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No.4 February 5th—11th 1976

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1.5m out of work...but TUC still backs Healey's humbug

Over the last week Trade Union leaders and left wing MPs have been getting exceedingly flustered over the present level of unemployment. They have been whispering a bit louder in the Labour government's ear that it really ought to do something about it, if not to bring unemployment levels down, at least to make sure that the rate of increase is reduced.

The TUC leaders are afraid that if the number of unemployed goes much higher, pressure from the rank and file will upset their cosy £6 arrangement with the government. It is that very £6 pact which has assured reductions in our standard of living and contributed to pushing up unemployment.

The TUC continue to go along with the Labour government, in spite of rhetoric about giving tough warnings and saying that the Government is in effect "on trial".

What have the Len Murrays of this world been suggesting to the government to combat unemployment? The TUC has

Fifty 'left-wing' MPs, mainly from the Tribune group, abstained in the vote on the Labour Government's unemployment policies in Parliament last Thursday. Norman Atkinson, a leading Tribuneite, advocated that the Government should adopt "unorthodox socialist policies" to combat unemployment; he means that the Government should reflate the economy. Now, there's socialism for you

DEFIANCE!

GLOVES ARE OFF AT CHRYSLER

TUC call in the cops on immigrants

UNDER THE GUISE of "reforming" the work permit system, the TUC is pressing the government for a purge on 'illegal' working by immigrants.

The hotel and catering industry committee of the TUC wants a meeting with Roy Jenkins, where they will press for tougher work permit controls and additional measures to control foreign workers.

Stricken with paralysis when it comes to doing anything about unemployment or the miserable level of wages and conditions in the hotel and catering trades, the TUC now leaps into action ... against the most oppressed section of the industry, the section it ought to be protecting and trying to draw into the unions.

The Home Office has not waited for this convenient cover from the TUC. It has already authorised recent police raids of factories in North London looking for 'illegal' immigrants.

Neither will a response to the TUC now mean a first foray into the catering industry, where the search for 'illegal' immigrants is coupled with the harassment of left wingers. The best known example of this was the arrest last year of Italian socialist catering worker, Franco Caprino, for supposedly not having a work permit.

Less well known is the fact that Special Branch have been infiltrating the catering trade. Until he was unmasked, a Special Branch agent was the leading light in Rank and File Catering Worker, a militant bulletin for workers in the industry.

As backing for their 'concern', the TUC has cited an alleged report from the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants which it is claimed reveals that most foreign catering workers have no proper permit for work. The 'report' was conveniently leaked to the press to coincide with a recent speech by Powell on that

racist's favourite subject: immigration.

But Vishnu Sharma of the JCWI has denied that such a report exists at all!

Socialists should oppose all attempts to restrict the immigration of foreign workers and their families; they should also fight any attempt to burden the immigrant worker with special conditions. That means demanding an end to the work permit system.

Filipino workers were used to break a strike at the Savoy hotel in Nottingham (see page 7). But it was not the mythical 'lack of a trade union tradition' that made those workers a danger to the strikers. It was the fact that the work permit system allowed the bosses to threaten them with withdrawal of their permits if they didn't break the strike.

The existence of such systems is not just an insult to the foreign worker and an encumbrance, but it also threatens the trade union movement itself with disunity.

Any attempts by police or others to search factories should be militantly opposed. Keep the cops out of the factories!

Workers should defend immigrant workers from police and Home Office persecution, whether these workers are 'legal' or not, drawing them into the trade union movement where they are not already members.

Already a resolution from TGWU 1/696 branch at Manor House Hospital has protested against the TUC moves. All our readers and supporters should get their union branches to pass such a resolution. Let's flood the chauvinists of the TUC with condemnations of their attempts to make scapegoats out of immigrant workers.

Workers Action also calls on our readers to support a call for a picket of Congress House on Monday 9th February at 11am. For more details, see 'Events', page 7.

Chrysler workers at Linwood have decided to stay out on strike. At a mass meeting only 15 voted to go back, after the stewards recommended that the 6,000 strikers carry on with their action.

Stacked up against them is the combined might of the Chrysler management, the state, the Labour Government, the pseudo-independent "Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service", the national trade union leaders and, as usual, the bosses' press.

When Varley speaks of this strike being a threat to the so-called "rescue plan", he is right. Those plans, which rescued nothing but the fortunes of Chrysler investors, were inseparable from an all-out attack not only on jobs but also on the working conditions of those remaining. The present strike is therefore more than a threat - it is a direct challenge.

The fact is that this challenge comes from the workforce which most quickly yielded up the desired "voluntary redundancies" and was therefore thought easy game. This reveals the enormous potential for a fightback throughout the Chrysler plants.

Scottish TUC General Secretary and leading Communist Party member James Milne said after the men had taken their decision on Monday afternoon, "I am not simply hoping that the talks in London will produce a formula. I think they must find a formula."

What the men need, however, is not "a formula" but a victory! The trade union and labour movement must do everything it can to give support to the strikers.

The bosses and bureaucrats' frantic efforts to seek a formula must be matched on our side by urgent action. Above all, a recall of the Combine Committee and the motor industry workers' liaison committee set up last year, are first and necessary moves to a united response to the bosses' arrogant challenge.

Full report on back page



Photo by John Sturrock (Report)

2,000 remember Bloody Sunday

2000 demonstrators marched from Shepherds Bush Green to Ladbroke Grove last Sunday, calling for self determination for Ireland and an end to British involvement. Outside the house of Home Secretary Roy Jenkins at Ladbroke Grove, the demonstrators protested against the government's treatment of

Frank Stagg, who is reported to be near death as a result of his hunger strike. The demonstration went ahead despite an attempted attack by the National Front and the last minute cancellation by Mecca Ltd of the booking at Hammersmith Palais for a Troops Out Movement rally after the march. A Troops Out

Movement statement said: "The failure of TOM's attempt to book a suitable large hall is seen as part of a concerted campaign of harassment by the authorities over the past twelve months to stop the Troops Out Movement from obtaining halls to hold public meetings".

been arguing for more of the measures the Labour Government introduced in November. More Government money to boost job creation and training schemes. Raising the temporary employment subsidy from the present £10 figure to £20 and for this subsidy to be applied in case of mass redundancy.

In addition it wants widespread import controls and a six month ban on dismissals of 200 or more workers in assisted areas and 400 or more elsewhere. The TUC also asks for financial assistance to companies to accelerate industrial investment projects and for extra finance for the building industry and for the stockpiling of machine tools.

In spite of the Labour government's active policies for pushing up unemployment, such as public sector cuts and the £6 limit, and its insistence that unemployment levels will probably not come down significantly, Murray still places his trust in Healey to solve the unemployment situation. After the TUC - Labour Party liaison committee meeting attended by Healey and other government ministers, Murray said that "The Chancellor is going to act quickly and measures will in the course of the next few months affect the level of unemployment".

What are these measures that Healey and Murray have agreed on? Or rather, what has Healey promised Murray?

In the Parliamentary debate on unemployment last Thursday, Healey "hinted" that his February package will contain aid for the construction industry, assistance for industrial stock building, extension of the temporary employment subsidy, and bringing forward the implementation of the Employment Protection Act provisions on advance notification and consultation on redundancies.

Cont. on p6

Monday 9th Feb PICKET THE TUC!

A Palestinian revolutionary talks about the Lebanese war

JUST before the latest ceasefire in Lebanon, a WORKERS ACTION reporter interviewed a Palestinian militant living in this country. For reasons of security, he wished not to be named.

What's behind the present crisis in the Lebanon?

It goes back to the withdrawal of the French in 1946. They wished to go on influencing the country by making sectarian divisions. The ruling class in the Lebanon is a small elite and almost totally Maronite Christian, and there is a tremendous gap between this elite and the rest of the population. Since 1946 the tension between them has been steadily building up.

But where does the present

conflict stem from?

Really from the expulsion of the Palestinians from Jordan in 1970. Many went to the Lebanon where they quickly established links with the poor Moslems in the South. An agreement was signed between the PLO and the Lebanese government in 1970, allowing the Palestinians to control their own camps. This has meant that they have been able to train local people in these camps, and so strengthen the movement that is fighting for reforms to the present social and political system.

Although in the present conflict there are mainly Moslems on one side and Christians on the other, it is not about religion at all. American imperialism is trying to

dominate the area by imposing its own peace settlements. It did this with Egypt, but in the other Arab states the Palestinians have stood in the way. So it is important for American imperialism to try to destroy Palestinian resistance.

This was done in Jordan in 1970, and is now being tried in the Lebanon, with the Maronites and the fascist Phalangists trying to do the same as the Jordanian army did. In doing so they hope not only to get rid of the Palestinians but also to defeat any challenge to their class rule.

What is the significance of a defeat for the right?

Israel needs to tame the Palestinian movement if it is to stand a chance of getting a peace

settlement in its favour. To do this it has to hit the PLO where it is strong and at the moment that is in the Lebanon. If, with the help of the Lebanese right, it succeeds, this would of course be a great setback to the Palestinian and working class movement, not only in the Lebanon but throughout the Middle East.

Would a ceasefire now be a good thing or not?

There have been 22 ceasefires up till now. They have all failed because the fascists wanted to bring the army into the battle and win a quick victory over the Palestinians and leftists. Personally I think the last ceasefire came at the wrong time. Important areas were being attacked by the left and could have been taken.

How stable is the alliance of the Palestinians and the Lebanese left? Could there be a split over different objectives?

That is not even thinkable at the moment. The leftists are strong because of the Palestinians and vice versa. They are two faces of the same coin. The right of the Palestinians to stay in the Lebanon is an absolute principle with the left. No-one would even discuss any compromise on this and even if the leadership of the leftist forces agreed to one, the rank and file would not accept it.

Interview by
Kate Tierney

Irish Budget says 'Guns before butter'

by
Dave Stoke-King

Last Wednesday, the Irish Minister of Finance, Richie Ryan, announced a budget that involved massive increases in taxation totalling £124 million. They include 4p per pint on beer, ten pence on a gallon of petrol, and the raising of the VAT rate from 6.75% to 10%.

At the same time he announced big increases in gas, electricity, and telephone charges. All this amounts to an enormous deflationary package that will add tens of thousands to the dole queues and cut wages at a stroke. The government is also trying to impose a total wages freeze — at a time of 20% average inflation. Unemployment figures for the 26 Counties stand at 117,000 unemployed — a figure which the fortnightly review 'Hibernia' shows to be an underestimate by about 25%.

Against this background there is a savage irony in the statement of Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien that "the fairness of the budget is not only its most important social characteristic, it also has a major bearing on economic recovery."

Dr O'Brien, a Labour Party

minister in the coalition government, noted for his "trendy leftism" in the '60s and his pro-British stand on Northern Ireland, was obviously not referring to an "economic recovery" for Ireland's workers and small farmers. Health Minister Corish has announced 'no increase in real terms' of health spending, and sharp cuts and deterioration in already appalling services are expected by the unions in the health services.

The Irish government is at the moment negotiating a Euroloan from the EEC of over £100 million to cover the widening balance of payments deficits and the debts to the international banks and finance houses.

However, money can be found for the work of repression in the south and collusion with Britain in the North. Defence Spending is to be increased to a record figure of £156 million in 1976. The sheer cynicism of the Labour

Party - Fine Gael government can be seen in their crude attempts to blame the economic crisis on the "evil men and women engaged in violence" in the North.

So far the Irish Congress of Trade Unions has criticised but done nothing concrete to defend its members against these savage attacks, just as it has done little or nothing to resist the government's build-up of a formidable repressive machine that can later be turned with full force on the working class movement.

The unofficial strike by Post Office

workers, the threat by the CPSA to strike on March 1st unless the government retreats on its attempts to shelve equal pay, the mounting wave of unofficial strikes, shows that the working class is still unbroken and willing to fight. Trade union militants and socialists will have to take up the fight for wages, against unemployment, and against the wage freeze. They will ignore the question of state repression and the government's policy of collaboration with the British imperialism in the North only at their own cost.

'Terrorism Act' is tightened up

A new amendment designed to toughen up the Prevention of Terrorism Act was given its first reading in Parliament last week. Probably the most dangerous of the clauses of the new amendment is one which threatens people with up to 5 years jail for failing to pass "any suspicions about terrorism" on to the police. In the debate, Tom Litterick, Labour MP for Selly Oak, told how his constituents in Birmingham had been harassed by the police.

Replying to allegations that the new amendment was a "snooper's charter", a government spokesman replied that before the Bill is finally made law a 'compromise' would be sought. The National Council for Civil Liberties has announced its intention of lobbying the Lords against the

amendment. Its chances of success are small. All the amendments which were proposed to lessen the harshness of the law were defeated. These even included a mild Liberal amendment saying that deportees should know the reasons for their deportation.

This latest refining of police powers has received almost no coverage in the press. Almost in total silence, the police are being given the licence to snoop on any suspected person, and people are being forced to inform on their neighbours. These wide powers could easily be extended to attack working class activists. British workers must fight against this Act if they do not wish to prepare a lash for their own backs.

Fuller analysis next week.

PORTUGAL
Solidarity
Campaign
NATIONAL
CONFERENCE

Saturday March 13th,
Conway Hall, London.
Details from PWCC,
12 Little Newport Street,
London WC2

Communist Party tries to tie Spanish workers to the Democratic Junta

Senor Carlos Arias, Spain's Prime Minister, made his long awaited announcement of political reforms in the Cortes on January 28th. It was greeted by almost universal disapproval. The demands which the Spanish workers have been raising for a total amnesty for political prisoners, for free trade unions, right of assembly, a free press, etc, have received a sharp rebuff. Various shades of middle class and working class reformists have made a great outcry about their "disappointment".

But the Spanish Communist Party, whose militants have played an important role in the waves of strikes which rocked Spain in the last few weeks, pose the question in terms of a 'restoration of real democracy'. They admit that there can be no democracy whilst the Juan Carlos/Arias regime remains — but go on to talk about the alternative to this regime being "a democratic alternative supported by all those forces which reject the continuity of the Franco regime". The CP statement of Thursday 29th and the Workers Commissions, under heavy CP influence, praise the "peaceful"

nature of the strikes and the eagerness of the workers' leaders to "end the conflict by initiating negotiations".

The CP's "popular front" political strategy totally ignores the complicity of all the major sections of the Spanish bourgeoisie with the dictatorship and their determination to limit reform to the minimum of concessions necessary to stop the initiative passing into the streets and factories. At the present time, the CP's strategy means subordinating workers' struggles to an alliance with "Spain's Democrats", as the 'Morning Star' calls the motley crew of impotent would-be parliamentarians adorning the CP's "Democratic Junta". At a later date, it could mean invaluable assistance to a ruling class desperately trying to hold stormy workers' struggles within the limits of bourgeois democratic reforms.

As the last few weeks have shown, only the Spanish working class can spearhead the fight to bring down this regime. It will be a hard, bitter and far from 'peaceful' struggle, a struggle that cannot limit itself to the "normal trade union struggle" the CP talks about.

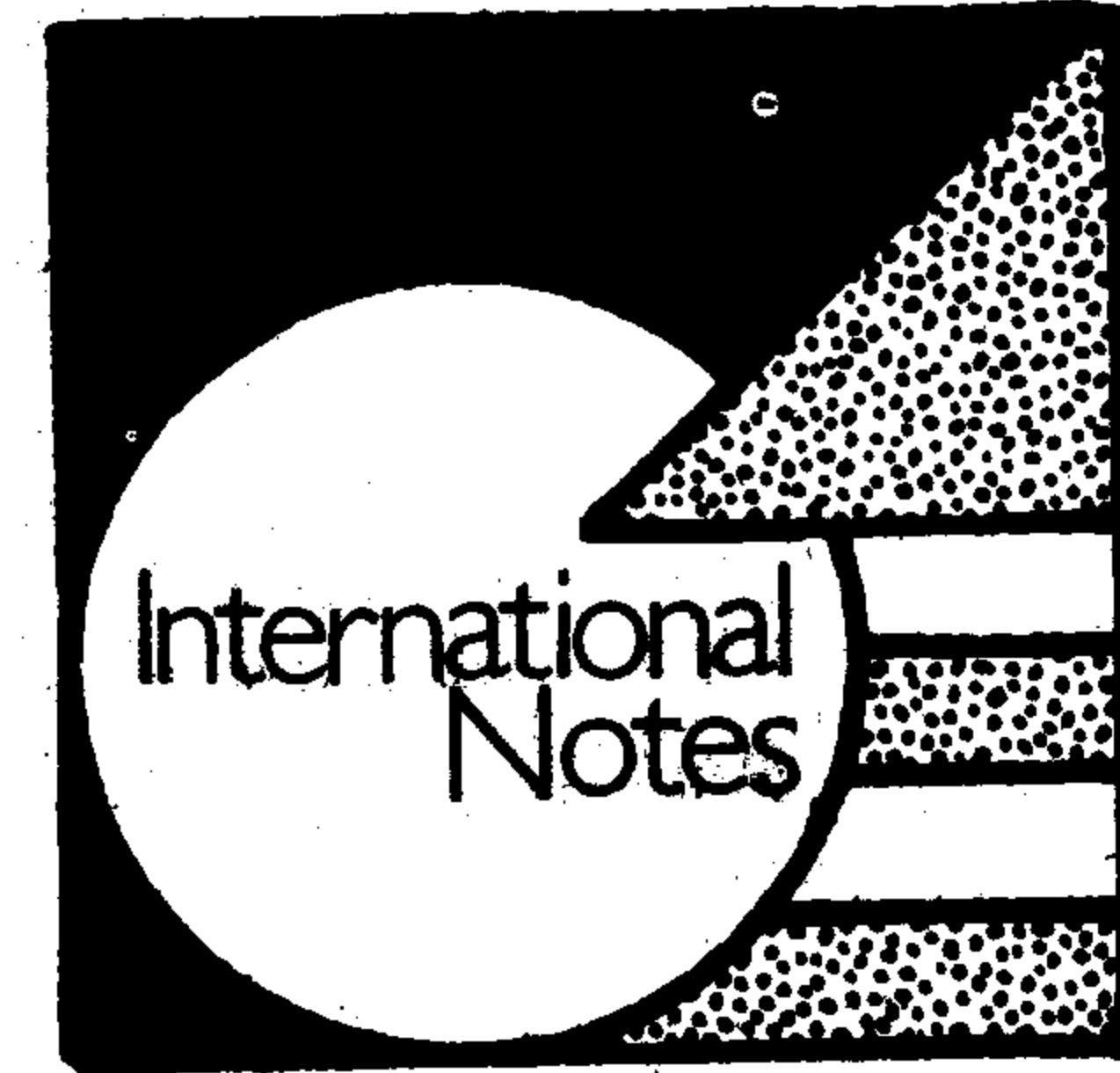
The alliance the working class must



Spanish police chase demonstrators

forge is not with the bourgeois catholic democrats, but with the peasants and the people of Spain's oppressed nationalities, the Basques and Catalans. In this context, talk of the working class defending the "national interest", such as the CP uses, is nothing short of criminal. The working class must put itself at the head of those struggling for democratic rights and for national self

determination. It must relate to the exploited and downtrodden rural poor. But it cannot limit in advance its struggle to a democratic republic. Even to achieve limited reforms it will have to launch an offensive on the state machine and the fascist bands. To gain a secure victory, this offensive will have to end with the seizure of political power by the working class.



AN International call for support has been made by John Gaetswe, Secretary General of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU). He is calling for protests against the detention by the South African security forces of several prominent African trade union leaders.

This appeal follows a recent wave of detentions in the Natal area. Many of those arrested were African trade union militants, such as Harry Gwala and Bekisaka Nxasane. Harry Gwala is a former secretary of the South African Railways and Harbour Workers Union, and has previously been imprisoned by the South African regime.

Industrial militancy in the Natal area has been increasing, and the government has shown no compunction in using violence to suppress the workers. For instance, in September 158 bakery workers were arrested while striking for more pay in Cape Town and at Rustenburg in the Transvaal. In October, 800 police were drafted into Newcastle, Natal, to break a two-week mass boycott of bus services operated by the Bantu Investment Corporation. The protest was against massive increases in fares. Police set up roadblocks, and harassed anyone trying to use other forms of transport.

Large police swoops also took place in December to break continuing militancy; it is still not known precisely how many workers have been arrested.

Workers in Britain must show that although British capital is closely linked to South Africa, they are not. Already Hugh Scanlon, Ken Gill and David Bowman of the NUR have issued statements of support. We must see that any calls for concrete support are acted on.



The first major test for the new Conservative government in Australia has come about over cost of living indexing of wages. Australian wage agreements are linked to the cost of living, and the new Fraser administration promised to retain these. Last Friday Fraser backed out of this commitment. The cause has been the sudden increase in the rate of inflation. In the last quarter of 1975 prices shot up by 5.6%. Under the existing system workers are due for a 6.4% pay rise, but Fraser is arguing that part of the rise should not be given. A massive confrontation between the government and the unions is expected if the rises are reduced.



Middlesbrough Trades Council decided on Wednesday 28th January to do everything in its power to stop the massive supply of warship spare parts being delivered to Chile from the Royal Navy depot at nearby Eaglescliffe. The Ministry of Defence has confirmed the order, probably about 11,000 items for two British built Leander class frigates and two Oberon class submarines, despite the diplomatic rift between Britain and Chile over the torture of Dr Sheila Cassidy.

USA Ford block on right to picket sites

THE THREAT to the right to picket in Britain has centred on building workers. In America, restrictions on picketing building sites go back 25 years — and a Bill to relax the law has just been blocked by President Ford.

Since 1951 — when the US Supreme Court ruled picketing at a Denver site illegal — the US trade union movement has been fighting to win the same rights in construction as in the manufacturing industries.

With the prospect of Presidential consent at last in view, union leaders were ready to go to almost any lengths to get the Bill made law. As it stood, it would have restricted union rights in other areas — like imposing a compulsory cooling off period before strikes. Not only did construction union leaders accept this, but Robert Georgine, President of the AFL-CIO (US equivalent of the TUC) announced that all affiliated building unions had agreed to voluntarily reduce picketing that might halt construction.

The union bureaucrats were plainly happy to trade their members' wages and working conditions in exchange for formal union recognition and bargaining rights. Yet at the last moment Ford vetoed the Bill — against the advice of George Dunlop, his Secretary of Labour.

Nice guys

The fact is that many in the US ruling class see a chance to destroy the building unions: the US Chamber of Commerce, the non-union Associated Builders and Contractors, and the 'open-shop' pressure group, the National Right to Work Committee, all lobbied against the Bill. Crucially, the "nice-guy" building bosses who generally keep on good bargaining terms with the unions failed to back the Bill — to the Union bureaucrats' indignant dismay.

With more than half the industry non-unionised, and some unions accepting wage cuts, those who argued that the time had come to finish the unions once and for all finally won the day.

The bureaucrats replied to the

Ford veto with a theatrical "walkout" from the White House's Collective Bargaining Committee. Casualty on the Government side was Secretary of Labour Dunlop, his working relationship with the union leaderships in tatters. His successor's task will be to win back union leaders' collaboration with the Ford government's strategy for war on the unions in the workplace and peace with the bureaucrats around the negotiating table.

But things may not go so smoothly. This year some 800-plus union contracts will expire, covering nearly 5 million workers in many key industries. The unions are expected to demand substantial wage rises: many of the contracts were fixed under Nixon's pay controls, and inflation has been running high since then. Many workers will not be satisfied with settlements that only cover last year's inflation. There's a prospect of many prolonged strikes in 1976.

The affair has had its political repercussions. The AFL-CIO is going all-out to get rid of Ford after remaining 'neutral' in the last election (when the Democrats fielded the 'radical' McGovern). It



Union leaders Fitzimmons (left) and Georgine: theatrical 'walkout'

will be sending 500 delegates to the Democratic Convention to influence the choice of Presidential candidate.

The affair also highlights some of the weaknesses of the US working class movement. Despite a tradition of tremendous industrial militancy, the political horizons of most workers are limited to the two big parties — which are in every sense parties of the employers — and the prospect of influencing them through 'pressure politics' and top-level negotiations.

Countdown to conflict...

		EMPLOYERS	WORKERS COVERED	LAST CONTRACT PACKAGE
March 31	TEAMSTERS	National truckers and local cartage companies	450,000	21% increase over 33 months, plus 11¢ cost-of-living allowance
April 19, 20	RUBBER WORKERS	Goodyear, Firestone, Uniroyal, B. F. Goodrich	67,700	16.5% over three years, no cost-of-living allowance
May 1-31	BUILDING TRADES	General contractors	334,000	Average of 8.3% over past twelve months
June 27	ELECTRICAL WORKERS	General Electric	115,000	25% over three years plus 41¢ cost-of-living allowance
July 11	ELECTRICAL WORKERS	Westinghouse	59,000	25% over three years plus 41¢ cost-of-living allowance
September 14	UNITED AUTO WORKERS	General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, American Motors	715,000	9% over three years plus 98¢ cost-of-living allowance
September 30	UNITED AUTO WORKERS	International Harvester, Deere, Caterpillar	94,500	9% over three years plus \$1.05 cost-of-living allowance

GREEN LIGHT FOR MORE NEWHAMS ?

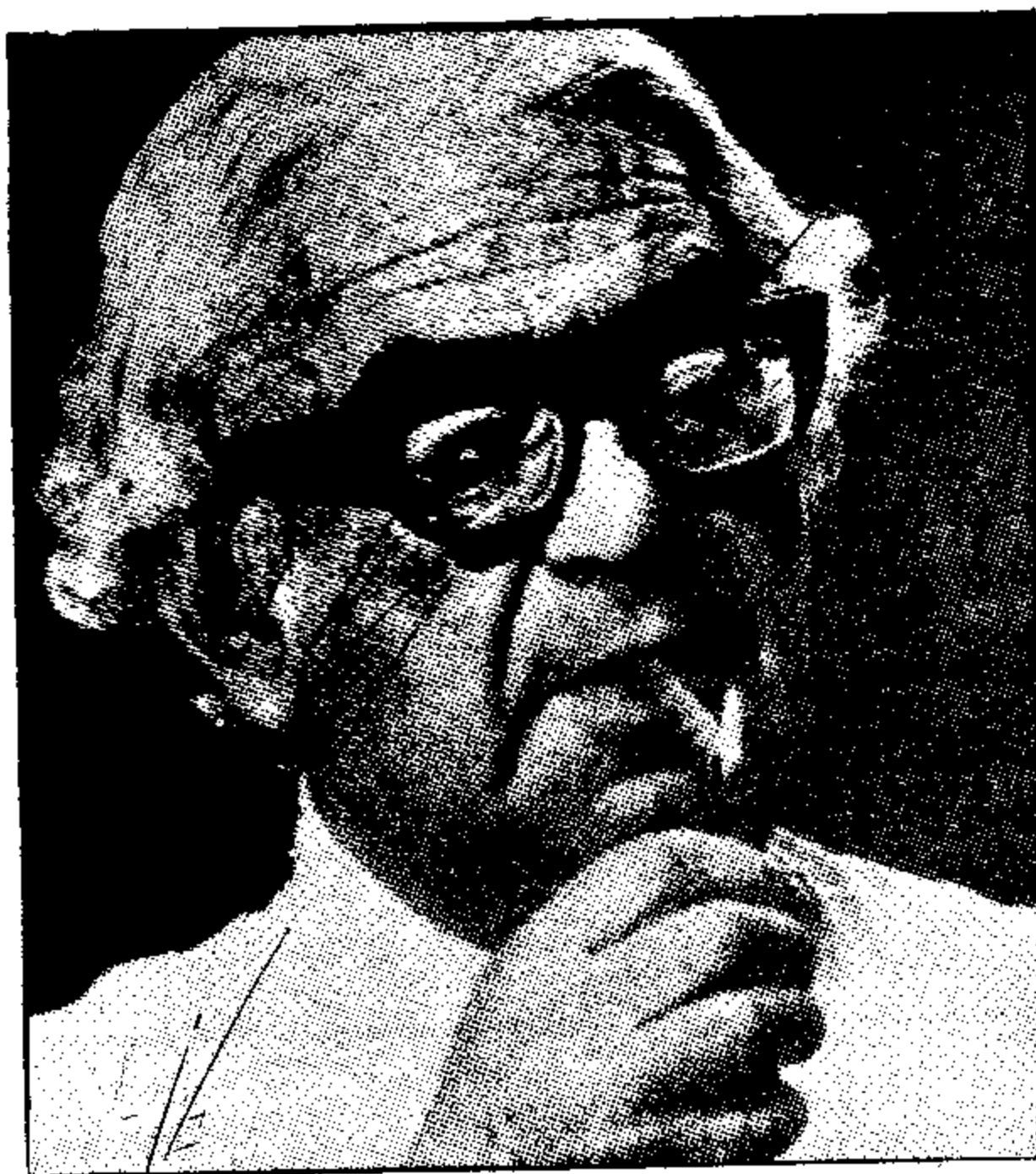
A Labour Party NEC vote on Wednesday 28th January may open the way to an important change in Labour Party rules.

The rule change would give each Constituency Labour Party the right to hold a re-selection conference for its MP between general elections.

On Monday 26th January, Ian Mikardo had put this proposal to the Organisation Sub-Committee of the NEC, and it was rejected on the second casting vote of the chairman. Wednesday's National Executive Committee, however, voted 12-10 not to approve the Organisational Sub-Committee's decision.

Mikardo's proposal now comes up again before the Organisational Sub-Committee. Which means it will have to go through the NEC again. But if it should eventually pass through the NEC, it will then go forward to the Labour Party Conference.

As things are now, constituencies wishing to get rid of their sitting MP have to go through a lengthy procedure and gain the approval of the NEC.



Ian Mikardo

At the 1974 Labour Party Conference, Rushcliffe CLP moved an amendment demanding automatic re-selection conferences between elections. Ian Mikardo, on behalf of the NEC, asked Conference to reject this amendment. It return, he promised that the NEC would not interfere on the merits of a case if a CLP wished to replace its MP; it would concern itself only with whether the rules were observed properly.

Mikardo's promise came under a lot of pressure when Reg Prentice's fate in Newham North East rested with the NEC. And there are signs of more pressure to come, with agitation against Frank Tomney in Hammersmith North and against Michael O'Halloran in North Islington; and with John Robertson, one of the two Labour MPs involved in the nationalist "Scottish Labour Party", being asked by his constituency Party to resign.

The present trends are for a lot more such moves by CLPs, as more Party members become disillusioned with the Government's anti-working class policies, and sick at their MP toeing the line — or in other cases formulating and pushing the line.

Evidently Mikardo and the other Tribune MPs on the NEC wish to disengage themselves from the cross-fire. But whatever their motives, the proposal deserves support. If it goes through, it will be a significant help to the struggle to make MPs accountable to the labour movement on which they depend.

Participation Threat to shopfloor strength

Editorial

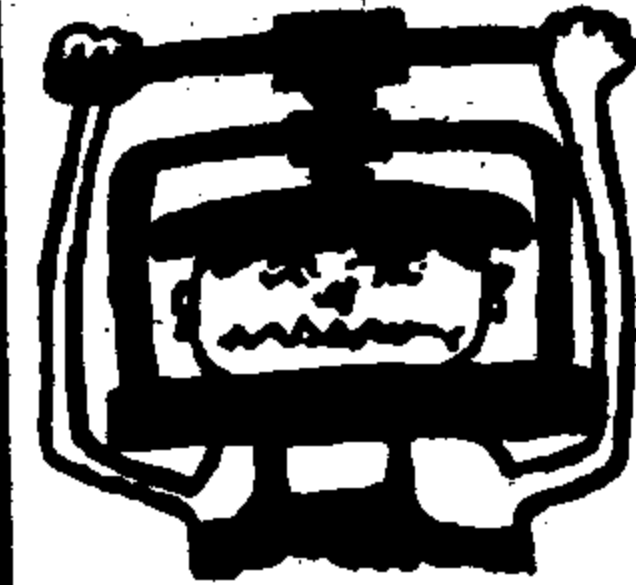
On the notice boards of British Leyland factories last week, yet another appeal appeared to work harder, push up production, and stop striking. Perfectly normal? Except that this time the appeal was signed by both Company and trade union representatives from Leyland's joint council.

This is one of the first fruits of the Ryder "participation" scheme for British Leyland — rotten from the start.

The question of participation is now being posed throughout industry. The motives of the Government and the bosses are quite clear. They aim to break the power of independent shop floor organisation.

This week alone, *Workers Action* reports on three major struggles — at Chrysler, at Rio Tinto Zinc and in the steel industry — where the government and employers are combining "wildcat" attacks on the workers, tearing up procedure, provoking strikes and so on, with "softening up" tactics like the use of the Arbitration and Conciliation Service and participation schemes.

What may not be achieved by a confrontation with the workers' organisations, might be achieved, so the government and the bosses think, by undermining those organisations, by by-passing them or co-opting them. They hope that by pulling workers' representatives off the shop floor, giving them offices and shiny nameplates, they can set them up to argue for the acceptance of the decisions that management have made.



Participation schemes in West Germany, imposed after world war 2 by the 'victors' on the broken but already reviving trade union movement, have had exactly this effect. Shop floor organisation has remained weak. The trade unions are bridled by their taking responsibility for the companies' balance sheets and production programme.

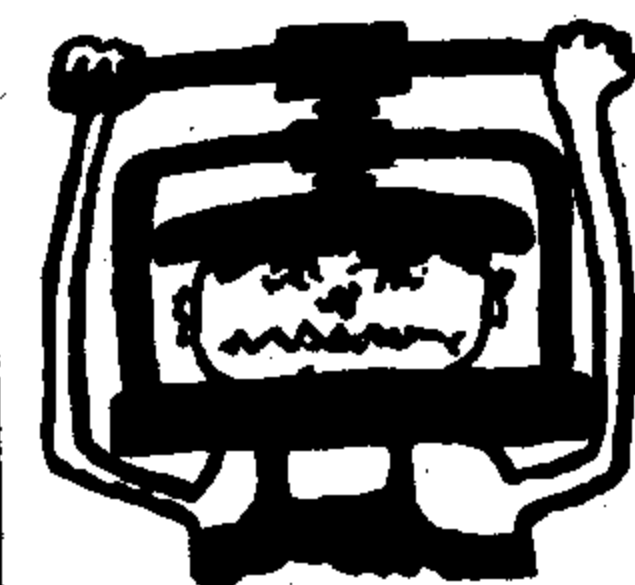
In the steel industry in Britain, where there have been "worker directors" since re-nationalisation, the shop floor organisations are unusually weak. In most plants, the shop stewards only ever get together when management call them together for "joint consultation", and the workers are kept as much in the dark about their future as anywhere else. This state of affairs is obviously the cherished dream of the Labour government and the employers.

It is instructive to remember that the government sees acceptance of its "participation" plans as a condition for supporting firms like Leyland and Chrysler. For the Government, "participation" is the guarantee of a quiet life of unimpeded exploitation.

Our attitude is one of total opposition to participation schemes. We stand for the absolute independence of the shop floor organisation from management, and their strengthening, the better to fight for workers' interests.

We share this position of opposition with many on the Left. But the argument does not stop there. Workers throughout the country have been voting to accept participation schemes. The important question is, what do militants and socialists do then? Should they put themselves forward for positions at any level in the participation process if the workers vote for it?

Those that argue in favour of standing in this situation argue as follows. They say that by standing militants can stop it working, or, at least, prevent it working too harshly against the shop floor. They say that to stand outside is to leave the right wing and careerists in charge. Others argue that 'workers' representatives', if good militants, can use consultation committees in order to watch management, in order to have a spy in their camp.



Now we are in favour of opening all meetings, accounts, and business of the employers and the state to delegated workers' representatives, who should be fully accountable to mass meetings. We see this as important to inform and strengthen shop floor organisation. But does participation serve this purpose? We say it does not. Government plans for the nationalised aircraft industry make this clear. Labour's Lord Beswick made it plain that participation would be the last thing to be discussed in the plans. "The degree of worker representation on the Board, if any, could be one of the last elements of the structure to be decided". The employers and the Government have already got their cages, the 'workers' representatives' are invited to take a seat or two in them.



Just before Christmas Liam Cosgrave, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, put the most appropriate seal on the sick joke of International Women's Year. He announced that the Equal Pay Bill, due to come into force on January 1st, would be amended. Private firms would now be able to 'delay' implementation if they could claim it would "cause unemployment".

In the public sector, he announced, the granting of Equal Pay (at a cost of £12m) was "too great", and would not be granted at all.

How could this decision be thrown out in such a cavalier fashion?

Only a week before, Cosgrave had declared that there would be a total wage freeze throughout 1976. Irish workers have for some years already been the victims of the increasing centralisation of wage bargaining. They have suffered a series of National Wage Agreements that have effectively driven living standards down. If the Fine Gael (Tory) and Labour coalition can make the wage freeze stick, many workers will not have had a wage rise from last March until 1977.

With threats of higher unemployment (the level already stands at 10% with 116,000 out of work) if they don't play the Government's game, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) is knuckling under. Why then should Cosgrave fear any opposition to his de-gutting of the Equal Pay Act — especially when it is done in the name of 'combating unemployment'!

Irish women have always had a higher mountain to climb than their British sisters. The more stifling the bonds of home and motherhood, the worse, in any country, a woman can expect to suffer at work.

In Ireland, it's been harder for women to be organised at work. In the nineteenth century, there could be no movement into factories for women when the cottage industries were destroyed. Apart from the north east, the 1801 Act of Union ensured that there would be precious few factories to compete with British industry. Women worked in farming and, increasingly, in domestic service. By 1911 one in three employed women was a servant.

Trade union organisation remained very difficult through the 1920s and '30s. As late as 1960, there were only 60,000 women trade unionists. (Allied to this, women's involvement in trade union life is still abysmally low. Only two and a half per cent of full time officials are women; at the last conference of the ICTU, there were only 47 women delegates out of 525.)

Church control

The economic policies of the 1960s, however, opened the door to foreign capital, with large numbers of women recruited into manufacturing industry — but mostly confined to the low-paid unskilled and semi-skilled jobs. In 1971, women's average hourly pay in manufacturing was, as a percentage of men's, only 56% (a decrease since 1964, in fact), compared with 59 in Britain, 77% in France, and 82% in Sweden.

But even in manufacturing industry, it isn't easy to organise. In Ireland there is a category of sweatshops, the Joint Labour Committee Industries, that pay such appalling wages that minimum pay rates have to be set by law. 70% of workers in the JLCs are women. Yet out of 115 worker representatives on the Committees that decide the pay rates, only 2 are women.

But the biggest obstacle that Irish women face in achieving basic human rights, never mind equality, are the prevailing social attitudes. And within Irish society the greatest, and most reactionary influence, is the Roman

How Church and Bosses shackle Irish women

by James Tandy

Catholic Church. And few other states are so tied to the Church as the Irish state. Thus if the Church condemns abortion and contraception, the Irish state outlaws them. The views of the Church thus run right through the legal system; and the Church has almost complete control over education.

The 1937 Constitution lays down that "the State recognises that by her life within the home, woman gives to the State a support without which the common good cannot be achieved... The State shall, therefore, endeavour to ensure that mothers shall not be obliged by economic necessity to engage in labour to the neglect of their duties in the home."

Many Irish girls are still taught in Church-run single sex schools. Church influence is hardly less total in the new comprehensives; it is officially encouraged, and also the vast majority of the teachers are products of a traditional education.

This is based on Pope Pius XI's encyclical *Christian education of Youth*. This states "They (boys and girls) are unlike in physical organism, in inclination and disposition... Those differences should be maintained in their education and training."

If girls are to pass into higher paid jobs, their academic and mental preparation must begin at school. In Irish schools, even more than in British ones, they are directed into the more 'natural' areas suitable for a wife and mother.

'Natural' sphere

The fierceness with which the Church guards against any infringement into the 'natural' sphere of motherhood is well illustrated by its opposition to an attempted minor reform proposed in 1950 by the then Health Minister Dr. Noel Browne. The measure, known as the Mother and Child Act, would have given free medical services to women just before and after the birth of a child. The Bishops pulled out all the stops against

"A carnival of reaction both North and South". James Connolly's bitter prediction of the results of Britain's partition of Ireland has been amply confirmed. While sustaining Orange sectarianism in the Six Counties, partition has also helped consolidate the power of the Catholic Church in the 26 Counties.

it: motherhood must not be interfered with in this fashion, and in any case, free medicine was 'against the Church's social doctrine'. With a 'belt from the crozier' they forced Browne from office, and the reform was dropped.

At home bearing children and rearing them is where women are supposed to be. So successful has been the Church/State alliance in directing women into the home that only 25% of the employed population is female. Of these, a staggering 78% are single, and this figure does not even include widows.

Less than 40,000 married women escape the home to work. Is the restriction on them just ideological?

The outlawing of abortion and contraception keep many women pregnant or busy with small children into their forties. But on top of this impediment, government policy is stacked against working women.

'Avoid publicity'

The Industrial Development Authority, for example, has this to say: "The IDA is particularly interested in attracting industries with high male employment, with advanced technology." And they had their way: 76% of new job projections for 1972-73 were for men.

AnCO, the Industrial Training Authority, is also explicit is not wishing to train women, or to re-train them for higher paid jobs, though it felt that "...undue publicity should be avoided."

In reacting to an economic crisis by 'lobbering women' Cosgrave is only following the lead of other Irish governments. But he has met opposition this time. A campaign has been launched against the deferment of Equal Pay. A Promotion for Equal Pay Ad Hoc Committee is gathering signatures on a petition, Irish Women United have begun less respectable agitation, such as the occupation of the offices of the Federated Union of Employers. Even the Government-sponsored Council for the Status of Women has complained.

The ICTU is also opposing the deferment, pointing out that the Government is obliged under an EEC directive to enact Equal Pay.

Oppressive piety

Cosgrave has been forced to take half a step back, announcing that there will be no explicit sex inequality in the public sector — but there will now instead be discrimination between married and unmarried people. Bearing in mind that 78% of Irish women workers are not married, it's not surprising that this is estimated to cost only a sixth of Equal Pay for all.

This clumsy manoeuvre has failed to satisfy the ICTU's objections, and of course threatens to draw single men into the battle.

Even a resounding victory on this will only affect a small minority of Irish women. But what is at stake, nevertheless, is this: can Irish women begin in earnest to destroy the edifice of discrimination and piety that so oppresses them?

FRAMED



"...all land in our country should be made available to those willing and dedicated to work it, and the results of our joint labour should be shared among us according to our needs and the needs of our country as a whole. Further, all of us who are workers should seek to organise ourselves in a manner best suitable to us all so as to plan, govern and control our own destiny."

Desmond Trotter statement from the Dock

FRAMED



Freed after 8 years!

AFTER 8 years in a US prison on a trumped-up drugs charge, MARTIN SOSTRE has been released.

A black Puerto Rican nationalist, Sostre had been characterised as a political prisoner by Amnesty International.

Sostre opened the Afro-Asian Bookstore in Buffalo, New York, in 1965. It soon became a centre for black activists, and a target for police harassment. In July 1967, following a black ghetto rebellion in Buffalo, Sostre was charged with arson and incitement to riot, but later the charges were dropped. But the following year the police were to be more successful.

In 1968 Sostre was arrested again, and charged with selling \$15 worth of heroin. An all-white jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to a mammoth term of '30-41 years'.

All the key witnesses against him later retracted their statements, and the leading police officer in the case was later dismissed in connection with the disappearance of \$10,000 worth of heroin. Despite all this, Sostre was denied a re-trial.

Whilst in prison Sostre fought for prisoners' rights, including the right to receive revolutionary literature and to exercise the Moslem religion without interference.

Sostre's release was the culmination of a campaign for his freedom which included appeals on his behalf by Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, and US anti-war and black leaders. Although his release is an important victory, Sostre has not yet received his full freedom. He will still be subject to parole restrictions.

STOIC HARDY DESTROYED

IN A JAIL in the British colony of Dominica a young black revolutionary, Desmond Trotter, has been awaiting death by hanging for over a year. Trotter's plight and that of the people of Dominica provides a brutal reminder of the harsh realities of British colonial domination.

Dominica is a small island of about 90,000 people in the eastern Caribbean. It has the official status of an Associate State of Great Britain — which makes it a sort of up-graded colony.

The mainly agricultural economy is entirely dominated by British firms whose local support lies with the big landowners and the ruling Dominica Labour Party. The firms of Van Gees (bananas) and Cadbury-Schweppes (citrus fruits, mainly limes) control almost all the agriculture on the island. The land is almost completely

Hurricane Carter

Pistol shots ring out in the bar. Enter Patty Valentine from the U.S. She sees a bartender in a pool of blood. Cries out My god they've killed!

Here comes the story of Hurricane Carter. The man the authorities came to fear for something that he'd never done. Put in a prison cell but one day he could've been the chair.

When a cop pulled him over to the street. Just like the time before and the time in Patterson that's the way things go. If you're black you might as well be a dog.

Up on the street. Less you want to draw the heat. Ruben could take a man out with a knife. But he never did like to talk about it. It's my work he'd say. I do it for pay. And when it's over I'd just as soon be dead.

To the white folk who watched him. And to the black folks he was just a man. No one doubted that he pulled the trigger. And though they could not produce the DA said he was the one who did the deed. And the all-white jury agreed.

How could the life of such a man be in the palm of some fool's hand? To see him obviously framed. Couldn't help but make me feel. To live in a land where Justice is a game.

Threat of new

Hurricane Carter, the subject of a new song by Bob Dylan, faces a serious danger of being framed a second time. Carter and his co-defendant, John Artis, were originally convicted in 1966 for the murder of three white men in a New Jersey bar. At the time of the killings, Carter was a leading contender for the world middleweight boxing championship, an outspoken advocate of black rights. The innocence of the two men

THE ING OF MOND TROTTER

by Neal Smith

divided up between the big landowners. Only 175 people own 60% of the land — the rest is divided up among 7,000. The poor peasants are crowded onto the worst land on the hillsides, whilst the rich land on the plateaux and the coast belongs to the large estates.

Unemployment runs at a regular 20%, and the majority of homes have no running water or sewage. The hardest hit are the young school leavers and the landless agricultural workers, who exist on a near-starvation diet. By contrast, the top of society with its strong connections with British capital is extremely wealthy and corrupt, with patronage and bribery being accepted as commonplace.

Over the last few years the Dominican masses have begun to fight back against this oppression. Desmond Trotter is one of the leaders of this movement, and for that reason is now facing execution. He first became active in the local Black Power movement, and later became a leader of the radical anti-colonial Movement for a New Dominica (MND), and editor of its paper Twavay.

The MND came into existence out of various Black Power groups during 1972. Trotter and his comrades began to organise among the unemployed youth of the towns and with the rural plantation workers. They focussed their work around the issue of the land, and took up the popular demand for the breaking up of the large estates

and their distribution to the masses.

In July 1972 the labourers at Castle Bruce, a plantation owned by a British based firm, took matters into their own hands by striking and occupying the estate. The MND organised support for the occupation.

They were met with immediate and vicious government repression. An MND demonstration was violently broken up by the police, and the harassment and arrests of supporters of the MND were stepped up.

Locks

The savagery of the repression drove many of the unemployed youth from the towns into the countryside. There they established themselves on small patches of land, which they farmed communally, and began to build up links with the local peasantry.

As a symbol of their rebellion against white domination, many of them grew their hair into locks — a style associated with the Rastafarians. (Rastafarianism is a religious and cultural movement of the black urban poor of the West Indies, which sees the salvation of black people as lying in Africa. Although they look to Ethiopia as the example of African history to emulate, the basic drive of the movement is usually anti-capitalist, since capitalism is identified with white, Western oppression.)

These first developments of a link between the radical youth and the rural workers were strengthened by the Grand Bay rising of March 1974. The workers on the Geneva Plantation owned by Syrian millionaire Adrian Nassief drove the managers off the estate, took it over, slaughtered the livestock and divided the meat among the people of Grand Bay. They then barricaded themselves in against police attacks.

Carnival

Again the MND was involved in organising support, while Grand Bay was placed under an official state of emergency and saturated with police. Property-owning volunteers were recruited with a licence to kill.

At the same time, the government cast around for ways of discrediting the MND and splitting it away from the agricultural workers.

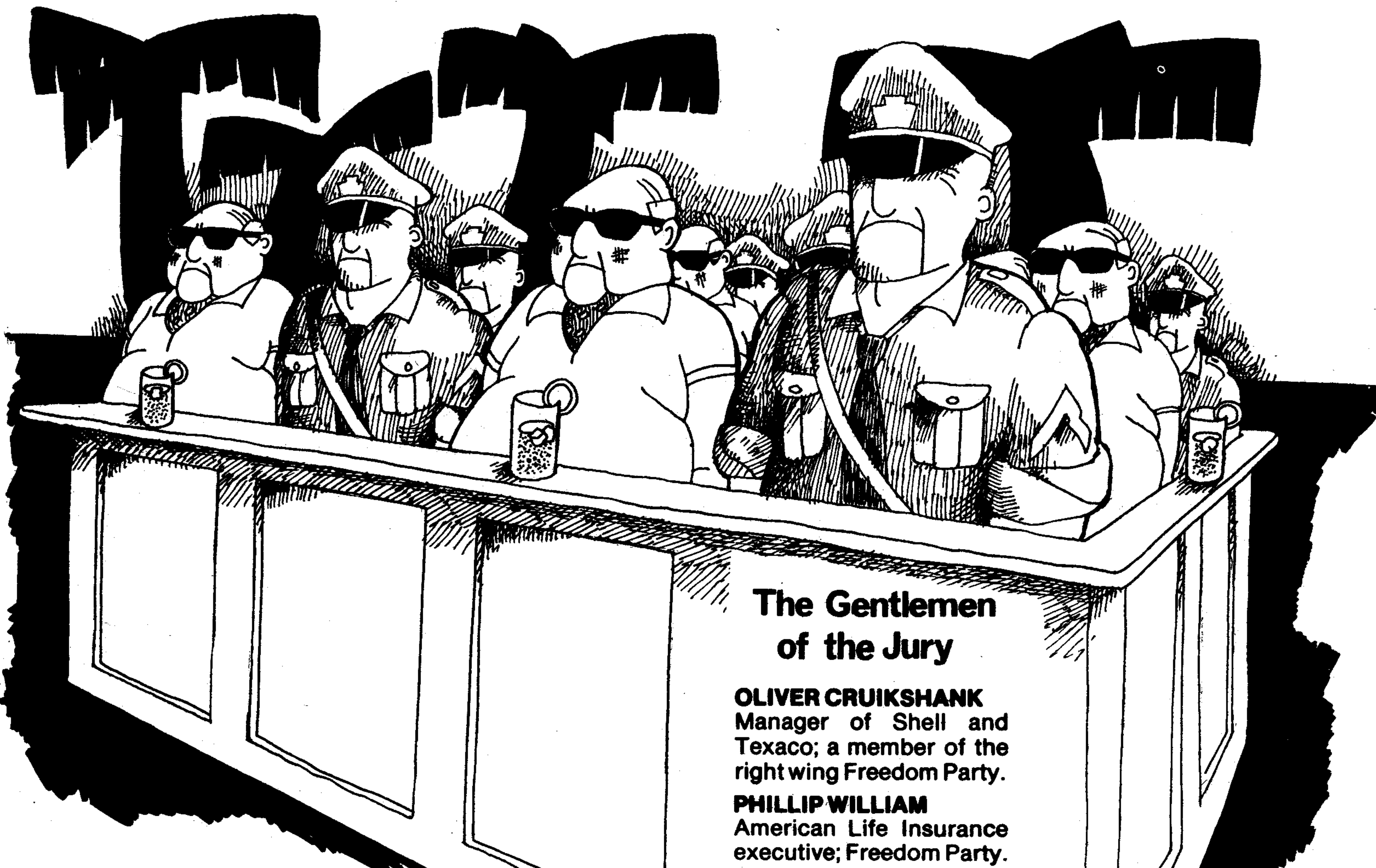
Two weeks before the events at Grand Bay, a white American tourist, John Jirasek, died during the Carnival at Roseau, the capital of Dominica. He in fact collapsed and was taken to hospital, where he subsequently died. Although he had received no treatment for 10 hours after his admission, it was claimed by the government that the MND were responsible for his death.

Immediately after the incident, deputy premier Patrick John (now premier) announced on the radio that 'black power' was responsible.

An unofficial state of emergency was put into operation in Roseau. Twavay reported: "Every evening one can see many policemen travelling in groups with very long and thick clubs, tape recorders and other equipment, harassing people." The area where Desmond Trotter lived was virtually under a state of siege.

On May 6th Trotter and Roy Mason, another member of the MND, were charged with the murder of Jirasek.

Their trial was a complete mockery. The medical evidence produced in



The Gentlemen of the Jury

OLIVER CRUIKSHANK
Manager of Shell and Texaco; a member of the right wing Freedom Party.

PHILLIP WILLIAM
American Life Insurance executive; Freedom Party.

FELICENT WHITE
Manager, Dominican Bottles Limited

PAT ROLLE
Landowner

FORBES CHARLES
Caribbean Development Corporation

HENRY SCOTLAND
Landowner

EUSTACE FRANCIS
Secret Police

RUPERT SAMUEL
Ex-police officer

EVERARD CHARLES
Freedom Party

LAMBERT WILLIAMS
Labour Party

statement to him that she had been bribed by the Dominican police.

All this was revealed in court. A whole string of witnesses, including a doctor and a policewoman who worked with Trotter at the Licensing Office, testified that at the time of the 'murder' he was ill in bed with a severe attack of asthma and bronchitis. But despite all this, and the lack of any prosecution evidence, Trotter was found guilty and sentenced to death. Mason was acquitted.

Given the obviously political nature of the trial such a verdict was no surprise. In Dominica the based class nature of 'justice' appears very openly. Only property owners are allowed to sit on the jury, and a glance at the Trotter jury shows what little chance he had at the hands of such a reactionary and hostile group.

As news of the sentence spread, demonstrations occurred in support of Trotter. The reaction of the government was to step up the repression and to declare 'open season' on anyone who might be connected with the MND. On November 19th of that year ('74) they enacted the Prohibited and Unlawful Societies and Associations Act. This outlawed the wearing of hair in locks and placed a mandatory sentence of at least nine months on the offence!

The Act also proclaimed that anyone killing a member of a proscribed group would not be liable to prosecution!

Ceaseless

Under the impact of this savage legislation the radical urban youth have again retreated into the hills, where they are now waging a fierce guerilla war against the police. Despite the ban, the MND have organised protest meetings, getting along as many as 5,000 people (more than one in 20 of the whole population) in the face of police repression.

Desmond Trotter and his comrades have not been cowed. From the dock he spoke of their "determined and ceaseless fight to seek out and eliminate all forms of oppression, exploitation and corruption inherent in our society, which is the root cause of all our sufferings and tribulations." That 'determined and ceaseless effort' still goes on, despite all attempts to stop it.

HELP THE CAMPAIGN TO FREE TROTTER!

AN international campaign to free Desmond Trotter has been fighting for him since his trial. In this country a central campaign is run from London, with local branches in Birmingham, Manchester and Nottingham. They are calling for support from trade unionists, and have already received backing from the NEC of ASTMS, which last April resolved to call for the release of Trotter and promised to raise the matter directly with the Minister responsible — Joan Lester, Commonwealth Secretary.

WORKERS ACTION urges all our readers and supporters to join in this campaign of pickets, protests and messages. Get a resolution like the ASTMS one through your trade union branch. Send off a letter of protest to Joan

Lester, and a letter of support to Desmond in prison. Watch out for activities in your local area.

In winning support for the campaign, a useful weapon in exposing the charade of the trial is a new pamphlet published by Liberation, which is a detailed account of the trial.

WRITE TO:

The Free Desmond Trotter Campaign, 37 Tollington Park London N.4

Liberation, 313-315 Caledonian Road, London N.1 for a copy of "The Queen v. Desmond Trotter", price 10p.

Desmond Trotter, HM Prison, Stock Farm, Roseau, Dominica.

Joan Lester, House of Commons, London SW1



Now all the criminals in their coats and their ties
Are free to drink their Martinis and watch the sun rise
While Ruben sits like Buddha in a 10 foot cell
An innocent man in a living hell.

YES that's the story of Hurricane
But it won't be over till they clear his name
And give him back the time he's done.
Put in a prison cell But one
Time he could've been champion of the world.

BOB DYLAN

frame-up....

was established over a year ago when both of the prosecution's star witnesses retracted their testimony, admitted that they lied because the police offered them deals. Recently a tape recording has been produced of police making the offer to the two 'witnesses' — an offer of reduced sentences and a 'reward'. This tape was suppressed by the prosecution at the time of the trial.

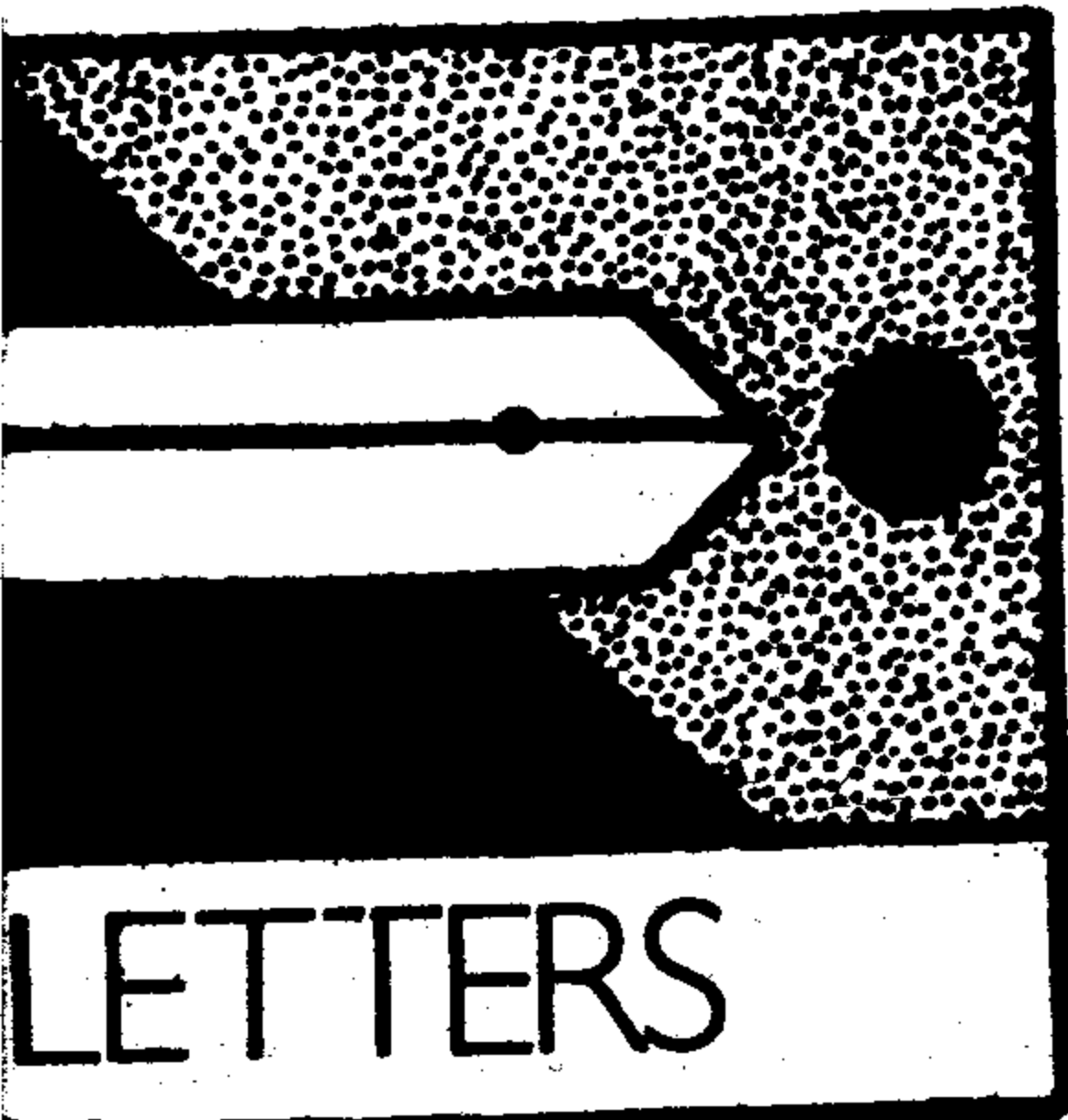
Since the news of this got out, there has been a campaign to get

Carter and Artis released. Even the New York Times has called for the release of the two men pending a re-trial.

The response of the New Jersey Governor, Brendan Byrne, has been to try to fit up Carter and Artis with charges of being 'accomplices' to the murders. Byrne was the local prosecutor at the time of the original trial, and helped to arrange a lighter sentence for one of the prosecution 'witnesses'.

VIII The state copy the quatters?

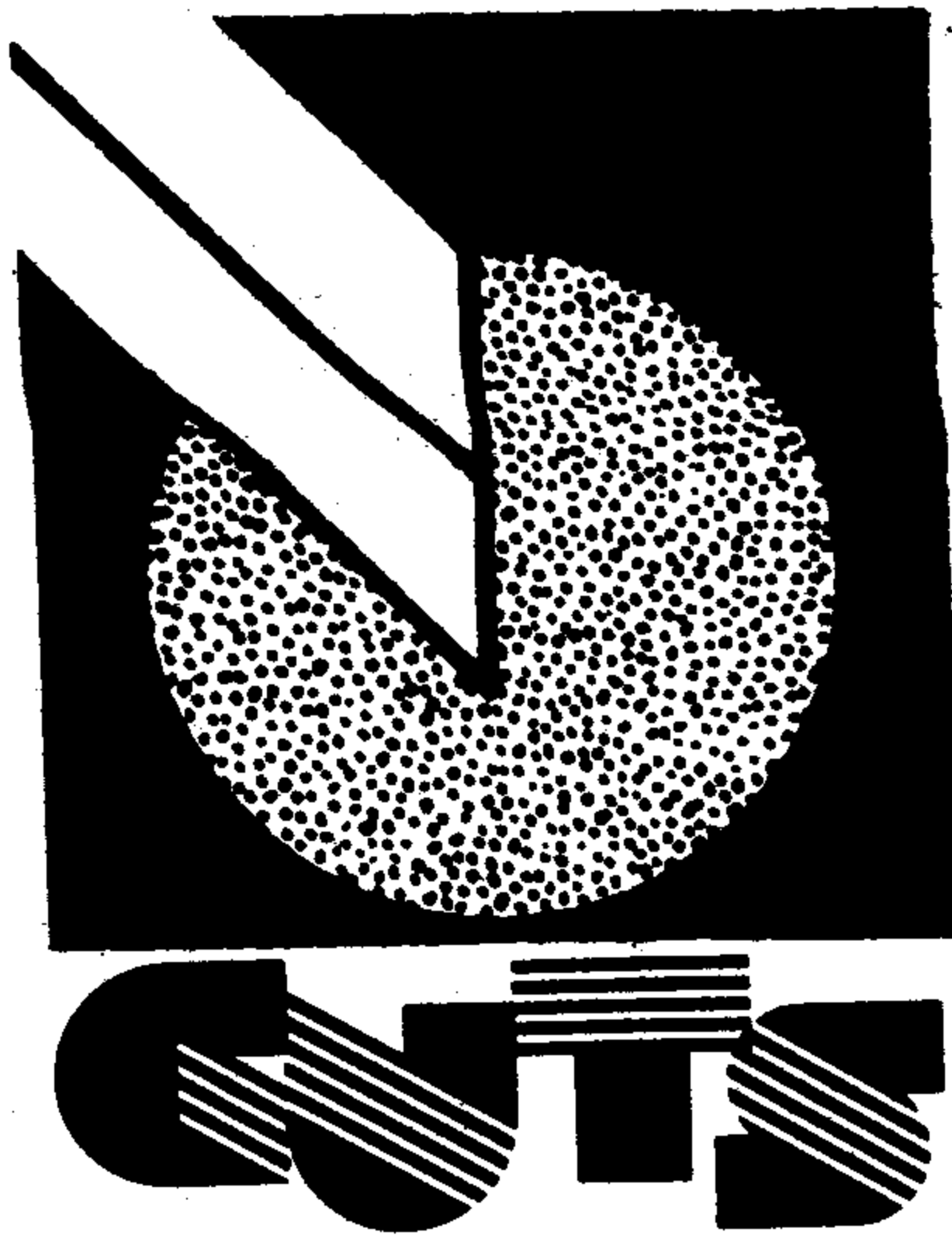
A new Bill introduced into Parliament by Salford MP Frank Allaun urges the Government to follow the example of the squatters' movement. The Requisitioning of Empty Properties Bill would give local councils the right to requisition for letting houses or flats left empty for more than 6 months without good reason. Over 800,000 houses and flats are empty — many of them have been unoccupied for years. In his speech Frank Allaun declared: "This is a national scandal at a time when the housing situation is so desperate... People must come before property". This is just the sort of argument the squatters have been using for years. Still, many people will not thank Allaun for introducing this Bill. Amongst those people must be Harold Croxall, Dennis Healey, and Anthony Crosland — they all own second homes which were often empty for more than six months in the year!



Chinese revolution

I WAS CONFUSED by the letter from Ben Matgamna in *Workers Action* No. 3. He states that the term "mainly-peasant revolution", though usable as a descriptive phrase, is "theoretical nonsense" as a theoretical explanation of the Chinese revolution. Yet he does not state how he, or the I-CL, would in fact characterise the Chinese revolution. Can this be clarified?
ALAN GILBERT, London N16.

The editors reply: Our apologies. We sometimes have to cut letters and articles for lack of space. Unfortunately in this case the cut seems to have obscured the sense of the letter. The full text of the passage in question ran as follows: "However, in cold print, in isolation, the bald empirical description must appear as more than it was in the speech, and be taken as a theoretical explanation of these revolutions. If used as such, the phrase quoted is a piece of theoretical nonsense. The I-CL, as such, believes China to be a deformed workers' state. The state-capitalist minority of the I-CL would agree with the deformed-workers-statist majority in considering the bald empirical description — "peasant revolution" — as theoretically illiterate. The I-CL believes China to be a deformed workers' state."



Hospital closures 'Robbing Peter to pay Paul'

IN LINE with the Labour Government's policy of closing small hospitals, Acton Cottage Hospital in West London is facing possible extinction. In the fight to keep the hospital, a meeting was convened at the hospital on January 28th by West London Hospital Worker, a group of trade union activists mainly from nearby Hammersmith Hospital.

Steve Ludlam, a NUPE porter, told the meeting about his experiences in fighting the closure of Poplar Hospital in East London. The unit was run down over several years by management's refusal to find permanent staff, and the closure of the casualty department. When the closure plans were finally announced, management was able to

say that "medical standards were unacceptable!"

The East London Action Committee had had some success in obstructing closures; for example, in keeping open one geriatric hospital. Generally though, they had not been able to mobilise sufficient pressure. The most effective action had been a sympathetic stoppage by 20 porters at St. Andrews Hospital who were convinced that the closure of a neighbouring hospital was a blow against them as well.

The health district which contains Acton Hospital can expect possibly the worst cuts in the country. The DHSS has set up a "Resource Allocation Working Party" to reduce differences in facilities between

different parts of the country. But rather than bringing poor areas up to the standard of better ones, the first report concludes that this should be done by robbing Peter to pay Paul: "...redistribution in favour of the most needy regions could only be achieved by imposing cuts on the least needy regions.."

So, despite the chronic understaffing and the old buildings of hospitals in London boroughs like Brent and Ealing, the funds they have for wages and materials may be cut by up to 10%. The final recommendation of the Resource Allocation Working Party to Barbara Castle was "A change of this order is dependent absolutely on ... substantial closures of uneconomic units, reductions in excess beds, changes of use etc."

One of the obstacles to effective opposition to closures is the gradual way they are sometimes done: delays in redecorating wards or in replacing senior doctors may be signs of closures to come, and should be contested early.

Another problem is that middle management often accept the principle of saving money, then present changes as improvements rather than what they really are — cuts. At the Acton meeting Dr. McCarthy, the Community Physician, spoke about the shortage of geriatric and psychiatric facilities in the area, and how good it would be if Acton were changed from a general to a psychiatric hospital. It took Dr. Dominic Costa, of the National Coordinating Committee Against the Cuts, to point out that psychiatric beds cost only half as much per patient as surgical beds, and that money-saving was really behind the proposal.

In the present period of cuts, any change is likely to be a disguised cut. However much we'd like to see drastic changes, hospital workers should guard against cuts disguised as changes, and intransigently oppose any cut.

The supporters of West London Hospital Worker have made a good start in this direction. Unfortunately many of the staff and former patients of Acton Hospital seemed to put more energy into "keeping politics out of it" than on organising effective opposition. However, a committee was formed, which will start by circulating a petition. The alarm has been sounded.

ED CONDUIT
ASTMS

70 people came to a picket of Crumpsall Hospital, north Manchester, last Monday (26th January), which was joined by staff in a token walk-out during visiting time. The picket was to demand the immediate reinstatement of eight cadet nurses who had been sacked at the end of two years' training on the pretext of not having reached required standards. In fact, the 'required standards' had been raised after they had started their courses, and they were not offered the facilities to get the extra O levels now needed. The nurses, backed by the Manchester Fight the Cuts Committee (which organised the picket) are convinced that the sacking was motivated by the hospital management's attempt to cut staff to save money.

The successful picket (despite pouring rain) was organised without any help from the nurses' union COHSE. In fact, COHSE Regional Secretary Eddie Lawson did nothing but pour scorn on this militant action as "politically motivated", and he backed the management's story that "they are not victims of health service cuts". And he went on to threaten that actions like that "outside the normal channels" "could jeopardise the position of people whose jobs are at risk". How, or why, he didn't say. Perhaps he had his own job in mind...
JACK SUTTON
NUPE

Localism could dog anti-cuts campaign

TOWER HAMLETS' unemployment figures now stand at over 12%. In the ten years from 1960 to 1971, Tower Hamlets lost over 30,000 jobs, one fifth of all its jobs. And the rate of job loss has increased, with manufacturing industry leaving this area in East London at the rate of 6.5% per year, compared with 3.6% a decade ago. If this continues, the main economic base will have disappeared from the area in ten years' time.

Besides this there have been massive cut backs in housing, education, transport, and public sector expenditure. Despite protests, the Poplar Hospital has been closed. One ESN school, Rochelle, and the only teacher training college taking local people currently face closure. The most numerous age group is now the middle-aged and old, with the young and newly married moving away in search of jobs and housing. As businesses close and lack of public money leaves great areas of half derelict housing and property, the demoralisation of an urban slum sets in.

Increasingly the docks have been cut back and closed, with the Port of London Authority playing the estate agent game until the property market became unviable. That's all history now since the St Katherine's dock now houses a luxury hotel, marina, and luxury flats for the rich

On Thursday 29th January, after the announcement of the threatened closure of the Millwall and East India docks, an Action Committee was set up at a meeting of trade unionists and local community groups, to save Tower Hamlets last docks.

Reports from various docks shop stewards confirmed the ease with which the Port of London Authority has announced the two docks closures for the end of this year. Maurice Foley (TGWU) drew attention to the closure of the Surrey & Commercial Docks, with the loss of 14,000 jobs, and the increasing use in the Royal Docks of containerisation of goods for South Africa and New Zealand. Several other speakers called for an immediate injection of government money to prevent closures, and for a new scheme of overall development to provide more jobs.

Other reports from the tailoring trade show cutbacks. Building workers are the hardest hit in terms of unemployment, yet the Greater London Council is employing sub-contracted non-union labour on its six major sites in the borough.

The campaign starts on Wednesday 4th February, with a lobby of local MPs (Ian Mikardo and Peter Shore), at 3pm at Westminster. The lobby will be followed by a meeting with Crosland and Michael Foot. It is also planned to hold more public

meetings and a big march from Tower Hill to Parliament.

The meeting was a very representative and impressive gathering of the local trade union movement, with a big sprinkling of Labour Party, CP, and revolutionary activists. The negative side of it was its parochialism and "East End socialism" approach. Communist Party speakers, especially, plugged parochialism.

Only one speaker drew attention to the warning East End dockers and other workers needed to draw from the steel and motor industries. In those industries, divide and rule policies have got workers from different areas competing to prove the viability in capitalist terms of their area's industry rather than another's. The fight to save Millwall docks is not a matter only for the local dockers or the local community, who can be isolated and defeated, but for dockers throughout the country.

Communist Party dockers, and Bernie Steer, former secretary of the National Port Shop Stewards' Committee, didn't reply when asked what the NPSSC was doing, but the meeting did accept a proposal to appeal for support to dockers' TGWU branches throughout the country.

Susan Carlyle



Murray and Healey settle for 'political gimmickry'

From p 1

What Healey is offering is being openly called political gimmickry by Whitehall officials. He proposes to step up State handouts to the bosses, cajole them into keeping on a few workers with the temporary employment subsidy, and tell them to inform workers in advance of impending redundancies.

This package gives the go-ahead to the bosses to continue their redundancy programme, so central to boosting their profits. The raising of the temporary employment subsidy will have no significant effect. The previous package, which the government introduced in November, and which contained money for stepping up job training schemes as well as the £10 temporary employment subsidy, is officially claimed to have saved only 15,000 jobs. In addition, job place-

ments after completion of retraining courses actually fell from 92% to 80%.

The proposed mid-February package is, as last Friday's *Guardian* stated, no more than a "little sugar on the jobless pill". And the bosses, the Labour government, and the TUC leadership are all hoping that workers will swallow that unemployment and wage cutting pill.

The TUC's recommendations can do no more than tinker with the problem — even if the TUC makes any real fight to enforce those recommendations on the government, which it certainly not done. But last November's London march of 20,000 workers against unemployment showed that there is a will to fight amongst rank and file trade unionists. Len Murray attacked that march bitterly in a circular to Trades Councils, showing that the TUC intend to sabotage any real action against unemployment which might upset their negotiations with the Labour government.

In areas where whole industries are

threatened with closure, such attacks must be fought with a demand for work or full pay, backed up by militant tactics, including factory seizures. Workers are not responsible for the capitalist crisis which leads to such closures — we must not pay the price for them by having our living standards reduced to bare subsistence level.

CRAWLING

We should demand that the Labour government stops its present crawling before the bosses. Social expenditure cuts should be stopped and the £6 limit scrapped. Firms declaring large scale redundancies should be nationalised without compensation. Full maintenance should be assured for the unemployed. The working week should be reduced to 35 hours by law.

We cannot rely on our trade union leaders to conduct the fight against unemployment. The fight must begin from the rank and file. In factories where lay-offs, short time working, or

workforce "slimming" is being threatened, militants must insist on work sharing under trade union control and on full rates of pay. Only real workers' control based on the democracy of the shop floor and its representatives can make sure that not a worker goes out of the gates and not a penny is lost from the pay packet.

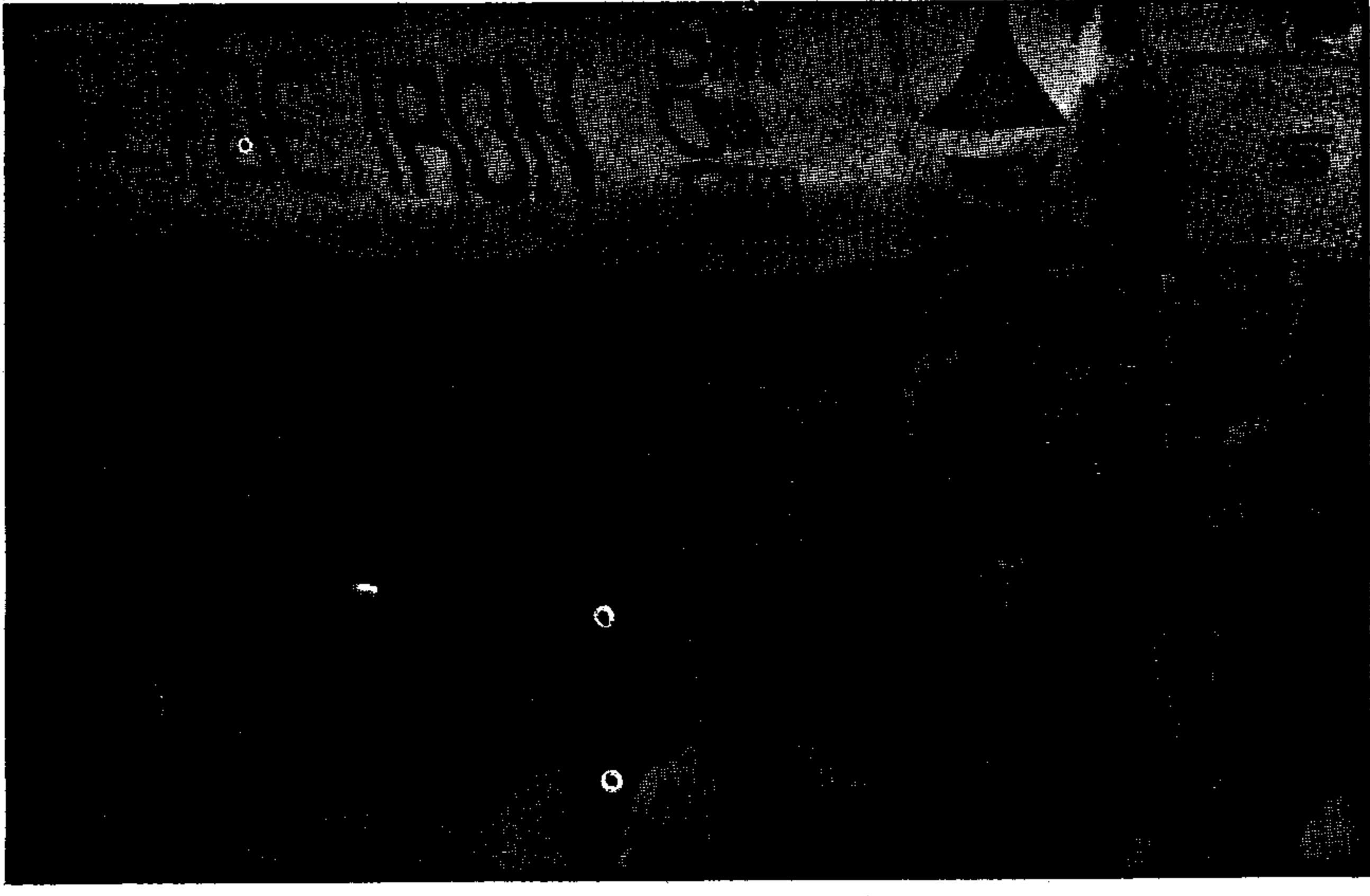
For a determined fight back against the bosses' unemployment schemes, marches, however well supported, and conferences issuing fine resolutions, will not be enough.

The fight back must be tied together in each locality through anti-unemployment committees of trade unionists delegated from trade union branches, Trades Councils, shop stewards' committees, Labour Parties, and LPYSs. These committees must fight for trade union registration and organisation of local unemployed workers. They must mobilise the employed and unemployed to support by every means possible all struggles against redundancies.

NUPE official resigns over cuts clash

A former Labour councillor in Oldham is facing disciplinary action or expulsion from the local Labour Party — because he stuck to the policy of the union of which he is an official, NUPE. "I resigned [from the council] because the council's decisions on spending cuts were incompatible with my position as a union official", stated Colin Barnett. And now the local Party is inquiring ... not into the council's wretched behaviour in approving the cuts, but into Colin Barnett's action in following his union's policy!

BSC blows hot and cold



Scotland is to lose 1500 jobs in the steel industry within three months, to be followed by a further 3,000 over the next two years. That was the arrogant diktat issued by Steel House last week.

The biggest cuts are to come from the Clydebridge, Dalzell, Lanarkshire, Clyde Iron and Glengarnock works. If these cuts go through, it will account for 30% of the jobs in steel in Scotland. (BSC is demanding a national cutback of 20%).

The special steels division has been told that its quota of cuts will come to 2,300 (10% of the workers in the division, which is mainly based on Sheffield and Rotherham). To this threat, local ISTC official Joe Pickles has responded with the opinion that "it is reasonable".

Pickles' mixture of fear and complacency is matched by other steel union officials. Arthur Bell, a Scottish

ISTC official, was not moved to say any more than that "applications for voluntary redundancies might exceed the number needed".

At the same time as the BSC's job slashing programme is becoming clearer, the Corporation is playing its old game of "blowing hot and cold" on investment policy so as to sow false hopes and division within the workforce.

Combined with the above announcements there came a statement that a £10 million electric arc furnace will be built at Shelton — which, even if this comes off, will lose 2,000 jobs. The following day it was announced that another £35m was being put into the Hunterston ore and coal importing terminal in Scotland (which is likely to employ 150-200 workers); £30m was to go towards the modernisation of Shepcote Lane stain-

less steel works in Sheffield and £20m to the privately owned GKN works in Cardiff.

Workers at East Moors — across the road from GKN — see this as meaning that GKN will need East Moors to stay open.

At the same time, however, the government have decided to restrict loss support of the BSC through public dividend capital. This is an attempt to put a gun to the heads of the steel union leaders and force them to sell the pass on redundancies even faster than they anticipated.

The "hot and cold" manoeuvres of the BSC and the government's new pressure should neither divert nor stampede steelworkers. They must stand firm in opposition to all redundancies — voluntary or compulsory — and all cuts in pay.

TABLES TURNED AT THE SAVOY

The two week long strike at the Savoy Hotel in Nottingham has ended in victory. What looked like a fairly hopeless struggle against a vicious management was transformed by the magnificent support given by the trade union movement and the left in the city. Twenty of the workforce were sacked after striking in support of their victimised shop steward, who had introduced the TGWU into the hotel and recruited 60 people to it. As readers of *Workers Action* will know, the management used massive intimidation to browbeat the rest of the workforce into staying at their jobs. At the start of the strike the situation didn't look too rosy, with a few strikers attempting to man the pickets from early morning until late at night. However, support quickly flowed in, and local trade unionists helped swell the numbers on the picket lines and provided financial support. The Trades Council provided £100 from its strike support fund and included in the Trade Union and Labour Party bodies who expressed

their solidarity were the City UCATT and Calverton NUM branches, and Carlton LPYS. The Nottingham area NUM also voted support, despite the opposition of the two full time officials, Len Clarke and Bob Martin.

From a fairly low key beginning, militancy on the picket line quickly grew as more and more customers were turned back. A chambermaid on picket duty was hit by a car driven by the manager's son, when he drove into the car park at speed and mounted on the pavement. The resulting publicity on local radio strengthened the strikers' position, and the fall in trade brought about by the picketing eventually brought the union bashing Pickering brothers to their knees. All the strikers are to be reinstated, and the TGWU is beginning negotiations for recognition inside the hotel. As we stated in *Workers Action* no. 2, this strike needed support to win, and that is exactly what happened.



THE UNIONS



THIS COLUMN will appear regularly, carrying news from trade union militants. USE IT to publicise YOUR activities, resolutions, requests for solidarity and contact, problems and ideas.

NALGO Right gunning for Action Group

THE LEEDS Nalگو branch, under the influence of leading Yorkshire right winger John Frazer and his gang of witchhunters, have submitted a motion to go to the union's Annual Conference condemning the activities of the Nalگو Action Group.

If carried, this motion will go a long way towards proscribing the Action Group.

As a result of similar moves during the past few years, a sub-committee of Nalگو's NEC has been set up to investigate the activities of the Group and its alleged relationship to the International Socialism group.

Although the investigations of the sub-committee have received only limited support from the mass of Nalگو members, there is a possibility of its findings being published to coincide with the appearance of the Leeds motion at Annual Conference, and thus of a further push against the Action Group.

In response to a demand from the sub-committee that NAG "submit in writing the constitution and policy of

the Group and also any affiliations the Group may have with other bodies", the Action Group has issued a detailed policy document.

This document asserts that the Inquiry can do nothing but conclude that NAG is "a body of responsible trade unionists fighting within the union at all levels for the policies we believe to be right. And there is nothing in the Union's constitution — nor should there ever be — which prevents militants from exercising their rights as members. For, let there be no doubt about it, it is because of our policies that some would like to put us on trial. But the Group has never been secret about what it stands for and, moreover, has always stressed the importance of candidates in union elections putting their policies to the voters."

Militants in Nalگو should support the stance taken by the Action Group and refuse to co-operate with this sub-committee. And all Nalگو members must get their branches committed to all-out opposition to the Leeds motion.

The spotlight has to be turned on the red-baiters — not the "reds".

CRAWLEY Trades Council has voted to support the Troops Out Movement call for a labour movement delegation to the north of Ireland.

Every trade union and Labour Party branch, every shop stewards committee and trades council, should be giving the same reply to the TOM's initiative. The labour movement needs to know at first hand what is going on. What is the real role of the troops? What are the real attitudes of working people in Belfast or in Derry? What is happening in South Armagh?

Support the TOM delegations!

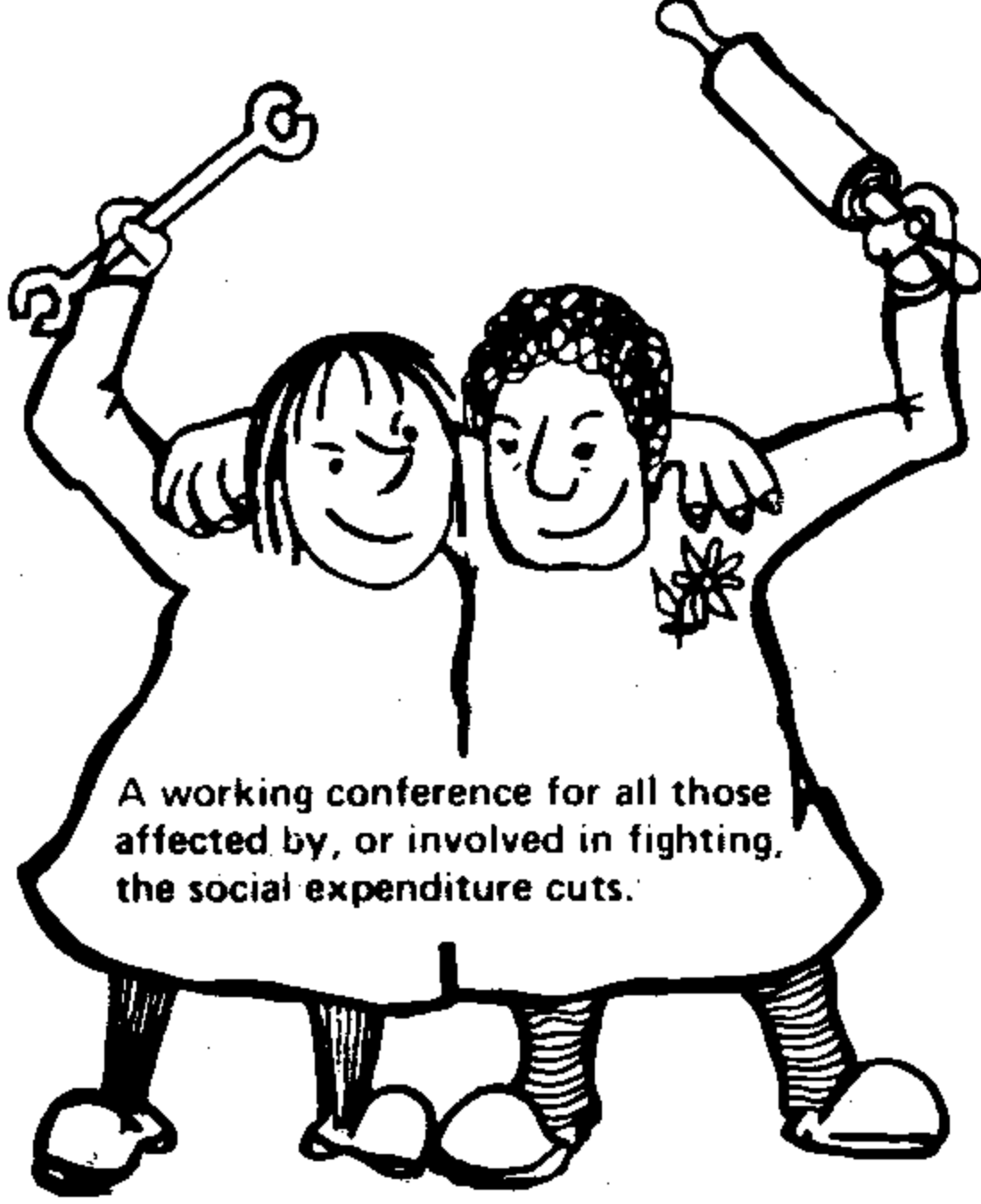
£200 A MONTH FIGHTING FUND

We didn't quite make it — but *Workers Action's* first 'month' was only three weeks long. £10 from readers in Stoke on Trent and £4 from Birmingham brings the month's total to £189.33. Let's be sure to make the full £200 next month!

Send money for the Fighting Fund to 'Fund', 49 Carnac St, London SE27.

EVENTS

WOMEN AND THE CUTS



A working conference for all those affected by, or involved in fighting, the social expenditure cuts.

Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1.

on

Saturday 28 February 1976

10.00 am till 6.00 pm

Called by WORKING WOMEN'S CHARTER London Co-ordinating Committee. Details and registration from Michele Ryan, 39 Parkholme Road, London E.8 (249-3072)

Small ads for labour movement events are free. Write to 'Events', *Workers Action*, 49 Carnac St, London SE27. Ads should arrive by Friday for inclusion in the following week's paper.

Working Women's Charter national conference: 10th-11th April, Lanchester Poly, Coventry. Two delegates each from all labour movement organisations. Credentials from H. Gurdon, Flat 4, 39 New Bold Terrace East, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

WWC national conference planning meeting: 7.45pm, Thursday 5th February, at the 'George', Liverpool Rd, London N1. All Charter groups and supporting organisations are invited to attend to discuss perspectives for conference.

No Return to Back Street Abortion! No reappointment of the Select Committee! On Monday 9th February the House of Commons is voting on whether to reappoint the Select Committee which considered the James White Abortion (Amendment) Bill. The National Abortion Campaign is demanding that the Select Committee should not be reappointed. 4pm-7pm, lobby and demonstration at Parliament; 7.10pm, rally at Central Hall.

Solidarity with the Portuguese working class: conference 10am 13th March, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. All labour movement organisations may send delegates. Details from PWCC, 12 Little Newport St, London WC2.

Demonstrate against youth unemployment. Demonstration called by Birmingham Trades Council and West Midlands TUC. Assemble 12 noon, Saturday 7th February, at Victoria Square, Birmingham.

Young Socialists day school on Portugal: 11am to 6pm, Saturday 14th February, at North London Poly Students Union Film Theatre, Holloway Rd, London N7. Sponsored by PWCC, Angola Solidarity Campaign, and Hornsey, Norwood, and Vauxhall LPYSs. Admission 20p; all welcome.

Fight for the Right to Work. Public meeting on unemployment and the cuts. 8pm, Tuesday 10th February, at the Trade Union club, Minster St, Reading. Organised by Reading Right to Work campaign.

Rally against unemployment and the cuts: 10.45am, Polytechnic car park, Preston. Called by the Lancashire county association of Trades Councils.

Week of action in solidarity with Spain: Monday 9th February, Public meeting on Eva Forest and the struggles of Spanish women, 7.30pm, Dalston Library, Dalston Lane, London E8. Thursday 12th February, Public meeting with trade union and Labour Party speakers, 7.30pm, Friends House, Euston Rd, London NW1. Saturday 14th February, Trade union delegate conference, credentials from NUM, 222 Euston Rd, London NW1. Picket of Downing Street, 2pm, to protest against visit of Spanish foreign minister to Britain — organised by I-CL, IMG, and IS.

Demonstrate against the Criminal Trespass Proposals: 1.30pm, Saturday 28th February, at Belvedere Rd, London SE1.

Picket of TUC headquarters in protest against TUC's call on government to impose stricter measures against immigrant workers. 11am, Monday 9th February, at Congress House, Great Russell St, London WC2. Called by the International-Communist League. More information from I-CL, 607 7182.

What is the International-Communist League? Public meeting in Cambridge, Thursday 6th February, 7.30pm at Latymer Room, Clare College.

Cardiff Workers' Action readers' meeting: "Labour and the crisis". Speaker, Pete Keenlyside (Cardiff North CLP). 7.30pm, Wednesday February 18th, at the Rhymer Hotel, Adams St, Cardiff.

North London Workers' Action readers' meeting: "The Sex Discrimination Act, the Equal Pay Act, and the Working Women's Charter". 7.30pm, Wednesday, 11th February, at 'Centerprise', 136-8 Kingsland High Rd, London E8.

workers' ACTION supporters' groups are being formed in the following places:

Birmingham, Bolton, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Chelmsford, Chester, Coventry, Crawley, Durham, Edinburgh, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Newtown, Northampton, Nottingham, Oxford, Reading, Rochdale, Sheffield, Stafford, Stoke

Write for details of meetings & activities to:
WASG, 49 Carnac Street, London SE27

WORKERS IN ACTION

The battle of Chrysler flared up last week into its first major skirmish since the "rescue".

Two important disputes show that the company has not had its way with the Chrysler workforce yet.

ASTMS members in Coventry are continuing their work to rule against redundancy. Last week they held a sit-down strike to make their resistance clear.

The main battle, however, has centred on the Linwood plant in Scotland. There 6,000 workers have been on strike over management's attempt to lay down the law. The Chrysler Corporation has tried to use transfers of work to there as a pretext to force down wage levels. They have flouted all agreed disputes procedures, insisting that they are "perfectly entitled to effect changes before we have exhausted procedure."

The question that is immediately raised is: are Chrysler provoking a strike to smash the workers' trade union organisation? Tom Litterick, Labour MP for Selly Oak, certainly thinks so. He has accused the Chrysler management of being set on smashing the union organisation within the company. He has demanded an immediate investigation by the Commons Public Expenditure Committee.

The dispute began when management transferred 50 packers from the Johnstone plant and refused to pay them the rate for the job as negotiated at the Linwood plant. Of



Don Lander - Chrysler's top man

6,000 STRIKE AT LINWOOD AS BOSSES TRY ON NEW REGIME

course, the stewards demanded that the Linwood rates are paid, giving the packers £1 more.

This elementary defense of existing rates and procedures has been used as a test case by the Labour Government and the Chrysler Company. The issue for them is not whether the company should pay £50 more a week on its wage bill. They are adamant that the workforce at Chrysler must be taught to accept all plans and procedures that the company insists on.

Eric Varley, Labour Minister for Industry, has made this quite clear. He has claimed that the Linwood dispute puts the entire £162 million "rescue plan" at risk.

This is what this Labour Minister had to say as a warning to the Chrysler workforce: "I don't want anyone to think, in Chrysler or the country, that the Government is just going to put money in if there is not going to be an improvement there."

And what does he mean by "improvement"? His idea of improvement is that of the Chrysler Corporation. Workers accepting wage cuts and management control of all movements and procedures. An 'improvement' means that Linwood stays on short time working until August, that 1350 Linwood workers

lost their jobs last week, and that the company can trample on shop floor organisation at any time it likes.

The Labour Government's "Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service" (ACAS) has been sent in. The "rescue deal" involves compulsory Government arbitration in disputes. Already we can see what this means: the Government will step in to support the company in its attempt to undermine established workers' bargaining rights. And they are trying to establish a precedent at Chrysler which they can use elsewhere.

Chrysler is trying to smash the shop floor union organisation. Varley and

the ACAS, seeing that the shop floor is fighting back, are trying to get in and hold it down to make Chrysler management's job easier. There could be no more direct confirmation of the obvious fact that independent militant direct action is the source of working class strength.

No "arbitration committee", no "joint participation committee" and no Commons Public Expenditure Committee (reduced to a farce by refusals of the bosses and some Labour leaders to show up) can substitute for this. In fact the first two are in existence only to break workers' direct action, and the third will prove absolutely irrelevant.

UNITY

Important issues are at stake. At Linwood, the workforce has given a demonstration of its will to fight deteriorating conditions and redundancy. At Coventry, the question of the unity of staff and shop floor has been urgently posed by the ASTMS action. So far this action has not evoked active support, as many of the staff are "purely disciplinary" and part of Chrysler's blue-blazer shop floor 'police'.

The Chrysler Corporation and the British Labour Government are a powerful bloc to be fighting against. The Chrysler workforce have enemies enough. There is no room for disunity within the plants. Nor between them.

The basic issue is that Chrysler workers should not accept that they must pay the price to keep the Chrysler Corporation profitable. The private motor car industry is in deep trouble

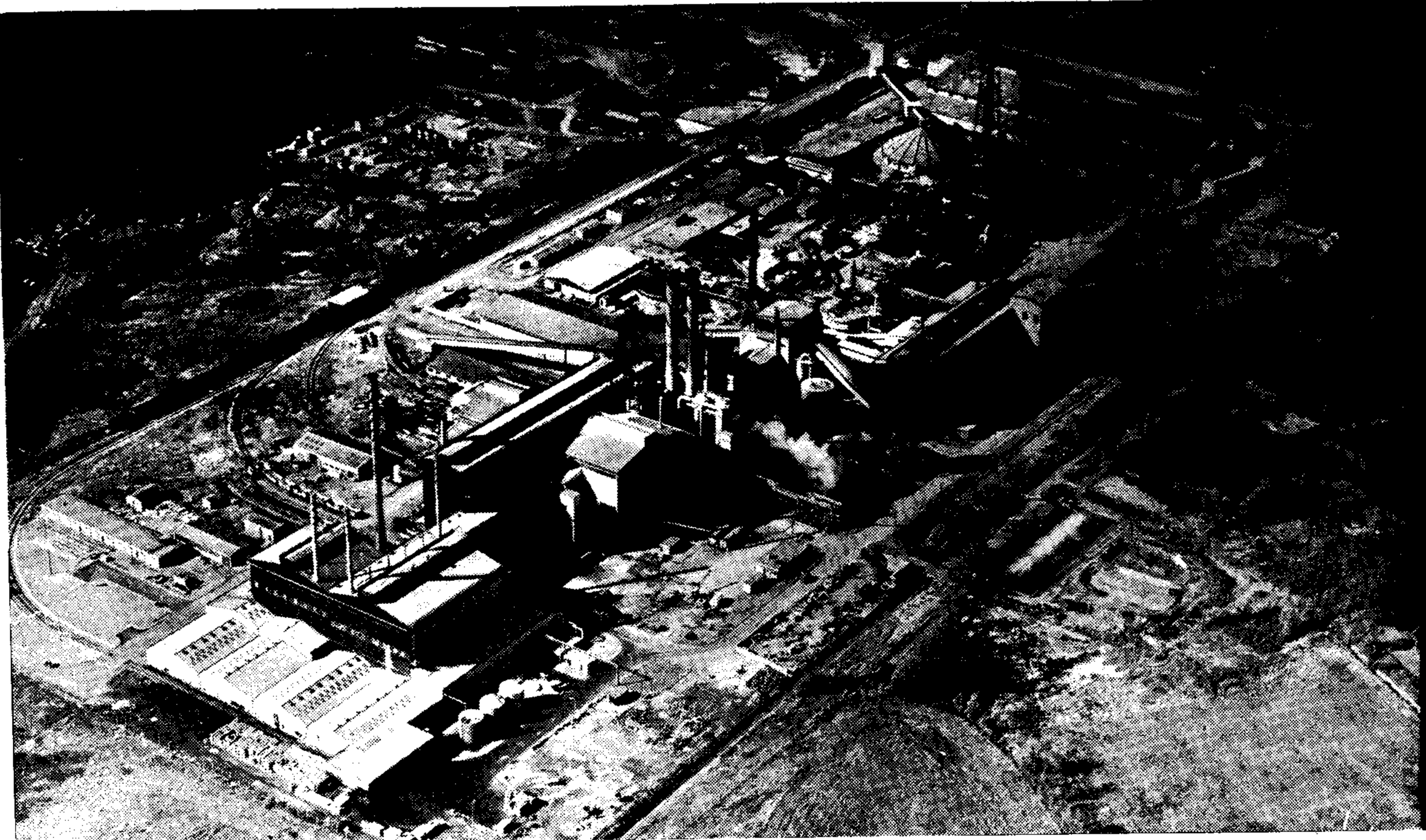
everywhere. Chrysler workers know well how untrue are the attempts to blame them for this world-wide state of affairs, which is the responsibility neither of Chrysler workers nor of car workers anywhere.

It is necessary to say this loud and clear, and if necessary repeat it many many times. Workers did not devise the capitalist system with its terrible wastage of things and people. If this system refuses to make use of the skills and intelligence of men and women, at least it must not be allowed to make them pay the price. FULL PAY must be guaranteed for all Chrysler workers — whether there is work or not, whether there are profits or not.

Work should be shared under rank and file union control if the Chrysler Corporation cannot maintain a full working week. Instead of track speeds going up, they should come down. No worker should be doing a job and a half or two jobs at any time, let alone when brothers and sisters are on the dole.

Militants should fight the policy of 'Women First'. They too have families to support — in many cases families with other members out of work. They have as much right to work as anyone else. If we let the women go down first, it'll be a story of "ten green workers": next will be single men, then older men, then the black worker and then the one from out of town. And then there'll be none.

There can be no sacrifice of traditional shop floor bargaining rights. Shop stewards must make it clear that they, and not the Chrysler company, will control track speeds and manning levels and will resist all covering for redundancy volunteers.



An industrial wasteland surrounds RTZ's Avonmouth works (near Bristol) where management wants to cut jobs and boost overtime

Bristol zinc strike steward talks to WORKERS' ACTION THESE 93 JOBS WON'T GO

FOR FOURTEEN weeks, the workers at Commonwealth Smelting Company have been on strike to stop the sacking of nearly one hundred workers.

"The strike started as an unofficial sit-down at the end of last October. That lasted until November 5th. After a meeting with the T&G Regional Secretary we left the site and set up pickets outside. It was made official in the next couple of weeks, as soon as

the T&GWU Executive had met."

ALUN BEYNON, vice chairman of the Shop Stewards Committee at CSC, Avonmouth — a section of the Rio Tinto Zinc empire — told WORKERS ACTION the background to the strike.

"A joint agreement in November 1974 fixed manning levels on the site. Part of this productivity deal agreement was that there would be no forced redundancy. The company bust this wide open in October when they suddenly announced that they intended to cut manning by 93 men. They were also going to cut the wages of shift-workers by £16 for a ten-week period during the annual shut-down.

"The company completely refused to go through nationally agreed disputes procedure. They told us that they, and they alone, had the right to determine what manning levels should be on this site."

The issue of manning levels at CSC was particularly important in view of the dangerous nature of the work there. Last year an independent report recommended that no-one should work for more than 40 hours a week because of the danger to health of exposure to poisonous lead for longer periods.

Bosses

The bosses, however, were obviously determined to step up productivity partly by increasing overtime.

There has been a good response from fellow trade unionists when it came to blacking. Drivers have refused to move zinc supplies and the dockers

Alun Beynon described how "we spoke to the local dockers' stewards and got them to empty a cargo of concentrates all over the Avonmouth quay wall. They're holding a cargo of metal from Holland which was sent for marketing through the CSC factory. We've prevented the import of Rio Tinto zinc from Holland to fill the gap which our zinc is leaving.

"We've been to speak to dockers in Cardiff and Swansea. We've arranged speaking tours in South Wales and Birmingham to secure financial support. We've had a donation from the NUM and an invitation to speak to the South Wales NUM executive."

It ought to have been easy to bring Rio Tinto to its knees: CSC is the only primary producer of zinc in the country and 50% of the metal has to be imported. The strike, coupled with thorough blacking at the ports of imports such as EZ Australian zinc should have been enough. Why hadn't the union been able to get this total "black"?

"This is a distinct problem. For example, CSC shares a site with ISC Chemicals. They supply to CSC. We've been certain that they've been strike-breaking throughout the dispute. But to secure the union against a third party blacking writ, it was necessary for the union to go into official dispute with ISC Chemicals.

"This has also stopped us checking the flow of non-RTZ imported zinc.

"Of course, the law on picketing can be made unworkable. Just look what happened at Saltley. With sufficient numbers, no law could be made to work. But we don't have that kind of

we've had to do what the police say."

But management have been forced to make some concessions. "At first they were not prepared to negotiate on manning levels. They have climbed down in that they say they're prepared to go through procedure on manning levels and shift payments.

Arbitration

"At first we said we'd be prepared to go to the Department of Employment ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) arbitrator to decide what the status quo was. We thought we'd win. And management refused to go. So we demanded the return to work of all those made redundant. 60 men had been forcibly made redundant — 33 agreed over our heads to accept voluntary redundancy.

"On January 15th management agreed with the T&G that all 93 could return, either being reinstated (paying back redundancy money) or re-employed (keeping the money). But last week they said that re-employment was only possible for those made forcibly redundant. This would effectively guarantee that the volunteers would not come back.

"Now we would prefer that the company was forced to recruit at the Labour Exchange. But management are sticking hard: they'll only take workers back on their conditions."

We asked Alun Beynon about the role of the ACAS, which he contemptuously described as "Michael Foot's wonderful new creation". What he says confirms the really anti-working class nature of this "service".

officials would have forced us into a position where we'd have to accept as binding any ACAS decision. The company, which has broken agreements and refused to recognise the nationally agreed disputes procedure, could now come along and just refuse to recognise the ACAS decision."

From this it is quite obvious which class the ACAS is a "service" for. "This all confirms my suspicion that the ACAS is in fact a device intended to keep the workers in line. As to the Government's policy overall — well, Harold Wilson has talked about 'shake-out'. That's what he calls it. That's what all workers are up against, and all workers will find they have to fight it or lose out."

The risks of the ACAS are that workers in dispute lose their independence of action. "The major lesson", Alun Beynon thought "is to strengthen that action. We need an efficient shop floor based organisation that can move into action when this kind of thing happens. We need combine committees on an international basis to fight multinational corporations like RTZ. We need local shop stewards committees, and a national shop floor organisation of Trade Unionists to support workers immediately they come up against this kind of company."

ALL messages of support and financial aid should be sent to: M.H.O'Dea, 10 Eldon Terrace, Bristol B53 4NZ.

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