

Socialist Worker

WEEKLY PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

POVERTY: THE HIDDEN TRUTH

**Fine
Tubes
fight on
—without
union
help...**



Symbolic action only: Jack Jones on the picket line

BRITAIN'S two biggest unions continue to dither and avoid taking tough action to deal with the dictatorial and anti-union management at Fine Tubes, Plymouth where their members have been on official strike for union recognition for 91 weeks.

In a letter to Tory Minister of Employment Robert Carr on 1 March Jack Jones, secretary of the Transport Workers, suggested that his union and the engineers would be prepared to settle for priority of re-employment for the strikers, instead of reinstatement.

The letter follows last week's rejection of the Fine Tubes' final offer by the 45 strikers. The offer, dressed up with empty phrases about the company's policy of hiring only employees of the 'highest calibre', makes no statement at all about union recognition.

It amounts to re-employment of the strikers only as and when new jobs become available in the factory. Meanwhile, the company implies, the strikers should sign on at the labour exchange.

To prepare the climate for this 'final offer', the two unions recommended that blacking and picketing should be stopped. These vital tactics were hitting Fine Tubes management where it hurts. Large orders and contracts had been lost to the firm.

The strikers have decided again to seek wide blacking of the Plymouth plant. This week members of the strike committee are once more touring the country seeking support.

Full-time officials have asked the strikers not to resume picketing and blacking until Robert Carr's good offices have been tried again.

And both unions are bothered that if renewed picketing and blacking were supported officially, they might infringe

the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act to which they are both formally opposed. The unions have avoided using the strength of their national members to settle the Fine Tubes management.

Active support in blacking Fine Tubes' products or supplies is more than ever essential. Money is still badly needed

since the AUEW national funds have managed to find only £100 for their striking members since 15 June last year.

Financial support should be sent to the Fine Tubes Treasurer, c/o 48 Stuart Road, Plymouth PL3 4EE.

TEN MILLION people in Britain—nearly one fifth of the population—are living in poverty. This shock figure strips aside government camouflage to show the real state of Tory Britain today.

Nicholas Bosanquet, a leading authority in the field of the social services, shows in the magazine *New Society* how official statistics and the use of the 'poverty line' help to cover up the real situation affecting millions of working people.

Poverty, in government terms, is defined as people with incomes below supplementary benefits level. The 'poverty line' is used by Labour and Tory governments to justify the move away from free social services towards 'selectivity', with the implication that those above the poverty line do not need assistance.

MAKE WORSE

The expected tiny handout in the Budget to those officially classified as poor will do absolutely nothing to ease the real situation. It is likely to make it worse by bringing people above the poverty line, where they will lose some of their benefits and have to pay income tax.

Bosanquet argues that if a poverty band is substituted for a poverty line then the real figures emerge. They are:

- Two million living below the supplementary benefits level who are entitled to the means-tested Family Incomes Supplement.

- 4.2 million people in households receiving supplementary benefit.

- At least a further four million people whose incomes are barely above the same standard. These include 1.4 million pensioners and 2.6 million people in households which, after allowing for rent and basic subsistence costs, had less than £5 a week clear in net resources.

That adds up to 10 million but does not include the unemployed, sick and disabled people without benefit and fatherless families not receiving supplementary benefit. Allowing for them, one-fifth of the population are living in poverty.

TWISTED PRIORITIES

These appalling figures show that tinkering with the system does nothing to help working people. A book published last week by members of the Fabian Society—including Bosanquet—shows that poverty actually increased under the last Labour government.

The terrible plight of more than 10 million people in one of the richest nations of the world is a condemnation of the twisted priorities of the profit system.

It underlines the crucial need to build a genuine socialist movement that will use the enormous resources now controlled by a tiny minority to ensure a life free from poverty and want for the entire population.

THIS SUNDAY Fine Tubes Benefit

Starring Alex Glasgow, Jake Thackray, East of Eden, Bobby Campbell, Gordon McCulloch, The Critics Group, David Cliffe Amalgam
Compere: Bernadette Devlin, MP
Sunday 12 March, 7.30pm
Camden Town Hall, Euston Road, NW1

Tickets 75p—limited number available at door

WORLD NEWS

BRIEFING

Prisoners the press prefers to forget

THE JAILING of a 14-year-old boy in Turkey has quite rightly aroused indignation on all sides. But Timothy Davey is only one among many victims of the barbaric regime in Turkey. When Turkish political prisoners are the victims the British press are not so free with their crocodile tears.

In March last year the Turkish Army intervened to force the resignation of the prime minister and installed the right-wing Nihat Erim in his place. In April martial law was imposed in 11 provinces,

including all the main industrial areas. Erim declared that the existing constitution should be altered because it was 'a luxury'.

Turkey has the highest cost of living in the world, and prices have risen by more than 20 per cent in the past year. Discontent is high and the government has responded with harsh repression.

Over the past few years at least 38 workers, students and opponents of the regime have been murdered by the secret service or right-wing groups.

The Turkish criminal code is based on a selection of articles from Mussolini's Italian fascist criminal code of 1930. One article states that 'Whoever makes propaganda with the purpose of establishing the domination of one social class over others, exterminating any of the social classes, overthrowing any of the established basic economic or social orders of the country, or totally exterminating the political and legal orders of the state, shall be punished by heavy imprisonment for five to ten years'.

Among intellectuals recently put on trial, two are accused of translating the respectable sociologist Bottomore's selections from Marx, and another of translating the Utopia by 16th century aristocrat Thomas More.

Timothy Davey told the press he had suffered no physical ill-treatment. Political prisoners are not so fortunate. One girl reports having electrodes applied to her organs; another prisoner had his feet beaten and then put in a bucket of salty water.

IN ISRAEL the repression against draft resisters is being stepped up. The most disgraceful case so far is that of Bitan Grosfeld, a boy of 16, who was brutally assaulted by the Jerusalem police on 10 February while demonstrating outside the Zionist Congress. He was sentenced to 'psychological observation' in Israel's worst borstal, and has recently been transferred to the psychiatric section of the Hadassah General Hospital in Jerusalem.

Golda Meir's doctors seem to be taking a hint from their Russian counterparts, and treating political opponents with drugs and electric shocks.

The draft resisters need international solidarity. Socialists in Britain can show support in two ways.

Firstly a 24-hour vigil is being organised outside the Israeli Embassy in London on Saturday, 10 March, starting at 1pm. The embassy is next to the Antique Hypermarket, and is near High Street Kensington tube station.

Secondly, imprisoned draft resisters would welcome letters from SW readers. Giyore Neumann, aged 19, is in prison for saying: 'I refuse to serve in an occupation army'. He can be written to at Military Prison No 6, Zanal Mail 2648.

Irith Yacobi, a girl of 19, who said: 'I refuse to inflict upon the Palestinians what others have inflicted on the Jews', can be written to in Army Prison 400, Zanal Mail 2447.

HUGE DEMO AGAINST RENAULT'S GUNMEN

FOR SEVERAL months France's nationalised car company, Renault, has been trying to 'weed out' Maoists from its massive Billancourt factory.

Despite the Maoists' sometimes ludicrous confrontation tactics, they have won a little support among the highly-exploited immigrant workers. Since the wave of sackings began, the sacked workers have been holding regular factory-gate meetings to explain their case and have even managed to get into the works itself to talk to the workers on the assembly-line.

These activities have brought them into conflict with the main union at Billancourt, the communist-dominated CGT, as well as leading to clashes with Renault's

by Richard Kirkwood

security men.

In the course of one of these clashes on Friday 25 February a 23-year-old worker, Rene-Pierre Overney, was shot and killed. The man who shot him was a plain-clothes security man, an ex-soldier of 36.

According to witnesses quoted in the French newspaper Le Monde the clash itself was nothing out of the ordinary. A group of Maoists, including workers from the factory, had started a meeting at which Overney, who was sacked last year from Renault because of his politics, was speaking.

A confrontation had started with the uniformed guards on the gate. The only weapons involved were the poles from the Maoists' red flags (Renault claimed that

the Maoists were trying to storm the gates armed with iron bars). Behind the uniformed guards appeared a group of plain-clothes security men, particularly detested by Renault militants.

The protesters made for them but were still some yards away when one of the plain-clothes men ('quite calmly' said the witness) took out a large revolver and shot Overney in the chest.

The killer is under arrest, but the main importance of the affair is what it reveals about Renault's security service. It is now public knowledge that Renault employs a secret police—they have themselves made clear that the killer was not a regular security man—whose job is to deal with 'troublemakers'. Some at least are armed, though Renault deny this is officially approved.

In other words Renault workers are under the constant surveillance of hired gunmen.

One of the most disgusting aspects of the whole business has been the reaction of the CGT. Although they have condemned the existence of gunmen at Renault, they have gone out of their way to insist that blame must be equally shared by 'ultra-left' provocations, once again trying to suggest that revolutionaries are in some sort of plot with the bosses to disrupt the smooth running of trade-unionism at Renault.

All their leaflets in the factory have said as much or more against the 'ultra-lefts' as against Renault and its gunmen and they have actively helped to spread Renault's tale of a 'commando' trying to storm the factory and disrupt the lives of ordinary workers.

ANARCHISTS

They are now talking of a demonstration against repression, but still adding anti-leftist comments. They have totally failed to protest at the sacking of another seven workers alleged to have taken part in the Friday demonstration.

One good result has been the unity this incident has produced among the groups to the left of the Communist Party. All the different groups, from the loose left-socialist PSU to the anarchists and including Maoists and all the Trotskyist groups (among them Lutte Ouvriere), took part in a demonstration of at least 30,000 people the Monday after the killing.

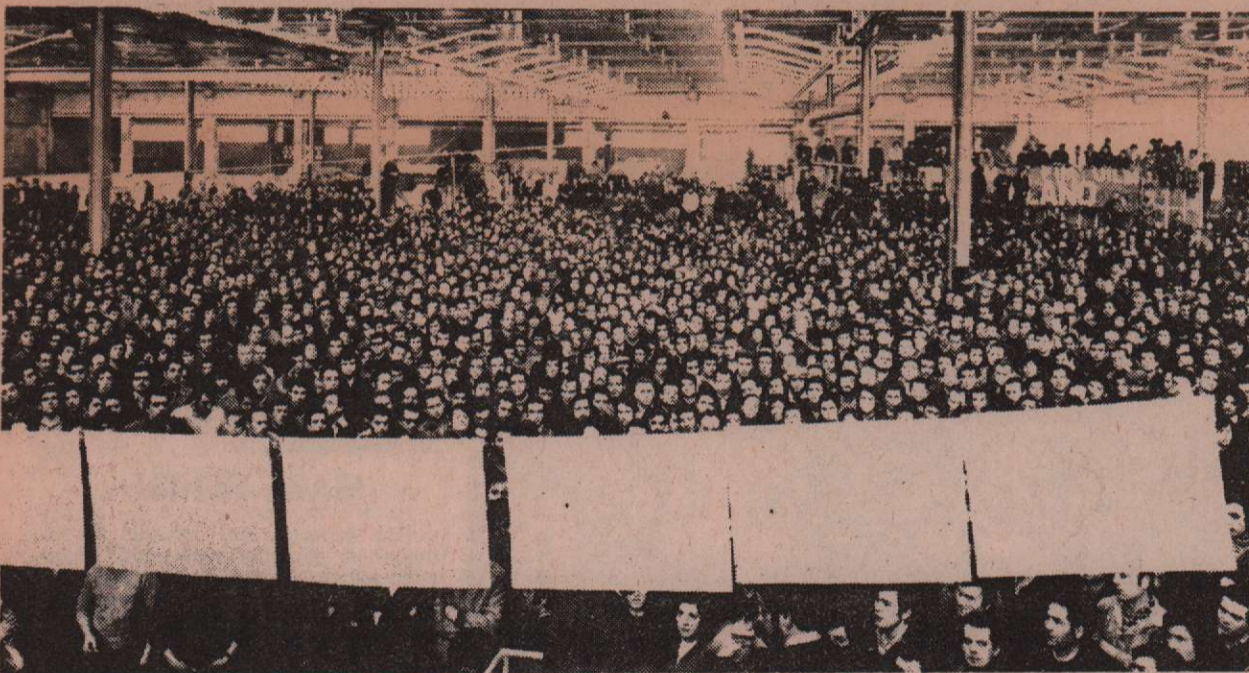
The crowd at Overney's funeral last Saturday was even more massive. Estimates put the figure at at least 100,000 making it one of the biggest demonstrations in Paris since May 1968.

This despite a statement from the executive of the CGT which accused the leftists of trying to turn the funeral into a new demonstration of hostility towards the CGT.

At Renault itself, the CFDT, the second biggest union, has come out clearly against the bosses' gunmen, and even the CGT seems to be worried at the idea of these characters patrolling the shops. Revolutionary socialists in the factory are echoing the views of thousands of workers in campaigning against the existence of this private police force.

Ironically the shooting took place on the same day as a demonstration commemorating the killing 10 years ago by the Paris police of nine people who had been demonstrating against the Algerian war. An appropriate reminder of the willingness of both the bosses and their state to use any means against their opponents.

STOP RENT INCREASES: a meeting by Haringey Trades Council to bring the industrial strength of organised workers to help tenants. Mike Cooley, DATA president, Norman Atkinson MP, B Neavy of the Furniture Workers in the chair, Morrison Hall, Chestnut Grove, N17. Tuesday 14 March, 8pm.



A mass meeting at the Alfa factory in Milan

Factory sit-in brings victory for Italian carworkers

ONE of the toughest and most crucial battles in Italian industry since the 'hot' autumn of 1969 has just ended. For three months, 23,000 manual workers at the Alfa-Romeo car factories in Milan and Naples have fought to get the Alfa bosses to honour an agreement made in the heat of autumn 1969 which wrested control over the grading of workers from management.

Their main demands were the elimination of all but four grades and the automatic promotion of all workers from one grade to another after short intervals of time. It was an assertion of equality among all the employees, and a challenge to the management's 'right' to divide and rule by grading workers according to the quality of their work.

Before the workers could shift the Alfa bosses they needed 130 hours of selective strikes and partial strikes successively in different departments.

At the beginning of February the Alfa workers in Milan occupied their factories. Mass meetings were held inside, and delegations from students, political parties and revolutionary organisations spoke there.

by Mike Balfour

A strong-arm picket was mounted on the finished cars due to be delivered to dealers. One night a thousand police tried to break the blockade. Alfa workers living nearby were quickly gathered together and the picket line was reinforced by several hundred people.

After 'rescuing' some cars the police were forced to abandon their attempt.

Stubborn

The climax came towards the end of February when 300,000 engineering workers from the Milan province came out on a strike of solidarity with the Alfa workers. Despite instructions from the men for a four-hour strike, the union officials changed it to a two-hour strike and failed to organise a demonstration.

Later the same day an agreement was reached between the unions and management. The grades were reduced to four, and automatic upgrading was conceded for the first three grades, but management reserved the right to select

for the fourth grade, and imposed different intervals for promotion within the same grade.

Although it was only a partial victory for the Alfa workers, the agreement was an important breakthrough.

Behind the stubborn resistance of the Alfa bosses lies the determination of the Italian industrial bosses to resist at all costs workers' demands for greater control and higher wages before autumn this year, when labour contracts in most industries are due to be renewed. Any gains by sections of workers will be used as the basis of renegotiation.

The Alfa-Romeo battle was a test-case which will undoubtedly influence the demands and combativity of Italian workers in the months ahead.

The Alfa workers have forged unity between manual and white-collar workers, who have been solidly behind the strike, despite management threats. They have shown their capacity to fight for demands which challenge management's right to manage, and which break down the divisions between workers in the same factory.

They have illustrated the value of a factory occupation, not merely in fighting redundancies (which is common in Italy) but in backing their own demands.

THE white Rhodesian right wing has its own opinion about the function of the Pearce Commission. They accuse it of being a Trojan Horse, snooping around Rhodesia gathering information 'to erode Rhodesia's war against sanctions'.

Meanwhile John Massingham, a member of the commission, has assured them that they will not merely add up the yeses and noes.

He indicated that his opinion was that the noes were the ignorant people who didn't really understand the terms of the settlement.

With these calculations and considerations in mind the Pearce Commission will make up its mind. Since the commission started its charade more than 1000 Africans have been arrested.

WITH Phase One of the enormous Cabora Bossa dam in Mozambique completed, guerrillas belonging to FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front) have stepped up attacks on the supply routes. Two weeks ago they killed nine Portuguese manning an armed convoy.

ONE worker is killed every two hours in Italy. Productivity deals, speed-up and worsening work conditions have taken their toll. According to figures issued by the National Institute of Health Insurance 5050 workers were killed and more than 1½ million injured or affected by industrial diseases in 1968.

Industrial injuries have risen by 46 per cent since 1955. In the building industry in 1970 there were 80 deaths for every 100,000 workers.

FISH factory bosses in the Namibian port of Walvis Bay are having talks with the police about the likelihood of a strike by Ovambo workers when the first fish of the season are landed this week. After minerals, fish is the major export of South West Africa. Even short delays in processing ruin the product.

UNTIL recently almost all revolutionaries in Latin America looked to Castro's Cuba for a lead. Now, however, many criticisms of Castro are being made. Hugo Blanco, the Peruvian peasant leader now in exile in Cuba, recently made sharp criticisms of Castro's visits to Peru and Chile.

'We are not against establishing trade or diplomatic relations with Peru. But we are against paying the price of political capitulation to achieve this.'

'We are against Fidel Castro and the Cuban government in general having to say in return that the Peruvian government is revolutionary, that it is advancing toward socialism, and even, according to what we have been told, to say that anyone who opposes this regime is a counter-revolutionary. I think that all this was very negative.'

'It was specifically to ingratiate themselves with the masses that these governments welcomed Castro. And precisely this should make us understand, and should make the Cuban government understand, that the upsurge of the Chilean and Peruvian masses should be impelled forward and not pulled back.'

'Capitulating, saying that these governments are revolutionary, injures not only Peru—that is, the Peruvian and Chilean working masses—but it injures Cuba itself.'

Socialist Worker

For Workers Control and International Socialism, 6 Cottons Gdns, London E2 8DN

'Incomes policy' —siren song to head off unions

ONCE UPON a time industry, labour and government decided to get together to work along the lines of a 'National Plan' which, it was argued, would make everybody better off. It was all part of Mr Wilson's scheme for a New Britain and a Declaration of Intent was obtained from the TUC and the employers to the effect that they wouldn't rock the boat.

The new Britain didn't last long. The hard facts of economic life under capitalism proved impossible to wish away by pious declarations. Devaluation, the Wilson government's brutal attempt to smash the seamen's strike followed by growing unemployment and the attacks on the welfare services—all these sank the National Plan without trace.

Even so it was not a wasted effort from the point of view of big business and the Labour Party leadership. It helped to sell the idea of Incomes Policy—a polite term for keeping down wages and even, for a while, a legally enforced wage freeze. At the heart of its appeal was the idea that, given co-operation from all sides, prices could be kept fairly steady and that workers, especially the worst paid workers, would benefit along with pensioners.

The reality was quite different. The present speeded-up inflation dates from the 1966 devaluation and not from higher real wages. It was government policy, not trade union action, that triggered off the prices explosion. And that policy was forced on the government by the realities of capitalist economics. The fact is that no scheme of co-operation between workers, bosses and government can produce a fair incomes policy.

At any given point in time increased wages mean decreased profits and increased profits mean decreased wages. There is a straightforward conflict of interests between workers and capitalists, between those who produce the wealth and those who own the means of producing it. This conflict is built into capitalist society and cannot be abolished without abolishing capitalism. Labour politicians and others try to solve the conflict by focussing attention on economic growth. If total output can be expanded rapidly, they claim, then both workers and capitalists will get more even though the proportions going to each class remain the same.

Pressing home attack

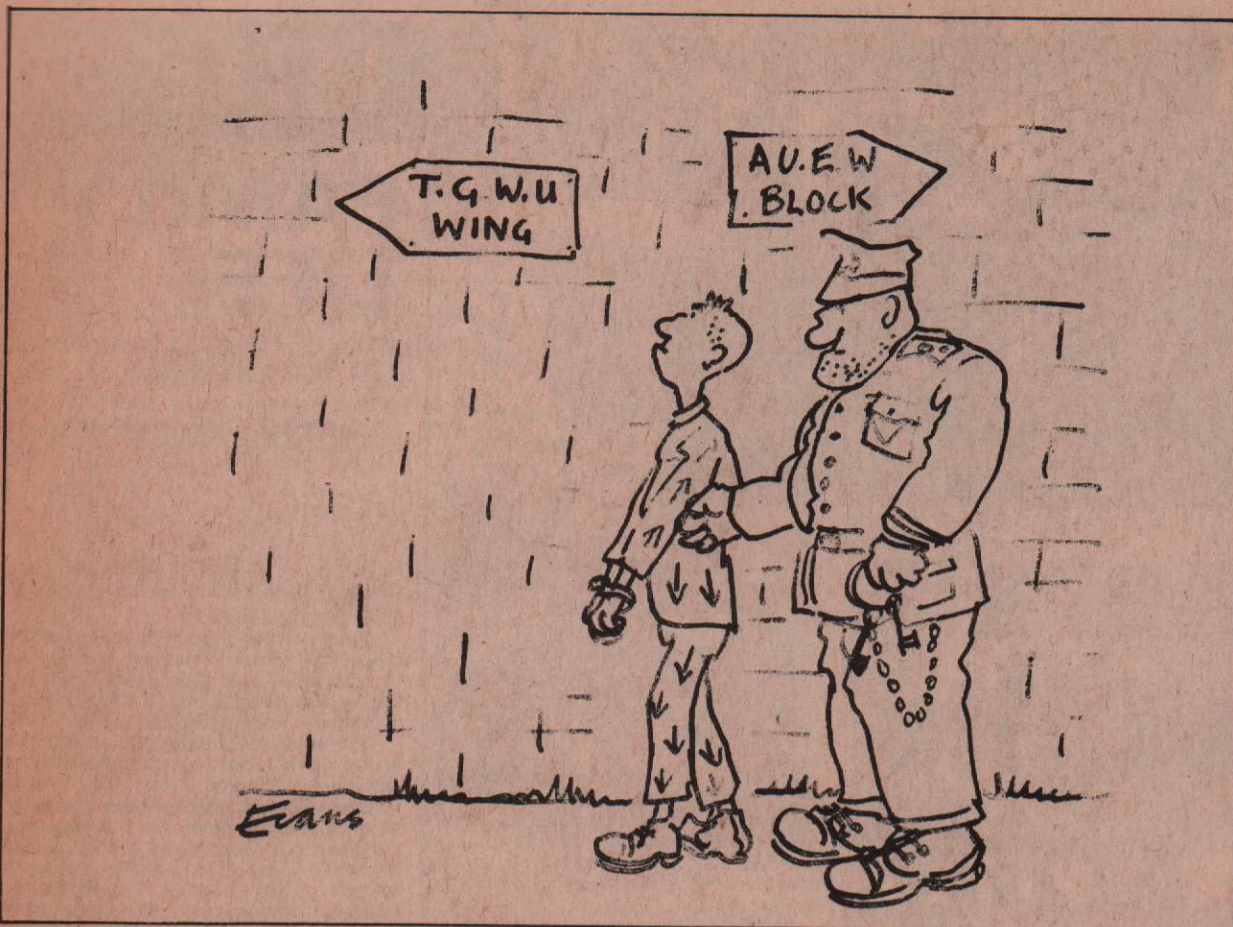
But increased output depends on what can be sold at a profit. If profitable markets are not expanding, output will stagnate because production under capitalism is production for profit, not production to meet people's needs. And over the last few years production has been stagnating. That is why governments which are committed to running capitalism, whether Labour or Tory, have been pressing home attacks on workers' living standards. They are bound to do so because the interests of the capitalist class demand it.

What can and do change from time to time are the tactics employed. The incomes policy approach of the Wilson government failed to prevent the massive and fairly successful wages struggles of 1969-70. The Heath government switched the emphasis to head on strike-breaking and anti-union legislation. They had some success but the miners' victory has forced Heath to reconsider his tactics. So we are back to the attempt to draw the TUC into a new 'let's all pull together' scheme.

Several things can be said with some certainty about any such scheme. It will not halt inflation, because a major cause of inflation is the government's own policy. For example, the Fair Rents scheme will produce a massive increase in a very important price—rents. It will most certainly not benefit the lower paid workers because any pay norm system hits them most. As The Guardian admitted this week, 'a council housed family with two children of primary school age getting a rise from £16 to £24 is out of pocket after paying extra for school meals, rent and rates'. And that is an increase of 50 per cent.

The sole object of the talks between the TUC, the CBI and the government is from the point of view of the employing class and its political representatives to get TUC support for the curbing of money wage increases and the further cutting of real wages. The right wing of the TUC leadership are delighted. Their highest aspiration is more status as junior partners of the capitalist class. The left wing may make militant noises—though Jack Jones is clearly moving towards 'incomes policy' politics—but that is all they will do. They fear, every bit as much as the right, the responsibility of leading a real fight.

The Tory government's latest tactics can be beaten only by militant action. The interests of all workers, whether their wages are high or low, demand that it should be beaten.



COTTONS WARMS

Freedom popped

POLITICAL CENSORSHIP hits even the bromide world of Pop. In Britain there is a total blackout on Paul McCartney's 'Give Ireland Back to the Irish', but worse crimes are being committed by South African songsters.

A Johannesburg city councillor has made a public apology for a song called 'Uhuru' played by a Pop group at a concert in Pioneer Park. Speaking on a matter of 'urgent public importance' at the council's monthly meeting, Mr Monty Sklaar, chairman of the Health and Amenities Committee, said one of the pop groups at the free concert arranged by the council had played 'Uhuru'.

Uhuru is the Swahili word for 'freedom'. 'I am sorry to say the number was used,' said the abject and grovelling Mr Sklaar.

He said no check had been made on the programme, but he assured the council that in future 'every programme will be carefully checked and vetted'.

Some 3000 people had attended the concert and because of their good behaviour the council decided to hold more of them. But there will be no more songs about freedom.

PS: In case you hadn't guessed, the concerts are for whites only.

NURSES at the new Peterborough Hospital have been told by management not to wear their union badges when on duty as 'they may be harmful to patients who come into contact with them'. It's a bit like having the plague.

Disco-detec

SPEECHES and articles by the ton have drawn attention to the fact that effective strikes and picketing are a threat to Britain's civilised values. This dire problem has not disappeared with the ending of the miners' strike.



Fancy that...

**Stokes
calls
Bathgate
bluff**

Workers Press 29 February

**Strikers call
Stokes' bluff**

Morning Star 1 March

ASTMS members picketing the Daniel Doncaster plant in Sheffield have been doing their bit too. When one of the more enthusiastic black-legs drove his car at the picket line at 20mph, the strikers had the cheek to jump clear, with the result that the unfortunate defender of all that is best in Britain smashed his motor into the factory gate.

But these dangerous subversives had not finished there. When the managing director arrived in his car, the pickets, now closely supervised by the police, pointed out to the guardians of law'n'order that the boss's vehicle was carrying no road tax disc. Somewhat shamefacedly, the police were forced to book him.

When managers can no longer dodge paying their taxes, British civilisation is teetering on the edge of the abyss.

ANYBODY still unconvinced that the police made a special drive to intimidate anti-internment demonstrators on 5 February should note this: Sean O'Toole, arrested in Whitehall on that day, is still being held in Brixton Prison. He faces three incitement charges. At the magistrates' court and at the Old Bailey last week he was refused bail except on the following terms: £6000, comprising three independent sureties of £2000 each, plus £500 cash.

Sweet William

MR WILLIAM CRAIG, hard-line right-winger in the Stormont par-

liament, who has recently set up his own para-military organisation, the Ulster Vanguard, has a certain smooth ability to make atrocities sound like vicarage tea-parties.

Interviewed on southern Irish radio and television on the possibilities of an Orange 'backlash', Mr Craig said that it could not be ruled out. What form would it take? Perhaps like the 1920s, he replied, when some Catholics were made 'unwelcome' at their jobs and others were 'convinced' to leave their homes.

What he means is that nationalists were driven out of their jobs at gun-point and beaten savagely by Orange mobs, who 'convinced' them to leave their homes by the simple method of setting fire to them.

Fortunately, the marching song of the Ulster Vanguard is rather more explicit in its views. One verse goes: 'Blue is the colour, Vanguard is the name, And if we go berserk at times who really can us blame? For Ulster's sacred soil with blood is running red

And soon it will be more so with a million Catholic dead.'

ANOTHER bastion of male domination is under attack. The Straits Times in Singapore has run an advertisement for a new part-time executioner for the department of prisons. It specified that the prospective hangman should be male and preferably 'conversant with execution procedures'.

But Miss Anita Chuan, a 19-year-old secretary from Kuala Lumpur, has applied for the job. 'I believe that you only have to pull a lever,' she said. The job carries a retainer of £7 a month, with £6 for each execution plus travelling expenses.

Miss Chuan is a fan of the novels of Miss Agatha Christie.

Niet, Narodny

WOULD you expect things to be better for staff at the Moscow Narodny Bank in London? A socialist enterprise free from the trials and tribulations of the outside, hostile capitalist world? Sadly, no.

A 14 per cent salary increase just negotiated by the Bank Employees' union includes 8 per cent as a cost of living increase and a further 6 per cent for job evaluation. The cost of living increase is just over half of the actual rise in the cost of living.

And the usual aim of an increase for job evaluation is to act as a sweetener to stop protests when members of the staff are weeded out. East, west, no prod deals are best ...



Leaders of the Ulster Vanguard at a recent mass rally: William Craig is second from left, standing next to Billy Hull (centre)

THE Tory unionist forces that rule Northern Ireland are under increasing strain. Splits are developing that will determine the speed at which the British government will move with its much heralded 'new initiative'.

British big business has wanted to change the basis of its control over Northern Ireland for several years. Now that it owns more property in the South than in the North, it finds the bigots who have been running things for it in Stormont for 50 years rather embarrassing.

But until now its rule has depended on the apparatus of 'Orange Loyalty', based at every level on systematic discrimination of Catholics, which aims to convince Protestants that their tiny privileges are real and worth defending. This now creates a powerful obstacle to change.

Any 'political initiative' by Heath will be designed to accommodate the Catholic middle class. But that means weakening the power of the old apparatus of Orange rule.

So at the same time Heath is likely to try to placate those who run the regime—for instance by proposing a referendum in the Six Counties on maintaining the link with Britain. Yet when the extreme right, around Ian Paisley, made such a proposal in the Stormont parliament some weeks ago it was rejected.

One sign of the increasing pressure for moves to reduce the power of the sectarian apparatus is the entry of three Stormont MPs into the Alliance Party.

The Alliance Party is only two years old, but it has already made a considerable impact on the Northern political scene. It

The generals who lead the orange army

BY BRIAN TRENCH

is the political expression of the capitalist system's need to modify gradually the political structure of the Six Counties.

The Alliance Party in no way represents a radical challenge to Unionism, much less to British imperialism. It has been described as 'Unionism with a pretty face'.

Partition

The Alliance Party has opposed internment, arguing that it has made more difficult the reconciliation of Catholic and Protestant. But it in no way supports the activities and objectives of the mass anti-Unionist movement.

The Alliance Party talks a great deal about sectarianism. For instance, it sees the IRA essentially as a sectarian force whose activities have upset the British Army's (non-sectarian) 'peace-keeping' role.

The party insists that the Six Counties

problem is a sectarian one, not one of the border. They conveniently 'forget' that partition and the Stormont state are the primary basis for sectarianism.

All this simply emphasises that sectarianism is—at least in its more virulent forms—an obstacle to the most effective integration of the whole of Ireland into the world capitalist system and to the most 'rational' exploitation of the Irish working class, Catholic and Protestant.

But something which has been created and repeatedly reinforced for several centuries does not die overnight.

The activities of William Craig, a former minister in the Stormont government, reminds us of this. Lately he has been drilling members of his new Ulster Vanguard movement in para-military style. His loyalist rallies, which are also addressed by Billy Hull, chairman of the Loyalist Association of Workers, and by the head of the Orange Order, Martin Smyth, are a rather down-at-heel version of the anti-

Home Rule rallies at the beginning of this century but still pose a considerable threat.

To the 'disloyalists' Craig thunders: 'If you declare war on our constitution, we will fight that war through to victory.'

The Loyalist Association of Workers has now started to publish a bulletin—L.A.W. It echoes the traditional Unionist battle-cries and repeats the traditional myths.

The first issue of L.A.W. states: 'If the burning, bombing and civil disobedience is allowed to continue then production will not be our main problem as inclusion in a United Republican Ireland will sound the death-knell to a great many industries in Northern Ireland.'

As long as the republican and socialist movement is not armed with a programme to fight closures and redundancies, and is engaged in such struggles daily, this kind of statement can ring true to many Northern workers.

Blame

Unlike many other 'Labour' organisations which have formed part of the Unionist bloc, such as the Unionist Labour Association, the Loyalist Association of Workers is led by workers. Billy Hull is a shop-steward in the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast. On internal issues relating to the shipyards, he has shown militancy.

Unemployment, bad housing, and anti-trade union legislation are immediately relevant to loyalist workers. But in the absence of any left-wing force within the Protestant working-class, or with any immediate chance of becoming credible to Protestant workers, their frustration is blamed on 'the Catholics' and the republicans who 'disrupt the province'. 300,000 have signed an Orange Order proclamation to defend the province against its attackers.

Billy Hull wants to do more than merely 'blame' the regime's opponents. He has proposed that anybody found planting a bomb should be executed on the spot.

He has called for an end to the use of rubber bullets. Everybody understands what alternative he has in mind. We have heard 'Bloody Sunday' described as 'Good Sunday'.

Paisley views the new Vanguard movement with contempt, describing it as a prop for the Unionist Party.

Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, with four MPs, has now become the official opposition in Stormont. Paisley himself has become the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. The mob orator is almost a respectable parliamentarian.

He still maintains his extreme position, and shows his populist side, recently proposing that any change in the 1920 Act should be subject to a referendum. Craig supported the motion. It was defeated by the combined votes of the government and the Alliance Party.

Fear

The lack of a centralised leadership within the extreme loyalist movement has been one reason for the failure of a more determined 'backlash'. In recent weeks, however, there have been signs of increased terrorist activity by loyalists. There have been bombings and shootings directed against Catholics and nationalists.

Paddy Devlin, abstentionist opposition MP at Stormont, has quoted several specific incidents, including two alleged murders in Belfast.

The working-class and lower middle-class support for people like Craig, Paisley and Hull is reinforced almost daily by the behaviour of the middle-class nationalists and the Southern regime. If the hold of loyalism and Orangeism on Protestant workers is to be weakened, it is necessary to remove the basis for their principal fear—the fear of incorporation into a 32-County Tory Republic.

This can be done only by an offensive on the Southern regime on class demands and on demands for secularisation. It is necessary to expose the hypocrisy of a government which calls for civil rights in the Six Counties, and last month opposed even the first reading of a Bill presented to the Dail (Dublin parliament) to legalise the sale of contraceptives in the 'Free' State.

None of the forces presently leading the struggle against the Unionists and against the British Army have the class politics to develop these points. They do not even make convincing propaganda on the need to work for working-class unity. The task of doing this falls on the shoulder of a revolutionary working-class organisation which must be built throughout Ireland.



3.55 pm.
Derry, Bloody Sunday

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LETTERS

FAMILY LIFE:

The critic replies to his critics

I SHOULD like to reply to the objections raised to my review of the film Family Life.

I am asked by Alan Phipps of Hornsey (Socialist Worker 19 February) what I mean by 'successful' results in psychiatry—do I believe that 'there is such a thing as treatment, cure and rehabilitation'?

The answer to this depends on whether one believes that mental illness is a serviceable and truthful idea.

I believe that thousands and thousands of people are mentally ill: that many of them can be made much more ill by bad psychiatry (including crackpot psychoanalysis of the Laingian type as well as inhuman doctoring of the worst NHS type), and that many of them can improve their condition to a state nearer to that of mental health (which can never, in any person, be a final, finished state) through humane and scientific doctoring—which need not be carried on by doctors or nurses.

Whether we call the improvement of mental illness 'treatment' or not is a matter of terminology: I prefer to call it 'treatment'.

However, the bulk of mental illness will only be treated when we have not only individual psychiatry with patients but also social surgery against capitalism.

'Rehabilitation' of course means that the patient is re-equipped to work in the frightful conditions of capitalist industry. I see no objection to providing facilities for 'rehabilitating' sick people in this sense: the working class seeks the right to work even under capitalism.

Indeed, the alternative to rehabilitation is, for most workers, starvation and poverty for themselves and their families.

Bob Carter of Leicester says: 'It is not a revolutionary demand to have palaces of mental health based on existing methods of treatment.'

What other methods are there than the existing ones? We cannot frame the political demands around methods which do not exist.

Like Celia Deacon of London N16, I have visited mental hospitals, but have been more fortunate in some of the institutions I encountered.

SUICIDE

The best alternative at present lies in the psychiatric ward situated inside the ordinary general hospital. Ideally physical and mental illnesses should be treated in the same hospital, even in the same ward, certainly in the same occupational and industrial therapy centres, so that equal standards of care can be encouraged.

There also seems to have been some objection to my endorsement of electro-shock therapy when properly administered.

In many or perhaps most cases, it is badly administered and overused, like all mass-production methods of treatment in conditions of inadequate staffing. Unlike some left-wing critics of psychiatry I am not prepared to state that ECT should never be used.

Large numbers of mental patients make serious attempts at suicide, and continue to be severe suicidal risks even when resuscitated. ECT, with proper education of the patient in what to expect, and with humane attention in the phase of mental confusion that follows its administration, can save lives, and in other cases may bring very withdrawn patients into a condition where they can respond to the human relationships that are genuinely therapeutic.

In other words, ECT, like tranquillisers, can be used as an aid to social treatment. The fact that it is nowadays used as a substitute for such treatment is once again an indictment of the low expenditures which capitalism provides for the professional care of the mentally ill.

I must admit to a personal revulsion from the prospect of ECT, but I am prepared to regard this feeling, like my aversion from vasectomy, as something which is almost entirely irrational.

Finally, may I say that, although Socialist Worker received an unprecedented flood of angry letters attacking my article, one correspondent has rallied to my support.

The relative of a severely mentally ill patient writes: 'It was quite the best criticism of the film that I have read. You wrote most clearly and with great understanding of the feel of a family with a schizophrenic member. Have you got schizophrenia?'—PETER SEDGWICK, York.

This correspondence is now concluded.

More letters: page 10

RANK AND FILE ACTION WHILE UNION LEADERS DITHER

MASS MEETINGS of more than 600 shop stewards in Sheffield and Manchester have decided to organise district action to back their demands for more pay and better conditions—showing that, nearly two months after the collapse of pay talks between the engineering unions and employers, militancy is in the air again.

The engineers' claim—covering 1½ million workers—was for a new minimum basic rate of £25 a week for a skilled man instead of £19 at present, a reduction in working hours from 40 to 35 a week and 20 days annual holiday instead of the current 15. They also want improved payments for overtime and shift working, more lay-off pay, equal pay for women, and for any settlement to last only one year.

The employers rejected this claim in December, refused to improve any conditions and offered an unacceptable £1.50 on the skilled rate with even less for other workers.

Faced with this total breakdown in negotiations the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions—led by Hugh Scanlon of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers—decided to pursue their claim on a factory-to-factory basis.

This decision is now the subject of a serious disagreement between engineering militants, for it concerns a vital issue: the success or failure of the claim.

WRONG

The employers' offer was worth about 7½ per cent and there is little doubt that this was made after consultation with the Tory government and with their approval. When the employers replied to the unions they suggested that if it was found unsatisfactory—as they knew it would be—then the unions should pursue their claim at factory level.

This is what the unions have now decided to do. The employers seem unconcerned about this decision and many engineering militants are now convinced that it was wrong.

The employers are hoping that the present grim levels of unemployment, with those parts of the Industrial Relations Act which made unofficial strikes illegal, will reduce militancy. They also hope that the unions' decision to tear up the industry's 50-year-old procedure agreement will confuse many workers.

The employers have also calculated that if local factory settlements are signed then the prospects of linking them to productivity deals will be increased.

Some supporters of the confederation's



Jack Jones: retreat behind 'apathy'

policy have pointed out that the Draughtsmen's Union has had a long history of successful guerilla-type campaigns against the employers and there is no reason why they cannot do the same. On the surface this seems reasonable but the comparison is not quite so simple.

The Draughtsmen's Union has had a long tradition of fighting for national pay scales by first winning them at many individual factories and then confronting the employers with the results, demanding that these be both recognised and extended at national level.

The manual workers do not have this same tradition and have normally relied upon the militancy of local shop stewards to push up wages independently of any national strategy.

The Draughtsmen's Union is small and compact compared to the large and mixed nature of the manual workers' unions, and the leadership of the Draughtsmen's Union, both nationally and locally is more united than that of the manual workers.

LEAFLETS

Because of its traditions, size, composition and higher degree of centralisation the Draughtsmen's Union has also succeeded in involving more of its members in the guerilla-type struggle for national scales and has also run its campaign by publishing all its settlements at different factories in a weekly union newsheet. This maintains a constant enthusiasm and interest in the pay struggle.

None of this has ever happened in the manual workers' unions or is even proposed at present. Neither the AUEW nor



Police move a Fine Tubes picket—with more union help the strike could by now be won



Hugh Scanlon: threats, no action

BY ROGER ROSEWELL

the Transport Workers has issued special circulars and leaflets about the claim and neither union's journal has given any lead. The engineers' *The Journal*, for instance, has hardly mentioned the claim.

But even with all of the Draughtsmen's Union's advantages, and a dispute rate of about 16 strikes and more than 100 cases a month of members using various sanctions against their employers, their present pay campaign has been less successful than those in the past.

According to a recent statement of the Engineering Employers Federation, for example: 'Many satisfactory agreements have been reached at plant level which are well short of the union's nationally claimed increases . . . Certainly in the medium and small firms settlements have been modest.'

Some engineering militants have welcomed the decision to end national negotiations and pursue the claim factory by factory. They say this is an important step forward because it puts power into the hands of the shop stewards and removes it from those of the full-time officials. Unfortunately, this has nothing to do with the success of the claim.

Some union leaders know this and others are simply opposed to the idea of national pay talks. Among these are the leaders of the Transport Workers Union, who believe that it is from 'plant bargaining and company agreement that the greatest gains have been made'.

The TGWU has also claimed that local bargaining has helped the lower-paid workers in areas like the South West more

than national agreements.

There is an element of truth in what they say, but what they don't say is more important.

Improved national rates and conditions can be won provided there is a national fight. The TGWU don't want this, so they seek to justify their rejection of a national fight by other means.

If there is a lack of interest in a national claim then the unions should take the necessary action. It is their responsibility to issue leaflets and posters. They should organise demonstrations and hold regular mass meetings. Jack Jones and other leading officials should tour the country and speak at the factories.

BOAST

If this were done more enthusiasm would be created and mobilised for a national fight. Jones doesn't want this, so he retreats behind the alleged apathy of the rank-and-file that he himself has caused.

The TGWU also prefers local bargaining because it provides them with the chance to negotiate productivity deals. The last TGWU Conference refused to ban these and Jones knows that if he continues to accept them he can obtain some increases for his members—as well as redundancy for others—without again ever having to organise a real fight over wages.

When the TGWU boasts about its record in areas like the South West it is important

to remember that at the Fine Tubes factory in Plymouth 45 men and women have now been on strike for more than 20 months. The TGWU has done very little to win this dispute. If they were really serious about organising areas such as this they could have done much.

But the TGWU are not really serious about their own policy because that too would mean a real fight, which they want to avoid.

National negotiations do have an important part to play. While, for instance, some wage increases can be obtained at factory level, it is extremely difficult to cut the hours of the working week by such tactics, and with unemployment at present over 1½ million this is an extremely urgent demand.

The engineering unions chose not to fight at national level because they wanted to avoid a full-scale showdown with the employers and the Tories. If they had united with the miners they could have smashed the government's pay policy and won a major victory.

If they didn't want to call a national strike they could certainly have led a national campaign. This could have been a total ban on overtime and a work to rule.

STOPPAGES

They could have arbitrarily cut the working week to 35 hours as a dual means of fighting for shorter hours and forcing the employers to increase their pay offer.

They could have selected various important industrial areas and organised full-scale stoppages in every factory in that district and raised money from every other area to finance it.

They could have combined any one of these tactics with local factory claims, but they haven't. And the reason is simple. For despite all their threats to fight the Tories neither Scanlon nor Jones is really prepared to prove it in practice.

Unfortunately the employers are not so hesitant when it comes to organising themselves. They are constantly sending out instructions and advice to their member firms and recently Heath spoke at one of their meetings and promised them his full support.

The employers hope that unemployment, the Industrial Relations Act, the ripping up of the procedure agreement, the opportunity for productivity dealing, their own state of organisation, the lack of any real campaign in support of the claim among the union membership and the obvious reluctance of the union leaders to organise a real fight will give them the advantage and result in union fragmentation.

That is why the current policy must be opposed.

DEMAND

Engineering workers should demand the recall of the AUEW National Committee and that the unions reverse their present disastrous decision. They should demand that Scanlon and Jones stop abdicating any leadership and start organising a real fight for the success of the claim.

They should follow the example of Sheffield and Manchester and collectively demand that the employers in their area either concede the claim or face a district wide stoppage. They should demand that the unions support these actions and officially give them every assistance.

They should demand that the unions resist any attempt by the employers to use the Industrial Relations Act, lead a determined campaign against unemployment and productivity deals and make the ending of the national procedure agreement really effective.

With the Tories still reeling from their defeat by the miners there is clearly a chance for the engineering workers to finish the job. Every militant should insist that they do.

How the law will bind the unions

EVERY written collective agreement between trade unions and employers is now legally binding—unless it contains a provision to the contrary, or is outlawed by the Industrial Relations Act.

The Act thus reverses the established practice whereby agreements were presumed to be non-legally binding. In 1969, for instance, the Ford Motor Company attempted to get its collective agreement enforced against the unions—only to have the judge rule that it was not legally binding.

While the TUC policy is that all affiliated unions should make sure that they do not enter into legally binding agreements, the Tories have a trick up their sleeve.

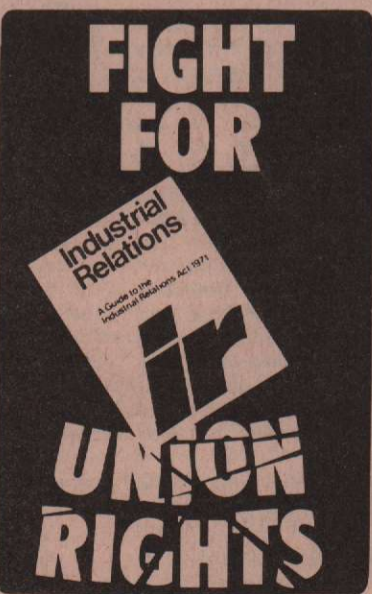
Rarely

Unions negotiate two types of collective agreement. Firstly, 'substantive' agreements relating to wages, conditions of work and so on, and secondly 'procedure' agreements which lay down the practice for dealing with disputes. While substantive agreements are rarely broken, procedure agreements often are.

Most procedure agreements stipulate that no industrial action can be taken until full procedure has been exhausted. Now, in the engineering industry until recently the procedure agreement for federated firms was heavily weighted against the trade unions. A dispute unresolved at shop floor level could take several months to reach the final stage—the Central Conference at York, from which it could be referred back to a lower stage.

During the whole time, no 'status quo' existed. That is, the workman in dispute would be forced to work the disputed conditions until a 'failure to agree' allowed him to take action.

Not surprisingly, this whole rigmarole



PART FOUR

was often broken, and although this was deemed 'unconstitutional', the employer had no legal redress.

There is now an attempt to change this, for the Act provides for the enforcement of procedure agreements in 'trouble spots'. And where they are imposed they will be legally binding.

This cannot be seen in isolation from the needs of the British employing class to smash militancy over wages and conditions at a time when international competition makes it ever more urgent that British firms keep their prices, and therefore their costs, down.

An application can now be made to

the National Industrial Relations Court that a factory or company has no procedure agreement, or has an agreement unsuitable for the speedy settlement of disputes, or has an agreement which is often broken.

The NIRC will refer the matter to the Commission on Industrial Relations if it is satisfied that the development or maintenance of orderly industrial relations has been seriously impeded or there have been substantial and repeated losses of working time.

Trouble

The CIR will work out its own new or revised procedure agreement. If voluntary agreement is not reached, then the CIR will attempt to get the parties to the agreement to enter 'voluntarily' into legally binding procedure agreements on the devised line.

If no agreement is then reached, the employer can apply within six months for an order making the procedure agreement legally binding.

As mentioned above, this part is aimed at 'trouble spots'. This could have great significance now that the engineering industry procedure has been scrapped. Many firms have not yet settled on new procedure, and while a firm like British Leyland is unlikely to take the unions on, it is quite possible that a more 'militant' employer might jump at the chance of getting a legally binding procedure agreement.

Thus if a union has a legally binding procedure agreement imposed on it at a certain factory, and an unofficial strike takes place in breach of the agreement, the employer could sue the union in the NIRC for compensation on the ground that it had not taken 'all such steps as are reasonably practicable' to bring the strike to an end.

The Act leaves it up to the courts to interpret what this means—and it could

mean that the leaders of an unofficial strike should have been expelled from the union.

Here the rules of a union become important. Unions that register are obliged to submit their rules to the Registrar, who may well insist on the provision of effective disciplinary measures against leaders of unofficial action.

Registered unions are not only forced to discipline their members, but can also apply for recognition as the 'sole bargaining agent' for a group of workers, many of whom may be in other non-registered unions.

Where a registered union has secured the negotiating rights of a 'sole bargaining agent', it can then apply for an agency shop agreement, where all the workers in the shop are forced to pay contributions to the registered union whether they belong to it or not.

Bargaining

An unregistered union can become the sole agent only if the employer agrees. It will be an unfair industrial practice to organise or threaten to organise industrial action to induce an employer to negotiate with any other union once the NIRC has made an order naming a sole bargaining agent.

The Act thus attempts to take away the unqualified right of a trade union to represent its members. It overrides the right of the TUC General Council to sort out disputes between affiliated unions. And it opens the way for breakaway unions and 'staff associations' to be given sole negotiating rights at firms where other unions have members.

We should demand the immediate expulsion from the TUC of any union that is registered. All agreements must be non-legally binding. The trade union movement must resist the imposition of legally-binding procedure agreements—an injury to one is an injury to all.

CAR CHAOS

A HANDFUL of men have reached the moon at massive cost. Soon Concorde will take a few wealthy businessmen across the Atlantic in just three hours. Their 'bill' will be £1000 each.

But millions of ordinary working people all over the world suffer because they are unable to travel quite short distances, at reasonable speed, in any sensible manner. The technology is there, but it is not being used in the interests of ordinary people.

Public transport has long been seen by our rulers as an expendable part of the social services. The politicians—Tory and Labour—have been strong on promises but in practice have put profit first.

Cut in half

In 1966 Barbara Castle, then Minister of Transport, said: 'We must clearly expand and develop public transport and make it far more convenient, rapid and reliable'. Less than three months later London Transport cut services for the second time within a year. In 20 years London's bus fleet has been cut in half.

Beeching's railway axe has been used enthusiastically by his successors. Today Richard Marsh, following Lord Robens' path from Labour minister to state industry boss, plans further service cuts and railway workshop closures.

The National Bus Company (kindly bought up by the Labour government from private enterprise with taxpayers' money) is now abandoning dozens of rural bus services—and the people who use them.

At the same time fares have rocketed. In January many Londoners faced a 50 per cent increase overnight and British Rail has just announced 5 per cent fare rises. In many towns school children now pay the full fare in the morning rush hour.

It is little wonder public transport is in a spiral of decline, for service cuts and fare increases drive still more people away. But half the families in Britain have no car and the decline in services causes widespread hardship.

Increased travelling time has effectively cancelled out any reductions in the working week. Higher fares cut into real wages. Children cannot get to school safely and quickly. The old are forced to stay at home.

When the employers announce that public transport is making a loss, most people believe them. But just look at London Transport's figures for a typical year, 1969:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Declared loss | £10.7 million |
| Interest payments | £11.4 million |
| Fuel tax, rates etc | £5.9 million |

While they declared a loss of £10.7 million they were in fact paying the government in various ways a total of £17.3 million. A £6.7 million profit would have been a more truthful picture—but that would not have suited a policy of cuts and fare increases.

And the busmen would no doubt have put in for a bigger wage increase. Just like the miners, public transport workers are being screwed down for the benefit of the money lenders and big business.

In every survey of bus and train services the most important demand passengers make is for a more reliable service. Yet reliability is the first casualty of the craving for profit. On a two minute service you will hardly notice that a bus is missing. On a 20-minute service you will be left feeling pretty sore.

Yet until the growing unemployment cut into the severe 20-year-old staff shortage, lists of buses cut out were a regular sight in every transport garage. London Transport liked it that way—they were saving up to £2 million a year.

Last summer they came up with a plan to restrict overtime because of the cost—and to cut out buses instead.

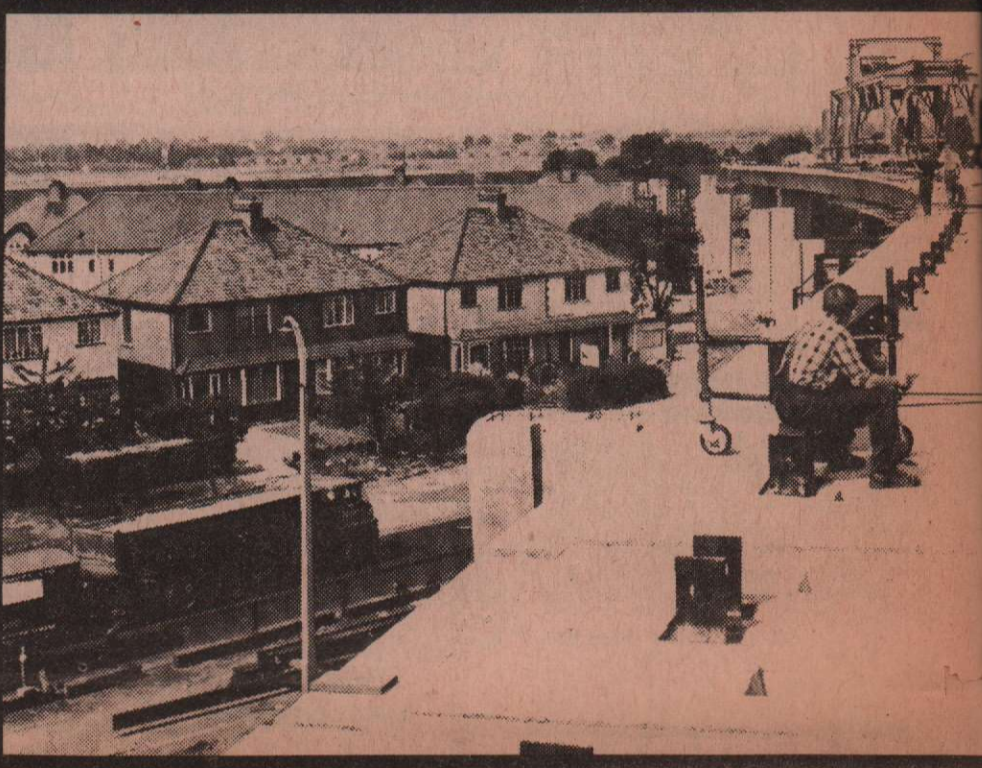
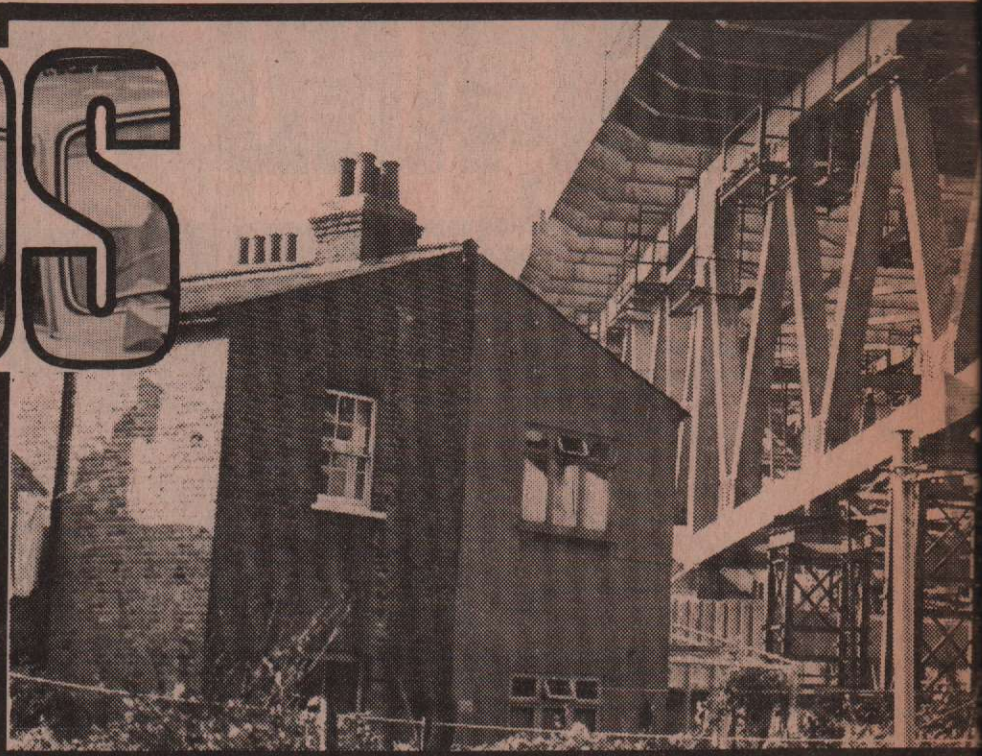
Pretty pleased

A tremendous speed-up, that left the London busman driving more miles in 40 hours than he did 25 years ago when working 48 hours, has had its own impact on services. Many of the new one-man buses are being worked to the same or faster schedules than the crew buses they replace. With turn round times also cut to the minimum, the employers have been pretty pleased.

Deprived of efficient public transport workers have been forced to rely on the motor car. An ever increasing number of lorries clog our streets. The growing problem of road congestion, now said to be costing the economy around £500 million a year, is directly related to the reduction in use of public transport. A survey of traffic entering central London in the morning peak hour showed that between 1957 and 1967 there was a 52 per cent increase in the number of cars and a 27 per cent reduction in the number of buses.

This meant that 23,700 extra cars replaced 1,600 buses occupying 4½ times as much road space but carrying 56,000 fewer people.

Powerful motor bosses snarl up our cities...



Well at least they'll get rid of those tiresome fairies at the bottom of your garden...

There are many other ways in which we suffer due to cuts in public transport. There are more accidents. In 1965 the cost of accidents involving injury was put at £246 million.

Everywhere old people find it too costly and difficult to get about. For workers the effect is to lengthen the working day. 15 minutes on each journey due to inadequate transport means another 2½ hours a week, or at average wages, around £1.50.

Transport policy is now focussed on building a massive system of urban motorways to cater for the increasing number of workers forced to rely on the motor car due to the lack of efficient public transport. In London the Ringway systems are likely to cost around £2000 million. Some sections will cost as much as £24 million a mile.

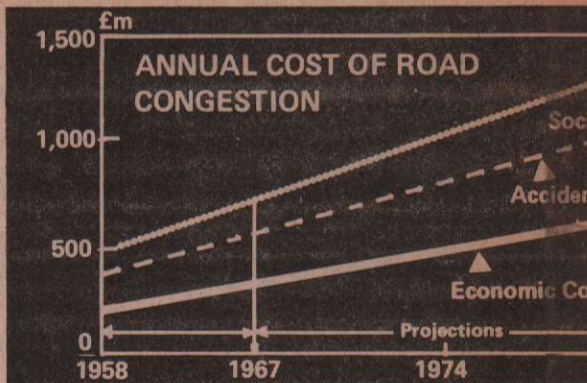
At the same time almost a quarter of a million people will lose their homes, adding to the present severe housing shortage. Countless more will find their lives effected by the smell and noise of a motorway on their doorsteps.

In Britain, vested interests back these plans to the hilt. The powerful British Road Federation has prepared detailed propaganda to back up the Greater London Council's policies.

The BRF includes construction firms, the Cement and Concrete Association, the British Steel Corporation, the oil companies Shell and Esso—and even the funeral directors. All are keen to safeguard their future share of the profit cake.

Add to this the pressure from the motor manufacturers and allied trades and it is clear that some of the most powerful forces in British capitalism are pushing for motorways because an ever-expanding motor industry means bigger profits.

Yet it is already clear that these



Source: British Industry Roads Campaign, ex Road Research La

policies will not solve the problem of getting from A to B. In fact the evidence from America and Japan is that they will make matters worse.

Motorways in cities tend to be a very expensive way of moving the traffic jams a few miles down the road. The motorways generate traffic and lead to increased congestion on approach roads.

Urban motorways will produce the profits all right—but at the expense of destroying our cities, and making pollution of our environment worse.

Free fares

For this reason there are growing demands for some urgent action. Demands for an end to motorway-madness and experiments in free public transport have grown.

A 'free fares' experiment has recently been carried out in Rome. In Stockholm a big scheme for cheap bus travel has been introduced. At Runcorn new town the aim is to give priority to cheap bus travel and to discourage the motor car.

But the contradictions in capitalism make any real solution impossible without a change in society. Vested interests will make sure that any experiments are

limited and that the of service cuts and on. Nothing must the sacred right of g matters worse.

Workers in the dustry have suffered the decline in pu Before the war the wages table, near the bottom.

Despite grand union leaders, one- been sold to the e song. Productivity hit them badly.

London busmen strong in 1948: Wit London Transport just 10,000 men. have hardly impro

Busmen have b carrying the can for of being first in the face an irate publ bad services, and of subsidise the indust own pockets throug

Only socialists constructive and c that can provide a the present chaos are for:

1 A car industry is run by the w industry. Only a cars be built to p needs and not p can we have icar

THE POWER GAME



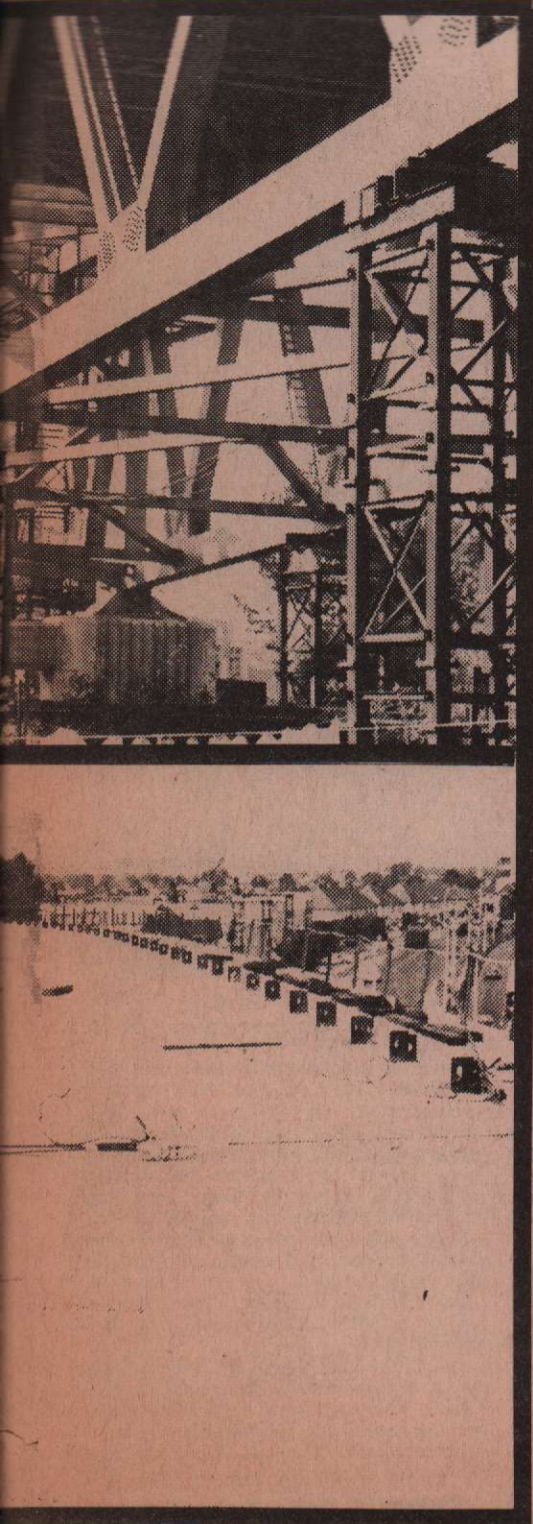
by Colin Barker illustrations by 'rag'

Forget the fairy tales the CEBG and trade union leaders have told you about the efficiency of the electricity supply industry and the wonders of productivity deals. Here are the facts the bosses don't tell you—in a useful rank-and-file handbook in the fight for better wages and working conditions and to save jobs. 25p, plus 3p postage



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Special feature by London busman CHRIS DAVISON



highest standards that will last the 20 or 30 years that technology makes possible.

The motor car can become man's servant and not master. Probably the most efficient way to run motoring would be through a system of co-operative car hire that frees the streets from thousands of parked cars and makes the best use of our resources.

2 Free public transport operated under the control of the workers in the industry. Only then can the workers have a real interest in the provision of good public transport. The savings in fares collection, accounting, banking and security would make possible a drastic reduction in the working week.

Provide help

One-man buses would become a sensible possibility. Conductors who do not want to take up driving could find very useful work providing information services and other assistance to passengers that is now neglected.

3 The restriction of busy city centres to those in most need instead of the present restriction according to wealth. Many city centres could be redesigned to provide large areas free of all traffic. The impact on people's lives of such changes would be immense.

Trade unionists must become aware of the fact that struggles for higher wages are weakened when rising fares diminish any increases achieved. And cuts in the working week are wiped away when extra hours are spent in bus queues.

The campaign for public transport geared to social needs is a vital part of the general movement for a decent, humane society, run and controlled by working people. It is a campaign we must not ignore in the important struggles that lie ahead.

Tories are sitting on a pile of repressive, anti-protest legislation

FRED MATTHEWS, the pithead worker who was brutally run over and killed while he was peacefully picketing Keadby power station during the miners' strike, was not the first worker to die for the cause of union solidarity—and he won't be the last.

While blatant violence against workers has always been the bosses' most potent weapon of intimidation, it is usually only employed as a last resort.

After scores of arrests, the miners began to realise that, with the help of an ever-willing police force, the Tories are sitting pretty on a pile of repressive, anti-protest legislation that is aimed specifically at limiting the right of all working men and women to picket.

With industrial militancy growing in power every day, it is inevitable that more and more trade unionists will be involved in strike action.

Many of them will have little or no experience of picketing or a knowledge of their slender rights when it comes to the various forms of public protest.

This brief guide to the law as it relates to picketing, is presented as a guide to readers to prevent needless jail terms or fines while taking part in their struggles.

Quick to see the potential power of picketing, Britain's capitalists were already formulating restrictive legislation almost a century ago.

Under Section 7 of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act (1875) it is illegal:

'for any person, who with a view to compel any other person to abstain from doing or to do any act which such other person has a legal right to do or abstain from doing, wrongfully or without legal authority,

1. uses violence to or intimidates such other person or his wife or children, or injures his property; or
2. persistently follows such other person about from place to place; or
3. Hides any tools, clothes or other property owned or used by such other person, or deprives him of or hinders him in the use thereof; or
4. watches or besets the house or other place where such other person resides, or works, or the approach to such house or place; or
5. follows such other person with two or more other persons in a disorderly manner in or through any street or road.'

Forbidden

This is the basic piece of law regarding picketing, despite the fact that it was made in a time when trade unions had barely begun to exist.

Under those regulations, particularly sub-section 4, it would seem that any form of group action is forbidden, but in 1906, the Trades Disputes Act did legalise picketing, but only for the purpose of peacefully persuading any person to work or abstain from working, or peacefully obtaining or communicating information.

The 1906 Act in no way affects the other four sub-sections of the old laws, and in fact the moment any picketing ceases to be 'peaceful', then the old iron fist of 1875 can come crashing down again.

So for the strikers manning picket lines, the key questions here are:

- a) What constitutes 'intimidation', and
- b) When does picketing cease to be 'peaceful'?

You don't have to be a hardened veteran of either the trade union or civil rights movement to guess that these charming little points of law have been massively loaded in favour of the local magistrate and his policemen.

Intimidate

Most courts accept the definition of 'intimidation' as found in the Trade Disputes and Trade Union Act (1927). This states that to intimidate:

'means to cause in the mind of a person a reasonable apprehension of injury to him or to any member of his family or to any of his dependants or of violence or of damage to any person or property'.

What the courts seem to have forgotten, quite conveniently, is that this particular piece of legislation was totally repealed in 1946. Nevertheless, that extraordinarily indulgent and loose piece of drafting is still the definition commonly accepted by magistrates.

As for when picketing ceases to be 'peaceful', that judgment is left entirely to the policemen on hand. They even have the power

Why we must win the picket-line fight

to make arrests 'in anticipation of a breach of the peace', and can do so if they think that there might be too many picketers present at any given location.

If a policeman does attempt to limit the number of pickets to that which he considers reasonable, then those who refuse his request for them to leave can all be arrested on the spot for 'obstruction of a policeman in the execution of his duty'.

Lastly, we come to the somewhat terrifying subject of riot.

Elements

The Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act (1875) carefully points out that picketing activity in no way falls outside the laws relating to 'riot, unlawful assembly, breach of the peace, or sedition, or any offence against the State or the Sovereign.'

Bearing that in mind, we should remind ourselves as to what exactly constitutes a riot. There need be only five necessary elements present in any gathering of people for it to be 'legally' a riot:

1. the number of persons taking part must be at least three;
2. they must have a common purpose;
3. execution or inception of that common purpose;
4. an attempt to help one another, by force if necessary, against any person who may oppose them in the execution of their common purpose;
5. force or violence not merely used in a common purpose but displayed in such a manner as to alarm at least one person of reasonable firmness and courage.

The line between militant picketing and a riot is a very thin one indeed.

Police officers generally need



by a special correspondent

little excuse to formally read the Riot Act, and trade union history is full of the reminders of the bloodshed that has inevitably followed such occasions.

No doubt there are many men and women who have stood as pickets and been 'allowed' to break these laws.

Up to now, the police have in fact been unwilling to appear overzealous in the execution of their duty when it comes of controlling an angry picket line.

But like all laws designed to oppress the working man, the law as regards picketing is both cold-blooded and easy to enforce when the 'need' arises.

In the coming months, as both the Tories and the working-class movement dig their toes in for a long and bitter battle, there can be little doubt that the police will eventually be instructed to apply the law to its fullest extent.

The primary duty of a picket is to be effective on the street—to be at the forefront of the immediate struggle.

He is of little use to our cause behind bars, or attracting fines which could drain union funds.

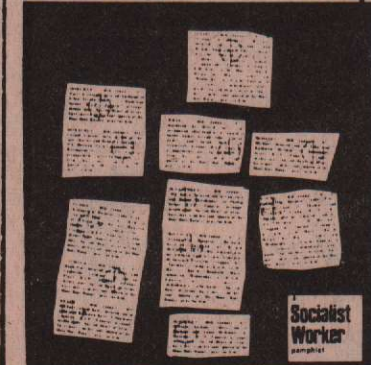
If we cannot win the battle on the picket lines, we shall certainly fare no better in the bosses' courts.

TRUTH ABOUT 'BLOODY SUNDAY'

WHAT HAPPENED IN DERRY

Eamonn McCann

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Why the press barons want to blow the Last Post over the Bugle



THERE may be more than 56,000 jobless on Merseyside. There may be slum housing on a scale to rival any other part of this fair land. But the people of Liverpool are lucky.

The fact that all but one of the commercial newspapers in the area are owned and controlled by the Liverpool Post and Echo organisation ensures that they are seldom troubled by publication of the nasty facts of how or in whose interests their city is run.

The Liverpool Echo, hand in hand with big business and the city's political bosses, wants to keep it that way. Sadly for them, the situation is more than a little troubled.

Over the past year disquiet has flowered into open protest. The Post and Echo's own journalists have set up a paper, the Liverpool Free Press, which, to its great credit, prints the awkward stories the millionaire press finds no room for.

Perhaps more significantly still, a group of people in the decrepit but spirited Tuebrook area have started their own paper and made it survive by campaigning for change.

Not surprisingly, the Echo organisation has been taking steps to deal with the Tuebrook Bugle.

About six months' ago certain advertisers were told that if they bought space in the Bugle, they would be unable to advertise in the Echo or the Post. As these are Liverpool's only daily papers—the Echo evening and the Post morning—this was a useful threat for the millionaire press.

But it was not the success they expected and the campaigning Bugle was becoming something more than a nuisance. So at the turn of the year the Echo floated the idea of a rival paper. It would be called the Anfield Times, and except for front and back pages would be identical to the Echo organisation's many other local papers.

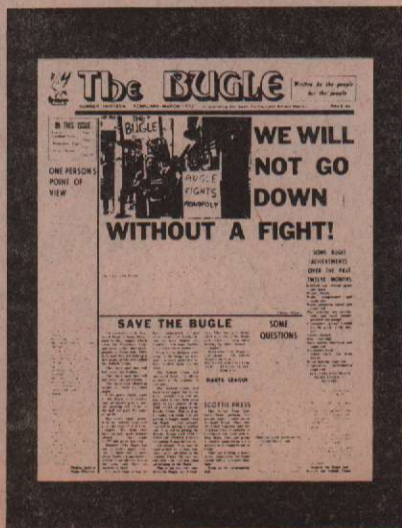
Two pages of Tuebrook news would be slipped around the usual stodge to give it that good old local feel. The advertising rates would be slightly lower than the Bugle's. For a while that is, until the millionaire Echo had killed its small but significant rival.

While floating the idea of a rival paper to kill the Bugle, the Echo organisation was also operating behind the scenes to split the people who actually ran the paper.

Chrissy Maher, one of the paper's leading lights, was offered a job writing for the new Echo venture. She was offered 2½p a word for her articles which would have added up to a substantial sum each week.

But the Bugle is the expression of a spirit which is opposed to such horse-trading and the people concerned decided to put up a fight.

Over recent weeks, leaflets have been sent out encouraging advertisers to boycott any new Echo paper. Two demonstrations



The latest issue of the Tuebrook Bugle. Money from readers and advertisers just pays the printers' bill. None of the staff are paid and there's no profit. The Post and Echo made £2,557,468 profit last year.

have been held outside the Echo offices protesting at the attempt to kill the Bugle. From their own experience, the Bugle people know just what kind of paper the Anfield Times would be. And they know that they do not want it.

The Liverpool Echo has a long history of printing nothing which might conceivably offend its advertisers. When two staff journalists wrote an article exposing phoney supermarket price cuts the editor declined to print the story in anything but the most grossly distorted form. No-one was attacked, least of all the supermarkets, who advertised heavily in the paper.

The rest of the Echo's so-called journalism is perfectly in tune with its attitudes to the supermarkets and in no meaningful sense of the word could the Echo be described as a campaigning newspaper.

But in 1970 it did launch one campaign. Under big banner headlines the paper made a moving appeal for the threatened Liverpool inner motorway to be built. The very future of the city depended on it, said the Echo.

Somewhat surprisingly the Echo de-

clined to admit that it had bought land and planned its own offices on a site right next to the motorway route, thereby easing distribution of its papers and of course increasing the capital value of the land. It was not the quality of life that was threatened—rather the Post and Echo organisation's profit forecasts.

Flushed with success in this moving appeal, the Echo directors went on to secure more than substantial compensation for the old building. The corporation is to give them £2 million for trade disturbance resulting from the move.

Suppressed

The city will also be shelling out £100,000 for a traffic management scheme to key the new Post and Echo building into the motorway, and the city's education department has bought another unwanted building from these trusty proprietors of truth for more than £250,000. In some fields, you might say, the Post and Echo is an expert campaigner.

The organisation has also been having more than a little success in suppressing discussion of their attempt to do down the Tuebrook Bugle.

So far they have stopped BBC TV's Man Alive from letting Chrissy Maher tell her story. Five times the BBC phoned the managing director and asked for an Echo spokesman to appear and answer criticisms. Getting no joy, the BBC wrote pointing out that the criticisms were severe and required a spokesman for the other side.

A reply was forthcoming: if the BBC allowed things to be said that brought the Post and Echo into disrepute, the Post and Echo would not hesitate to sue.

Frightened

The BBC, being stout defenders of the truth, ordered all critical references to be cut from the Man Alive programme.

Since then the Post and Echo has used similar tactics to stop Radio Merseyside, Granada's Look North and The Guardian from spilling the beans.

After nearly a month of prostration before the Echo, the two TV channels did last week manage to cover the Bugle's battle to survive.

A new issue of the Bugle was published last week telling the paper's own story, despite trouble with printers who were also frightened by the Echo's power. Chrissy Maher states quite simply that the Echo outfit has sucked enough out of

Liverpool and put nothing back in, except large doses of untruth. That is why the Bugle will fight on.

In one year the paper has proved that the conventional 'free' press is lousy and biased. People in the area have found their own voice and they like the feeling.

The Bugle has got things done. After hard-hitting articles, Pringle Street got a new back entry. A house with drains unconnected for 92 years and with 6ft of sewage swilling around was sorted out in one week. In Lister Street, an immense rubbish tip has been cleared up.

The Bugle, with a circulation of 3000 a month and a cover price of 4p, does rely

Chrissy Maher, one of the Bugle's leading writers. The Echo organisation offered to buy her articles in an attempt to split the group who run the Bugle.

on adverts, even though it is produced by voluntary labour. Adverts are vetted, and none appear for mortgage and finance brokers, those friendly people who grow rich on the desperation of the poor.

The Bugle has also organised meetings where working class people confront the city bosses. And in this field, the Bugle has made its most significant contribution. It has taught people something of their own abilities.

It is this that frightens the Merseyside press monopoly and its friends in high places. They only want echoes and whippers in their patch. The Bugle's very name disturbs them. After all, someone might blow such a thing too hard and upset their cosy business arrangements.

Copies of the Tuebrook Bugle can be obtained from 36 Pringle Street, Liverpool 13.

Licensed to make a killing

IN THE CITY



with T.H. Rogmorton

THE following little story is a good illustration of the way the City, almost entirely free from government interference, can make its own laws.

You will have noticed that a favourite occupation of the City is The Takeover. This is when one company, anxious to buy another company, attempts to buy all the shares in that company.

All companies whose shares are quoted on the Stock Exchange have many shareholders, often, in the case of big companies, in the tens of thousands. So, clearly, any bid has to be announced and all the shareholders sent circulars.

The price it is necessary to pay to succeed is frequently well above the price of the shares as quoted in the Stock Market itself. This is necessary

to get the shareholders to agree, or as is really often the case, to get the directors to agree and so recommend their shareholders to accept.

Now clearly all this sort of horse trading, which rarely takes account of the interests of the worker, needs regulating, and the City set up its own Take-over panel to draw up the rules. So far the operation of the panel and its Code has approached farce, because rules were hastily made after a particular takeover action.

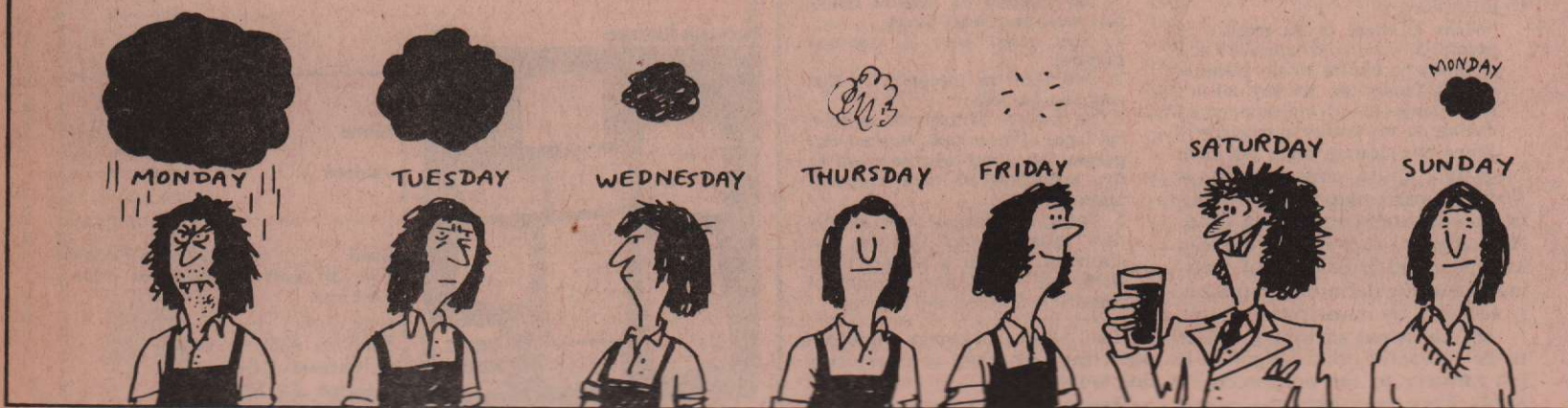
One of the rather more intelligent rules forbade anyone who had inside information of a coming bid from buying the shares of the victim.

As it was not easily enforceable and anyway there are no penalties for breaking it, its observance was, to say the least, irregular. But it seemed a sensible enough rule because otherwise it would be possible for the directors, their friends and relations to make a fortune out of buying shares in companies for which they knew there was going to be a bid.

Well, they have just changed that rule; in fact, they have abolished it. And now directors, their friends and relations can buy shares on confidential and privileged information and make a fortune.

I've always thought the City was a haven for speculators but even I never thought that they would admit it and legitimize it.

OUR NORMAN



REVIEW

REVOLUTION IN CHAINS

Angela Davis puts the US legal system on trial

ANGELA DAVIS is an almost impossible symbol. Her dignity and defiance has called forth an unexpectedly personal response—from the Moscow Technical School students who wrote 'May our love for you, Angela, melt away your prison bars' to the black schoolgirls in Dalston proud to wear Free Angela badges.

Her solitary confinement for 330 consecutive days in a windowless 8ft by 8ft cell has become an image for the isolation of a revolutionary in the heartland of capitalism, of a black in a white country and a woman in a movement dominated, like the society it attacks, by men. But her aloneness has brought, from many previously unpolitical people, an especially deep solidarity.

She is a unique figure even among the politicians, puzzled by Angela's incongruous membership of the American Communist Party. Who else bridges Herbert Marcuse and George Jackson? Who else expresses the explosive re-emergence of revolutionary politics in America in the student movement, woman's liberation and the black uprising focused in a black woman fighting for socialism in America?

NO EXAGGERATIONS

And fighting for her life in Santa Clara County, where only 30 years ago the last lynching in California took place and where many local people feel it's a tradition which needs reviving.

Yet this essential book, *If They Come In The Morning*, edited by Angela Davis, already in its third printing, puts a political tourniquet on the emotions and carefully and unsentimentally analyses the importance of the Angela Davis trial as part of the class struggle in Nixon's courts and jails.

In place of what are too often left-wing platitudes about forthcoming fascism and rampant repression, the book carefully examines the cases of 21 black, brown and white political dissenters and shows that words like 'frame-up' and 'murder' are in no sense exaggerated.

For those who find it almost impossible to come to terms with the undisguised brutality of the American state, there are the case histories not just of the massacre of the Black Panther Party and the murders at Kent State but smaller and equally illuminating stories: of Lee Otis Johnson, a SNCC organiser, serving a 30-year sentence in Houston for possession of one joint (the District Attorney commented 'one might reasonably argue that Lee Otis Johnson received less than he deserved'); of 17-year-old Marie Hill, who has been in the condemned cell in a North Carolina prison waiting for the electric chair for two years on the sole evidence of a 'confession' extracted under threat and since repudiated; of Indian fishermen in Tacamo, Washington, charged in chained groups of ten for violating 'fishing rights'.

The contributors to this book take for granted the unvarnished use of the legal system to attack

BY DAVID WIDGERY

political dissent.

After the physical destruction of the Black Panther Party, the Nixon administration has felt confident to go on to the legal offensive against the revolutionary left. Demonstration and community action is regularly followed by the use of conspiracy charges, forced confessions, intensive interrogation in custody and the routine use of police informers, bribes and spies.

CRIME

During the massive Mayday protests against the war in Indo-China more than 13,000 people were arrested and confined in stadiums converted into detention centres. And the majority of 'non-political' black and brown offenders who fill the prisons, especially the women prisoners, are essentially convicted of being poor; unable to pay up and so obliged to steal and turn to small-time crime.

As George Jackson argued, 'imprisonment is an aspect of the



class struggle from the onset'. His own life, from his conviction at the age of 18 for stealing 70 dollars from a petrol station to his murder in August last year, is clear proof of this.

If *If They Come In The Morning* argues that revolutionaries should take their politics right into the prisons and the court rooms, turn the tables on the bench and put the US legal system itself on trial. This job is too important to be left to the 'public defendants', the defence counsels provided on legal aid who are politically unsympathetic and frequently legally incompetent into the bargain.

Increasingly, like Angela herself, militants have defended themselves 'to break through that barrier of fear and terror that only a lawyer could speak for justice', as Reies Tizerina of the Chicano Alianza movement puts it.

When Nixon goes on TV, like some 20th century slave-owner, to boast of the capture of the runaway 'terrorist' Angela Davis, he

makes it clear that she is considered guilty before the trial starts. So why shouldn't Angela do the reverse and go into the court arguing that it is the whole legal system and behind it the Nixon administration which is guilty of conspiracy against the poor blacks and Chicanos who fill its prisons.

Ruchel Magee, the only Soledad brother left alive, bated by the Californian press as 'subnormal' because he scored 75 in some idiot IQ test, has been fighting his own legal battle since 1963, become a 'writ-writer' for brother prisoners. Padlocked at arms, waist and legs he still manages to shuffle through his legal papers in court.

SHOOTING

Inside the prisons themselves increasingly it is the pictures of revolutionary black leaders who themselves came to politics in prison, Malcolm X, Eldridge Cleaver, Huey Newton, that are pasted on cell walls with institutional soap. The

perilous attempt to build centres of resistance in the cells themselves, to unionise prisoners and to fight for reform of the prison conditions continues even after the Attica massacre and Jackson's shooting.

The book includes the Manifesto of the Folsom prisoners, the remarkable prison poems of Erica Huggins and an account of the women's liberation campaign around the Women's House of Detention in New York. Erica describes women's prisons much the same way as Holloway has been exposed here, governed by 'rules that degrade, schedules that destroy sanity, racism that they cannot see, sexism that rapes us of our womanhood' and the campaigns of clandestine political discussion, floor by floor organisation and protests inside and outside the prison.

(For a recent essay by Angela on Women's Liberation and Black History it is worth hunting out the December 1971 issue of *Black Scholar*, from New Beacon Books, 2 Albert Road, London N4.)

FORFEIT

If ever there was an example of the power of revolutionary ideas to change men's minds and make political sense of their situation, it is in the prisons of America, where the most extreme manipulation of racial antagonisms is still consciously used by the guards.

To fight politically within these prisons is to forfeit any chance remission, to incur the special hate of the guards and so to face punishment ranging from bleach in the food and urine in the tea to drugging with tranquillisers, asphyxiation with CS gas and even murder, as George Jackson discovered. Yet the imagination, vision and love of black men and women continually outwit the daily brutality of this system.

The themes of this book, the need to develop a strategy for revolutionaries in court and prison and to fight back against legal repression with militant socialist politics, are directly relevant to internment, to the Mangrove and Angry Brigade trials and the law and order lobby in Britain.

So buy it and read it, not just out of an abstract solidarity or a personal admiration but because of its increasing relevance to the actual problems we are facing in Britain and Ireland. It's never too soon to be prepared.

If They Come In The Morning, edited by Angela Davis, published in paperback by Orbach and Chambers, price 45p, is available from IS Books, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

between the participants it never broke outside the narrow interests of the music industry.

There was nobody who represented the great buying public, who listen and go to the festivals. More important, there was nobody to raise the major political implications of this repressive piece of legislation. Instead we were presented with nothing but a conflict between two businessmen who wished to organise all-night musical events and an MP who wanted to stop them.

Sterile

Though TV has begun to examine rock and not just trail in rock's footsteps it still lacks the nerve to move to a perspective outside 'showbiz' and the terms of Tin Pan Alley. Without this kind of perspective, connecting pop music to the wider culture of which it is such an energetic part, to economics and to politics, the raising of questions, no matter how intelligent and perceptive, is a largely sterile exercise.

BARRY ELLIS

Keep it trivial—or TV and the pop revolution



WHEN rock and roll hit Britain in 1956 television was quick to cash in. Almost immediately BBC offered the Six Five Special and soon afterwards Jack Good's far more imaginative and influential Oh Boy appeared on ITV.

Ever since then the medium has continued to cover pop music, sometimes with more style and drive than others but always from a totally receptive and non-educative stance. Except when real politics get involved.

Rarely if ever in the past 15 years have television programmes tried to influence pop music taste in new directions in any serious sense. They have followed and reflected existing attitudes—and in particular the charts.

At the present the independent companies have nothing at all nationwide, while on BBC-1 *Top Of The Pops* enters its eighth year. This programme continues on its appalling, sexually-degrading way, tied to a diet of the most boring of the week's hit parade and new releases. But there are two series on at the moment which are well-

worth watching and which take pop music as an important feature of our culture, worthy of examination. Predictably they both go out late at night.

Every Monday night you can see *Sounding Out*. Each week the programme looks at a particular group or figure. We see them play and hear them talking about themselves and their music, its roots and its development.

Complex

Usually the programme is interesting but ultimately frustrating to watch, because the artists are never pushed, ideas never developed or analysed, and so connections with anything outside are made only by accident. This is surprising, because Charlie Gillett, author of the authoritative work on the develop-

ment of rock *The Sound Of The City*, is the series research assistant.

The programmes give little away about the complex nature of the relationship between the financial and political side of pop music and the music itself—which Gillett sensitively examined in his book.

Offering just as much live music, but often raising more questions, is *The Old Grey Whistle Test*, which goes out on Tuesday nights on

BBC-2, introduced by Richard Williams.

The programme is always worth watching. Even though it is prepared to take pop seriously, discussions are depressingly uncontroversial and 'balanced', so that though important questions get raised, they have yet to be satisfactorily thrashed out before the cameras.

The description last week of the Night Assemblies Bill, a vindictive piece of legislation with important ramifications way beyond the stamping out of all-night festivals, was typical.

Its Tory perpetrator and two pop entrepreneurs—Derek Taylor, ex-press agent of the Beatles, and the young American proprietor of London's new pop theatre, *The Rainbow*—argued about the Bill, but though there was disagreement

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations

We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism.

Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world and owe no allegiances except to themselves and the economic system they maintain.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multi-national firms.

The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A single socialist state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international independent of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist theory with the day-to-day struggles of working people and therefore support all genuine demands that tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight:

- For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials.
- Against secret negotiations. We believe that all settlements should be agreed or rejected by mass meetings.
- For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.
- Against anti-trade union laws and any

- curbs on the right to strike, whether the strikes are 'official' or 'unofficial'.
- Against productivity deals and job evaluation and for militant trade union unity and joint shop stewards committees both in the plant and on a combine basis.
- For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.
- For a minimum wage of at least £25 a week.
- Against unemployment redundancy and lay offs. We support the demand: Five days' work or five days' pay.
- For all workers in struggle. We seek to build militant groups within industry.
- Against racialism and police victimisation of black workers.
- Against immigration restriction.
- For the right of coloured people and all oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.
- For real social, economic and political equality for women.
- Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.
- Against secret diplomacy.
- Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally give support to and solidarity with all genuine national liberation movements.
- For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation and under workers' control.
- We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers' party in Britain and to this end support the unity of all revolutionary groups.
- The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers' power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing of man's power over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly worth fighting for.
- It is no use just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it.' If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.

THERE ARE IS BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| SCOTLAND Aberdeen Cumbernauld Dundee Edinburgh Fife Glasgow N Glasgow S Stirling St Andrews | MIDLANDS Birmingham Coventry Leamington Leicester Northampton Nottingham Oxford Redditch Rugby Telford Wolverhampton | Ipswich Leiston Lowestoft Norwich Peterborough |
| NORTH EAST Durham Newcastle upon Tyne Spennymoor Sunderland Teesside (Middlesbrough & Redcar) | WALES and SOUTH WEST Bath Bristol Cardiff Exeter Gloucester Mid-Devon | GREATER LONDON and HOME COUNTIES Acton Camden Chertsey Croydon |
| NORTH Barnsley Bradford Doncaster Grimsby Halifax Huddersfield Hull Leeds Mid-Derbyshire Ossett Scarborough Selby Sheffield York | Plymouth Swansea | Dagenham East London Enfield Erith Fulham Greenford Hackney & Islington Havering Harrow Hemel Hempstead Hornsey Hounslow Ilford Kilburn Kingston Lambeth Lewisham Merton Newham Paddington Reading St Albans Slough South Ealing Tottenham Walthamstow Wandsworth Watford Woolwich |
| NORTH WEST Barrow Blackburn Bolton Crewe Kirkby Lancaster Manchester Merseyside Oldham Potteries Preston St Helens Wigan Wrexham | SOUTH Ashford Brighton Canterbury Crawley Folkestone Gurdiford Portsmouth Southampton | |
| EAST Basildon Beccles Cambridge Colchester Harlow | | |

Wrong recipe for tackling prices...

THE DEMAND for a 'rising scale of wages' in Kevin Whitston's article (26 February) is mistaken. The slogan is primarily a defensive one and in the current situation is not applicable.

The miners have shown the way forward. Their strike achieved increases greater than the cost of living and if other unions followed their example millions of other workers would benefit. Socialists must fight not only to retain the purchasing power of existing wages but also to struggle to increase that proportion of wealth received by the working class.

Whitston's emphasis ignores this aspect of the struggle and also fails to mention that a rising scale of wages actually reinforces and widens the cash differentials between sections of workers.

The TUC's plan for 'threshold agreements' to cope with rising prices is also not properly dealt with. The TUC proposes that if prices rise beyond a certain point—the 'threshold', say 5 per cent—then wages should be 'adjusted' accordingly.

What Whitston doesn't explain is why the TUC is currently campaigning for this. He says the TUC 'must be given credit' for this idea but other trade unionists don't quite share his enthusiasm.

A leading official of the engineering union recently warned that employers would use threshold agreements as an excuse for avoiding plant level pay talks—except on productivity—and that it would not help the enormous problems of the lower-paid workers. Other workers have also warned against the danger of threshold agreements being used as a basis for an incomes policy.

A number of Tory newspapers are urging such a policy, but Whitston's article does not mention this. F.J. CORBETT (TGWU), London NW3.

Smug comment

YOUR COMMENT on the Aldershot explosion (26 February) is politically un-serious. With no reference to the terrible and probably irresponsible blunder of this particular bombing, you simply identify it as part of a 'policy of individual terrorism' with 'nothing in common with the socialist aim of building a mass working-class movement'. Who would know from this that there is a war going on?

Now whatever objections there are to the policies of the IRA, 'individual terrorism' can't be one of them. Certainly you cannot maintain that what the IRA is doing is motivated by 'desperate revenge' as you suggest. It may be that this is part of the ideological presentation of the strategy, but the basis of this strategy is

Letters

obviously deeper, from direct raising of the political cost of English rule to a strategy for creating an anti-British bloc in Ireland. 'Nothing in common'?

In this connection it is significant that the Aldershot explosion did mark a shift towards not only bringing the Irish struggle to the heart of dreaming England but also towards aiming at more decisive ranks in the army hierarchy.

This shift has got off to a calamitous start. But your smugly abstract comment is unlikely to give much help to those working towards a free socialist Ireland. BRUCE JOHNSON, Canterbury.

Hypocritical

YOUR STATEMENT on the Aldershot explosion only served to misrepresent the policy and activities of the Official IRA. The bombing was in retaliation for the Derry murders carried out by British paratroops.

An IRA statement issued the day after the explosion restated the Official's policy of 'defence and retaliation', adding that 'regiments guilty of atrocities, and leading officers of these regiments, are valid targets, wherever they may be.'

The Officials intended to deal with officers of the paratroops. First news reports of the explosion indicated that between three and 10 officers had been killed. No further mention of this was made in subsequent reports.

It is tragic that ordinary working people paid the penalty for brutality and murder by British troops in Northern Ireland. But to refer to the IRA action as a policy of 'individual terrorism' is a gross distortion of the current aims of that organisation. Socialist Worker has repeatedly stressed its unconditional

Rent strikes—powerful weapon to break the system

CONGRATULATIONS on your article 'Tenants on right strike' (4 March). Yours is the first paper of the left that has had the courage to print such an article. There have been three or four letters from me in Tribune and the Morning Star, but that is all.

The rent strike is in fact the most powerful weapon we have to break the capitalist system and it is one which

directly involves every worker who pays rent either to a council or a private landlord or interest on borrowed money to get a place to live in.

What is more, it can be fully justified and once the idea catches on it becomes popular. The non-payment of such charges immediately improves the living standards of the majority of our people. TOM BRADDOCK, East Preston, Sussex.

WHAT'S ON

Copy for What's On must arrive first post Monday or phoned Monday morning. Notices are charged at 5p per line. Semi-display 10p per line. Cash with copy. No insertions without payment—invoices cannot be sent.

MEETINGS

MANCHESTER DISTRICT IS public meeting: Revolutionary Socialism And The Battle In Industry. Speaker Tony Cliff. Thurs 16 March 7.30pm, Milton Hall, Deansgate.

BRITISH and IRISH Communist Organisation debate with International Socialists: The Situation in Ireland; Ireland—Two Nations or One? Speakers: Brendan Clifford for B&ICO, John Palmer for IS. Friday 10 March, 8pm, Co-Op Hall, Seven Sisters Rd, London N7 (nearest tube Finsbury Park).

GLASGOW AREA IS: Mon 13 March, Patrick Burgh Hall, 7.30pm. End Internment, Withdraw British Troops. Main spkr Eamonn McCann. Tickets 10p from Glasgow IS or write to 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE PRESENT CRISIS. Public meeting. Glasgow Area International Socialists Saturday 25 March, 10.30am, McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall St. Speakers: John Palmer, EC member IS, and Jim Higgins, National Secretary.

MARXISM VERSUS REFORMISM. Scottish Region Day School, Saturday 25 March 2-6.30pm. Speakers: Jim Higgins and John Palmer. Two sessions: 'Trotskyism and Leninism', 'Contemporary Reformism: the Labour and Communist Parties.' Details of venue and accommodation from your nearest IS Branch.

WALTHAMSTOW IS public meeting: The Fight In The Unions. Speakers to be

announced. Waltham Trades Hall, Hoe St, Walthamstow, E17, Thurs 16 March 8pm.

STUDENT SUB-COMMITTEE meeting to discuss London student work: 10am Sun 12 March, Ealing Technical College (student union block), St Mary's Rd, Ealing, W5. Tube: South Ealing.

LONDON AREA STUDENTS CAUCUS: 10am Sun 12 March, Ealing Tech, St Mary's Road, W5. All London IS students to attend.

IS PRINTWORKERS: Meet Sun 12 March, 11am, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

WANDSWORTH IS public meeting: The Fight Against Racialism: IS and BUFP speakers. Thurs 16 March 8pm The Spotted Dog, SW18 (nr Wandsworth Town Hall).

HORNSEY IS FIGHT THE TORIES UNFAIR RENT ACT
 Speaker Hugh Kerr
 Tues 14 March 8pm
 Duke of Edinburgh, Fonthill Rd
 Finsbury Park

HARLESDEN IS public meeting THE FIGHT AGAINST THE TORIES
 Speaker—Roger Rosewell
 Weds 15 March 8pm
 The Crown, Harlesden High St
 Five mins from Willesden Jct station

TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA
 18/19 March
 Plaw Hatch Trade Union Club, East Grinstead, Sussex
 Present situation in Southern Africa—Trade union solidarity action in Britain
 Delegates and individual trade unionists welcome
 Apply Anti-Apartheid Movement, 89 Charlotte St, London W1 (580 5311)

support for both wings of the IRA, while pointing out that the aim of socialists must be to build a revolutionary workers' alliance in Ireland which can effectively challenge the power of both states.

For Socialist Worker to accuse the IRA of 'individual terrorism' is both unprincipled and hypocritical and does nothing to enhance IS's credibility as a revolutionary organisation. ALAN RAWEL, KEVIN CORR, Hull.

The two letters above both make the same mistake. They assume that if the targets of an assassination attempt are reactionary supporters of the ruling class who murder and maim in pursuit of that class's interest, then the policy of individual assassination is not 'individual terrorism' and must be defended by marxists.

No serious revolutionary could possibly join in the hypocritical hysteria that such a policy provokes among those who support the everyday violence of the ruling class. We made that absolutely clear in our comment of a fortnight ago. If it had been parachute officers who had been killed no one in the revolutionary movement would have shed a tear. Nevertheless, the policy pursued would still have been one that marxists would have criticised.

We oppose the policy of individual assassination, not because we want to defend the ruling class, but for precisely the opposite reason: it in no way weakens that class, and should the implementation of the policy go wrong, as at Aldershot, it actually serves to strengthen it.

For every army officer killed in Britain, the Tories have a thousand replacements. That is why assassination can never 'bring the Irish struggle to the heart of dreaming England', in the sense of creating a force in Britain that can start destroying the power base from which the operations against Northern Ireland are launched. There is only one way to destroy that power, base—through building a mass, working-class based opposition to the British ruling class and its policy of repression in Ireland.

We support the activities of the IRA in Northern Ireland in so far as they are linked to the developing mass movement among the nationalist section of the population and defend that movement against the British army. But for the same reason we have to be critical of them when they attempt to substitute individual assassinations for the building of such a mass movement in Britain. This is particularly the case when the implementation of the policy kills ordinary members of the working class, so making it easier for Tory propaganda about Ireland to seem credible to other workers. EDITOR.

Letters to Socialist Worker must arrive not later than first post Monday. Write or type on one side of the paper only. Letters may be cut for reasons of space.

SWANSEA IS: The Struggle in The Car Industry. Steward from Coventry car works talks about problems faced by car workers. Red Cow pub, High St, Swansea. Friday 10 March 7.30pm.

LLANELLI: The Struggle in The Car Industry. Steward from Chrysler, Coventry, talks on problems faced by carworkers. AUEW Rooms, 1.30pm, Sat 11 March.

DAGENHAM IS public meeting: Tony Cliff on Unemployment And How To Fight It. Wantz Hall Library, Thurs 9 March Buses 103 and 174, nearest station Dagenham East.

NOTICES

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED in London area on night of Sat 11 March for Fine Tubes strikers and their families coming up to London for Benefit Concert on 12 March. Please phone Joyce Rosser, 01-340-5911, if you can help.



**Torture
is illegal,
er, but...**

by Tim Shallice

THE role which judges play for the ruling class has been strikingly brought out by the Parker report on 'mental torture' interrogation methods used in Northern Ireland, though this has been somewhat obscured by Heath's announcement that certain of these methods would be discontinued for the present.

There are actually two reports—a white-washing report by the former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Parker, abetted by former Tory minister, John Boyd Carpenter, and a scathing minority report by Lord Gardiner.

The majority report deliberately does not point out the aim of the torture technique. The bag over the head and continuous noise treatment aims to deprive the tortured person of the sensory input which is essential to the brain.

When this is done for a long period the prisoner becomes disorientated and terrified. Thinking becomes impossible and he is pliant and suggestible—often more than he would be under direct physical torture.

Contradiction

According to Lord Gardiner such an experience may produce long-lasting mental effects comparable to the war neurosis commonly called 'shell-shock'.

The majority report refuses to mention this evidence. Instead it states: 'There is no reliable evidence as regards mental effects', and then contradicts itself by saying that 'in a small minority of cases some mental effects might persist for up to two months.'

If Lord Parker really thought it was difficult to 'theoretically predict the effects of the technique', then why did he not support the request made to the government for a specialist medical team from the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science to examine the internees concerned?

The ex-Lord Chief Justice concluded that the existing techniques should continue to be used, with secret army 'guidelines' as the only protection for the victims.

Yet, as even Lord Gardiner points out, the techniques were illegal. That, it seems, is of no concern to the chief interpreter of the law. He probably realised that if necessary the government would bring in an instant Bill to make legal the past illegal acts of the troops.

Also implicit in Lord Gardiner's report is the fact that two previous reports on army interrogation methods—that of Compton on Ireland and Bowen on Aden—ignored the evidence and were no more than whitewashing jobs for the government. Can anyone really believe that the present Lord Chief Justice's inquiry into the massacre in Derry will be any different.

Women's success

THE Tyneside socialist women's action group has had its first success in organising office cleaners. The husband of one of the office cleaners in Newcastle.

The cleaners in Milburn House are paid a mere 28p an hour—12p below the union rate, do not receive holiday pay, do not get pay slips to explain deductions from wages, and are not allowed a tea break.

Forty-eight of the 54 cleaners have now joined the Transport Workers Union, and the local official, Joe Mills, is putting in for an immediate pay rise for them.

BOSSSES AND TORIES BID TO SPLIT UCS

GLASGOW:—Shipyard workers on Clydeside still have a tough fight for jobs and security on their hands in spite of the partial retreat by the Tory government last week. They face three main dangers.

FIRST:—The offer of £35 million government backing to Govan Shipbuilders will be used by the Tories to attempt to split the UCS workers still further. It was Dan McGarvey, the Boilermakers' president, who bullied the UCS shop stewards into abandoning the fight to save UCS as one unit

by Steve Jefferys

in favour of a campaign to 'save the four yards'—separately if necessary.

The refusal of the stewards, under strong Communist Party influence, to oppose full-time union officials like McGarvey led to this serious weakening of the struggle.

But McGarvey's scheme was agreed to only on the understanding that 'meaningful negotiations

with Govan Shipbuilders'—the new company set up to run the Govan, Linthouse and Scotstoun division of UCS—would not take place until all the jobs had been guaranteed at the Clydebank yard.

Now the influence of the £35 million offered to half the old UCS workforce, plus pressure from McGarvey, has persuaded the stewards to make agreements with Govan regardless of what happens to Clydebank.

Threatened with 300 further redundancies at Scotstoun by the end of the month, stewards and union officials met Govan chairman Lord Strathalmond last week.

He described the result thus: 'What came out—a very helpful proposal—was their suggestion. They have guaranteed, if we get the order [of a 26,000-bulk carrier] that, irrespective of what happens with the government or at Clydebank division of UCS, they will complete the ship on time.'

Even worse, the negotiations are taking place with Strathalmond when it is known that his 'recovery plan' foresees the closure of Linthouse in two years time. If these retreats go on they will seriously weaken the determination and unity of the workers.

SECOND DANGER lies in placing too much reliance on Wayne Harbin, boss of the US Marathon Manufacturing company, to save the day for Clydebank. Scrap metal merchant Archie Kelly would have brought Clydebank last year if the government had offered him £10 million. Wayne Harbin is now after £12 million.

Harbin and Kelly are cast from the same mould. Only the Dan McGarveys of this world place any faith in them.

FREEZE

THIRD DANGER arises from the terms under which both Strathalmond and Harbin say they will keep between 4300 and 6800 of the 8500 UCS workforce in a job.

Strathalmond has made it clear that he will want an initial wage freeze with further wage increases tied strictly to productivity increases. And Harbin says: 'I would like to see a legally-binding contract which would reduce the number of crafts in the yard and ensure flexibility of labour.'

Both want to see the workers agree to productivity measures and no-strike clauses that will not only worsen conditions on Clydeside and eventually in other British shipyards but will actually lead to a further loss of jobs.

We will soon know how the workers and their stewards face these dangers in the decisive days ahead. And the whole rank and file of the labour movement will be hoping they come out best.



Mike Cooley speaking at last Sunday's conference. With him are John Gray, and (nearest camera) Dermott Kelly.

Backing for anti-internment

THE Anti-Internment League took a step forward last weekend in its efforts to co-ordinate a trade union campaign for an end to internment and the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland.

More than 100 trade unionists, including delegates from trade union branches and district committees, attended a conference to discuss the situation in Ireland and to campaign in support of the Irish struggle in Britain.

The deepening crisis in Ireland was

explained by Des Bonass, a Dublin-based full-time official of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union, and Dermott Kelly, of the Northern Resistance Movement and the People's Democracy. Both gave details of the mass response to the resistance movement in the North.

Mike Cooley, national president of the technical section of the AUEW, argued strongly that a defeat for British imperialism in Northern Ireland would be a victory for the British working class.

On that basis the conference resolved to take the struggle into the trade unions, to press for sponsorship of internees, to organise regional meetings in the most important industrial centres, and to put pressure on the trade union executives to take a political stand on the Irish question.

For further information on the national trade union committee being established by the AIL, contact: John Gray, Basement flat, 139 Holland Park Road, London W14.

Sack threat to striking laggards

IN an attempt to break the four-month-old strike of laggards (insulation workers) in the North-East, their employers have sent notices to all the strikers telling them they are sacked. Despite this open threat, the men's union, the General and Municipal Workers, still refuses to make the strike official.

But the men refuse to be intimidated. They sent back identical replies to the management refusing to accept the sack, and are continuing to picket 48 jobs to prevent scab labour being used. They are being backed in this by chemical and shipyard workers.

Funds remain an urgent problem: collections and messages of support should be sent c/o Dave Southern, 1 Roman Avenue, Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 4AA.

Teachers' pay talks will not beat the 'norm'

by Leni Solinger

THE executive of the National Union of Teachers seems to have learnt nothing from the way in which the miners were able to break through the government's unofficial wage 'norm' of seven per cent. Instead, the NUT is to submit its salary claim for an all-round £250 increase to arbitration.

Over the years the general lack of militancy in the NUT has meant that teachers' pay rises have not kept pace with those of most organised workers. Take-home pay for a first-year teacher is about £15 a week. Most teachers are on a salary scale which begins at £1055 (before deductions) and rises to £1990 after 13 years.

The claim put forward this year aimed to give teachers a living wage and keep their

pay up with the cost of living. Management, however, would not offer more than six per cent.

The NUT executive said how totally insulting this offer was... and then agreed to submit to arbitration. Yet the arbitration board is completely weighted in favour of the management and government. One of its three members is chosen by the unions, another by the management, and the third is an 'independent' appointed by the government—the teachers' real employer.

Such a body will inevitably back the government's miserable 'norm'—unless teachers take action to show their real anger now. Calls for industrial action are being put forward in London this week. Hopefully they will be taken up by teachers all over the country.

ATOMIC SITE MEN STRIKE

HEYSHAM:—Workers at the Taylor Woodrow building site for a new atomic power station walked out on strike last week after 18 labourers were sacked. This was the latest of a series of attempts by the management to intimidate the men on the 15-month-old site.

The dispute began when management refused the labourers the right to be represented by their own Construction Engineering Union stewards and instead claimed that a steward from another union should negotiate for them. The labourers downed tools for half a day in protest, and when they returned the management sacked 18 of them on the grounds of 'industrial misconduct'.

Two hundred members of the CEU then voted at a mass meeting to back the sacked men, and were joined in strike action the next day by members of other unions on the site.

Taylor Woodrow have been refusing to negotiate

COUNCILS TOLD: REFUSE RENTS SCHEME

GLASGOW:—500 delegates and visitors from tenants' associations, trade unions, local authorities and old age pensioners' associations crowded Partick Burgh Halls on Sunday to protest against the Tory Rent Bill and organise effective opposition to it. The conference condemned the bill and called upon Scottish local authorities to refuse to operate it.

Councillor John Smith, of Clydebank, said that his council will refuse to operate the law, but went on to admit that few of the 300 local authorities in Scotland had expressed any willingness to join Clydebank in this uncompromising attitude, and that the biggest landlord in Scotland, Glasgow Council, had refused to set a lead.

The unlikelihood of any serious attempt by most Labour councillors to fight the legislation was made clear by Councillor

Peter McCann of Glasgow. His speech was liberally sprinkled with references to 'responsible government' and the need to stick to 'constitutional means'.

He believed the way to fight the Bill was through tabling amendments and filibustering in the House of Commons, and by voting Labour at the next election.

Militancy

Yet Labour MPs had not even bothered to turn up to the meeting. Both Jim Sillas (Ayrshire) and Willie Ross (Greenock) found themselves unable to attend due to 'previous engagements'.

There was no lack of militancy from the floor of the hall, however. Speaker

after speaker made it clear that they were not interested in talk of constitutionalism and loyalty, but only in defeating the legislation by whatever means necessary.

WINCHESTER:—Council tenants voted on Monday for militant action against the Tories' 'Fair Rents' scheme. A packed meeting decided to withhold the rent increases due next month and to call for solidarity action from local trade unionists.

Chief speaker at the meeting was Hugh Kerr of Harlow Tenants' Action Committee. He outlined the vicious Tory plan and how to fight it. Members of the local trades council pledged their support for the tenants' struggle.



I would like more information about the International Socialists

Name

Address

Send to: IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Socialist Worker

Poison drip deaths: warning ignored

by Paul Foot

FIVE people have died in Devonport Hospital, Plymouth, after being given an intravenous feeding solution manufactured and marketed by Evans Medical Ltd, a subsidiary of the giant British drug combine, Glaxo.

Hospitals throughout the country have been alerted to watch out for the bottles of contaminated solution.

As so often with the drug industry, the alert has come after people have been killed. Yet in this case, as in so many others, the industry had ample warning of the possible dangers of contaminated intravenous solutions.

On 20 November last year, Socialist Worker, alone among the British non-medical press, reported the scandal of contaminated intravenous solutions marketed by Abbotts Laboratories in America.

Socialist Worker quoted from the Wall Street Journal of 21 July last year:

'Abbotts contaminated intravenous solutions may have infected about 5000 hospital patients and contributed to the deaths of 500 of them, according to the Federal Centre for Disease Control.'

Our report concluded: 'Up to now no one has been prosecuted or even sued. There is no information of any kind about the huge export of these solutions and whether or not they are still being used in European (and British), not to mention South American, hospitals.'

Silence

What was the reaction of the British drug industry and of the Medicines Commission, which is meant to safeguard the public from dangerous drugs to the Abbotts scandal?

- Total silence and inactivity.
- No restrictions were imposed or special tests made on intravenous solutions.
- No one can tell what were the consequences of that inaction.

Already the drug industry is anxiously covering up for its 'wayward brother'. Already the 'hints' are going out from public relations departments that the Plymouth story is 'very, very exceptional' and that most of the contamination is the fault of the hospital's anyway.

The PR men argue that all new drugs have to satisfy the allegedly impartial Medicines Commission. But on 3 March, it was announced that Sir Derrick Dunlop, chairman of the commission until the end of last year had got a new job—as a director of the Sterling Winthrop Group, the European subsidiary of the Sterling Drug Company of New York.

The board of Glaxo, meanwhile, are up to their necks in much more important matters in the City of London, where two other companies, Beechams and Boots, are trying to take them over.

Toothy Ted meets Karl and Fred..



AFTER the miners, another victory for the working class. The Right Honourable Edward Heath MP, that most Tory of gentlemen and scourge of all things proletarian, was guest of honour on Monday at that austere educational establishment, the Working Men's College in Camden Town, North London.

The occasion was an exhibition of the life and work of the college's founder, the Rev F D Maurice, and included pictures and prints of many aspects of the workers' struggle over the last 150 years. Toothy Ted, booed by students when he

arrived, is seen here with the college principal before a display of the writings of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, the founders of communism.

'Don't you think,' said the principal, referring to a previous display, 'that Christian Socialists have much kinder faces than marxists?'

'I see what you mean,' said the PM, staring at Karl and Fred. He had seen that steely glint before, on the faces of Britain's miners. He shuddered and moved on...

TWO FACTORIES VOTE FOR SIT-INS

ST HELENS:—55 workers are sitting-in at St Helens Plastics in a bid to save their jobs after arriving for work last Friday to be locked out and told they were no longer employed and would be paid off.

The firm is part of Reed Medway Sacks, a subsidiary of the giant Reed International Group which owns the Daily Mirror.

The workers refused to leave but were able to occupy only a small part of the factory as the rest had been put under the control of security guards and dogs. They were told that the firm had been taken over by Lin-Pac, of Featherstone, who might not re-open the works for

three, six or even 12 months.

Contrary to earlier assurances, no guarantee of employment could be given to the former St Helens Plastics employees, they were told. And Lin-Pac employs no women workers, although there are women among the 55 staging the sit-in.

Joe Kelly, senior Transport Union shop steward, said: 'This is not just our fight. The fight for jobs is a working-class issue.'

Messages of support and donations to: St Helens Plastics Occupations Committee, c/o Joe Kelly, 20 Rudd Avenue, Derbyshire Hill, St Helens, Lancs.

NORWICH:—Workers at the shoe factory of Sexton Son and Everard voted overwhelmingly last week to occupy their factory to prevent its closure. But the final decision about when the occupation should start was left to the joint shop stewards committee, which so far has hesitated.

Redundancy notices, with some due to take effect this Friday, were issued to the entire labour force of 700 last week. The workers dismantled the factory's printing machine in an attempt to stop the notices being sent out, and when the receiver

managed to get round this, the stewards collected the notices off all the workers and sent them back.

The call for an occupation was made by the ASTMS factory committee, backed by the regional officer, R Spiller. The call was given 100 per cent support by the members of the main union in the factory, the National Union of Footwear, Leather and Allied Trades (NUFLAT), although its full-time officials were opposed to the idea.

At a mass meeting last week the call for occupation was carried by 650 votes to six. It was agreed to stop the management moving out the £260,000 worth of shoes and leather and the £40,000 of equipment.

The hesitation on the timing of the occupation is due to the attitude of the NUFLAT officials and to hopes that some workers have placed in delegations to see councillors, MPs and Labour leader Wilson.

This week there have been rumours that local businessmen wanted to buy the factory, although this would probably be for its land value. The workers are insisting that it be kept open as a shoe factory, but the rumours and counter rumours have produced a situation of confusion.

Already financial support for the workers is coming in. ASTMS have imposed a levy on its members in footwear and NUFLAT stewards in other Norwich factories are holding collections.

Demoralisation could set in at the factory if things do not come to a head soon, but the mood is at present militant and solid. As one woman said: 'I'm not accepting my bloody cards. They can have them straight back again.'

Messages of support and donations to: Joint Shop Stewards Committee, Sexton Son and Everards, Norwich, Norfolk.

Printers in firing line

by Ross Pritchard

THE 200,000 printworkers on provincial newspapers and in the general printing trade may well be next in the firing line as government and employers drive hard to keep down the level of wage awards.

This week 70,000 members of the National Graphical Association launched an overtime ban in protest against the Federation of Master Printers' wage offer of £2 a week on the basic.

The NGA had claimed £7 a week on the basic (with 50 per cent of this to be offset against existing merit money).

Similar treatment has been meted out to the other two unions who have made claims: NATSOPA had asked for £4 a week on the basic and a fourth week's holiday, and SOGAT, £4 a week, equal pay for women and reclassification of grades.

Neither of these unions has yet replied to the employers' offer but it seems likely that SOGAT will shortly adopt a policy of non-cooperation.

Any substantial improvement in the employers' offer seems unlikely, particularly because their pals in the Tory government may well want to take issue with the printers to regain some credibility after the miners' victory. Then only strike action will extract decent rises.

Militants are already urging that any fight should not be confined solely to the membership covered by the claim. The leading employers in provincial newspapers and the general printing trade are those who also dominate the national press. The active support of these workers should be sought to assist in winning a speedy victory.

WE'LL DEFY TUC SAYS POSTAL UNION LEADER

by Roger Rosewell, SW Industrial Correspondent

POSTAL WORKERS' leader Tom Jackson told me on Tuesday that he intends to defy the TUC. In an exclusive interview he admitted that the Union of Post Office Workers was preparing to go to the National Industrial Relations Court even if the TUC told them not to.

He explained that this was because a breakaway union called the Telecommunications Staff Association (TSA), which is not recognised by the Post Office was about to claim recognition under the new Industrial Relations Act. The TSA is a right-wing organisation that has already registered

and is not affiliated to the TUC. It recruits telephonists and during the last year's postal strike rigidly instructed its members to cross the picket lines.

Recently it has been meeting officials of the Tory Party Central Office to plan an all-out effort to claim recognition from the National Industrial Relations Court.

It only has one full-time official and its membership of 10,000 includes many of the strikebreakers and 'blacklegs' who either resigned or were expelled from the UPW after the strike. It has never led a single dispute in all of its 44-year history.

Tom Jackson told me that if the TSA appeared before the National Industrial Relations Court then his union would have to do the same. The TUC's policy is for unions to boycott the court. TUC chiefs have already told the UPW not to go. A meeting with

the TUC's General Purposes Committee has now been arranged for 20 March and when I asked Tom Jackson if he would still appear before the court if the TUC again refused him permission he admitted that he would.

This shock decision of the UPW will obviously affect the TUC's campaign of non-cooperation with the Tory legislation. Already unions representing nearly 600,000 workers have registered and many others are looking for an opportunity to defy the TUC's policy.

The UPW's decision will undoubtedly reinforce this trend and be secretly welcomed by union leaders like Lord Cooper and Clive Jenkins.

Every member of the UPW should fight against this surrender to and acceptance of the Tory law and demand that the union organises a real fight against the Telecommunications Staff Association.

1,000 pamphlets sold in Derry

THE seizure by the British Army in Northern Ireland of 500 copies of the Socialist Worker pamphlet What Happened in Derry as its author, Eamonn McCann, attempted to take them into the province last week did not prevent more than 1000 copies being sold in Derry within less than two hours last weekend.

But the seizures go on. Bernadette Devlin was taking 60 copies of The Worker the Dublin-based paper of the Socialist Workers Movement, to a demonstration in Pomeroy, County Tyrone, on Sunday when an army detachment stopped and searched her car.

'This looks like anti-British propaganda' said one, and the papers were seized to stop their distribution in the North.

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