

Workers Press

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WEEKLY PAPER OF THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Ship men go back - p16

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Resolution 11 is a fraud! —COMMENT on page 13

More analysis & reports next week

TUC SPURNS THE YOUTH

Left words in low pay debate

THE MILLIONS of low paid workers in Britain must face the blunt truth. Left to the TUC General Council, their future prospects are bleak. From the platform at the Trades Union Congress there came only empty words.

For most trade union leaders, shouting loud about low pay was a way of avoiding any real action.

Listen to Garfield Davies of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers:

'Over the last seven years, the number of low paid has doubled to eight million', he told us and went on to declare that 'We in this movement have a duty to remove this scourge.'

But how? The answer of Davies and the TUC was that a future Labour Government should fix a statutory minimum wage.

Time

Even this, it seems, is all going to take time.

'There will be hard graft and tough bargaining' said Willis, speaking on behalf of trade union and Labour leaders.

The plight of the low paid was raised purely rhetorically by Davies.

What responsibility have trade union leaders for the growing numbers of low paid?

That is the question which

attracts the TUC General Council like holy water attracts the devil.

To take it seriously means that we can only come up with a searing indictment of their leadership.

For not only have they taken no real action to resist this cancerous growth of low pay.

They have actively assisted in the development of conditions which have brought it about!

The biggest reservoir for cheap labour is the youth. Trade unionists cannot discuss low pay without discussing policies for youth.

The TUC policies have been nothing less than a betrayal of youth — and thus of the future of the working class and trade unionism.

Through their collaboration with the Tories and the state in MSC they have helped spread the scourge of cheap labour.

What action have they taken as MSC schemes are used to supply cheap labour?

Where are their fiery calls to resist government legislation removing regulations on the conditions of youth which trade unions fought for — such as those on overtime and night shift working?

Young workers on MSC schemes have been injured and killed through their inexperience of machines and factory work.

Where have trade union leaders campaigned to rouse workers? Even craft unions have agreed to the undermining of apprenticeships and training.

The youth are the touchstone of trade union policy on low pay.

In fact, of course, the real issue at the TUC was not low pay as such, but a future general election.

Said Ron Bickerstaffe of NUPE: 'I can almost guarantee that the potential 8 million are not going to vote for a government which they know is going to cut their wages.'

Drag

Ron Todd was right in declaring that the statutory low pay would be a 'drag anchor' on pay.

Union leaders well know that such a minimum is to be part of Kinno's future 'social contract' — with state control of wages.

Let's return to Mr Bickerstaffe — who spoke again on Wednesday.

He also supported Kinno's speech. As chairman of the TUC's economic committee, he was concerned with the acute economic crisis which is round the corner, and endorsed Kinno's call for 'realism' and the 'new partnership' in industry.

He said that tough decisions would have to be taken on jobs, pay, prices, inflation and investment.

'There are no 'quick fixes' he said, 'no overnight miracles. No one is making light of the problems.'

The 'new partnership' with the capitalist owners of industry can, in fact, only be on the back of the workers.



especially the low paid.

In other words, it can only be a partnership by putting everybody on low pay.

We can dismiss what Bickerstaffe said when he spoke from the left side of his mouth about low pay.

The future policy of the TUC General Council will be determined by what came out of the right side.

And that promises an acute crisis with blood, toil, tears and sweat for the trade union movement.

STRIKING Sun and Times printers marched into Brighton last Monday to lobby the TUC to throw its weight behind their eight-month dispute with Rupert Murdoch.

The determination and strength of the printers was clear from their heckling of

delegates as they approached, particularly those from the E.E.P.T.U.

The lobby was reminiscent of the miners' lobby two years before as was the meaty-mouthed motion of support which TUC adopted. See pps 2, 13.

DEFEND WAGES COUNCILS

by Bernard Franks

A Workers Press pamphlet

Available from Workers Press, 21b Old Town, London SW40JT, price £1

RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS

DURHAM

JOHN MATTERSON: Murton — Two years and three months youth custody from December 1985.

GARY BLACKMORE: 19 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years youth custody. (Not a miner but arrested during the course of the strike)

SOUTH WALES

DEAN HANCOCK: Oakdale — Eight year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicester

RUSSELL SHANKLAND: Taff Merthyr — Eight year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicester

DEVON

JERRY FRENCH: Betsanger — Four year

sentence from January 1985. B73383, Weald Wing, Maidstone jail, Kent

YORKSHIRE

MARTIN HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds

NIGEL HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds

PAUL WRIGHT: Saville — 18 month sentence. G76424. Kirkham Jail, Freckleton Road, Preston, Lancs.

N. DERBYSHIRE

DAVID GAUNT: Shirebrook — 2½-year sentence from December 1984. E71037. A Wing, Millers Park Youth Custody Centre, Dodington Road, Wellingborough

The struggle in Ireland

Blinded by a plastic bullet!

Campaign founder's story p16

JOE AUSTIN, vice-chair Sinn

Fein in six counties talks to

Workers Press pages 10&11

Guilfdord 4 campaign p7

WORKERS PRESS TALKS TO TUC LOBBYISTS

Bitter union rights struggle in Bootle

WORKERS striking for union recognition at A. One Feed Supplements in Lyster Road, Bootle are appealing for financial assistance for their dispute which began in January.

T&GWU shop steward Paul Shaw told Workers Press about the campaign for management to recognise the T&GWU.

'We have been on strike since January 10. We withdrew our labour when two workers were dismissed, supposedly because "their work was not up to the standard required".'

'One of the two was instrumental in getting the workforce organised. Only two weeks before he was dismissed he was offered a foreman's job by the plant manager.'

'Two days after the strike began, we were all dismissed.'

'Since the beginning of the strike we have maintained a 24 hour 7-day-a-week picket. In July we occupied A. One Feeds for three days, to try and get management around the negotiating table.'

During the first week of

the strike management brought in scab labour from North Yorkshire.

At first the scabs were given a board and lodging allowance, but now they are sleeping in the factory because the company has withdrawn their allowance.

The scabs have been very provocative, and have attacked pickets and other trade unionists supporting them.

Eric Heaton, a 24-year-old, was badly beaten up late at night by a car load of strikebreakers, who had obviously been drinking.

Paul Shaw told us about another incident: 'Two pickets were run down on Friday February 24 as the convoy of

strikebreakers' cars were leaving the factory — unusually there was no police presence at the gate that night.

'Mr Harry Nugent, a shop steward from a nearby factory, Associated Lead, was struck by two cars. He suffered multiple bruising and abrasions, sustained a badly fractured cheekbone and almost lost the sight of his left eye. It was full of blood.'

'The drivers of the vehicles involved and the men who beat up Eric Heaton have been positively identified by the victims and independent witnesses. The police have taken no action at all against them.'

'Yet, on the other hand three pickets have been arrested on the picket line for such trivial and alleged offences as obstruction and wilful damage!'

Andrew Simpson, the company chairman, wrote to the Chief Constable of Merseyside, Ken Oxford, on January 25:

'It is my opinion that the racketeering and the criminal manoeuvres of the T&GWU is considerably more effective than the law and order that you are to provide... I have no wish for mediation between our company and the T&GWU'

'Your officers are also aware of the activity of Mr. Tony Hayes of the T&GWU. He has followed our lorries all over the area, interfered with and closed off suppliers under threat of industrial action.'

'This man is running a sinister and serious conspiracy. I can see no reason why the police cannot take any action against him.'

Simpson has also written to the Institute of Directors and Tory MP Connal Gregory in the same hysterical, lurid and totally baseless vein.

In February there were talks between A. One Feeds management and representatives of the Transport and General Workers Union.

through the offices of ACAS. After a five hour meeting, the Company Chairman made it clear:

1. That there would be no reinstatement of the sacked workforce.

2. There would be no recognition of the Transport and General Workers Union.

3. That if A. One Feeds could not guarantee an adequate supply of Soya Bean during the dispute, (there has been a successful embargo on raw material destined for A. One Feeds by sympathetic trade unionists) then management would close the plant down and if necessary pull the factory down brick by brick, if a buyer could not be found.

Paul Shaw told us:

'After issuing these threats, Simpson said he could not understand what we really wanted. After all he did organise a company paid barbeque for the workers every year!'

'The ACAS officer thought he had gone through the looking glass with Alice!

'We are dealing with a totally erratic, unscrupulous and anti-trade union employer who will stop at nothing to maintain a 19th century attitude towards his workers, along with conditions and wages paralleling that attitude.'

'Before the strike we worked Monday to Saturday, 7am to 7pm 72-hours-a-week and picked up £110.00 a week.'

'The manager paid himself £95,000 a year — £1,080 a week.'

'We joined the T&GWU to cut the hours and to improve working conditions.'

'All of the strikers are determined to win this dispute, get our jobs back, obtain union recognition for the T&GWU and improve the horrendous working conditions at A. One Feeds.'

'We know we can achieve our aims and win a tremendous victory for the trade union movement.'

● Donations to A. One Feeds Strike Committee, Transport House, Liverpool 3.

Lobby demands TUC act on SA sanctions



SOUTHALL RECOGNITION STRIKE

BLACK WORKERS from Kenure Plastics called for support from trade unionists when they addressed a fringe meeting organised by the black section of the Labour Party in Brighton on the first day of the TUC.

On May 14 1986 the management of Kenure Plastics Ltd. locked out 42 members of staff from the moulding shop department of the factory.

The workers had refused to sign a contract to work a compulsory 12 hours a day without any overtime pay.

They were earning £2.35 an hour and had been trying to negotiate an increase to £3.00 an hour.

Kenure Plastics works a 24-hour rota shift based on cheap labour.

Workers have had to put up with arbitrary production targets that change almost with every shift.

The moulding department is the essential productive part of the firm, and the

work there is hazardous and fast. No worker can have a break without pre-arranging relief.

The firm observes minimal health and safety regulations, and workers who are injured are sent home with loss of pay.

This is a frequent occurrence.

Since the dismissals the sacked men have joined the AEU who have now made the dispute official.

The sacked workers were only able to join the union after the dismissal since any attempt at unionisation previously met with victimisation.

The workers are demanding re-instatement. Their case goes to the Industrial Tribunal within a fortnight.

At the fringe meeting the victimised men called for a boycott campaign on all Kenure Plastics products.

This includes plastic casings and component parts for Thorn, IBM, Sinclair,

Acorn and other computer firms.

Also involved are Land-rover parts, Vent Axia Fans and Raleigh wheels for BMX bikes.

The victimised men are asking for their case to be raised in trade union branches for resolutions of support and to raise much needed finances on their behalf.

The men welcome participation in their weekly mass pickets held on Friday outside the factory in Central Way, Feltham, West London.

The latest news is that the management have announced the closure of the factory within 2-4 months.

As far as the men are concerned the dispute, the struggle goes on.

● Contact strikers at Kenure Plastics Workers Support Committee, c/o 1st Floor, 50/2 King St., Southall, Middx UB2 4DB. Telephone: 01 843 2333.

LAST MONDAY, twenty trade union branches, trades councils, and political groups lobbied the opening of TUC Congress calling for trade union sanctions against South Africa.

Showing solidarity with the South African working class, the lobby sought direct action from the TUC Congress.

Many of those who took part have already begun work in their own unions to implement sanctions and boycotts.

At a street meeting held after the lobby, Richard Roques from the City of London Anti-Apartheid Group said that any real show of solidarity with black South Africans brought down the wrath of the state.

He described the continual police harassment of the non-stop picket outside the South African Embassy.

Bill Holdsworth, an AEU shop steward at Bonar Brentfords in Crawley, described how workers at his factory had begun to investigate that company's links with South Africa, as the beginning of a campaign of industrial action to have its investments withdrawn.

Attacks

Sacked Sun printworker George Hall said that it was clear from the attacks on printers by Murdoch and the British government that they were intent on reducing the working conditions of British workers to those of South African workers and that solidarity between the two groups was vital.

* The London Bus Conference, which represents all the drivers and conductors on London's red buses,

brought their chair, Peter Gibson as an officially delegated speaker to the open air meeting.

They also organised on the same day as the lobby, to add extra strength to the action, a leafletting of the conference calling for trade union sanctions against South Africa on their own behalf.

As a section of the biggest union in Britain, and a union which has large numbers of members whose work involves the transportation of South African goods, their presence at the lobby was a significant development in the boycotting campaign.

Delegates were urged at the meeting to take back a resolution proposing the setting up of a national campaigning body which would work specifically on the issue of trade union sanctions.

The suggestion for the setting up of this body came from a meeting which was held in Birmingham to co-ordinate the lobby.

When delegates from trade union branches, trades councils, and campaigns like the Namibia Support Committee came together at that meeting, all were struck

BY BRONWEN HANDYSIDE

both by the strength of feeling around this issue, and by the number of organisations that were already involved.

It was apparent to almost everybody who attended the meeting that it is now an urgent necessity to set up an organisation which can not only co-ordinate all the different activity taking place across Britain on the question of trade union sanctions, but also campaign effectively within unions which have not yet taken action.

Concentrate

It was felt that a campaign was needed which would concentrate specifically on the trade union movement, and that such a campaign would necessarily augment and expand the work that the Anti-Apartheid Movement is carrying out at present.

A meeting will be held on November 1st. in Lambeth, to review the results of the campaign thus far and to set up the proposed national campaigning body.

All delegates from trade union branches, trades councils, and any labour movement body which is willing to take up a fight to win trade union sanctions is welcome to attend.

● Contact Bronwen Handyside, 17 Porden Rd, Brixton, London, SW2. Tel: 01-274 7722 ex 2001, 2010.

FTAT to stop strike pay?

AFTER 16 months in dispute Silentnight strikers have been told their strike pay is to stop.

Irene Scott, shop steward, said 'Our conference mandated the union to support the strike. If it now wishes to withdraw support it should take a delegates conference to decide this.'

'Whatever happens we still need money to keep the strike going.'

The strikers are determined to maintain support.

FTAT's motion at last weeks TUC included the words: 'Congress hereby congratulates FTAT and its members involved in the Silentnight dispute in Barnoldswick and Sutton.'

'The degree of solidarity and resolve shown by them in the struggle is a tremendous credit to them-

selves and the trade union movement.'

Is this hollow conference rhetoric, or will the FTAT leadership be persuaded to change their minds and show solidarity?

● In future all donations to the strike fund should be sent to the following address: 9 Frank St, Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancs, BB8 5AE. Tel. 0282 816 709.

NUT forces teachers to 'cover'

NUT leaders seek 'peace and calm' for dangerous talks bid

TEACHERS face an autumn of struggle over conditions of service — and a battle with the NUT leaders to implement the no-cover policy agreed at the 1986 conference.

Many teachers are worried by the position of the NUT leadership following negotiations on cover for absent colleagues on Monday September 1.

The talks were called interim yet the NUT have laid down certain 'principles' in these talks.

These will obviously be part of negotiations now being conducted on non-teaching time, cover, assessment and class size.

They appear to accept that conditions of service of teachers are based on the money available. This is against the needs of teachers or the principles of the labour movement.

The NUT states: 'It is recognised that what can be achieved during the autumn term 1986 will de-

pend on existing budgetary provisions.'

The NUT further adds 'Where a formal local collective agreement is in force this should continue to be observed by the parties.'

Correct me if I'm wrong, Mr Jarvis and Mr McAvo, but the vast majority, if not all teachers, are covered by these local agreements.

It was precisely the fight against these agreements that was such an emotive factor in the teachers' dispute.

Time and again at mass meetings throughout the country during the cam-

BY MARTIN RALPH

paign teachers said 'Cover — never again!'

At the union's easter conference, a great ovation was given to the message 'We will never cover again!'

The meaning of the ashen faces of the majority of the executive is now clear.

But to return to these 'principles'.

Money is not the only determining factor.

As Doug McAvo told the Guardian, 'A major benefit of the interim agreement will be to ensure peace and calm while long-term negotiations... are taking place.'

Sir Keith Joseph would be proud.

The NAS/UWT had

already adopted the position of the NUT six months ago.

After Monday March 3, this union had already signed for 'peace and calm and a return to full, normal duties.'

This left the NUT fighting alone, and the NUT condemned the agreement.

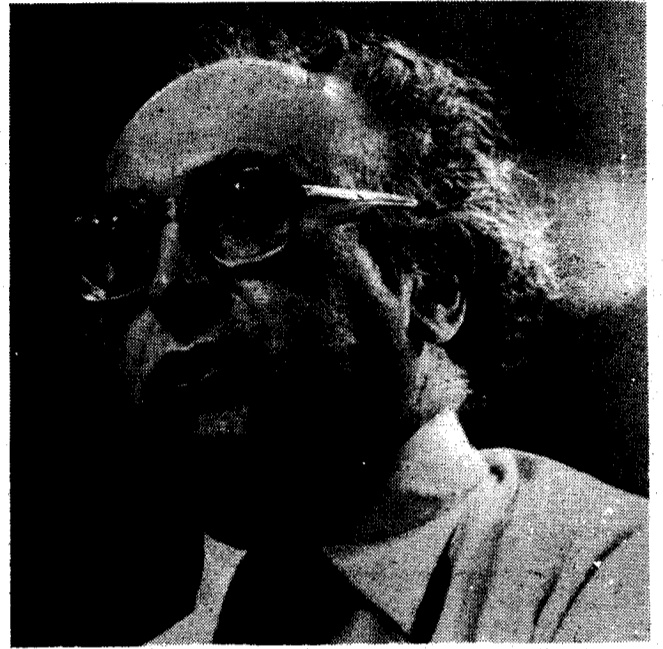
They said then it had been 'rejected by the majority of the profession and it was a betrayal of the members of the main teachers' union.'

It is almost certain that major changes will take place this year in teaching.

If left to the executive of the unions, we could see the gains of the last 30 years wiped out in one.

There is a grass roots move against the deal now being signed.

The central demand of the movement should be a recall conference to vote on all aspects of the negotiations.



JARVIS

Miners' 'Justice' — a class question

SCARGILL TELLS TUC MEETING

ONE OF THE best-attended fringe meetings at last week's TUC was organised by the National Justice for Mineworkers Campaign and chaired by Durham Mechanics secretary Billy Etherington.

Eric Clarke, secretary of the Scottish NUM, denied that the union was walking away from the problem of the sacked and jailed miners.

He said the Scottish NUM had already handed a petition to the Queen at Balmoral and was prepared to even go to Ronald Reagan.

Kent miner's wife Liz French attacked the leadership of the TUC. 'In the fight to keep the pits open the women are solid,' she said. 'If there was a decent leadership we could win.'

A surprise speaker was her husband, Terry French, who had been let out of pris-

BY JOHN SIMMANCE

on for the weekend. He was welcomed with a standing ovation.

In an impromptu speech he said: 'it is a long time since I have spoken in public. Two years has taken a lot out of me.'

'I am angry. I have suffered, Liz has suffered. We fought very hard for our jobs.'

'The lads have been sacked, have been thrown out of their homes because they can't afford to pay their mortgages and because of their arrears.'

'We hate losing. We will follow this man Arthur (who was sitting next to him) again and again. We need your help to go forward and to fight.'

'The trade union movement must let us know that they back us.'

Dennis Pennington, a sacked Lancashire miner who won his case at an industrial tribunal for unfair

dismissal by the Coal Board, said that the campaign was originally launched as an amnesty campaign but this implied that the lads who were sacked did something wrong.

'The name was changed to "Justice Campaign" which is right because there's an injustice to me and hundreds of others.'

'The South Wales miners who were charged with the killing of a taxi driver were tried and judged before they went to court, while a policeman who killed a child in Britain goes free.'

Arthur Scargill spoke next and gave his support to Terry French and those miners fighting for their jobs. He

said they had the full backing of the union.

'We were asked to condemn violence in the miners strike just like Mandela is asked to condemn violence in South Africa.'

'We will not condemn our members who fight for their jobs and their industry.'

He then criticised Eric Clarke, saying there must be a massive campaign in the labour movement in the class struggle itself, and that calling for support from the

churches will not solve the problem.

'I'm telling you, the National Coal Board and government the only action is class action. The UDM was set up by the National Coal Board and government. We fought the whole system.'

'The practical things is to raise money to sustain these men. We must not rest until all the miners have their jobs back. As long as I am president we will fight to get the men out of jail and fight to get their jobs back.'

Dundee strikers plant 'a foot in the door'

WORKERS at the Meri-Mate bottling plant at Wester Gourdie, Dundee, returned to work last week after winning 'de facto' trade union recognition for the AEU and EETPU.

The 220 workers returned when a formula was signed by their boss, Ibrahim Okhai, allowing the two unions into the factory and dropping all charges against engineer George Foley, whose victimisation sparked off the action three weeks ago.

The strike became an all-

round challenge to anti-union tactics and poor working conditions.

The workers demanded that management, which had refused to recognise any union except the general workers' union GMBATU, deal with all unions.

'Time will tell as to whether management will really allow us to operate in this plant as we should be able to,' engineering union organiser John Kydd told Workers Press. 'But we have a foot in the door.'

Spanish farmworkers step up the fight

FARM WORKERS in southern Spain have stepped up their fight for jobs and union rights by taking over more than 20 town halls.

They took this action after hearing that union leader Diego Canamero had been sentenced to a month in jail and a £150 fine for 'trespassing'. A court turned down the union's appeal last month.

Canamero, only full-time officer in the struggling Andalusian Farmworkers' Union, SOC, led a deputation on to a landowner's property last January to present farm workers' demands.

Over 600 other union members are facing legal threats because they occupied

estates in their jobs fight against rich absentee landlords.

Canamero said last week it was shameful that under a 'socialist' government trade unionists were being jailed for fighting for work.

Trade unionists were plan-

ning a hunger strike outside the official residence of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

Most of the land in Andalusia is held in latifundia, big estates, and worked by landless labourers. Wages are low. Workers are hired day-to-day, and the work is seasonal.

The union fight is embarrassing for the Gonzalez government. The eruption of land struggle in Andalusia also has a historical significance, coming fifty years after the Spanish Civil War.

During that war desperate Andalusian peasants seized the big estates — a spontaneous action which neither the bourgeois Republic nor its Stalinist upholders were prepared to sanction.

● Messages of support and donations for the Andalusian farmworkers can be sent c/o CEDRI, BP42, 04300, Forcalquier, France.

A booklet, 'Land and Liberty — The Struggle of the Agricultural Workers of Andalusia' is available from the same address.

LISTINGS

ALTERNATIVE BOOKFAIR. New and secondhand books and pamphlets. Saturday September 20, 11 am — 5.30 pm. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

NON-STOP PICKET OF SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE. For the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners in South Africa. For sanctions against the racist South African government. Outside South Africa House in Trafalgar Square, London. Organised by City of London Anti-Apartheid.

EL SALVADOR SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN — PROTEST.

Saturday September 13, 12 noon, United States Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London.

EAST MIDLANDS JUSTICE FOR MINERWORKERS GALA.

Saturday September 6. Assemble 10.30am, Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Road, Mansfield, to march to West Notts College of F.E. Speakers Mick McGahey, Dennis Skinner, WAPC, SOGAT, and Justice.

'COURAGE ACROSS THE DIVIDE.' Special preview, Central TV documentary on Israelis and Palestinians.

Discussion with producer Victor Schonfield. Org. by Jewish Socialists' Group. Sunday, September 7, 7pm. Friends International Centre, Byng Place, off Torrington Place, WC1. (Goodge St. tube).

BENEFIT FOR THE FREE THE GUILDFORD FOUR CAMPAIGN.

Thursday September 25, 7.30pm. The William Morris Club, 267 The

Broadway, Wimbledon SW19. Featuring Leon Rosselson, Maria Tolly, Schooners Rig (Irish Traditional Music), SOGAT Singers (songs from Wapping). Compered by Patrick Cunnane (Ragged Trousered Cabaret). Plus a speaker from the Guildford Four Campaign. Tickets £3 (£1.50 concessions).

FREE THE GUILDFORD FOUR PICKET OF THE HOME OFFICE.

Monday October 6, 5pm-6pm. Outside

the Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1.

SOCIALIST ACTION: BUILDING AN ALLIANCE FOR SOCIALISM. Weekend November 22/23, in London, a major political event with speakers, debates and discussions. Details from PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM. Workshops and forums on the theme of an alternative

socialist strategy in Europe. October 17-19, Kingsway Princeton College, Sidmouth Street, London WC1. Details from Symposium, PO Box 503, London N1 1YH.

BROADWATER FARM DEFENCE CAMPAIGN. All supporters please attend a mass picket of the Old Bailey on September 15 at the trials of those arrested after the uprising of October 6 1985. Stop the frame up trials! Drop all charges now!

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME IS COERCION PROGRAMME

Two young workers forced onto MSC schemes talk to Workers Press

'YOU will not get another job after I've finished with you!' said the supervisor on a Community Programme in Crewe.

He was talking to Raymond Bickerton and Dave Curzon, two young workers who have been forced onto the hated MSC scheme.

They talked to Workers Press about life on a CP scheme.

RB: The MSC totally distort the truth in their advertisements about these so-called jobs.

The other week we got stopped 4 hours pay — about £12 — for missing half an hour's work.

They sacked one lad because they said he had already had a verbal warning.

DC: We played a game of cricket and ran over our lunch break. We had been working on an old railway track.

It was the end of the job. There was nothing left to do except dig an old ditch which had already been done several times.

RB: No one told us it was being stopped. We found out when we opened the wage packet.

The Supervisor told us later 'If I say four hours that is it, I can do what I want.'

He just phoned head office and they believed him.

WP: It was after this that you received the letter?

RB: Yes. I couldn't believe it.

The Supervisor admitted, when I showed him the letter, that the first paragraph was false.

I've only missed three times in six months, but what is the point of appealing? The whole lot will be on my records whatever I do.

He has a black book in which he writes everything down.

He sometimes writes all day, bad things about me and Dave, he then telephones it all to head office.

They could sack me any time after this warning.

The supervisor has already told us our references will be bad.

DC: What he does is what was written in the Workers Press the other week: 'report and inform on partici-

BY SUE GWYER

pants to the Job Centres and DHSS as well as the Department of Employment'.

WP: What other incidents have happened?

DC: Recently one of the gang nearly got killed.

They hired a roller for tarmacing. One guy was asked to drive it onto a lorry — it wasn't a low loader.

Planks of wood were used to make a ramp. I told the guy not to do it.

As the roller was going up the ramp one of the planks snapped, the roller tipped over and nearly killed the driver.

Adviser

The Welfare and Safety Adviser had been down but he doesn't make any difference.

Another time I had my name put into a book because I had the radio on.

He really gives it me.

But if we go down the road it's 13 weeks stoppage.

RB: We are supposed to be doing construction work but all we do is to stand in the middle of a pond and shift muck.

It's pointless. The supervisor makes it worse. We shouldn't have to take abuse off supervisors like him.

I don't mind working under a supervisor but this is going over the top.

He has also been making racist comments.

It's like a Paul Newman film with some guy in a uniform and dark glasses standing over you all the time.

WP: What is the background to the CP scheme?

DC: At the job centre in Crewe there are 60 jobs. The construction group has the largest number of unemployed.

We are working part of the construction workers scheme.



'We are supposed to be doing construction work but all we do is to stand in the middle of a pond and shift muck'

It's opposed by the T&GWU but UCATT sold out by helping with the Construction Industry Training Board. This was the YTS for builders.

As the book 'Challenging The MSC' said: 'The majority of CP projects involve "environmental landscaping, building, construction and decorating" according to an MSC survey.'

'The jobs are usually paid well below union rates and are frequently in poor conditions with inadequate and unskilled supervision doing work which could be done by a proper, permanent workforce'.

For instance, after working all morning shifting muck or breaking stones we do not have anywhere to wash.

We just eat our food with filthy hands.

The MSC organised a one day first-aid course at the start of the scheme.

The trade unions should demand one day to speak to all trainees about their rights and about joining the trade union.

The T&GWU have said



Reg Price (left); 'We shouldn't have to take abuse off supervisors like him'

something needs to be done but they haven't tried very hard to build branches.

We need a massive recruitment drive for the union on the schemes.

Taking part in the scheme

means you come out of the long term unemployment register.

There are 9 working on our scheme. It's hard to get unity because you never start at the same time.

There's always someone leaving and then a new bloke starting.

It is no different to the schemes in the 1920s and 30s.

Wal Hannington in his book 'Unemployed Struggles between 1919-1936' wrote, in relation to the second Labour Government of 1929: 'The term, "test and task work" relates to local schemes of work on which recipients of poor law relief are compelled to work on roads, parks, sewerage, wood-chipping, stone-breaking etc. in return for which they receive no recognised wages, but a scale of relief.'

You could be jailed for refusing such work at that time.

Today they stop you 13 weeks' money. What's the difference?

The T&GWU say in their paper every week that something must be done about these schemes.

They should actively back-up people like me and Ray.

● The books referred to in this article were: 'Challenging the MSC On Jobs, Education and Training', edited by Caroline Benn, and 'Unemployed Struggles 1919-36' by Wal Hannington, republished by Lawrence and Wishart.

Oil slump hits print jobs

BY BRIAN POWERS

A MASS meeting of over 200 SOGAT workers at Aberdeen Journals decided by an overwhelming majority to return to work last week.

The newspaper group was closed two weeks ago when workers walked out, but management have now been forced to back down in their attempt to throw out long-standing working agreements with SOGAT.

A report in the 'Glasgow Herald' last week quoted management denials of any attempt to

renege on working practices set out in agreement with the union. This has been vehemently opposed by the workers.

One SOGAT member told Workers Press: 'Don't believe any of that clap-trap. We know redundancies are on the cards here and the management could not wait in jumping the gun to try to destroy our conditions of work.'

'They wanted, among other things, to do away with long standing agreements with our union over such things as manning levels, without any con-

sultation with our members — but they've lost.'

An Aberdeen Journals advertisement salesman revealed there has been a huge loss of revenue at the firm as cut backs in the oil and oil-related industries bite at the local economy.

'My area takes in a lot of oil industry business and I can see in all of my years as an advertisement salesman, business has never been so bad. My sales are well down in the past three months and it looks like getting worse', he said.

It is certainly obvious

that it is not only the newspaper industry that is in trouble in the oil capital of Europe.

A part-government-funded survey of employment prospects in Aberdeen has now been prompted by the fall in oil prices and the Royal Bank of Scotland prediction of over 11,000 job losses in Aberdeen if there is any future drop in the price of oil.

● 170 NUJ members of the editorial staff are now out on strike protesting against further cost-cutting attempts by the directors.

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY
West of Scotland branch

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The tasks of the Fourth International, the degeneration of the International Committee and the 1971 split

Tuesday October 28, 7.30pm
McLellan Galleries
Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow

All welcome Admission 50p, unemployed 25p

Lessons of Liverpool

Part Four of a series
by Bill Hunter

IN 1985, the Liverpool council first joined with sixteen other councils in refusing to set a rate at all.

In June 1985, it dropped the 'no rate' policy and set a nine per cent rate — which meant an illegal deficit budget.

At one time the Militant would have set a rate of 20 per cent but was resisted by other left councillors and council shop stewards.

The council began the 1985-6 struggle with wide support in Liverpool, based on the deep going anti-Tory feeling in the city.

Even in September, when the council unions had been divided, and the leaders of the Labour Party were building up their witch-hunt, a television poll reported only 33 per cent of Liverpool voters condemning the council.

Another poll showed that over half of the population supported the council and more believed the Government should help Liverpool financially.

The criticism of Militant and the council came from a desire to fight the Tories and to find a way to struggle against the decay of capitalism at its sharpest in Liverpool.

The settlement of the previous year, which had been achieved at the expense of a joint struggle with the miners, was clearly shown to be only a temporary patch-up job.

Council leaders kept up the illusion of a great victory in 1984 by declaring that they were in a crisis in 1985 because Jenkins, the Tory Minister, had reneged on his promise.

In fact, the council had avoided the final confrontation in 1984 by manoeuvring and juggling the books.

They did nothing more than other councils had done.

In the severe financial crisis of a decaying Liverpool, however, that left them, in 1985-6, with no possibility but capitulation.

The general strike, on which Hatton had issued a proclamation in 1983 (see first article in this series) did not come off.

In the autumn of 1985, it had become a demand for

general strike of council workers.

The local Communist Party leaders, of both sections, and trade union national leaders were able to undermine it.

Of course, it is possible for councillors to say they were defeated by capitulatory forces within the Labour Movement.

But the council gave weapons into the hands of these forces.

The worst example was their manoeuvre over the redundancy of council workers.

This amazing proposition, and the confusion it caused, was itself a sign of the blind alley of municipal reformism.

The council was running out of money to pay wages so the council leaders decided to issue notices to the 31,000 employees.

Militant supporters declared this a legal manoeuvre.

Confrontation would be removed by a magical sleight of hand.

Workers would get redundancy money, the council would pay no wages for a few weeks, then re-employ workers and pay them from the cash saved! Presumably everybody would stand in amazement before this magic.

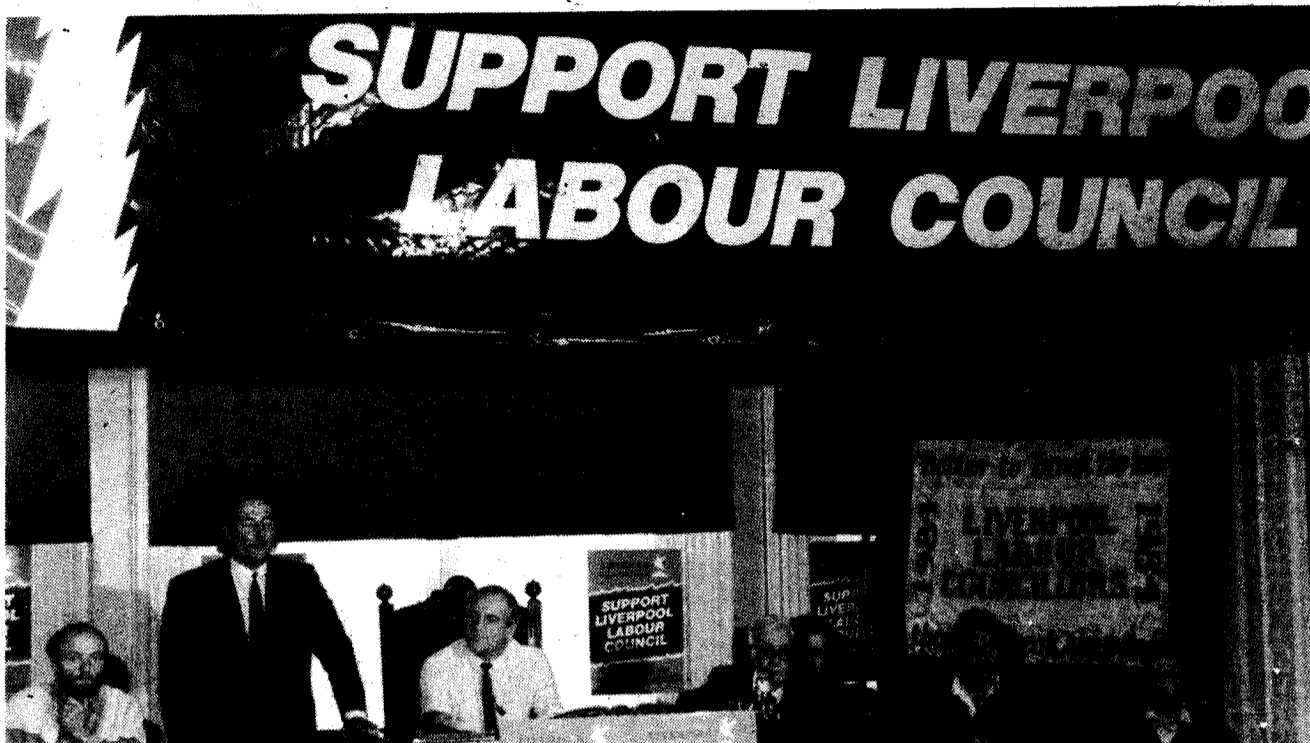
Government would pay redundancy payments, workers would perform emergency services and, at a bound, the council would be free!

The whole scheme collapsed in ignominy.

NALGO members refused to distribute the redundancy notices and members of the shop stewards committee gave out some, in hired taxis — Kinnock made great play of this at the Labour Party conference.

It must be said that those

1985: The chickens came home to roost



who thought up and operated this scheme were far removed from the thoughts and feelings of council workers in Liverpool.

Redundancy, as an option, had been mooted by paid council officials.

Militant supporters evidently thought that the workers could be taken through such a manoeuvre by the power of rhetoric.

For the mass of council workers, the redundancy meant an immediate shock, a big overturn in their lives, and a profound worry for the future.

They were supposed to be soothed by council promises.

Here you have, in this 'legal manoeuvre' the central point being made in these articles.

The Militant supporters were not dominated by the question of moving workers and their communities.

For them the centre of the stage was held by themselves and by municipal politics, with workers conducted in, 'noises off' from time to time.

The manoeuvre collapsed. The council withdrew the redundancy notices.

Even the 'Militant' was

forced to make a criticism of the 'mistake'.

There followed last November a concerted effort from Government, the labour and trade union bureaucracy and Tribunites in other councils to force the Liverpool council to make a legal budget.

Trade union leaders concentrated on breaking up the movement to a council workers' strike against any cuts in jobs or services and in defence of councillors now under legal attack.

An emergency committee of government ministers prepared the legal necessities for putting in commissioners to run the city.

The campaign of the leaders succeeded in hammering through a vote against strike action, although a large minority of workers voted for strike action.

The politics of Militant councillors and other council leaders collapsed.

On the morning of November 22, the joint shop stewards committee voted for the council to seek a settlement.

The District Labour Party that evening voted for a legal budget.

The council had capitulated on its main reformist plank.

It had agreed to release money set aside for house building, to cover wages.

They had agreed to 'capitalisation' — the use of their capital funds to pay for their current spending.

Thus their central policies of propaganda — that they would not give up their house building programme, that the government must pay back money it owed to Liverpool and that they would not place the burden on this and future generations of Liverpool workers — all this was shattered.

Now, not only was its house building programme endangered, not only did the council accept at least three million pounds in cuts, but it then placed the burdens on the Liverpool population of paying back the international bankers.

A Swiss bank made a financial deal with the council for £30 million.

However, and this cannot be overstressed, the loan had already been negotiated in August.

The loan was held up because the Swiss bank deman-

Liverpool City Councillors Tony Byrne, Derek Hatton (standing), Tony Mulhearn and John Hamilton

ded unusual conditions — that the council set a legal budget the following year and that the agreement with the bank be endorsed by Kenneth Baker, the Tory environmental secretary.

So what was the struggle in August, September and November all about? Shop stewards, trade union members, rank and file of the Labour Party and a number of councillors thought it was to force the government to help Liverpool.

But, in fact, it was in the confines of forcing the dropping of conditions on a loan!

What we had there, right at the closing stages of the whole experience of Liverpool over three years, was the complete inadequacy of the leadership given by Militant.

The council tactics appeared inept and farcical because they amounted to nothing but manoeuvres in a situation where manoeuvres could produce nothing.

Reformist municipal policies remained the axis of Militant practice.

Loyalists' victim buried

THE FUNERAL of Paddy McAllister, the black-taxi driver who was murdered by Loyalist assassins in Belfast ten days ago, was attended by over 500 family, relatives, friends and workmates.

The cortege, led by six taxis, was followed by all 300 black-taxi drivers who mourned the loss of their colleague.

The black taxis are an integral, important part of life in Belfast.

Introduced by the nationalist community to replace buses which had been burnt out in the early seventies, they cruise up and down the main streets, picking up and dropping passengers as they go, providing a cheap and efficient transport service.



Their existence is a tribute to the resourcefulness of a community in struggle.

The day of the funeral, it was reported in a nationalist paper in Belfast that the RUC had been alerted to the existence of a loyalist murder gang in the Village area (which borders St. James, where Paddy McAllister was murdered), a fortnight before the shooting.

A local lorry-driver told the Andersontown News that he had halted all deliveries to the Village area after receiving reports that a loyalist gang in the Donegal Road/Village area had been inquiring about the religion of his delivery men.

This information was passed on to the RUC a full fortnight before the assassination of Paddy McAllister.

The lorry driver stated: 'It is quite obvious that the loyalist paramilitaries were looking for an assassination victim in the Village. When this plan was thwarted it appears they then decided to strike in the vulnerable St. James area.'

Many of the nationalist community feel that this

shows a lack of determination by the RUC to prevent the sectarian murders of Catholics.

These fears were strengthened when, after the police had left the house where Paddy was shot, a cartridge was found.

There is strong feeling that the RUC were just going through the motions.

Defend Sri Lankan Trotskyists

TRADE unionists and working class organisations are asked to protest to the Sri Lankan High Commission against the jail threat to three leaders of the Sri Lankan Trotskyist Revolutionary Communist League.

Wije Dias, B Perera and R Perera were arrested on June 26. They have been released on bail after an international campaign of protest, but still face charges under the Jayawardene regime's emergency powers.

The RCP, the Sri Lankan section of the International Committee of the Fourth International, has supported the Tamil struggle for self-determination.

Letters demanding that the charges are dropped should be sent to the High Commission for Sri Lanka, 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London W2.

WEAPONS OF REPRESSION

What price justice in the North?

PART TWO OF A SERIES
BY A REPORTER IN BELFAST

INDIFFERENCE in Britain to the continuing use of rubber — now plastic — bullets in the six counties is, as we said in last week's article, not accidental.

They are portrayed as a means of 'control' — a method of containing 'civil unrest' which avoids the use of live ammunition; a 'safe' alternative for a neutral 'peacekeeping' force.

This is not the case. As the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets has stressed, they are weapons of repression, designed to cow the population and isolate militants from the broader community. Their victims are almost invariably the innocent, the young, the bystander.

This week's instalment of our series is an interview with Emma Groves, blinded by a rubber bullet in 1971. She has since been a tireless campaigner against their use.

EMMA GROVES was woken up in the early hours of the morning of the November 4, 1971 by a British army raid.

A neighbour had been taken by the soldiers and Emma went to help his wife and young children who were very distressed.

When Emma returned to her own house, paratroopers arrived and put everybody under house arrest.

A soldier was positioned at each door and no-one could go in or out of any of the houses except the military who continued arresting young men and boys.

Emma told me: 'It was all very terrifying and very frustrating. We had never been under house arrest before so we didn't know what to expect.

'We were all looking out of our windows at the young men and boys being taken away, some of them had just pulled on a shirt and trousers and were still in their bare feet.

'You didn't know whether to scream or cry.

'I'm the mother of eleven children. At that time they were still very young, we were all sitting in the living room feeling very helpless and so I said to one of my daughters to put a record on to boost up our morale.

'The record was only playing minutes when a paratrooper stepped right in front of my window and fired directly into my face.'

Emma had been hit in the face by a rubber bullet which damaged both her eyes. She would never see again.

'She said, 'It's a terrible, terrible shock to find that you'll never see again, that you'll never see your children again and never be able to go out and do your own shopping.'

The shock sent Emma into a deep depression.

'When I got home from the hospital, I just laid in my bedroom, I didn't want to live.

'That went on for a long time and then it occurred to me that I would have to come to terms with it, the children were crying all the time and my husband was lost and nobody seemed to be able to get on with their lives because I was blind and couldn't cope with life.

'So for the sake of my family I decided to come to

terms with it.'

From then Emma gradually got better. She taught herself to get about, and, with a lot of help from her family and friends, she learnt to cope with her injury and to resume her life.

Aware of the terrible injustice that had been done to her, Emma wanted to take legal action against her attacker.

'It's a terrible tragedy not to be able to open your own door and walk out at any time — and it's made worse by the fact that it was done deliberately and no-one had to account for it.

'If it had been an ordinary accident, a car accident or something where you feel there's nothing can be done about it, then you have just to live with that.

'But when you know that someone deliberately fired a bullet and shoots you and you lose two eyes, it adds to the tragedy.

'There were a lot of eyewitnesses who saw that soldier walk right in front of my window and aim inside it.

'His commanding officer must know who that soldier was, all of his mates must know who he was, it was the only bullet fired that morning.

'But I still don't even know who he was and I have tried very hard to get him brought to justice, but I couldn't.

'There was no threat to the army that morning at all, there was no need to fire a bullet at me, I don't even know why he did it, I can only assume it must have been because I had a record playing.

'The authorities did admit guilt because they awarded me compensation, but the day it was awarded I was broken-hearted.

'I had been a very happy housewife, I had my children to rear and a husband who was able to provide for our needs.

'I didn't need money, but I did need my eyes.

'I felt it was another injustice that they would offer me money but not prosecute the man who blinded me.'

Once Emma resumed her life, she became very concerned about the continued use of impact weapons.

The rubber bullet had been replaced by the plastic bullet which is even more dangerous and more lethal.

Emma became a tireless campaigner against the use of the plastic bullet.

She went to America in 1982, after the hunger strikes, on a speaking tour, which specifically focused on the use of plastic and rubber bullets.

During this trip, Emma and some of her supporters picketed a 'shareholders' meeting of the company who were at that time manufacturing plastic bullets, explaining to the shareholders the way the bullets were being used.

As far as she knows, the company has now stopped manufacture, which has been moved to the Brock's Fireworks factory in Scotland.

After the death of John Downes in 1984, Emma was instrumental in setting up the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets.

She felt that a continuous campaign was needed to educate people in both Ireland and in England about the use of plastic bullets and also to organise to have them banned.

Emma believes that if the people of Britain knew the facts they would join in the campaign.

'It's usually innocent people who are hit,' she said.

'I don't think people realise how little justice there is in Northern Ireland.

'When you've been injured or had someone killed here, you try to get justice, but you're just an individual trying to get justice and there isn't any justice in Northern Ireland, especially if you're dealing with the security forces.

'I don't think people realise that they can do what they like here, they don't have to account for anything, they can shoot into your living room, they can come into your living room they can raid your house and



CHILDREN of Belfast — Its always the innocent who get hit, says Emma Groves

pull your family out of bed and arrest them.

'I've always felt that if the ordinary man and woman in the street in England were aware of what's going on in the Northern Ireland in their name and in the name of justice, they wouldn't allow it.

'But the media is controlled by the Government so the British public are not aware of just what's going on.

That's one of the reasons why our Campaign feel its necessary to travel to England because, unless we go to them personally and tell them the facts, they are not being told the truth.'

I believe Emma is right when she says that the ordinary people in Britain have no idea of the horrors of life in Northern Ireland at the hands of the British Government.

But the labour movement itself must take some responsibility for this.

They have been aware of the British occupation here for eighteen years now and have done very little to stop it.

They have refused to search-out and publicise the

truth of what is happening here.

The labour leaders have no excuse, they know from their own experiences how the media distorts and lies.

But all too often it has been all too easy to hide behind media lies and hype about the terror of the IRA.

Who is more innocent than a housewife attending the affairs of her own family in her own living room?

Where are the tears for her tragedy?

It is well past time this complacency stopped. It is time we turned our attention in a real way to mobilising against the imperialist occupation of Northern Ireland.

We must forge a campaign which will leave no-one in doubt about the terror and carnage that the British army perpetrates on the nationalist communities here and why it is necessary for the IRA to take up arms and fight for a free and united Ireland.

It is not enough to merely have a 'Troops Out' policy on our books and to attend the occasional rally.

We must focus our forces on a campaign which builds

support as it develops.

To do this we must raise the details of what occupation means here and not just mouth empty phrases about its end.

As part of this process we must support the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets and make sure that the British working class are fully aware of how these weapons are being used.

The first aim of the Campaign is to have the use of plastic bullets banned.

Two pickets have been held outside the Brocks factory where the bullets are manufactured.

British trade unionists must follow this lead, and mobilise against the manufacture of these weapons.

In the short-term we should also call for a boycott of the fireworks manufactured by Brocks, by individuals and by local councils etc.

As Emma Groves says, 'While British children delight in the miracles of Brocks fireworks, Irish children are being killed by Brocks plastic bullets.'

FREE THE GUILDFORD FOUR!

The Labour Party has a responsibility to the Guildford Four

Manchester meeting supports the campaign



Some of the two thousand marchers listen to Liz Hill after marching through Glasgow recently in support of the Guildford Four.

'I AM PROUD to be sharing a platform with Liz Hill, the sister of one of the innocent prisoners,' Councillor Ken Stratton told a meeting in Manchester last week.

Attended by over 50 people, the meeting was called by the Manchester Irish Solidarity Committee (MISC) to launch the campaign to free the Guildford Four in Manchester.

Stratton sat on the Manchester Police Committee which sent Deputy Chief Constable John Stalker back to work two weeks ago.

The magistrates refused to refer the Stalker case to a tribunal, said Stratton.

One magistrate openly stated that this was because of the 'lies which had been told during tribunals in the past'.

He said that the Labour Party has a responsibility to the Guildford Four.

'We have a responsibility to put pressure on those on the front bench of the Labour Party who have remained silent and let four innocent people rot in jail for 12 years.'

He said some MPs do not want to become involved in this case, not because they are not convinced of their innocence, but because they are afraid that they might offend somebody and find themselves without a job.

'It is not enough to say that we can wait for the election of a Labour government while innocent people are rotting in jail,' said Stratton.

'As an individual, as a local politician and as a family man I will be campaigning along with others until we achieve the release of the Guildford Four.'

Stuart Carter, a member of the Workers Revolutionary Party and MISC, quoted Paul Hill: 'Irish prisoners are in British prisons because British troops are on Irish soil.'

'If this is not political then what is?'

'The Guildford Four,' he said, 'are being held hostage in this war.'

'They are in jail for something they did not do.'

'They are being kept there

BY PHIL PENN

because it is now too costly for the government to admit that the police and judges are liars, that torture, frame-ups and manipulation of evidence are all involved.

'I am not Irish,' said Carter 'but as a socialist I believe that the British working class will only have a future if the British ruling class is overthrown.'

'Therefore a victory for the national liberation forces in Ireland would be a severe blow to the strategic and economic interests of the British ruling class.'

'A victory for the Guildford Four would be a big blow to the police, judges and government.'

'While freeing four people who have been wrongly imprisoned it would show the state in its true light as an instrument of repression.'

Maggie Mellon, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Group, one of the organisations which has raised the case of the Guildford Four in the past, welcomed the campaign.

'Now at last after twelve years,' she said 'we have the opportunity to build up enough pressure on the Home office and the government to release the Four and acknowledge one of the most disgusting injustices perpetrated this century.'

'We must unite to fight for the release of the Guildford Four.'

'We cannot wait for the election of a Labour Government or for Labour MPs to move just because they have seen a programme or read a book on the case.'

She emphasised the need to build a strong campaign in every area which will pre-

vent the government from weathering the storm created by the publicity that this case has attracted.

'While Paul Hill, Paddy Armstrong, Carole Richardson and Gerard Conlon remain in prison we are all so much the weaker.'

Liz Hill explained that the Guildford Four were found guilty of the Guildford and Woolwich bombings on confessions alone, with no forensic, no visual and no identification evidence.

'The police obtained these confessions through beatings, threats to the families, deprivation of food and lack of sleep.'

'The Home Secretary has called an internal review of the case,' she said 'but we are demanding a public enquiry.'

'We must keep up the pressure for this because an internal review will only end up as another white wash.'

Liz announced that Paul has been transferred from Hull prison to Wormwood Scrubs.

This has been welcomed by the family because Paul was beaten after the Hull prison riot.

It also eases the difficulty and expense involved during visits.

The move is a result of the pressure building up on the authorities due to the behind the scenes lobbying, the publicity and the growing public campaign for the release of the innocent prisoners.

'As Paul's sister I would ask you not to go home and forget about this meeting,' she said.

'We now have a growing campaign, and we need your support.'

The meeting ended with agreement that the campaign in Manchester would get under way.

A resolution was passed calling for the early release of the Four and a public enquiry.

The resolution was to be sent to Labour MPs and Councillors.

The IRA makes it clear...

IRA ATTACKS on building contractors and others collaborating with the British security forces have been condemned by the Tory government, Catholic church, Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and trade union officials.

Those collaborating with the army 'are part of the war machine and those who assist in any way will be treated as part of that war machine and therefore must expect to suffer the consequences,' said an IRA statement on August 5th.

The statement was issued to 'clarify our position once and for all', as to 'exactly who shall be regarded as legitimate targets regarding the administration, maintenance and building of British army, UDR and RUC barracks and all military installations.' It listed:

'Building contractors who are engaged in either construction or repair' and included under this heading particular warnings to a Carrickfergus firm which has been engaged in the construction of an RUC barracks at Larne and agents who were recruiting building labour for the Northern Ireland Office;

Those 'who are engaged in maintaining British army, UDR and RUC barracks and all military installations', including British Telecom and Standard Telephones who install and maintain computers and decoding machines for British intelligence services;

Those in the civil service, fuel contractors, caterers and food contractors (this includes those who tender for bread and milk contracts etc), transport (i.e. shipping companies and the bus companies who ferry British soldiers and UDR men back and forth from Britain to the occupied six counties), cleaning contractors, those who supply and maintain vending machines and anyone else who takes on Ministry of Defence and/or NIO contracts in these installations.

The statement continued: 'We repeat: there will be no further warnings.'

'Anyone withdrawing their services from these places should do so publicly.'

'Trade unions should recognise the dangers that their members face by being employed in military installations and should advise their members to seek alternative sites of employment.'

Those who continue to refuse to take heed of this warning are in effect collaborating with our enemies and shall be treated as our enemies.'

The IRA operations against collaborators are an integral part of a guerrilla war strategy and went hand in hand with the campaign of attacks on police and army bases in the six counties, stated an article in 'Republican News' by Eamon Tracy (August 7th edition).

'An integral and vital aspect of this British effort to defend its interests in and control of, the occupied North, has therefore been a heavy financial investment in the building of new barracks and the replacement or renovation of those bombed by the IRA,' he wrote.

In particular, after the devastating IRA mortar attack on Newry Barracks in February 1985, which killed nine RUC men, the British government 'gave the police authority D200 million to improve the security of the forts and barracks.'

The article detailed the IRA's attempts to stop firms taking money to build or rebuild army or police bases:

Work on an RUC base at Lisnagelvin ground to a halt in June 1985 after a warning from the IRA's Derry brigade.

Tyrone contractor Seamus McAvooy was executed by the IRA for providing Rowan cabins and building materials to barracks and military border posts, following which a statement was issued pointing out that 'within such bases, nationalist people have been beaten and tortured'.

In November 1985 the manager of a private catering company servicing RUC barracks was killed by the IRA, which then issued a statement, warning specific companies and saying: 'our Volunteers have been

directed to take action against the owners, boards of directors and senior management of these companies unless they desist from their activities within the next seven days.'

In December actions against the bases were intensified, with seven being bombed, some totally demolished.

Actions this summer included:

A statement issued on June 6th that members of the RUC Police Authority, which finances and arms the RUC, would be classified as 'legitimate targets'.

The execution of Terence McKeeever, an electrical and mechanical engineering contractor from Armagh whose firm did extensive work on army barracks;

The execution of David Kyle, whose firm supplied building sites for barracks and army installations.

On Monday August 25 the IRA denied involvement in a threat to firemen in Newry.

An anonymous telephone caller had threatened them because of their association with the security forces, but a statement immediately issued by the IRA's South Down brigade disclaimed any responsibility.

Last Thursday, August 28, an electrician, Mervyn Bell was killed in Derry.

The British capitalist press reported that the IRA had taken responsibility, saying he had ignored warnings not to do work at a UDR base.

There were also reports that the Irish National Liberation Army, who bombed a series of police stations and targets in Belfast city centre on Friday, stated that it had joined the IRA in threatening firms and individuals who collaborated with the security forces.

Pro-British trade union officials in the six counties and the SDLP, have attacked the IRA for 'interfering with people's right to work'.

It must be said in answer to this that the tactic of threatening and executing collaborators is hardly new: it has been employed in a variety of armed struggles against occupying forces, from the anti-Nazi resistance in the second world war to Vietnam or present-day South Africa.



Manchester Councillor, Ken Stratton, Liz Hill, Sister of Paul Hill and Stuart Carter, addressing the meeting which launched the campaign in Manchester.

STALINISM I

OUR SECOND interview in the series 'Stalinism in Crisis' is with PETER FRYER, who, as correspondent for the Daily Worker, was in Hungary when the revolution erupted in 1956.

As he outlines, Peter left the Communist Party as a result of his experiences and later became a member of the Trotskyist movement. In this, the first of two parts, he discusses the background to the Hungarian events, what he actually saw in Hungary and the attempts of the Daily Worker to suppress the story. Next week, he outlines the unfolding of the crisis in the British Communist Party.

Peter Fryer, in collaboration with Gerry Healy, founded The Newsletter, a weekly paper, in 1957, and edited Labour Review. In 1959, anxieties over Healy's corrupt methods of leadership led him to break with the organisation. His 'Open Letter to members of the Socialist Labour League and other Marxists', explaining his reasons for leaving, was suppressed by Healy.

Apart from his own account of the Hungarian uprising (Hungarian Tragedy — see advertisement below), he has written several books, of which the best known is probably 'Staying Power — The History of Black People in Britain' (Pluto Press, £9.95), the first comprehensive history of its kind.

For recreation, Peter studies African influences in the traditional music of the New World.



Imre Nagy addresses Parliament during his first premiership, flanked by Rakosi (to his right) and Gerö (to his left)

PERHAPS you could start by telling us how you became a socialist and how you joined the Communist Party.

I WAS born in Hull in 1927. My father was a master mariner who couldn't get a job in the 1929-1932 strike.

Mosley (leader of the Fascists at the time) appealed to him as somebody who could lead people.

I can remember my father coming home in a black shirt. I can remember the fight on the corporation field.

The blackshirts took off their belts and marched into the crowd.

There were about 15 people in the CP in Hull at the time and they went round with a megaphone shouting: 'All out against Mosley!'

There was a big fight. I was brought up in that sort of milieu and I reacted very sharply against my father and I began to read.

I got a scholarship to a place called Hyners College; that was in 1938. When I was 12 or 13 I joined the local library and read everything I could lay my hands on.

I considered myself an anarchist for about a year then came across the orange volumes of Lenin in 1942.

I had been very impressed by the fight of the Red Army.

I was one of those recruits (to the Communist Party) who came not so much on the basis of convinced socialism — that came a bit later — but admiration for the Red Army. I was a patriot of the Soviet Union.

I joined the YCL in Hull in 1942 when I was 15. I saw a card in the local library and joined; by that time I had read volumes 2 and 3 of Lenin's Selected Works and thought I knew everything.

I actually joined the Party as such about three years later.

I was working on the Yorkshire Post — I had joined as a junior reporter after leaving school at 16 — and carried a red flag on a May Day march.

A 'friend' of the family saw me and wrote to the editor. I wrote to him that this was a youthful indiscretion and that I wouldn't engage in political activities any more.

He wrote back saying that political activities were one thing but demanded an undertaking I give up the Communist Party.

I said: no way could I possibly do this — I would sooner give up the job. So he sacked me.

THEN you got a job on the Daily Worker?

AFTER about six months of doing various jobs in Hull, the Daily Worker (Communist Party daily) advertised for a job as reporter.

I went to London, was interviewed by Bill Rust and he gave me the job. I started in 1948.

For about a year and a half I did general reporting and then they made me Parliamentary correspondent.

I used to sit in the Press Gallery listening to Bevan and Churchill and all that lot.

Then various foreign assignments: youth festivals in Budapest in 1949, in East Berlin in 1951 and of course the Rajk Trial which I covered with Derek Kartun who was Foreign Editor of the Worker.

Kartun was mentioned at the Slansky Trial, after which he quietly dropped out of activity to avoid embarrassment.

I WAS going to ask you about events prior to 1956; the 'Doctors Plot', the Slansky Trial and so on. Did they make any impression on you at the time?

NOTHING made an impression before 1955. Until 1955 I swallowed everything.

You see, every time there was something like this someone would come from King Street — it might be Gollan.

The political level on the Worker was not terribly high.

In 1955 my doubts and difficulties began — we used to call them 'doubts and difficulties'.

What really started me wondering was the rehabilitation of Tito.

You remember in 1955 Khrushchev and Bulganin went to Belgrade and got drunk with Tito and then suddenly Tito — this fascist bastard who'd been behind all these plots — was suddenly *persona grata* again.

This led me to start reading. You had Klugman who had written 'From Trotsky to Tito'.

Since it was me who'd covered the Trial I started wondering: what is all this? I noticed things like Stalin's name was appearing less and less often in CPSU statements.

We are now in 1955. By the February of 1956, when the (Khrushchev) Speech was first reported (in the Manchester Guardian) I was psychologically prepared for this.

Some people on the Worker weren't as well prepared. There was a great ferment of questioning, particularly when the Observer ran the full report of it.

The Old Guard like Walter Holmes, who did the Workers Notebook — we used to call him Commissar Blimp — said this is all concocted in Stuttgart; this is all CIA stuff.

He just wouldn't believe it. A whole lot of us started asking a whole lot of questions.

THE RAJK TRIAL had a big impact on you. Could you tell us something about this?

THE TRIAL was in 1949.

Laslo Rajk joined the Party in the early thirties.

He was in the International Brigade in Spain — a member of the Hungarian Battalion.

He was a stalwart of the anti-Nazi resistance in Hungary. He was well liked and popular amongst workers.

He had been Minister of the Interior until a little time before his trial and then I think he was made Foreign Minister just a few months before his trial.

It was clear that he was the fall guy. Stalin didn't care who he was.

He wanted someone, preferably a 'national' communist, someone who had been in Hungary during the war and not like Rakosi, who had been in Moscow.

He wanted somebody so that he could do a job on Tito. He was accused in 1949.

I had been at the World Youth Festival and I saw the headlines in the Paris evening papers on my way back from Budapest.

The accusation against Rajk was that he had plotted to overthrow the Peoples Democracy, to restore capitalism and assassinate Rakosi. He confessed. I reported the Trial.

In actual fact he was tortured for seven weeks and he wouldn't agree. Kardar, his best friend, went to see him in prison and said:

'I come to you from Cde Rakosi. You would have been prepared to lay down your life for the Party at any time these past years.

'We are now asking for the act of supreme devotion from you, to confess, for the Party needs this confession and you won't be executed; you will be sent to the Black Sea and you can start your life under a new name.'

There was a tape recording of this which was played during 1956 at one of the CC meetings and they left off the beginning: I come to you from cde Rakosi.

There was such an outcry in the CC. Rajk confessed and was in fact executed.

His wife, Julia, was made to witness the execution; she was in a cell over the yard where she had witnessed 50 executions in that month.

Her son was taken away and brought up under

another name to hate his father.

The Slansky Trial was much the same as the Rajk Trial but there was a big emphasis on Zionism. There was a lot of very odd stuff in this trial.

This was why a full report was perhaps never published. It was also synchronous with the 'Doctors Plot'.

A whole number of Jewish doctors in Russia were accused of trying to murder leading Party members.

I BELIEVE you went to Hungary in the summer of 1956?

YES, I spent a month in Hungary in the middle of that year. I got there sometime in July.

I was told that I had arrived in the middle of a delicate political situation and that big political changes were imminent.

Two days after I arrived, Rakosi was replaced by Gero and everybody said: 'This is a compromise. If they had any sense they would put in Imre Nagy.'

Nagy was the only Party leader that people really had any confidence in.

There had been a new course from 1954, I think, and for at least a year he had been Prime Minister.

Then the Russians had thrown him out and put Rakosi back.

He also had a lot of confidence among the peasants and was the architect of land reform in 1945-46.

So he was the one Party leader with clean hands. The Party had lost all support. It would have got some 15 per cent of the vote in a free election.

When I came back to London I told everybody at the Worker and said they are sitting on a volcano.

HOW WAS the Hungarian state established after the war?

THE PARTY was very weak when the Russians chased the Germans out.

Rakosi explained how it was done in a speech which has been known since as the 'Salami Speech'.

He said: 'We couldn't declare a dictatorship of the proletariat straight away' — by which he meant a dictatorship of the Party.

'So what we did was to get our people in the key posi-

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HUNGARIAN TRAGEDY

PETER FRYER



The Hungarian revolution of 1956 and its brutal suppression by Russian tanks was a watershed in the history of socialism.

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NC CRISIS

The challenge for the Trotskyist movement



A security policeman responsible for the massacre tried to escape his captors by jumping out of the window — but was caught by the crowd and trampled to death



Mourners at a mass burial of the dead after the massacre at Magyaróvár

tions with the help of the Soviet comrades.

'We got the Home Office, the Security apparatus. What we then did was to slice off the opposition slice after slice, as in salami.'

It was a revolution from above. But there was also a process which we might call the process of carrying out delayed democratic reforms.

There was a lot of reconstruction and repair of war damage. The Communists got a lot of credit for this.

Gero was called the Bridge Builder for putting bridges across the Danube when they came in. The workers of Budapest were quite pro-CP then.

They nationalised the property of those who had collaborated with the Nazis and the banks. May Day of 1948 had people dancing in the streets.

The workers were having holidays in the castles of the old aristocracy.

That it was a revolution from above cannot be denied. For the one thing they did not do was to draw the workers into the administration.

There were a number of parties: the National Peasants Party, the Small Owners Party, the Party of the Middle Peasants; there was the Social Democratic Party which was swallowed by the CP.

ANY OTHER matters between February and the actual uprising we should know about?

AROUND the beginning of October you had an event in Hungary: the reburial of Rajk.

His bones were dug up and he was reburied with full military honours. His burial was attended by 200,000 people.

Now the population of Budapest could hardly have been a quarter of a million. Julia Rajk was there.

They called Rajk 'Our Martyr' and the people were saying openly: this isn't enough, the murderers are still up there.

This was three weeks before the revolution.

And the Worker spiked it. Not a dicky bird about that. I went to Campbell — the editor then — and said:

'This is the end for me; I

must leave the paper and I must give you notice.'

'I had hoped there would be a more independent stance but it's obviously not going to happen.'

Campbell said that he was a revolutionary socialist before there was a Communist Party in this country.

'I was in Russia in 1938 and 1939.

'I knew a lot of people were in prison. I knew perfectly well what was going on. What could I do? The war was coming.

'There were two sides in that war: it was us or them. If you think now that I'm going to oppose the Soviet Union, which is our state, you think wrong.

'With me the Soviet Union is first, second and third.'

I told him I had to go. He said that I must give a year's notice. So I said that was okay but at the end of the year I would not change my mind.

He asked me to stay a year because it was a question of replacement. And also he probably thought that in a year things might happen and he'd probably be able to change my mind.

YOU WERE sent to Hungary by the Daily Worker. Can you describe what happened?

THE WORKER sent me, saying: 'Nobody is better qualified than Peter Fryer'. It broke out on Tuesday the 23rd of October.

I went with £12 in my pocket thinking that I was going to get a car at the border and that I would be helped at the Legation in Vienna.

In fact I had a hell of a job getting to Budapest. The main thing was I got to the border. I got a lift to Magyaróvár.

I think that was on the Friday or Saturday: it was there that I saw the bodies of the people who had been shot.

Then I saw the security policeman who had given the order for the massacre, I saw him lynched.

When I got over the border I saw all sorts of things happening: soldiers cutting the badge out of the flag and a guy with a nail file chipping the red flag off the mosaic.

The soldiers had taken the red stars off their hats.

I said: 'I'm from the Daily

Worker in London' and they knew I was a communist journalist.

They gave me coffee and said there was a revolution on. I'd been an honoured guest a few months before: cars everywhere and every mod. con.

I expected the same privileges. I was very naive to expect it but there you are. So what I did was I got a lift from a journalist going to Magyaróvár.

You know a pit village, a disaster; everybody is hanging around in front of the pithead.

The atmosphere you could have cut with a knife.

The people took us first to the National Committee as they called it. This was in permanent session.

It was a Soviet, a Workers Council. There were communists on it and old socialists.

They wanted to talk to foreign journalists. I got a lot of it through the Germans — everybody can speak German in Hungary.

The most important thing was to go to the cemetery and see the bodies.

There were the bodies of 80 people. What had happened was that hundreds of people, unarmed, marched on the HQ of the security police, demanding that the red star be taken down.

This is because they saw it as a symbol of Russian occupation. The security police had machine gunned that crowd.

Eighty were killed. I saw dry blood on the clothing, including a baby of eighteen months. I'd never seen a corpse in my life.

You can imagine the impact this had; it was an absolutely hellish experience.

I was 29 and really rather wet behind the ears. What the NC people said was that it had been eight years of hell.

You think it's a Peoples Democracy: they've just done what they like to us.

This was a revelation: we had said this is Peoples Democracy, a new life.

Anyway, the next thing we had to go to the hospital. In the hospital was JS; they had beaten him up and he had run away and got into the hospital. One of the others had been killed.

A delegation went from the

NC saying they wanted to deal summary justice to JS.

There was a bloody big fence around the hospital. People were shaking it and screaming for him. This was a real body blow for me.

The doctor said they'll wreck the hospital and for the safety of the other patients I'll have to give in. So two men with a stretcher came in.

He was as close to me as you are now. He knew what was going to happen. He was a man in tremendous fear.

The gates burst open and this crowd poured in and they trampled him and they hanged him upside down from a tree outside.

I wrote about this and The Worker didn't use a word of it.

HOW MANY despatches did you send over to London?

THERE WERE a lot of phoning difficulties. I sent only three and of those only part of one, the second one, was used.

When I got to Budapest I knew they hadn't used the first one. I boxed clever and interviewed Charlie Coutts.

He was English editor of World Youth. He had been there three years and when I met him in the middle of that week he was livid.

He was going to come back and tear King Street brick from brick.

So all I did in the second despatch was to put in an intro of my own and gave a straight interview with

Coutts. The Worker claimed it had been given normal editing and subbing.

In fact they cut out all the real stuff. Everything that gave the impression that this was a working class rebellion was cut out. All sorts of subtle changes.

That week everybody thought there was going to be a resumption of work. The shops had opened on Saturday, transport was beginning to run again, everybody was geared up for a complete resumption of work on Monday.

I went to a press conference on Saturday night. The Worker said to find one leading member of the CP and interview him.

But a few hours later the Russians came: the bombardment started.

The Russians intervened on the morning of Sunday the 4th.

They had been bringing their troops in. Nobody could believe there had been troop movements.

They bombarded the city for 48 hours, pretty heavy, and then they moved in and took it block by block.

There was guerilla resistance block by block; very heroic. It went on for months in the form of a general strike.

What happened to me? I was with Basil Davidson — I think Basil was signing for the Herald — and other British journalists in the Danube Hotel and we had a meeting.

We decided that as a corps we would go to the British

Legation, (a) because the city was under bombardment: a live journalist is better than a dead one, and (b) we would have the chance to do a pooler — a pooled despatch.

In fact we stayed there two nights and by the Tuesday we were able to go on the streets.

I got stuck from the CP for going to the Legation. Unita (Italian Communist Party daily) attacked me for crawling to the British Legation.

In fact where could I have gone? That was it, in fact the British Minister there, Mr Fry, was so upset on that Sunday night: (we had a meeting of everybody there) he said we have a representative here of that dreadful paper the Daily Worker.

Davidson had to stop me physically from leaving the building.

You can imagine how I felt at that stage. We stayed there till about the 10th. The Americans had organised a convoy and I had a seat in one of the cars.

The driver didn't want a communist journalist sitting in his car. I stuck to my guns.

When we got to Vienna I filed from my hotel in Vienna and rang my then wife.

She told me that the editor won't even let the staff see what I had sent.

At this point I knew that my days with the Daily Worker were over.

That was it.



Refugees. The aftermath of revolution

WORKERS PRESS talks to

JOE AUSTIN

vice chair, Sinn Fein in the six counties



JOE AUSTIN

A WORKERS PRESS correspondent was recently a guest of the nationalist community in Belfast. We are very grateful to the many people who took time to tell us of their struggle against British imperialism in a variety of aspects.

JOE AUSTIN, vice-chairperson of Sinn Fein in the six counties, interrupted a busy schedule to explain how Sinn Fein is grappling with the problem of developing a political consciousness within the working class. In this first part, he discusses the role of the electoral struggle and, perhaps more important, the relationship between elected representatives and those whom they represent.

In the second and third parts, to be published in our next two issues, he discusses the relationship between political and armed struggle, Sinn Fein's prognosis for the future of the Irish revolution and how it views the responsibilities of British socialists.

AM I right in assuming that Sinn Fein has a policy which sees this struggle as a protracted one and puts more emphasis on the political struggle than the armed struggle?

IN FACT that isn't anything new. What we have said re-

peatedly and consistently is that, for us, armed resistance cannot be seen in isolation from political resistance.

We don't view the armed struggle as, if you like, detached from the political struggle.

The IRA Volunteers who

are involved in that struggle are obviously highly politicised and highly motivated.

What we have said, of course, is that every act which is an act against repression is, in itself, a political act — like we have been involved in from 1981, with electoral intervention as a strategy.

We have had limited success which was not only successful in terms of having a number of people elected, but also in terms of changing, to a large extent, the complexities of the various offices that we have been elected to.

We have restructured the whole role, for instance, of councillors.

We have brought something completely new and revolutionary to the role of an elected representative.

So that, when we talk about success in that electoral field, we don't simply mean the number of votes that have been cast for Sinn Fein, but that, plus what we have been able to do with the office.

We believe, in fact we're convinced that if we went on winning elections for the next thirty years, British imperialism wouldn't be forced out of Ireland.

So the armed struggle, political resistance — with a revolutionary dimension to that resistance — and an on-going campaign of politicisation, is the guarantee of success.

We don't take one type of resistance and say that an escalation of that is sufficient.

So, as I've said, armed resistance to British occupation is part of an overall resistance.

None of those factors will win in isolation.

CAN YOU explain more about the changing role of elected representatives?

WELL, OBVIOUSLY what happened — and it's not unlike English politics; the role of an elected representative until Sinn Fein came on the scene, in terms of electoral success, was almost on a basis of patronage.

Complaints were dealt with on the basis of party loyalty.

The role of an elected representative was primarily a party political role first of all, and then a constituency service after that.

Their loyalties were of course to their party and their class interest.

If you look at the role of the SDLP you find that real assistance to the nationalist population didn't exist.

Representatives were seen a month before elections and a month after elections and the responsibility of an elected representative was zilch, it was nil.

The other aspect of it is — and this is the class nature of the SDLP — rather than being a voice in defence of those who had elected them, or those who they purported

to represent, they actually were in collaboration, both on a day to day level and on an overall level, with the authorities.

Despite our massive unemployment and rampant social deprivation, the SDLP played no role in it, as far as applying pressure or highlighting those issues.

If you look at the SDLP's historical position, they were formed to assist the smooth running of British involvement in Ireland and that's the role they're playing.

We are in confrontation politics, whether it be on the national question or whether it be on the day to day issues that face the nationalist population.

It is our business to confront the housing authorities. It is our business to confront the DHSS people as well as it is our business obviously to confront the British occupation and British imperialism.

In the May Council elections in Belfast in 1985, our position was that our candidates had to follow a number of different points.

Number one, we had a positive campaign of discrimination towards women.

That meant that they had to be not only selected for seats, but that the seats they were selected for had to be at least winnable seats.

Having said that, unfortunately, we managed two women out of nine candidates, which is not by any means satisfactory, though these women won the seats they stood for.

The other criterion was that the candidate had to be local and they had to have at least two years in a local advice centre, of which in Belfast we have 15.

They had to be unemployed and they had to give a commitment that they wouldn't take a job, on the unlikely basis that a job would present itself.

In Belfast overall, we returned nine candidates; seven who sit on Belfast City Council and two who sit on Lisburn Council.

We were very conscious in the election that we wouldn't be used as a referral group, nor would we be in the business of negotiating, on behalf of the people who elected us, with the statutory authorities.

We would negotiate with those who elected us.

Our business would be to create a climate for the local population of any given ward, starved of authority, starved of any real opportunity, to bring about change that would make the demands and would see that

those demands came to their final conclusion.

The end result of that was that we brought whole delegations, almost, street loads of people, representing housing estates, tenants groups or community groups to negotiate with those statutory authorities and that totally confused them.

They had operated for at least the previous four years, and for some of those groups from their very formation, on the basis that they dealt with a minimum of complaints.

Those complaints made an individual party or the elected representative look good but the remainder of their attitude was that you do as little as you can, and keep them happy.

So we are in the business of exposing that and in the business of creating the psychological attitudes in people to fight back.

That in itself has had a number of very interesting developments.

Just to isolate two of the major problems for a minute — unemployment and bad housing.

We took up campaigns on the whole issue of single payment, that is, if someone is unemployed and they are entitled to an extraordinary payment for a number of things.

The unemployment offices don't tell you that of course.

It was really unheard of that anyone would have got this extraordinary payment for either clothing or bedding or whatever.

We took a whole estate, Ballymurphy, and we had a mini-campaign which we had initiated, but had no major role in after its initiation, when the local population got back in single payments in a period of two months £18,000.

That has repeated itself in every estate.

The consequence is that the DHSS office is now inundated with people looking for single payments.

They have had to quadruple their staff, which is of course sound as part of the overall process.

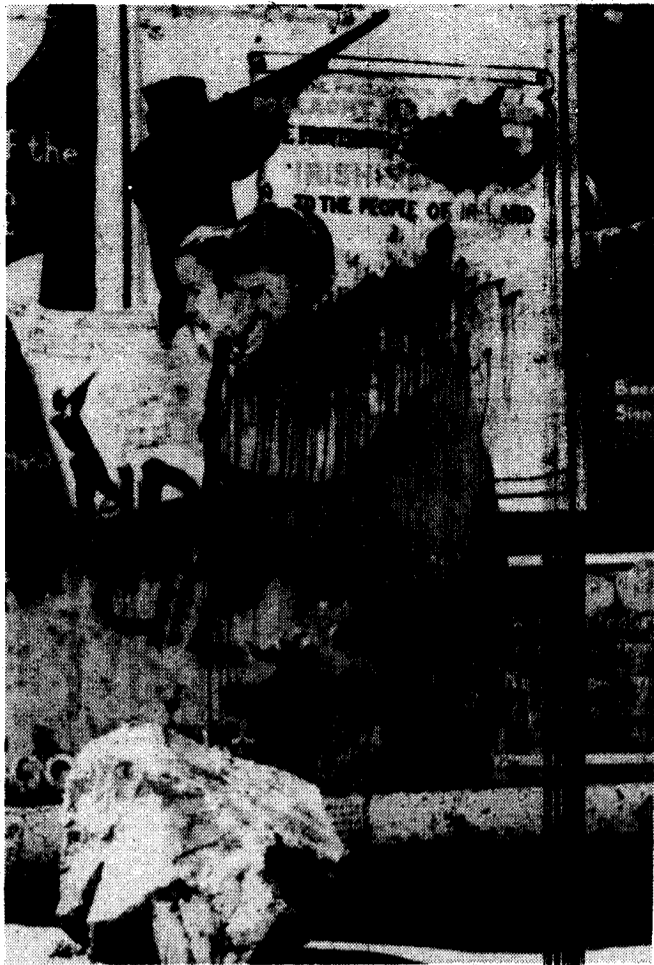
The same with the housing authorities. A number of years ago, the type of homes or the type of repairs that the Executive did was mandatory.

I mean they did it and if you didn't like it that was too bad.

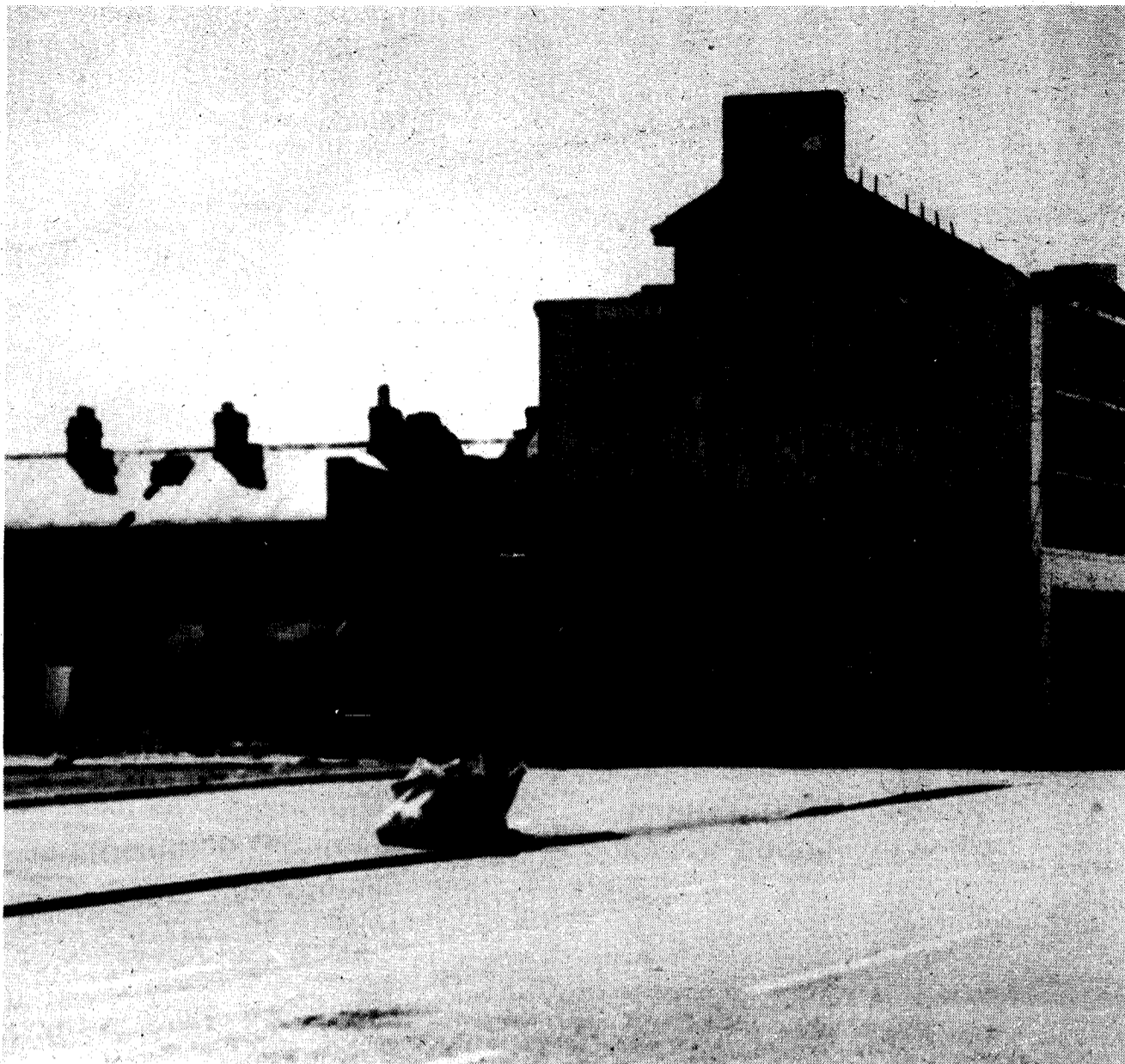
Now that isn't the situation in many cases: there are, in every area, in almost every street, those people who will not accept simply what's given to them.

That process of allowing





A great problem for the Nationalist communities in Belfast is housing. Sinn Fein's electoral policy is geared towards increasing politicisation by mobilising people to fight local authorities themselves. Above and below left, dramatic election murals, defaced by paint-bombs thrown by the British Army.



people, in a more limited way, to bring about their own change has seriously changed the local nature of politics.

An example of that is that we have 15 advice centres in Belfast, the SDLP have one.

They didn't have any until we opened all of our 15 and I suppose that, in a very small way, is a significant example of the fact that they are under pressure to meet at least the same constituency service that we would provide.

We made no election promises that we could solve the problems, but said that the end result, the long term way of resolving those issues of social-economic deprivation, the whole question of repression, of British occupation, was to confront the British occupation and from that we could begin to develop an alternative.

The SDLP has been fighting elections for something like fifteen years on the basis of false promises.

In the last elections people just wouldn't accept the promises that they made.

Again, one of the issues was that everybody said that we had got it wrong when we named our candidates in the May election, that the political so-called pundits said that we had not got the personality or style — that people were only looking for personalities and that we had seriously miscalculated.

They predicted a maximum of 36, we in fact took 66.

The people we put up were the people who weren't personalities necessarily but were the people who had been doing that work.

That again in a small way was changing peoples' attitudes.

So, first the electoral strategy isn't, 'How many people we can have elected to the so-called corridors of power?' but is to diminish the role of the elected representative and to create a situation where people will find out.

It's to break the dependency on elected representatives and to try and place that dependency where it politically should lie — with the local populace of whatever geographical area.

Now I think that is happening. I think that the Anglo-Irish Accord is an example of that and is to be seen as an opportunity by the SDLP to replace one set of false promises with a new set of false promises and thus to create that crutch which the SDLP require.

So we are changing on a local level the concept of an

elected representative and the concept of constitutional power, what it actually represents.

The state is a conspiracy; cosmetic surgery does not make it less so.

What ends the conspiracy is a direct attack on it at whatever level, whether it's in housing, British troops in the street firing plastic bullets, massive unemployment, social deprivation or community attacks by the Loyalists.

That's as we see the way forward at this point of time.

THE TRADITIONAL communist view is that, to take power and to build a socialist society, the state must be smashed.

Do you accept that premise theoretically and, if so, how does your current policy fit in with that?

WELL, IT'S quite obvious if you look at the formation of the two statelets in Ireland.

The northern state and the state in the South both have an economic and a political dependency on Britain: the very formation of those states was a conspiracy against the Irish people.

The partition of Ireland was a direct consequence of the British in their long term strategy being unable to smash the small nucleus of revolutionary thinking in Ireland.

So the geographical division of Ireland is less important, to some extent, than the psychological division and the division of the Irish people.

WHEN YOU talk about the psychological division, are you talking about the psychological division between the people of the two states or between Catholics and Protestants?

BOTH, BOTH. But primarily on the general basis of who is living north and south.

The partition was an attempt, and a quite successful attempt, to stop any radicalisation of Irish thinking.

It has effectively stopped the coming together of those with similar class interests, that's the working class, to defeat the interests of capitalism north and south.

Two small economic units are easier to control, where the working class is divided.

That state and the nature of those statelets, as far as Irish Republicans are concerned, have to be smashed and have to be smashed because of what the states represent — all that is not in the interest of the Irish working class.

They give the Brits — when I say the Brits, I don't mean the British troops or the British people, I mean that hierarchy of influence and control — small units that they can control, manipulate, direct and directly influence and they also ensure that British interests in Ireland are relatively safe.

For us to achieve the democratic socialist republic we're looking for and fighting for, it's obvious in terms of implementing a policy of social and economic justice that the working class has got to become a united force that can harness and cater for a rule in their interest.

So, yes; the states have to be confronted and they have to be smashed.

There's an attitude, or at least there was an attitude, within Republican circles some time ago, many years back, that all of those battles can wait until the national question has been resolved.

We would argue that that's untrue.

We would argue that the economic struggle, and to some extent even the struggle for social justice, has to begin and has to complement the struggle of the national question.

Historically, what, of course, has happened is that Irish Republicans have physically fought — and I suppose the best example of that is the period from 1916-1920 — for national independence, but didn't consciously fight to bring politicisation into that.

The battle to some extent to remove the Brits, at least from part of Ireland, was successful but the battle for the Republic failed.

When it came, as they say, time to implement and to

begin a process for all the things that they'd actually fought and died for, the capitalist class had pipped them to the post.

Now that will always happen while you don't organise correctly within the struggle you're taking part in.

That is, if you like, part of the psychology, and it's seen in very small ways.

The whole psychology of delegations meeting housing authorities: it's almost like training a boxer, you don't train him the night after the fight, you train him in preparation.

So the people who fight for their homes in terms of housing and who fight against the conspiracy of the DHSS, they'll fight in their interests and they cease being bystanders and that fight is further advanced.

They'll fight the state, or they'll fight policies or they'll fight a programme which is obviously not in their interest — so that's part of the politicisation that's taking place.

That politicisation is more important than our limited election successes but it actually complements those and one can't be seen in isolation from the other.

Again, if you're looking at the so-called political experts, when we embarked on the campaign of limited electoral strategy they predicted we would take 0.1 per cent of the vote.

We in fact took 44 per cent.

That was because the groundwork had been done — that was in 1984.

So to go back to your very first question.

Yes, the state has got to be confronted and, yes, the state has got to be smashed, it's got to be smashed in order to build an alternative.

The alternative as far as we're concerned is the establishment of a democratic socialist republic — a 32 county republic that is.

But that republic doesn't take shape the day after the Brits leave, it takes shape now.

Continued next week

REPUBLICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

LONG LARTIN
HM Prison Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 5TZ
LIAM BAKER: 20-year sentence, 464984.
JAMES BENNETT: 20-year sentence, 464989.
EDDIE BUTLER: Life sentence, 338637.
ROBERT CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 131877.
GERRY CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 132016.
JOHN McCOMB: 17-year sentence, B51715.
ANDY MULRYAN: 20-year sentence, 461576.
PATRICK MULRYAN: 20-year sentence, 461575.

PARKHURST
HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX
NOEL GIBSON: Life sentence 879225.
PATRICK HACKETT: 20-year sentence, 342603.
TOMMY QUIGLEY: Life sentence 69204.
PETER SHERRY: Life sentence, B75880.

WAKEFIELD
HM Prison Love Lane, Wakefield, W Yorks. WF2 9AG
HUGH DOHERTY: Life sentence, 338636.
SEAN KINSELLA: Life sentence, 758661.
CON McFADDEN: 20-year sentence, 130662.
PAUL NORNEY: Life sentence, 863532.
NATALINO VELLA: 15-year sentence, B71644.

ALBANY
HM Prison Albany, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5RS
VINCE DONNELLY: Life sentence, 274064.
HARRY DUGGAN: Life sentence, 338638.
BILLY GRIMES:
SEAN HAYES: 20-year sentence, 341418.
STEPHEN NORDONE: Life sentence 758663.

GARTREE
HM Prison Gartree, Leicester Rd, Market Harborough, Leics, LE16 7RP
ROBERT CAMPBELL: 10-year sentence, B32954.
RONNIE McCARTNEY: Life sentence, 463799.
JOE O'CONNELL: Life sentence, 338635

FRANKLAND
HM Prison Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham
WILLIAM ARMSTRONG: Life sentence, 119085
MARTIN BRADY: Life sentence, 119087.
BRENDAN DOWD: Life sentence, 758662.
PAUL HOLMES: Life sentence, 119034.
EDDIE O'NEILL: 20-year sentence, 135722.

LEICESTER
HM Prison Welford Rd, Leicester, LE2 7AJ
PAUL KAVANAGH: Life sentence, 1888.
BRIAN KEENAN: 21-year sentence, B26380.
GERRY McDONNELL: Life sentence, B75882.
PATRICK McGEE: Life sentence, B75881.

HULL
HM Prison Hedon Rd, Hull, Humberside
ROY WALSH: Life sentence, 119083.

DURHAM
HM Prison Durham, Old Evert Street, Durham.
MARTINA ANDERSON: Life sentence, D25134.
ELLA O'DWYER: Life sentence, D25135.

INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN FRAMED BY THE BRITISH POLICE:
CAROLE RICHARDSON: 290719, HM Prison Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire
PATRICK ARMSTRONG: HM Prison Gartree.
PAUL HILL: 462778. HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs.
GERARD CONLON: 462779, HM Prison Long Lartin.
JUDITH WARD, HM Prison Durham.
HUGH CALLAGHAN, 509499, HM Prison Gartree.
JOHN WALKER, 509494, HM Prison, Long Lartin.
BILLY POWER, 509496, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs.
GERARD HUNTER, 509495, HM Prison Frankland.
RICHARD McILKENNY, 509498, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs
PADDY HILL, 509496, HM Prison Gartree.
They are all serving life and in the case of Carole Richardson, indefinite detention.

The information on this list is supplied and updated by An Cumann Cabhrach, British section, for which we thank them.

WAPPING AND MARXISM

THE NEWS INTERNATIONAL dispute is being undermined by leaders of the print unions and the TUC.

The broad implications of this struggle, which directly relate it to the fate of all newspaper workers — and in fact to everyone in any sort of employment — are being played down and even directly refuted.

The dispute is being deliberately isolated and reduced to an in-company matter to avoid the trade unions becoming involved in a major conflict in the lead-up to a general election which might return a Labour government.

Union leaders and Labourite speakers have appeared on platforms to deny or play down the significance of new technology, yet this is an issue which has enormous ramifications throughout the whole of industry and services.

To bid for dwindling markets, manufacturers strive to revolutionise the means of production and methods of working to undercut rivals.

In consequence, systems are developed so that what could be done last year by 6,000 workers can be done this year by 600 — and next year by just six.

The worse the economic crisis gets, the more desperate company owners become to develop these processes.

Their reasoning is quite logical: the price of individual commodities can be cut by churning out far more and by using less and cheaper labour.

Today this is frequently a question of using computerised machine production.

The snag for capitalism is that every time production is modernised and goods are cheapened, the return in terms of recuperated costs and profits is spread over a vastly increased number of items, which all have to be sold.

Chronic

However, the original problem was one of too much production chasing too few markets.

The result is chronic 'over-production' of commodities, of means of production (which are also commodities) and of capital itself which cannot stand still but must find new ways to expand itself.

Total collapse of markets

under the weight of surpluses of goods and raw materials leads to the breakdown of firms and entire industries.

The weak are deliberately driven out and smashed up to try and reduce production and maintain some kind of price.

Mass unemployment develops as employers ruthlessly rationalise production, i.e. ditch most of their workforce and set the remainder to yet another round of modernisation.

Destroy

The same rationalisation and use of technology to destroy jobs occurs in service industries and public services also.

Nor does the development of new industry, for example production of computers and their components, provide alternative employment.

Unless these start out with the most modern capital-intensive system of production, they will stand no chance against the automated factories of their competitors.

Accusations of computer chip 'dumping' (selling off below cost price) are already flying thick and fast, reflecting a rapid fall into over-production of these commodities also.

One side effect of this process may be a fall in prices.

This is not a sign of economic recovery but of the fact that the artificial barriers put up to protect high prices are breaking down.

It is a new stage in the worsening of the slump.

Also of profound significance to all workers, not just ex-employees of Rupert Murdoch, is the consequent

change in working practices and the accompanying alterations in collective bargaining and labour laws called for by all employers in these conditions.

Just as Taylorism and other work-simplification and rationalising systems derived from the development of modern factory conveyor line methods at the turn of the century, so a new advance in production technology brings consequent changes in working operations.

Computerisation, for example, makes deep inroads into the often complex controlling functions formerly carried out by operatives themselves.

Mass production of programmes ensures that this is not simply a replacement of one skill with another.

One of the most dangerous times for workers is always at the point of introduction of new equipment and technology and at the moment of changeover to new working systems.

Whereas the old system is understood and encompassed in negotiations, the new methods are unknown.

Unknown to the workforce, that is. The employers will have been planning and perfecting the new measures for months, including how to cover up the worst implications.

Collapse

Naturally they will declare that the system they have worked on for so long has to be accepted by the workers instantly if imminent collapse is to be averted.

Any technical development which simplifies work operations and de-skills the job is avidly chased after by today's employers.

Companies want to ditch not a part, but the whole of their workforce, a majority

IN THIS analysis of the background to the Wapping dispute, BERNARD FRANKS argues that the tendency to revolutionise the means of production — and to attack the standards of living of workers — is endemic to capitalism, part of its very nature. The trade union leaders connive with this process, putting hard-won rights and conditions at risk. In doing this, they betray their elementary responsibilities.

because their work can be done by technical means, and the rest so they can be replaced by cheaper labour which does not know its way round that industry.

Not needing to defer to the needs of skilled labour and trade unions in the new labour force, employers look to achieve inadequate pay, poor working conditions, short term contracts, flexibility of hours worked and times of attendance, a requirement to do anything and any job as directed, minimum health and safety standards and few real employment rights of any kind.

Require

They require from the state not only a loosening of employment protection laws so they can hire and fire at will, but an enormous strengthening of legislation to prevent a fight-back by those who have lost jobs and livelihoods.

Above all, they seek a systematic weakening and destruction of trade union rights.

For revolutionary socialists these issues are not incidental, but fundamental.

Marxist economics and historical materialism have brought into being an understanding of the underlying relationship of society to production in general and capitalist society to capitalist production in particular.

Marxists take it as their primary duty to show how every industrial dispute, every community or other struggle involving any class — to save a hospital from closure, to provide women's and ethnic minority rights, to ensure adequate housing, to protect the environment — reflect the essential bankruptcy of capitalism, technically able to provide but in economic terms unable to utilise the facilities for solving the world's problems.

This does not mean that Marxists are not concerned with winning immediate struggles or that they believe that these cannot be won.

On the contrary, their wider grasp of the underlying processes of society and its crisis ensures that they are amongst the best fighters in this respect.

However, they have to say that a victory under decaying, crisis-ridden capitalism is only a victory until next time.

The only real solution is the overthrow of the existing society by the revolutionary action of the working class and its replacement with a system in which both private ownership of the main means of production and production for profit are eliminated.

Struggles

With Lenin in 'What is to be done' and with Trotsky in the 'Transitional Programme', we say that, for us, the day-to-day struggles must be carried on within the framework of this revolutionary socialist perspective.

But the great majority of trade union and Labour Party leaders are not revolutionary socialists, so surely, it can be argued, they cannot be accused of betraying doc-

TO PRINTERS' LABOURERS
AND OTHER WORKERS IN THE PRINTING TRADE

We, the Printers' Labourers, are on strike for a wage of 20s. per Week and 6d. per hour overtime. We appeal to the Machine Minders and other workers to aid us in having our just demands.

Our present wages vary from 12s. to 14s. per week, and many among us have wives and families to sustain. We work on an average fifty-four hours a week, and

SEVENTY-FIVE HOURS TO EARN £1.

How, and under what conditions do we work? In heated cellars where gaslight replaces daylight; amidst perpetual din; breathing a stifling, filthy atmosphere. We have to keep eye and hand ever on the alert to KEEP STROKE with the machines we tend.

Our kind, respectable Christian employers would not put their pet cats and dogs in the streets where they condemn us to pass our best working years. Above are the demands for the toil which destroys our health.

We appeal to all fellow labourers to join us. Do not listen to the specious talk of interested foremen and employers who "promise to favourably consider your demands." They want time to work off urgent orders. If you on strike are selfish enough to go in because a few employers grant concessions, you help to ruin the cause. Will you purchase your gain at the expense of our defeat? Show the same spirit as our comrades in other industries are displaying.

STRIKE !!

STRIKE ALL TOGETHER !!

Stand Together and Win

Printers' Strike Committee,
RED STAR COFFEE HOUSE, CLERKENWELL GREEN,
GEORGE EVANS, Sec.
GEORGE WALDEN, Treas.

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STRIKE COMMITTEE MANIFESTO 1889

A STRIKE poster of 1889 appeals for solidarity with the printers' labourers from the press minders. Clerkenwell, London, was, at that time, a busy centre of the print trade

trines for which they hold no brief.

True, but what about their betrayal of concepts they do profess to hold to, in particular to the defence of the working class, its rights and conditions?

Today, on the basis of accepting the 'new realism', trade union leaders accommodate to anti-union laws, to mass unemployment, to new technology and to new working systems such as no-strike deals, without any struggle on behalf of their members.

They have sold out the fundamental right to take solidarity action and have agreed to operate within the ever-tightening circle of government and judge-made laws.

Fight

If we stand and fight, they say, our funds will be sequestered and our unions bankrupted.

So they do nothing — and see unions' powers whittled away unopposed.

Their answer of the moment is 'Don't rock the boat' so a Labour government can get into power on middle class votes and put things right.

Labour's industrial relations policy, however, simply aims to continue where Thatcher and Co. leave off.

The most sinister aspect is the plan to set up a labour court and force pre-strike secret ballots into every union rule-book.

There is offered not the faintest pretence of socialist analysis or policy on unemployment but the same old recourse to the Liberal arch-defender of capitalism, J M Keynes, which always ends with Labour applying wage-restraint and continuing the onslaught on conditions, services, rights and jobs.

Trade unions have a duty to defend their members right and conditions whatever the government in power — or whatever government they expect might be in power.

Today, national agreements are needed for cutting the working week and hours of work while providing longer holidays without loss of pay.

Introduction of new technology should be blocked until new agreements are reached for running this on the basis of making working life easier and better for those involved, not for destroying jobs.

This can only be guaranteed if it is introduced under the control of the workforce itself instead of by the management.

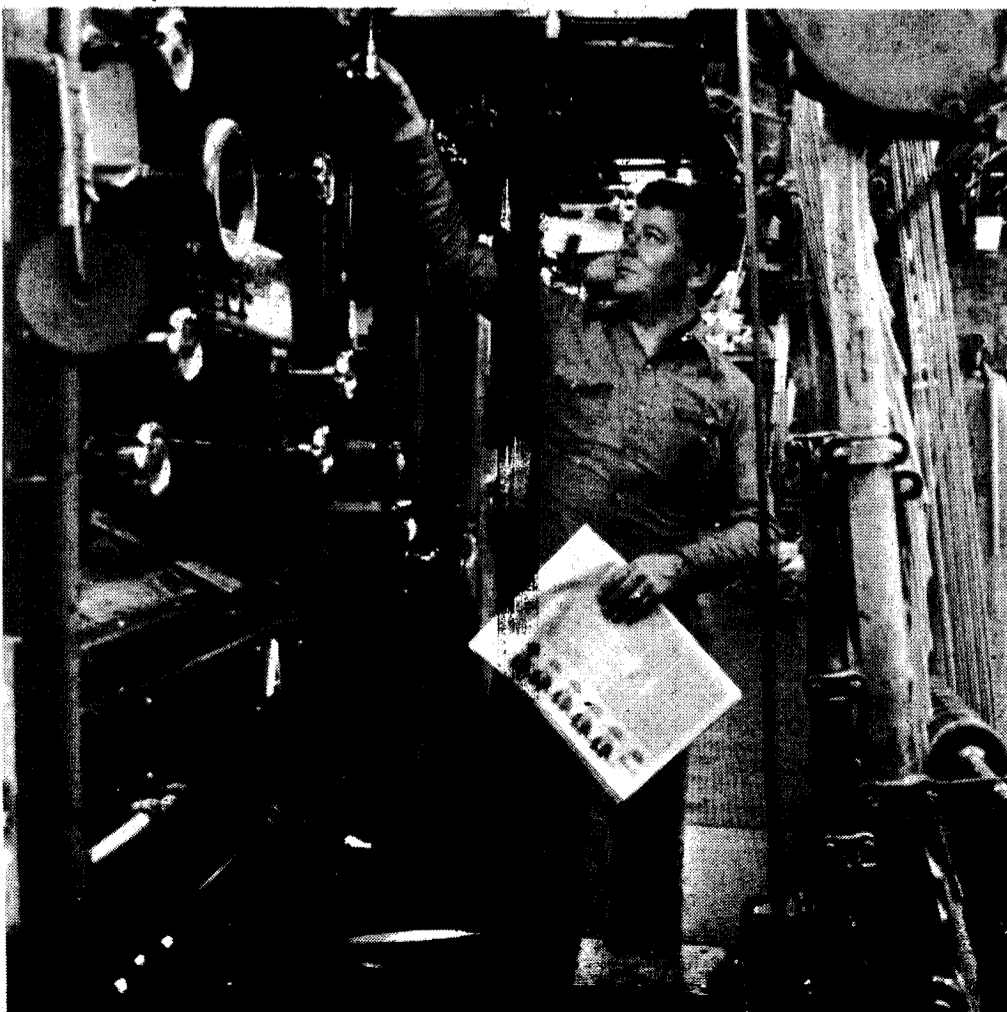
Similarly, to ensure that vital productive capacity is not destroyed in the name of maintaining profits, all threatened companies and industries should be transferred to the public sector, with workers' control again ensuring that production and jobs are maintained.

At the same time, public works programmes for refurbishing council estates and hospitals and improving the environment would provide more real, permanent jobs.

The tremendous struggle of the sacked News International workers and their supporters to defeat Rupert Murdoch and his scab army makes the sell-out by trade union and Labour leaders of the struggle for workers' rights, their failure to expel the EETPU from the TUC, all the more despicable.

Likewise, failure to join up this battle with the situation of workers throughout the printing industry faced with redundancies on the spurious basis that a general stoppage would leave Murdoch a clear field — as if he would find it easier to operate if all Fleet Street were out — has been a standing feature of the essential betrayal by the majority of union leaders.

Quite clearly, if such people are unwilling to fight for socialist policies and take on employers and the government in defence of their members' jobs and rights, they should be replaced by those willing to do so.



PRESS MINDER on the Sunday Times before the Wapping offensive. Employers continually seek to cut staff through the introduction of new technology

'Resolution 11:'

COMMENT

BY DOT GIBSON

Not worth the paper it's printed on!

Here's what it said:

Congress congratulates members of the NGA, SOGAT, AEU and the NUJ who are in dispute with News International and in a principled stand for jobs, trade union recognition and adequate compensation.

Congress condemns the Tory Government's anti-union laws which have been instrumental in assisting Rupert Murdoch to dismiss five and a half thousand British workers in order to increase his profits to fund his media empire in the USA.

Congress confirms that this dispute must be settled by negotiation on the basis of achieving trade union recognition for the production unions at Wapping and Kinning Park and elsewhere. In addition, Congress resolves to give increased support to the 'boycott' campaign against *The Sun*, *News of the World*, *The Times* and *Sunday Times*.

Congress rejects the decision of the General Council made by 15 votes to 14 on February 5, 1986, not to issue a directive to the EETPU requiring them to 'inform their members to refrain from undertaking work normally done by members of other print unions at Gray's Inn Road and Bouverie Street'.

Congress is further aware that EETPU members in Wapping subsequently issued a statement confirming 'We took employment on this site to set up a new London newspaper with new machinery. It was additional work and not as we understood to displace others.'

'We are concerned that an honourable settlement is found for all concerned including ourselves and would make it clear that EETPU members will support their union in actions to secure such a settlement.'

A PLANE flew over Brighton's Conference Centre on Monday September 1. A streamer fluttering from its tail demanded that the Trade Union Congress pass resolution No 11 submitted by the National Graphical Association (1982) on the News International dispute.

Down below, hundreds of printworkers were lobbying delegates to demand support for the Wapping and Kinning Park disputes and action against the EETPU (its General Secretary, Eric Hammond in particular) for their connivance with Murdoch to install new machinery, to recruit scab labour and sack 5,500 printworkers.

The men and women on this lobby have been sweating it out on the Wapping and Kinning Park picket lines for over seven months.

Their mood was very angry; they made it clear that if the TUC did not 'come up with the goods' these leaders would be creating the conditions for 'open warfare'.

The printworkers have been through every possible channel in their union's procedures; they have given full support to their leaders to pursue the just demands for jobs and an end to scabbing.

This lobby was seen as the last resort in their efforts to win this dispute through conventional trade union channels.

Resolution No 11 was carried by 5,823,000 to 3,132,000. The lobbyists cheered.

But had they actually seen resolution 11? The answer was no!

When they turned up to a lunchtime meeting addressed by Tony Dubbins of the NGA and Brenda Dean of SOGAT, they were not allowed in.

Dubbins addressed them outside, and assured them that the (by now famous) resolution No 11 would be carried.

This would mean that the TUC was committed to full support for the printworkers.

But he did not read out the text of the resolution.

The following day, the

GEORGE HALL: The TUC position regarding the EETPU is nothing more than a slap on the knuckles for them. The guts are within the amendment — which was ruled out of order.

In my opinion the ruling should have been challenged on the floor of Congress.

If that was done it would have really exposed the EETPU and the TUC leadership and could have acted as a catalyst to bringing the strike round.

Further I think it was a cynical attempt by certain people to rehabilitate the leadership, particularly of SOGAT. That is, to boost Brenda Dean who we all know has done nothing tangible to further the dispute.

'left' newspapers hailed it as a massive defeat for the right wing on the TUC General Council.

Under the banner headline 'Printers Blow to Willis', Ben Rudder in News Line reported:

'The decision is a major blow against the corporatist right-wing clique of fifth columnists within the workers'

TUC, BRIGHTON, MONDAY:

When the result of the NGA motion vote was known, a tremendous roar went up from the hundreds of printworkers and their supporters lobbying outside the conference. They then started to

movement...

The Morning Star had a headline: 'Wapping Victory at TUC'. Their comment column stated:

'The result, and the debate, on Wapping showed that, when faced starkly with an anti-union issue, the movement knows where it stands and will act accordingly.'

These newspapers represent opportunist political tendencies in the workers' movement.

They give uncritical support to Dubbins and Dean, leaving the printworkers with nothing but a resolution.

This does not commit the General Council of the TUC to any action except:

'to actively enlist the involvement of all affiliated unions in stepping up the demonstrations', and 'give increased support to the "boycott" campaign against the Sun, News of the World, the Times and the Sunday Times.'

But, even more important, the resolution makes Hammond and the EETPU leadership appear 'whiter than white'.

It seems that printworkers are mistaken in their view that Hammond is a right-wing boss's man.

Apparently he was completely unconscious of the fact that he was having talks with Murdoch and recruiting scabs!

Resolution No 11 quotes the EETPU as wanting an honourable settlement for all

concerned, including themselves.

What does Hammond know about honour?

There are very sharp class lines drawn in the News International dispute. 'Honour' is a class question.

Hammond stands with Murdoch and Thatcher; the mealy-mouthed bureaucrats of the TUC don't want to fight.

This is the 118th Trades Union Congress. There are plenty of precedents for the sort of wool they are trying to pull over the eyes of the printworkers and their sup-

porters.

chant 'Now give us Hammond!'. The atmosphere was electric as the singing and chanting went on, as delegates came out of the conference hall many of them giving the thumbs up sign and coming over to talk to the printworkers.

We must learn to have a long memory if we are to put the 1986 resolution No 11 into proper historical context.

● Take the NUM dispute of 1984/85 for example.

The 1984 TUC carried a resolution moved by Arthur Scargill on behalf of the NUM, which was heralded as a victory.

This demanded: the immediate repeal of all anti-union legislation and that 'all affiliated unions be called upon to join in the mightiest mobilisation of the power and strength of the movement at all levels behind the Wembley Conference decisions and for the maximum solidarity and support for every section and group of workers in struggle for jobs, defence of working conditions and trade union rights.'

The reader will be forgiven for believing that this was a stronger statement of commitment by the TUC than the current resolution No 11 on the News International dispute.

But we all know what happened.

The miners were left to go it alone.

● Then there was the 'Defence of Local Democracy'.

The TUC decided that it would fight against the abolition of the GLC and Metropolitan Counties.

The 1984 TUC carried a resolution which included:

● Congress reiterates its policy of resisting govern-



ment interference in the detailed functioning of democratically elected local authorities, and pledges continued support for the campaign of resistance under the aegis of the TUC.

It further rejects arguments designed to justify attempted prevention of elections due for the metropolitan counties and the GLC in 1985.

Lambeth and Liverpool councils got no support from the General Council of the TUC.

The GLC and the Metropolitan Councils were closed down.

Well, say some, their heart is in the right place!

● What about the imprisoned pickets convicted of conspiracy after their part in picketing during the 1972 building workers' strike?

In 1973 they went into prison.

Des Warren and Eric Tomlinson were still in prison when the TUC met in 1974.

That year the TUC reported that it was:

... very disturbed about the use of conspiracy charges against pickets and also about the severe sentences which were imposed on the three men.

Representations were made to the Home Secretary, who... said he had no powers in relation to the bringing of charges.

Bearing in mind that this was Labour Home Secretary Roy Jenkins (later to become a leader of the Social Democratic Party), our readers will want to know what a future Labour Home Secretary would do on behalf of the miners and any other workers imprisoned for their part in struggles for basic rights.

Des Warren served a 2½ year sentence. The Tory government later passed anti-union legislation which makes picketing a criminal act.

● In November 1977 the firemen struck in an unprecedented action. These are trade unionists who risk life and limb to save others in fires and accidents; they had come to the 'end of their tether'.

They demanded increased wages and reduced working hours. They were left to fight alone, until they were forced to return to work in January 1978.

The TUC Report shows that the General Council was still writing to the Home Secretary in July 1978 asking for speedy progress of the firemen's claim, and the introduction of a 42-hour week by November 1978 — one year after the beginning of the strike!

● The seamen struck in 1966. W Hogarth, on behalf of

the National Union of Seamen, commenting on the Report presented to the TUC of that year said:

'There is one thing the Report does not mention... the fact that our strike was a strike against our members' employers and not the government.'

'It was not a strike against the government or the nation at all. It was the Prime Minister himself in his broadcast of May 16 — the first day of the strike, by the way — who dubbed it as a strike against the state...'

'The introduction of the charge by Mr Wilson that some of my executive councillors were influenced by a "tightly-knit group of politically motivated men" was, to say the least, ill timed

J Kenny of the NUS, also commenting on this Report and referring to the seamen's demand for a 40-hour week at sea, said:

'I resent the implication of the General Council's Report to this Congress that the seamen were demanding impossible conditions.'

'In the Report it is stated that on June 9 the Finances and General Purposes Committee and the General Council told the union they regretted their refusal to negotiate this settlement.'

The seamen ended up with a 42-hour week.

We want to emphasise that this was Wilson's Labour government, which backed the shipowners against the seamen, because the Labour Cabinet was anxious to impose its incomes policy on the working class. The General Council of the TUC did not want this in its report!

The examples given here of left phrases with no ac-

TUESDAY: SACKED AEU printworkers lobbied their delegates who had voted against the NGA motion.

Jim Brookshaw from SUN/News of the World said that his members were extremely angry at their delegation and voiced their hostility to Bill

tion, and leaders who are only interested in voicing support for workers in struggle to provide themselves with a respectable cover should be a warning to us. The rights of the working class were won despite such leaders.

We are now in a situation where there are five million unemployed, and right wing trade union leaders, like Hammond of the EETPU, cynically use this problem to recruit scabs against the printworkers.

Such divide-and-rule methods have been learnt

from British capitalism's imperialist role in the heyday of its Empire.

There can be no compromise with Hammond. The TUC should have expelled the EETPU and called upon the membership of that union to fight against its right wing leadership.

On August 16 in issue 37 of Workers Press, Bob Archer wrote:

'There is a question which must be asked by all serious trade unionists who will be inside or outside the Congress: How do they prevent Kinnock and Willis from proceeding along the same road as Thatcher?'

'The fact is, they are already on that road! Those same serious trade unionists will speak for workers, like the printers who are fighting for their jobs today, and like the miners who battled for trade union principles.'

'Defend the printworkers and the unions in deeds, not just in words. No compromise with those who collaborate with the state and the monopolies to destroy trade union rights.'

No collaboration with the plans for a Labour government's union laws.'

Resolution No 11 is a fraud — it is not worth the paper it is printed on.

An action must be launched which will accelerate the dispute.

The Fleet Street Support Unit is right — Fleet Street should now be called out in support of the News International dispute.

Now is not the time for timidity.

Such action would hurt, but it would create the political conditions for real solidarity actions by other workers.

Jordan, president of the AEU, as he came out of the conference at lunch time.

Gary Pye, sacked printer from The Times clerical chapel, said, 'Although the motion has been passed, I don't suppose they will do anything.'

Printworkers are in the front line, and must be supported by dockers, road transport workers and others to stop Murdoch's supplies.

Such action would challenge the Tory government's anti-trade union laws which are the bedrock of Murdoch's attack.

The TUC General Council has no intention of fighting the anti-union laws.

But this is the main question facing the trade unions. Without these state laws Murdoch would not have been able to carry out his union-busting action.

TROTSKYISM AND THE NUREMBURG TRIALS OF 1946

BY BILL
IUNTER



FIFTY YEARS ago, the first Moscow trial began. In the following two years almost the entire Bolshevik Old Guard, who had led the Revolution, were wiped out.

Some disappeared, some committed suicide, but most were brought into the court room to confess to fantastic crimes in the most infamous and publicised trials of all time.

The central target of the trials was Leon Trotsky.

He was accused of being at the head of a world wide conspiracy against the Soviet Union.

He was alleged to have been in the pay of the German General staff since 1921!

A central accusation against Trotsky at these trials was that he had discussed with Hess, Hitler's deputy, and had made an agreement to cede large areas of Ukrainian and Russian territory to Germany in exchange for being raised to power by a Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union.

Forty years ago, the Nuremburg trials took place.

Hess, together with other German fascist leaders was put on trial for war crimes.

The Trotskyist movement demanded that Albert Goldman, lawyer for Trotsky's widow, should be given facilities to question Hess in regard to Trotsky's alleged meeting with him.

The Revolutionary Communist Party, British section of the Fourth International, issued a challenge to the Russian prosecuting counsel at Nuremburg.

The challenge declared: '... at the Nuremburg trial, the Russian representatives have the possibility of establishing the claim of the stalinist government as to the alleged role of Trotsky as a Nazi agent.

'The archives of the Nazis are in the hands of the Allies.

'We challenge you to produce the so-called evidence at the Nuremburg trial, upon which the cream of the Old Bolsheviks were shot and done to death.'

On December 23, 1945, one month after the Nuremburg trial began, Jock Haston, General Secretary of the RCP, wrote to the Labour Prime Minister, Clement Attlee.

The letter recalled the accusations against Trotsky at the Moscow Trials and continued:

'Now that the Nuremburg trial is taking place, it is possible, in open court, before the public gaze of the whole world, to prove either that the charges levelled against Trotsky and the other collaborators of Lenin in the October Revolution of

1917, were in fact true, or that the Moscow Trials were a gigantic frame-up.

'It is alleged by the prosecution at Nuremburg that the secret Nazi preparations for war are being brought out in open court.

'If this is true, then there must be documents in existence proving or disproving the vast conspiracy alleged by the prosecutor at the Moscow Trials, Vishinsky (who is also attending the Nuremburg Trial), to have existed between the Nazis and Leon Trotsky.'

The letter concluded: 'We ask you, through your representatives at Nuremburg, to bring out the relevant issues in the Moscow Trials, to call on the Russian representative to produce the "evidence" relating to the connection between Leon Trotsky and his son with the Nazis, as a vital part of the present Nuremburg trial.

'We further request you to make it possible for the Revolutionary Communist Party to have legal representation at the Nuremburg trial, with a) a watching brief and b) the right to intervene and question witnesses.

The reply came back a month later.

It read: 'I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Prime Minister of December 23rd, and to inform you that it is not possible for His Majesty's Government to take action in the manner suggested therein.

'Yours truly, J M Addis'

The Russian prosecutor did not reply, neither did the British prosecutor — who was sent a letter.

Copies of the correspondence were sent to all national daily papers.

There was a conspiracy of silence, even though a number of prominent people supported the Trotskyists' demands.

The capitalist governments did not want to embarrass the Soviet government.

All the governments at Nuremburg were engaged in a hypocritical propaganda exercise, which had nothing to do with truth.

Council for Hess — Seidl — suddenly produced in court an affidavit.

It was signed by the head of the German Foreign Office legal department and described the secret clauses of the Stalin-Hitler pact, signed nine days before the invasion of Poland.

In this pact, the Soviet bureaucracy and the Nazi leaders agreed on a division

of Poland and it was the signal for Germany's attack on that country.

Rightly, the RCP commented that the secret clauses threw more light on the Moscow Trials.

'It was not Trotsky who made secret agreements, signed or otherwise, with Hitler — it was Stalin.

'It was not Trotsky who facilitated Nazi aggression, and thus prepared the way for the attack on the Soviet union — it was Stalin.'

(Socialist Appeal, April 1946.)

The Trotskyist campaign had support among intellectuals and writers in America.

It was referred to in a letter sent to Vishinsky, early in 1948.

The letter was signed by Norman Thomas, the American Socialist Party leader, Jack Weber of the American Workers' Party and James T Farrell, the novelist.

The letter took up an answer which Vishinsky had given to a request to confirm or deny the secret clauses of the 1939 pact.

Vishinsky evasively answered with another question:

'I can only ask persons who ask such questions whether they can confirm or deny the fact that the Trotskyists were in the pay of the German fascists?'

The three signatories

pointed out that the Russian representative had the opportunity at the Nuremburg trials to deny the authenticity of the secret protocols but never did so.

In fact, the court had quickly suppressed Seidl's bombshell after immediate protests from the Russian prosecutor who said:

'The court was investigating the case of the major German war criminals and not the foreign policy of the Allies.'

The letter of 1948, pointed out that 'a committee representing a great variety of social and political opinion sent a document to the prosecutors at Nuremburg, including the Russians, petitioning them (in reality challenging the Russians) to produce even one scintilla of documentary evidence to show that the Trotskyists had any relations whatsoever with German Nazis.

'This petition reached Nuremburg when the key figure mentioned in the Nuremburg trials, Rudolf Hess, was on the stand.

Russian Prosecutor Roman Rudenko on the prosecutor's stand

'The stalinists had claimed that Hess was a go-between.

'Why were no such documents produced? Why have none been produced since?'

'A number of students had access to the Nuremburg documents.

'They have failed to find one single reference to show that the Trotskyists were in the pay of the Nazis.

'And yet the German documents were remarkable for their completeness in every detail.'

To this day, no-one has been allowed to question Hess about these alleged discussions with Trotsky.

The campaign of the Trotskyists helped to expose the accusations against Trotsky as lying slanders.

Perhaps it had another success — in ensuring that the Russian bureaucracy has blocked all proposals to release Hess.



THE defendants in court. Goering is in the middle row, extreme left. Hess is next to him

Crawley Branch WRP
Day School
Political Economy — Geoff Pilling
Sunday, September 21
10.30am - 4.30pm
Ifield Community Centre
Ifield Drive, Crawley
Entrance £1, Creche and refreshments available

**PUBLIC MEETING
& DISCUSSION
1974**
● The events surrounding
the expulsion of Alan
Thornett
from the WRP
Date to be announced
1.00pm to 6.00pm
East Oxford Community Centre
Princes Street, Oxford
For Details, ring: Oxford 717821 or Swindon 724714

LETTERS

Your letters are welcome at Workers Press, 21b Old Town, London SW4 0JT.

Shouldn't you have more say in how your child is educated?

'SHOULDN'T you have more say in how your child is educated?' asked the headline in a Sunday Express article (Aug 24) by George Gardiner, Tory MP for Reigate.

The idea seems attractive. However Gardiner reveals under what conditions 'having more say' is to him permissible.

He moans that 'there are too many schools where discipline is a dirty word — not necessarily the fault of teachers!

'As one upper school head wrote to me: Discipline a pupil and you have to explain to councillors, parents, MPs and other so-called experts why you had the temerity to punish the smoker, thief, thug or truant.'

Many parents see the cane as brutal and not changing the social conditions which caused the behaviour in the first place.

Why does this Tory want no say for parents here? Why for instance no questioning of 'theft' and its 'deterrent'? It is because capitalism is concerned with the interests of a few, the exploiting class.

Property is private, okay! How can private profit be made when pupils play truant and are not educated to work, say, in the nuclear industry and make bombs? Never mind why they are truant.

Cane them, that will make them 'change their attitude'. Having your say here is dangerous for capitalism.

This is why Gardiner goes on to say 'there are too many cases of blatant political indoctrination, under the guise of anti-racism, anti-sexism, peace studies, social aware-

ness and the rest.

'Did you know that some schools actually teach anti-racist maths? A typical lesson involves comparing wages of a Sri Lankan tea picker with the price of a supermarket packet of tea, and inviting the pupils to draw conclusions about racial exploitation'.

If only parents had more power, says Gardiner, they would see that money was spent on books and teachers rather than on sex equality advisers and the like — 'they would ensure that maths meant maths and not homilies about Sri Lankan tea pickers.'

Also it is true that parents want the truth told about exploitation of the former British Empire (a number of Indian and Sri Lankan parents especially — perhaps Gardiner wishes they weren't here).

What happens when pupils, especially of white parents, learn about cheap/slave labour abroad and relate to cheap labour here through YTS? Racism could be reduced and instead the Tories seen as the common enemy.

Gardiner does say that 'far more decisions on the running of schools and their curriculums should be made within the schools themselves' with the head teacher as 'chief executive', working with a board made up mainly of elected parents but including some teachers.

They should be allowed funds according to the number of pupils and fix their own spending limits.

This raises the question: can capitalism fulfil parents' wishes on education.

Workers can relate to science if it is shown how the laws of nature are revealed

so as to produce medicines to prevent or cure disease.

However this cannot be done to the fullest extent under this system.

Knowledge under capitalism is like factories etc. — it is a form of private property.

Drug companies won't exchange research results. The parts are kept from the whole.

Safety with chemicals, and e.g. at the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant, is definitely on the minds of parents.

Wouldn't they want the truth told here?

Gardiner in his introduction paints an imaginary picture of school life where there would be 'world studies, with Mr Smith talking about America's preparations for nuclear war.'

'He's sure to bring in Vietnam too. Must remember to ask Dad where that is'.

This 'parody', he says, does happen in several cities; 'elsewhere there are parallels too close for comfort'.

Would trade unionists in the classroom talking about Sellafield be 'too close for comfort'? What chance for making nuclear bombs if everyone knew about cancer and Chernobyl.

Capitalism makes billions out of these weapons and war is the only answer to re-divide the world as a temporary answer to falling rates of profit in industry (of course nuclear war is the end of everything!)

So parents, as Gardiner shows, will be ridiculed for even thinking of these issues let alone actually having the truth taught.

The most alarming part of the article comes in the pa-

graph 'they should also be free to tap further sources of finance, such as local companies which eventually employ some of their pupils.'

Are firms going to give money and not demand a say in how schools are run? Why would capitalists give except in self-interest?

This is admitted by Sir Leslie Smith of British Oxygen.

'Of course there is an element of self-interest in all this.'

'We are thinking of post-apartheid South Africa, and if the economy is destroyed, no-one will benefit' (Guardian report August 27 'British firms plan to fund education of South African blacks').

Rather than giving parents 'more say' it will strengthen the hold of the wire pullers.

The inter-dependence of schools and the capitalist economy and state brings in how can workers control education for need not private profit.

This relates to the lessons of the occupation of Croxeth school a few years ago.

Will the state just let you take steps to some independent control?

If so, why did the police try to turn off the heat and electricity? (They were prevented by pickets from the local community).

Croxeth wasn't really reported by the Workers Revolutionary Party as it should have been under Healy. We need a review now.

Gardiner's attitude really says: You can have a say, provided it doesn't interfere with private profit.

Robin Burnham

Vietnam — Le Duan and Trotskyism

THE RECENT obituary of Le Duan, general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, in *Rouge*, organ of the French Pabloite group Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire virtually made him a posthumous member of the Fourth International.

It claimed that Duan was close to the conception of the permanent revolution and was 'close to our movement on the question of class alliances'.

Nevertheless, as the article points out, 'as Uncle Ho's protegee' (sic), he 'opposed those who wanted to construct socialism north of the 17th parallel and defended the idea of the North as the base for a revolutionary reunification of the country'.

Precisely; it was on this basis that Ho Chi Minh sought support from the United States and was acclaimed by the reformists in France in 1946 before the war broke out in Indo-China, with Stalinists still in the government.

Actually, Duan's 'theory of class alliances' was based on the superficial thinking of Mao Tse Tung, not on that of Trotskyism in any sense.

Embarrassed by the role of Duan in the extermination of the Vietnamese Trotskyists, the obituary attempts a discreditable partial exoneration:

'If he did not distance himself from the Stalinist calumnies against the Trotskyists, described as "agents of fascism" and murdered like Ta Thu Thau in 1945, Le Duan presented some remarkable differences with the body of thought of Stalinism and Maoism.'

The last point is irrelevant, even if true — which is doubtful.

The fact that Duan 'did not distance himself from the calumnies' means that he supported and profited from the treacherous slaughter of the Vietnamese Trotskyists.

Le Duan played a leading role in the development of the Vietnamese Communist Party in the course of which the revolutionary workers and peasants inflicted a decisive defeat on French and then American imperialism.

In recent years he was one of the architects of the close alliance with the Soviet bureaucracy.

Trotskyists supported the struggle of the Vietnamese people for victory over the local landlords and comprador capitalist as well as over the foreign oppressors.

Le Duan was always a bitter opponent of Trotskyism and the use of his death by the Pabloites to cover up their own rotten compromises with Stalinism should be exposed for what it is.

Tom Kemp

How you can fight the Restart scheme

A COUPLE of comments about Hughie Nicol's piece of August 23.

Firstly, a part-time worker on a Community Programme scheme must have their money made up by Supplementary Benefit to at least £4 more than they were getting on Benefit in the first place, including anything they have to pay towards their rent.

Any expenses involved in their doing the job, particularly travelling, should be disregarded.

To get this, they have to continue being available for full-time work, which of course stops them being crossed off the unemployment figures.

Since the DHSS seem to have got his money wrong, he obviously has strong grounds for appealing against restriction of his money for giving up the job.

It is vital to fight for such diminishing benefit rights as we still have, as part of fighting their restriction.

Secondly, it is possible to top up wages to union rates on Community Programme schemes and, as far as we know, all other MSC schemes. Many MSC local offices are, of course, incompetent and resist proposals which involve them in extra work.

Again, it is crucial to press for topping-up in the widest possible range of programmes and unions should discuss such arrangements with individual employers,

rather than the MSC or managing agents, before approving schemes.

Union approval to schemes seems to be given with virtually no thought or research whatsoever.

A claimant's benefit cannot be suspended for refusing a job at a wage lower than 'those generally observed by agreement between associations of employers and of employees'.

Unions agreeing to low

wage schemes directly increases the likelihood of claimants losing benefit.

The government has clearly stated that claimants are under no obligation to accept any of the options on the Restart 'menu', only to attend the initial interview.

It is by isolating claimants from each other and from accurate information on their rights that the underlying intimidation of the programme is able to operate.

The Union movement is

not capable of representing the interests of claimants, particularly at grass roots level.

What is needed is a stronger network of local groups made up of, and controlled by, claimants and the unemployed themselves, which can work alongside union branches and other interest groups to resist the increasing weight of social control.

In solidarity,
Bill Bennett
(pp Cambridge Claimants Union)

TV Preview

Saturday September 6

10.00 pm, ITV. **Psycho**. Hitchcock's blood-curdling masterpiece—the film to end all films where the psychotic killer leaps out from the dark and stabs the oblivious victim to death.

Sunday September 7

9.05 pm, BBC 1. **The Monocled Mutineer: Episode 2**. True story of a mutiny led within the ranks of the British army during the first World War. 1.

8.05 pm, BBC 2. **The White Tribe of Africa**. The story of how the Afrikaners beat the British and established their own republic. Central to the film is the secret society of the Afrikaners, the Broederbond.

Monday September 8

7.35 pm, BBC 1. **Life on Earth**. David Attenborough visits the Great Barrier reef, in this repeated series. Wouldn't it be nice to have a job-like his?

10.00 pm, Channel 4. **God Bless Standard Oil**. An eight part documentary series which examines the impact of the oil industry in the modern world.

11.00 pm, Channel 4. **The eleventh Hour**. Part of a series depicting the lives and experiences of gay men and women through different film forms.

9.00 pm, ITV **Marnie** Another of Hitchcock's mesmeric early films starring Sean Connery in his best ever performance, as the understanding hunk who re-

deems Tippi Hedron from her life of compulsive crime.

11.10 pm, Channel 4. **Madchen in Uniform**. 1931 film made about a homosexual romance between a teacher and pupil in a viciously regimented girl's school. The film was made in Germany shortly before the Nazis came to power, and is explicitly anti-fascist.

Tuesday September 9

7.50 pm, BBC 2 **Wildlife Showcase: Living with Crocodiles**. The programme deals with a unique experiment being carried out in Northern Australia which could lead to the long-term conservation of the endangered Saltwater crocodiles, the world's largest reptiles.

9.00 pm, Channel 4. **A Night at the Opera**. Definitely not to be missed. If there is anybody out there who has not heard of the Marx brothers, it is not too late — this is one of their best ever.

10.30 pm, ITV. **Viewpoint '86: Courage Along the Divide**. This programme takes a look at the Palestinians and Israelis who are working together hoping to bring a solution to their conflict.

Friday September 12

11.30 pm, Channel 4. **Pressure**. The British television premiere of Britain's first black feature film. It examines the effects of pressure in a multi-racial society on second generation blacks in Britain, focusing on Notting Hill in West London.



Life in multi-racial Britain demands a heavy price from second generation black youth in 'Pressure'.

Workers Press

Saturday September 6 1986. Newsdesk 01-720 2000

TYNESIDE:

SHIPYARD STAND-OFF

NORTH EAST Shipbuilders, part of the nationalised British Shipbuilders, has provoked a strike at the Austin and Pickersgill yard as a prelude to forcing through compulsory redundancies later this month.

A mass meeting on Thursday morning has voted to return to normal working after hearing a report from a meeting held in Brighton between the Shipbuilding National Committee and British Shipbuilders executives.

Shop stewards claim a total victory and recommended a return to work.

The twenty men laid off without pay are to be taken back on.

No contractors are to be brought in; there will be complete parity of overtime and normal working practices.

Shop stewards added a note of caution as they sought further negotiations to establish how local management would interpret the Brighton decision.

The redundancies, announced earlier this year, are to go ahead, despite a massive order book.

The bitter struggle in defence of trade union rights and working practices erupted at the Austin and Pickersgill shipyard in Sunderland.

900 angry shipyard work-

ers responded to management provocation by walking out on indefinite strike in defence of 20 workers who had been laid off without pay.

All previous agreements, at national and local level, were disregarded as British Shipbuilders tried to ride roughshod over the trade union organisation in the shipyards.

Dispute

Shop stewards demanded that the dispute should go through procedure but management, both at the Sunderland yard and at British Shipbuilders' headquarters, refused any further negotiations.

The bosses first insisted on selective overtime working which was refused by the

VIRAJ MENDIS IN SCOTLAND

SUPPORTERS of Viraj Mendis' campaign against deportation voted in Glasgow this week to set up a committee to fight for his case in Scotland.

Mendis told the meeting that the campaign had won official backing from the NUM and the T&GWU, an important step in gaining support in the trade unions to defeat the Tories' reactionary anti-immigration laws.

Dundee Council had invited Mendis to speak to them, an initiative which campaign supporters will seek to extend when they contact Scottish councils and

Labour Party branches, as well as local Asian organisations.

Speaking at the meeting for the WRP, Joe Eyre, of the teachers' union, EIS, emphasised that the Tories were responding to the degeneration of capitalism with attacks on racial minorities.

'But the time is approaching when the working class itself will be used as a scapegoat,' he said.

'The issue of racism must be raised in the trade unions, which organise thousands of black workers'.

Gareth Jenkins, of Fight Racism!

Fight Imperialism!, said that the police, the courts, the Home Office and Social Security were united against immigrant workers.

Mendis — who has lived in Britain for thirteen years — was threatened with deportation because of his political record.

● This Saturday afternoon, a street meeting in Princes St, Edinburgh and a picket at the Immigration Appeals Office in George Sq, Glasgow, will publicise the campaign (1 pm to 4 pm, both places).

BY HUGHIE NICOL

men who just would not work it when asked.

They then declared that 50 contractors would be brought into the yard to progress work on one of the vessels and that if the workers refused overtime then the contractors would work that also.

Despite being the subject of discussions at national level with the shipbuilding national committee, the bosses tried to get the contractors into the yard the previous Thursday.

The shipyard workers mounted pickets on all the gates from inside the yard to stop this and the contract workers refused to cross picket lines.

Next day management retaliated by laying off 20 out-fitters without pay, including plumbers, fitters, painters and redleaders.

The 20 men reported for work on the Monday as shop stewards were still negotiating on their behalf, but the bosses threatened to call the police if they didn't leave the shipyard.

They returned the next day to attend the mass meeting where the workforce voted 825 to 40 for an indefinite strike.



Shop stewards warned the men that the national agreements on transfers from other yards were being ignored and contractors were being brought in even though men had been laid off in Scotland's shipyards till January of next year.

Breach

The agreement was also that men laid off would get 75 per cent of their pay but the bosses were claiming they were in breach of agreement by refusing to work overtime.

The management had stated that contract dates were of paramount importance, that they would take any steps that were necessary to safeguard these dates and would do so within or without procedure.

Secretary of the shop stewards, Peter Callaghan, was loudly applauded by the men following his address on behalf of the yard committee.

He warned that the trades unions had been under constant pressure for the past two years and particularly the past six months since the

new management team had taken over.

'Every yard they have been in has been closed down', he claimed.

Dilute

Shop stewards claim that by introducing sub-contractors into the yard the bosses seek to dilute the trade union organisation and want to weaken and undermine the bargaining powers of the Shipbuilding National Committee at national level.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

30th Anniversary of the HUNGARIAN UPRISING

Speaker: Peter Fryer

correspondent for the

Daily Worker, eye-witness to the events in Hungary and author of 'Hungarian Tragedy'

London

October 26 1986

Manning Hall, University of London

Union,

Malet Street, London WC1

Glasgow

Sunday October 19, 300pm

Ingram Hotel, Ingram Street

Manchester

Tuesday October 21, 7.30pm

Basement Theatre, Manchester

Town Hall

St Peters Square

Workers Revolutionary Party West of Scotland branch

LECTURE SERIES

MARXISM AND THE WORKING CLASS TODAY

Tuesday September 2nd, 7:30 pm

Trotskyists, trades unions and the Labour Party — W. Hunter

Tuesday September 16th, 7:30 pm:

Ireland and the national question

Tuesday September 30th, 7:30 pm:

The Scottish working class and its history

Tuesday October 14th, 7:30 pm:

The family and the struggle for socialism

All lectures at the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street,

Glasgow

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

PUBLIC LECTURES

All on Thursday evenings

start 8.00pm sharp

The Shaw Theatre

Euston Road, London WC1

PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIALISM

Lecturer: Cyril Smith

September 18 - Sceptics and Dogmatists

September 25 - Knowledge and the labour process

October 2 - What is a human being

To be followed by classes on

Marxist Political Economy - G Pilling

The State and Revolution - B Archer

The Revolutionary Party - D Bruce

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