

workers' ACTION

No. 51 March 24th to 31st 1977 10p

Support the Leyland Combine
Committee Conference Apr. 3rd

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NO TO LABOUR'S RECORD!

FACED WITH the threat of defeat in a confidence vote on Wednesday 23rd March, Callaghan is casting around shamelessly for some behind the scenes deal to save the skin of the Labour Government. The one source of support he knows he cannot rely on is the electoral support of the overwhelming majority of the working class.

Had Labour under Callaghan's and Wilson's leadership committed itself not to the bosses and bankers but to the interests of the workers who put it in power, the Government could now simply laugh off the Tories' challenge.

But the Tories and the ruff around them will not have the last word. The workers who have fought against a Labour Government will fight twice as hard against a possible Tory administration.

David Steel has offered Callaghan an alliance — one whereby he asks the Government to forsake any claims to socialism. No doubt Callaghan's mouth waters at the temptation. But even he must see that such an ignominious alliance could only undermine and alienate Labour's class-conscious electoral support.

Callaghan has met and bargained with James Molyneux, leader along with Enoch Powell of the United Ulster Unionists. What concessions can have been connived at with these vicious pogromists? Harsher clamp-downs on Catholic resistance to British military rule in the north of Ireland? A restoration of Stormont, the badge and bludgeon of Orange bigotry? Or some reversal of the Government's present policy of ignoring the Unionist politicians?

The *Daily Express* revealed only last week that Wilson and Enoch Powell made a pact of cooperation at the time of the last election. What humiliation if Labour were now rescued by the witch doctor of racism, Enoch Powell himself!

With the living standards of tens of millions of workers and their families in the balance, Callaghan listens considerably to the black-

NO TO TORY RULE!

mail demands of the untouchable from Newham North East, Reg Prentice.

The Labour Government has been effectively a minority government, ruling only by the consent of the other parties, for some time. A formal deal or coalition, whatever its details, would put the Labour Government in the same abject condition of powerlessness in which Ramsay MacDonald's two minority Labour Governments (1924 & 1929-31) disgraced themselves. Such a minority Labour Government would have public responsibility without power, its condition of existence

being that it satisfied its right-wing Parliamentary backers.

Even Labour workers who support the present Government, but who know the history of the British labour movement, will say: **better a thousand times that the Labour Party should vacate office than that it should depend on Liberal or Ulster Tory votes.** Better that the Labour Party should go for an election, on the basis of changed policies: **against**, not **for**, the cuts; **for** guaranteeing wages keep pace with prices, **against** pay curbs; **for** the nationalisation without compensation of



the banks and financial institutions, and of all companies declaring large-scale redundancies.

Apart from John Ryman, a freak-weather "left" with no record of consistent opposition to the Government's anti-working class policies, the Labour Left are alone in Parliament in not demanding conditions for their support of the Government.

What should the Tribunes do? They should not support the Government. A Government which does not serve the working class should not be supported by those who claim to fight for working-class interests. To support the Government is not an act of preference: if it were, we would say, "Labour in, Tories out!". To support the Government, to give it confidence, is to say you support the social contract cuts in real wages, the social service cuts, the politics of oppression in Ireland, the racist immigration policies, and all the rest of the

reactionary ruling class policies that are written now into Labour's record.

Callaghan is no doubt busy employing the blackmail argument that "Not voting for the Government is letting in the Tories". But it is Callaghan and Wilson, their Cabinets and their cronies, who have brought Labour to this point. If the Government falls, they are to blame. And if it stays through a deal with the Liberals or the Ulster Unionists (and it can only stay through one such deal or another), they are **doubly to blame!**

To refuse to vote support for this Government, to refuse any deal with the Liberals or some of the nationalist rabble in Parliament, does not mean to support the claims of the Tories. An abstention, a refusal to vote with either, would express within the constraints of Parliamentary formality a refusal to support the purely capitalist alternatives before the House.

NO DEALS!



Callaghan has shown himself ready to do a deal with Steel (above), leader of the Liberals, also with the Ulster Unionists and other nationalist rabble.

FRENCH ELECTIONS:

Impulse of 1968 is not dead

In the first round of the French municipal elections, on Sunday 13th March, the revolutionary left candidates got 5.5% of the vote in over 30 cities — twice the combined average vote of the revolutionary candidates in the 1974 Presidential election. In Orléans they got 12%, in Nancy and Rouen 8%. Probably this is the biggest vote won by revolutionary candidates in an advanced capitalist country for over 40 years.

Last Sunday, 20th, the second round took place, a run-off in which the lower-scoring candidates in the

first round are eliminated. The Union of the Left, dominated by the Communist Party and Socialist Party, has won 52% of the vote, and gained control of over 50 large towns.

There was a further blow for President Giscard d'Estaing and Prime Minister Barre. Jacques Chirac Prime Minister until August last year but now leader of the revived Gaullist movement and pushing his presidential ambitions, is certain to be elected Mayor of Paris, heavily defeating the Government nominee, Michel d'Ornano.

In the first round the workers have expressed very clearly their rejection of the Barre plan, of the Giscard government, and of all the right-wing candidates which support them.

The right-wing parties have lost more than 20 towns of over 30,000 inhabitants to the Union of the Left. This lists constituted on the initiative of the LCR, the OCT and LO, "For Socialism, For Workers' Power", gained between 2 and 12% of the votes. Lille: 6.3%, Rouen: 7.6%, Montbéliard: 9.5%, Nancy:

8.3%, Saint-Ouen: 9.5%; Orléans: 12%; and in many of these towns, up to 15% in the working-class districts.

Even on the electoral terrain, a very significant current is now expressing itself, despite the black-out by the mass media at national level, around the working-class solutions to the crisis put forward by the revolutionaries in a united way, in face of the policy of compromise and collaboration adopted by the parties of the Union of the Left, which the PSU has chosen to support.

We call on all the workers who in the first round clearly showed their agreement with the perspectives of struggle put forward by the lists "For Socialism, For Workers' Power", to vote against the right, with the mass of workers, for the lists of the left parties.

But above all, they must do all they can to demonstrate as from now, in struggle, the will of the workers to smash the Barre plan and the Giscard regime. P.S: The LCR calls for a vote only for the lists led by the CP and the SP.

These elections have been more important than such local elections generally are. They have confirmed the government's lack of popular support. Giscard tried to brush it off: "The local elections, whatever their real importance, do not put into question the national priorities fixed for Government action", and his Interior Minister, Michel Poniatowski, declared: "At last, we are out of an election period and we can turn to serious matters".

Without doubt, however, these election results will weaken the position of the

Government and give a fresh spur to workers' struggles.

Slates

The revolutionary left slates were established jointly by the LCR (revolutionary Communist League, French sister group of the IMG), Lutte Ouvrière (another Trotskyist organisation), and the OCT (Communist Workers' Organisation, a semi-Maoist grouping). According to French election law, it is impossible to run candidates in towns of over 30,000

population unless you put up a complete slate. The LCR, LO, or the OCT separately would have been strong enough to do this only in very few towns. Together they could cover over 30.

They produced a basic joint platform, while retaining the right for each organisation to make its own propaganda, including its criticisms of the other organisations. The result was a striking demonstration that the revolutionary impulse given to the French working class in May 1968 is very far from having vanished.

INDIA: Emergency ends but misery stays

WHATEVER THE final outcome of the Indian General Election, the vote has been a clear rejection of the personal rule which Indira Gandhi has exercised since the state of emergency was imposed in summer 1975. She has lost her own seat, and, for the first time since Independence, the Congress Party may not form the government.

Several openings, however, remain for the Congress Party. It is clear that it will win about 200 of the 542 seats, as the swing to the opposition has been far smaller in the south than in the north. This opens the possibility of negotiations with the Congress for Democracy, led by Jagjivan Ram,

leader of the 'Untouchables', who was until February Minister for food in the national government, and who has gathered various Congress celebrities round him. Alternatively Mrs Gandhi can wait until Janata, held together only by opposition to her personally, falls apart, and then take over again, as leader of the largest single party.

Although the emergency has formally ended, the Congress machine still remains very strong through powers of local patronage, the Youth Congress, built up by Mrs Gandhi's son Sanjay as a personal goon squad, and sections of the civil service and state machine. The mechanisms through which the emergency was imposed still remain intact. These all give considerable leverage to the Congress Party to disrupt the government if they should wish to do so.

The election was largely fought on the issue of "democracy vs. dictatorship", which meant in effect Mrs Gandhi's personal record since the declaration of the emergency. From the start Congress has been on the defensive. Ram's defection from the government brought many prominent Congress personalities, including Mrs Pandit, sister of Nehru and aunt of Mrs Gandhi, onto the side of the opposition. On 5th February the rally addressed by Mrs Gandhi to launch her election campaign broke up in disorder, while the following day the opposition won a much larger crowd.

'Excesses'

Though her son — who has proved an electoral liability — denies it, Indira Gandhi has herself been forced to admit that there have been 'excesses' since the emergency for which she shares responsibility. The most costly of these 'excesses' in terms of the vast swing to the opposition in the traditional Congress strongholds of rural northern India, has been the campaign of forced sterilisation.

Police have seized men from the

villages and taken them to hospitals to be sterilised, where many died because of insanitary conditions. Often threats by officials to withhold licences for small traders forced them to acquiesce. Master-minded by Sanjay Gandhi, this operation aroused such fierce opposition that the Congress Manifesto shelved the law which would have given it a pseudo-legal basis.

Urban workers also had grounds for discontent. A programme of slum clearance was brought in which often led to people just being moved out of the city into far worse housing conditions. In addition, they were deprived of bonuses, had wage rises impounded, were locked out and sacked.

The Government tried to attract foreign capital under the emergency laws. But the promised economic recovery has not materialised. Inflation is running at 11% and, though there was a bumper crop last summer, the winter crop was not at all successful. Grain price controls are failing and the production targets have not been met.

The 'Janata' opposition, itself a coalition of four parties, gave no answer to the class grievances of the workers and peasants. They said they would end the press censorship and the emergency, and revoke the constitutional amendments by which Mrs Gandhi legalised her personal rule. The economic programmes of Janata and Congress are very similar: land reform, redistribution of income, decentralisation of industry. Janata hinted at higher bonuses for workers, but, as the 'Economist' said, their "leftist pretensions cannot be taken too seriously".

The parties based on the working class have had virtually no independent presence in the elections. The Socialist Party is part of Janata. The pro-Moscow Communist Party of India has been in alliance with Mrs Gandhi since before the emergency, which it defended, and is backing Congress still in many districts.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has supported Janata, though in certain areas, such as West Bengal and Kerala, where it is traditionally strong, it has won support on its own account. It has not acted as an independent pole of attraction for those seeking a real alternative to the personal cliques which make up the leaderships of both Congress and the opposition parties.

Workers

Apart from the Socialist Party, Janata's other components are the Jan Sangh party (an extreme nationalist Hindu religious party), the Congress (O) led by Moraji Desai, which represents the old guard of corrupt Congress politicians with whom Gandhi split in 1969, and the Bharatiya Kranti Dal, a party of free enterprise capital drawing on support through Chambers of Commerce. They also have the support of the veteran Gandhian leader J P Narayan, whose non-violent protest movement gave a partial pretext for the emergency in 1975.

Though these worthies are now playing on the theme of democracy, there is no reason to believe that they will suddenly give concessions to the workers and

peasants. They will only move gingerly, if at all, against the apparatus of repression which has been built up by the Congress Party. They know that the workers have not been totally crushed by the two years of the emergency, and will use any slackening in police control to push forward their own demands, though they are held back by unions which are tied to Congress or to the CPI.

The defeat which has been sustained by Mrs Gandhi and those elements of Congress which remained with her is far from being a major blow for the Indian ruling class — though there was strong support for Gandhi among businessmen, landowners, and sections of the bureaucracy, and they may back attempts by Gandhi to continue to rule despite the election results. Though the immediate result is likely to be increased instability, the whole framework of the elections remained totally within the framework of contending ruling-class interests. So discontent was largely directed against Indira Gandhi and Congress, rather than at the system which dictates both dependence on imperialism and absolute misery for the overwhelming majority of the population.

BRUCE ROBINSON



"A stout defence of the British motor industry"

THE LIP-SERVICE which the leaders of the engineering unions pay to "a return to free collective bargaining" is about as reliable a sign of devotion to working class interests and the unbeliever's casual "Good God!" is a reliable sign of religious devotion. The **Morning Star's** contribution to the public blackjacking of the Leyland toolmakers by politicians and the media shows that the CP's opposition to the Social Contract is no more reliable.

Line up

The crucial line-up in the trade union movement is on the question of practical support for actual struggles. Opposition to the social contract that fell short of support for the toolroom workers' strike at Leyland falls short of what is necessary to beat the Social Contract, in any of its phases.

The **Morning Star's** scabbing on the Leyland toolmakers showed that the Communist Party, although it has ensured the passing of resolutions against the social contract up and down the country, is on the wrong side of the line-up.

As soon as the AUEW's call on the Leyland toolroom workers to return to work had been rejected, the **Morning Star** gave this evaluation of the continuing strike: "... this strike, and some of the statements by the leaders of the strikers, is not going to help to get rid of the things which have caused the dispute, rather it can only lead to a division".

It went on to hint at a return to work, lecturing the toolmakers that "the social contract... will only be removed through the conscious struggles of a united workforce and a united trade union movement". The model for this approach was the "conference called [by their colleagues in British Leyland] for April 3rd, and the day of action later in the month".

Blow

By the following Tuesday the AUEW had sided with the Leyland management in threatening any workers who would not return to work on the next Monday with the sack. And the **Morning Star's** response? Once again, lickspittle loyalty to the trade union bureaucracy. "As we indicated in our editorial on Saturday, under these circumstances, the continuation of the strike can only lead to further divisiveness between one section of workers and another at British Leyland".

From the beginning of the strike the **Morning Star** limited is coverage to deploring the "bad industrial relations" and the bad effects of the social contract as shown in the strike. They could not see the strike as an action

which, whatever the public statements of some of the leaders, struck a blow at the Social Contract by asserting rank and file militancy against the bosses — and not just against the bosses, but against the alliance of bosses, trade union leaders, and Government, expressed in the National Enterprise Board, the Ryder participation scheme, and the Social Contract.

Indeed, the way the **Morning Star** first hummed and hawed, and then opposed the strike action contrasted starkly with the enthusiasm the paper showed for every resolution passed against the social contract. On March 16th, its editorial called on the strikers go back to work, while in the next column a

picture of smiling AUEW Women's Conference delegates was headed, "End contract, say AUEW women".

The toolmakers' action was repeatedly contrasted with the April 3rd Leyland Combine Convenors' Conference. Preparation for a different stage of the struggle, in the future, was opposed to the fight that was actually going on, and to the workers who had taken on the bosses and the social contract.

Once again, the Communist Party opposed workers' direct action from the moment the trade union bureaucracy started squealing its discomfort. As long as opposition to the social contract takes the form of passing resolutions, it is heartily

supported: so long, that is, as it abides by present social contract guidelines, and supports "left" trade union leaders. The moment that action threatens to expose the miserable servility of the trade union bureaucracy and go beyond their stifling control, all the Communist Party has to say is: go back! Where rank and file action is clearly counterposed to the heart and soul of the Social Contract — that is, the class-colaborationist alliance of union leaders, Government, and bosses — the CP temporises or betrays.

Cheek

The **Morning Star** had the cheek to follow up this scabbing position with a short report which praised Mr David Plastow, the President of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, for his "stout defence of the British motor industry". It's a wonder Mr Plastow did not write in to return the compliment.

Clare Russell

HOUSING RACKETS: FIGHT THE CUTS, STOP TRESPASS LAW

For years the Greater London Council has faced severe criticism for allowing thousands of homes to stand empty while the number of homeless people in London continues to rise. The GLC thought they had found a remedy for these criticisms, and for their inertia in not building more houses, when they started allocating properties destined for demolition and redevelopment for short-term occupation.

But now the council finds itself facing a major enquiry over allegations by Yorkshire TV of corruption, exploitation, and strong-arm tactics by organisations it has chosen to manage these properties in the name of 'charities'.

The GLC, through its Single Homeless Sub-Committee, funnels thousands of pounds each year into this project. The way this money has been spent has already been the subject of investigations by Scotland Yard.

This scandal was brought to light by the TV documentary "Goodbye, Longfellow Road". The two 'charities' at the centre of the scandal are 'Second Genesis' and 'Novo', who have been making vast profits out of homelessness through houses licensed to them by the GLC. They are renting out condemned properties and properties unfit for human habitation, at rents of up to £30 per week per room.

The document featured Irene Thompson and her two children. Irene lived in a house in Jupps Rd rented out by Second Genesis. One night the rain came in and all the electricity went. With two children under 3, Irene was left with no light, heat, or running water. Tower Hamlets Social Services told her, "technically, you're not homeless". Second Genesis claimed she was not their tenant, and the GLC refused responsibility for her. After 16 days



of tramping the streets, Irene was still homeless, and was taken to hospital seriously ill with pneumonia in her right lung and several infections. Her doctor, Dr Kessel, said, "The housing conditions are the main cause of her illness... It is amazing to me that a housing association should be given such houses by the GLC".

The day before the documentary was shown, the GLC gave Irene a place to live — a prefab in an estate in Bow, known locally as "Cardboard City".

Irene has been 're-housed' — but in the house she lived in, in Jupps Rd, another "Irene", a woman with children, has moved in. And there are thousands of "Irenes" trudging the streets of London looking for a place to live. Every day 600 council tenants are evicted — made homeless just because they are behind with the rent. And there are many more housing associations like Novo and Second Genesis.

Those two have had £59,000 between them from the GLC, some of it for homes that do not exist or repairs they do not carry out — like the grant for Jupps Road properties that had all been demolished. When the GLC hand over houses to these associations, they hand them back into the private sector, swelling the

ranks of Rachmanism. The bourgeois media have had a field day attacking public sector housing, blaming all the ills of the homeless on the public sector and saying "bring back private landlords — that will solve the housing problem".

This, of course, is lies. Anyone who wants to swell the detestable ranks of Rachmanism by increasing the numbers of the private sector is no friend of the homeless!

The GLC could — if they wanted — build more houses. But to do that they would have to fight back against the cuts in public expenditure. Up to now they have shown no intention whatsoever of doing that. We have to fight to make them do it.

We demand a labour movement enquiry into the allegations of corruption and exploitation, and the removal of all councillors who have been involved. There are enough building workers unemployed to build houses for those in need!

Meanwhile, the Longfellow Road squatters were among 2,500 people marching on Saturday 19th March against the criminal trespass law contained in the Government's Criminal Law Bill, now before Parliament. The Bill would hit squatters and workers involved in occupations by making their actions a criminal offence.

FRAN BRODIE

Syria behind Jumblatt murder?

THE assassination of Kamal Jumblatt, the leader of the Pro-grean Party and one of Lebanon's most important political figures, was no surprise. A year ago his sister was assassinated, and at her funeral Jumblatt predicted that he would soon meet the same fate.

Few people in Lebanon doubt that behind the assassination — one way or another — was the Syrian government. Syria invaded Lebanon in strength in May of last year, after a small Syrian force had entered the country earlier in the year.

The Syrians' chief objective in invading Lebanon was to crush the Palestinian movement and the Lebanese left, which, acting together, threatened to destroy the anachronistic 'confessional' (i.e. religious sectarian) and feudal political structure of Lebanon. That would mean an uncomfortably radical neighbour for Syria, and a temporary haven for Palestinian operations against Israel. Syria wanted a better bargaining situation with Israel at any reconvened Geneva conference on the Middle East.

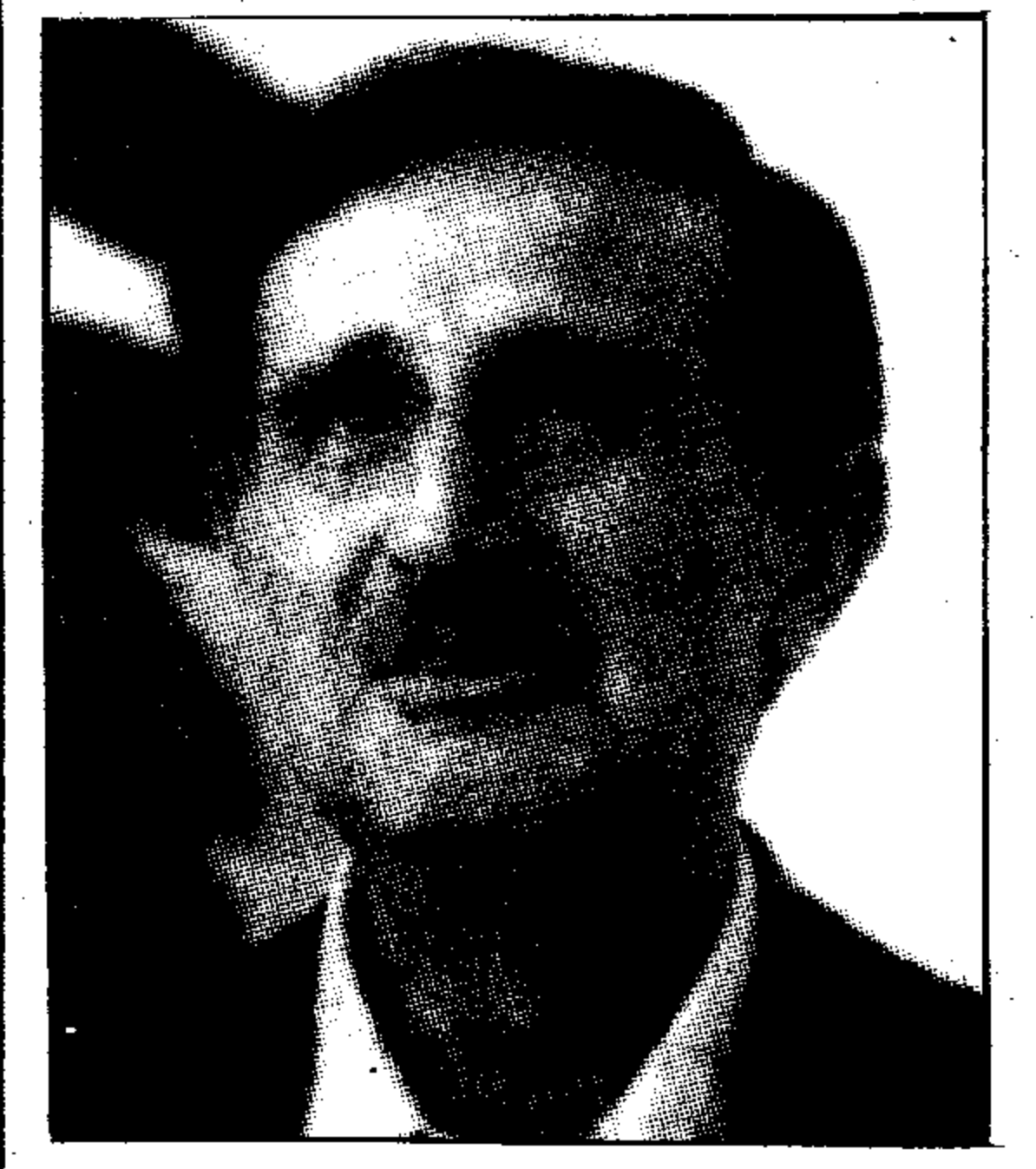
Jumblatt, the leader of the Lebanese Druze sect of Muslims, was one of the principal obstacles to Syria's ambitions. Syria managed to smash the joint Muslim-Left forces which had been fighting the extreme rightist Christian Phalangists, but it found itself bogged down in Lebanon with little internal peace, and with no sign from Israel of a speedy resumption of the Geneva talks. Although the Palestinian Liberation Organisation has taken a turn to the right, this turn has not yet been sufficient to speed up the conference.

The assassination of Jumblatt is widely seen as an attempt by Syria to cut through the resistance to their plans in Lebanon.

The man himself was an unlikely hero for the Lebanese left. In the early '50s he helped Camille Chamoun to power — the same Chamoun that led the forces of reaction against the Muslim-Left alliance led by Jumblatt in the recent conflicts. He was, despite the anti-confessional line of the Muslim-Left alliance, a typical product of the Lebanese political system — from an old feudal landowning family, a religious leader, centre of a complex knot of client relationships which substituted for any clear ideological support, and opportunist through and through.

Nevertheless, it was around him that the Muslim-Left alliance formed, and it was he who popularly expressed the democratic aspirations and the pro-Palestinian pan-Arab sentiments of the Lebanese Muslims.

PAUL ADAMS



"Thousands of blacks are missing, and many have been given paupers' burials in unmarked graves. All our informants are convinced that well over a thousand have been killed by the security forces. There is another side to the official statistics. Evidence to the Cille Commission by the senior state pathologist revealed that well over half of those shot by police around Johannesburg had been shot in the back."

These facts quoted in Counter Information Services Report on BLACK SOUTH AFRICA EXPLODES, give some measure of the casual savagery with which the South African government tried to quell the black uprising that started in Soweto in June.

There have of course been other massacres in recent years. But Sharpeville and Carletonville were both single incidents. The summer of 1976 saw something different — shooting into crowds of unarmed people (very often children) had become the norm, used throughout the country as a matter of premeditated policy.

16th, where thousands of striking school children had gathered in a "jovial" demonstration against the compulsory use of Afrikaans in schools.

Samuel Nzima, a black photographer, saw the first shooting: "A white policeman in uniform then pulled out a revolver and aimed at the pupils standing just in front of him. A colleague of mine said 'look at him, he's going to shoot the kid'. The policeman fired and more shots followed. The students then attacked the police."

The revolver shot had killed 13-year old Hector Peterson. When the bullet hit him he was bending down with his back to the police.

His death was followed by dozens of others, as the police opened up at random.

After the first shootings the riots drew in thousands of schoolkids using stones and makeshift barricades against the paramilitary units that were now drafted into the town.

Most Soweto adults work in Johannesburg. When they came home in the evening "the events at Soweto came as a complete surprise. As thousands of men and



Soweto."

In the evening the town was sealed off and the following morning black students turned to attacking shops and official buildings associated with the apartheid regime. The security forces continued shooting to kill.

While the fighting was raging in Soweto, groups of students from the township toured round other black townships of Johannesburg, spreading the news about Soweto and asking for support. That same day at Kagiso, Tembisa, and Alexandra black students and workers came out onto the streets to protest about the killings. They too met the same extreme repression.

This was the beginning. The rioting, the strikes (including the biggest political general strike in South Africa's history), the burning

of official property, the demonstrations — these continued with the occasional lull until October. By that time the movement had spread as far as Cape Town and Port Elizabeth and had assumed the character of a general black uprising, rather than just a series of localised riots.

Police raids into black areas took on all the characteristics of a full scale military operation. One such operation in Cape Town is described by a reporter who went along 'for the ride': "Clouds of smoke filled the air and flames lit up the night sky as several buildings and beerhalls burnt. ... We left the police station about 9.30 in convoy of six mesh protected police vehicles and accompanied by about 80 heavily armed policemen. The atmosphere was tense as the convoy cruised through the scarred township. Rocks and bottles smashed down on the police vehicles. From where we stood we could see the flashes of gunfire as the convoy used riflemen and teargas to break up the crowd ... other police carried the wounded into a large police vehicle. 20 minutes later we were back in the police station where the dead and dying were transferred into waiting ambulances."

Similar scenes were being enacted throughout the black townships of South Africa as the white regime struggled to reassert its mastery. Its only answer was to pile on the repression. It also tried to organise a section of blacks, the Zulu migrant

workers, to undermine the strikes. But after the first time the school students managed at least to neutralise them, and the only value it had for the regime was for propaganda abroad.

Few concessions were made to the black rising, and these were angrily spurned. The local police chief confessed that he 'did not understand the black mind'. Defence Minister Kruger, correctly noting that "the children of Soweto want nothing less than the overthrow of the structures of South Africa" could only attribute this to the influence of 'outside agitators' and appeal to

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black parents to "control their children".

But as the Report points out, the reasons for the rising are not hard to find: "The black workers whose labour has created the wealth of the South African state have been brought to the point where to die at the hands of the riot police is hardly worse than to survive life in the townships."

Soweto itself is "one of the more monstrous creations of the apartheid state. One of the largest towns in Africa, it consists of 87 square kilometres of single storey con-



STRIKE

THE RAUCISTS DO NOT SPARE THEIR BULLETS, THEIR GUNS TRY TO CUT DOWN OUR MARCH FOR FREEDOM. BUT THE MARCH TO FREEDOM MUST NOT END.

REJECT ALL CONCESSIONS THAT THE RAUCISTS GRANT US CONCESSIONS ARE CRUMBS. WE WANT FREEDOM NOT CRUMBS.

REJECT THE CEC, INDIAN COUNCIL, THE HOMELANDS, THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES.

CIS construct a vivid picture of the repression; but more important, their report shows the struggle of the black youth as a major turning point in the fight against Apartheid. The report shows the heroism, the new forms of black organisation, the crucial role of the youth, and the reaction of the white population.

The events began in Soweto on Wednesday June

women poured out of Inhlazene Station they were met by security police. No attempt was made to explain the situation. As a huge crowd gathered, the police charged with batons. Tear gas was thrown but the crowd of commuters responded by throwing bricks and stones at the police, and before long older people had joined the students and youths on the streets of

SHIFTING THE LABOUR UNITS

The South African government is solving its "squatter" problem by forcibly evicting some of the estimated 200,000 African and coloured people who live in the squatter camps in and around Cape Town.

The Minister of "Community Development", Marais Steyn, said that "in no circumstances will any shacks be bulldozed". But at the end of January squatter shanties were bulldozed to the ground, leaving 25 people homeless including a 75-year old blind woman and two 3-month old babies suffering from gastro-enteritis.

And in February 30 more camps at Kraaifontein and Grassy Park were flattened.

670 families were left to remake their homes from bits of wood, packing cases, old sacks, sheets of zinc and corrugated iron.

Now ten to fifteen thousand squatters are threatened with eviction from the Modderdam camp east of Cape Town. Already last June officials with police escort came to demolish the homes, but met with resistance and gave up for the time. "They expect us just to vanish" say militant squatters "They are the real scoundrels in this affair, not us."

The squatters are there not

just because of the housing shortage but also because of South Africa's laws, which decree where a person may or may not live. Much of the housing provided is in single-sex hostels: workers who bring their families from the arid "homelands" put themselves outside of any housing allocation.

Many of the Cape squatters are people evicted from white-owned farms when their labour wasn't required any longer. But a regulation dating from a period of labour shortage on the white farms forbids African farm workers to move to urban areas. So those who moved to the Cape in search of jobs had to squat in the shanty camps.

Other squatters had been evicted from suburbs of Cape Town when they were designated as white "group areas". At least 500,000 have been evicted to make way for whites (who now own more than 87% of the country).

The South African Government is deliberately making African and coloured people homeless to force them to live in the "bantustans", which they can then only leave under the conditions of "foreign" migrant labour. As the Chief Minister of Gazankulu, one of the "homelands" put it, they are "staging

grounds for migrant labour and dumping grounds for the dispossessed."

The declaration of the "independence" of Transkei last October was the start of an attempt to present all the "homeland" reserves as independent states in the future. This is coupled with the removal of citizenship rights in South Africa as a whole (not just the "white areas") from those who have been earmarked as "citizens" of the Transkei or any other Bantustan which has independence thrust upon it.

Over the last 10 years nearly 2 million people have been forced to go and live in the Bantustans. The movement of populations is administered with pass books which every adult black must carry. Every day more than 1,400 are convicted of breaking the pass regulations.

The new situation since Transkei "independence" will make things worse. It will mean more deportations, more bulldozing of shanties, more workers living in all-male compounds where they are mere 'labour units'. As Prime Minister Vorster defined the policy of his regime "We need them; they work for us; but the fact that they work for us can never entitle them to claim political rights."

LINDA COLLINS



FOR FREEDOM

crete and corrugated iron "housing units" — 100,000 of them — close-planted in symmetrical rows with dirt roads in between them. When it rains the streets, without storm water drainage, become rivers of mud. The aid is often thick with smog. Most of the houses have no electricity, and a large proportion have no running water. Poverty is the norm, as is violent crime, hunger and disease."

Food prices are higher there than in white areas. Malnutrition is rife.

But "Soweto is not unique. The death rate among black infants in Cape Town has

relate to existing bodies like the African National Congress, and how independent they are of other political formations.

The pamphlet ends with a compilation of all the major arms imports into South Africa between 1950 and

which supplies the teargas used liberally against strikes and demonstrations, and which also supplies nerve gas and defoliants; the South African subsidiary of British Leyland makes Land Rovers that go straight to the army and police.

IF YOU STRIKE YOU WILL HIT THE SYSTEM WHERE IT HURTS. TAKE THIS HOME SPREAD THE WORD

FREEDOM COMES WITH SACRIFICE
WE SHALL OVERCOME!

1975. Top of the list come Britain and France.

The South African demand for arms grows in direct response to black militancy. More private guns are being sold than ever before. Now they have put aside any inhibitions they may have had about shooting black people, the state forces are increasing the sophistication and firepower of their weapons.

In this feverish arming Britain still plays an important role. CIS say "Britain is still South Africa's largest trading partner and investor. Almost a quarter of South Africa's exports come to Britain and 4% of British exports are destined for South Africa. Investment in South Africa accounts for some 10% of all British overseas investment — and, more importantly, forms no less than half of all foreign investment in South Africa. ... The two largest banks are British registered and control over half of all South African bank deposits."

So Britain supplies most of the outside funds for apartheid, and British firms still manage to keep the supply of military hardware flowing. Plessey supply the technical expertise for producing target-finding systems (invaluable from the point of view of defence strategy according to Kruger); Racial Electronics supply radio equipment for South Africa's tanks and armoured cars (some of which were used against the kids last summer); Marconi are supplying a surveillance system for use in Namibia; ICI own 40% of African Explosives and Chemicals Ltd,

There are hundreds of such companies. CIS has produced a list of the most important. Action in solidarity with the black workers and schoolkids can start at any one of them — preferably (and most effectively) undertaken by the workers in such a company.

"The students ... are numerous, fearless and their political awareness, mirrored by their organisational ability and the level of their demands, grows daily. Although hundreds have been killed, and thousands wounded and arrested, their voice has not been suppressed."

AZIKHWELWA!!! From MONDAY to WEDNESDAY, 20th-22nd Sept.

The people of South Africa are going into the third phase of their struggle against the oppressors namely **OPERATION AZIKHWELWA!!**

The racists in our last demonstration — called by the cynics a riot — lost millions of rands as a result of the people not going to work. Thus they thought of immediately breaking the student-worker alliance. They immediately called on workers to carry knobkerries and swords to murder their own children — who are protesting for a right course.

Parent workers, you should take note of the fact that if you go to work, you will be inviting Vorster to slaughter us your children as he has already done. In Soweto and Alexandra, Vorster and his gangsters have already claimed that this week's shootings were made to protect parents from their own children. You will be giving Vorster a pretext for murdering us, if you go to work. Please do not allow Vorster to instigate you to murder your own child. Let him do his dirty and murderous job without making you a scapegoat! We want to avoid further shootings — and this can be done by you keeping at home without being stopped.

We want to write exams, but we are not so selfish to write even if our brothers are being killed at John Vorster Square. Parents, you should rejoice for having given birth to this type of a child. A child who prefers to fight it out with the oppressors rather than to be submerged in drunkenness, frustration and thuggery. A child who prefers to die from a bullet rather (than) to swallow a poisonous education which relegates him and his parents to a position of perpetual subordination. Aren't you proud of the soldiers of liberation you have given birth to? If you are proud, support them!! Do not go to work from **MONDAY to WEDNESDAY!**

Do not shiver and think that we have lost and wasted a year. This year will go down in history as the beginning of the end of **THE OPPRESSIVE SYSTEM**, the beginning of the end of the oppressive conditions of work in South Africa.

Vorster is already talking of home ownership for Blacks in **SOWETO** and other Black townships. This is a victory because we, the students, your children decided to shed their blood. Now for greater victories: the scrapping of **BANTU EDUCATION**, the release of prisoners detained during the demos, and the overthrow of oppression. We the students: our parents to stay at home and not go to work from **MONDAY.**

Parent-workers, heed our **CALL** and stay away from work like in *Soweto and Alexandra*. We the Black Society have nothing to lose from **STAYING AWAY FROM WORK**, but our chains!! Let our oppressor tremble! The people of South Africa are resolved in one word they will be crying: "Kruger, release our children!" "Kruger, we won't abort our children by going to work!"

Our slogan is: **Away with Vorster, Down with oppression!!! POWER TO THE PEOPLE!!!!**

When have these criminals (Vorster) cared for you? Didn't he order for killing of twelve workers in Cartonville? Were not dogs called when in Croeses people went on strike? Were not pregnant women strangled and battered (beaten) by Vorster's police thugs at Heinemann factory?

AZIKHWELWA MADODA!!!!!!



A BLANKET OF SILENCE

THE famous democracy of ancient Greece was available only to the Free. The slaves who produced their wealth had no part of Greek democracy.

That was how things started out in South Africa too. But as Marx observed, a national (or in this case community) that oppresses another can't be free itself. And as the repressive apparatus grows in its efforts to contain the black majority, so the rights and freedoms of the privileged whites have shrunk.

They may not marry nor have a sexual relationship with a person of another race. They can be confined to their homes on a banning order, or detained for 90 days (renewable) without charge or trial. They may not join a whole range of banned organisations. A long list of films and books is forbidden.

Now the press is to be gagged too.

A bill before Parliament (yes, that still exists though of course only whites can vote) will set up a press council with a built-in maj-

ority of government appointees, with powers to fine journalists and newspapers (up to £750 and £7,500 respectively) and to suspend newspapers. Defiance of the Council will lead to imprisonment.

In order not to fall foul of this Council, newspapers will have to refrain from publishing news and comment that could damage the name of the republic abroad or endanger "peace and good order".

As one commentator remarked, is there anything that can be reported about South Africa that does not damage its name abroad?

So far, the English language press has maintained its opposition to apartheid, including a wide reportage on the effects of South Africa's official racism. Recently the Afrikaans papers have themselves become more critical and no doubt it is this, coupled with an electoral swing to the Progressive Party which opposes apartheid, which has prompted this Bill.

■■■

Lies at home, and lies abroad too. Last week came two exposés

of South African propaganda dirty tricks in action.

The Anti Apartheid Movement in London revealed that petitions had been circulated, forged to look like some put out by AAM but re-worded to give the impression that all opposition to South Africa and apartheid is tied to Russian foreign policy and to the Communist Party.

The second trick involves the publication of a vast academic tome. Paraded as a world survey of "Case Studies on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms", it has been sent to 4,000 universities, libraries and newspapers.

Contributors were not told that its aim was to "show that discrimination on grounds other than racial ... causes far more human misery and denial of human rights than discrimination motivated by biological (sic) differences"; nor were they informed that it was funded by South Africa.

And when one of the contributors got suspicious that she'd been conned and tried to withdraw her essay, her request was refused.

"He stammers as if he doesn't know how to put two words together". That is how a mother described the effect of police harassment and questioning on her son — one of eighteen black teenagers from Islington arrested by the police last October.

She was speaking at a 300-strong meeting organised by the Islington 18 Defence Campaign. The meeting agreed to support a call for a demonstration outside Highbury Magistrates Court at noon on April 23 just two days before the 18 are due to appear at the Old Bailey. The Old Bailey hearing, the meeting was told, was likely to be closed to the public.

Curfew

If it is held in secret it will be following the pattern of denial of civil rights to the 18. So far some bail hearings have taken place without defence solicitors being present, and bail has been denied to six of the defendants. Reasons given by the police for refusing bail was that all were "dangerous criminals" although most of the teenagers had no serious record at all.

Those who did get bail

ISLINGTON 18: BLACK KIDS ARE SET UP FOR A SHOW TRIAL

— and that was only after spending a couple of months in jail — have to submit to humiliating "curfew conditions". They cannot leave home before a certain time and they cannot be out after tea-time! Obviously the police are hoping they can pick up one of the lads "after hours" and slap another charge on him.

The present charges are all linked with the Notting Hill carnival which the police

broke up last August. But the youths were not picked up at the carnival: they weren't picked up till two months later on the basis of photographs taken at the Carnival. This method of investigation combined with intimidating methods of questioning helped the police even extract confessions from lads who weren't at the Carnival!

The charges include catch-all charges, like "...that you

on a day unknown in the months of August and September 1976 together with persons unknown did rob a man unknown of £4.10 cash". And all 18 face the blanket conspiracy charge that "...between 21st October in the Greater London area (you) conspired together and with persons unknown to commit robberies".

One speaker at the Defence Campaign meeting told of how the police had planted informants at youth club meetings discussing the case

"HOW OFTEN have you had sex with your fiancée? Why are you marrying her? Has she got big tits? Who arranged your marriage?" These questions were fired by police and immigration officers at an Indian immigrant the day before he was due to get married (to a British woman) in October 1975.

Alex Lyon, Minister responsible for immigration at the time, gave the reasoning behind this in an interview with Amrit Wilson (reported in "Spare Rib", June 1976): "It may be that some questions are asked about sexual intercourse in relation to a marriage. We have to be on our guard against a bogus marriage, a marriage of convenience..."

Britain's immigration law limits entry of 'alien' and 'non-patrial' Commonwealth citizens. But an exception has been made for women marrying British husbands, and — since 1974 — for men marrying British wives. (Before 1974, a British woman marrying a foreigner was even liable to be deported for no other reason than that her husband had been!)

The immigration authorities, following through the anti-human logic of the immigration laws with grisly vigour, set about checking that the marriages were 'genuine'.

Now Home Secretary Merlyn Rees is planning to introduce a formal 'trial period' to check if marriages involving non-British nationals are 'genuine'. Immigration officers will presumably be set onto checking that husbands and wives are really performing their marital functions.

There is only one way to eliminate these nauseating inquisitions. Scrap all immigration controls, now!

LIBERATION CONFERENCE AVOIDS A FIGHT ON RACISM

The Liberation conference on racism which drew about 500 delegates mostly from Labour and Trade union bodies could have been especially important with the forthcoming local elections and the possibility of a general election. In both, the fascists will be fielding a large number of candidates and in some areas stand a good chance of winning

at least some council seats. Last May, the National front drew 43,000 votes in Leicester's local elections and came within 6 votes of a seat in one ward. In a general election, the fascists could be entitled to television time and will be attempting to reactivate the racist campaign which resulted in numerous attacks on black people last year. This conference thus offered a unique opportunity to co-ordinate and plan actions around the elections against racism and fascism. However, it passed over this opportunity and became merely a talking shop.

Speakers from the platform ranged from Pauline Webb of the World Council of Churches to Ray Buckton ASLEF, but none of them offered any concrete proposals for action. Ray Buckton would do well to start with his own union in which 10-12 branches of the National Front's railwaymen's association are known to exist. The first two speakers from the floor, one a Workers Action supporter, called on the conference to act as the co-ordinating centre for all the local actions against racism especially around the elections and the media. This call was echoed by a number of delegates but ignored by the platform which was determined to keep the conference within its narrow limits.

The 1971 Immigration Act was repeatedly attacked,

but only one or two took up Labour's 1968 Act and there was no consistent discussion of Labour's record on racism and the severe shortcomings of the 1976 Race Relations and Nationalities Act. Other speakers took up the question of increasing fascist infiltration of the unions. The TUC must be forced to impose a ban on all fascists as union members and to undertake a full inquiry into fascist infiltration. However, neither this nor any other action was initiated from the conference which, while putting itself forward as fighting against racism failed to provide any leadership and implied that such talking-shops are the way forward. In the present situation where the fascists are set for a big campaign and the anti-fascists are disorganised, Liberation are doing a positive disservice by discouraging and defusing attempts at co-ordination.

Resolutions proposing courses of action, including one passed unanimously from Cardiff North Labour Party were submitted but not brought to the conference. A formal vote was finally taken on a statement produced by Liberation condemning racism and fascism but giving no constructive proposals. Having set the assembled conference to simply talk around the issues, Liberation are avoiding a fight and encouraging others to avoid one as well.

Anger

The size of the meeting shows there is already a good deal of anger building up mainly within the black community in Islington. It is important that their demonstration gets practical support from the black community, from the local trade union movement and from the local Labour parties. They should also support the Defence Campaign's call for an inquiry by local trade union and tenants activists into the activities of the police.

Demonstration — April 23rd Highbury Magistrates Court. Messages of support and donations to 161, Hornsey Road, London N.7.

Socialist Worker Appeal

"Socialist Worker" HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING APPEAL:

"A concerted effort is being made by trade union leaders and officials to put the Socialist Worker and our socialist printshop out of business.

Recently, Clive Jenkins of the white-collar union ASTMS was awarded damages and costs amounting to almost £10,000. This follows closely behind a settlement with Frank Chapple of the electricians & plumbers (EPTU) of £4,000.

There are High Court writs against us from T Comerford, an ASTMS full-time official, and from the National Union of Bank Employees. To cap it all, Frank Chapple has issued yet another High Court writ against us concerning the publication "The Ugly Face of Chapple's Union".

These actions, win, lose, or draw, will cost Socialist Worker many thousands of pounds."

Socialist Worker is appealing for donations. The address is SW, 6 Cottons Gdns, London E2 8DN.

WORKERS' ACTION supporters' groups

BASINGSTOKE, BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE, CARDIFF, CHELMSFORD, CHESTER, COVENTRY, EDINBURGH, HUDDERSFIELD, LEICESTER, LIVERPOOL, LONDON, MANCHESTER, MIDDLESBROUGH, NEWCASTLE, NEWTOWN, NORTHAMPTON, NOTTINGHAM, READING, ROCHDALE, SHEFFIELD, STAFFORD, STOKE.

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

FEES RISE MUST BE STOPPED, NOT BOUGHT OUT

A SCOTTISH conference of overseas students is being held on April 20th at Strathclyde University Union. This will be the first ever conference of overseas students at a regional level, and is aimed at coordinating and extending the campaign on fee increases which has developed in the past term.

The political basis on which overseas students themselves have conducted the campaign contrasts strongly with the political 'leadership' provided by the NUS Executive. The Broad Left in NUS want to conduct the campaign on the basis of 'institutional consensus', i.e. alliances with the University authorities. But the entire experience of this campaign shows that overseas students' only real allies are home students and workers, united in action against the fee rises. The 'liberal' Director of the LSE used 600 police to smash up the occupation there, and police have also been used at City University, Kent Uni-

versity, and Portsmouth Polytechnic.

The college authorities are prepared to say they are against the fee increases, but when it comes to the crunch they line up with the government and the police. In its anxiety to forge 'consensus' with its friends, the Broad Left has played a scandalous rôle, arguing for the occupations to be called off.

Two weeks ago, Pete Ashby of the National Union of Students Executive proposed that students should demand that university authorities refuse to implement the fees, using their own funds. Most universities simply do not have money for this in any case, and the demand is very dangerous. For the authorities would simply use it as an excuse to make cuts in other areas, and thus split the movement. The whole logic

of Ashby's argument is precisely the "special case"-ism which the NUS Executive formally rejects.

Militants should fight to force University authorities not to implement the fee increases. We should force them, through occupations, to overspend deliberately and ignore directives from the DES to make cuts. This can be part of a campaign to force the government to stop the fee increases, as well as providing an immediate focus for action in the colleges.

We should also link the campaign with the fight against racism. In reality, fee increases mean stricter immigration controls. We should fight for the abolition of all tuition fees and all immigration controls.

We should also extend the campaign into the local authorities, who are responsible for educational institutions other than universities. We should demand that Labour councillors vote against the rises, and that Labour councils refuse to implement the fee rises or any other cuts. As well as enabling taking the campaign into the Labour Party, this can provide another focus for linking up with public sector unions and local anti-cuts committees.

Gordon Brewer

SHEFFIELD

AFTER A SIX DAY occupation of the local Education Department, Sheffield Poly students have won a pledge of support for a 5-point agreement from the city's ruling Labour group.

The points of the agreement were:

□ No unreasonable increases in fees which would gravely affect a minority of students.

□ No discrimination in fees for home & overseas students.

□ No discriminatory quotas for home and overseas students within national targets.

□ Top priority for arranging at national level compensation for students caused severe hardships.

The situation of students locally will be monitored by the city authorities.

Although this settlement is far from adequate to protect students' interests, it represents a concrete gain won by the bold tactic of occupation outside campus.

Students must obviously now hold the Labour councillors to this pledge and demand they fight for all these agreements.

Meanwhile security is being tightened at the education department. Local Tory education spokeswoman Ms Pat Santhouse continues to insist that the cops should have been brought in against the students, although she admitted that the offices were clean and tidy. M.W.

EDINBURGH

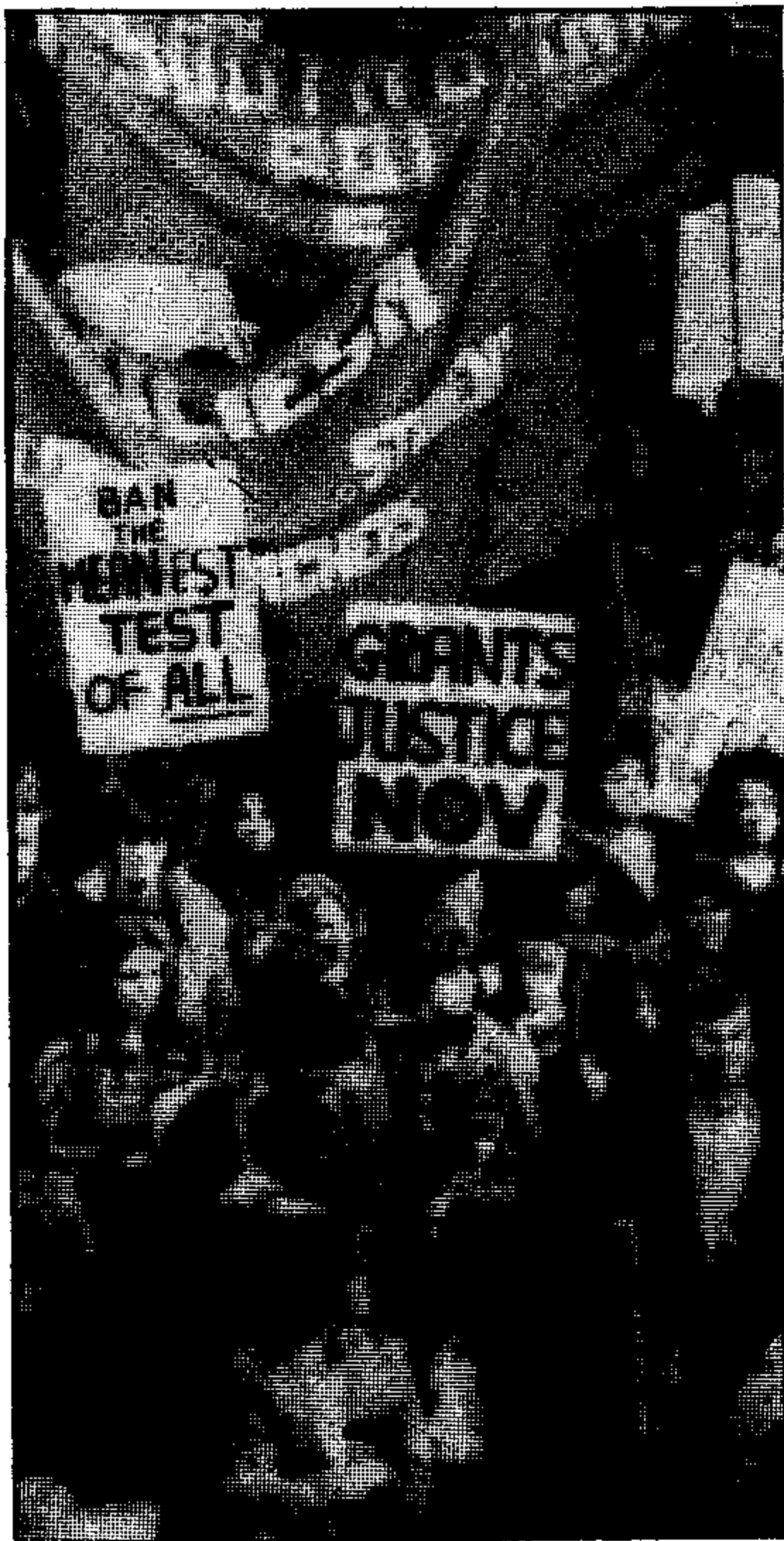
STUDENTS occupied two buildings in Edinburgh University on Tuesday 15th March, in protest against the massive fee increases for overseas and home students being implemented next session.

The previous day a delegation from the Overseas Students Action Group had been invited to discuss with the University authorities — and found that the decision to put the fees up had already been taken — last December! Later on in the evening, at an

"Open Forum", the Principal of the University and Rector Magnus Magnusson "deplored" the fee rises, but said they were not prepared to do anything to stop them.

Supporters of the overseas students walked out in disgust and held a meeting which decided to move into occupation the next day.

The students left on Friday, the last day of term, emphasising that the campaign would continue next term. G.B.



MAY 14th MOBILISE WORKING WOMEN FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

WITH William Benyon's Bill to restrict availability of abortion rights already past its second reading, the need for a massive mobilisation for women's rights is as urgent — or more urgent — than it was in June 1975, when 30,000 marched against James White's Bill.

The National Abortion Campaign has called a demonstration for May 14th, and at its conference last weekend (19th March) it agreed to "a militant campaign... including pickets, occupations, local demonstrations" and "a campaign directed at working class women, who will be worst hit by the changes in the law — including factory gate meetings, trade union branch, shop stewards, & trades council meetings, and street meetings in shopping centres and on council estates".

Organisation within the labour movement has been taken up by the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign inside the Labour Party (with great success) and, now, by a trade union liaison committee which the NAC conference voted to set up.

But politically the NAC confer-

ence was on the retreat, reflecting the general downturn in the labour movement under the Social Contract since 1975.

The whole mood of the conference was one of retreat — we must only put forward what we think we can win. Two resolutions called on conference to support the Abortion Law Reform Association's draft Bill, which only provides for abortion up to 28 weeks or in cases of proven danger to physical or mental health.



The resolutions supporting ALRA's bill fell by a very narrow margin. But a few moments earlier most people had voted for an amendment which nervously argued that the 28-week limit should be accepted as "necessary as a practical concessions in the existing political climate".

"Abortion on demand" was rejected as a mobilising slogan for May 14th; and NAC decided to work on its own model Bill. Far from attracting more support by having

more modest demands, this approach means a turn away from simple, clear slogans for mass mobilisation towards projects suitable for committee-room haggling.

Many people at the conference were afraid that to support action against the cuts would put many people off supporting the campaign. The conference rejected both a motion opposing all cuts, especially in the NHS, and the IMG's version, opposing only "NHS cuts in contraception, pregnancy testing, abortion and sterilisation". This makes the demand, "A Woman's Right to Choose" an empty phrase. How can women choose when the facilities — doctors, nurses, hospitals, clinics — don't exist! Or how can we, as the IMG propose, fight this cut here but not that one there?

Some of the guts have been kicked out of NAC. But, to save women from the knitting needles and syringes of the back-street abortionists, Labour and trade union militants must fight to mobilise thousands on the streets in May.

LINDA COLLINS

WILDTS — THERE MUST BE MASS MEETINGS

THE BIGGEST DANGER faced by the strike at Wildt Mellor Bromleys, Aylestone Rd, Leicester, against the closure of the factory, which is now in its 6th week, lies in voluntary redundancies.

Accepting volunteers, who will no doubt be forthcoming if called for, will mean smashing the shopfloor organisation as effectively as has happened in the rest of the Bentley group. And it will mean 400 jobs lost, which, in a situation of already high unemployment, is totally unacceptable.

Another dangerous notion is that of trading living standards for jobs, by arguing that the question of a new bonus scheme should be part of any talks. The logic behind this suicidal argument is that cutting wages at Aylestone Rd will make it viable for the company to keep the factory open rather than transfer work to lower-paid plants.

To avoid these dangers, the issues must be presented to the whole workforce to decide on, not kept behind closed doors. In the course of a 5-week dispute, there have, so far, been only two mass meetings. A workforce that is not actively involved in the discussions, that has not had a chance to hear the issues debated out, is easy prey to scare-mongering by the bosses and the press or to sell-outs by their own leadership. G.B.

Black THF!

AFTER 15 weeks, 30 of the original 45 strikers at Grosvenor House hotel in Sheffield are still on strike.

One of them a 62-year old woman, told *Workers' Action* that she had worked there for eight years, and was amazed by the anti-union savagery of the Trust House Forte management. The management ultimatum which was delivered at Christmas contained clauses that no trade union members could work in the hotel, and demanded 3 months' probation in any case.

All the jobs have been filled by scabs recruited from the Salvation Army and more secular scab-herding agencies. Much of the responsibility for this state of affairs must lie with the T&GWU leadership, who have refused to call a national blacking of Trust House Forte. Officials have been little in evidence on the picket line, and this has left the strikers leaderless and unprepared to face the lorry drivers, who are often unaware that a strike is going on.

Despite the heavy odds against the strike now, militants have a duty to support it, fighting for a national blacking of THF until it grants union recognition. M.W.

TEACHERS TO APPEAL TO NUT MEMBERS

THE 30 TEACHERS at Little Ilford school, East London, who were disciplined by their union, the National Union of Teachers, have decided not to take the union to court.

When the 30 refused to agree to a ruling not to take unofficial action, they were suspended from the NUT. They were asked to sign an undertaking on this ruling after they withdrew their labour in sympathy with another teacher who was threatened with breach of contract for operating a no-cover policy as a sanction against the cuts.

The 30 have now decided that in the final analysis it is the membership of the union which has to judge the case, not the bosses' courts. Solidarity action from the local NUT membership has given them the confidence to seek the support of the NUT Conference.

They will lobby the conference for the removal of Rule 8, which forbids industrial action without the prior approval of the Executive. The 30 still believe they were right to take a stand over no covering, and that they were deliberately picked on out of 1500 members in London operating the same no cover policy.

It is crucial that the NUT membership decide these cases, not the judges. Ian Hollingworth

FRIDAY 25 MARCH. "Real Education Debate", sponsored by NUT Rank & File and NATFHE Rank & File. 6.30 at Mary Ward Hall, Tavistock Place, London WC1.

EVENTS

Small ads are free for labour movement events. Paid ads (including ads for publications) 8p per word; block ads, £5 per column inch. All payments to be made in advance. Send copy to *Events*, 49 Carnac St, London SE27, to arrive by Friday for inclusion in the following week's paper.

SATURDAY 26 MARCH. Greater London Tribune Group conference on "The Alternative Economic Strategy". 9.30am to 5.30pm at Central London Poly, New Cavendish St, London W1.

SUNDAY 27 MARCH. Demonstration against the Prevention of Terrorism Act. March 2pm from Shepherds Bush Green; rally, 4pm at Hammersmith Town Hall.

SUNDAY 27 MARCH. "Campaign for Democracy in the Labour Movement" recall conference on wage control and union democracy. 10am at Digbeth Hall, Birmingham. Credentials 50p from Kevin Lee, 44 Devonshire Rd, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham 20.

WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH. "Workers Power" public meeting: Dave Hughes on "Party & Programme". 7.30pm at the Earl Russell, Pancras Rd, near Kings Cross.

SUNDAY 3 APRIL. Conference on wage restraint called by the Leyland combine committee. Credentials 60p from P.Nicholas, 88 Newbridge Rd Small Heath, Birmingham B9 5JG. Conference starts 10.30 am at Birmingham Town Hall.

TUESDAY 5 APRIL. "Drop the Secrets Charges". Meeting organised by the Aubrey-Berry-Campbell Defence Committee. 7.30pm at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1.

SUNDAY 17 APRIL. International Communist League public meeting: "What Programme for Workers' Power?" Speaker: Sean Magamna. 7.30pm at the 'Roebuck', 108A Tottenham Court Rd (Warren St tube).

SATURDAY-SUNDAY 21-22 MAY. National conference of the Working Women's Charter Campaign — "Which Way Forward for the Charter Campaign?" Delegates' credentials £1.50 from Jill Daniels, 1a Camberwell Grove, London SE5.

— Advertisements —

"Workers Power" no. 4 now out. Price 35p, from 1a Camberwell Grove, London SE5.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST

No. 5 now out: Special issue on "THE LENINIST PARTY": Documents 1967-76 on the Leninist theory of the party and the conceptions of the SWP-IS. 30p plus 6½p postage from G.Lee, 98 Gifford St, London N1 0DF. Still available: "International Communist" no.4, price 30p plus 6½p postage; "Women's Liberation & Workers' Revolution", an I-CL pamphlet, 20p plus 6½p postage. Send all orders to G.Lee, 98 Gifford St, London N1 0DF. Cheques payable to "Phoenix Pamphlets" or "ICL".

WORKERS IN ACTION

Toolroom men get grudging recognition after union sell-out

THE 3,000 striking Leyland toolmakers won the right to discuss the erosion of their differentials with management. Their decision to go back to work after a heavily melodramatic blackmailing ultimatum threatening them with dismissal should not hide that fact.

The toolmakers, whose strike led to the laying-off of 40,000 Leyland carworkers across the country, decided they would return to work if the threat of dismissal was first withdrawn. Leyland quickly replied that dismissal would not arise once there had been a return to work. The toolmakers returned on Monday 21st March.

In fact, support for the toolmakers had grown in response to Leylands' threat, which had the backing of the AUEW and the Government. On Wednesday 16th March, two days before the decision to return to work, representatives of the Lucas

group Birmingham plants (with 1200 toolmakers), of GEC Coventry and others, pledged their support for the Leyland toolmakers. To carry out their sackings threat, Leylands management would have had to find replacements for the toolmakers, or wreck the industry. The wave of support from outside Leyland is proof that they could not have found replacements.

The heavy threats, coupled with concessions of discussions to the strikers, were an attempt to limit the impact on other workers, bitter about erosion of the buying power of their wages, of the concessions won by the striking toolmakers: concessions that would not have been offered without the strike. But in the end the victory went to Leyland — because of, and solely because of, the attitude of the official labour movement, including its 'Left'.

See "A stout defence of the motor industry", page 3.

Plesseys: Kirby occupation stays solid

PLESSEYS have been forced to climb down on their ban on supplies for the Kirby works, from which management has been locked out by the 350 workers. At a meeting on Monday it was agreed that Edge Lane works, employing 5,000, where management have been allowed back in after a brief lock-out, could supply Kirby. But the Kirby workers have to arrange the transport by hiring lorries.

At Kirby, which faces total shut-down under Plesseys' plans for a total of 4,000 redundancies, two staff members were allowed in last week to pay wages. That sums up Kirby's problem. The workers will either take decisive action, fully occupy the plants, and force the company to abandon redundancy plans; or they

will succumb.

That occupation could force the company and the government to reconsider is clear from the fact that telecommunications is not a collapsing industry. It is an industry in which recent changes in technology create for the bosses the possibility of 'rationalisation' with greater profits at the price of workers' jobs — in an area where unemployment is already very high.

Occupation to secure work-sharing, under workers' control, and with no loss of pay, is the answer. Meanwhile the Kirby workers should be supported. Send messages of support and donations to Lily Allen, Plesseys, Dixon Rd, Kirby, Merseyside.

KELVINATORS TRY TO FREEZE OUT SIT-IN

THE SIT-IN at Kelvinators in Bromborough is now well into its third week. The dispute comes as a result of a long history of petty tyranny by the local management which has included many abuses of procedure, particularly on the disciplinary side. There have also been cases of indiscriminate lay-offs.

Despite the workers' willingness to maintain production, management have now cut off all power and heating in the plant, which has resulted in the maintenance workers also leaving the factory. In the face of these efforts to freeze them out, the workers are maintaining their control of the factory

gatehouses, although the delivery of materials has largely been halted by management's withdrawal of the insurance cover.

Management are clearly determined to try to sit the dispute out, and in this they have the full backing of the American parent company. To aggravate the situation, they have offered the workforce a derisory £700 (about £1.50 per worker) for the work done when the original lock-out occurred.

The shop stewards have been in contact with local dockers to make sure that the goods which were produced during the lock-out will remain in the warehouse until payment is made for the work done.

Meanwhile the shop stewards' committee have issued an appeal for financial support. This is particularly important as it appears that the workers are being refused unemployment benefit. Donations to: H. Mosses, 89 Mackenzie Road, Leasowe, Wirral, Merseyside. Kevin Feintuck

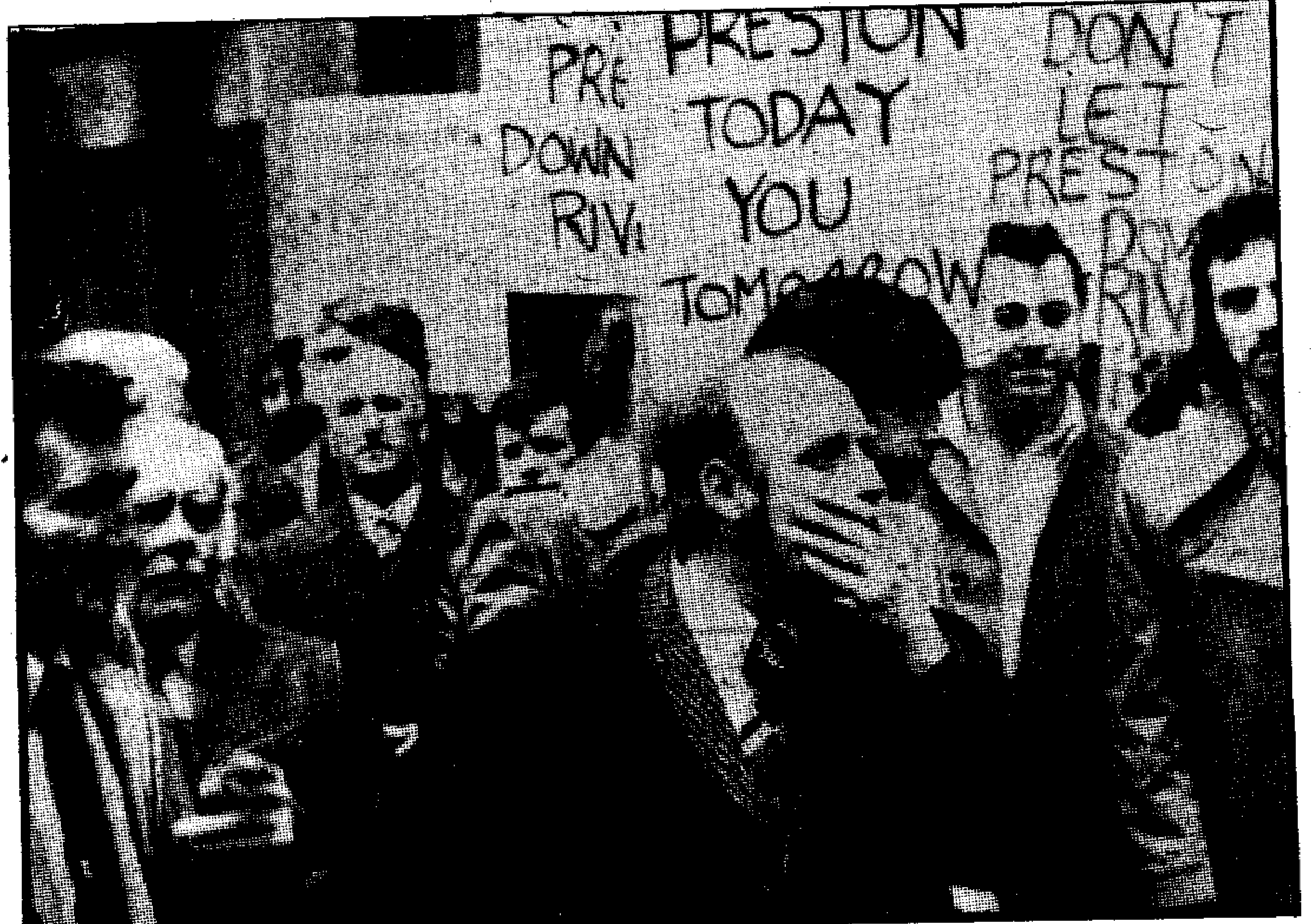
DOCKERS UNITE TO SAVE JOBS AT PRESTON

LAST MONDAY (21st March) 25,000 dockers in ports throughout Britain staged a one-day strike. Part of the T&GWU offices were occupied by dockers protesting at the T&GWU's refusal to organise official strike action. The cause of the strike was the intention of the Tory-controlled council in Preston to close Preston docks and put 150 dockers out of work.

The closure of Preston would set a precedent for the compulsory sacking of dockers, who are protected from redundancies by the National Dock Labour Scheme. Five years ago action by the dockers forced the employers and the Tory government to abandon an attempt to dismantle the NDLS by using cheaper labour not registered under the Scheme. Then the strategy was to pack and unpack containers outside the traditional port areas. Now the bosses are moving to shut down ports and move to more and more concentration, with fewer and fewer dockers doing the work.

Containerisation has contributed greatly to the run-down of the dock labour force. In 1947 registered dockers numbered 78,450; in 1967, 56,161; and now, 29,829, with a further drop to 28,229 already estimated for next year.

An index of the eagerness of the port employers to reduce their labour force is given by the sums offered as severance pay in the docks — going up from £1,500 in 1968 to £5,250 in



Dockers outside Transport House.

1975, to the present sum of £7,000, which was proposed at precisely the time that the National Port Shop Stewards' Committee was deciding how to implement its opposition to the Preston closure. But dockers know that £7,000 isn't any compensation when they face an indefinite spell on the dole.

Labour's manifestos for 1974 included the promises of docks nationalisation and maintenance of employment for registered dockers in and around the ports. Docks nationalisation has been dropped by the Labour government, and the Dock Work Regulation Bill was mauled out of recognition by the Opposition parties in Parliament.

Last Monday's action showed that the dockers, organised by

the National Port Shop Stewards Committee, have tremendous strength. This strength could be extended by appealing for the support of the seamen and road haulage workers; it could be extended further still by putting the dockers' strength behind the national one-day strike called by the LCDTU against the Social Contract, on April 19th. Further the dockers should demand that vacant posts are in future filled, and that, rather than jobs being cut, the hours worked by dockers should be reduced with no loss of pay — so that dockers, and the labour force that works round the docks, can benefit from containerisation, instead of just the port employers benefiting.

Bob Sugden

GRUNWICK STRIKER BEATEN UP



Mass picket outside Grunwicks after a striker was beaten up.

AT MIDDAY on Tuesday 15th March, George Ward, managing director of Grunwicks Film Processing, dragged Kanti Patel through the factory gates and beat him up. Kanti Patel was picketing the Chapter Rd factory alone until George Ward brutally assaulted him.

It was the latest in a series of attacks from management on the strikers, who have been out for 31 weeks for recognition for their union, APEX. Previously, after having failed to get an injunction to prevent picketing of local chemists who use Grunwicks, Ward and his cronies had toured the borough shouting abuse and assaulting the pickets.

After Kanti Patel was beaten up, the Willesden Green police arrived... only to arrest Jack Dromey, secretary of the local Brent Trades Council! Because of their racism and arrests of

strikers, the workers have come to call them a company police force. The Trades Council is demanding an investigation into their relationship with Grunwick management, and the removal of the Officer-in-charge.

In response to management's vicious tactics, a mass picket of Grunwicks was organised on Friday 18th, with delegations from local factories, trades councils, and Labour Parties. Unfortunately APEX had agreed there should be only 6 pickets outside Grunwicks at any one time, so the mass picket was left standing on the other side of the road. Even so, it persuaded management to tell the scab workforce to turn up for work at 9.30am instead of the usual 8am.

It was back in December that Len Murray promised that the full force of the trade union movement would be brought to bear in support of the

strikers. And Roy Grantham, general secretary of APEX, has also spoken of the need for all-out support.

The government's Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service, too, found in favour of the strikers. APEX referred to the strike to ACAS under section 11 of the Employment Protection Act 1975. Grunwicks directors refused to cooperate with ACAS. ACAS then went on to find that 93 out of 110 strikers wanted APEX recognised by the management. Grunwicks still refuse to recognise the union.

Grunwicks bosses are blatantly sticking their fingers up at ACAS, the trade union leaders, and the Employment Protection Act. And the trade union leaders do nothing. Now is the time for the strike to be won, through Union of Post Office Workers backing of Grunwicks mail. Pete Firmin