their contract or threaten that contracts would be broken will be in the wrong." (That is, blacking, picketing, combine committee instructions, shop stewards' instructions and

substituting "Labour Front" recent strikes, in which racist the 'National interest'. In Trade unionists who work fascism.

GREEK DICTATORS

THE FALL of the military dictators of Greece has followed almost inevitably from the failure of the coup they organised in Cyprus during the 3rd week of July. After a 7-years' reign the tyrants and torturers overreached themselves, and provoked massive international reaction and a Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Now they have had to step down to make way for a USA. "Government of National Unity" under arch heels of the Portuguese There is a delicate balance iron heel of the Athens junta. Conservative former Prime dictatorship, one more stretch within the island between the Certainly the Greek Cypriot which led to massive pogroms Minister Karamanlis.

Government ultimatum; almost saw, all-out war Greeks, through their support Cyprus was an imposed Continued on inside page

STAND DOWN Workers can 'seize the time'

which merely confirms many between two members of this for Makarios after 1967, have people in a belief that the CIA alliance of tyrants for shown little enthusiasm for masterminded the colonels "freedom" and coup in 1967 and that their warmongers against many who favour pan-Greek repressive regime couldn't "aggression". against many who favour pan-Greek nationalism must have have survived without the The Cyprus coup was, believed that it would have continued support of the undoubtedly, reactionary — been an absurdity to want to

of the soft underbelly of the Greek majority (80%) and the labour movement felt that in Asia Minor against the The final push appears to imperialist NATO alliance Turkish

minority way.

of union with Greece; and even and not alone because it was pay for such Greek unity by With their fall, hard on the masterminded from Athens. placing themselves under the

have come in the form of a US becomes exposed. The world communities. The majority of The post-1960 settlement in communities, etc.

and Greek governments. We have no reason to idealise it. But it did lead to a relative independence and neutrality for Cyprus. Despite eruptions between the Greek and Turkish communities in 1963/ 64, it did allow some coexistence of the communities. The Greek-Turkish conflict

in Cyprus was of course encouraged and used by Britain to aid in ruling the island, leaning on the Turkish minority. But there are deep historic roots to it too — the 19th Century Greek struggle for independence against Turkey, the Greek onslaught on apparently crippled Turkey after World War 1 many scattered Greek

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GREECE Morkers' action is now the key

Continued from Page 1

The socialist answer to the seething mass of Balkan national conflicts which the backwardness and then the breakup of the old pre-World War 1 Turkish Empire produced, has been for a Balkan Socialist Federation. Though the nationalities that make up the Yugoslav state (Croats, Serbs, Montenegrins etc) co-exist not without tensions, Yugoslavia is a miniature (though bureaucratically limited) version of what the 'Marxist solution' means in practice. Meanwhile, independent bourgeois Cyprus seemed to offer a limited local solution. For that reason, and also because of the 'neutrality' of Cyprus, the Cypriot labour movement, dominated by the Communist Party, favoured independence.

stable bourgeois regime.

After eight years of power (from 1955), during which he ruled in close alliance with the army, even using military dictatorship in certain parts . of the country, Karamanlis

Below, left to right: Makarios, Nicos Sampson, loannides (police chief behind Colonels and generals), & Karamanlis.

Discussion: should we use

different set (Labour).

In the past, Workers Fight (and At the time of the General the steelworkers papers Real Election, Workers Fight Steel News, in which WF published an article calling not supporters participate) has for organs of genuine workers' strongly opposed 'workers control, such as trade union participation' schemes, from joint committees on industrial safety, consultative committees up to workers' factory inspectorates, employee directorships. The aims etc, but for workers to fight for of these bodies and schemes are the Labour Party's proposed fake totally reactionary: to undermine workers' control committees independent trade union activity, though the writer himself enmesh workers in junior admitted these committees would management bureaucracy, teach have reactionary aims. And in them to see things from the Workers Fight No. 58, Stephen bosses' side and get them to Corbishley sets up unionparticipate in policing and management safety committees exploiting themselves, and to "let as a threat to big business; in fact capitalists with any sense want These are the aims of all these these committees, and use them schemes, whether proposed by to give a semblance of 'industrial one set of bosses' stooges democracy', while turning shop

stewards into junior management watchdogs of shop floor feelings. The 3best that militants can do if they join such bodies is to expose them as the farce they are.

Cd. Corbishley goes on to say that legislation to be discussed in Parliament could be useful. What is this legislation? Did he mean the proposals to set up joint union-management bodies which the Labour Party is trying to con workers into accepting?

Is the working class so weak it is forced to abandon 'normal' action in favour of haggling over petty details in a classcollaborationist talking shop? If you say that trade unions can still continue independent activity, then why should they try to use joint committees which only

IN THE opinion of the Imperial at strikers

POGROMS

The National Guard coup Greece too, the policies of the they no longer worked there in 1967, to forestall elections the where situation glove puppet show that passes Eoka-man Nicos workers' organisations will be he couldn't negotiate their with which could no longer be put traditional factions of Greek Sampson as president had the for politics (as in Turkey: decisive. Unfortunately, the demands. off and longer easily rigged. politics — all extreme right there, even the equivalent of clear objective of a quick policies of the Greek Now, while the armywere displaced by a party 12 Weeks the British Labour Party is unification of Cyprus and 'Communists', have for appointed President Ghizikis deriving its fundamental Greece. Logically it led banned). long been class remains in office, Karamanlis authority from popular For the strikers, the return immediately to anti-Turkish The struggle for such collaboration. As in Portugal, must step forward as front electoral support. to work with no victimisation communal pogroms (the demands could form the will help — or try to they man, attempting to go back to (starting Monday July 22nd) extent of which is as yet spearhead of mass a help — the bosses to rethe 'stability' of pre-1963. He was a major victory. They had unknown to us). It led also to mobilisation that would EXILE may attempt to restore the stabilise their system. been out for 12 weeks, mass repression of the independent generate fugitive ex-king Constantine, The scene was thus set for a Cypriot left by the right wing working class organs of mass without strike pay, many who fled at the end of 1967. coup, a return to the DEMOCRACY Cypriot spawn of the Greek struggle — workers' councils without social security. Certainly, the inclusion in normality of government The strike started on May Colonels and Generals. - and open the possibility of government of some Centre based on vicious military and 1st, when 39 Asian workers working class power in invasion Turkey's The struggle in Greece Union politicians does not police repression — the followed, toppling not only mainly women — walked out Greece. Such working class must, immediately, be for a indicate any change in what reality of the Karamanlis of one of the Imperial works the Sampson regime but, in its power is necessary even to democratic republic (full we can expect from limited Even regime. disgrace and humiliation, also in Leicester. These women, ensure elementary democracy trade union rights, freedom of Karamanlis. Mavros, for parliamentary democracy knocking the props from from Section 61, had in Greece. speech, assembly and the example, had made it known much for was too under the Athens junta. discovered that for the past The fall of the junta means press, freedom to form that he was eager to Karamanlis: he went into The Karamanlis regime in two years they had been paid that the ball is at the feet of the parties, free elections, etc), collaborate with the Colonels. exile. Greece now has the delicate working class and its bonus on a target of 200 and the immediate breaking But, as in Portugal, the against job of rolling the film of the The coup machines or more, when the organisations. up of the standing army. decisive thing will be the occurred Papandreou last decade of Greek history agreement stipulated a target JOHN O'MAHONY From Portugal to Greece to degree of mass action in 'constitutionally' through the backwards to, they hope, a FROM BRITAIN TO IRELAND - AND BACK AGAIN result of the 1970 election. The Tories saw the problem as one of law and order, and thus tended at first to think of a DEVELOPING THE TECHNOLOGY OF military solution being all that was needed. Alongside vastly increased raids. on the Catholic areas rubber bullets REPRESSION were introduced. Though described by the Army as having the impact of a "hard punch with a fist" their use has when the RUC, faced with a joint police-army action in THE British Army has been resulted, among other injuries, virtual insurrection in the strike breaking and the arrest involved in over 30 wars of in three fractured skulls, three Bogside, could not just go in of pickets. counter-insurgency since cases of severe brain damage, The virtue of the BSSRS and club people as they had 1945. Of these the war in nine cases of blindness in one done before. pamphlet on the technology of Ireland is probably unique in or both eyes. The desired They were therefore issued repression in Ireland is not that it is taking place in an effect was not obtained with CS gas, which was "a only that it points to the links advanced country. because the political premises use of technology to try and between Ireland and Britain The significance of this is on which the increased render governable the clear: Belfast or Derry today, but also that it points out that repression was based ungovernable" CS had the choice of repressive Liverpool London or fundamentally misunderstand previously been used in techniques is a political choice tomorrow. The theoreticians the consciousness and Vietnam, where, counter to the for the ruling class, which of counter-insurgency clearly aspirations of the Northern assertions of the Ministry of largely depends on how they envisage this. Kitson, for Defence, deaths had resulted minority. expect public opinion and example, has said: "It is With the rise of the from its use, and also in the those against whom the difficult for the British with Provisional military campaign street fighting in Paris in May repression is directed will their traditions of stability to in 1971 internment appeared 1968. It was first used in 1969 imagine disorders beyond the react. an increasingly attractive in Derry to try and disperse the "The new technology of powers of the police to handle 'solution' to the politicians at crowd who were petrol repression offers the state a but there are already Stormont and Westminster. bombing the RUC. 'graduated response' to indications that such a The swoop on 9th August 1971 conflict situations. This may situation could arise and this Collective was followed by the use of new enable situations to be held in at a time of relatively and extremely sophisticated check which otherwise could unrivalled affluence... If a methods of torture. Although not be controlled without Within days, however, the genuine and serious grievance most of those picked up were Bogsiders had grown resort to more dramatically arose, and such might arise subjected to some form of accustomed to it and since from a significant drop in the repressive measures (such as brutality, the techniques of then its function has been Bloody Sunday) which will be standard of living, all those sensory deprivation were different. In the words of the politically counter-productive. who now dissipate their pioneered by the British Army pamphlet, "the way that it has So riot control technology is protests over a wide variety of at this time, from methods been used in Derry and Belfast not just designed to end causes, might concentrate used by the Stalinist secret has not merely been for demonstrations or other their efforts and produce a police in the '30s. dispersing demonstrations. 'riots', it is a variable in a situation beyond the powers Internees were hooded, Again and again we have of the police to handle. Shouldpolitical equation. The forced to stand spreadeagled accounts of the gas being pamphlet shows this by this happen, the Army would against a wall for long periods, deliberately fired into crowds be required to restore the examining the techniques subjected to noise and or through the doors and position rapidly". used in Ireland between 1969 windows of houses... It serves deprived of adequate food and and the imposition of direct Choice sleep. These techniques lead as one means of collective rule in 1972. to long term psychological punishment for all the people Up to August 1969 the damage. Physical torture is of an area in which political repression the civil rights Already the operations at not used so extensively demonstrations are occurmovement met from the RUC Heathrow, Hull, and Reading ring." Those most susceptbecause it leaves more was fairly traditional and have aimed to accustom ible to CS are the sick, the obvious marks, is less useful in aimed simply at forcing the people to the sight of troops extracting information, and is elderly and children. Catholics back to their on the streets. During the The next escalation of more likely to lead to a political previous position. By August miners' strike large scale technology came as a direct reaction as it is less easy to

was defeated in 1963 by George Papandreou's Centre Union Party. This led to a

King in 1965, only to be superceded & strengthened by the barbarism of the Colonels

response to the end of the army terror rule. That will determine what happe is. In

Turkey, the army is the main bastion of capitalist rule, whether it is directly on stage, or existing as the hand in the

Typewriters, Leicester (and of every serious trade unionist), "It is incredible that trade union officials can actually accept the victimisation of their members."

The T&GWU convenor at Imperial Typewriters, Reg Weaver, doesn't think so. On Tuesday July 23rd, he actually led a one-day strike of 300 scabbing white workers at the factory to demand the victimisation of the Asian strike leaders.

The return of all the strikers without victimisation must indeed have been galling for Reg Weaver who, when Imperial sent all the strikers their cards, declared that as



off steam".

(liberals) or another totally



CS gas was used to inflict collective punishment

preparations were made for

1969 new tactics were needed,



The set a set of the second set of the set o

oint committees?

divert workers' attention into useless alleyways? Given the fact that workers have been rediscovering tactics like the sit-in strike, and that there have been calls for bosses to "open the books", the situation is perfect for socialists to agitate for workers' inquiries into industry, for workers' factory inspectorates, trade union safety committees, and more direct union control over such things as manning levels and production rates without management poking its nose in on behalf of the bosses.

Until management is made directly responsible to the shop floor, they must be excluded from any "industrial democracy" or "workers' control" bodies workers must form their own

independent bodies, with strike action and occupations to back up their demands.

> Alan Theasby, Middlesbrough.

Stephen Corbishley replies

ALAN Theasby points to two alternatives.

One is where workers are mobilised, permanently permanently militant, permanently vigilant, and thus exercise control over work conditions.

The other is where bosses entice

trade unionists into joint committees which function just as talking shops to divert workers from direct action.

But the real world is more complicated. The class struggle develops unevenly, with fits and starts, with the battle-line staked out with all sorts of temporary agreements and compromises between bosses and workers. (The trade union movement itself embodies a standing compromise between workers and the capitalist state) Take an example: the National

Dock Labour Board. Local boards, with 50% management and 50% union representation, control hiring and firing on the docks. Is this a case of fully-fledged

workers' control? Far from it! At most it is a limited check on one aspect of the bosses' operations.

Yet it is the bosses who want to abolish the NDLB and the

dockworkers who want to defend it. Why? Because he NDLB makes it very difficult for the bosses to sack dockers.

Of course the NDLB only acts as it does because direct action is ultimately there to back up dockers' demands. But if dockers had to rely on immediate direct action every time they wanted to stop the bosses sacking someone, then what would happen about sackings just before Christmas? or when money is short after a long strike?

Revolutionary socialists of course would prefer direct workers' control. But we recognise we won't always get it; in fact, we will get it on a large scale only in a revolutionary situation. And for that reason we have to look closely at the various 'compromises' that come up.

In many cases — like workerdirectors in the steel industry, or the Joint Consultative

Committees — these committees simply serve the interests of the capitalists, and should be flatly opposed, as Alan Theasby argues.

But take the case of the Labour Party promising 50% worker representation on boards. It is quite true that their intention is simply to try to get workers to take responsibility for running capitalism.

But the majority of big business are opposed to these Labour Party plans. Why? Because they know that the intentions of the Labour Party leaders and reality are not the same thing.

If workers force that 50% representation out of unwilling capitalists - elect rank and file recallable representatives - use that position to demand information on the running of the company — then the "50% representation" can become a bridge to real workers' control, rather than a roadblock.

Again, take safety committees. Of course any joint committee should be coupled with independent workers' safety committees, and it was an error of my original article not to mention that. But if workers, while not yet beingready to take the factory completelyout of the hands of the bosses; can force management to listen regularly to workers' complaints — and that means a joint committee - isn't that preferable in that concrete situation to having to try to appeal to direct action every single time you want improvements on safety. And doesn't that explain why in fact most bosses are opposed to such committees?

One final point: the legislation referred to is the "Health and Safety at Work" Bill, which is not about joint committees, but does include some useful reforms. **STEPHEN CORBISHLEY**

MAXINE LANDIS examines the lessons of the strike

themselves forcing confrontation within the

What's been won at Imperial 168. This meant that they ad been cheated out of as nuch as £4 per week. In the following weeks weeks the hundrede of daily small of 168. This meant that they had been cheated out of as

much as £4 per week. several hundred more Asian workers joined them from other sections of Imperial Typewriters. Soon there were about 500 workers on strike, all of them Asian (the few whites who came out after an initial leafletting drifted away to find other jobs when they realised it might be a long strike).

This explosion, like any other, did not come without a long build-up. The two principal strike leaders, Hasmukh Khetani and N.C. Patel, had for some time been active inside the factory as 'unofficial' shop stewards, badgering the official factory leaders to improve conditions, organising, arguing and generally building up pressure against management and for a

the hundreds of daily small indignities which gather in time into the "black man's burden" — racism.

This statement by one of the women strikers highlights the situation: "Ever since I've been there I've seen that the whites give their women just one machine to work on while they gave us 10 or 11 different machines in a day. You see their job is better. They have just one machine but we have to move around like gypsies.

Waiting

The West Indian women are treated just like us. Another thing is that the setters (we have all white setters) set the white women's machines first and take more trouble over them. Ours they do last and they don't even do them properly. So we have to work slower and then, with piece* work, we earn less money. Before our machines are set we have to wait. So we asked for waiting time but they wouldn't give us that. White women also get jobs of their choice — they can choose their jobs. But we have to do what the setter gives us to do." And another woman: "The other day I went to the toilet. Someone was already inside so I had to wait. I must have been there not more than ten minutes when the Foreman started banging on the door. He had come to find me in the toilet to tell me to go back to work. I was very angry and shouted some rude things at him. Wouldn't you? There's a limit to everything. When I came out he asked me what I had been doing there. I told him to go home and ask his wife what she did in the toilet."



union.

This strike has produced a significant breakthrough in the fight against racism in the unions and on the shop floor. It will give great encouragement and confidence to other immigrant workers, who so far have only seen defeat for their efforts.

Educate

But what is also needed is a co-ordinated campaign throughout the labour movement to alert and educate trade unionists on the dangers of racism and give those willing to fight a clear programme of demands to fight on, and a clear guide to. the sort of things that constitute racism. For there are no doubt many quite wellmeaning trade unionists who would dismiss many instances of racism (such as those described by the strikers quoted above) as too petty and trivial to bother about. Yet where these things can exist, often for long unnoticed by whites and taken for granted by blacks as an unpleasant fact of life for an immigrant, we see officials of our largest union demanding the sacking of 25 strike leaders from a list "supplied by foremen on information from our members." We must fight to wipe out all racism — from its most shocking to its most 'trivial' aspects. The following demands conditions would and contribute to such a fight: No discrimination at work or within the unions (including social clubs). Campaigns to recruit immigrant workers to trade unions, using leaflets in immigrants' own languages. Full equality in pay conditions, status, grading, training and other education, access to skilled jobs and promotion opportunities.

democratic and militant shop stewards committee.

The fact that the official factory leadership was useless to the workers resulted in a of unresolved mass complaints by the workers -particularly the Asians, but not only them. These grievances related to promotion, line and quota balance, payments systems, tea breaks,

whitewash. Use of these techniques was taught to the RUC four months before internment was introduced. Although the BSSRS pamphlet deals with some of the latest developments in military technology (CR gas, the photic driver which distorts the brain patterns, the curder which produces noise which leads to physical discomfort) it ends with the imposition of direct rule in

March 1972.

This followed the misfiring of a crude and blatant attempt to drive the Catholics off the streets on Bloody Sunday. (It is not that the Kitsonians have any principled objection to this, just that they advocate accustomaing people to accept it as an usual occurrence beforehand).

Stewards

The demand to elect their own stewards was the demand that would deal with all these petty' matters. And the essence of this demand for free elections was really that they wanted to clear the decks of the management's collaborators in the union and create a really well organised factory. And this is in fact



Above: the strikers in a confident mood. (photo: Sid West). Below: Reg Weaver (top) and George Bromley. (photos Workers Press)

whether or not they have their own stewards.

For the first time, Asian workers are going back absolutely unbeaten by the combined forces of management, union and the National Front. The strikers were buoyed up and reinforced by support in their community and by national and international picketing actions organised by the magazine Race Today, and by two national support demonstrations. They mounted a mass picket every day, and frequent meetings of all the strikers discussed long-felt grievances and formulated them into demands.

From this point of view, the strike has a great deal to teach white militants. For instance, every proposal was brought back to the strikers and discussed to see if it met their needs.

grievances. ... In a civilised society, the majority view will prevail. Some people must learn how things are done." Weaver debarred Asian shop stewards on the basis of an obsolete rule (whose existence was in fact queried by Jack Jones) giving an absurd qualification period of two years in the factory.

The strikers know, as do most workers, that the only qualification for a shop steward is how well he represents and fights for the interests of the workers. They know that to break the encrusted bureaucratic layer of Weaver's control in the factory will benefit every worker, black or white.

Scabs



Caucuses

Support for any demands which black or immigrant workers make for educational

Ghetto

Since then there have been political attempts to split the Catholics accompanied by measures to make life as uncomfortable as possible for the ghetto population as a whole, in the hope that they will not think it worth their while to continue to support the IRA. At the same time the Army has increasingly used non-technological methods, such as the "Four Square Laundry", the use of provocateurs, and assassination squads.

Unless we expose and oppose this repression **now**, it will be all the more difficult later.

BRUCE ROBINSON

"The New Technology of Repression: Lessons from Ireland". Produced by the British Society for Social **Responsibility in Science.** 30p from Rising Free, 197 Kings Cross Rd, London WC1.

what they have won. On the face of it, all that's been conceded is the return of all the strikers at the same grade and without any victimisation. No word has been pronounced promising election of shop stewards. But the consciousness and solidarity gained in the strike means that these workers now have the strength that usually comes from really good union organisation that's been built up over years. It means that no-one can be pushed around, followed to the toilet, cheated of bonus or put down in other ways without an immediate. reaction from at least all those who were on the picket line -

Above all, the strike has managed to highlight more clearly than ever the fact that a major union like the T&GWU not only does nothing to help immigrant workers to fight for better conditions, but actually harbours and nurtures virulent racists in important positions as both lay officials and paid organisers. District official George Bromley, talking of the strikers, had said, as if they were small children "It's difficult to know what they want".

What they want had been made abundantly clear: backdating of the cheated bonus payments to January 1973; equality of promotion; special attention to the exploitation of women workers; and no victimisation.

"They have no legitimate win (£500 each in lost bonus is

But Bromley and Weaver, fighting hard for their base, have confused the white workers with a mass of lies about intimidation by the strikers, and have encouraged the National Front element in the factory, to the point of finally calling out the white workers to demand the victimisation of the strike leaders.

This action, if not all the rest, should produce a national outcry in the union for the removal of these men for this transgression against the basic principles of trade unionism, undertaken in the cause of unashamed racism and egged on by a near-fascist organisation, the National Front.

Bromley should be sacked from his union job. Withdraw the credentials of Weaver and any stewards who supported his racist strike!

The strikers feel very Yet Bromley could say strong. They have a lot still to



no small matter). But as they say in their bulletin, "The 600 strikers have been awakened. They can't been taken for a ride any more". The women, who spearheaded the strike and were the mainstay of the picketing, have formed a permanent group to fight for women's rights in the factory. They have managed to

put the Union on the spot, forcing an inquiry which many believe will be an indictment of the local Weaver and officials. Bromley, now openly fighting to destroy the settlement negotiated by regional secretary Brian Mather, are

and special religious rights (holy day paid leave, religious dress, the wearing of turbans, etc). We expect it for ourselves - real equality means respect for every person's religious and cultural rights.

Support for black caucuses within unions and factories. Against all immigration laws controls and or discriminatory legislation. Being anti-immigration means to be anti-immigrants. **Opposition to the offshoots** of such laws — the contract labour system, voucher system and deportation. For the physical defence of black workers under attack. For automatic endorsement of industrial action by black and immigrant workers

whether they are in the majority or not.

For the expulsion from the labour movement of members explicitly racialist of organisations such as the National Front.

THE MYTHICAL 25% RISE

recommendation by 15 to 8 to. reject the offer, workers at the big Shell site at Stanlow in the Wirral near Ellesmere Port decided to return to work on 20th July.

This was on the understanding, however, that two items were still in dispute — one over basic rate plus extended working hours, the other over allowances and condition payments. These they said must go to conciliation.

The 1800 workers had been on strike despite the pressure from their T&GWU union officials, who wish to preserve the "social contract". The T&GWU is committed to bolstering up this new form of wage control and claimed that it had only backed the men's claim for substantial improvements because Shell had made excessive profits. In fact a

DESPITE a shop stewards' motion has been passed by the men criticising Bro. John Miller for his handling of negotiations. Other Shell plants — at Teesport, Shellhaven, Ardrossan, and Carrington - had all accepted the offer Miller negotiated under the pressure of the newly formed national committee of Shell sites' stewards. This agreement gave them according to lying press and television reports, a 25% increase. But, stewards told me, when you worked it out, it amounted to only about 9% for most workers at the plant. It is a source of mystery who first came up with the 25% figure, which appeared in the media — whether it originated with the unions or with management — but in all likelihood both agreed to present the agreement in this way so as to

AT STANLOW

hoodwink the workers.

That agreement was firmly rejected more than three weeks. ago by the Stanlow men, though shop stewards who recommended rejection by 27 to 5 felt that the rather slender majority (70) was partly due to some confusion caused by a poor public address system.

A major bone of contention and a real warning to workers accepting productivity deals was that the Shell workers who accepted a very thorough productivity agreement in 1969,

received only the initial payment and nothing else. What they did get is a system by which if the men work overtime, the first four hours are not paid but covered by time in lieu payments -- the second four hours are paid at flat rate. This system puts them at a disadvantage compared to Burmah and Castrolworkers.

One of the tragic consequences of the whole action, however, has been the resignation of the Carrington stewards. At the nearby plant, workers were blacking naptha which is a abandoning demarcation in the product of the Stanlow plant and interests of "a substantial a crucial material. When the trick could be tried again and immediate increase and others to members voted to accept the again.

Stanlow to go it alone, 28 out of 32 stewards resigned.

There are many lessons in this dispute. Firstly in the form of organisation and its weaknesses. The national shop stewards committee was newly formed and seemed not to have yet developed a great deal of cohesion. Secondly - and here is a lesson for the whole Trade Union movement the nature of the deal. Much of the vaunted 25% increase was based on consolidation of existing payments for cost of living etc. Now while it is right to demand their consolidation into the basic rate, it is plain nonsense to calculate such consolidations as increases.

The "Stanlow deal" could possibly become a model for some employers who, to avoid givig a real increase in wages, will consolidate threshold agreements into the basic, and thus give the impression of a large percentage increase. In November when the threshold agreements end this



Jack Jones asked his union's car workers gathered in Conference in Llandudno to take a trip down memory lane. First they should remember the 'social contract'; second, they should "remember British Leyland's perilous position"; and third, I suppose, will be... remember that he used to be a left-winger.

Thanks for the memory!

"Having regard to changed circumstances, and in particular the present state of the property market, the Government has at present no intention of increasing the taxation of property companies in respect of development gains which have already accrued to, or been realised by them". That was the Treasury's statement on behalf of a Labour Government which promised to increase taxation of property companies in respect of development gains...

LABOUR'S RIGHT COMES OUT step towards more going the way Mayhew went, then that's fine too. It would help to infuse some TO FIGHT

THE TIMES has reported that "fifty Labour backbenchers decided at a secret meeting this week to fight back collectively against the domination of the militants inside the party."

This group apparently claims to be the right-wing equivalent to 'Tribune', and takes as its immediate cause "to fight the militants over public ownership". "It is not a pro-European movement", one spokesman said, "it could not hold together if it campaigned on that issue".

If this means that the right wing is going to announce itself in an organised form, that it is going to fight on issues which to a large extent do define the left and right in the Labour Party, then this move is to be welcomed. aid the fight to throw these wretches out of the Labour Party. After all, the Common Market is the phoniest issue possible for a left-right division: the 'Tribunites' have been worse chauvinists on this question than any of the rightwing.

And if this grouping is the first too. It would help to infuse some more life into the Labour Party and clarify the way forward.



The Labour Party Young Socialists have been asked by the Party Executive to call off their planned conference on Ireland later this month. This request should be refused and the "justification" for it — that the situation is delicate now rejected with contempt.

We say this not because the Conference organisers have such good ideas on Ireland. On the contrary: the LPYS position on Ireland is also a chauvinist one, slandering the Republican forces, indulging in mindlessly simplistic slogans of "unity", and refusing Welcomed, that is, because it will effective solidarity to the forces fighting British imperialism, in particular the IRA. Nevertheless the Conference floor should be a unable to understand either the refutes the myths about working place where certain issues might be clarified — if it is run a bit more democratically than the Clay Cross conference that the LPYS arranged and chaired.

THIS PLAY BRINGS THE HOME DOWN

follow sometime in the future", original agreement, leaving

OVER 100 people packed the struggle on the shop floor or the

years, and certainly the largest a paradise but a battleground. organisation of working class The wife in the play is forced to women. There was a lively go out to work to maintain the discussion after the play.

touring the Midlands and strike over the issue of equal pay. performing to meetings of trade Equal pay is particularly unionists, women's liberation important at the present time groups, and shop stewards' with the Labour Government meetings.

highlight many of the problems to implement 90% of the male and injustices that women face rate for women by 1975. the capitalist nature of society.

the happy secure place painted in trade union bureaucracy which p women's magazines, but a place has consistently failed to fight for where women are isolated and equal pay. It examines and

Guildhall in Newcastle-u-Lyme role of the trade unions. Equally recently to watch the Red Ladder men are unable to understand the Mobile Workers' Theatre boring and laborious nature of perform their new play 'A housework and struggle that Woman's Work is Never Done'. womenhave making ends meet in This was one of the largest the face of rapidly rising prices. In political audiences in the area for these conditions the family is not

family's standard of living, and The theatre group has been herself becomes involved in a

backsliding in the question and

The Red Ladder in their play refusing to use its statutory power

and locate their oppression in The play shows how women must organise on the shop floor if The family is shown to be not they are not to be sold out by the

LEN COLLINGWOOD



women, showing that wage differentials between men and womenare nothing more than an attempt by employers to split the labour force and create a reserve pool of cheap labour, PATLONGMAN

Contact Red Ladder at Holbein

House, Holbein Place, S.W.1

Britain's longest industrial dispute, at the Inland Revenue site at Bootle, is still going on after three and a half years. It started on February 11, 1971, when electricians struck on a parirty issues - they were being paid £20 below the lowest building workers' rate. Despite the intransigence of the employers and the machinations of the EEPTU officials, a small number of strikers stood firm, and finally managed, 18 months ago, to shut the site down completely. Now the IRO strike committee and the weary and beaten Sir Alfred McAlpine have come to an agreement which would mean a victory for the IRO men... But.. in steps Albert Booth on behalf of Michael Foot and says that Sir Alfred can't give the lads the money because it's against Phase 3! Says Foot's footman, a breach of Phase 3 would only be possible in "exceptional circumstances". I suppose a three and a half year long strike is normal!

Steel: NCCC now sowing confusion

PHOENIX PAMPHLETS

WORKERS FIGHT AND THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL - Report of the Special Conference on the 4th International held in January 1973. 10p plus 5p postage.

THE AND RACIALISM CLASS WORKING produced to help in the campaign against racism, this 20-page pamphlet takes up the reasonable sounding' racist arguments and traces the history of working class racism.

Single copies 10p & postage; Bulk, 50p for 6, 80p for 12.

THE INDUSTRIAL REL-ATIONS ACT AND THE FIGHT FOR A GENERAL STRIKE - 11 important articles from Workers Fight, introduction with and invaluable collection on the history, experience and theory of the General Strike. 20p plus postage (5p).



IPD factory in Kirkby (formerly Fisher Bendix) occupied once again.

A 25-day sit-in in 1972 defeated attempts by the then owner, Thorn Industries, to close the factory. It was finally taken over After announcing the "good by Harold King, chairman of news" of a profit of £56,000,000 starts. **IPD** Industrial.

he was promised £1 million mention the "bad news" of "a few million is not forthcoming he says appendix. They form as he will close the factory. It is now in the hands of the Receiver.

THE details of the formula that agreed between the NCCC negotiated in London by representatives of the National **Crafts Coordinating Committee** in the steel industry on Friday 19th July were rejected at a full meeting of the North East Allied sections. These sections, the Crafts the following Tuesday. But whereas the details were Consett ETU, are already

rejected' as inadequate the proposal for future action based ON 12 July 1200 workers at the itself on the same framework as

> AN OPEN LETTER TO **MONTY FINNISTON**

made by the British Steel But King is now claiming that Corporation last year you strike at Lackenby.

far you and your cronies have underway, this ignores the "rate" for this increase rather The Receiver has refused even managed to keep news about our problem of the basic rate — than leave it up to the government. to pay holiday pay due unless the dispute off the pages of every which is where the increases paper in the country, except the The occupation is preventing one I'm writing in now. Even the about the strike or any of the related disputes at Scunthorpe and Consett. As one of the strikers I'm not so impressed with your profits. For Leyland deny it. But it is no on strike. After all, that profit was made by paying me and thousands of steelworkers like of police or civil charges.) me, whether craft workers or not, miserably low wages. At the moment we have to suffer a basic rate of £32 per week. Paying rates like these any idiot can make a profit! We at Lackenby know how you made your profit. Our pinprick of realisation is going to make a hypodermic hole that will inject into the workforce the realisation of how poor their wages are and supportin votes and action.

and the BSC. This means that the whole of the North East Coast is likely to be on strike to support a framework of agreement already rejected by the two most militant Lackenby Allied Crafts and the involved in industrial action against the NCCC framework (in the case of Lackenby this action dates from four weeks ago, while in the case of Consett, strike

notice went in last week) Such a situation could only arise out of confusion. But that's nothing to the confusion that is likely to occur once the action

should show up — and the fact that ACM payments will be replaced by department bonuses. The fact that even the notoriously right wing Seymour, the Cleveland works convenor, rushed off to call his men to action is the clearest indication that this turn-around has been to the distinct advantage of the fulltime officials and to the harm particularly of the lads that had so far been calling the action.

To prevent a complete victory for the NCCC formula it will be necessary to pose the issue of consolidation from the outset. This should cover both existing bonus payments and cost of living increases. Future cost of living Basically the new action increases — which must be fought proposal is in support of a £2 for when Phase 3 runs out increase in non-shop area bonus should also be continually Government help by Harold pin-pricks of industrial trouble" payments and no strings attached consolidated into the basic rate, Wilson at that time. Since the £1 involving the 500 craftsmen on to the £5.35 "guaranteed" with the Allied Crafts Committee, production bonus. As distinct now that it has become a regular At least we got a mention! So from the militant actions already fixture, responsible for fixing the

The Labour Government has added another pimple to the unacceptable face of capitalism in its choice of members for the "independent" Committee of Enquiry into nurses' pay. One of the members of the committee is H W Atcherley, Chairman of the Armed Forces Review Body which deals with servicemen's pay.

A neat example of twisted values. You let someone who is responsible for recommending wage rises for the army, busy smashing up workers' lives in Northern Ireland, help decide ways and means of fobbing off workers fighting to save lives in this country.

Talking about the cut-backs in hospital re-building still being carried on by Labour... conditions are so bad at Barnes Hospital in Cheshire, that an Italian film crew recently shot exterior scenes there for... a horror film!

JAMES CONNOLLY AND **IRELAND'S STRUGGLE FOR** FREEDOM - articles from Fight. with Workers introduction. 10p plus 5p postage.

also

Issue No.2, PERMANENT **REVOLUTION.** Articles on Chile; Workers' Government; Stalinism in Vietnam; Rosa Luxemburg on the Belgian General Strike of 1902. Plus discussion and reviews. 20p plus 5p postage.

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taking a two week break for holidays. The next issue will be published on Saturday August 10th.

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industrial action is stopped.

£2.5 million worth of tools Morning Star which published a wanted by British Leyland being nearly full page advertisement of moved out, but management are your boasts about BSC's profits still inside the factory and goods and its "humane" redundancies, are still being turned out. One has never published a single word worker I spoke to said the only difference was "we're not getting paid".

There are rumours that British Leyland may take the factory over if promised - sufficient a start it is because of your government aid, but British grasping for those profits that I'm solution to hope for that sort of outcome. The demand should be for nationalisation without compensation.

But the main point is that nothing will be achieved if the IPD workers rely on anything other than their own strength and WORKERS FIGHT will be the strength of the solidarity they can mobilise in the labour movement. The present attempt to close the factory shows just how much the solution found by Harold Wilson after the 1972 sitin was worth. In fact, even if the how they can be improved. government is forced to nationalise the factory, that's no guarantee that they wouldn't try to close it down later.

Already the rest of the Teesside/Workington group is about to take up the cudgels and challenge you.

Cynthia Baldry



picketing,



where

Michael Foot, when he said new law.

Tony Duffy that the next Labour

Government (if it gets elected) would repeal the relevant clauses that the Tories had forced into this Bill.

Tony Duffy

This is exactly the same

possibly even newspaper strategy that the Labour and articles and speeches, will be trade union leaders have been liable to legal attacks. This is recommending since the especially important for Industrial Relations Act the became law. Don't break this 'legitimacy' of an industrial law, they said: the Law of the dispute can be the only Land is sacred! Don't smash defence against a whole array the Act - just wait ... till we get in and repealit.

The Labour government Now at last, after over two should not have stood by and years' wait, the long promised allowed these clauses to be dawn has arrived -- and it's inserted. It should not have cold, wet and foggy, and not kept so quiet about the much lighter than the night. grafting of Tory anti-union Infailing to smash their Act clauses into this Bill. It should clearly in July 1972 in answer have taken the issue of the to the jailing of the five Industrial Relations Act to dockers, the working class has the working class in a General allowed the bosses' Tory Election, and called for representatives to manoeuvre and regroup, and finally to Instead, the strategy of the graft the poisoned fangs from Labour Party is outlined by the discarded corpse onto the

STEPHEN CORBISHLEY

A Workers Fight supporter was punched to the floor by National Front members in Liverpool last week. In a shopping precinct he saw a National Front loudspeaker van blasting out its racist, anti-working class rubbish to passers-by. As the van moved past him, he managed to tear one of the union jacks off the back. Immediately six men leapt out of the van and a car which had been following it. They pinned him up against a shop window and punched him in the face, leaving him lying on the pavement.

And who did the assailant look like? The local NF candidate.

Ex-mayor of Islington Harry **Reid resigned from his position as** chairman of Islington Trades Council on 24th July after a censure motion from TSSA (Road Haulage City Branch) condemning his attack on the NALGO strike at the recent mayor-making ceremony, when, amongst other things, he complained of losing his chauffeur! NALGO is currently leading the campaign amongst public sector workers against the findings of the Pay Board Report on London Weighting.