

80% VOTE FOR TEACHERS' STRIKE

1,500 members of the National Union of Teachers in Oxfordshire have voted to take strike action to stop education cuts.

This figure represents nearly 80% of those who voted and well over two-thirds of the membership.

Yet in spite of their overwhelming response the NUT Executive is still not calling them out on strike.

The £3,000 million cuts in public spending announced by the Labour government in the Spring of 1976 (on which 37 Tribunites abstained, only to return swiftly to heel to vote confidence in Wilson's economic strategy) are now working their way through to the classrooms with devastating consequences.

534 JOBS

In Oxfordshire the Tory Council plans to axe at least 534 teaching jobs from a total teaching force of just over 4,000, as well as closing down nurseries, slicing expenditure on books and other equipment by a quarter and cutting jobs of cleaner, office and dinner staff.

These measures would make Oxfordshire 103rd out of 104 education authorities throughout England and Wales (from mid-way up the scale) in the league table of pupil:teacher ratios.

The NUT began the school year with a magnificent show of strength.

A half day strike last September produced a demonstration of 4,000 teachers and parents to lobby a county council meeting, and demagogic speeches from national and local leaders of the teachers' and other public service unions that "the fight was only just beginning".

FEBRUARY

It then took until late February of this year to force those leaders to introduce any more action into the schools.

NUT members learnt in practice the reasons for the introduction over the past few years of new disciplinary procedures and other bureaucratic measures giving the Executive's "Action Com-



mittee" complete control over any fight against the cuts.

Firstly the county had to be designated an "action area". Then members were balloted on 'refusal to cover' sanctions. It took merely a matter of days when these sanctions were finally implemented in February for teachers to realise how totally ineffective they would be.

Moves then began towards strike action. At least three NUT branches out of the nine in the county sent resolutions to the National Executive calling for indefinite strike action to be organised unless the 534 teachers on temporary contracts had their jobs secured.

These resolutions produced an unprecedented surge of energy from NUT National Officers who, once they had safely manoeuvred strike action off the agenda at the union's conference at Easter (along with agreeing to Phase 3 of wage controls), needed to appear to be doing something themselves so they rushed into

... but NUT leaders hold back

Oxfordshire in full force, organising special meetings and pledging the whole of the union's resources behind a fight. This is the only area they have done this.

They launched another ballot which carried an Executive recommendation for a yes vote on three forms of action—withdrawal from voluntary lunch time activities, action on class size, and strike action.

Having safely defused the anger and frustration of the teachers which had built up over the year, the Executive then sat back, obviously hoping for a majority just big enough to use as a pressure on the local authority so that they can be seen to have 'achieved something'.

Unfortunately for them, reality proved somewhat different. Of the 2,200 members in the county 1,900 returned ballot papers, with 1,700 voting in favour of the



FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN ISTANBUL.

TURKISH POLLS: ECEVIT AHEAD

A victory in the Turkish general election of Sunday last 5 June for the Republican People's Party (RPP), of Bulent Ecevit seems certain as we go to press.

In the results declared by Monday afternoon, the RPP had won 193 seats against 165 for the right wing Justice Party of Suleyman Demirel.

The fascist National Action Party led by Turkes had 8 seats and the reactionary Islamic Salvation Party, 19.

However, other reports indicate that Ecevit himself, on the basis of fuller information, is claiming to have 222 seats, only four short of an overall majority, and certainly enough for him to form a government without having to rely on any other party.

In the big cities the RPP has been well ahead of all its rivals, with 27 seats in Istanbul against 13 for the Justice Party, 3 for the NAP and one for the Salvation Party, while in Ankara, 16 seats

have been won by the RPP against 9 for the Justice Party and 2 for the NAP.

The left wing parties received very small votes. The Turkish Labour Party, closely identified with the Moscow aligned Stalinists, which had 15 seats during the 1960s, received only 18,000 votes, about 0.15%.

The Maoist Turkish Unity Party got 44,500, about 0.37%.

We have as yet no information on the other candidates from workers parties, who because of the electoral law had to stand as independents.

The elections themselves were marked by much less violence than expected.

Enormous numbers of police and soldiers were to be seen at the polling booths and some were also protected by members of the RPP and left wing parties from attacks expected from the fascists.

There was some fighting

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

FRANCE Demand CP-SP Government

The enormous hostility of the French working class to the austerity plan of the Barre government was shown on the one-day general strike on 24 May.

The mobilisation on that day was comparable only with the strike wave exactly nine years ago in May/June 1968.

Ports, factories, power supplies and nearly all transport was stopped for the day. Nearly ten million workers came out on strike and according to reports in the CGT union paper, as many as 2½ million were involved in numerous local meetings and demonstrations.

DEMONSTRATIONS

There was not just the usual huge procession in Paris but large demonstrations in every centre of population.

At the tiny port of Le Havre, 20,000 people, according to reports, were on a demonstration, including dockers not normally known for their militancy.

At Marseilles, 50,000 marched according to the local trade unions.

At Bordeaux, 15,000 marched and 100,000 struck while at Rouen there were 40,000 demonstrators, twice as many as on the last national mobilisation.



Mitterand

Among the demonstrators in many towns were large numbers of trade union members in the police force, mainly in the Stalinist dominated CGT. Most of them were calling simply for "freedom of expression for the police" but some joined in the main slogans of the Communist Party and Socialist Party—"Union, Action, Common Programme!" (the reformist policy

of the CP and the SP).

What lies behind this enormous movement? It is not just purely industrial grievances against the wage control policies of the Barre plan, but is also part of the trend revealed in local elections and opinion polls of the call for new policies and a real alternative.

This underlines the treachery of Communist Party leader Marchais

and Mitterand of the Socialist Party in keeping a low profile on the day, thus deliberately keeping separate a fight against the economic policies of the present government with the search for political solutions which is posed in the working class.

WRONG

This is why the 10,000 leftists in the Paris demonstration were wrong to say as the Lutte Ouvriere group did, "Whether it's a government of the right or a government of the left, workers can only depend on their own struggles" or the LCR "Don't count on Mitterand! Don't count on Marchais!"

The workers on the move will have to try and test their leaders during the course of further struggles and mobilisations that lie ahead and the apparently inevitable march to a CP/SP government.

In order to burst the bonds of one day mobilisations it is through placing demands on these leaders that the necessary task of developing a new leadership will begin.

ZIMBABWE

Last week's five day invasion of Mozambique by a crack unit of Rhodesia's armed forces has raised a chorus of howls from the British and American imperialist governments.

British Foreign Secretary David Owen, expressed his "grave concern" at the "utter folly" of the incursion.

GUERRILLAS

Needless to say, his concern did not extend to the 32 guerillas reportedly killed by Smith's racists, but arose because of his fear that the attack might:

"break up the Anglo-American initiative for a negotiated settlement."

But Rhodesia's attack was far from irrational. A recent report issued by Smith's administration shows that last April a net 1,034 European whites left the country, bringing the total for the first four months of 1977 to 3,578.

This compares with the 880 who left during the same period last year.

This white exodus has been coupled with increasing complaints from the remaining Europeans that Rhodesia is slowly becoming "a concentration camp for whites", given the government's incapacity to defend them.

EMIGRANTS

The military strike against ZANLA (the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army) was obviously an attempt to assuage white fears, and to try to halt the flood of emigrants from Rhodesia.

The timing of the attack is also important. The dry season of May to November has traditionally marked an upsurge in guerilla activity.

By invading Mozambique up to a distance of fifty miles, and by seizing the town of Mapai, as well as allegedly destroying the guerilla



Smith

ment obviously hoped to prevent the guerillas from getting their war effort off the ground by nipping them in the bud.

But this strategy may well have backfired. Despite claims that they had seized huge quantities of armaments and ammunition, the

Rhodesian forces have only been able to produce a few shotguns as signs of their "victory".

In addition, reports from Mozambique indicate that three Rhodesian aircraft were shot down in the Tete province to the north east of Rhodesia, a costly loss for Smith's forces.

ESCALATING

Moreover, by attacking ZANLA so far within Mozambique, Rhodesia may have forced the Frelimo regime into giving more active support to the guerillas.

This attack will by no means be the last in the fast-escalating war in Southern Africa. But what it signifies is the increasing pressures—internal and external—Rhodesia is now facing.

Whether that pressure will manage to overthrow Smith's racist regime remains to be seen.

One thing however is certain—a long, hot summer of preventive strikes, "hot pursuit" actions and guerilla raids is about to begin.

DENMARK

As we go to press production of Denmark's leading daily paper, the 'Berlingske Tidende' has still not recommenced after a four-month shutdown caused by a redundancy dispute.

This is in spite of the fact that with the backing of the Danish TUC, the social democratic party and a huge press witch-hunt against the strikers, a deal was forced through on May 21 which supposedly settled the dispute.

The deal, providing £2½ million to compensate 250 redundant printworkers has been the centre of controversy ever since.

movement support raised for the printers, while the government threatened to take the unemployment funds of the print unions (already fined over £1 million in connection with the dispute) under state administration.

Moves were also in hand to force unemployed printers to scab on the dispute—under threat of stopping dole payments.

Last week management issued an ultimatum that if production did not resume this Monday, scab supervisory labour would be used, and police protection would be sought for distribution of strike-breaking editions of the paper.

It remains to be seen if the Communist Party dominated leadership of the Berlingske work-

MEXICO Trade Unionist Gunned Down

On May 12, in Mexico City, Alfonso Peralta Reyes—a founder member of a university staff union and a leading member of the Mexican Workers Revolutionary Party (PRT)—was assassinated as he left a classroom with his students.

It is not difficult to guess who in Mexico should want Peralta dead.

Lopez Portillo's government, like so many others throughout the world, has been forced to resolve its economic crisis by attacking the living standards of the working class.

AUSTERITY

In imposing his austerity plans he has been helped by the fact that most Mexican trade unions are tied historically and by the politics of their bureaucratic leaders to his ruling "Institutional Revolutionary Party", the only party on the ballot paper at the last "election".

The Union of Workers of the Autonomous National University of Mexico were an exception, a union whose leadership was dominated by members of the Communist Party and organisations to the left of them and which had organised demonstrations against government austerity measures.

As such, it had become a focus of opposition to the government. Alfonso Peralta was a member of its General Representative Council.

A leaflet found beside his body pointed to the involvement of the "23 September Communist League".

This is a supposedly Maoist guerilla group which terrorises other elements in the workers' movement on the grounds that they are reformists and police spies.

RIGHT WING

Yet even bourgeois journalists suspect that Peralta's enemies are more likely to be in the extreme right than the extreme left of Mexican politics. Already another General Council member of Peralta's Union has had his life threatened and his house raided by police.

In this situation it is essential that Mexican workers and students fight in the labour movement for a workers investigation into the events surrounding this assassination and into the political credentials of the "23 September Communist League".

No other force can be trusted to carry out this task.

But the PRT is calling for an inquiry by the State, saying "our party demands an immediate investigation of the murder, along with punishment for its perpetrators."

ORGANISED

This is a demand for the police (who probably organised the murder) to intervene further into the working class with "investigations". It is not surprising that this demand should have won the support of the Mexican Communist Party which believes explicitly in the neutrality of the State.

The PRT calls itself a Trotskyist Party. It was formed last September from a fusion of two of the three Mexican parties who claimed to be sections of the "United" Secretariat of the Fourth International.

When the fusion took place the parties announced that they disagreed on almost everything except the need to join forces.

Already, it seems, they have found a fresh area of agreement—the demand that the State should investigate the workers' movement



IN BRIEF

CHINA

Reports from Peking reveal that a treaty of "peace and friendship" with neighbouring Japan will soon be signed. The treaty reportedly contains a clause opposing "hegemony" by any country in Asia—a veiled attack on the Soviet Union. A further broadside in China's anti-Soviet campaign was fired last week when the Peking People's Daily of May 30 carried a front page story hailing "Zaire's routing of a Moscow-engineered invasion."

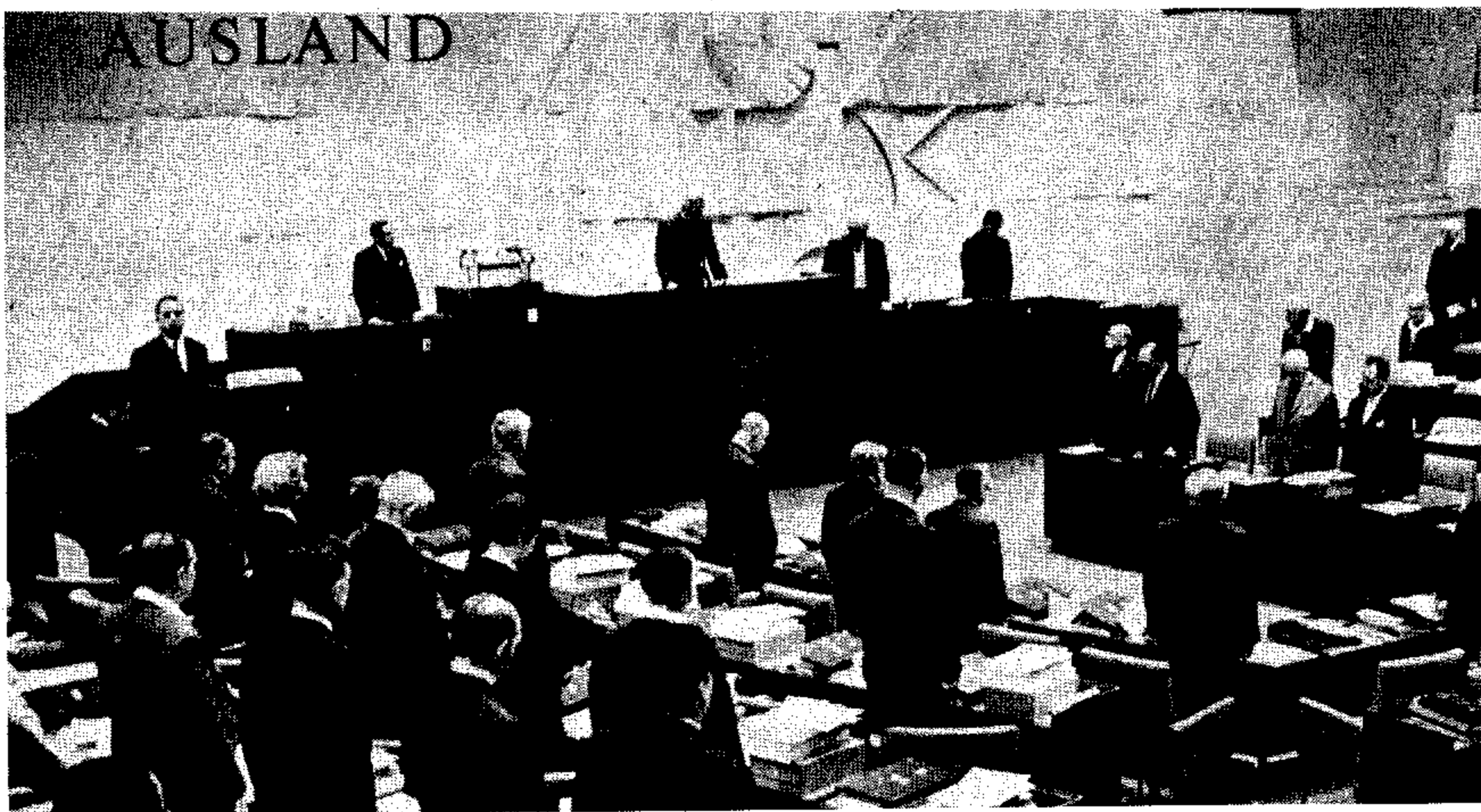
PORTUGAL

Figures released by the government show that in the first four months of this year basic food prices rose by an average 36%, compared to the same period in 1976.

Portugal's economic instability is further compounded by its mammoth payments deficit, now \$900 million per annum, and by a recent refusal of two out of five US congressional committees to approve a \$300 million loan to Portugal.

PAKISTAN

Lahore High Court has ruled that the imposition of martial law in the city is illegal. Martial law had been declared there six weeks ago by the Prime Minister, Bhutto, in an attempt to check the demonstrations calling for fresh elections. The ruling class will certainly be challenged in Pakistan's Supreme Court, but this development is bound to increase the tension between the opposition parties and Bhutto, just as talks aimed at resolving the three month old political crisis have begun. The unrest is estimated at having cost Pakistan between \$300-400 million according to figures issued last week. 265 people are said to have



The Israeli parliament, the Knesset.

ISRAEL

The political crisis ensuing from Israel's recent general election, in which the right-wing Likud party won 43 seats in the 120 seat Knesset (parliament), seems to have been resolved—at least temporarily.

The exact composition of Israel's new government is as yet unclear, but it is certain to be made up of representatives from Likud, the National Religious Party (NRP) and the self-styled reformist Democratic Movement for Change (DMC).

The former terrorist leader of Likud, Menahem Begin, has also announced that ex-Labour Defence Minister Moshe Dayan, will be offered a post in the new cabinet.

Begin has not backtracked on his commitment to consolidate and further expand Israel's frontiers.

The DMC are verbally opposed to their expansionist policies, arguing instead that territorial concessions should be made in order to secure peace.

But it is quite clear that Begin will brook no opposition in this respect.

His first major speech after his electoral victory was delivered to the semi-fascist religious fanatics of the Gush Emunim sect, who inhabit Camp Kadum in the occupied West Bank.

In his speech, Begin declared the provinces of Judea and Samaria to be "part of the country of our ancestors", and that they "will remain integral parts of Israel".

For the benefit of the Palestinian Arabs who inhabit these areas Begin declared that "numerous other Camp Kadums" will be established on the West Bank.

These veiled threats cannot be dismissed as lunatic ravings. Far from it, for almost 30 years ago, on 9 April 1948, Begin's terrorist gang—the Irgun Zvei Leumi—slaughtered 254 Arabs in the village of Deir Yassin.

GENOCIDAL

If this genocidal racist can accomplish this, armed only with machine guns and handgrenades, what is he capable of with an army of 400,000, 612 combat aircraft and some 2,700 tanks—not to mention further backing from the USA?

Already reports have emanated from PLO sources claiming that over 1,000 Israeli troops invaded the village of Shuba in South Lebanon last week.

The Israeli army have denied this charge, but there can be no doubt that they are already pursuing a more aggressive attitude in border areas. And this policy can only lead to a new Middle East war.

Even now the Kuwaiti daily paper Al Siyasn is speculating on the possibility of a fifth Arab-Israeli war this autumn.

The hard shift to the right in Israeli domestic and foreign policy makes the prospect of such a conflict a very grim reality. Within Israel no political party has come out on a principled basis against Begin's expansionist policies.

Nor can any, for all of these parties remain committed to the Zionist State of Israel and reject utterly the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

As long as that right is denied, the Middle East will feature as an enormous powder-keg in world politics.

IRELAND election dilemma

The 20th Irish Dail came to an end last week with the announcement by Prime Minister Liam Cosgrave that elections were to be held on June 16.

The major parties contending the election are the present coalition partners, Fine Gael and Labour, and Fianna Fail, which has been the major opposition party since it lost the last election in 1973.

During that time inflation has risen by some 25% and over 12% of the working population are unemployed.

Indeed, in Dublin alone where one third of the country's population live, unemployment has risen by a staggering 60% in the past 18 months.

The coalition strategy for these elections is to try and divert attention away from its record, and to posture instead as the only force willing and able to defend the South from (mythical) IRA attacks.

In line with this policy, the government has passed a series of anti-republican laws which have allowed Irish courts to send over 700 republicans to prison.

These laws include the Emergency Powers Act, and the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act which allows the Southern govern-

ment to try political suspects for offences committed in the North of Ireland.

The opposition Fianna Fail have announced that they will repeal the former act and "re-examine" the latter, if they win the elections.

This declaration is a transparently feeble attempt to win a few votes from those liberals who find the coalition's draconian measures a bit too severe, and an effort to hold on to the traditionally nationalist vote of Ireland's small farmers.

Economically, Fianna Fail are also trying to discredit the Cosgrave regime by putting forward a programme of major tax and rates cuts, with an "employment creation scheme" aimed at creating 80,000 jobs by 1980.

Not only are these vague promises totally inadequate to deal with the problems facing the Irish working class, but it is highly doubtful if Fianna Fail have any intention of putting them into practice.

For during the 16 years of their previous rule (1957-73), a whole spate of reactionary measures, culminating in an amendment to the Offences Against the State Act, which allowed the courts to convict on the word of a Police Superintendent alone, were enacted.

On the question of the imperialist occupation of the North of

Ireland, all three main parties are likewise, more or less agreed. No matter who wins these elections and the coalition look to have the advantage just now, "cross-border co-operation" is bound to continue.

The problems facing the Irish working class—rampant inflation and mass unemployment; savage, church-inspired restrictions on the democratic rights of contraception and abortion and divorce; the presence of 15,000 British soldiers in the North upholding the Orange State there—these problems will not be solved by any of the parties squabbling for votes on June 16.

Fine Gael represents in undistorted form the interests of Ireland's bourgeoisie. In this they are ably assisted by Fianna Fail, whose electoral base is the small farmers and shopkeepers of Ireland, but whose policies are now inextricably enmeshed with those of imperialism.

The smallest of the three parties Labour, has completely subordinated itself to Fine Gael at every opportunity (by entering into coalition governments in 1948-51, 1954-57 and 1973-77), and has merely served to cross the t's and dot the i's of their conservative partner's thoroughly anti-working class policies.

In certain areas the semi-Stalinist

republican Workers Party (formerly Official Sinn Fein) is standing candidates.

But their renegeing on the struggle in the North, and the dead end reformist policies they pursue both there and in the south presents no alternative—even as a protest vote—for southern workers.

Provisional Sinn Fein, the one force actually fighting imperialism in Ireland, is not fielding candidates since it rejects participation in either the Northern or Southern administrations as long as Ireland is partitioned.

In this situation, socialists in Ireland should campaign in the working class for abstention in these elections, but should connect this to a fight for the immediate breaking of the Fine Gael/Labour coalition as the minimum precondition for voting Labour.

Indispensable to such a struggle is an all-Ireland revolutionary party fighting for socialist revolution as the only way in which the tasks posed by Ireland's aborted democratic revolution will be solved.

SPAIN Boycott June 15 election

On June 15 Suarez' government of fascists will make its major attempt to date to mask itself with the forms of bourgeois democracy.

About 6,000 candidates will be contesting the 350 seats in the lower house of the national assembly under nearly 100 different party labels.

Candidates will be elected on a proportional representation list system in multi-member constituencies. There are seven parties and electoral alliances which are presenting candidates in more than 25 constituencies and so have the right to national radio and TV time during the elections.

The seven are the fascist Falange the fascist Popular Alliance, (led by Manuel Fraga), the Union of the Democratic Centre (an alliance of fascists, and Christian and Social Democrats led by Premier Suarez), the Christian Democratic Federation, the Popular Socialist Party, the Socialist Workers Party (the PSOE, the main reformist party) and finally the Communist Party.

The constituencies are jerry-mandered in favour of the rural areas in order to devalue working class votes and give maximum benefit to the government and other fascist parties.

While other parties have TV and radio time, the Suarez regime still controls and heavily censors all news broadcasts.

Members of workers' parties have been harassed throughout the

campaign by the state authorities and the bands of fascist thugs.

And there is still no word from the government about what powers the assembly will have when it is elected.

There is no doubt, therefore, that one thing which will not be happening on June 15 is "Spain's first democratic elections for 40 years."

SHAM

But this electoral sham is a response by the Suarez regime to the great offensive of the working class since Franco's death 18 months ago.

It is, in the strikingly appropriate words of Lenin about the Duma (parliament) election planned by the Tsar in 1905:

"... a bait designed to draw the people away from the revolution. The bait was a dummy clothed in a dress of constitutionalism... Participation in the elections was not just a matter-of-fact, simple performance of one's usual civic duties. It was the solemn inauguration of a monarchist constitution.

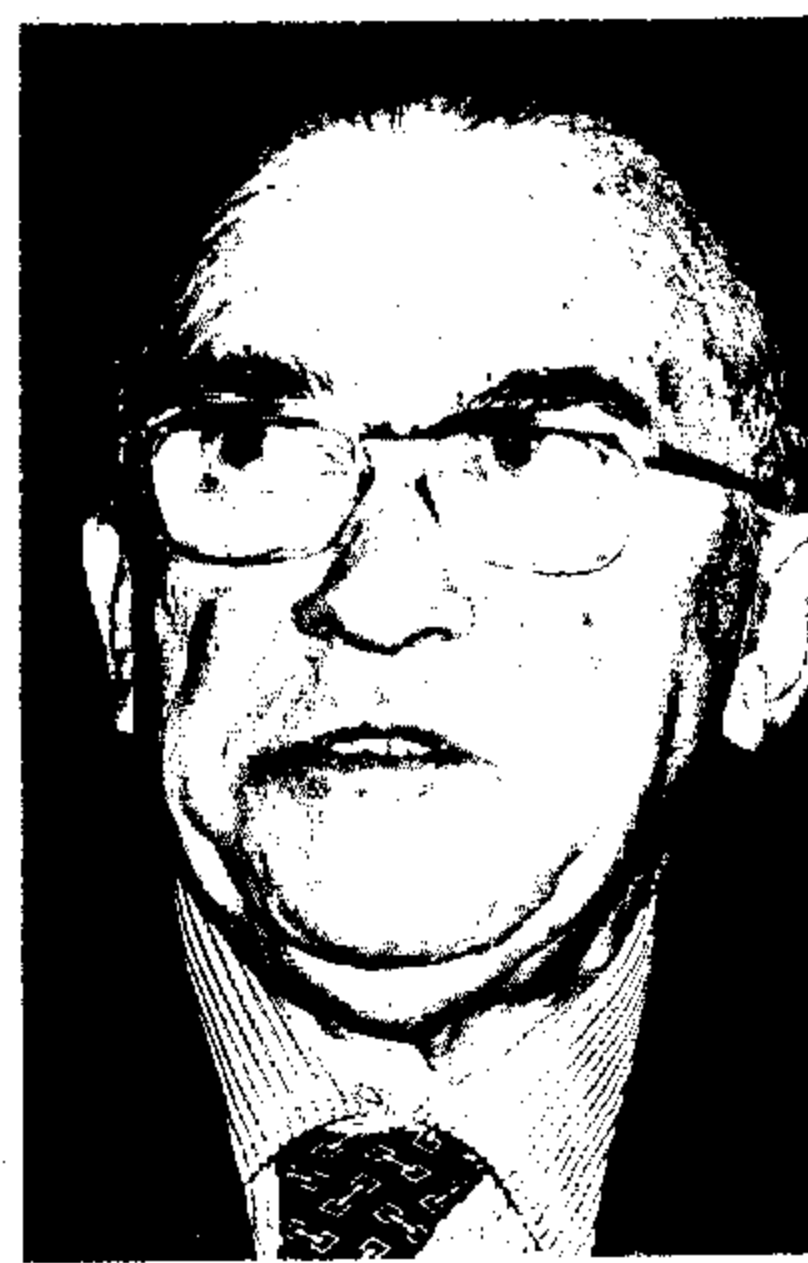
It was a turn from the revolutionary path to the monarchist constitutional path. The Social Democrats (revolutionaries) were bound at that time to unfurl their banner of protest... refusing to take part, abstaining oneself and holding the people back, issuing a call for an assault on the old regime instead of working within the framework of an institution set up

by that regime." (Lenin, *Complete Works*, Vol 13, pp 31-32).

BOYCOTT

That should also be the task of revolutionaries in Spain today—a campaign for the boycott of these elections as an offensive tactic in the battle to destroy Francoism.

[The next issue of *Socialist Press* will carry a full report on the elections from our correspondent in Spain].



Carrillo

WORKERS SOCIALIST LEAGUE

The Workers Socialist League is a Trotskyist organisation fighting to build a revolutionary leadership in the working class to lead the mounting opposition to the betrayals of both 'left' and right wing Labour and trade union leaders and the Communist Party, as they attempt to enforce wage control, sackings, speed-up and public service cuts.

As workers take up the struggle against these policies they are forced by the sheer weight of forces opposing them to confront political questions. Only with an understanding of the role of the labour bureaucracy and a programme to unite the broadest sections of workers in struggle can a way forward be found.

The Workers Socialist League is the only movement that sets out to do this, fighting consistently in the working class for transitional demands, which go beyond simply trade union militancy to raise the political questions to workers and prepare the forms of organisation and the knowledge necessary for the struggle for socialism.

As a result we have been at the forefront of struggles against the cuts, against wage control, for unionisation, and against redundancy. We have done more than any other tendency to fight the introduction of 'workers' participation' in industry. And we have strongly supported the Campaign for Democracy in the Labour Movement, which has set out to show the link between the reactionary policies of the Social Contract and bureaucratic dictatorship in both the unions and the Labour Party.

But our practical struggle for the continuity of the principles and method of Trotsky's Transitional Programme is in no way a task confined to Britain. It requires an attention and involvement in the struggles of the working class internationally, and the fight to reconstruct the Trotskyist Fourth International.

So there has been a consistent drive within the WSL to deepen and enrich the movement's understanding of the history and the present crisis of the Fourth International as an essential part of our initiative towards its reconstruction.

We urge all readers who agree on the need for revolutionary leadership and the demands we put forward to find out more about the WSL and join our fight in the Labour movement.

BP HANDOUTS REVEALED

Hard on the heels of the now almost universally suppressed revelations that British Leyland operates a multi-million pound "slush fund" paying massive illegal or semi-legal cash bribes to secure overseas contracts, a report has been published detailing the shady dealings of the state-controlled oil giant British Petroleum.

The firm has admitted payments of nearly £1 million over the three years 1972-75 to overseas tax officials, minor politicians and agents.

There is as yet no way of discovering how many unrecorded payments have been made. Certainly workers should note the deceptive ways in which many of the admitted payments have been accounted for.

In general, handouts were described as "commissions" or, more vaguely, "distribution expenses"—though the firm admit some were classified as "repairs" and "car hire".

In other words, seemingly innocent labels conceal the network of behind the scenes bribes and rake-offs that grease the creaking wheels of capitalism's "free market".

As with the British Leyland case, these figures are being brushed

aside as run-of-the-mill by BP management. "Everybody does it", shout the Tory press and other spokesmen for the ruling class.

But for workers confronting plunging living standards policed by the reactionary Liberal-Labour coalition in tandem with the TUC such revelations can only fuel their determination to resist the imposition of another year of wage controls.

While droves of "agents", corrupt tax officials, police, customs officers, bankers and leading executive cream off tax-free perks and back handers, the Phase Three guillotine on the living standards of workers who produce the wealth is poised to descend—holding wage increases to under 10%.

Leyland and BP, Lockheed and Du Pont have been forced to open a slight chink in the armour of secrecy which surrounds their seamy day-to-day wheeling and dealing.

Trade unionists in every firm must demand the full accounts and secret files are opened to the inspection of elected trade unionists.

In exposing the corruption and waste which capitalism fosters, such committees will point to the need for the nationalisation of major industries under elected committees of workers' management, as part of a planned socialist economy.

SCOTLAND CONFERENCE ON WAGE CONTROL

The Campaign for Democracy in the Labour Movement is holding a Conference on Wage Control and Union Democracy in Scotland on Saturday June 25.

Sponsors for the conference already include the Central Scotland Federation of Trades Councils, and Stirling and District Trades Council as well as stewards and branch officers from the main public sector unions, AUEW and TGWU.

The statement introducing the Conference includes the following points:

"June and July are crucial months for the trade union movement. Individual unions such as the NUM, TGWU and NALGO will be holding their conferences to decide whether to reject wage controls or to support a third stage of wages policy.

TOOLROOM

Struggles such as the Leyland toolroom workers, the electricians at Port Talbot and the British Airways engineers show a growing determination for trade unionists to defend their living standards.

However the TUC is still hoping to get a Phase III by the back door. Jones, Scanlon and Fisher fraudulently emphasise the 'looseness' of a third stage where everything will be possible.

Nobody should be fooled by this. These same TUC leaders won the argument of their individual unions for the Social Contract by emphasising the "safeguards" in the agreement.

They have since used these so-

called "safeguards" to give whole hearted backing to the massive attacks on the working class living standards pushed through by the Labour government.

The Scottish Wage Control and Union Democracy Conference is designed to give trade union activists a forum to organise a socialist alternative to incomes policy.

It is a conference for trade unionists interested in organising now to defeat wage restraint and defend working class living standards.

From this conference it is hoped to wage a campaign in the Scottish labour movement for the policies outlined in the programme of action and to organise support for struggles such as the Laird Porsch strike in East Kilbride where 450 members of the National Union of Tailor and Garmet Workers are in dispute over equal pay and low pay.

The Scottish TUC has not provided the necessary lead to the Scottish trade union movement.

In Stirling Trades Council motion 17 at the 1976 congress the STUC rejected the opportunity to campaign for a working class alternative to the social contract.

The Stirling motion included many of the main points of the CDLM programme of action.

In defeating composite A of this years congress the STUC have been left without a coherent position on incomes policy and are unable to provide Scottish workers with a fighting leadership in the next few crucial months.

The CDLM Scottish Conference can provide activists with that

much needed lead and can begin to fight to see that next year's STUC adopts a fighting alternative to the Social Contract.

The major issues confronting the working class, the Social Contract, wage control, the cuts, unemployment, the struggle for equal pay and women's rights and the use of racialism to divide the working class cannot be separated from the increasing trend towards bureaucratic control by trade union officials over the union membership.

Democracy in the labour movement is more than ever a crucial question for the working class where it is the trade union leaders and the Labour government who are policing policies which are making the working class pay for the crisis of capitalism.

IGNORED

The Labour government constantly ignored Labour Party conference decisions in following its present policies.

Without consultation with the labour movement they have entered into a parliamentary pact with the Liberal Party. David Steel, the Liberal leader has boasted: "Socialism is the one thing this country is not going to have".

The CDLM is committed to fighting for an alternative to policies such as this through its programme of action."

The conference is at 10.15 am, on June 25 at Cowane Centre, Cowane St., Stirling. All details, credentials and sponsorship forms from Stewart MacLennan, 18 Carrington St., Glasgow. Phone 041-332-8728.

NEW POLICE ATTACKS ON BLACK YOUTH

The full weight of the class system of law is being felt by the 18 Islington youths on trial at the Old Bailey.

Not only do the prosecution, judge and police seem determined to fix the youths up as 'black muggers' and 'criminals' before they have been proved guilty of the charges in any way. But the defence lawyers and barristers have also fully shown their class colours.

Many of them before the trial promised to co-operate with the parents and youth in a co-ordinated defence and to fight the case politically.

In fact their concerns lie with their careers rather than with the youths in Islington.

They fail to protect their clients from the abuse of the prosecution, and several of them even tried to persuade their clients to plead guilty on lesser conspiracy counts as part of a deal with the prosecution.

On June 3 one of the youths gave in to the pressure, causing an uproar in court.

For such 'defence' the barristers draw £60 a day on legal aid while the youths struggle for a pittance from social security and suffer the humiliations of the Old Bailey prison regime day by day.

But the determination of the youths and their parents to fight back is undiminished.

On April 29 they staged a picket outside the Old Bailey attacking the collusion of the barristers with the courts, demanding control over the defence and legal aid resources for the defence committee to be able to run a tape recorder in court, for instance.

Outraged at the biased press reporting they have called for a picket of the *Islington Gazette* on Tuesday 13 June at 4pm.

The local NUJ has also invited Defence Committee speakers to its next meeting.

PETITION

Hundreds of people have signed the petition, which calls on local MPs and councillors to publicly support the Defence Committee in organising an enquiry into police dealings with the youth and their parents.

And many local trade union and Labour Party organisations, having heard speakers from the defence committee have by now given their support.

On June 21 black youth were arrested in the Lewisham area. Dragged from their beds at 5 am, held in police stations, beaten up and jointly charged with conspiracy.

The case, using photographic and film evidence, follows the pattern of the attack on the Islington 18.

Meanwhile reports mount of continuing police assaults on black youth in Islington.

As the case of the Islington 18 shows, the strength for a counter-offensive against the police and their masters lies not in the courts but in workers' organisations.

The local labour movement must be forced to step up its support to launch an all-out offensive on the police by carrying out the enquiry and acting on it.

Support and donations to: The Islington 18 Defence Committee, 161, Hornsey Rd., London N7.



Part of the CDLM March 27 Conference in Birmingham

Nurseries fight starts

Over 60 parents and teachers attended a meeting last Thursday in Oxford to organise a campaign to stop nursery closures.

As part of the council's education cuts 80 out of the City's 500 nursery places are threatened and four teachers and six nursery assistants face the sack or redeployment.

Mothers of young children from all areas of the city spoke up about the effects of these cuts on an already grossly inadequate service.

A speaker from the National Union of Teachers gave a report on the overwhelming support of local teachers for a call to take strike action.

But she warned that NUT leaders had announced that they would "settle" for terms which only require the Authority to safeguard the teaching standards for

children over the statutory age of five.

She pointed out the necessity for parents to give teachers their full support in their actions and to urge them to include other aspects on the cuts such as nurseries in their demands.

Other trade unionists spoke of the need to fight the cuts in their entirety otherwise a victory over nurseries might mean merely shifting the burden onto other sections.

The importance of Trades Council was emphasised and it was suggested that the Trades Council could campaign to expose more information to the labour movement.

Questions such as why the council turned down a government grant for more nursery provision last year and still pays for school places in private schools were raised.

The meeting agreed that an umbrella body be set up to co-ordinate the campaign across the city and local committees be set up in each area to canvass the streets to estimate the true demand locally for nursery provision.

A warning note was sounded on this however by Jenny Bancroft who led the unsuccessful campaign two years ago to save a nursery school in North Oxford.

She said: "We did all this—and it certainly was a necessary exercise—but the council chose to ignore our information. We must direct also into the unions—especially the NUT, NALGO and NUPE who have members in the schools."

Direct forms of action such as dumping children on the council's doorstep and occupying nurseries were also discussed and voted for when the time came!

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The new John Radcliffe Phase II.

NEW HOSPITAL IN

CLOSURE

ROW

A brand new £25 million hospital, due to open next year, now stands to bring nothing but misery to the people of Oxford.

The hospital, which has taken five years to build, is the second phase of a massive scheme which was originally planned to extend the Oxford Health Service, with its main centre on this site.

Now the non-elected, undemocratic Oxfordshire Area Health Authority has announced that it has no money to open the hospital unless it massacres the rest of the health service in the county.

Latest estimates say the 472-bed hospital, planned to provide the major accident unit for Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire will cost £4 million a year to run.

But even to keep it closed will cost the health authority at least £300,000 a year in security, maintenance and minimal heating. That is without putting in a single patient.



Anderson—"no support".

Neither the Oxfordshire Area Health Authority nor the Oxford Region has any prospect of finding even a fraction of this money out of its budget.

The government has refused to make a penny available. Equipment has now been stopped from going into the hospital.

The John Radcliffe II is designed to be the only hospital in the area open for accidents and medical and surgical emergencies 24 hours a day.

This is how the commissioning officer of the new hospital sees conditions in the present overcrowded Radcliffe Infirmary: "Conditions in the labs and X-

scandalously condemnable level. The technicians are having to eat their sandwiches off the same bench where they work on urine samples because there are virtually no rest rooms and washrooms close to the laboratories.

In the X-ray department radiographers trying to look at film are falling over patients in wheelchairs waiting to have their X-rays done.

The AHA is considering two alternatives: 1. Leave the hospital shut—probably for the next ten years or longer at a cost of more than £3 million. 2. Open the hospital and finance it by closing the Churchill Hospital (a large general hospital for chronic illnesses the Slade Hospital (infectious and skin diseases) and the Cowley Rd. Hospital (hospital for the old).

WORSENING

Either option means a drastic worsening of the health service. The old hospitals are inadequate without a major injection of funds.

The intention was not, however, to close these hospitals but to relieve the pressure on them. Out of the 470 beds at the John Radcliffe II, 250 are supposed to be over and above what was already available.

Other parts of the health service in the county are also being hit.

In response to this what are the trade union leaders in the town doing?

Last week leaders of the National Union of Public Employees—the biggest union in the local health service—called off the only action it had planned to take—a protest 'day of action'.

"NO SUPPORT"

George Anderson, NUPE divisional officer and a member of the Communist Party (as well as a non-elected member of the Regional Health Authority), claimed there was "no support" for the action.

Socialist Press has been unable to discover the slightest attempt by Anderson or any other NUPE officials to fight for action. The first that many NUPE members in the county knew of the day of action was when they heard it was called off.

Another appointed trade union participant in the AHA—Les Davis—preferred not to face the bleak choice: "Let us have all the figures involved in opening even a quarter of the hospital and it will put the

But trade unionists and other forces determined to fight against the cuts are beginning to demand more than a glimpse at the figures.

ASTMS Health Service branch—backed by Oxford and District Trades Union Council—has demanded a trade union inquiry into the project. This inquiry must now press ahead.

Questions which should be asked include:

Why has the Area Health Authority been starved of money to open the hospital?

What further cuts are already being planned in the secret committees of the health service officials?

PRIVATE BUILDER

Why did the contract—originally estimated at £11.1 million increase to more than £16 million to the private building contractor alone?

Why were design blunders in the John Radcliffe Phase I repeated exactly in the Phase II building?

Above all what health provision should be made to restore all the cuts and expand the service to a satisfactory level?

Such an enquiry can become the centre of a full-scale campaign against these massive cuts in Oxford, and will direct towards the key question of strike action to force a reversal of these policies at local and national level.

The ASTMS health branch is already on record as demanding the union launch national strike action to stop the cuts. This fight must be pursued by every health service union and backed by the local labour movement.

HOUNSLOW WORK-IN AGAINST CUTS

Hounslow Hospital workers have been in occupation for nine weeks in opposition to planned health cuts. Local NALGO branch chairman Carl Brecker outlined their struggle in an interview with 'Socialist Press'.

"Two years ago public expenditure cuts were announced by the government. When the last round of cuts was announced it became clear that the health service would come under attack.

NEGOTIATIONS

Up till that time negotiations were conducted through the District Consultative Committee of the unions.

But at this point the unions pulled out and we began to build up an alternative structure, through the Joint Shops Stewards Committee. That was about 15 months back.

The next stage came when the

challenged these and put up counter-arguments.

The proposals involved closing two hospitals—the Hounslow and Brentford—the Hounslow Chest Clinic and two wards at the South Middlesex. A union defence committee was set up at each of the hospitals. Their job at that time was to monitor the situation at their hospital.

We held meetings involving staff members—union and non-union. All the unions grew in the period.

The next stage reached was the realisation that what the hospital workers did could not, on its own, save the hospitals.

We launched the Save Our Hospitals campaign through the Hounslow Trades Council and the local Council of Action. The Trades Council recognised that the prime attack on public services in this area of London was going to be on the Health Service.

We took our campaign onto the streets.



Area Health Authority told the District Management Team that the books would have to balance, and that there would have to be a saving on a standstill basis, of £717,000 in one year.

'Good housekeeping', 'rationalisation', might save a possible £200,000. The remaining half-million would be accounted for by cuts in actual services.

For the first time the JSSC went onto the offensive. We launched our campaign.

The Area Health Authority told the District Management Team to come up with proposals. JSSC

As the rest of the area came under similar attack, we set up an Area Joint Union Committee.

At the end of the consultation period—on February 9—steward hospital workers and industrial workers took over the meeting at the AHA.

As soon as the item came up on the agenda we sealed off the door and prevented any further discussion of the proposals.

The AHA postponed the discussion of the cuts until February 22, when they went into discussion and the decision for closure was made.

The Council of Action and Defence Committee met at once and resolved that they would prevent closure.

Preparations for the work-in took one to two months. We went into March before they were ready.

On 24 March the actual closure dates were announced. On March we announced the work-in.

We immediately organised meetings through the Council of Action and the Defence Committee to explain what a work-in meant.

This was a totally new concept at that time. We invited speakers along from the EGA. We showed the EGA film. We built very heavily on the EGA experience.

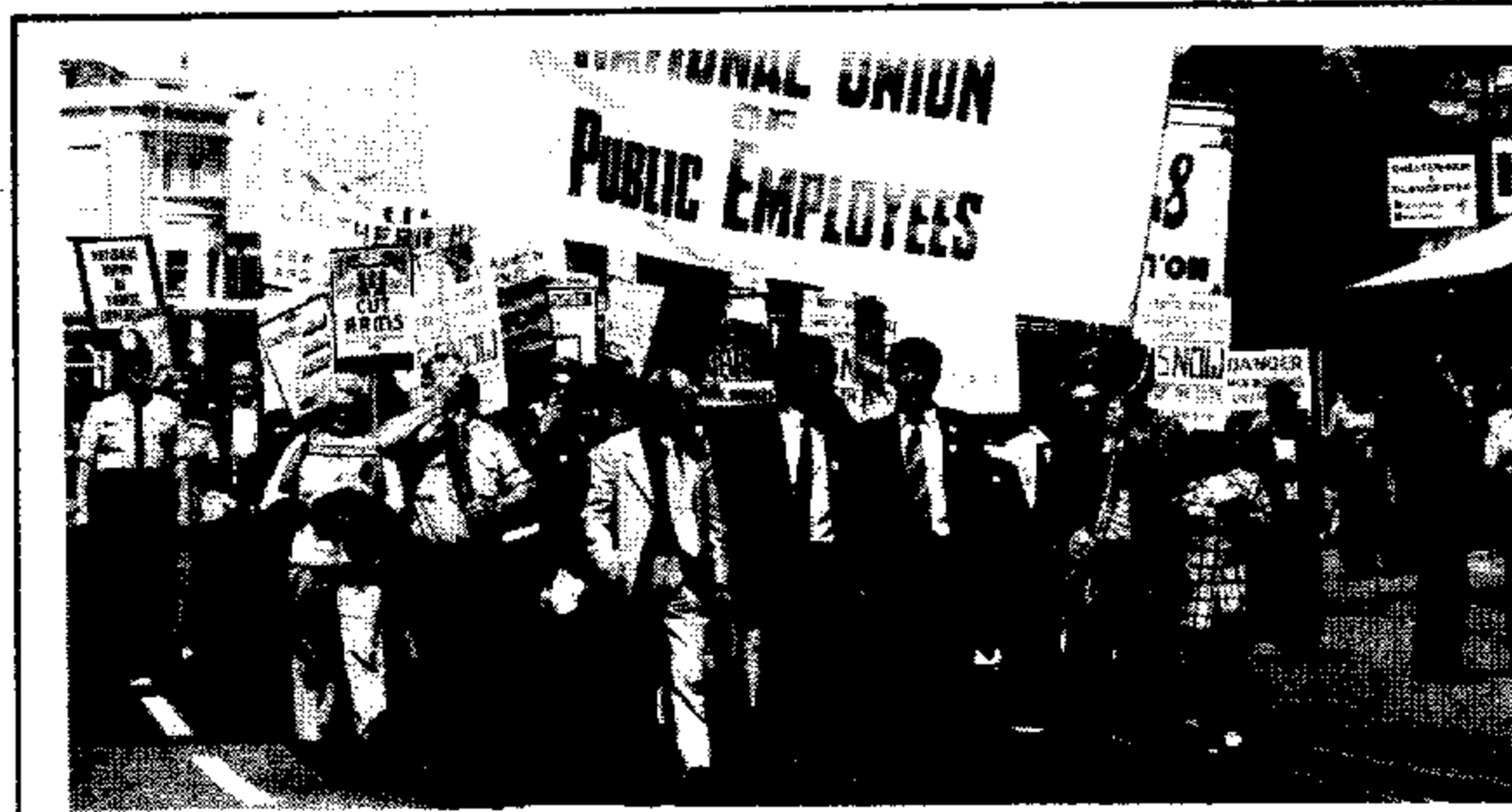
The vast majority of the staff signed the resolution saying that they would not accept any transfer from the hospital.

The Trades Council went to other West London Trades Councils and to the Greater London Association of Trades Councils.

On 5 May NALGO made an action official, and so on 11 did NUPE.

The official date for closure was 31 August. July and August will be the really hard months. Pickets start from July 1.

The ambulancemen have resolved not to move patients without the agreement of the Joint Shop Stewards Committee, and unions concerned have blocked disconnection of equipment."



The leadership of NUPE, national and local, must be particularly pleased with their Hampshire day of action on June 1.

Local NUPE official—area officer Paul Dunn—claimed the one day protest to have 'made a significant impact' and to have been 'a great success'.

Workers could be excused for wondering what he was talking about, however.

Although some sections, such as the 200 ambulancemen, took industrial action (in this case by dealing with emergencies only) most public services were hardly affected at all.

Only 400 demonstrators, mainly students and teachers, marched through Southampton and the NUPE delegation was noticeably small (perhaps Paul Dunn's remarks related to this fact).

It is clear that the blame for this non-event lies with the union leadership. At a point when struggles are breaking out over the cuts and unemployment, the working class is looking for a lead.

NUPE were in a position to give a lead. For it was only six months ago, on their initiative that 80,000 workers demonstrated against massive unemployment and cuts in public services. Instead of building on the class strength and willingness to fight, the NUPE leadership embarked on a campaign designed to divide and demoralise the membership.



Mussolini with Hitler.

ITALY :

This, the second article on fascism in Italy, is the continuation of our series of articles under the general title 'How Fascists Took State Power'.

HOW MUSSOLINI FELL

The fascist takeover was not inevitable. It could have been averted by a policy of united defence from the working class, which had shown itself in the strikes and factory occupations of 1919 and 1920 to be immensely strong and determined.

A lead for such a policy could have been expected from the reformist leaders of the Socialist Party. But such a policy was presented by the Third International under the leadership of Lenin and Trotsky.

Their words, however, did not reach the mass of the Italian working class. And that was because of the policy of the main leaders of the Italian Communist Party, Benito Bordiga.

The Bordighists opposed the Third International's assessment of fascism. Their ultra-left position in many ways foreshadowed the "third period" policy of Stalin in 1928 which was to have such disastrous consequences in Italy.

REJECTED

Bordiga rejected the analysis of the Third International that fascism was an offensive strategy of the bourgeoisie.

He regarded it as a reaction to a revolutionary situation.

This failed to see that it was only when the working class movement went into retreat that the bourgeoisie turned decisively onto an offensive encouraging fascism to eliminate all the organisational and material gains made by the workers.

The Italian representatives at the 1924 Plenum of the International Communist Party argued against the united front policy and refused to implement it in Italy.

All efforts at rapprochement with Serrati's left socialists were rejected by Bordiga until he lost control of the party in 1924.

The CP refused to join the Labour Alliance which called the 1922 strike. And more important, although armed CP units fought battles of exemplary courage with the fascists, CP members were forbidden to join the "Arditi del popolo". These were the armed untied front defence groups which developed everywhere in 1921 and 1922 and which fought most of the battles with the fascists.

RISKED EXPULSION

Gramsci, who until 1924 was a member of the Political Bureau of the CP, argued strongly that CP members should fight alongside the workers in the Arditi and that members risked expulsion by the party.

The German Communist Party was later to argue, that before the fascists could be defeated, the reformist socialists must be politically annihilated.

As a result, no demands were placed on socialist leaders except the implicit demand of self-annihilation.

The CP election manifesto of 1921 said that:

"Every worker . . . must from now on be persuaded that his class will only be able to advance in Italy over the dead body of the Socialist Party, and that it is not possible to defeat the bourgeoisie without first clearing its putrefying corpse from the field of class struggle."

LEAD

In these ways the leadership of the Italian Communist Party, the one force which could have given a clear lead against the fascists, unwittingly contributed to their success.

The battle was not over when Mussolini became Prime Minister. Though the most important ministries were in his own hands or those of other fascists he was still only the leader of a parliamentary coalition.

Opposition parties, elections and trade unions still existed. Major crises were still to be faced before the fascist dictatorship was finally established.

The most important crisis came in 1924 when Giacomo Matteotti, the leader of the reformist Socialist Party (which had split in 1922 from Serrati's 'Maximalists'), was kidnapped and murdered by fascist thugs.

Mussolini, still pretending to play the constitutional game, was momentarily weakened. A decisive lead might have toppled him; but again, none came.

ABOLISHED

From then on the establishment of the full dictatorship came rapidly. Parliamentary democracy was formally abolished in January 1925. By 1928 the workers' parties were illegal and their leaders dead, in jail or in exile.

Only the Communist Party managed to maintain a clandestine organisation. In 1927 the Labour Charter abolished the right to strike and eliminated free trade unions, though the Socialist General Confederation of Labour had actually dissolved itself before this.

A year later the fascist "unions" were also effectively dissolved.

This was part of Mussolini's general aim to destroy fascism as a mass movement and substitute for it a state dictatorship.

There had been several purges of the party but its elimination was only possible after 1928 when the independent workers' organisations had been smashed.

In that year the "unity of party and state" was declared, another

A start was made on the construction of 'corporations' in which workers' and employers' "representatives" would form organisations which were part of the state.

The slogan was: "Everything in the State; nothing against the State; nothing outside the State".

THEORY

These corporations never attained in practice what they were supposed to represent in theory.

The major organisation of the capitalists, Confindustria, remained in existence and grew tenaciously in strength with Mussolini's pro-big business policies.

And the workers' organisations were destroyed. That was the reality of Mussolini's dictatorship.

The regime was held together through terror, repression and censorship even if these never reached quite the extremes of Nazi Germany.

Mussolini's ubiquitous secret political police, the OCRA under Bocchini was a more amateurish version of the Gestapo.

As the alliance with Hitler grew in the late 1930's then the Italian dictatorship began to imitate Hitler's regime even more closely.

From 1938, at Hitler's behest, Mussolini declared Italians Aryan and launched a campaign against Italy's 45,000 Jews.



Partisans fight fascists in 1944.

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Mussolini fell from power twice. The first time was in 1943 when the advance of the British and American armies from Sicily prompted the fascist Grand Council to censure him and the King, to have him arrested and replaced with a government of non-fascist but extreme right wing politicians and military officers.

The German army staged a dramatic rescue of Mussolini from his mountain top hotel prison and Hitler installed him for a further 18 months as a puppet dictator in Nazi-occupied Northern Italy.

By this time Italy was once again in a state of virtual civil war which intensified with the growth of armed resistance under the leadership of the Communist Party.

When trying to escape to Germany in 1945 Mussolini was captured and shot by the resistance and along with his mistress and entourage strung up by the feet in the Piazzale Loreto in Milan.

A revolutionary situation once more existed in Italy. The leadership of the working class was now in the hands of the Communist Party.

But Palermo Togliatti, its leader, returned from exile in Moscow in 1944 to implement Stalin's order that no revolution was to be made in Italy.

Once again the Italian working class was handed over to the bourgeoisie as the CP joined an anti-fascist popular front government with the bourgeois Christian Democrats.

MINIMISED

When the fascists had been strong the CP leaders had minimised the counter-revolutionary threat and held to a sectarian aloofness from the workers' united front.

Now that fascism was on the point of destruction the CP leaders exaggerated its dangers to justify an intimate collaboration with the bourgeoisie which foreshadowed today's "historic compromise".

Although we cannot actually equate Bordiga's ultra-left refusal to follow the correct line of the Communist International on the united front with the craven subservience of Togliatti to Stalin's line of "peaceful coexistence", the end result was the same in both cases.

The task today is to construct a leadership capable of falling neither into ultra-leftism nor into right wing opportunism. The theoretical groundwork for such a leadership is to be found in the struggle to found the Fourth International in 1938 and summed up in the method of the Transitional Programme.

by Bob Sutcliffe

Klara Zetkin FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

There are many heroes of our revolutionary history, but fewer heroines. Not that our history is about individuals, but about movements, movements of the working class and other oppressed peoples, in the struggle for socialism.

Individuals are important in so far as they aid the development of these movements.

Klara Zetkin (1857-1934) was born in Germany and her life spanned enormously important periods of struggle both there and internationally. She was a leading figure in both the Second and the Third Internationals.

Having joined the German Socialist Party whilst it was still illegal, she had to flee into exile to Paris in 1878.

There, in 1889, she attended the Founding Congress of the Second International. She spoke on the question of women's oppression and her position on women became her most important contribution to the Marxist movement.

OPPRESSION

She was indeed one of the first to give the question of women's oppression and involvement in political action a fully Marxist interpretation.

Her view was that women would continue to be oppressed so long as they were cut off from the world of work.

The fight for women's right to work, to not be treated as "priestess of the hearth" was very important. And the direction of them into unions was a question socialists had not come to easily—and indeed many left wing currents fight shy of struggling for it even today.

"Above all, the Socialist ought to know that economic dependence or independence is the basis for social slavery or liberty . . . Just as the male worker is subjugated by the capitalists, so is the woman by the man, and she will always remain in subjugation until she is economically independent. Work is the indispensable condition for economic independence."

She was able to see beyond those who saw the solution to women's problems through reforms of capitalism, such as special protection for women at work.

"The unwholesome consequences of female labour . . . will only disappear along with the capitalist process of production."

Klara Zetkin's arguments are the bedrock of today's Marxist view on women.

EMANCIPATION

She saw that the emancipation of women would only occur with a fundamental change in the economic structure of society and women's place in the economy. The full socialisation of production, including domestic labour is the only solution.

Klara Zetkin argued this position in the women's paper *Die Gleichheit*

in TER

PART ONE OF AN OCCASIONAL SERIES OF ARTICLES ON LEADING WOMEN REVOLUTIONARIES.

BY DI PARKIN

ALISM

Germany from 1892. This paper retained a high theoretical and political level.

Zetkin waged a constant struggle against the revisionist leadership of the mass-based German Social Democratic Party.

Along with all their other attempts to turn the party from a revolutionary path, these leaders tried to depoliticise the paper and make it more 'popular'.

In carrying through this fight to maintain the theoretical level of the paper, Zetkin was providing reinforcement for Lenin's struggles against the attempts by SPD leader Bernstein to revise basic Marxist principles.

LENIN

At the same time Zetkin, along with other leading German Social Democrats, provided considerable material assistance in the launching of the paper of Lenin's supporters, *Iskra*. They helped provide and organised secret printing presses, Russian type, and other essential resources.

Zetkin carried the struggle against Bernstein's reformist positions into her analysis of the road to women's rights. She adhered firmly to the perspective that only class struggle could win these rights.

And she argued for universal suffrage on the grounds that the working class would never win its political and economic battles without the help of women.

The maintenance of a high political level in *Die Gleichheit* paid off when the majority of its

readers sided with the radical minority in the split of 1916.

INTERNATIONALISM

For, allied with a position which connected the struggle of women with the independent struggle of the working class, Klara Zetkin took a position of internationalism on the 1914-18 war.

The opening of hostilities also opened hostilities in the international socialist movement and led to the majority of the Second International betraying Marxist principle.

The Social Democrats of France and Germany betrayed the working class and voted war credits for their ruling class.

The Second International was dead as a force for revolution. Klara Zetkin, along with Karl Liebknecht and her great friend Rosa Luxemburg, left the SPD and joined the independent centrist grouping USPD which agitated against the war. Liebknecht said: "We joined the USPD in order to drive them [the centrists] forward in reach of our whip."

YOUTH

Zetkin also saw the importance of organising youth in the fight against war. Youth was:

"the most reliable force to keep us in a continuous intellectual and moral development, to prevent (us from) resting or wasting. At the

side of the adult fighters . . . there must be younger elements who have the will to risk and to dare."

She wrote volumes arguing against the war from an internationalist position. And even during this difficult period her fight on the women's question was not abandoned.

In 1915 she organised an International Womens Congress in Berne. This provided the first occasion on which internationalists from England, Germany and France could meet one another, and was the small forerunner of what was to become the Third International.

For this endeavour Klara Zetkin was arrested and spent the rest of the war in bad health in prison.

COMMUNIST PARTY

In 1917, Zetkin welcomed the revolution in Russia enthusiastically and in 1918 joined the newly formed German Communist Party (KPD).

She was in the Reichstag (German parliament) from 1919 and edited the party paper *Kommunisten*. The revolution in Russia had an enormous impact on political struggle in Germany.

Working class internationalism demanded that the revolution in Russia be followed and defended elsewhere, especially in Germany. But the defeats of the German working class in the 1920s brought defeats for revolutionary inter-

nationalism in that period.

Klara Zetkin had to suffer in this period not only the defeat of the German working class but the murder by counter-revolutionaries of both Liebknecht and her friend Rosa Luxemburg who had joined with her in the fight against revisionism.

Zetkin's final letter to Rosa Luxemburg expresses their closeness rooted in struggle.

"Will this letter, will my love still be able to reach you? O Rosa what days! I see before me so clearly the historic greatness and meanings of all your actions, but my knowledge of these things cannot still the urgent demands of my heart. I cannot overcome my terrible worry and fear for you personally."

Following this first period of defeat, the KPD took an ultra-left turn in 1921 and attempted a putsch—a premature and disastrous bid for power.

Zetkin was one of the first to oppose this in terms similar to Trotsky.

"Because of revolutionary impatience this most revolutionary section of the working class came into collision with the rest and tried mechanically as it were to draw them into struggle"

"We must say that this attempt was completely unsuccessful in this sense—that were it repeated it might actually ruin this splendid party."

This party was in fact to become not only the biggest and broadest based, but also perhaps the most Stalinised and impotent Communist Party.

Its bankrupt leadership left it powerless against the growth of fascism, which Zetkin had sharply seen as a profound danger to the working class.

Zetkin spent her last years in Russia—an old Bolshevik, ill at ease with Stalinism.

EPITAPH

Her statement in presenting the Women's Theses to the Third Congress of the Communist International is perhaps a good epitaph for this key fighter for women's rights and socialist revolution:

"Whenever the question of the taking of power arises, the Communist Parties must consider the great danger to the revolution represented by the inert, uninformed masses of women workers, housewives, employees, peasant women, not liberated from the influence of the bourgeois church and bourgeois superstitions and not connected in some way or other with the great liberating movement of communism. Unless the masses of women in the east and west are drawn into this movement they inevitably become the stronghold of the bourgeoisie and the object of counter-revolutionary propaganda."



Clara Zetkin (right) taking the salute on Lenin's Mausoleum, 1924, with (left to right) Voroshilov, Trotsky, Kalinin and Frunze.

**OPEN UP
DISCUSSIONS:
RECONSTRUCT
THE FOURTH
INTERNATIONAL!**

We reprint below the text of a letter from the Greek Communist Internationalist League, clarifying their attitude towards discussions with the 'United' Secretariat of the Fourth International (USFI) and its national sections and sympathising sections. We believe such discussions, if approached seriously, can be of value as a part of the fight to reconstruct the Fourth International as the democratic centralist world party of socialist revolution.

From the Secretary of the Communist Internationalist League to Socialist Press.

Comrade Editor,

We were informed that members of the IMG claim that the CIL has sent a certain letter to the USFI, with unknown content. We would like you to publish this short letter of ours, in order to put an end to every unfounded claim.

If we succeed in this, we will certainly help in the work for the regroupment of the Trotskyist movement, and help Trotskyism, the only revolutionary current of our time, more generally.

The atmosphere of rumours is certainly alien to Trotskyism and is fit only for places where diplomacy prevails.

We never had any correspondence with the USFI or any official delegate from it. On the contrary, we have decisively rejected an informal suggestion, that we should apply to the United Secretariat with unification proposals.

Our stand is determined by our agreement with the Workers Socialist League for a common planning of our position towards the USFI and for common actions

on this level. This was and still is our position, without any vacillation.

The members of the IMG possibly refer to some of the many letters we have sent here in Greece to the section of the USFI, the OKDE, or to the sympathising USFI organisation, KEM.

We have many times asked these comrades for discussions because we want to try and agree with them on principles and on a revolutionary programme. An agreement on principles would certainly create the possibility for our unification with the USFI supporters in Greece.

Nevertheless, we repeat now what we have stated in the past: we do not want to proceed to a unilateral unification in Greece, even if there should be agreement—something that is neither simple nor easy, we must add.

We do not plan to move independently of the WSL and our American comrades. Not because of any metaphysical respect to our agreements, but for very real and concrete reasons. We are interested in the Fourth International and not in the building of Trotskyism in a

single country.

Lately we have sent two letters, one to the OKDE (official section) and another to the KEM (sympathising organisation), with the same proposals as before and with the request that they accept a delegation of ours to the national conferences of each of the organisations.

The OKDE informed us in retrospect that they had sent a translation of our letter to the United Secretariat.

They had of course the right to do so. As your readers must well understand, this is somehow different from us having sent a letter to the USFI.

Moreover, let us add here that the section of the USFI, in its conference, rejected our proposals for discussion by a two-thirds majority.

It was impossible for us to understand the arguments of the comrades against an immediate opening of discussions towards the unification of the Trotskyist forces, despite hard efforts on our part. Perhaps the IMG members could give a better explanation to you.

Yours fraternally,
I. Sklavov

Letter: CHILEAN PRISONERS

Dear Comrades,
Most of your readers will be aware of the terrible repression unleashed by the Chilean Military Junta since their right wing military coup that toppled the government of Salvador Allende Gossens on September 11, 1973. Thousands were shot or subjected to a torture routine at the hands of the different branches of military intelligence.

Also many met their deaths in concentration camps. The dull thud of General Pinochet's meat cleaver continued until 1974 when torture and other forms of repression became more systematic with the formation of DINA (National Intelligence Directorate).

GESTAPO

DINA's task was the coordination of the various military intelligence branches into a text-book Gestapo.

DINA drew on the most competent and "proved" torturers of the military plus the Patria y Libertad (Fatherland and Freedom) a fascist para-military organisation.

There are also a few primadonnas like H. Tuane a psychologist and "academic" doing research into psychological torture, plus a few practical Brazilians who came to fame with their use of dentists'

drills to break people's teeth in Brazil.

The CIA is also believed to have acted in an advisory capacity, with Walter Rauff, an old German Nazi leader to complete the spectrum.

SOLIDARITY

1976 saw a shift in the Junta's tactics of repression thanks to international solidarity actions which exposed the regime's barbarism, and some of the Junta's friends became increasingly embarrassed, notably the President of the United States.

Thus in January 1976 the Junta passed a decree, "protecting human rights"; it received its reward in May of that year when US treasury secretary Simon granted it \$90 million economic aid. Further indirect aid was received through US financial institutions making a grand total of \$1.8 billion.

From then on, the Junta developed a tendency towards a two-pronged method of repression: first, secret prisoners, and second prisoners on trumped up charges of being common criminals, thus reducing the official statistics for political prisoners.

Chile's secret prisoners have become the norm rather than isolated cases. In January 1974, 37% of prisoners who were arrested



Butcher Pinochet.

then disappeared.

By August of the same year over 50% had "disappeared". Readers who would like more detailed information about this should obtain the recent pamphlet, "Chile's Secret Prisoners" from the Chile Committee for Human Rights: 1, Cambridge Terrace, London NW1.

In March this year eight young Chilean workers were arrested in Santiago. Their names are: Fernando Espinosa, Ulises Galardo A., Eliseo Abally G, Eugenio Bizama C, Luis Quilodran M, Roberto Vazquez D, Raul Jimenez R, and Mario Victor Leivo Castro.

They were handed over to the DINA and savagely tortured for

four days, at half hourly intervals throughout 24 hours. The wives of the prisoners who were also incarcerated, were threatened with being raped by the torturers in front of their husbands.

In spite of these young men being accused by a major Chilean newspaper of being political prisoners, the Military Fiscal handed them over to the anonymity of Santiago's civil prison.

As your paper has had a much more consistent position on defending human rights than many papers with many times your resources we hope that you will once again give practical assistance in publishing the names of these eight young men.

Hackney Branch of the National Union of Public Employees has acted swiftly in attempting to gain further information as to their treatment.

We hope all your readers in the labour movement, through their trade unions, political parties, Students Unions or Solidarity Committees where they exist will publish these names so that the Junta will know that the outside world is aware of their barbarism and that one day they must account for their crimes in full.

Nick Beeton
Hackney and Stoke
Newington Labour Party.

DENTAL SERVICE IN CRISIS TIME TO STOP THE ROT

Anyone who has tried to get NHS dental treatment knows there are problems. The majority of private dental patients are working class people who are unable to get the NHS treatment they are supposedly entitled to.

And when they get in to see the dentist, working class children are more likely than middle class children to have their teeth pulled out instead of filled.

The problems in other words are completely tied in with the oppression of the working class. This fact completely escaped the Socialist Medical Association's panel of speakers at a sparsely attended conference on 'The Future of Dental Services' last weekend.

The SMA could only suggest designing a new form to make patients aware that it is up to them to find out if they are being treated privately or on the NHS!

Certainly the problems are daunting. The dental service is completely unlike the general practitioner service in the NHS—in which a patient has certain rights as a member of a doctor's 'list'.

As a dental patient you have no rights. No dentist is obliged to see you, no matter how serious the pain you are suffering.

It is entirely at the dentist's discretion whether you or your children are taken for a course of treatment. And his obligation ceases the moment he gets your signature on the lengthy form that marks the end of the treatment.

Even if you are in agony the next day he is not required ever to see you again. And of course during the treatment he is only obliged to do such work at his own discretion as necessary to make you "adequately dentally fit"—a completely meaningless term.

If you develop pain outside "normal office hours" even while under a dentist's treatment, he does

familiar problem of finding emergency dental care.

Dentists are paid on a piecework basis unique in the NHS. Every filling, every item of treatment has its agreed price.

This is negotiated by the British Dental Association so that an "average" dentist, working a 35-hour week with six weeks holiday a year and deriving 90% of his income from NHS work will earn the 'target salary'.

This arbitrary figure is calculated from the notoriously low estimates to be found on dentists' tax returns. The target salary also incorporates 56% to pay the dentists' practice expenses, (rent; wages; equipment, etc), to produce the target gross income of over £18,000 per annum.

- * Less than 40% of the population attend a dentist once a year.
- * London has one dentist for every 2,000 people: but Hartlepool has only one for every 9,700. The National Health Service has no control over dentists—who cost £40,000 each to train.
- * Dentists operate a piecework system. There is no quality control over their work. So doing rapid shoddy work with old-fashioned equipment in dingy surroundings with underpaid assistants increases the dentist's profits.
- * Only 200 out of 13,800 Dentists belong to the Fluoridation Society.
- * Only 1 in 8 regular attenders at dentists' surgeries are taught how to clean their teeth to prevent disease. Even regular attenders keep their teeth only an average six years longer than non-attenders.

The result is that the faster dentists work, the more corners they cut, the less they pay for staff and equipment, the more cash they make.

And the other side of the coin is that as more patients are forced to seek private treatment, and the number of hours spent on NHS work falls year by year, the price of each item of treatment is increased to ensure dentists still make their 'target salary'.

Dentists as a result have a vested interest in the continuation of



for this reason, they have tended to take a back seat on the fight for even the most basic preventative measures.

Tooth decay, which particularly affects sweet-eating children could be prevented by establishing sensible eating habits and by fluoridation of water. Yet while doctors have been extensively involved in fighting to cut cigarette advertising, most dentists seem happy to tolerate the damage done to children's teeth by advertising from Mars, Rowntree, Cadbury and

And only 200 dentists have even bothered to join the Fluoridation Society—while even less are actively fighting for fluoridation.

Figures show that most dentists are also allowing gum disease to rob adult patients of their teeth.

Only one patient in eight who attends a dentist is given instructions as to how to brush their teeth to prevent gum disease—there is no fee payable for such elementary preventative measures.

What is needed to ensure that the dental service is made available to those in need of treatment is a full-scale attack on the professional monopoly of the BDA. This requires a programme that will:

1) End all cuts in health and education. Massively expand the force of trained dentists and those able to carry out the basic educational work needed for preventative medicine.

2) Eliminate the piecework system and substitute a salaried service for dentists with the NHS, administered under the control of elected trade union committees.

3) An end to private practice throughout medicine.

PRESS GANG

It's been a long time since Fleet Street has been so free with its venom.

Unabashed by doubts that the cast at the National Theatre might not fit the roles assigned them, the national press waded in to the strike there last week with enthusiasm.

The strike was straightforward. Management wanted to remove a plumber who was standing by union demarcation procedures, in the hope that they could allow union agreements to sink to the same level as the appalling backstage conditions at the theatre.

The *Daily Telegraph* in a long, sarcastic piece, ignored all this. Under a heading 'A Lean and Angry Look', it preferred to concentrate on the real issues—the fact that the plumber (Ralph Cooper) is fat, and that the shop steward (Konrad Fredericks) is thin.

"As he strides about the concrete complex on the South Bank, he has, in the words of Julius Caesar (one of the current productions) the "lean and hungry look" of a Cassius of whom Caesar said "such men are dangerous".

Fredericks gets the full treatment... "former understudy in nude review... confirmed Trotskyist" and even his attempts to avoid speaking to the *Telegraph* are seized on as evidence of his evil intent.

Under pressure from the press to produce some kind of statement the strike committee went to a nearby cafe and drew one up. They needn't have bothered.

The statement the *Telegraph* had clamoured for is described thus:

"It was signed NT Strike Committee, and headed National Association of Theatrical, Television and Kine Employees, the men's union which has incidentally condemned the unofficial dispute.

Part of the statement was couched in traditional left wing jargon, describing the management's action as 'a campaign of harassment'."

Other papers dealt with it more briefly but no less viciously. In the *Daily Express* it was "Theatre of the Absurd"—"Enter far left, Trotskyist union boss Kon Fredericks..."

On the day the strike ended the *Express* headed its piece "Curtain Down on the Strike Farce".

"The National Theatre's long running farce Washbasins will finally close today."

The piece quoted GLC Arts Committee Chairman Bernard Brook Partridge, as saying:

"I was not elected to be a bottomless purse for industrial anarchy."

The *Mail* and the *Guardian* also ran vicious 'funnies' about the strike.

This campaign was unusual in one respect. It was partly as a result of the press mauling—and the appeals to dollars and marks that were being forfeit—that the union officials felt able to move against the strikers, threatening to sack them from the union (a move which would have been followed presumably by them being sacked from their jobs).

John Wilson, General Secretary of NATTKE said:

"The strikers wanted nothing short of unconditional surrender. No management is going to tolerate that."

The National Theatre gang with its pseudo liberal management, headed by £26,000 a year director Peter Hall, big name scabs and a seemingly determined strike leadership provided the right conditions for Fleet Street to find themselves a pantomime demon king.

Perhaps the saddest quote came from Michael Bryant, the actor who plays Lenin in *State and Revolution* at the National. From the back of the crowd he meekly remarked: "There doesn't seem much we can do..."

CAPITALISM BLOCKS STEPS AGAINST 'ACTS OF GOD'

Until recent years generally regarded with fear and mystery as "acts of god", earthquakes are now beginning to be much better understood by scientists. This is opening up the possibility of improved methods of avoiding large scale destruction and loss of life.

Key to minimising the consequences of earthquakes is work towards accurately predicting them, combined with a readiness to take measures to cater for the health and social problems that earthquakes bring.

Most important in earthquake prediction has been a new concept for analysing the structure of the earth's surface and its relationship to the immediately underlying layer.

This concept, called plate tectonics, sees the upper layer of the earth (the 'lithosphere') as divided into a small number of semi-rigid plates that move both relative to each other, and relative to the underlying layer (the 'mantle').

EGG SHELL

These plates can be likened to fragments of cracked egg shell "floating" on the more fluid contents of the egg—which are not unlike the deeper layers of the earth.

99% of all earthquakes occur because of movements at plate boundaries. This is why the major earthquake zones are on the most active plate boundaries.

Thus earthquakes are most common in the mid Pacific region and in a zone stretching from the Himalayas into central Asia and China, and westwards across Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey and parts of the Mediterranean.

The development of the notion of plate tectonics has only been possible since the setting up in the 1960s of the first world-wide network of stations containing instruments to detect earthquake shock waves.

These developments were accelerated by the desire of the military to detect underground nuclear explosions and distinguish them from earthquakes.

But for more detailed predictions of what time and where earthquakes are to take place much more elaborate monitoring is needed.

There are at least 15 different tell-tale signs which indicate an earthquake is approaching. These include: regional changes in the height and distance between survey points; tilting of the ground; changes in the frequency of smaller tremors; changes in electrical resistance of the ground; changes in the emission of radioactive gases from underground water; changes in the level and taste of water in wells; and unusual behaviour of animals.

MONITOR

Obviously to monitor all these factors is a huge task. Japan is one of the few capitalist countries

which attaches much priority to this work.

But it has been the Chinese, making use of 100,000 workers throughout the country who monitor continuously for signs of earthquakes, who have made the first two successful predictions of damaging earthquakes.

The most impressive was that which occurred near Haicheng, in Lianong Province in February, 1975.

EVACUATION

As a result of mass evacuation from the area very few of the one million people who lived in the earthquake zone were killed, despite the fact that the town was completely destroyed and many factories were badly damaged.

The Chinese make disaster preparations immediately in response to an earthquake prediction.

People are re-housed in simple shelters they are helped to construct themselves, and medical and rescue teams are organized. Importantly, financial losses due to an earthquake do not fall on individuals.

This contrasts with what is expected to happen in California should the US government issue an earthquake prediction in the near future.

Immediately, the sale of earthquake insurance policies would be banned and property values would fall to about half their pre-prediction value.

Property speculators would step in and encourage panic selling of real estate in order to make huge profits when property values rise after the earthquake.

Many of those affluent enough to leave the earthquake area would probably do so.

Factories would close and businesses move away so that many of those left behind would become unemployed.

With dwindling financial resources they would be unable to afford even a short stay away from home during the most dangerous period unless they sell any property they might have at give-away prices.

WRANGLES

Whether the earthquake occurred or not there would be complicated legal wrangles over who was responsible for the economic loss of a prediction. Earthquake scientists are already involved in such disputes, threatened with legal action for lowering property values by a false earthquake prediction.

At present, however, earthquake prediction is full of uncertainties as witnessed by the false alarm given of an earthquake at Haicheng, China, in 1973 when buildings had to be evacuated in bitterly cold weather, and the more recent Chinese failure to predict the Tangshan earthquake which claimed perhaps as many as 750,000 lives.

But should the worst happen, it is important to realise that the cost of strengthening structures to withstand the effects of a large earthquake, when considered in the light

BY OUR SCIENCE
CORRESPONDENT

of the cost of repairing the likely earthquake damage and of the social costs of injuries, deaths, disease, loss of production capacity and environmental damage, is trivial.

For multi-storey steel and reinforced concrete buildings the extra cost would vary from about 5% to 20% of the present construction cost.

Even small one or two storey masonry buildings could be similarly strengthened to resist structural damage at a cost of about 15%-30% of the basic construction cost.

A good example of the contrast in response to earthquakes of different structures and of how earthquake disasters affect workers and peasants far more than the bourgeoisie and rich landowners is given by the experience of the large Guatemalan earthquake of February 1976, which was felt over an area of at least 100,000 square kilometres, claimed more than 22,700 lives and injured more than 76,000 people. Loss estimates total at least \$1,100 million.

The principal hazard to life (as in most earthquakes,) was in the collapse of man-made structures. At the time of the 1976 earthquake there were no laws governing building codes in Guatemala and it was not mandatory to design structures to withstand large earthquakes.

Most poor people lived in adobe or wood and mud houses which collapsed under the slightest shaking. 88,000 such houses were destroyed in the vicinity of Guatemala City alone and 435,000 people were left homeless.

The bourgeois families of Guatemala lived in better designed



Unscathed after the Guatemala earthquake, the finance ministry building.

and constructed houses on firm foundations which were not seriously affected by the earthquake.

Large, modern buildings designed to be resistant to earthquakes, such as the new Finance Ministry Building in Guatemala City, were completely undamaged.

This contrast was nowhere more acute than in the vicinity of the Rio La Barranca, a steep-sided gully which forms the western boundary to Guatemala City.

A road bridge, cited as a shining example of earthquake resistant design, crosses this gully near an area where workers and unemployed were forced to build mud and adobe houses perched on the very edge of the gully.

After the earthquake the bridge was undamaged but the houses collapsed and were destroyed in their thousands with great loss of life and enormous numbers of injuries.

"FIRST AID"

After the earthquake the "First Aid" from the US was used to rebuild the communications linking the interior with the sea, to ensure that material the US needed to

import from Guatemala could flow once again. Meanwhile, workers, peasants and the unemployed remained homeless.

A balanced approach to the reduction of earthquake hazards must include the widest possible use of the technology of both earthquake prediction and of the engineering of earthquake resistant structures.

Scientific and other workers must organise now to draw up safe land-use and building codes.

They must press for the immediate strengthening of potentially dangerous existing structures, especially high rise offices and flats, dams, houses, etc. They must demand to oversee the implementation of these measures.

At the same time workers and peasants must establish their own earthquake defence committees to prepare to meet their food, water, housing and medical requirements that will be even more urgently felt in the aftermath of an earthquake than before. The struggle for these rights however, will bring workers and peasants into conflict with bourgeois governments and must form part of a more general struggle against capitalism.

WOMEN AT WAR

A REVIEW OF "WOMEN AT WAR" SERIES, 'THE ARSENAL GIRLS',
BBC 2 SHOWN ON MONDAY MAY 9. By GILL BLACKWELL

The myths of the "patriotism" of the British working class were well shattered by this compassionate insight into the shop floor of the Woolwich Arsenal where shells and ammunition for the 1914-18 imperialist war were manufactured.

Prior to the outbreak of the war the Arsenal functioned with a small male workforce producing a small output of ammunition by obsolete technology.

The slaughter in the trenches of France by British, French and German imperialism required shells in hitherto unprecedented quantities. For example in 1915 in three days of shelling the British forces used as much as in the whole of the Boer War.

These increased requirements meant the wholesale recruitment of female labour into the arsenal—since male workers were sent to the front lines as cannon fodder.

Recruited from domestic labour jobs as servants to the bourgeoisie where they earned 5/- a week, the £4 offered by the Arsenal was a sufficiently big enough carrot.

Far from these women "doing their bit" for British imperialism they of course leapt at the chance of increasing their standard of living and that of their families. By 1918 27,000 women worked in Woolwich Arsenal.

They did this, however, at enormous risk to their health—

even, of course, risk of death.

On the other side of the Thames the Silvertown Explosives factory blew up, causing such enormous devastation and loss of life that the details of the enquiry were covered up for 50 years.

The most dangerous jobs in the Arsenal—in the 'danger buildings', which were each surrounded by water to reduce spread of fire and explosion,—meant leaving off all metal and changing into "clean area" garments to lessen the risk of sparks.

The job entailed a fortnight about system of two weeks filling shells and two weeks weighing TNT since exposure to the explosive was extremely dangerous.

After two weeks their skin was tanned yellow—they were nicknamed 'canaries'—and they were issued with two daily pints of milk and given frequent medical examinations and blood tests.

The working conditions were generally appalling with 12 hour shifts—7 days a week.

Initially there were no toilet facilities for the women—a fact which employers argue in 1977 prevents them taking on female labour—so men and women had different shifts throughout the day for the common facilities.

Speed-up was continuously demanded—the blackmail of "think of the boys at the front" being a convenient weapon.

However this was not achieved easily, and the women workers interviewed on the programme had

many anecdotes to tell of management being ridiculed and evaded in their efforts to discipline the women.

Many of the women workers were mothers whose children were cared for in the creches provided by the Arsenal.

Children also slept in the nurseries when their mothers worked the night shift. This of course was a widespread practice in both imperialist wars for capitalism to concede nurseries when they required female labour.

CYNICISM

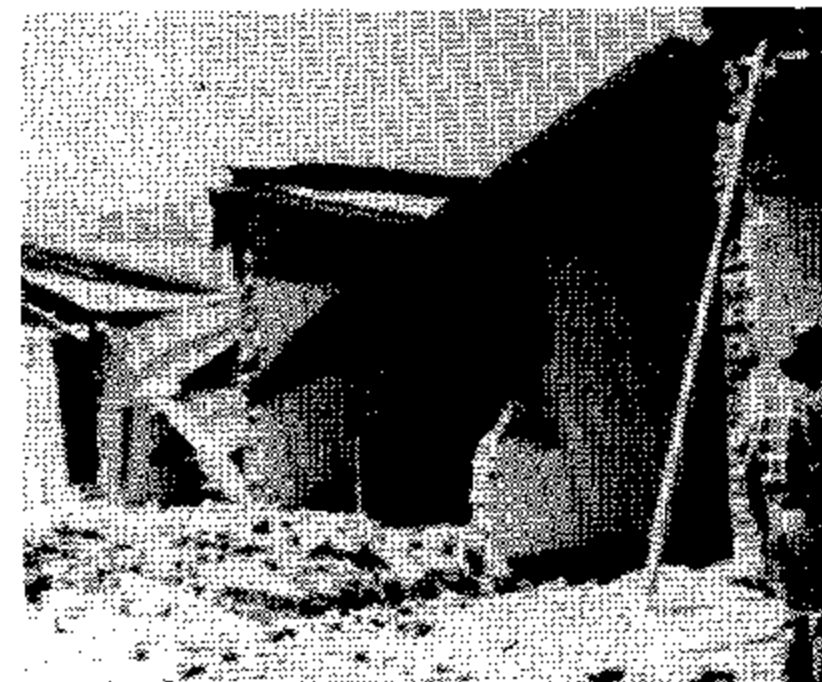
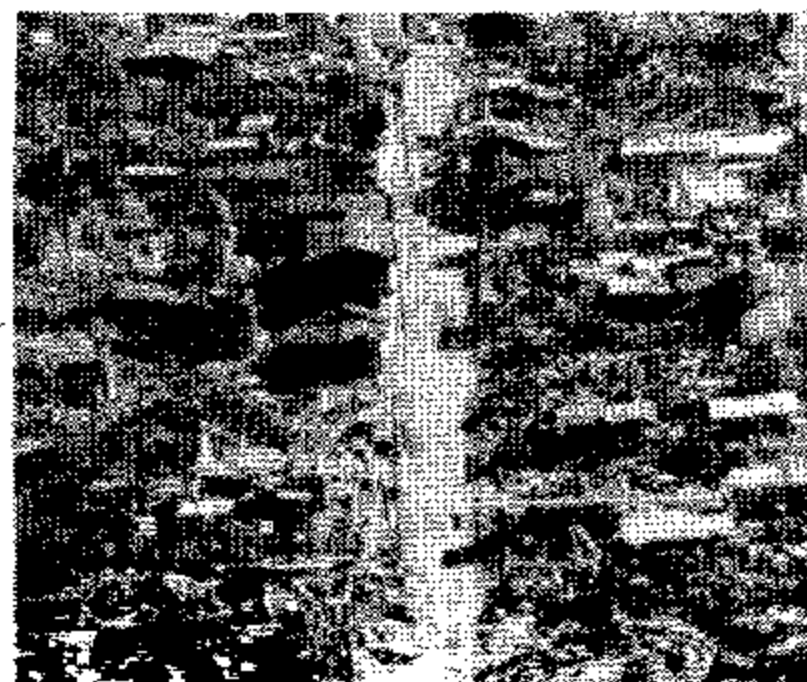
The cynicism of this move is of course revealed by the tiny fraction of those nurseries which are available today for working mothers.

At the end of the war the problem for the bourgeoisie was how to force these women back to their old jobs as kitchen maids and parlour maids.

The women of course preferred the wages and conditions of being an organised work force and appealed to their trade union leaders.

Lloyd George offered them £1 each severance pay. Their union leaders rejected this and led a strike and a march to Guild Hall—demanding—25/-!!

With this complete sell-out of their jobs by their union leaders the capitalists got the women out of their factories but the women chose the dole rather than go back to domestic labour.



Scenes of destruction after the Guatemala earthquake.



INDUSTRIAL NEWS

STEEL SIT-IN SUPPORT CALL

FBU WITCH-HUNT

Delegates to the Fire Brigades Union's Annual Conference overwhelmingly supported their Executive's recommendation to reject a Phase 3 of the Social Contract, and to go forward with a claim for large rises based on a job evaluation document the EC has produced.

The EC also said that they would hold a recall one-day conference to discuss the results of their claim.

This 'left' position prevented a resolution from Bucks firemen calling for a £10 increase plus a cost of living clause even getting a seconder from the 200 delegates.

The EC argued that their claim could mean an increase of much more than £10!

The angry mood of firemen came into the conference with delegates quoting some of their members working a 48 hour week and still drawing supplementary benefits.

By putting on a 'left' face the EC also managed to get the conference to endorse a reactionary move that they had made before the conference started. They actually barred two delegates from the conference and sent them home.

The delegates—one from Essex and one from Strathclyde—were accused of lending their names to

an organisation called the "Rank and File Firefighter".

One of the leaflets of this organisation had a photograph of the Essex delegate, Terry Segars, addressing a rally of Essex firemen, held to fight the cuts.

When the Executive demanded they say whether they supported the "Rank and File Firefighter" neither delegate denied it, and they were both sent home.

Neither of their names was on the leaflet, nor were their addresses.

The victimised men simply did

not denounce it and therefore this meant that as union representatives they were giving their name to a rank and file organisation.

The "crime" of the leaflet apparently was that it called for strike action against the cuts—a policy the EC opposes. They claim strikes are unnecessary because although there has been a drop in personnel, nobody has been made redundant.

The action of barring elected delegates from a union conference sets a dangerous precedent and must be strongly fought.

The occupation at Reinforced Steel Services in Greenwich is now in its fourth week. It began when six workers were sacked, and seven suspended, as a result of the whole factory striking in support of the NUPE-called 11 May demonstration against the cuts.

The British Steel Corporation, of which RSS is a subsidiary, had already announced plans to close the plant, but it was only when the workers occupied that they discovered a detailed plan for a small substitute factory in Enfield which would use equipment from the Greenwich plant.

This plan had not been mentioned in any of the closure 'consultations'.

This came at the same time as

the discovery of management-kept dossiers on leading militants in the factory and on job applicants, and exposure of the involvement of the extreme right-wing Economic League, and the Special Branch, in providing information on 'extremists'.

FILES

The workers' opening of the files also starkly revealed collaboration between management and the ISTC—one of the unions involved—at the time of a safety strike earlier this year.

During the present occupation the ISTC officials have been busily sending telegrams telling the strikers to return to work.

Despite this co-ordinated opposition the strikers are standing firm and calling for support from fellow steelworkers and other trade unionists.

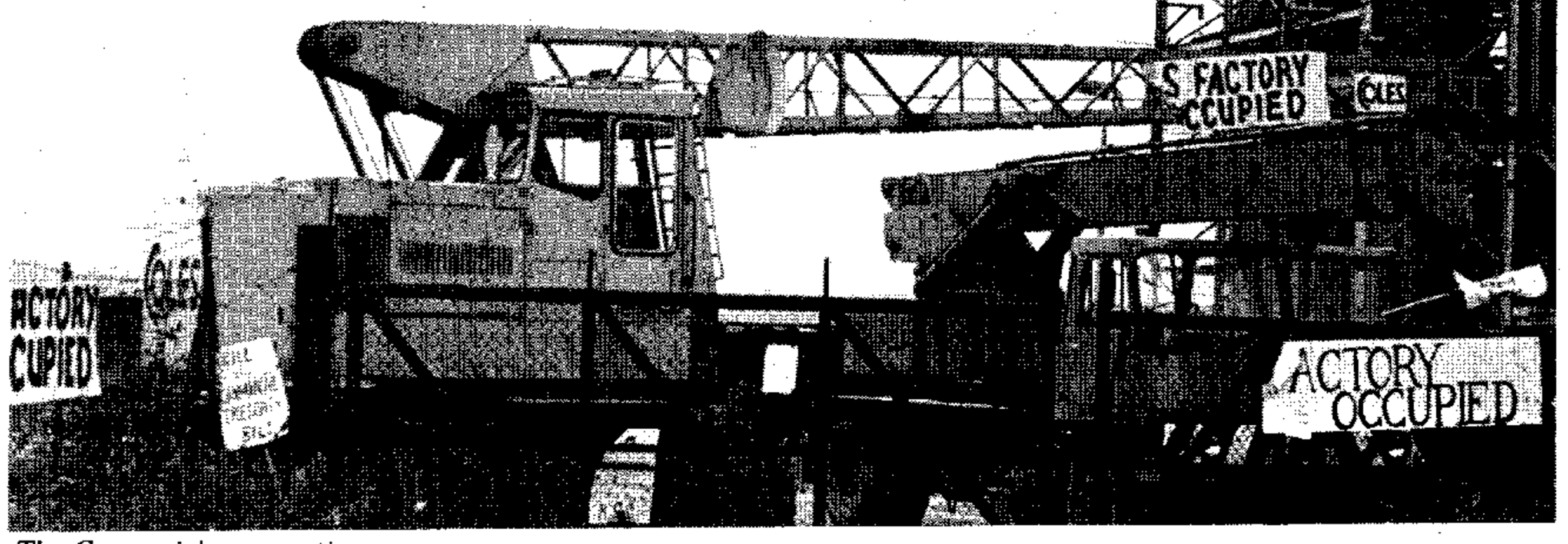
They very quickly received backing from NUPE workers in SE London and even from a hospital in Sheffield.

They are calling for full blacking on steel reinforcement rods at London's building sites, and on movements of rods to the South East.

This means they are asking for support from dockworkers in London, and from workers in other plants (Sheffield and Newport) of the reinforcing section of BSC.

SUPPORT

*Resolutions, messages of support, and finances should be sent to: R. Mitchell, ISTC Branch Secretary, 24, Kentmere Rd., London SE18.



The Greenwich occupation.

Trades Councils revolt

"If you don't like my rulings leave the Conference". With these characteristic words, FBU General Secretary Terry Parry attempted to enforce rigid bureaucratic control over this year's Trades Councils Conference.

In the first ten minutes, discussion on a motion against the Social Contract was ruled out of order, with Parry stating that it was "against TUC policy"—which apparently is seen as inviolable.

When the mover asked for the matter to be put to the vote Parry threatened to name him (which would have meant his expulsion under Rule 12 of Conference procedure).

APPEAL

As business moved on to the Trades Councils Report, the Oxford Trades Union Council delegate took up the issue of the disaffiliation last year of Oxford Trades Council, and challenged the refusal of the Trades Councils Joint Co-ordinating Committee to allow any appeal against it.

But John Power, right-wing president of the Oxford Trades Union Council—a delegate from the Oxfordshire CATC—thanked the TCJCC for refusing to hear the appeal.

However, on resolutions put at the Conference the platform took a series of body blows, with the majority of delegates rejecting their recommendations.

First of these defeats was opposition to the Criminal Law Bill, the proposed outlines of the new Criminal Trespass Act.

Seconding the motion, Mick Rowlinson (Aylesbury FBU) stressed that the Pentonville Five, jailed pickets were only freed through industrial action—and that

the Grunwick's dispute could be won if only the UPW and the EETPU would take action instead of covering before threats of legal injunctions from the NAFF.

He showed how the Bill would allow legal action to be taken against pickets or workers occupying their place of work.

The motion was opposed by the platform, who argued that among the "good points" of the Criminal Law Bill was the fact that it limits sentences for conspiracy to three months in jail! The motion was carried.

A motion calling for wage supplements to be consolidated under the Social Contract and for "more flexibility" in future wage negotiations, was seen by delegates as the only available battleground against the Social Contract.

Many speakers opposed the motion stating complete opposition to the Social Contract as a whole. The motion was massively defeated.

When the Bullock Report came

up for discussion many delegates spoke strongly in opposition—demanding not participation in management but workers control over industry.

Ken Graham from the platform argued that delegates should not vote against a motion "just because the platform supports it."

TORIES

He claimed those who rejected Bullock would find themselves "allied with the Tories and the CBI". The motion was heavily defeated—with the right wing of course voting in favour.

For the bureaucracy, therefore, though no explicit motion was passed against the Social Contract, the Trades Councils Conference must have come as a worrying sign of the hostility of trade unionists to continuing TUC-policed wage controls.

GRUNWICK LINES HARDEN

The last fortnight has seen a hardening of battle lines in the Grunwick dispute.

On the side of the union bureaucracy, this involves the APEX Annual Delegate Conference's taking absolutely no move towards escalation of APEX's involvement in the strike, save a 10% levy of branch funds to support the strikers.

No resolution to strike in support. No condemnation of the TUC for refusing to bring its weight down on the UPW and other unions for practical support. No real action

at all. On the side of the management a campaign of harassment has been rekindled. One of the leaders of the strike, Mrs. Desai, has been arrested and charged with threatening behaviour after one of the Directors drove a car into the picket line and levelled personal abuse and obscenities at those in his path.

In the eyes of the law any resistance to such attacks constitutes "threatening behaviour" especially if you're an Asian.

On the side of the strikers there is more determination than ever to win and to defeat not only the



Nuneaton sacking strike

Half of the 50-strong workforce at Universal Vacuum Coatings in Nuneaton walked out last week in defence of a victimised worker, who had recently organised the factory for the TGWU.

The sacked man had refused to stack goods in a van driven by a manager from another firm while the driver himself sat chatting in the office, and was instantly dismissed with no chance of union representation.

The two shop stewards sought reinstatement, bringing in TGWU District Official Ron Marsden, who rapidly concluded that they stood no chance of winning.

The stewards would not leave the matter there, however, and last Monday called a strike which was supported by about 25 of the mainly women workforce.

There is no doubt that management (who laughably claim to have made a mere £68 profit last year, while driving Jaguar cars) are determined to resist the strengthening of the union in order to hold down wages.

Men earn a basic £39 for a 40 hour week—while women who work side by side in assembly work are paid a mere 49p an hour—giving a take home wage of £18 for a 40 hour week!

Full official TGWU backing must be given at once to these workers.

rotten management but also the impotent union bureaucrats whose "good ideas" are frequently nothing short of sabotage. With continuous labour movement support on the picket line, and a growing awareness that winning depends on the initiative and independence of the strike committee itself the next month promises to bring real progress if not final victory. Even with the money of the NAFF behind them, Grunwick management had better not count on winning this one.

* Mass picket, Monday June 13 at 7.00 a.m.

HEALEY SPELLS OUT PHASE 3

It's Phase 2 for a second year. This is the reality that emerged when Denis Healey put forward the government's line on Phase 3 of wage controls at the Nottinghamshire miners' gala.

Healey stated that the government's workings were: "based on the assumption that the nation's earnings as a whole, including overtime and so on, do not rise more than 10% in the next round."

That is exactly the same as Phase 2.

All the trade union leaders have been in regular talks with the government. They have all known that this was the government's position from the start.

All the talk of flexibility and differentials has been nothing but a cover for an unchanged position; that there must be a definite limit. How the small amount available is distributed can, of course, be arranged 'flexibly'.

Even the talk of 'self-financing' productivity deals is left vague to leave open the question of whether this is included in the 10%.

It is in this light that we must look at some of the recent union conferences and meetings.

At the NUPE conference a resolution opposing Phase 3, whatever the TUC decides on, was defeated by a 2-1 majority. The EC's motion on pay that was adopted shows how the whole way the union bureaucracy is acting in terms of manoeuvres and contempt for their membership.

The resolution included the words:

"The government has not honoured its part of the social contract", and therefore went on to:

"reject any form of wage control".

But as soon as the resolution was passed, Fisher actually used it to support a Phase 3, using the argument that it's not wage control if you reach an agreement with your employer or with the government.

There was great hostility from

the conference to Fisher's position but the manoeuvre was successful.

At the APEX conference a resolution was passed supporting a Phase 3 amid a mass of talk about price controls, reduction of taxation and productivity deals. This went alongside a witch-hunting resolution stopping any special payments to the Labour Party unless they dealt with 'extremists'.

Even here the leadership was unsuccessful in trying to oppose a resolution calling for a restoration of the cuts in public spending.

The most important, numerically, for the right-wing, was the conference of the 926,000-strong General and Municipal Workers Union.

Despite the fact that this union is dominated by the right-wing it was still necessary for the resolution passed to contain a mass of conditions—none of which will be kept.

Basnett, GMWU General Secretary, called for more action on prices and a reflationary summer budget. Living standards must be maintained, he said.

The resolution adopted called for an "orderly return" to free wage bargaining—which means a

continuation of the Social Contract.

It was carried by a 6-1 majority.

Even the equally right wing dominated Iron and Steel Trades Confederation conference, which represents 112,000 members, called for an "orderly" return and listed conditions for a Phase 3 of productivity allowances and restored differentials.

This resolution was passed, committing that union to a Phase 3 and a resolution opposing it was defeated by 104 to 17.

As the union votes line up it is clear that the conferences are coming out quite evenly for and against Phase 3, while all those supporting Phase 3 are calling it an "orderly return".

The importance of the TGWU Biennial Delegate Conference in July, which commands nearly two million votes at the TUC is becoming clearer.

The Executive Committee last week took a unanimous decision to back a so-called "orderly return" resolution. This unanimous vote includes several members of the Communist Party.



Basnett

Heathrow action restarts

AUEW maintenance engineers at Heathrow have resumed industrial action in support of their shift pay claim.

At a mass meeting on Friday 3 June, the 4,000 workers voted overwhelmingly for an immediate overtime ban and a 40 hour strike each week until their claim was conceded by management.

The negotiators reported to the meeting that although British Airways had increased their offer the previous Tuesday, they withdrew it a few hours later, insisting that the engineers should reduce their claim in order to enable negotiations to resume.

The position of the five negotiators was that since the claim for shift pay increases of between 20% and 33% had been endorsed

by the Executive Committee of the AUEW there was no way they were prepared to reduce the claim.

The withdrawal of the latest

offer can only be seen as further provocation by the British Airways management. As the negotiators pointed out to the mass meeting, the money is obviously there if the management have been able to offer it, and so the reduced offer is totally inadequate.

It remains doubtful, however, whether the action the men intend to take can win further concessions from the management.

Each shift will strike for eight hours each week at a point where because of the shift system, this will lose British Airways 40 consecutive hours of maintenance.

But none of the day shift are involved in the action and since British Airways managed to keep

many of their aircraft flying during the total shutdown, it is likely that they will be able to keep most of their services going through this action.

Even if the dispute is settled in the near future, and a further stumbling block is the fact that the current offer does not accord to the percentage formula demanded by the men, there still remains the question of when the money is going to be paid.

There is no doubt that the government will tell British Airways that the shift pay cannot be paid under Phase 2 of the Social Contract. And with the union conferences lining up for a fresh round of wage controls after August, it is unlikely that the men will receive anything like the full settlement under Phase 3.

The only way the men will get their money is if they take on and defeat the Social Contract. This would inevitably mean appealing for support to wider sections of workers, particularly in the engineering industry.

A Workers Socialist League leaflet distributed at last week's mass meeting argued for the men to call on the Leyland toolmakers who received nothing as a result of their stoppage, to strike again for their own demands and in support of the Heathrow engineers.

The support of the other workers in the Engineering and Maintenance section of British Airways, all of whom stand to gain from a victory for the AUEW members, must also be fought for.

And the one shift per week strike action must be replaced by indefinite strike action until the AUEW claim is paid in full.



Heathrow engineers attend a mass meeting.

PORT TALBOT SELL-OUT

After 11 weeks of bitter struggle against employer, union officials and the press, the striking Port Talbot electricians voted 3-2 last Friday for a return to work.

The decision is described as "almost total surrender" by the Tory Press—but it is clear that the electricians were not so much defeated as betrayed by a conscious intervention of EETPU national officer Edward Linton—who fought for a return in opposition to a unanimous strike committee recommendation to stay out.

Electricians' convener Wyn Bevan told *Socialist Press* three factors had combined to produce the vote for a return

The mass meeting had been poorly attended; Linton had put forward a series of "outrageous assertions and promises", which he claimed to have extracted from BSC management; and, in a stage-managed move he had been able to announce that payment of a £120 arbitration award to 170 of the strikers, held up as "against the Social Contract" had been sanctioned by the Department of Trade.

The strike committee had pressed for Linton's promises to be rejected as a con-trick, and for workers to stay out for the original demand across-the-board pay

increases for working new plant, but had been defeated.

"These officials have no interest in the rank and file", commented Bevan. "Much more could have been gained if the men had listened to the strike committee instead of their national officer."

He went on to agree that successful blacking of strikebreaking imports of steel by dockers and railwaymen would have enabled them to win the strike.

Such blacking had been actively opposed by officials of all unions concerned—EETPU, TGWU, ASLEF and NUR.

The matter is not over, however. "We have fought them hard outside the gates. We must now fight them inside the gates. We won't hesitate to let all hell loose if our demands are not met", said Bevan.

"We would like through your paper to thank rank and file workers throughout the country for their magnificent support".

The Port Talbot strike both in its tenacity and its eventual conclusion has strongly pointed both to the readiness of the working class to fight wage controls, and the ruthless determination of the officials to maintain it.

This contradiction can only be resolved by the building of a new leadership in the workers' movement.

NUJ strike for closed shop

More than 100 NUJ members working for the North of England Newspapers in Darlington and Durham have come out on indefinite strike to fight for a closed shop agreement.

Chapel officers of the *Northern Echo*, the *Evening Dispatch* and a series of weeklies won an informal agreement from their editor last October that all new members of staff would be obliged to join the NUJ.

That agreement has now been broken a matter of days after the

newspaper owners—Westminster Press—sent out a reminder to editors that they were supposed to resist the closed shop for journalists.

The letter—to all Westminster Press editors from the editorial director of the group, Nicholas Herbert, "drew their attention" to a speech by Lord Gibson in the House of Lords against the closed shop.

The letter—a new version of Westminster Press policy to encourage scab organisations—concludes:

"It could, also, in certain circumstances, be useful in helping to reassure editorial executives or non-members of the NUJ, who may be under pressure, that they will be supported by Westminster Press."

"I am not advocating that we should necessarily give it wide-spread circulation (that might be said to be provocative) but it is there on the record as a measure of our determination."

The North of England chapel—which voted overwhelmingly to strike after a well known anti-union sub editor had been drafted in and promised support from the management—is clearly taking on the whole might of Westminster Press

and the Newspaper Society.

On the first day of the strike the scab editor joined the Institute of Journalists whose members are now well into their strike breaking routine.

The NUJ has now a fight on its hands which could make the 23 week struggle at Kettering seem small beer.

The immediate aims of the union must be:

Win solidarity action from print workers in Darlington.

Stop all agency copy reaching the papers.

Call for supporting action from other Westminster Press chapels.

The omens are not good. A group chapel meeting to be held in London in two weeks is to consider what supporting action will be given, but the NUJ President, John Devine, is already arguing against putting pressure on the Press Association.

A meeting held between officials of the NUJ and other print unions succeeded only in delaying the start of the strike for a week. So far no sign has been given by print union leaders that they are prepared to help the NUJ members at Darlington and Durham win

Meetings against hotels betrayal

Supporters of the 39 pickets arrested on the Randolph Hotel picket line trying to prevent Self Help fascists from breaking the strike, held a 300-strong demonstration outside Oxford Magistrates Court, when the pickets appeared there on a variety of charges.

Then they marched to the local TGWU offices demanding that all costs and fines should be met by the union. They were told by District Official Geoff Hulett that TGWU members alone might just have a chance of being supported.

Two of the 39 pleaded guilty to obstruction and were fined £25 each with £10 costs. The other 37 have denied the charges, ranging from obstruction to assault and if the courts live up to their record fines of more than £1,500 are on

the cards. Oxford Trades Council has set up a defence fund but all TGWU members should demand that their union takes responsibility for defending those arrested.

COUNTRYWIDE

The Campaign for Democracy in the Labour Movement is pressing ahead with a countrywide series of meetings on the lessons of the hotel strikes.

Birmingham, Wednesday June 15, Australian Bar, Corner of Hurst St. and Bromsgrove St. 7.45pm.

Sheffield, Thursday 16 June.

London, Wednesday 22 June 7.30 at Caxton House, St. John Way, Archway.

Liverpool, Friday July 1 8.00 pm at the Feather Hotel Mount Pleasant.

BL CONVENORS MOVE TO END PLANT BARGAINING

A fresh move to stamp out plant-level bargaining throughout the British Leyland combine and substitute corporate-level negotiations has come from the wages sub-committee set up by the Confed. in March of this year.

The committee, composed of selected Leyland convenors, was set up as a basis for a return to work by the 3,000 toolmakers who struck for four weeks in February demanding separate negotiating rights and parity with top-paid toolmakers.

Its function was to review the wage structure within Leyland. Its recommendations, backed up by threats of closure from Industry Minister Eric Varley, were adopted by a meeting of 200 convenors representing manual grade workers in the 36 plants of Leyland's Cars Division on Friday May 27.

Central to these recommendations was acceptance that the right to bargain wages at plant level will be ended not later than November 1979.

As so-called "strings" to the deal, the convenors voted to demand staff status for manual workers be conceded within the two year period and that incentive schemes, negotiated at plant level, be introduced.

The convenors have no intention of sticking to these demands. They will be more than willing to see them twisted to the advantage of management or reduced to vague promises for the future.

Leyland management have in any case been looking for the chance to reintroduce their

infamous 'fringe benefits' document decisively rejected by workers in January this year.

That offered staff status in return for no-strike clauses and new disciplinary measures jointly policed by management and convenors.

The demand for incentives, as well as assisting attacks on manning levels, is designed to allow convenors to argue that an element of plant bargaining has been retained.

Fear of the membership on the shop floor runs through every move the convenors now make. They remember the heavy defeat they suffered in January when they voted 3-1 to accept the penalty clause document, only to see it thrown out by a massive majority.

This is clearly why the meeting of convenors was timed to take place *the day before* the ten day spring holiday shutdown.

And the meeting to negotiate the deal with management has been arranged for *June 10*, two days after the plants reopen.

This effectively means that not only have the convenors gone over the heads of the members but there is no opportunity for opposition to be organised in the plants.

Despite these manoeuvres, the battle must now begin. Union branches, stewards committees and sections on the shop floor must be mobilised to reject this deal.

The convenors have conceded the major plank in management policy—to take wage bargaining out of the hands of shop stewards (who are vulnerable to the pressure of the membership) and place it in the hands of national officials who can sell out from a greater distance.

The struggle to defend plant bargaining in Leyland has a long history.

Soon after coming to power in 1964, Wilson's Labour government showed its commitment to capitalism by declaring war on workers' living standards.

So called "wage drift" was identified as the main problem facing capitalism by the Royal Commission headed by Lord Donovan.

The cause of this was identified as the growth of the shop stewards' movement, which, based on the militancy of the working class, was taking advantage of piecework and bonus schemes and the right to bargain wages at the point of production.

To tackle this, fake "left" Barbara Castle was given control



Longbridge convenor Derek Robinson, leading advocate of corporate bargaining.

of the newly-created Prices and Incomes Board and George Cattell was brought in from the Rootes Motor Corporation to make use of his experience in introducing Measured Day Work there.

The giant piecework plants of Leyland (formerly BMC) were the national pacesetters on wages, and the prime target.

After an initial success with forcing in Measured Day Work (after the sell out by the officials of the AUEW and TGWU of a six weeks strike against MDW in the Cowley Assembly Plant) the company faced resistance to the breaking down of established agreements and to the standard work rate required under the MDW system.

With the publication of the Ryder Report, corporate bargaining was retained as a central thrust and seen as key to the long term control of wages within Leyland.

Management 'participation' committees were enlisted to speed the process.

This is why the latest concessions on corporate bargaining made by the 200 convenors is so valuable to management. Corporate bargaining would be a blow, not only against Leyland workers, but against the right of independent action on wages of the whole working class.

This is why a campaign against the new deal must be launched at once.

TEACHERS' STRIKE VOTE

Continued from Front Page.

sanctions and 1,500 voting to strike.

The immediate response from the Executive to this result has been to plead for more talks with the Local Authority, which has agreed to receive a deputation of National Officials on June 9.

They have announced that lunch time activities will cease from Monday June 13 throughout the county and the class size action will begin the following Monday.

But the real question is why, with an 80% response to a call for strike action, the Executive still does not use the only weapon which the Labour-Liberal coalition government and their willing Tory allies in the Town Halls will take seriously?

With five weeks until the end of this school year when the 534 teachers on short term contracts will lose their jobs, the National Officers still argue that a gradually escalating programme of disruption will stop the cuts.

A deal is obviously on the cards. Local NUT leaders have already announced what they will "settle for".

The last thing both the Lib-Lab government and the NUT Executive want is an Oxfordshire strike which will be supported and grow throughout the whole county where the same vicious cuts are on the agenda.

In counties throughout the country fights against the cuts are beginning in different ways and over varying issues.

For example, in Birmingham the Local Authority is threatening to sue some teachers for taking

non-cover sanctions in defence of the permanent supply posts in the city, and in Southampton, similar sanctions have now been enforced to stop the redeployment of 59 teachers into jobs in Hampshire.

So long as the bureaucrats are confident that they can section off cuts fights and make local deals they are able to be demagogic about the size of their strike funds and the importance of maintaining educational standards.

But wherever a group of members cuts loose and shows determination to fight like in Little Ilford School, the Executive loses no time in handing out suspensions and so showing its true nature.

The demand must be in every area for immediate all-out strike action against *all* the cuts with the demand that the Executive turns this into national strike action—no deals but the call for the educational budget to be expanded to keep in line with inflation.

The trade union movement must organise with parents to demand "open the books" at the Town Halls to expose to the working class the reserve funds, contingency funds etc and the profits made by the supplying firms.

The left wing Labour MPs must lead a campaign to break the present coalition with the Liberals and to fight for a general election on a platform of socialist policies with a new leadership elected at a special recall Labour Party conference.

TURKEY—ECEVIT LEADS POLL

Continued from Front Page.

between RPP and Justice Party supporters and deaths were reported from Hatai and Soke. In general, however, this was much less than expected.

The comparative peace of the election was in contrast to many of the events that preceded it.

Since the massacre at the workers demonstration in Istanbul on May Day there have been many attacks, mostly by the NAP on supporters of Ecevit and left wing parties.

On 29 May a coach carrying Ecevit was shot at by unknown assailants. In Ismir Airport on the same day Mehmet Isvan, a senior leader of the RPP, was shot in the leg by a gun which later proved to have been in the hands of a policeman.

After only getting about 10,000 to his final mass meeting in Istanbul on 1 June, Demirel then sent a "personal and secret" signed letter to Ecevit warning him not to hold his final meeting on 3 June, and giving the precise place where a group of "illegal Communist-terrorists" would put themselves to shoot at him.

Ecevit went ahead however. The

Turkish Labour Party allowed the bourgeois RPP its allocated time and place, and over 300,000 according to some reports came to an "illegal" meeting, the final election rally of the RPP.

Whatever the results of the final electoral arithmetic, it seems most likely that Ecevit, inheritor of the mantle of the bourgeois revolution of Kemal Ataturk, will be in government shortly.

He will bring with him the hopes of many millions of Turkish workers trade unionists and peasants to whom he has promised credits.

But Ecevit is not the leaders of a workers party or a workers movement.

The party of big capital and international imperialism is being replaced by the party of the native bourgeoisie, which is also incapable of solving the immense political and economic problems that face Turkey.

With unemployment at just over 2,000,000, inflation at just over 18% and a foreign payments debt approaching crisis point, Ecevit, like the others, will have to approach the IMF with cap in hand.



Ecevit

He will without question, introduce policies of austerity and cuts in living conditions. He will not have the opportunity now for a foreign adventure like the invasion of Cyprus which marked his last period in government to take away attention from these problems.

However the election campaign has shown clearly that the Turkish masses are on the move. Not only did many hundreds of thousands come to the meeting but strikes under the leadership of the Stalinists of the DISK federation are now stopping half of the car industry an over three quarters of the production of refrigerators and washing machines.

These struggles will now certainly be called off by the Stalinists and other workers leaders who have falsely told the working class that they can rely on Ecevit for democratic rights and economic gains.

UNITED FRONT

There must be a fight in the Turkish labour movement for the independence of the working class in its struggle to defend jobs, wages and basic rights.

The demand for a united front of workers' parties must be put forward as an essential step in the building of a revolutionary leadership necessary to achieve socialism.

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£3000 FUND

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE of *Socialist Press* we have received a further sum of £391.00 towards the £3,000 special fund to launch the weekly paper. This means we are well on the way to our first £1,000 with a grand total of £767.50 received to date.

Latest donations include: Cowley car workers £24.90; NHS workers £2.75; Oxford bookshop workers £250; Banbury £10; PC £15; DS and SS £50; RE £5.

Pleased as we are at this response, we must sound the alarm on the Monthly Development Fund. The target for this fund is £600 a month and yet in May we only received £477.37. Since this fund is essential for the running of the paper, we urge all comrades to take very seriously the fight to raise the full amount each month.

We realise that with two funds running simultaneously this places great stress on the limited resources of our supporters but the raising of this finance is essential if we are to have the weekly paper that is so central to the further development of our work.

The June Monthly Fund has got off to a good start with a total of £154.60 received after only four days.

All donations may be sent to:

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31, Dartmouth Park Hill,
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