

# Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

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## RELEASE



## BERNADETTE

**AT LEAST SIX DEATHS**, hundreds of injured, more homes destroyed – this is the price which workers in Northern Ireland paid last weekend for the policies of British imperialism.

The responsibility for the fighting in Belfast and Derry must be put squarely where it belongs – on the shoulders of the Westminster government and its Stormont allies.

The explosion in the Six Counties is the outcome of a deliberate and calculated policy by the British government (both Labour and Tory) to appease the extreme right wing thugs of the Orange Order.

Westminster has been prepared to do this to get a handful of miserable and long overdue civil reforms on the statute book at Stormont.

In the face of growing right wing repression, however, the reforms are not worth the paper they are written on.

To appease the Paisleyites and the Unionist extremists, the British authorities have connived at the disgusting political victimisation of Bernadette Devlin.

They also stood by and gave tacit encouragement to three weeks of provocative Orange demonstrations. They even allowed some demonstrators to march through Catholic areas devastated by Orange fascists last August.

### MOCKERY

The trial of Bernadette Devlin is a mockery of real justice. But it has opened the eyes of many workers to the reality of capitalist justice when the system feels itself threatened.

She has been imprisoned for no other crime than exercising a basic human right (one even recognised in legal theory), the right of self-defence to protect one's life.

The authorities hope that the mass of workers in this country at least – if not in Ireland – have forgotten the circumstances of the struggle in the Bogside last summer.

Derry Catholics were then fighting to prevent a mob of armed, fanatical Paisleyite hooligans, many in RUC and B-Special uniforms, smashing into the Bogside.

The Paisleyites made no secret of their intention to 'tear the place asunder and fix the Taigues (Catholics) once and for all'.

Their public threats against Bernadette Devlin, broadcast across the barricades, were unprintable. Bernadette Devlin did no more than anyone faced with such a mob.

But she has been selected by the state for victimisation for clear political reasons. She is a particularly dangerous enemy of the Orange State and British imperialism

### Disgusting political attack

because she is a revolutionary socialist whose declared aim is to unite all the exploited peoples of Ireland against their common enemies.

By sending Bernadette Devlin to Armagh Jail, British imperialism and Stormont are declaring their contempt for the democratic decision of the people of Mid-Ulster in the general election. They are also identifying the socialist left as their most dangerous enemy.

The fight in Belfast and Derry last weekend was the rebellion of a people who have decided they have been terrorised and exploited too long. They have shown their preparedness to fight back and not be cowed by the threats of General Freeland and others against all resisters in Northern Ireland.

The socialists have been quick to point out that the defence of Catholic workers against Paisleyites or the British forces must not be left to Catholic sectarians. The enemy is not the Protestant working class but British imperialism and its Orange offspring.

Last weekend in Belfast, a number of socialists met to launch a Socialist Action Committee. It will consist of representatives from People's Democracy, the Irish Young Socialists, a number of Labour Party branches, as well as socialist republicans from Sinn Fein, individual members of the Communist Party and the Socialist Labour League and a group of shop stewards.

### COMBAT

The meeting agreed on the need for the defence of all workers' homes, both Catholic and Protestant. The urgent need to combat religious sectarianism in Belfast industry, notably in Harland and Wolff shipyard, was also stressed.

People's Democracy were also represented at a rally called in Dublin last weekend by the Citizens' Committee to protest at the situat-



Demonstrators picketed the Home Office last Friday to protest at the jailing of Bernadette

ion in the North.

Sean Murphy pointed out that imperialism and capitalism operated in both parts of Ireland. He cited the struggle of the Southern workers against attempts to import cement from the North to break the three month long cement strike.

Last week 17 members of the People's Democracy were arrested at Ardglass Port following clashes between the RUC and pickets who were attempting to stop the import of 'black' cement from Holland and Poland.

The Dublin Green Tory Fianna Fail government, torn by internal crisis, sits and twiddles its thumbs while the North goes up in flames.

LONDON building workers decided on Tuesday to stage a half-day strike and march to Whitehall on Friday to demand a ban on Orange parades in Northern Ireland and the immediate release of Bernadette Devlin.

Impetus for the strike came from a meeting of 500 workers on Tuesday morning at Beckton Sewage Treat-

The Prime Minister, Jack Lynch, in a TV broadcast, places the main emphasis on warning workers of 'subversives' – by which he means (but dare not say) Bernadette Devlin and all like her who want an end to the rotten system both North and South of the border.

Socialists in Britain must now mobilise the biggest possible campaign to demand the immediate release of Bernadette Devlin and other Irish political prisoners.

In two weeks' time, the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign is planning a mass London rally at Hammersmith Town Hall to demand her release.

Socialists must also point out to

the British labour movement that the political responsibility for the tragedy in Ireland lies with Westminster.

We must also give our unqualified support to all those Irish workers who said to the British troops last weekend, 'Get off our streets, get out of our country'.

The socialist movement in Ireland is going to need all our support in the coming months. We must see that they get it.

**Release Bernadette Devlin immediately!**

**For the defence of all workers and their homes!**

**British imperialism out of Ireland!**

## Builders on Irish protest march

ment Site near Barking. Their call for action on Friday 3 July was taken up at the Horseferry Road site in Westminster.

Mr Hugh Cassidy, federation steward on the site, told a meeting of workers: 'The struggle in Ireland is the responsibility of workers in Britain.'

A call went out for all building

workers in London to march from Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, at 2pm to Whitehall. The Horseferry Road meeting also condemned the use of CS gas against demonstrators in Northern Ireland, the army's 'shoot on sight' orders and called for the implementation of full democratic rights in the Six Counties.

**British troops – get out  
of Northern Ireland  
Defend all workers and their homes**

**RELEASE BERNADETTE  
DEVLIN!  
WITHDRAW BRITISH TROOPS!  
Saturday 4 July 2pm  
March from Platt Fields to  
Albert Square, Manchester.  
Manchester ICRC**

**FIGHT THE TORIES  
Teesside IS public meeting  
Friday 3 July 8pm  
The Settlement, Newport Road,  
Middlesbrough  
Speaker: ROGER PROTZ  
Editor Socialist Worker**



The Tories have made it clear that they will halt the limited and timid education reforms introduced by the Labour government. This means in particular a halt to the introduction of 'all-in' comprehensive schools which are a move away from the segregation of grammar and secondary schools.

In the first of two articles, two teachers outline the arguments for comprehensive education and how the Labour government, dominated by the basic capitalist demand of not spending too much on 'unprofitable' sectors, distorted and held up the breakdown of the old class-ridden system. Next week they will deal with the Tory plans.



# The classroom counter-revolution: Labour's retreat aids the Tories...

THE ELECTION of a Tory government is going to bring about a change in education policy. In their first week in office, they have already promised to repeal Circular 10/65, the legislation passed by the Labour government in 1965 'requesting local education authorities to submit plans for the reorganisation of secondary education along comprehensive lines.

Before examining the implications of this action, it is important to look at the case against selection and the state of comprehensive education today, that is, the progress made under Labour.

Selective education — grammar schools and modern schools — was brought in with the 1944 Education Act. Although the Act granted free secondary education to all children, it did so on the basis of inequality.

It created modern schools for working class children, grammar schools for the middle class children (although one in seven of working class children could hope to attend grammar schools) and kept the 'public', independent schools for the children of the ruling class.

## Reactionary attitude

Its justification was that some children had 'academic ability' whereas most did not, and that this 'gift' was fixed and could be determined once and for all at the age of 11. Examinations were used to sort out the pupils into their proper schools.

Educational research has disproved this reactionary attitude. Evidence of the effects of being placed in secondary moderns and

by Leni Solinger

NUT, Haringey infant teacher

and Tony Clark

NUT, Southwark secondary teacher

selective schools shows the fallacy of the 'fixed intelligence' argument.

It has been shown that a child lives up to what both he and his teacher expect of him. In an experiment quoted in *Pygmalion* in the *Classroom* by Rosenthal and Jacobson, teachers were told to expect a spurt of intellectual development from certain children (who were in fact picked at random from the class).

These so-called 'late bloomers' bloomed. Their reading scores went ahead, some improving dramatically.

One boy showed a change of IQ from 61 to 106, similarly, if children are labelled as 'failures' at 11, their 'intellectual development' declines.

Concerning the accuracy of tests for predicting a school a child should attend, psychologists have concluded that out of every 20 children selected for grammar schools, seven turn out to be unsuitable for that type of education.

The Crowther Report of 1959 has shown that 27 per cent of National Service recruits in the Army and 29 per cent in the RAF were wrongly placed at 11 on the basis of their ability at 18.

The evidence against selection led to the growth of the comprehensive system. One of Labour's main election promises in 1964 was the introduction of comprehensive education.

Let's see what these strong advocates of comprehensive education have done. After five years, there are only 748 'comprehensive' schools compared to 4800 grammar and secondary modern schools.

Many authorities are completely opposed to the idea of comprehensive education and to date have not submitted plans. Most of the others have introduced or plan to introduce comprehensive education without abolishing selective schools.

## Labour compromise

Such a policy turns comprehensive education into a farce. Grammar schools continue to provide education only for the elite, leaving the 'comprehensive' schools as secondary moderns with a new name.

The London secondary school system is a good example of this. Although there are 'comprehensive' schools, one in five of all children still attend grammar schools.

The original balance between ability ranges which the Labour controlled Inner London Education Authority hoped to achieve prove unrealisable in this situation, resulting in what can only be described, as 'topless' comprehensives. (In



Short of money, short of fight

1967, when the Tories gained control of the ILEA, this imbalance became policy — this will be examined more closely next week.)

This situation is not unique to London. Only 22 of the 163 local authorities have abolished selective schools, showing how the Labour government has compromised right down the line.

Why is this the case? The Labour Party believes in the principle of comprehensive education — and this is one major difference between them and the Tories.

Labour have even begun to ques-

tion the role of the direct grant grammar schools. The Inner London Education Authority, now Labour-controlled again, has decided not to take up places in the London direct grant schools in September.

The problem is that Labour are not willing to implement their ideas. Although the language in the legislation promised in the last parliament was stronger, it had the same flaws as the old one — no method of enforcement and no promise of the funds necessary to make the change.

When a Labour MP tried to give the Bill 'teeth' by placing a 1975 deadline on comprehensive reorganisation, Edward Short, the then Secretary of State for Education and Science, said he could not accept the suggestion as 'the cost would be astronomical'.

Change does not occur just by asking for it — it has to be fought for. The Labour Party is not capable of doing this for, like the Tories, they safeguard the capitalist system, a system which by having profits as the priority rather than social needs, deprives education of the resources necessary for advance.

But at least the Labour government was asking for change, while the Tories want to turn the clock back and return to the old system designed to keep working-class children firmly in their place.

## FILMS

### SAVAGE COMEDY HITS AT STUPIDITY OF WAR

ONE OF the grimmest statistics to come out of the Vietnam war is the one which proudly boasts that 80 per cent of all soldiers wounded in combat now have the privilege of becoming patched-up skeletons as compared with 75 per cent in Korea and 69 per cent in World War II. Yet another example of human ingenuity and mastery of the unknown.

*MASH* (Odeon, Kensington) shows us with brutal honesty just what such 'patching-up' involves and the film does for the Korean war what *Catch 22* did for World War II.

With superb economy of shots the film follows the fortunes of a medical unit three miles from the front in Korea. Despite the fact that *MASH* succeeds mostly at the level of a savage comedy, you are never allowed to forget the nearness of the battlefield and the real reason for the unit's existence because of several tightly-controlled but gruesomely realistic scenes within the operating theatre.

Much of the film's tragic irony stems from the contrast between the brutal, senseless nature of the war, the pointless and never-ending killing and maiming of young men, set against the triviality and humour of the everyday life of the medical unit.

Life in the trenches produces a grim, overwhelming suspicion of all politicians and political ideas with their high-flown phrases and promises allied to a stunning incomprehension of how wars ever start and how the individual soldier ever got caught up in this particular war.

It is precisely this mad, vicious

inanity of war that *MASH* communicates so clearly. Here is the senseless stupidity that every soldier who ever fought will immediately recognise.

Let us hope that the poor, tormented young lads at present wearing the GI's uniform will be fortunate enough to live long enough to see it.

*Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice* (general release) shows a very different though not unrelated section of American society. Here is the world of the urban middle class, of private swimming pools, of four-car families, of go-ahead, terribly progressive secure liberals.

Desperately intent on being 'with it' and 'turned-on', the two couples of the title attempt their own miniature sexual revolution. Inevitably, the attempt breaks down and the film traces the failure with unflinching humour and insight into the dilemma of the middle class.

Though obviously not a world-shakingly important film, *Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice* succeeds in exposing the collapse of morale which the American middle class is presently undergoing.

In its own quiet way, the film illuminates this problem and as such it nicely complements *MASH*.

After all, it is this way of life that was defended at such cost in Korea in the 1950s and is being defended in Vietnam today. Both films pose different aspects of the same important question — 'Is it worth it?'

MARTIN TOMKINSON

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CAPITALISM has nothing to offer mankind but exploitation, crises and war. The ruling classes of the world — a tiny minority — subordinate the needs of the vast majority to the blind accumulation of capital in the interests of competitive survival.

Imperialism condemns two-thirds of mankind to famine and calls forth movements of national liberation which shake the system and expose its essential barbarism. The constant and mounting preparations for war and the development of weapons of mass destruction place the survival of humanity itself in the balance.

The increasing intensity of international competition between ever-larger units drives the ruling classes to new attacks on workers' living standards and conditions of work, to anti-trade union and anti-strike laws. All of these show capitalism in deepening crises from which it can only hope to escape at the cost of the working class and by the destruction of all its independent organisations.

The only alternative is workers' power — the democratic collective control of the working class over industry and society through a state of workers' councils and workers' control of

# WHERE WE STAND

struggle against the ruling class through the mass organisations thrown up in the course of that struggle.

To overcome the unevenness with which this experience is gained, to draw and preserve the lessons of past struggles and transmit them for the future, to fight against the pressure of bourgeois ideas in the working class, and to bond the fragmentary struggles against capitalism into a conscious and coherent offensive, a revolutionary Marxist party of socialist militants is required, embracing the vanguard of the working class.

The struggle to build such a party is only part of the wider struggle to create a World Revolutionary Socialist International, independent of all oppressors and exploiters of the working class, whether bureaucratic or bourgeois.

International Socialists therefore fight for:

- Opposition to all ruling-class policies and organisations.
- Workers' control over production and a workers' state.
- Opposition to imperialism and support for all movements of national liberation.
- Uncompromising opposition to all forms of racialism and to all migration controls.

production.

Only thus can the transition be ensured to a communist society in which the unprecedented productive forces thrown up by capitalism can be used to assure an economy of abundance. Only the working class, itself the product of capitalism, has the ability to transform society in this way, and has shown its ability to do so in a series of revolutionary struggles unprecedented in the history of all previous exploited classes.

The working class gains the experience necessary to revolutionise society by constant

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the paper.



# Mum, dad and the kids on the home production line, struggling to make ends meet

IN LONDON there are thousands of women knocking their guts out for 2s or less an hour. It's a system known as out-working or home-work.

Plastic flowers, dolls' clothes, sandals, bird cage covers, babies' bibs, paper masks, hats, ball-point pens and handbags — just a few of the goods assembled, part manufactured or finished by the home-work system.

Take a look in the toy cupboard, at your son's toy cowboy or at your daughter's toy umbrella. That nicely painted cowboy with movable head, body and detachable hat and gun was probably made in a Walthamstow front room.

The whole family works on a home production line: Mum painting heads, hats, belts and guns; Dad putting hats to heads and heads to bodies, one of the kids helping with the painting and fixing bodies to legs, another adding the guns and packing.

The toy umbrella probably came from Islington made by the same system, one machining covers and ties to frames, another assembles

frames, ferrules and sliders.

Ever bought a funny mask or hat? Again, made in Walthamstow. The mask sells for 9d to 1s. The home-workers got 2s per gross for fixing the elastic headbands, 4s 6d per gross for putting bands and feathers on the hats.

The rate in all these instances works out at 2s or less an hour — and you've got to graft to earn it.

Go down the market, buy a bird-cage cover for the budgie. Made in Silvertown or North Woolwich.

Take five pieces of material, machine them together, add an elastic drawingstring. The home-worker earned a ½d per cover. What did it cost you?

## Not so different

Buy a nice cheap pair of sandals, 10s to 15s a pair. The home-worker got 1d per pair, ½d per sandal for machine-stapling front and back straps to the sole and adding liner and buckle. Again made in Silvertown.

This is home-work — London

1970. Not so much different from that described by Mayhew in *London Labour and London Poor* 100 years ago.

Not so much different from the 'cottage' industries of 200 years ago. A direct and continuing tradition of cruel, vicious exploitation.

Why do the women carry on doing it, working for such appalling rates? The answer in 1770 and 1870 was need. The answer is still the same today.

Women are squeezed between continually rising prices, rents, rates, mortgages and a fixed house-keeping amount. In order to maintain their families' standards of living, they are forced to work. The choice is between local factories and home-work.

Local factories pay £10-£14 per week. After deductions, take-home pay is £9-£12 a week. Take away the cost of having two or three children minded — £6-£7 a week, plus the extra cost incurred by working (clothes, fares, ready-prepared food, launderette, etc).

A whole week's work only clears £2-£3. On this basis home-work at 2s an hour gives the same return.

For the companies working the home-work racket it's a very profitable business. They not only buy labour at cut-throat rates but save on direct and indirect labour costs.

The companies fall into two main categories:

1. Those companies producing cheap lines as sub-contractors to the discount houses and chain stores.
2. Those companies producing, marketing and distributing on their own account.

## Cheap-jack firms

An example of the first is A T Banghams of Walthamstow, paper novelty makers. They operate an extensive home-work system with production based on a small factory supplying (among others) F W Woolworth.

An example of the second is Britains, the Walthamstow toy-

makers. They operate from a large factory, using home-workers mainly for finishing and assembly. Apart from these kind of companies, there are a whole mass of cheap-jack firms often operating on a single order or seasonal basis, erupting and collapsing like boils all over London.

This is not intended as a full home-work survey. I have looked at examples of 'unskilled' home-work. There is a whole range of 'skilled' home-work which I haven't touched on.

What I have tried to do is to show, that for thousands and thousands of families, keeping up the standard of living means dependence on home-work. That, in the midst of the technological revolution, the system called capitalism, in which we are forced to live, still rests nakedly and cruelly on the tired bodies of the ordinary working people.

**BILL BAYLISS**

# THE DOCTORS' DILEMMA

## —soaring salaries while the Health Service rots

by GERRY DAWSON

THE GP's 'certificate strike', is over. It affected three out of four surgeries. More than 40 per cent of General Practitioners have told a British Medical Association referendum that they are prepared to walk out of the Health Service if the full 30 per cent wage increase is not accepted by the government.

But in the consulting rooms and Mark 10 Jags, it's already argued that the battle is over. By their 'militant' and politically embarrassing action after the rejection of a pay offer of £22 (which is greater than the average national wage) top doctors believe that they have earned from the new Tory team a record-breaking, 'no strings' increase for an already prosperous profession.

## Artificial

Meanwhile the real problems which cause the very heavy work load and the clinical frustration — dilapidated hospitals, bad residential educational and living conditions, lack of trained doctors and staff, the decline of general prac-

tice — will get even less attention than before.

The largely artificial, whipped-up crisis which the BMA manufacture every time they want more money serves to disguise the real situation.

The Health Service is in danger of breaking down under prolonged strain. The system carved out of capitalist medicine by working-class pressure to establish new standards of civilised health care is drying up for lack of adequate funding.

Its doctors and hospital staff are under constant pressure to leave the country or join up with a growing sector of private medical and insurance schemes. News headlines about brutality by nurses in huge rural mental homes, the refusal of nurses to assist at abortions, the refusal of patients to be examined by overseas doctors — these are each evidence of the basic crisis in cash and manpower.

The barnlike prisons for the incurable which they call mental hospitals are so short of staff, especially nurses, that troublesome patients are drugged permanently or brutalised if they interfere with the administration of the remaining 60 patients in a ward.

The demand for abortion on the



Overseas doctors are vital to the running of the Health Service but are constantly attacked by racials, including some in the medical profession.

NHS has been made meaningless by the government's refusal to give money for new specialist departments. Gynaecologists who undertake terminations (and many don't) now have their operating lists and outpatient time strained and distorted by the new load.

Overseas doctors, who are vital, since British doctors have constantly objected to an increase of numbers in training in Britain, keep the hospital service going. They come for post-graduate qualifications and also because the Indian and Pakistani health services are so chaotic that they cannot employ many of them.

But foreign doctors are forced to enter specialities they had no interest in and prolong their stay interminably so as to find time for study and the money to pay the rocketing post-graduate fees.

General Practitioners, at the core of the discontent, are the most vivid example of what has happened when a half nationalised industry gets submerged under the strain of capitalist pressure, greed and inertia.

## Anxious

GP's still hang on to the private enterprise concept of an individual doctor practising in his own home which lingers on in age of community medicine like the pains from a phantom limb. Some GP's are still in principle against the Health Service's very existence. They would love to get back to the times when nurses sold flags in the street to pay for the hospitals and patients had their eyes tested in Woolworths.

But the majority are keen to make community care work. They are anxious to employ assistant para-medical staff to help them.

But when, as in 1966, such doctors began to improve their surgeries, the squeeze was applied and some found themselves with services which could not be easily withdrawn and lengthening overdrafts.

For left-wing doctors, there are a few political straws which should be grasped before they break our backs. The first is the definite crisis in confidence in the BMA's misleadership, which has led to the formation of regional consultant, junior doctor and in some areas GP pressure groups.

The BMA committee men, who have taken to 'politics' like other doctors collect medical stamps or

entative and can only survive by manipulating the actual movement of local doctors.

The increased importance of the leftist Medical Practitioners Union, which is affiliated to the TUC, and the rapid growth of the Junior Hospital Doctors Association put further elbow on the BMA's prerogatives. JHDA are talking about a new staff union for the hospital service under the advice of the TUC.

And Clive Jenkins of the Supervisors' union has spoken of the doctors taking the lid off a whole new range of demands for other hospital workers.

It begins to look as if, not unlike the teachers' struggle, when the mystic idea of 'being a professional person' starts to crack, the possibility of militant and political white-collar unionism is the only alternative.

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# **PALESTINE:** the time bomb ticking beneath all Middle East rulers

**THE RECENT CLASHES in Jordan show that Palestine is a time bomb beneath all the ruling classes in the Middle East. Why is this so? Will Palestine be the Vietnam of the 1970s?**

The Middle East is kept poor and made poorer by imperialism, by the foreign companies, especially the oil companies, which siphon off the natural wealth of the region which could give its people a decent life.

Instead, oil is shipped off to Europe to boost the profits of the same bosses who attack wages and conditions at home.

In return, the oil monopolies and the Western governments back up the local ruling classes, giving the oil sheikhs and the army colonels enough of the profits to keep them happy with Cadillacs or modern weaponry, according to taste.

## **STRANGLEHOLD**

The most basic improvements in the conditions of the workers and peasants cannot be won without breaking this stranglehold. And as all the privileged classes are more or less tied to imperialism, this means that the people can only really improve their lives by acting independently, for themselves, without relying on regular army officers, bureaucrats or princes to do it for them.

That is why every cry for real independence and a decent life in the region carries the threat of socialist revolution. And that is why all the governments in the region are forced to make nationalist noises for fear of their skins.

This is where Zionism and the state of Israel come in. Zionism aimed to solve the problem of perse-

by  
**MOSHE  
AVNERI**

cution of the Jews with the help of imperialism and at the expense of the Arabs of Palestine, who were to be 'moved out' to make room for a racially 'pure' community of Jewish settlers.

So the local Arab ruling classes also had to oppose Zionism in words, to satisfy their own people. They did this the easy way, by appealing to racial and religious bigotry, instead of attacking the real enemy, imperialism, which was their own paymaster.

This made it all the easier for Zionist leaders to ask the Israeli workers to support them as the Arabs wanted to 'massacre them or drive them into the sea'.

The conservative, feudal kingdom of Jordan was the clearest example of this. In 1948, the rulers moved their British-officered army into Palestine 'to protect the Arabs' while at the same time they signed a pact with the Zionists dividing Palestine between them. And for 18 years the struggle of the Arab people against Zionism seemed the same as the struggle of the Arab governments against Israel, while a million refugees rotted helplessly in camps.

The 1967 war changed all that, and put the guerrillas at the centre of the picture. The efforts of the exiled Palestinians to carry on the struggle themselves threatened the Jordan government, most of whose people were Palestinians who hated the king.

The war showed that none of the Arab ruling classes can beat Israel.

They have backed the UN call for a 'peaceful settlement' which would leave the Palestinians without a country, and which is also supported by America and Russia, who want to preserve 'stability' (that is, exploitation) in the region.

King Hussein has been forced to share power with the guerrillas. They have paraded armed in the streets, and his law does not hold in the refugee camps.

But at all costs he must stop them taking over. That would force the Israelis to intervene, it would lose him his kingdom, and worst of all it would stop the question being settled over the heads of the Palestinians. So he tolerates the guerrillas as far as he must, while preparing repressions against the 'extremists'.

## **SEPARATE**

He is helped in this by the leaders of the major guerrilla force, El Fatah. They hold that the struggle against Zionism is separate from the struggle against the landlords, the bosses and the oil companies in the Arab countries themselves. They rely for money and arms on the Arab governments.

But in fact Zionism can only be beaten by hitting at the landlords and the oil companies, by giving the Arab workers and peasants something to fight for — a socialist middle east where all national minorities, including the Jews of Israel, would have full equal rights. No existing Arab government would back these demands which hit at their imperialist paymaster.

This socialist programme is backed by the two groups to the left of Fatah involved in the recent fighting, the Popular Front and the Democratic Front. The DF criticises the PF for relying too much on individual terror without involving its members sufficiently in the struggles of the masses in the Arab countries, and also with relying too much on the Arab governments for assistance.

The more Israel hits at the Arab countries the more the Arab workers and peasants come to see that only revolutionary struggle can get them anywhere, and the more the Arab governments turn against the guerrillas. They do this, like ruling classes everywhere, by calling for 'national unity' and attacking 'disrupters' and 'extremists'.

## **DENOUNCE**

They are driven to support the moves now being made in Washington and Moscow for a political solution. Nixon has produced a new plan, America and Russia have held secret meetings, while Russia emphasises her support for Israel's 'right to exist' (Russia voted at the UN for Israel's creation in 1947) and denounces the guerrilla 'extremists' as 'paid by the CIA'.

The so-called 'progressive' Arab governments in Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Sudan and Iraq rest on army colonels and civil servants instead

Earlier this year, Israeli forces raided the Arkoub area of southern Lebanon (top) in a bid to wipe out guerrilla bases. But the guerrillas (right) fought back, inflicting heavy losses on the Israelis.



of on landlords and merchants. In the past they have talked 'left' but now they lead the attack on the guerrilla left.

Ghadafi, the new ruler of oil-rich Libya has offered the Lebanese government £100 million to strengthen the regular army. Recently Israel moved against the guerrillas in Lebanon. The government left them to it as they smashed the guerrillas. It has not stopped the Israelis building two roads half a mile into Lebanese territory to the hills above the guerrillas' main camp.

## **KIDNAPPED**

By strengthening the regular army they can defend their own skins against Israel without arming the people and so are able to smash the guerrillas.

Three weeks ago, trouble blew up again in Jordan. The army commander, the King's uncle, had been preparing special 'security forces' to smash the left guerrillas.

The left struck first. The PF kidnapped an American Embassy official as hostage and the left demanded the release of prisoners and the disbanding of the 'special forces'. The army attacked refugee and guerrilla camps, killing hundreds.

The guerrillas fought back, with rank and file Fatah supporters fighting with the left. On the same day Nixon's envoys went to Egypt, Jordan and Israel with details of his new 'peace plan'.

On Wednesday 10 June, three days after the kidnapping and one after the army attacked the guerrillas, King Hussein and Fatah leader Arafat signed a pact calling on 'the children of the same homeland to close ranks against the common

enemy'. It was left to the king's government to punish 'subversive elements who try to provoke dissent'.

The army continued to bomb the camps and the PF held 67 Western correspondents hostage in a hotel. The next day Hussein made a token retreat and dismissed his uncle.

When ultra-right army units moved against the king a new pact was signed on the Saturday which averted civil war for the time being. It provided for joint, unarmed army-guerrilla patrols in Amman, the capital and forbade the guerrillas to carry arms outside their camps. El Fatah and the Popular Front signed it.

But on Tuesday 16 June, Hawatmeh, leader of the marxist Democratic Front, denounced the special security forces the original cause of the clashes, for arresting, torturing and killing militants. He warned that if these forces were not disbanded, 'a bloody and more extensive battle than that of last week will break out shortly'.

The last clash, in February, when the DF helped 1500 workers on strike in a cement factory owned by the king's uncle, showed the 'left wing' Arab governments supporting the guerrillas. Today Nasser, Ghadafi and the rest form a common front with Hussein and Arafat against the 'adventurists' of the revolutionary left, while Moscow adds 'noises off' to the chorus of reaction.

## **PRETENDER**

One thing is clear: the struggle will continue, exposing in turn each false pretender to the leadership of the developing Arab revolution. A dispossessed and angry people is trying out and testing in turn each of the false alternatives which the past has left it and turns more and more to the road of socialist revolution.

As even in Israel realisation grows of what the dead-end of Zionism means, as the powers that be throughout the world gang up on the people of the Middle East and their struggle, socialists in Britain must prepare for active solidarity with a people fighting the same enemy as us. Their victories and defeats are ours, as well.

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# **Solidarity needed with people fighting our enemies, too**



# Corruption is rife in the trawling industry

by an Aberdeen trawlerman

**THE TRAWLING INDUSTRY is one of the most corrupt in the world.**

It starts with the skipper of the ship. He gets a bonus based on the profits of his yearly turnover.

This leads to his driving a crew sometimes beyond endurance, to misusing the gear to such an extent he often puts his crew's life in danger.

A classic example of this was the death of an 18 years old boy last year. Instead of a proper hook being used for the job he was doing, a sawn-off shackle was used. The shackle straightened out under the strain, broke off and stove his head in.

The Board of Trade accepted the explanation that it was standard practice. It just meant his life was traded for money. A sawn-off shackle cost nothing, a proper hook for the job would have cost a few shillings.

Then there's the office staff who sometimes act as salesmen. When fish is being sold, they say that no price ring operates, but still you will see only one buyer bidding and taking up a whole shot of fish. The office staff get a fry of fish off every ship on landing - usually a box of haddock and a box of lemon sole. A crew member gets 12 measly haddock or one lemon sole.

## Fish on Saturday

As there are between 180 to 200 haddocks to a box and 120 to 140 lemon sole to be shared between six or eight on the office staff, you will see how little is thought of the trawlermen. The office I am employed by has a fleet of 10 boats. We all land together in mid-week and then half the boats land again on Friday.

This gives the staff 30 boxes a week. As you only see them carrying fish home on Saturday, you can well imagine what happens to the rest.



Idle trawlers during last year's strike in Aberdeen

The owner has everything attached to the industry in safe keeping. He owns one powerful shipyard, the paint stores, netbraiders, riggers, supply stores, grocers stores, butchers shops.

He also has large shares in fish houses (firms which process fish and act as middle-men) and owns others outright as well as having a finger in the ice company and the oil companies. The owner doesn't give a damn if his fleet never makes a penny as long as the rake-off from his other interests keeps coming in.

Even when he bleats about fish prices being low and profits from his trawlers being down, he's exulting inwardly at getting it all back from his fish houses. And it's profit stolen from the poor fisherman because part of his wages is totted up from the value of the catch landed.

There are 180 to 200 haddock to a box, seed as we call them. This is the kind of fish sold in a chip shop at 1s 9d each. On a yearly average, seed cost no more than 60s or 70s per box so you see there is plenty of rake-off there.

That is why the only way the trawl-fishermen can get reasonable sense from the trawl-owners is to stop all his avenue of income at one and the same time, that is, by a total withdrawal of labour.

Every other part of the industry belongs to the owners. If a job is done on a ship, paint work for instance, the ship is charged full price, not cost price as could be done if things were done honestly.

The owner's paint shop profits go up and his trawler profits go down. This cuts down the skipper's bonus so that he drives his crew harder, thus setting in motion the vicious circle in which the men are trapped.

# Cottons Column.

SIR THOMAS PILKINGTON, a not too distant member of the St Helens glass family, is having a little mansion of Georgian design built at King's Walden in Hertfordshire. It's costing in the region of £200,000, but then he does come from monied people.

So worried is Sir Tom about unfavourable publicity - and particularly any that links up his name with the money-making branch of the family, that he won't even let his builders put up their sign on site.

His builders are a firm called Kerridge, a subsidiary of William Syndall, the Cambridge firm which actually managed to get into trouble with the right wing of the building unions.

They used the productivity clauses in the February agreement as a cover for axing all bonuses. In this way, while paying out the agreed wage increases, they hoped to fiddle a reduction in actual wages paid.

Pretty soon Mr Syndall should be in the Georgian mansion class himself if he keeps on with his little schemes. Perhaps he'll repay the favour and instal Pilkington glass.

**CENTRE POINT**, the massive London office block envisaged by Harry Hyams and built by George Wimpey - of which Hyams is a director - celebrated an unusual anniversary last week.

It has now been empty for exactly five years. During this time its capital value has nearly doubled, rising from £8 to £15 million.

## The Bishop is not in pawn

THE POPE has sold off his share in one of the world's largest property companies, Generale Immobiliare. It's not that the Vatican has suddenly shifted its line on the vow of poverty, but that the agents of heaven have likely found a better outlet for their all too earthly capital.

The lesson was well learnt elsewhere and earlier. The Bishop of Limerick is a millionaire in his own right from land speculation. The Archbishop of Dublin has made a fortune as well through the operation of travel agencies for the incurably sick in mind and body who resort to taking pilgrimages.

## The natives are restless

SCENE: a train from London to Manchester last Friday evening. As usual, the second class compartments are full, with passengers standing or sitting on cases.

The first class compartments, which these days often equal the number of second class ones, are almost empty.

A pregnant woman with her children, who have been standing since the train left Euston, are encouraged by other passengers to sit in a first class compartment occupied by one pompous gent in expensive suit.

Enter woman and children. Expensive suit protests. 'I have paid extra money to get away from people like you.'

He demands that the inferior beings leave. Other passengers tell her to sit tight. Expensive suit calls the ticket inspector, who quickly sums up the situation.

'Do you have a first-class ticket, madam?' he asks the mother. She shakes her head. 'And you have been asked to leave by this miserable bastard?' he adds.

Expensive suit explodes. 'How dare you! I will report you to British Rail.'

The inspector turns to the supporters of the mother and children. 'Did any of you hear me call that miserable bastard a miserable bastard?'

They shake their heads. Defeated by class solidarity, expensive suit retires, sulking, to his corner, and mum and kids travel on in bourgeois comfort.

**STATISTICAL** food for thought for members of the Communist Party.

In 1966 the party's election candidates totalled 68,000 votes, an average of 1300 voters per seat contested. It cost the party 2s 3/4 in deposits to win each vote.

In 1970, the party's candidates totalled 37,500 votes: 650 votes per seat contested at a cost of 4s 7d a vote.

The costs do not include election expenses, only lost deposits.

The party's vote increased from 1966 in only three constituencies - Dunbartonshire East, Mansfield and Mitcham. In 1966 the party got more than 1000 votes in 25 constituencies and in five of them it got more than 2000 votes. In 1970 it got more than 1000 votes in seven constituencies and none over 2000.

Some of the most startling vote drops were:-

- Aberdare: 2305 to 1317
- Birmingham Stechford: 998 to 298
- Glasgow, Scotstoun: 2395 to 846
- Stoke South: 2262 to 364
- Rhondda East: 2349 to 659
- Neath: 1632 to 579
- Manchester Openshaw: 1479 to 552
- Willesden West: 1410 to 515
- In Fife West, Willie Gallacher's old seat, the vote has gone - 1964: 3273, 1966: 1542, 1970: 855.

Prize for courage goes to the Gradwell family in Swindon. In 1964, Mr Gradwell got 944, in 1966, 838. In the 1969 by-election Judy Gradwell got 578 and in the 1970 poll she got 456.

## Abstentionists please note

AFTER the Tory election victory there was a record gain for recent times on the Stock Exchange. Hundreds of stockbrokers got to work that Friday at 9am for the first time in their lives.

A staggered doorman stated: 'This is fantastic. Most of them stay at home Fridays during Ascot.'

One broker said: 'It's a mixture of Cup Final night and Victory in Europe day. I feel as though an enemy occupation of the country is over.'

Yet under Labour stocks and shares enjoyed a fabulous two year bonanza in 1966-68 with shares hitting an all time high in September 1968.

One unit trust manager put it like this: 'We got rid of some not too fancy stocks at very fancy prices, thank you very much.'

## LETTERS

# Why Lord Harry prefers GMWU

NIGEL WALBY (27 June) correctly says there is no fundamental difference between the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Municipal and General Workers' Union. Both organisations accept the basic tenets of capitalism.

But the fact that there is no fundamental difference does not mean revolutionaries should treat both unions in the same way. To do so would be to derive wrong tactics from the right political conclusions.

The position is, in some ways, similar to that confronting us at the general election. Nobody would claim that the Labour Party was socialist. Its principles are the same as the Tories.

Nevertheless, we supported Labour in the election. Anyone who has any doubts at the correctness of this line has only to look at the jubilation with which the financiers greeted Heath's victory. They realise that a Conservative government marginally improves the situation for

the capitalist class.

Similarly industrialists have no illusions about the TGWU. Nevertheless, it does make a marginal difference whether they have to negotiate with the TGWU or the GMWU. For this reason, there is a tendency for employers to encourage workers to join the General and Municipal in preference to the Transport and General.

At Pilkington Brothers, where the company's most loyal and faithful servant has been Lord Cooper of the GMWU, the management has desperately tried to keep the workers inside the union. It has done everything, except tie a ball-and-chain round their legs, to keep men from leaving. And the reason? Lord Pilkington thinks he has a better chance of keeping labour costs down if his employees are in the GMWU.

If Lord Pilkington and other capitalists are anxious to keep workers within the GMWU, then equally, workers appear reluctant to remain

within it. While, over the past few years, the membership of the Transport and General has steadily risen, that of the GMWU has stagnated. Workers have voted with their feet against Lord Cooper.

Indeed, instinctively they appear to be applying what is a useful rule-of-thumb test: discover what your employers wants you to do themost - and then do the precise opposite.

There are rumours that Lord Pilkington has sleepless night during which he counts not sheep but workers leaving the General and Municipal! - RAYMOND CHALLINOR, Wigan, Lancs.

# TORY VICTORY MAKES IT AN UPHILL FIGHT

PETER SEDGWICK's 'static view' has already been correctly described as rubbish last week, but a few general points still need to be made.

His advice to Socialist Worker regarding future headlines and his thumbnail prognosis of IS politics v. parliamentary politics reveals a deep respect for that institution in common with most other exponents of what Lenin described as 'Left Wing Communism'. International Socialists have no such respect.

It might well be required that revolutionaries enter 'election politics' - not in the way Sedgwick describes - but as a brief TACTIC - to USE parliament for propaganda or for whatever purposes, as the necessity arises.

The tasks remain to lay the foundations for building a revolutionary workers' party which will provide the political and organisational framework for the successful struggle against capitalist exploitat-

ion at the point where that exploitation occurs - and THERE overthrow it.

The whole question must be viewed from the standpoint of the real objective and (perhaps more importantly) subjective ramifications that parliamentary politics may have on the parties locked in struggle in industry and society at large. In other words - to relate the issue to the pattern of class conflict to which it is in any case subordinate.

Vote Labour - and prepare to fight, was the correct slogan. The second part will be the more difficult to carry out now that the first part has been 'lost'.

Preparing to fight has always been an uphill struggle - but the gradient was sharply increased Friday before last when the Tories 'won' the election. - ROB BRADY, Greenford, Middlesex

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### WALES AND SOUTH WEST

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### EAST

Cambridge; Grays and Tilbury; Harlow; Ipswich; Lowestoft; Norwich; North-east Essex.

### GREATER LONDON and HOME COUNTIES

Acton; Angel; Camden; Chertsey; Croydon; Dagenham; Deptford; East London; Enfield; Erith; Fulham; Greenford; Hampstead; Harrow; Hemel Hempstead; Hornsey; Ilford; Kilburn; Kingston; Lambeth; Merton; Reading; Richmond; Stoke Newington; Tottenham; Walthamstow; Wandsworth; Watford; Victoria (SW1).



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# Socialist Worker

## Campaign to fight the Tories

by the editor

THE RETURN of a Tory government creates grave problems for the socialist movement. The fight back can and must begin.

We must ensure that the 1970 election was the last time when socialists were not able to intervene as a credible political alternative to the mass of working people.

The Tories will continue Labour's drive to modernise British capitalism at the expense of the living standards of working people. There will be a sustained attempt to legally attack the unions, plunder the social services, increase the burden of taxation, cut back on council house building and smash comprehensive education. In industry, productivity dealing will be the modern term for an all-out assault on wages and conditions. Shop floor militancy will be

under attack in a desperate bid to return negotiations to the safe hands of full-time union officials. Rank and file workers must take immediate steps to organise to fight the Tory attack. Strong shop stewards and rank and file committees, linking up combines and whole industries, are a necessary first step. But even a strong industrial movement is not enough. The problems are not confined to the factory. The Tories will attack the workers politically in every area of their lives.

There is an urgent need for new socialist politics in the working class movement and a new socialist organisation which can fight the Tory onslaught with politics as well as with industrial militancy.

### A tactic

Such an organisation must be based on the clear understanding that the capitalist system cannot be reformed. Parliament must be viewed as a platform for the socialist movement, as a tactic in the struggle, not as a vehicle for change in our society.

The only answer to the violence, chaos, cruelty and exploitation of capitalism is a revolutionary struggle for workers' power, when society will be run and organised by the great mass of working people to meet needs not profits.

The International Socialists urge all members and supporters to redouble their efforts in the coming months to lay the basis for a credible socialist alternative which sees as its first priority the necessity to fight the Tories on every front.

Campaign and strike against anti-trade union laws.

Campaign and strike against deflation and unemployment.

Fight productivity bargaining.

Link and strengthen the shop stewards' and rank and file organisations to the building of a new revolutionary organisation.

### Recognise

Such a campaign must embrace many thousands of workers. Public meetings should be organised in every area to launch a Fight the Tories movement.

We appeal in particular to all those members of the Labour and Communist parties, who recognise the bankruptcy of 'reformist' politics, to join us in this vital struggle to build a movement that will not confine itself to the ballot box but will spearhead a mass movement for real power — workers' power.

## GEC strikers go back

GLENROTHES: 1000 GEC/AEI workers went back to work last week after an 11 day strike for parity with the rest of the electrical combine.

Negotiations had proved completely fruitless, and workers went on a go-slow, working to 85 per cent of the so-called 'standard' performance. The management threatened that if the go-slow was not called off immediately they would sack one of the machine operators.

The workers saw this as a direct challenge. A meeting was called outside the factory where they decided to go on strike. Of the 1000 workers involved, 700 were women.

Further talks with the management broke down and three workers were suspended — two women and one man. The workers refused to go back until they were reinstated.

It was finally agreed after talks between works convenor Brian Simpson and the management that the three workers would be reinstated. The strikers decided on a majority vote to go back.

But as one shop steward put it, they are now working 'without enthusiasm'. They have conceded nothing to the management and the fight for parity continues.

# DOCKS PAY INSULT: JULY STRIKE TO GO AHEAD

by HAROLD YOUD

TGWU, Manchester Docks

THE INSULTING 'FINAL' pay offer made by the port employers on Tuesday means that the national docks strike will go ahead on 14 July — unless the leaders of the Transport Workers' Union get cold feet and attempt to call it off.

The bosses offered to increase minimum earnings from £16 to £20 for the industry's 47,000 workers. Even TGWU secretary Jack Jones, who has been making conciliatory noises for weeks, was forced to say that the union had already made it clear that such an offer was 'an insufficient answer to our claim'.

The union is calling for an increase in the time rate from £11 1s 8d a week to £20.

The problem for Jones is that the claim has been in the pipeline for 18 months, since January 1969, and the employers haven't even bothered to take it seriously. The problem for both the employers and Jack Jones is that the dockworkers do take it seriously.

There is a growing uneasiness among dockers about their prospects as the run-down in the number of jobs is speeded up at a time when more and more dockers' jobs are falling to non-docks labour (eg loading and unloading the new containers).

The employers are determined that any wage concessions will be 'in return for' productivity concessions by the men. And they will not be in the form of a rise in the basic time rate.

### Bargaining counters

Under Phase II of the Devlin scheme, locally worked-out 'modernisation' (that is, productivity) deals have been negotiated, if not yet implemented, for 85 per cent of the 47,000 dockers. Employers want to keep back wage increases as counters for bargaining in these deals.

This is the explanation for the dispute over the basic rate in an industry where the guaranteed fall back pay is £16 nationally (£17 in London) and the actual pay, on average, is over £30.

But if the TGWU has been faltering over a strike for the £20 basic, its lay policy-making committee, the No 1 Docks Group, has threatened a London strike for 6 July unless 'modernisation' is implemented there immediately.

The contrast between the TGWU threatening strike action in London to force through Phase II there, and nationally demanding the £20 basic (a demand seen and resisted by the bosses as a threat to Phase III throughout the country, is a contradiction in a union without a coherent national policy to defend the dockers' interests.

The rank and file of the union — first of all the newly organised National Shop Stewards committee — offers the best hope of developing such a policy and co-ordinating dockers throughout the country to fight for it.

## NOTICES

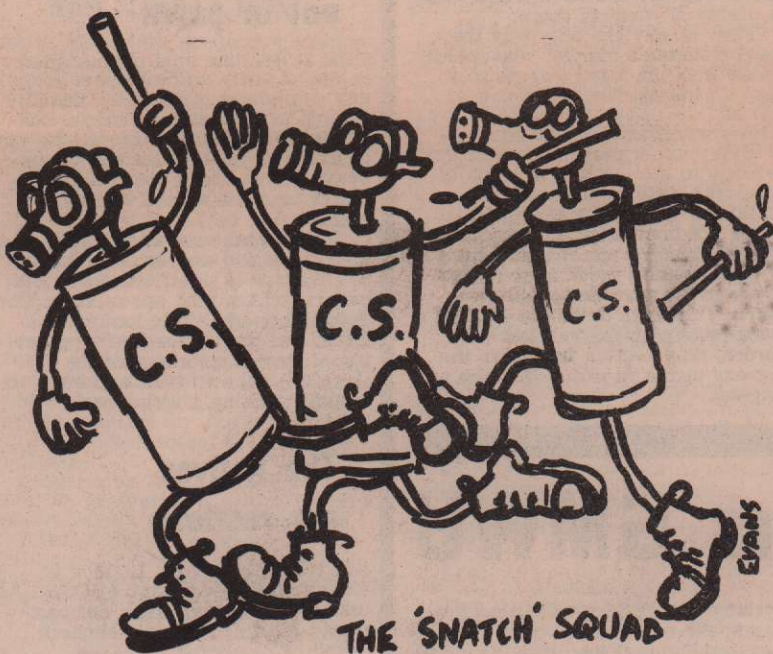
IS Yorkshire Region weekend school, 4 and 5 July, Council chamber, Students' Union, Hull University. Saturday 1.30-6.30 Roger Rosewell on productivity deals and Roger Protz on the role of a revolutionary paper. Evening social, Sunday 1.00pm Dave Peers on perspectives.

How to fight the Tories: discussion meeting with speakers from Socialist Charter, CP and IS. Wed 8 July 7.30pm Christian Institute, Glasgow.

IS Teachers Meeting: Sun 5 July 11am to 12.30pm, 2 Albany Terrace, NW1.

All Fight the Tories meetings will be inserted free of charge until further notice. Other notices 1s a line, 7 words a line, cash with copy by Monday.

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## CHRYSLER WORKERS WALK OUT FOR £1 AN HOUR

COVENTRY: - 3000 car workers are on strike at the Chrysler Car plant at Ryton. The men are demanding £1 an hour for grade one direct workers.

This is approximately a 2s 6d an hour increase. Larger increases demanded for lower grade workers. The management have offered 18s 10d an hour — an increase of 7.2 per cent.

Originally Chrysler attempted to use the pressure on wages by inflation to push through a productivity deal aimed at speed up. All the strings they hung on have been cut. The fight now is how large the straight increase will be.

### PROBLEM

Chrysler's big problem at Ryton is production. Present work standards are not being met. Measured Day Work is not having its intended results.

The traditional stewards' structure and strong shop floor organisations developed in the 1950s and 60s are still intact. MDW breaks down many of the divisions between pieceworkers.

Creeping wage drift has been checked by the abandonment of piecework in favour of MDW, and this has forced Ryton workers to act as a united body to maintain the value of their wages.

The struggle at Ryton against the intended results of MDW, against speed up, for high wages and for lay-off pay, could light a fire throughout the motor industry.

## Power station sparks strike over sackings

ELECTRICIANS employed by English Electric, McAlpine and the Nuclear Power Group on the Hunterston B Nuclear Power Station site in Ayrshire have been on strike for four weeks in support of 15 electricians paid off by James Kilpatrick on the same site.

Kilpatrick has been trying hard to discipline this militant squad.

This time they accused them of breaking a site agreement by refusing to work overtime — not even the workers' leisure time is safe — and have steadfastly refused to budge from their decision. Their site engineer has told an EETU/PTU official: 'We don't have a problem, we have sacked our problem.'

Faced with this 1930 management attitude, the solidarity of the 48 other sparks on the site is essential, as other managements might follow Kilpatrick's lead.

### Little help

To date little real help has been given by union officials. They have already advised the sparks to return to work while they negotiate a reinstatement. This advice was treated with the contempt it deserved.

Now it seems the union is prepared to accept a management offer that the sparks be started, but on different jobs. It is hoped that this plan will receive the same treatment from the men.

Meanwhile Scottish executive councillor Blairford is silent on appeals from the branches that the strike be made official.

The strikers are now considering extending their dispute to other Kilpatrick sites and have been promised support from sparks through throughout the West of Scotland.

Donations and messages of support to: - Peter Atkins, 38 Ravenscraig, Irvine.

## Times bosses to get tough with printing unions

THE Newspaper Publishers' Association has just concluded a settlement with all the major unions in Fleet Street. For print workers this settlement opens up vast new vistas of productivity deals and redundancies for a pitiful 5 per cent to 10 per cent increase in wage rates.

Hardly had the ink run dry on the agreement, when Dennis Hamilton, Chief Executive of Times Newspapers, informed all lay union officials at Printing House Square that: 'The livelihood of nearly 30,000 men and women working for the Thomson Organisation would be prejudiced if the position of The Times was not improved.'

Mr Hamilton omitted to mention that profit figures for the Thomson Organisation rose by nearly £1m last year, achieving a record bonanza of £9,036,000.

Lord Thomson's right hand man spat out his bonanza for the workers:

'During the last six months there has been much talk between management and the staff about improved techniques and methods and staff reductions — but very little progress.'

'The time for just talking is finished. . . I want your active participation in this exercise in doing not talking. There is much to do in investigating methods, work loadings, manning requirements, job descriptions, job gradings and establishing a national wage structure.'

'We are just NOT going to accept lots of little niggles and time wasting discussions. We are not interested in scoring points. I want action not talk. . . I am going to see this paper put on its feet — or we shall ALL be leaving The Times.'

Since Lord Thomson has taken over The Times, management personnel has doubled and with each manager goes the building of a little empire and the necessity for a secretary as a status symbol.

Thousands of pounds have been poured into the Business News section.

There is the added luxury of Thomson's vigorous marketing techniques which have cost thousands, but which have as yet merely proved that putting an extra penny on the price of the paper whittles down previous gains in circulation. Meanwhile expense accounts soar and visiting worthies can still expect a five course luncheon.

For all this incredible incompetence, workers are now being told to foot the bill. The only long-term answer to the problems faced by print workers in Fleet Street is a political solution, — that is the call for the nationalisation of the press under workers' control.

Then we will be able to use printing technology to our own advantage, and at the same time provide a basis for a truly free and democratic press.