

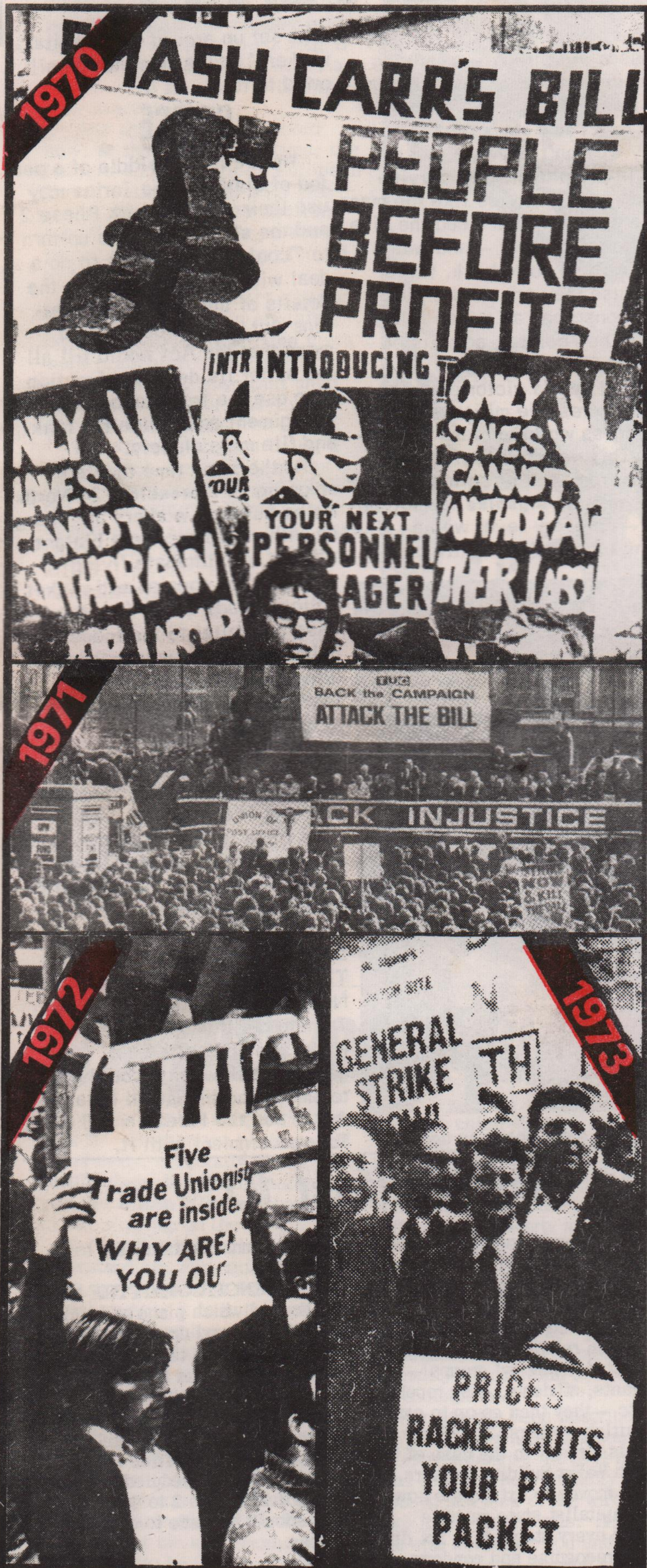
WORKERS' FIGHT

No. 26

April 28 - May 11

4p

ALL OUT MAY DAY!



Smash the Act! Smash the Freeze!

Under Phase 2, prices and rents are soaring. The rich have been given a £300 million tax handout. But ordinary people's wages are pegged. The Freeze does not stop inflation. It does cut living standards and boost profits.

picket. Recently, police tactics against pickets have become more and more vicious. Five hospital worker pickets were arrested in London. 24 North Wales building workers are up on charges including conspiracy.

UNITED ACTION

Gas workers, hospital workers, and railmen have been defeated by Phase 2. Why? Because they were isolated. Because there was not a United Front of all unions with claims in, striking alongside each other against the Freeze.

Already, the violence used by the British army against the people of Ireland is beginning to spill over into Britain. If there is not a big turn-out on May Day, the Tories (who give the orders to the police) will be encouraged to go further. The best reply is to organise flying pickets to get more out on May Day.

May Day must be a **united** action against the Freeze. Right now, some may think "I'm all right, I don't see why I should lose a day's pay by striking." But soon rising prices and frozen wages will hit us all. We will be looking for the support of other workers to defend our living standards. If we do not support the rest of the movement now, then we are cutting our own throats.

Rip up the Act

And after May Day we must go on to build Joint Action committees of trade unionists against the Freeze and against the Industrial Relations Act.

20 scab members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers tried to get the National Industrial Relations Court to declare the May Day strike illegal. Without doubt they had a legal case. The NIRC refused them. Why?

Because the Tories remember the mass solidarity strike movement that freed the Pentonville Five.

But the Tories are only biding their time. A massive turnout on May Day can show them that their next attempt to use the "big stick" will be smashed by a General Strike. And that General Strike will go on to rip up the whole Act penal clauses, fines, Industrial Relations Court, the lot. ■

The chief weapon of the miners' victory in 1972 was the flying

Asians: Stop these deportations NOW!

24 BLACK PEOPLE, ARRESTED AT THEIR HOMES OR WORKPLACES AND IMPRISONED, UNABLE TO CONTACT FAMILY OR LAWYER, TO AWAIT EXPULSION, WITHOUT RIGHT OF APPEAL.

Where are we talking about? South Africa? Rhodesia? No, we are talking about England in 1973.

There are known to be 24 Asian men at present in Pentonville Prison. Their crime? They have broken a law that was not even in operation at the time the 'crime' was committed!

Tarsen Singh is one of these men. He came to England in 1968. By the then existing Immigration Act, if he managed to avoid detect-

ion for 28 days, he was allowed to remain in the country.

He began employment at once,

Contd. back page

North Wales 24

The 24 North Wales building workers charged for official picketing are coming up in court again on May 18th, probably in Shrewsbury.

WORKERS' FIGHT calls on all readers to organise for a demonstration of solidarity with the 24. For a final check on demonstration date, contact M.R. Williams, 1 Fford Pentre Ocean View, Carmel, Flintshire.

More details, centre page

Dec. 8th 1970 - 500,000 strike against Industrial Relations Bill
Feb. 21st 1971 - Demonstration of 140,000 against the Bill
July 1972 - 5 dockers imprisoned by I.R. Act, freed by mini-General Strike
March 8th 1973 - 1,000 lobby special T.U.C., demanding General Strike



MAY DAY —

The leaders of the T.U.C. intend the May Day general strike as the merest token, a small gesture, and little enough price to pay for "coming through" the crisis around Phase 2 without a head-on clash with the government.

They know very well that the employers and the government could learn to live with occasional well-orchestrated gestures. The 'Economist', a frankly militant weekly of the employing class, not long ago referred contemptuously to the 'continental habit' of one day 'holidays' to let off steam.

The 'shell' of the strike — the formula "inviting" unions to come out on May Day — was called by the TUC to avoid actually fighting Phase 2 with serious solidarity action. The TUC's failure to do so led to defeat.

We now have the 'shell'. The content that fills the shell will be determined by the rank and file militants.

Gormley, who proposed the general strike in order to evade action on the miners' claim, is blatantly sabotaging the strike. Sir Sidney Greene of the NUR is scabbing — or rather, using his option under the vague TUC formula to "make up his own mind":

BLOW

Every pit that strikes, every train that doesn't run, will be a blow against the miserable stooges within the labour movement who let the viciously exploited hospital workers go down to defeat!

In the sober atmosphere following the success of the government in forcing through Phase 2, May Day will be a roll-call of the fighting strength of the working class. The attitude of groups like building workers and miners, in coming out and in organising mobile pickets to bring others out, will be a serious index of the real present level of class combativity.

The revolutionaries and the militants must exert every ounce of strength to make the strike as

extensive as possible. We must act to bring other shops and sites out as well as our own, and appeal to the rank and file members of unions whose leaders have told them to scab.

Wherever possible, united, central demonstrations and rallies must be advocated, rather than a scattering of smaller protests.

DEFEATS

The Tories have won only a round. The battle continues, and we can fight more effectively if we learn from our defeats.

The defeats involved weaker sections of workers — the victories of last year involved strong decisive sections with real economic weight and aggressive traditions of militancy.

The Tories won in round 2 because the fight was isolated. Amidst the euphoria of last year's victories it was often forgotten that not every industrial battle involves the heavy battalions, such as miners or dockers.

That's cold comfort for the defeated gasmen and hospital workers — but if the lessons are learnt, the sobering up can help advance the struggle.

The defeats must be used to

ROLL CALL OF OUR STRENGTH

drive home the lesson that the bosses are strong — as strong as our weakness. Their strength is measured in terms of our failure to act as a class — and normally we don't act as a class.

The employers can survive 'crushing' victories like the mass strike wave which freed the Five Dockers last year — and watch and wait to come back. Why? Because they are more united and conscious as a class, because they control, administer and dominate society.

Last year's victories arose from aggressive militant action and mass working class solidarity. This year's defeats have come from lack of solidarity. The lesson is to **organise for solidarity** — on every level we can. The many local united front commit-

tees set up around the hospital workers' strike must not be allowed to fold.

POLICE

We are in the middle of a period of clashes. The Tories may use their success with Phase 2 and the slight economic up-turn to "cool it" — perhaps to do a deal with the union tops on the details of the Industrial Relations Act. Such a deal would mean that the Act would fill all the better its designed function — to use the trade union leaders to regiment and police the rank and file more closely.

At the same time they are stepping up repression. 24 North Wales building workers are charged with conspiracy in a blatant attempt to intimidate flying pickets. The special anti-picket police squads are in fact the necessary parallel to the Industrial Relations Act. It was mass picketing that defeated the Tories last year. Next time they hope to be ready.

We must be ready too. The Tory victories, the repression and the police preparations are a warning. If the Tories' confidence rises further, they may even attempt to impose the "big stick" sections of the Industrial Relations Act once more.

May day must be used as a stepping stone in preparation. To mobilise support for the 24 North Wales building workers. To help build united front committees. To spread the call for a general strike which could go on to smash the Industrial Relations Act — and the Freeze and the Tory government with it.



Gormley at special TUC in March — "militant" then, scabbing now

Defence Committee campaigns for "Belfast 10"

On March 8th, following the series of explosions in London, ten people were arrested at Heathrow Airport. On March 12th they were charged with conspiracy to cause explosions in London.

Those concerned — now known as the "Belfast 10" — are Roisin McInerney, aged 18, William MacLarnon, (19) Robin Walsh (24), Gerald Kelly (19), Martin Brady (22) William Armstrong (29), Hugh Feeney (21), Joseph Holmes (19), Dolores Price (22) and Marion Price (19).

These ten have already been found guilty by the media. Between 8th March and 12th March nine of the ten were kept completely unclothed in Ealing Police Station.

During that time two solicitors, one contacted by relatives of the ten and one by the National Council for Civil Liberties, and the mother of Dolores and Marion Price, were prevented from seeing them.

The police had no legal power to do this. At present the three girls are held in a male prison, Brixton. This is entirely without precedent.

The treatment of the Ten involves further encroachments into civil liberties and legal rights.

We have already seen the increasing use of police intimidation, frame-ups by police agents (as in the case of the 'Hackney 5' trial last year where charges were event-

nally withdrawn), and frequent use of quite illegal obstruction tactics with regard to access to lawyers, etc.

Where police manage to get away with this in relation to relatively unprotected 'minority' groups — immigrants, students, Irish republicans, etc — they then go on to extend it to British workers. They have done this already in the case of the 24 North Wales building workers.

Such moves to extend the powers of the capitalist state must be fought at every stage. It is not difficult to recognise and condemn repression in Vietnam or Greece or Rhodesia, or some faraway place. When it happens here, however,

such condemnation is all the more necessary.

A DEFENCE COMMITTEE has been formed which plans to publicise their case and draw attention to the treatment of those arrested. It will also organise financial help and welfare.

The Belfast 10 Defence Committee also plans to hold a regular picket of the Home Office. The first of these is scheduled for Sunday April 29th from 2 to 4pm. Every effort should be made to ensure its success.

Send Donations to Belfast 10 Defence Committee, 88 Roslyn Rd., London N15 Meetings each Sunday 8pm at General Pictou, Caledonian Road, Kings Cross.

10,000 pledge support for Clay Cross

APRIL 15th SAW APPROXIMATELY 10 000 tenants, trade unionists and militants demonstrate their solidarity with the 'rent rebels' of Clay Cross

The 11 councillors of Clay Cross are the only ones still defying the Government's so-called Fair Rents Act, despite the collapse of many other councils up and down the country who said they would not implement.

The demonstrators assembled by an estate on the outskirts of the town and then marched through the centre to a sports field for a rally. The speakers included Clay Cross councillors, trade unionists, and other tenants. Denis Skinner MP also spoke on behalf of Eric Heffer who, for reasons unexplained, could not attend.

This was a great demonstration of solidarity not only from tenants up and down the country, but from the trade union movement. There were contingents from the NUM, the AUEW, and many other unions.

If the councillors of Clay Cross are going to be successful in their fight, then this support must continue. They must be backed up with industrial action when the Tory government starts wielding the big stick

JOHN CUNNINGHAM



Women workers - the millions still unorganised

WHY DO WE NEED TO WRITE AN article on women and the trade unions? You certainly won't see one on men and the trade unions

The female workforce is largely outside the trade union movement. This may seem strange as almost two fifths of the total work force in this country are women, but in fact only a small percentage of this number are unionised. And when you look at the conditions of work and the low pay that women have to put up with you will probably realise the importance of this issue.

Most women, in fact, can only expect to earn about £12 for 40 hours' work. Sometimes doing exactly the same job as a man, taking home less than half the men's wages in not considered exceptionally bad for most working class women. But that's not the only bone of contention; women are rarely given the chance to do skilled work and usually end up doing tedious and repetitive work.

Women are rarely given the chance of an apprenticeship, except in hairdressing or secretarial work, so that all factory work is very low paid. It is accepted as normal that working women must also be housekeepers, and must pay the price of trying to do two jobs at once. Time off usually gets no sick pay. Few pension schemes apply to women.

If a man was offered these conditions, he would either look elsewhere for a job or he would fight through his union to improve his lot. But a woman is more

likely to accept the job as it stands, realising that being a woman she is not going to find anything better. She is fully aware she is being exploited, but she does not know how to do anything about it. Few women look to action through the trade unions as being the answer to their problems. Let us look at why this is. The trade unions usually accept existing society and established ideas about women's role in the society. Thus they tend to show a very patronising appreciation of women's situations. They don't encourage women to fight for their rights, but pretend to fight for women. As they have no real appreciation of the situation of women, they in effect do damn all for them.

They take no steps to encourage women to be active within the unions because they hold meetings at impractical times and provide no creches. In fact, in some

circumstances, the unions have seen women's fight for equal pay as a threat to the conditions and pay of their male members - they see it to mean taking from the male wage packets to give to the women's.

In this situation, many women shrink from tackling the unions, and they remain isolated, with bad conditions. Women have no history of unified organisation to guide them in a struggle, but this should be no reason for women to do nothing about the situation now.

The trade unions exist to fight for the rights of the whole of the working class, and so it's up to women to make the unions fight for them.

They can do this by organising themselves within the trade unions for women's interests. This means that those already in the unions should try to organise all the women in their workplace.

Support from male workers for women's rights is important. But no-one can create women's self-reliance for them.

Many militant women, seeing that the unions give little help to women, draw the conclusion that women should stay out of unions or perhaps form separate women's unions.

But if women are to defeat the ruling class and the prejudices reinforced and promoted by the

influence of that ruling class, then they certainly can't give up on the task of defeating bureaucrats and prejudices within the unions. The trade unions are not just the bureaucratic leaders. They are also millions of militant men - and women - who, however prejudiced now, can be won to support of women's demands.

Equal Pay

The most immediate issue which could be the basis of action is the question of equal pay. The Equal Pay Act of 1970 promised women equal pay for work of equal value. There are loopholes in the act which make it virtually useless, but it is up to women to make it a useful bit of legislation for them.

The three main loopholes are:

(A) The Act is not compulsory, i.e. there are no penalties on employers for non-implementation.

(B) The Act applies only to unionised women. For the Act to be enforced an agreement has to be drawn up with the union.

(C) Many women will be regraded so that effectively they will not receive any more pay.

Thus we must press for:

(A) Total implementation of the Act;

(B) No regrading of jobs

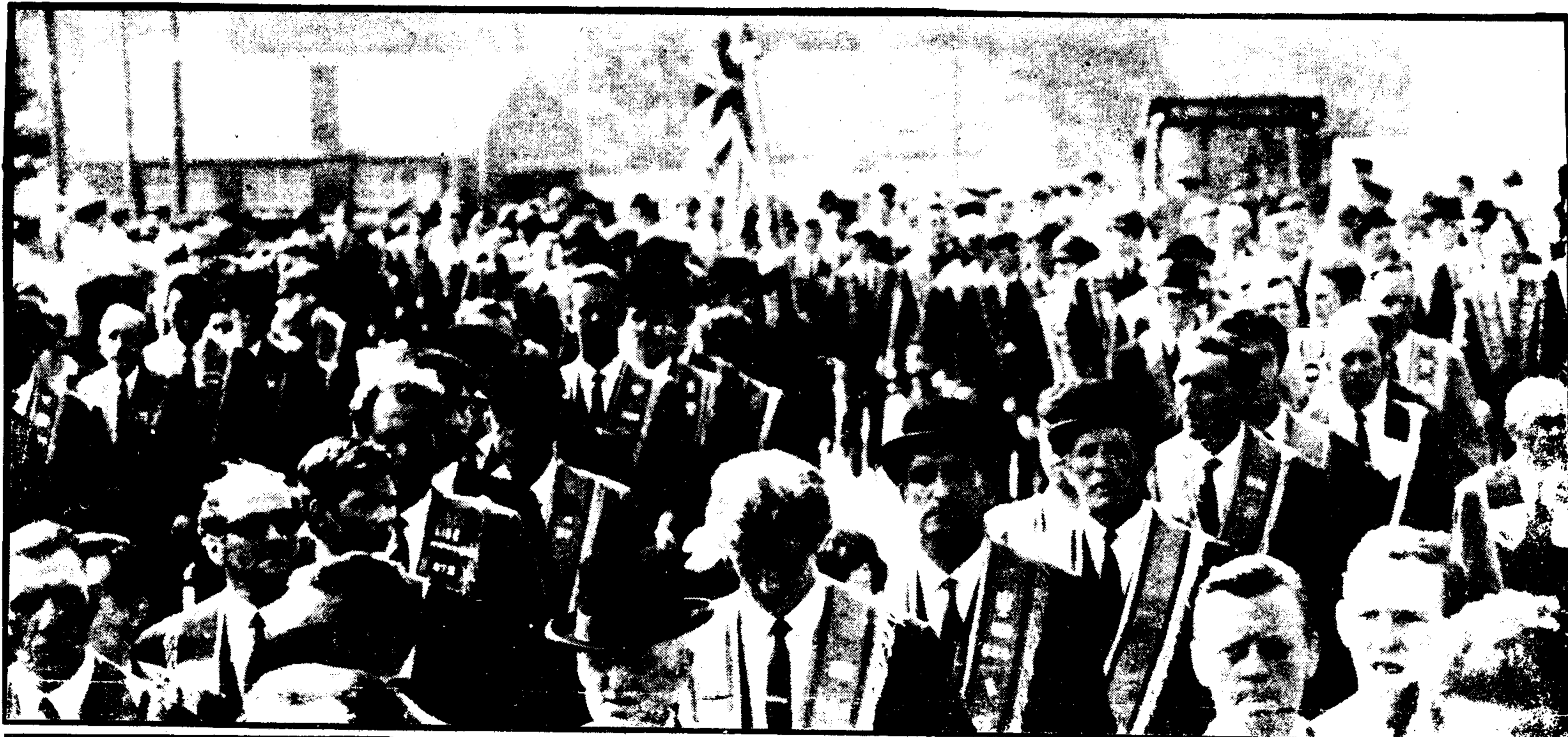
(C) All women workers should join trade unions.

It would be wrong to say that the question of equal pay is the only aspect of women's oppression which women workers can fight against. The demands for free state-run nurseries, free school meals, no rent increases, etc, must be fought for together with equal pay - for without them pay increases can be made meaningless. And without such demands women will remain household slaves.

All these demands can be fought for through the trade unions - that is what they are there for, after all, and they have the necessary power

SUE LEIGH





From Austen Morgan in Belfast

AS "ELECTORAL" POLITICS returns to Northern Ireland, on the bayonets of the British Army, the public washing of Unionist/Loyalist dirty linen holds the centre of the political stage.

Since 1968, the Orange cyclops, which ruled supreme for 50 years, has staggered punch drunk from crisis to crisis — each one producing more splits and more confusion as the contradictions on which Unionism is based tear the Leviathan limb from limb.

British imperialism's strategy, in the form of the recent White Paper, spelt out their view of the way ahead — a new 80 seat Assembly with powers 'devolved' from London, which will be 'shared' between the Catholic and Protestant middle classes.

The British government and the 'liberal' British media have focused attention on what they call the 'centre' of Northern politics. The Tories' strategy is to replace the old sectarian Unionist ruling group with a modern non-sectarian pro-British and pro-EEC elite made up of both Catholics and Protestants. Imperialism is now looking round for a new ruling group which will be genuinely 'loyal' to the British government — not in the traditional Ulster sense of 'loyal'.

The Orangemen's loyalty was a loyalty to their position of power and privilege in Irish society dressed up in protestations of loyalty to the Queen and 'Protestant succession', etc.

The British government has been leaning over backwards, both privately and publicly, in order to attempt to construct a moderate centre which might take over. In this they have been remarkably unsuccessful. The 'liberal' bees are not yet swarming around the British honeypot.

The main centre groupings are the Alliance Party and the Northern Ireland Labour Party — both of which are milder forms of mainstream Unionism. In comparison with the Northern Ireland Labour Party the British Labour Party appears positively revolutionary.

The Alliance Party, founded in 1970, is made up of middle class Catholics and Protestants, vicars, Quakers, peaceniks, and clever Unionists who have jumped from the wreck of Unionism onto the new

The small boats put out from Unionist shipwreck

Alliance craft which they hope to steer.

One of these is Sir Robert Porter — now portrayed in the media as a kindly non-sectarian gentleman. It was Porter, who was the Minister of Home Affairs at the time of the Bogside uprising in August 1969. He first ordered the use of CS gas and who finally asked London to bring in the army to do the job the RUC failed to do.

The main weakness of the 'centre' has been their general failure to read the broad outlines of British long term strategy. Other groups imperialism has to take into consideration are the Southern government and the northern Catholic middle class, represented by the SDLP.

The more perceptive of British politicians realise that imperialism's time, money and army could be 'better' invested by trying to reconcile liberal Protestants to some conception of a 'new Ireland' (and smashing those who refuse) instead of attempting to integrate the Catholic minority into the northern state. (Of course, they accept that the Catholics should be well kept down in the meantime lest they disrupt the remodelling-from-above)

It is the 'unionism' of the centre which will militate against the growth of a liberal ruling group in the north of Ireland.

THE UNIONISTS

The Unionist Party, with splits and defections, is now somewhat withered. Faulkner and his pals are tenth-rate run-of-the-mill bourgeois politicians. Take them out of the tea-rooms of Stormont, which the British did with Direct Rule, and they are lost.

Faulkner, of course, wants his old Stormont back, but even he has enough political intelligence to realise that the British government is not going to return it. So "wee

Brian" Faulkner struts about telling his mates that the new Assembly will control the police and that it will be even more powerful than the old Stormont. Willy Whitelaw lets him get on with it, hoping it will prevent the rank and file of Loyalism defecting further to the right wing.

The Unionist Party is in a fix — they want to hold on to power, which must be on Heath and Whitelaw's terms (it is **their** army, after all) — and at the same time they need to keep hold of the traditional Unionist grass roots. Wee Brian thinks this can be done by bluff. He may not be wrong; the Orange masters are dab hands at that sort of stuff.

Most of the Unionists have swung to the right. Nightly, Craig, Paisley, and their cohorts stomp the Orange Halls shouting "No surrender" and invoking the spirits of dead generations of Unionists from the great man Carson onwards. The Unionists were never inclined to alter their ways, however slightly — now that the bottom has fallen out of their own little power structure they stamp their feet in anger and shout the old slogans.

THE LOYALISTS

The present permutation of Loyalist groups began with the formation of the United Loyalist Action Group, to oppose the White Paper, the day after it appeared. Paisley and Orr, a Unionist MP at Westminster and Grand Master of the World Orange Order, became joint chairmen.

Craig came a poor third in the leadership league and brought with him through the United Loyalist Council, his own 'Vanguard' organisation, the Loyalist Association of Workers, the Ulster Defence Association and all the other Protestant/Loyalist bully boys. This Action

Group was set up to fight the White Paper "democratically" by organising a slate of Loyalist candidates on an anti-White Paper basis. Once in the Assembly, it was their intention to make it unworkable.

Orr, considered as a possible successor to Faulkner, quit the United Loyalist Action Group the next day, when he heard of a proposal to hold a 'monster' rally at the City Hall in Belfast. For Orr, the bourgeois politician, the thought of the Loyalist bully boys being summoned, uniforms and all, into the centre of Belfast on a Saturday afternoon was too much.

With the flight of Orr, Paisley was for the moment triumphant. Calling for the defeat of the Irish Republican Army and the return of security to Stormont, he had jumped overnight from leader of his 'one man band' (the Democratic Unionist Party) to leader of the United Loyalist Action Group, bringing in all loyalists outside the Unionist party.

Then Craig announced his new party — the Vanguard Unionist Progressive Party, formed from the rump of the United Loyalist Council. Asked on TV if the 'progressive' in the title signified a left wing slant to the new party, Craig replied that he did not think loyalist workers were of a "communistic or socialistic disposition".

This is the biggest gamble yet taken by a loyalist politician. Only the election results will tell if it has paid off.

Most of the right wing and moderate elements which have quit the Unionist party were most reluctant to do so. The Unionist party organisation reached into every Loyalist hamlet through the Orange Order. Unionists were slow to quit the party, realising that it would take another machine (or guerrilla army) to destroy its power.

Craig hopes that his old haunts, the Unionist Constituency Association, will come over to him intact. If he gets those he will win the party.

As yet the signs are not too hopeful for Craig. Hardline Unionist MPs like Laird and John Taylor have decided to stay with the party (which supports the White Paper), while supporting the United Loyalist Action Group candidates who oppose it, most of whom will be members of Craig's Vanguard Unionist Progressive Party or Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party ■

As millions in India face starvation — Europe destroys food to push prices up

THERE WILL COME A DAY, one day in the socialist future, when people will look back in disbelief and wonder whether a system as irrational and brutish as capitalism could really have existed.

The history books may record that in the year 1973, 30 million people in India were faced with death from starvation. They may go on to detail the number of those who actually died and, if records were accurate, how many others were maimed for life by near starvation.

And they will also record how, at that very same time, the leaders and masters of European "civilisation" were busy decreeing the systematic destruction of food — in order to keep up prices which they were elected to bring down.

On account of butter getting 'too cheap' (how can anything be too cheap?) 1.4 million cows were slaughtered in Europe, neatly ensuring also that meat and cheese prices rose to unprecedented levels.

On account of eggs being a price which workers' families could afford (anyone remember the 'Save money - Serve Eggs' campaign: a sick joke now) one million egg laying hens were killed. Anyone remember the 'Slaughter day on the farms' headlines when the 1972 dock strike held up some animal feeds?)

At the same time Britain's Minister of Agriculture Joseph Godber announced that fruit growers would be paid £200 for every acre of orchard deliberately spoilt with grubs.

In fact, a whole industry exists throughout the EEC, exclusively concerned with rendering food unfit for human consumption.

Wheat, sugar and cereals are mixed with stipulated amounts of dye, fish-meal, chalk or dried, ground animal carcasses (them-



selves destroyed for the same reason). In Britain, in the first months of 1973, 17,000 tons of wheat has been contaminated. It is forecast that before long up to 2½ million tons a year will be ruined.

So every time the professional front-men for these operations — the politicians — say they're concerned about rising prices and want to 'fight inflation',

they are just plain lying. They engage in criminal vandalism to push prices up, and then kill two birds with one stone by saying that workers' wages are to blame.

Let us hope at least that the history books will record that these 'gentlemen' thieves and murderers met an appropriate end. ■

and advice, which she received and responded to well. Although her life of rejection and deprivation would have broken many another person, she seemed to be managing to cope.

Then, in a fit of deep black despair, she threw her nine-month old son onto the fire.

The vicious society in which we live is full of violence and greed. Among its casualties are frozen pensioners, children under-nourished and under-educated, miners crushed in unsafe seams or choking and spitting out black phlegm half their lives, and women condemned to a life sentence of scrubbing floors and washing nappies. Poverty, homelessness and hunger exist side-by-side with unbelievable wealth and opulence, which have been gained by brutality and theft by the profit-hungry boss class.

Linda Boyle is just one of many to do unspeakable things after their lives have been brutalised by capitalism.

KATHLEEN THEASBY.

Drudgery led to killing

"HOW HORRIBLE! HOW COULD SHE?" — such might be the reaction of many, especially among the middle class to hearing that a 23-year old woman killed her baby son by throwing him on the fire.

But many working class women understand why she could do such a thing, horrible though it is. They know how easy it is to think of bashing or strangling a child.

The drudgery of housework, the strain of trying to make ends meet, the worry over new school uniforms Nights interrupted by a hungry or teething baby, then tired mornings and another round of household tasks to face: a long dreary routine that changes only for the worse, when you go down with the flu but can't neglect the kids (mothers are not allowed to be ill), or when you have unexpected bills to pay, or

when the children catch chickenpox.

In the case of Mrs Linda Boyle the misery and degradation of life under capitalism for working class women is shown clearly. She has suffered from poverty and lack of love from childhood. She was badly educated, and was almost illiterate. Poverty and debt were part of her daily life, and she suffered from depression as well as "personality inadequacy" and "educational subnormality" (according to bourgeois psychologists).

Her life has been described as one of disaster after disaster, calamity after calamity. In 1971 her husband deserted her, probably as depressed and sick of the way they were living as she was. She was left with her infant son and a small daughter to bring up, and asked the Social Services Department for help

SCOTTISH SOCIALIST REMEMBERED

A COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP in London to commemorate the Scottish socialist, John MacLean, in the fiftieth year since his death. The John MacLean Commemoration Committee, which aims to use the anniversary to publicise MacLean and his work, has issued the following statement:

It is 50 years on 30th November this year since the death of John MacLean, who was at the centre of the struggles on "Red Clydeside" during and after the First World War.

MacLean's contribution to the working class movement, and the political ideas for which he stood, have been almost forgotten, yet those ideas and his role have an increasing relevance for us today. What lessons can we draw from the attitude of contemporary revolutionaries to the present round of struggle in Ireland when MacLean, almost alone, placed the national struggle in Ireland between 1919 and 1921 at the centre of his propaganda and agitation? What can we learn from MacLean's fight for an anti-imperialist stance by the labour movement during the First World War?

What was the influence of MacLean as a theoretician and Marxist teacher among shop stewards in the shipyards and factories? Discussion of his contribution will raise many vital questions. Even the background to this important period of working class history is little known.

John MacLean was aged 44 when he died, his health broken by his experiences in prison and his intense political work. This year, to mark the 50th anniversary of his death, there will be a series of activities to commemorate his work, promote the publication of his writings and the broadest possible discussion about the man and his ideas.

So far we have produced a full colour poster of MacLean; two affiliated organisations are to produce pamphlets on different aspects of MacLean's writings; and we have organised a memorial meeting at the Conway Hall, London on 30th November, at which Harry McShane and other speakers will outline aspects of MacLean's life as a revolutionary. This will be followed by a day-school.

The Committee is appealing for support in these activities. It can be contacted at 28 Larmer Park Road, Faling, London W.5.

Permanent Revolution

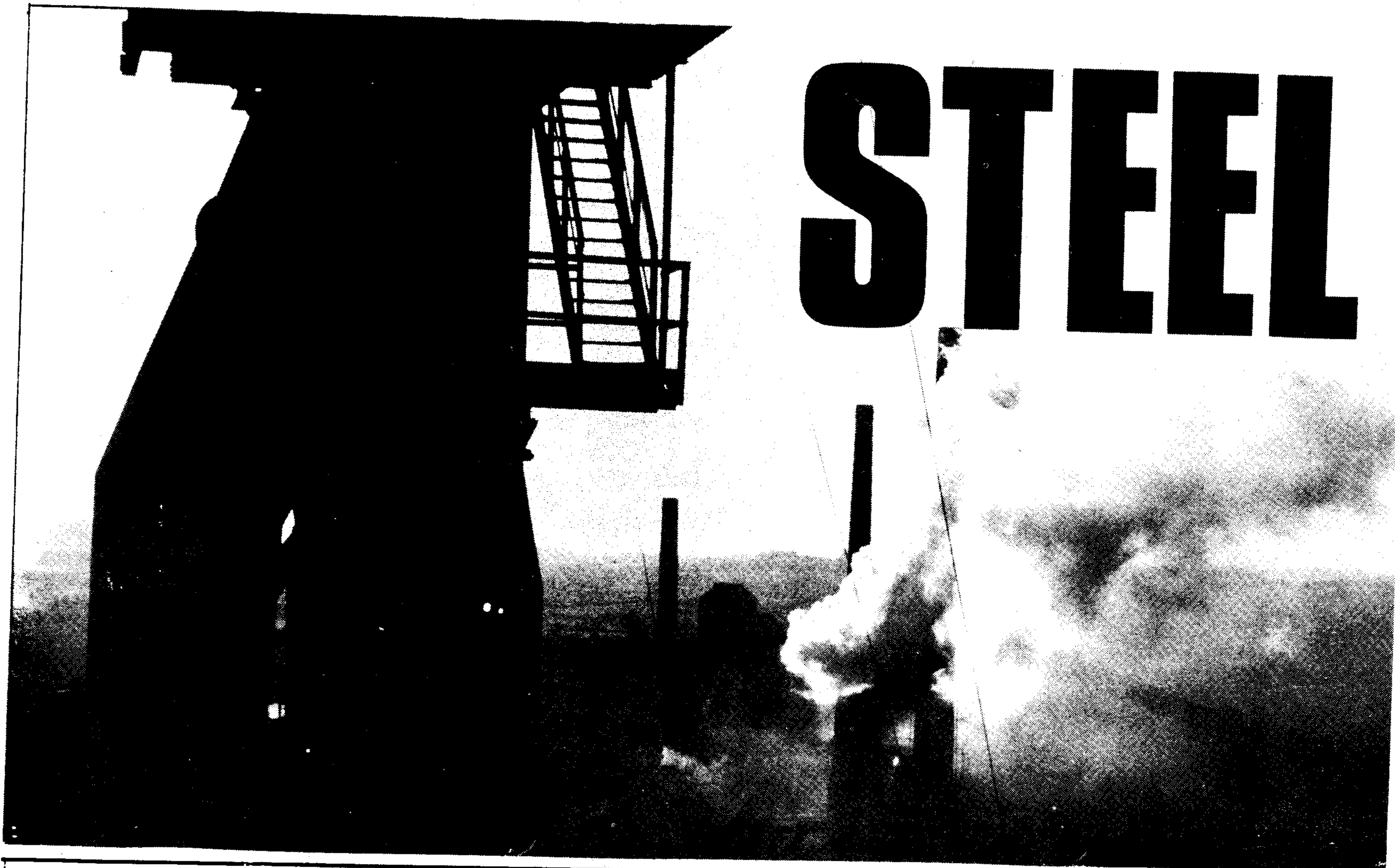
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STEEL

North Wales 24

It's a POLICE "Conspiracy to Intimidate"

ONE OF THE FIRST PICKETS TO be interviewed by the police was shown a picture of one of his workmates and asked if he knew him. Of course, he did. The police said: "Now we're asking you lads to come in, but we'll be dragging this one in".

This was nothing but blatant intimidation. The picket in the police picture was a man without any previous convictions, and he was terrified by the police threats passed on to him. So also, of course, was his wife.

It was even worse when the police

picked him up and told him that another workmate had made a statement against him. The "statement" was pure invention. The police also told him that he should give them all sorts of personal details which would be "taken into consideration" when the judge found him guilty.

Then, three weeks after bringing the charges, the police turned up, told his wife "Don't worry, it's all over", and gave her a chit saying that he was released from bail. And yet later he was arrested along with the 23 others.

The case was suspicious from the start. Six months elapsed between the time of the alleged 'crimes' of the 24 pickets and the first indication that the police were going to make any charges. This in itself was enough to raise suspicion about the honesty of the police. It seemed just like the action taken against the pickets at Longannet power station after the miners' strike. The Government didn't dare try any intimidation of pickets by the courts right then. They decided to wait until things died down.

The 6th February was the last

day of the six-month period outside which charges could not have been brought. One picket received his summons on the 26th. But the papers were dated the 6th. Obviously he concluded that the police were trying to drag things even further than the legal six-month limit.

The police had a weak excuse - that they had come to his house on the 6th, but hadn't been able to find him until the 26th! In fact, there is always someone in at the house, and in any case they could have contacted him any day at work.

INTIMIDATION

With another of the 24 accused men, the police tried a 'deal'. They promised to "go easy" on him if he pleaded guilty on the conspiracy charge. If he didn't, they warned him, they would "do him" on a number of "potential charges".

The police intimidation has been backed up by the press. The local paper, for example, stated that the charge common to all the accused is fighting and making an affray. That is not true. The common charges are to do with "conspiracy" - not fighting and not causing damage.

Often enough we hear the rich and comfortable preaching about "violent" pickets causing "intimidation". The fact is that the rich have the police to carry out their jobs of intimidation for them, against ordinary working people. And - if we are to defend the right to picket - we can't let them get away with that intimidation. ■

Cynthia Baldry

M

HAROLD Steward every w

It's as should they sh ers out cases i workers penaltie union a hoods.

Whet that the that the matter. we're al action a

In fa need of



NW24

The £¼m. Trial

FIGURES RECENTLY QUOTED by defence lawyers have shown once more the real meaning of the charges brought against 24 North Wales building workers for official picketing during their strike last August.

The probable cost to the state of the trial is likely to be £250,000 - far more than the cost of any alleged damage to property! The ridiculous charge of threatening murder brought against one picket has been dropped. The picture is clear: this is a political attack, by the Government, against picketing.

The Government is victimising the 24 as a test case. Thus they delayed six months after the end of the strike before bringing charges.

The next hearing is 18 May (having been put back from 25 April on request of the defence lawyers), but the actual trial probably won't be until October. Various of the 24 will be coming up in court in different places at different times.

The Shotton steelworks site is being broken up soon. A number of the 24 arrested men work there, and the site stewards' committee has taken a leading role in their defence. Unless the committee keeps itself together after the job ends, there will no longer be an organising centre to mobilise working class support and demonstrations for the 24. And many of the workers with charges hanging over their heads are likely to find difficulty in get-

ting new jobs.

Obviously, the police are hoping that the 24 will gradually get isolated and demoralised. The men's union leaders, both UCATT and T&GWU, have completely abandoned them. That's why it's especially important that rank and file militants mount a big campaign for support on the 18th and after. Building workers, especially in North West, the Midlands, and London, have organised support. The National Port Shop Stewards' Committee has also pledged solidarity.

Donations to: MR Williams, 1 Fford Pentre, Ocean View, Carmel, Flintshire. Further information from that address or (in London) from Jim Kemp, 51 The Avenue, NW6.

Connah's Quay Conference

NATIONAL ACTION CTTEE. NEEDS CLEAR STRATEGY

"ONE STEP FORWARD AND ONE step sideways" is how one delegate described the National Action Committee meeting of steelworkers as the 91 delegates and many observers filed out of the Civic Hall in Connah's Quay on April 13th.

Behind this one step forward — and a giant step at that! — have been the threats of massive redundancies in the steel industry. The recent White Paper on Steel announced 50,000 redundancies, but it lied. In fact, a figure of something around 110,000 is what even the White Paper's own facts suggest.

The calling of the conference — the initiative of the Shotton Works Action Committee — will certainly mark a turning point in the ability of steelworkers to organise their massive industrial strength against the attacks on them by the BSC and

by both Tory and Labour governments

But more than that: like the National Ports Shop Stewards Committee and other industry-wide rank and file organisations, the National Steel Action Committee marks a step towards class unity and the awareness of class interests — a giant step away from the parochialism and trade sectionalism that has dogged the workers' efforts so far.

In the discussion on the resolution calling for the setting up of the committee on a permanent basis — as a permanent gain for steelworkers — Tony Hope of the River Don Works announced — "This conference is a nail in the coffin of the BSC and the Government's policies. ... Had such a committee been in existence at the time of the River Don fight, things would have been much easier."

But here we come to the "one step sideways". For that nail to

be driven home, for this committee to fulfill its immense promise, it must adopt a programme which reflects the growing militancy and is able to give a guiding unity in the struggle — particularly that against the impending closures.

Partly because of inadequacies in the standing orders, the debate on many resolutions was severely distorted. What happened was that very militant speeches were given — endorsing resolutions which were both timid and wrong-headed.

One resolution called for "support of workers throughout the industry to unite in favour of a policy of expansion in the industry. ... based on a minimum of 40 million tonnes per annum (amended to 43 million)". But many of the delegates opposed all reference to tonnage targets.

One delegate from Corby hit the nail on the head when he said that "not only is tonnage irrelevant, but if the BSC were to go for a 43 million tonnes target they would not keep the old sites on but build a green field (brand new) site on the coast. That way a town like Corby would die in any case."

Lackenby (Teesside) militants Tony Duffy (AUEW) and Arthur Affleck (BISAKTA) stressed the dangers of the tonnage target approach, pointing out the dangerous connection between agreement of production targets and agreements on productivity targets.

With talk of tonnage, you can be sure that "rationalisation" is just around the corner.

Of course, the issue of tonnage can also be a splitting device. Once you talk in these terms you start talking about a mini-mill here (Fast Moors?) and a tandem mill there (Shotton?) and you get each area out for their own pet scheme, instead of absolutely united in a struggle against all redundancies.

There was already a muted indication of this danger in the first section of the policy proposals — "The eventual policy shape will depend to a great extent on the attitude of the individual Plant Action Committee."

In a mess!

The pattern of debate on the second resolution was unfortunately repeated in the third: militant speeches, many very good points being made, but the substance of the printed resolution not reflecting this at all.

At this point a quiet bombshell was dropped by Mike Anderson of Newport Tubes (Mon.) "We're in a mess at Newport Tubes. If we don't act now, we'll be finished in 12 weeks!"

Now, that should really have set the debate on its proper footing, not of saving steel but of saving jobs. But it didn't. Despite an impassioned plea from Geordie Barclay of Stanton (Derbyshire) the big step sideways had so far evaded the

question of action by steelworkers that Mike Anderson's speech drew not one positive pledge of action.

This, of course, underlined the real problem of the conference. The steelworkers' rank and file leaders there were in many cases more militant than the mass of their members. With betrayal after betrayal by the union leaders in the industry there is still a widespread feeling of defeatism.

What the delegates must resolve to do is to hammer out a policy and fight for it amongst the membership. If they don't, the Conference will have been just a day out for delegates and a pint in someone else's pub.

The depth of the scepticism could be detected in the policy proposals, one of which called for "A total ban on exports of scrap... and a total ban on imports of steel which can be produced at home... this would be the best course of action and would have much greater chances of success than a national steel strike..."

But brothers, who is to impose these "total bans"? This is a policy for dockers, not steelworkers! This is dockers' action instead of a strike! If these bans are worth imposing, then what is called for is a national strike which couples occupations with flying pickets to stop steel transportation, and picketing both of scab steelworks and steel stockholders.

But these bans are not called for as "blacking" but as policies for the steel industry. Moreover, this would mean counterposing to the new Tory policy of international trade an old Tory policy of national protectionism or put-Britain-first. The first victims of this sort of fight would be steelworkers abroad. We need solidarity with them, not a policy to make them redundant!

Real Steel News

The weakness of the resolutions, and the real militancy of many of the speeches, shows the road forward. We must gather militants around the programme of the paper REAL STEEL NEWS (which was, incidentally, a strong campaigner for the setting up of a National Action Committee) and use that paper as an educator and organiser amongst the rank and file.

The Real Steel News programme summed up is "If workers can't all benefit from 'modernisation' then we're going to fight it. You can't tell us it's more modern to be on the dole!"

"Neither is it more 'viable' — for us! The capitalists' idea of 'viability' is just a way of saying that they benefit, and we pay the costs — both financial and social. We demand it is the other way round: we demand the benefits and control of the industry with the capitalists footing the bill!"

That this conference with its 91 delegates was called and received such widespread support augurs well for the future. That all the areas (except the Steel Company of Wales) and all the unions (except the Roll Turners) sent rank and file representatives is ground for optimism.

Now let's fulfill that promise with a militant programme and fulfill that programme with a fight.

So far, the only call to action by the National Action Committee is the call to come out on May Day. All steelworkers should support this call, and show the doubters that a real fight can and will be put up. ■

Andrew Hornung

N24 "IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANY OF US"

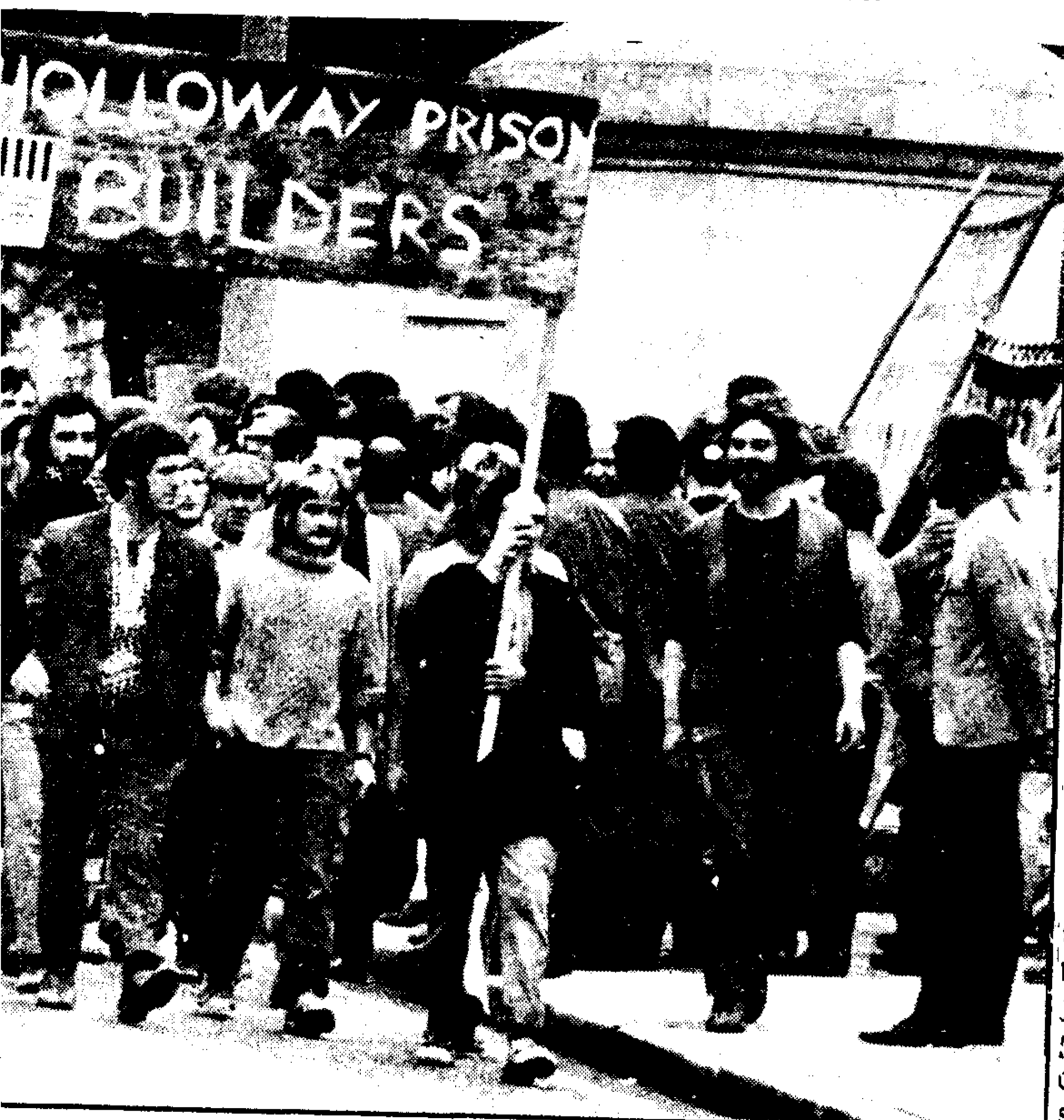
D YOUNG, (who moved the resolution at the National Ports Shop Stewards Committee for action in support of the North Wales 24) writes that a worker should support the 24:

obvious why every worker support the 24 as it was that could strike to get the 5 dockers of Pentonville. In both is a matter of ordinary being threatened with legal action for taking normal trade to defend their liveli-

ner these laws are old ones police dig up, or new ones bosses make up, doesn't The fact is that to them, criminals when we take workers for ourselves. At, the 24 are much more in support than the Penton-

ville 5 were. The 5 had the publicity of being victimised under the Industrial Relations Act. But the 24 are being done all the same, and for the same 'crime' — picketing.

Actually, the reason they're not being done under the Act — and make no mistake, they could have been — is because the working class freed to 5. Now we've got to make it clear to the bosses and their stooges at No.10 that we'll make a hell of a stink over this one too, so they'll be as cautious about charging people with "conspiracy" as with locking them up under the Industrial Relations Act.



Warsaw Ghetto 1943



For a loaf of bread, starving Jews volunteered for deportation — not knowing it meant death.

HEROIC RISING THAT CAME TOO LATE

In September 1939, nearly 350,000 Jews lived in Warsaw. Soon after the German troops took Warsaw, a series of special measures against the Jews were announced.

Their aim was the economic, political, and social ruination of the Jews — with their physical liquidation as the inevitable outcome.

The Jewish quarter of Warsaw was put in quarantine. Adam Tcherniakov, one of the old leaders of the Jewish community, was called to the Gestapo Headquarters on 4th October 1939 and received the order to set up a new Jewish Council which would have to recruit the work-brigades required by the occupying forces, maintain order with the help of a Jewish police force, raise taxes, and so on.

A year passed before the ghetto was set up. It was planned out as from November 1939, but the Warsaw Jews managed to deflect the threat with a large sum of money.

At the end of April 1940, it became known that the first ghetto had been created in Lodz, the foremost industrial city of Poland.

Things became clearer: here was the coming of a new Middle Ages.

The building of the Warsaw ghetto took the greater part of the year 1940. To start with, the Jewish quarter was fenced in and surrounded with barbed wire.

In September, they started building a 10-foot high wall around the district, and it was completed in summer 1941.

Eventually, it surrounded an area $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles by 660 yards, cut in two by an 'Aryan' road crossed by a bridge which allowed people to pass between the two parts.

It included 1500 dwellings in about 100 blocks. In October 1940 the 80,000 non-Jews living in the district under quarantine were given two weeks to get out.

Their place was taken by the 140,000 Jews who had been living outside the ghetto.

On 16th November 1940, the

ghetto was officially set up. In January 1941, 380,000 Jews were living there; the population density was nine times greater than outside. In May of the following year, there were 430,000.

Sanitary conditions were horrible. People were crammed in, twelve in a room. The water and the electricity were regularly cut off.

Typhus spread like wildfire and vaccines cost a fortune. Famine began to take grip: the food ration was cut to 800 calories a day.

The Germans were in a delicate situation. They feared the possibility of a ghetto revolt which might spread to the whole of Warsaw. So they successfully poisoned the relations between the Jews and the 'Christian' Poles — helped by the strong traditions of anti-Semitism in Poland.

MYSTERY

Then they turned on the Jews. By creating the Jewish Council, they wanted to give the Jews the impression that the ghetto was destined to last for many years and that in the immediate future they had no reason to fear for their lives — and the Germans succeeded. Ringelblum's chronicle of the ghetto records this from day to day. Practically up to the end, the significance of the deportations remained a mystery for most of the Jews.

Very rapidly, the Jewish Council became the centre of the richest Jews, who were convinced that if they paid up they had nothing to fear.

Their leader, Tcherniakov, adopted the motto: 'Be quiet and don't argue'.

In order to gain respect, the Council set up the Jewish police with 1700 men recruited from the sons of 'good families'. The Germans promised the Jewish policemen that members of their families would not be molested.

The Jewish Council also requested and got authorisation to

make a loan (to offset the catastrophic food situation) from the German banks, guaranteed by the blocked Jewish bank accounts (according to best capitalist practice). The Gestapo gave the power in the ghetto to the creeps, the thieves, and the assassins, by creating the 'anti-fraud' police — just as the refuse of German society came to power with the Nazi party. This police became the no. 1 organisation of the protection rackets: all-powerful to dispense (for ready cash) exemptions from forced labour and food rations.

Among the most deprived, the demoralisation was terrible. When two Jews met each other, they would say "One or other of us must be working for the Gestapo!" (Ringelblum: Chronicle of the ghetto). In late 1941, children were dying like flies, from hunger, cold and deprivation.

The free canteens fed 100,000 people. 5000 Jews volunteered to go and work in Germany, 10000 in Poland, for "the news of the camps wasn't too bad. That would encourage many people to present themselves for recruitment" (Chronicle of the ghetto). 20000 Jews, driven by hunger, would go voluntarily to the Umschlag (the deportation place), since, in the camps "you eat better".

The wildest rumours circulated. Put out by the Germans or by overheated imaginations? Both, certainly. Today, peace would be coming next month, tomorrow, visas for America and Switzerland were going to be available, the next day, rations were going to be increased.

The Germans promised a safe life to the 'productive' workers working for the Wehrmacht workshops. Eventually, they promised to each workshop a survival priority over the other shops, then to men, priority over women and children, to good workers priority over bad. "They steadily closed the circle more and more tightly, they (the Germans) put out endless

deceptions, they said that the deportations were ended in order to prevent any revolt" (Chronicle of the ghetto).

The labour defence was set up, a sort of control body authorised to administer the workshops and to save the lives of its members and their families. To combat the obvious apathy, an underground press (principally Zionist, communist, and socialist) was created. It did not at any time propose insurrection. On 18 April 1942, the underground printers and distributors were executed.

ISOLATED

From the creation of the ghetto in November 1940 up to its end in April 1943, the Germans took advantage of the lack of resistance to isolate the ghetto more hermetically from outside and to starve its inhabitants to death.

September 1941: Franck announces a reduction of the food rations of the ghetto. The ghetto post office is forbidden to transmit post for overseas.

5 October 1941: Death penalty for anyone going out of the ghetto without authorisation.

End of October: The tram lines crossing the ghetto are closed.

January 1942 Germans forbidden to visit the ghetto.

The end of the ghetto began in July 1942. Between 22 July and 3 October, 310 000 Jews were deported.

On 22 July, the Jewish council issued a decree for deportations to the East without discrimination of sex or age. Tcherniakov killed himself. On 29 July, the Zionist Jews decided to unite in order to set up one single resistance organisation. On 5 August, the extermination order arrived in the ghetto. Operations lasted one week.

On the 7th August, all the streets and all the houses were blocked up. On the 20th August,

Contd. from previous page

the first signs of resistance; Joseph Szerynski, chief of the Jewish police, was seriously wounded. On 21 September, the SS officially took into its hands the administration of "Jewish affairs in Warsaw"

The 2000 Jewish policemen, who had particularly distinguished themselves by their zeal and their cruelty in deporting the other Jews, were deported in their turn, with their families. On 20 October, the Jewish Coordination Committee was formed, bringing together five Zionist movements (Hachomer, Dror, Gordonia, Poale-Zion, Hechalutz), the communists (PPR), and the socialists (the Bund). It drew up plans for a military organisation (Jewish Combat Organisation).

The massive deportations, which had stopped on 3 October

1942, started again on 18 January 1943. There were only 40 000 Jews left.

"The Jews, besides, had been waiting for a long time for this to happen. We had crossed the threshold of Powiak at two o'clock in the morning and, a few hours later, strong detachments of the SS, of Lithuanians, of Ukrainians, together with a special regiment of Letts, entered the ghetto and began a pogrom. But these brutes were surprised to meet armed resistance. Many Jews, barricaded in their houses, fired on the murderers, for the resistance movement had been able to get together considerable quantities of arms and munitions.

"So the Nazis and their henchmen withdrew and came back five days later with tanks and armoured cars. All the houses where they met resistance were set on

fire and people trying to get out were forced back in, to burn to death" (Journal of Mary Berg).

For several days, enormous convoys were leaving for Treblinka. In the night of 18/19 April, the SS, Ukrainian, Lettish and Lithuanian units surrounded the ghetto. At dawn on the 19th, the German armoured cars started bombarding the houses. The entrenched Jews greeted them with grenades and machine guns. After a few hours, the Nazis withdrew. They came back in the afternoon with field artillery and launched a heavy artillery attack. The bombardment lasted three days and three nights.

FURNACE

At the end of April, the ghetto was no more than a huge furnace: the glow of the fire could be seen for miles around. Those who, miraculously, managed to escape the flames were shot down by the Nazis as they came out of the ghetto. The Nazis used more artillery in the course of this battle than for the siege of Warsaw.

The Jewish fighters (some 600 or 700 in number) finally took refuge in the sewers, in the cellars, and in the network of tunnels

running under the ghetto. The Germans knocked down the burnt sections of wall, then the cellars, one by one. They sent machine-gun bursts and poison gases down the deepest tunnels. By mid-May, the ghetto no longer existed. Isolated fighters continued the struggle for several weeks.

Thus, over a period of years, the Nazi tyrants had got the Jewish population of Warsaw to shut itself up, to impose on itself the sacrifices that they demanded of it, to give itself up meekly to extermination. Not until 90% of the population of the ghetto had been deported had the last few risen up and made the choice to die on their feet, arms in hand, to feel, as the survivors put it, finally liberated from their fear.

But, make no mistake about it, the life and the death of the ghetto offer us an image of our own fate. How many of us, if shown in some crystal ball what life — i.e. society — actually has in store for us, and, above all, when and how it promises death for us; how many would accept this wretched existence with resignation? Very few, probably. And, as with the Warsaw Jews, what makes us all put up with it and submit, is the hope that the misery will go away of its own accord, or, at least, will strike others and leave us intact.

JEAN LIEVIN

from *Lutte Ouvriere*

Picasso — "Painting is not done to decorate apartments"

WHEN PABLO PICASSO DIED ON April 8th, he was almost more of a 'personality' than an artist.

His name was a household word, to millions signifying modern painting itself. Yet Picasso did not 'represent' 20th century art, nor did the variety of his own work span its various developments; nor, though human themes were constantly at the centre of his work, did he in any way consistently reflect the life of this century.

In fact, he has best been described as a complete outsider. Practically all his work has escaped being pinned down to any time, place or situation. And a great deal of it expresses a deep yearning for a pre-industrial 'age of innocence'

Yet his work was more powerful, and his understanding more complex and profound, than to produce simple nostalgia. What he did was to use his facility to distort and transform a subject to produce a kind of 'ideal' essence of it, so that it no longer related to the present or to any particular time at all. In doing this, he was able to concentrate on certain ideas, emotions, or sensations, and communicate them with great intensity.

REPRESENTATIONAL

The period in West European art when literal, representational painting predominated was coming to an end when Picasso started working. It had been seriously undermined by the camera, which could do a pure recording job more efficiently. A further blow came from new optical theories and discoveries, which made artists wonder

whether what they thought they saw was the real thing anyway. They began to look away from Europe, to Japanese prints, African sculpture, and oriental ceramics.

Almost spontaneously, in different parts of Europe, artists began to experiment furiously. In Italy the Futurists felt that not only visual space should be included in a painting, but also time, memory, and the sensation of noise. In France, the Cubists led by Picasso and Braque, began to put side by side on a flat canvas a whole series of different viewpoints of a subject.

Although the result appeared

fragmented, they felt that they were getting closer to the real structure of things, and that it was closer to the truth to include what you knew to be there, even though you could not see it.

Then came the surrealist movement, which sought to incorporate into visual art (and into literature too) elements of the subconscious layer of existence that had been uncovered by Freud and others.

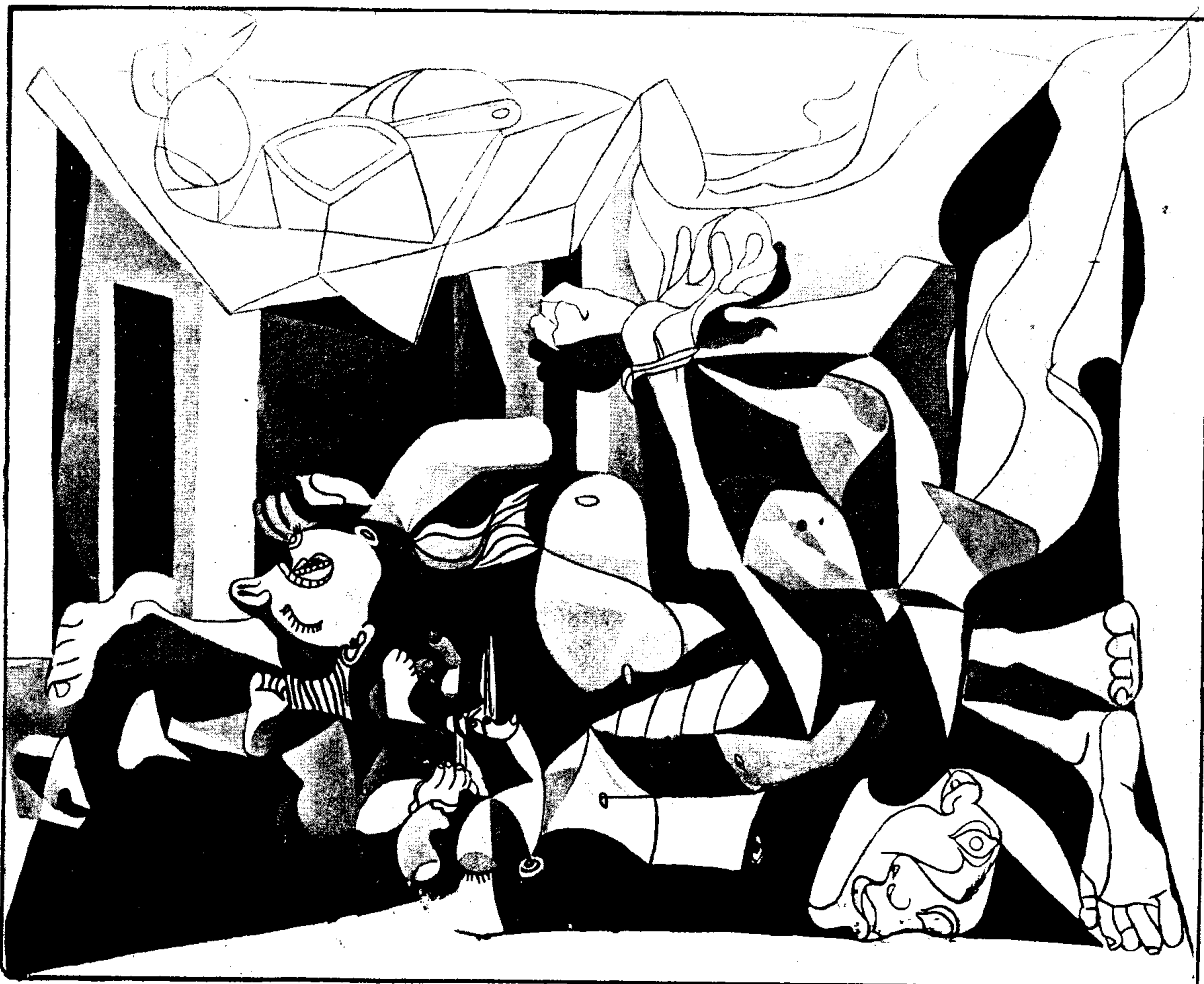
FEAR

After that Picasso was able to put onto canvas the most direct expressions of his feelings about life. They range from sensations of sexual comfort and fulfilment to those of deprivation, claustrophobia,

and anguish; from human savagery and brutishness to its product — the collapse, distortion, and explosion of life into fear, protest, and hopelessness.

And though they are removed from any specific time and place and contain many unexplained symbols, there are paintings by Picasso which have overcome the mental barriers of tradition and gained a universal appeal. His painting of *Guernica* didn't show the town, the bombs or the planes. It showed his feelings about the event, and did this so powerfully that it actually managed to encompass a much wider sense of rage about far more terrible events which have happened since.

RACHEL LEVER



THE CHARNEL HOUSE (1945)
A violent, concentrated vision of the "famished, waxen cadavers of Buchenwald, Treblinka and Belsen".

Locked out sparks win at Wilton

A TWO-WEEK STRIKE BY 30 Campbell-Isherwood contract electricians working on the ICI Wilton plant has resulted in a smashing victory.

The strike started following the suspension of bonus payments. Other electrical firms complained that their workers on the site wanted similar bonuses. The Joint Industrial Board (JIB — a Government regulated arbitration board covering electrical firms) did not allow such payments, so they said, over and above the basic rate (then) of 59¹/₂p an hour for an electrician and 66p an hour for an approved electrician.

The bonuses involved were cooked up to stall pressure from the men when the Tory Freeze prevented the national rise negotiated for January — which would have given the two grades 66p and 75p an hour, respectively — from being implemented before April.

At 10am on Monday 26th March the workers held a meeting in the

site cabin. They decided to demand parity with other tradesmen on the site, a demand which had been resisted since the job started several months ago. They decided to work JIB maximum safety rules until the claim was met. To start with they demanded helmets and adequate washing and toilet facilities.

When the firm refused to grant all these basic amenities, having suspended pay as from 10.30am, the men obtained support from all the tradesmen on the site to black the job and then walked out. They considered themselves to be locked out on account of the minimum requirements for the job not being met.

The role of the local ETU official is instructive here. Since the job started several months ago he had been asked four times to advise the men on their fight for parity, but declined to have anything to do with it. The only time he showed his face was after the lockout — and that was to tell the men to get back to work so discussions could be held. The men told him where to get off.

At the beginning of the dispute, the men wrote to the ETU executive for advice. No reply ever came.

The men went back on Tuesday 10th April, after the firm had agreed to reimburse them for all the money lost, in the form of 2 weeks and two days' redundancy money when the job finished. The bonuses were re-introduced pending negotiations on parity.

On 13th April, after the firm had written to the JIB complaining of all the money they were losing, and would continue to lose, if a substantial settlement was not reached, all electricians received a copy of a letter from the JIB to the Managing

Director of Campbell-Isherwood.

This granted an hourly increase of 35p to all Graded Operatives and Apprentices over the age of 18, and pro-rata percentage increases for young apprentices. This settlement thus granted parity to Campbell-Isherwood electricians on the present Wilton job — and on future jobs there. Undoubtedly, electrical workers employed by other firms on the site will quickly follow suit.

Whereas Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Freeze had earlier been invoked against the men, the letter concluded — "As the settlement affects

less than 1000 employees, this award "can be implemented without the Board's (Pay Board) prior approval" (Cmnd 5267).

This dispute highlighted the way the employers use the Cannon-inspired JIB. Those jobs that are not well organised have their rates pegged by ETU Executive—Employer—Government edict.

The need now is for electricians to smash JIB, negotiate decent basic rates, and throw out the right wing leadership.

PHIL SEMP

NEW POSTER

FROM

WORKERS FIGHT.

SIZE : 20in by 30in

Available from:

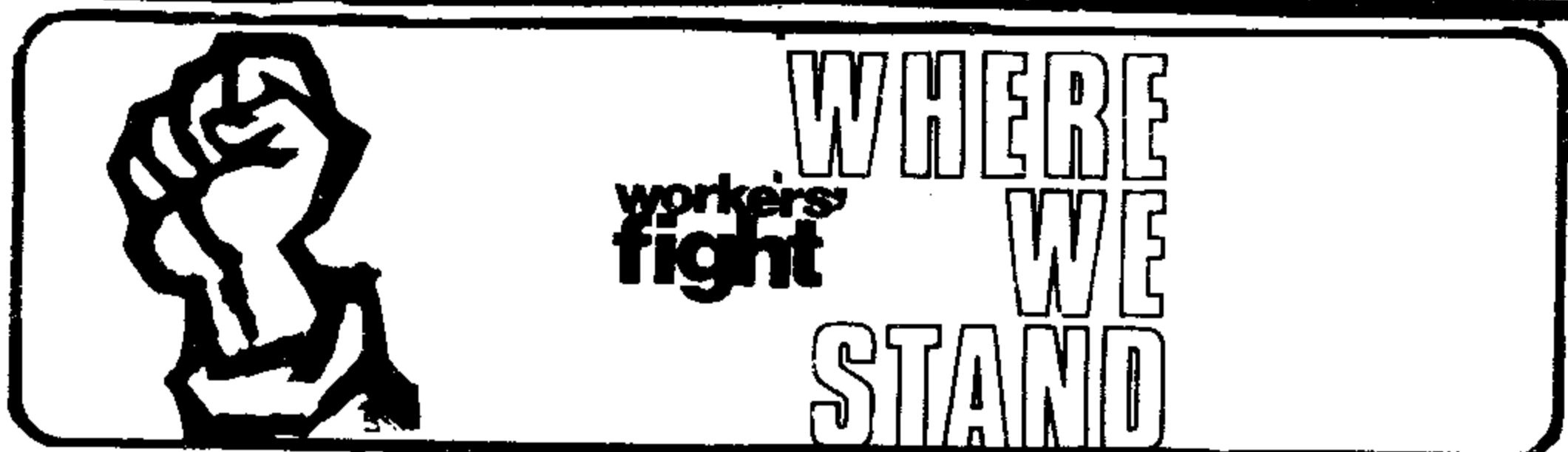
Dave Spencer,
17 Winifred Ave,
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30p plus 5p P&P.

ALL PROCEEDS

TO FIGHTING

FUND.



CAPITALISM is inseparable from the exploitation by the bourgeoisie of the working class 'at home' and (since 'advanced' capitalism became imperialist) of the workers and peasants in the colonies and neo-colonies abroad.

It is a vicious system geared to buttressing the strong against the weak, to serving the handful of capitalists against the millions of workers, and to keeping many millions in poverty so that a few may prosper. Capitalism exalts property and degrades life. It is at the root of the racialism which poisons and divides worker against worker. It is a system of massive waste and social disorganisation, at the same time as it forces the working class to fight every inch of the way to better or even maintain its wages and conditions.

Having once been progressive, in that it at least developed, in the only way then possible the productive resources of mankind, it is now a totally reactionary force in history. Its expansion after World War 2 gave it merely the appearance of health: in reality the boom was like the flush on a sick man's face. Already economic expansion has given way to creeping stagnation.

TODAY the ruling class can keep their system going only at the cost of large scale unemployment and attempts to cut the living standards of workers in the 'rich' parts of the world, of massive starvation and bloodshed in the 'poor' two thirds of the world, and of the ever-present threat of the destruction of humanity through nuclear war.

THE ONLY WAY OUT is for the working class to take power and to bring the resources of the modern economy under a rational working class plan, in place of the present unplanned and blind private profit system. Having overthrown capitalism and established social ownership of the means of production, the working class will build towards a truly communist society, in which at last the principle will be "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs."

The working class has created political parties for this purpose — LABOUR PARTIES, COMMUNIST PARTIES, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. But in country after country these parties have joined capitalist governments and managed capitalism. They have betrayed the socialist aspirations of their working class supporters, tied the labour movement to the bosses' state, interest and ideology, and destroyed the political independence of the working class.

The task is therefore to build a socialist party which will stand firmly for the interests of the working class. WORKERS' FIGHT is a group of revolutionary socialists, aiming to build that party: a party which is democratically controlled by an active working class membership, which preserves its political independence and fights the ideological domination of the ruling class.

The basis of our activity is the scientific theory of MARXISM, the only theory which gives a clear understanding of present day society and of the necessity of revolutionary change.

Although they cannot organise the struggle for workers' power, THE TRADE UNIONS are indispensable for the defence of workers' interests. We fight for the independence of the unions from all state control, and within the unions for militant policies and for democracy. We see the trade union bureaucracy as a distinct stratum which acts as a broker between workers and bosses. Its life and work-situation is quite different from that of the working class. Lacking a direct, necessary allegiance to working class interests, or any fundamental historical interests of its own, its general tendency is to work with the bosses and their state against the working class.

We are a class national rank and file movement, linking up the different industries and all the workers on the basis of revolutionary Marxism can, in this period, turn the trade unions into instruments of working class interests, independent of the bosses' state.

We are fighting for the INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT, against any measures which would restrict the rights of workers to organise, and for a national minimum wage for all workers.

We are fighting for the UNEMPLOYMENT ACT, for a national minimum wage for all workers, and for the abolition of the minimum wage.

We are fighting for the abolition of the minimum wage, and for the abolition of the minimum wage.

here and now. We stand for the fight for WORKERS' CONTROL with the understanding that it can be made a serious reality only in a workers' state. We are against any workers' 'participation' in managing their own exploitation under capitalism.

We believe that the "PARLIAMENTARY ROAD TO SOCIALISM" is a crippling illusion. The capitalist class will not leave the stage peacefully; no ruling class ever has. Socialism can be built only by smashing the capitalist state machine (army, police, civil service) which is the ultimate defence of the bosses' power in society, and replacing it with a state based on democratic Workers' Councils.

THE LABOUR PARTY is a capitalist party in its ideas, its policies, and in its record in government. At the same time, the bedrock organisations of the working class, the trade unions, support and finance the Labour Party. There is an 'open valve' connection between the Labour Party and the Unions, allowing the possibility of large scale active working class participation in the party.

We relate to the Labour Party, therefore, not by simply denouncing it, but by attempting to advance the working class towards outgrowing and breaking through the particular stage in its own development — ideological, political and organisational — represented by Labourism.

We fight for full and equal rights for WOMEN, for female emancipation from the male domination which has co-existed throughout history with class society and which has its roots in such society. We fight, in particular, for the emancipation of women of our own class, suffering a double and triple exploitation, who have been most accurately described as the "slaves of the slaves".

We fight against RACIALISM and against immigration controls. We fight for the integration of immigrant workers into the labour movement and for a united front against capitalism, whilst supporting the right of black minorities in Britain to form defence leagues or independent political organisations.

We give unconditional support to the struggles of oppressed peoples everywhere fighting against IMPERIALISM, and to their organisations leading the fight.

British workers have — fundamentally — more in common with every single worker throughout the globe, irrespective of race, religion, or colour, than with the whole of the British ruling class. We see the fight for socialism as a world-wide struggle, necessitating the creation of a world revolutionary party, such as Leon Trotsky founded the Fourth International, in 1938, to become. We consider that the mainstream of Trotskyism surviving from the 1938 Fourth International is the United Secretariat of the Fourth International but that this organisation in some of its theories and much of its practice (for example that of the British section) represents a degenerate form of Trotskyism. We fight for the regeneration of the Fourth International.

We stand for a political revolution of the working class against the bureaucracies of THE U.S.S.R. and the other countries called 'communist', which we consider to be degenerated and deformed workers' states. The social regime of the different bureaucracies has nothing in common with socialism, let alone with real communism. At the same time, we defend the nationalised economy in these countries against capitalism and imperialism, unconditionally: that is, irrespective of the selfish, usually anti-working-class and anti-revolutionary policies of the ruling bureaucrats, and against those policies.

There are OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS which have generally similar aims, but methods differing from ours, or differing conceptions about what needs to be done here and now. We consider all these groups to be seriously — sometimes grossly — inadequate in theory and practice. We favour unity in action with these groups where possible, and a serious dialogue about our differences.

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Belfast reader protests

Long Kesh cruelty to injured bomb hero

NOTTS. PLESSEY claim accepts "Company's interests & those of the Nation"

THE CLAIM PUT FORWARD BY the trade unions at the Beeston Plessey plant in Nottingham contains the seeds of its own defeat.

The rising cost of living, and the end of the 1969 Pay and Productivity deal, is the basis of the claim.

It demands substantial wage increases, 'equal pay for work of equal value', weekly staff conditions for all hourly paid employees and better pay and conditions for junior workers.

The claim is sabotaged by the statement that 'we are aware that the Company's interests and those of the nation depend on restricting as far as possible the impact of a claim of this nature on unit wage costs.'

With this sort of thinking, Plessey workers can have little hope for their wage claim. Unless they refuse to accept the employers' and the Tories' control over wages, all they will get will be £1 plus 4%!

The claim demands 'equal pay for work of equal value'. Just think about that for a minute: if it is accepted then the employers have only to alter or invent new job descriptions and gradings and hey presto — we have different jobs for women, with of course different pay scales.

To beat this trick it is important to fight for equal pay, nothing less. Without this watchfulness, women will be cheated out of their equal pay.

G.U.S. Bolton

MAIL ORDER GIRLS SAY

"It's no joke!"

THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENT appeared in the Bolton Civic newspaper a few weeks ago. The firm advertising was G.U.S. (Great Universal Stores). They said ... "We offer attractive rates of pay .. £15.30 rising to £17.30 with experience and ability."

It looks like a bad joke when someone says a rate of pay of £15.30 is attractive, but the girls the girls who work at G.U.S., a mail order firm, certainly saw nothing funny at all. The starting rate at G.U.S. is in fact £14.30 and not £15.30.

This sparked a walk-out and the management have until April 27th

Dear comrade,

Allow me space in your paper to remind the English working class of the evils being committed by the British army in Ireland in their name. People seem to have grown accustomed to the existence of Long Kesh concentration camp (alias the Maze Prison) and appear indifferent to the plight of the men interned (detained) there.

Let me demonstrate exactly what internment means by quoting one case that I know of, that of Seamus Thompson, a youth from Andersonstown who lost an arm and an eye defending the people of Andersonstown. When Free Belfast existed, a

bomb was placed in a field near Finaghy Road North, by whom it is not quite clear. The field was used by the children of Riverdale Estate as a playground. Seamus Thompson discovered the bomb and attempted to move it to a place where, if it exploded, it would not endanger life. Unfortunately, it exploded when he touched it, maiming him for life.

In February of this year Seamus was arrested in a house in Riverdale, along with some other youths and Liz McKee. He was badly beaten by the British Army terrorists and taken to Long Kesh, where he was left to the mercy of a gentleman

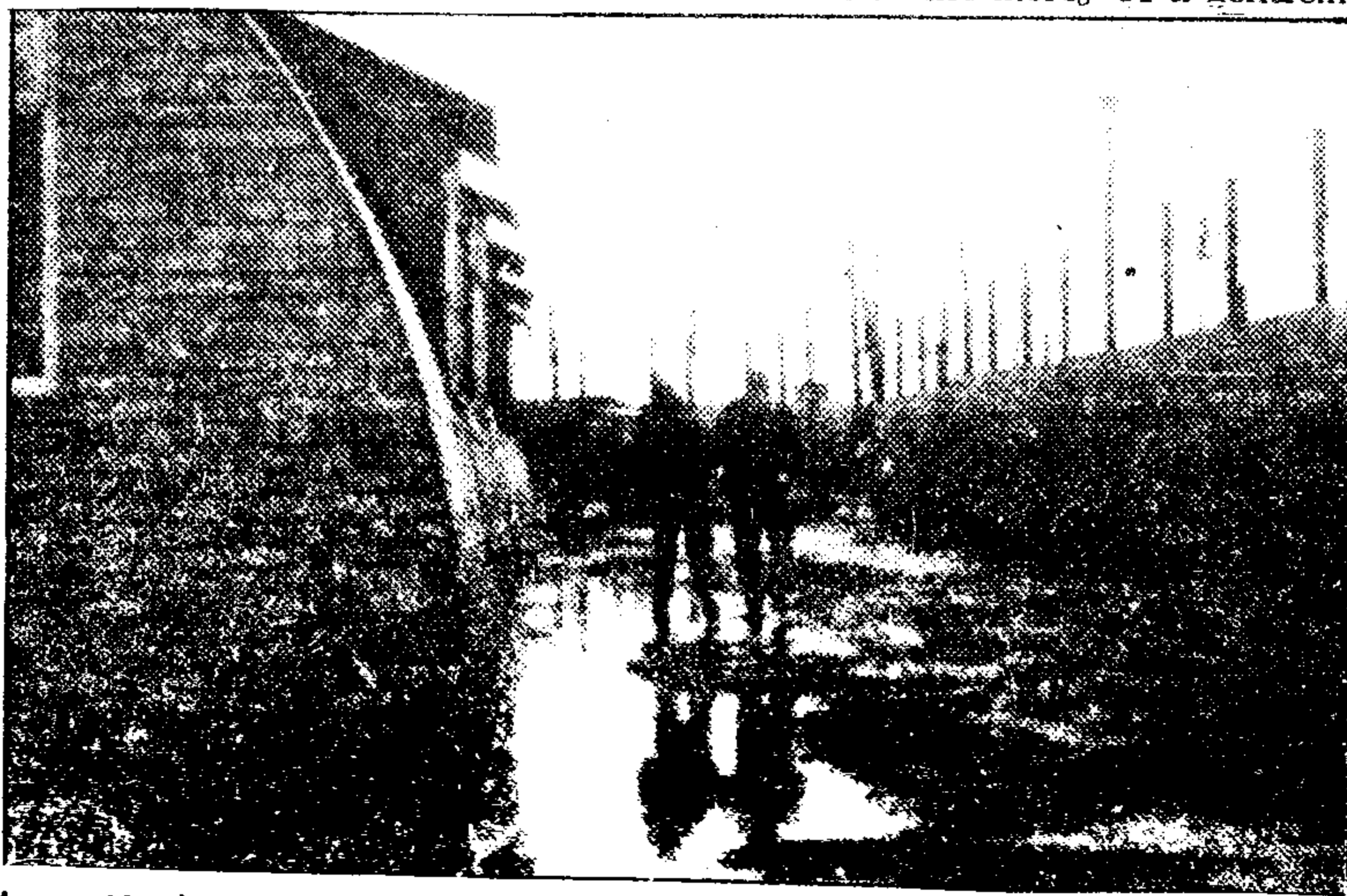
called Tinesdale, the governor.

From the day he was lifted he has not received any medical treatment for his injuries. The skin grafts on his arm and leg were destroyed in the beating he received at the hands of the most restrained army in the world. He is now locked up in a cage and has to suffer the pain of having raw flesh on what is left of his arm and on his right leg.

Apparently, this 17-year old youth who has the use of only one arm and one eye is deemed such a threat to the British Army that they consider it necessary not only to cage him but also to subject him to constant physical pain in an effort to make this cropy lie down.

Crimes against the Irish people such as this will not be forgotten, and the failure of the British working class to mobilise against the continued rape of Ireland is an indictment of the leadership of that class.

Yours fraternally,
M. McC, Andersonstown.



Long Kesh — waterlogged in winter, stifling in summer

James Connolly and Ireland's struggle for Freedom

NEW PAMPHLET FROM WORKERS' FIGHT

10p plus 5p p&p from 98 Gifford Street, London N.1

United Left condemns Police raids

Hundreds of Special Branch detectives, many of them armed, swooped on homes all over the country at dawn on Friday 13th April. Over 80 homes were raided in London alone.

The alleged purpose of the raids was to seize arms and explosives, or, as the London Evening News sensationalised it, "to wipe out IRA bombers in England and Scotland."

But, as the police admitted, hardly any arms and explosives were found.

The real purpose of the raids — int-

imidation of socialist activists — was revealed in places like Coventry, where members of the International Marxist Group active in the Anti Internment League were among those raided.

On Monday 16th April, the Conway Hall in London was packed to overflowing for a joint meeting of the International Socialists, the Socialist Labour League and the International Marxist Group.

Supporters of the 'Militant' group, the 'Chartists' and Workers' Fight spoke from the floor.

Unfortunately the meeting made no provision for a regular coordination for the future. A liaison committee should have been set up.

In addition to leading to nothing very decisive, the fact that the meeting, held on the initiative of the IMG, confined its efforts at 'unity' to a simple joint meeting with its, so to speak,

"bigger brother" organisations, begs the question whether this is a real step towards greater collaboration and co-operation on the left, or just a 'stunt' of the sort for which the IMG has a real talent.

Nevertheless, the fact of the meeting and its attendance shows what could be done if such genuine co-operation were established.

What is needed is a campaign to rally the labour movement against the growing police repression. Workers' Fight calls on militants to put resolutions in union branches, Trades Councils student unions, etc:

1. Condemning the 13th April raids
2. Expressing opposition to the current wave of police repression, including the imprisonment and persecution of the Belfast 10, the Stoke Newington 5, and the harassment of the North Wales building workers.
3. Pledging delegations for all future demonstrations called by the victimised North Wales building workers.



Hallas (IS), Lawless (chairman), Healy (SLL) and Tariq Ali (IMG)

John Cunningham

£1,000 Fighting Fund

In the last month, rising prices will have hit all our readers hard. But we too have been hit.

It was reported in the Daily Express that the Queen's grocer at Sandringham has been forced to close down - because of VAT. We've no intention of doing that!

VAT has hit us - and it makes it all the more vital for you to keep those contributions coming in for WORKERS' FIGHT Fighting Fund.

So far, we have raised

£211.62

towards the £1,000 target.

Many students have promised donations when they collect grants in the next few weeks.

The Coventry Workers' Fight comrades have designed and produced a poster to help towards the target. (see p.10).

But we still need more regular readers to pledge to give 10p or 20p for their copy, instead of the usual 4p.

Indochina Solidarity Campaign.

In Cambodia the B52s are now hitting the suburbs of the capital. Throughout Indochina, the war continues....

DEMONSTRATE!

Saturday 5th May

RALLY 2 p.m.

Trafalgar Square

**then march to
U.S. Embassy**

(From p.1)

ASIANS IN PENTONVILLE

First at a dynamo factory, and then later at a baker's. The years went on, he settled down to life in England.

Then his wife and children at home in Delhi applied to join him in England. On March 27 the CID came to his workplace, picked him up, and took him to the police station. He went from there to the detention suite at Heathrow Airport, and then on to Pentonville Prison, where he has been ever since.

He was not allowed to contact his relatives or a lawyer, and it was only when his relatives reported him missing that they discovered his whereabouts and engaged a solicitor.

The 1968 Immigration Act's

NUPE leaders and TUC must answer for Hospitals defeat

AS HOSPITAL WORKERS battled on against the Freeze, the leadership of the four unions involved in the strike accepted the offer of the Ancillary Staffs Council.

The offer, which was no different from that offered at the beginning of the strike - £2 for men, and £1.80 for women. Since the Unions knew that women were a large (and a militant) part of the strike, the offer to bring forward by 6 months the 80p. due to equalise pay between men and women was presented as a victory won by the Unions!

The offer also included a mention of money to be gained through incentive and bonus schemes. These have in fact been resisted by many of the workers, who saw a danger that they would be used to boost earnings at the expense of jobs and conditions.

Hospital workers in many areas (Coventry, Liverpool, Manchester, Wolverhampton and many other towns) showed what they thought of the offer, and its acceptance by their

'leaders', by extending their action over the weekend.

The reason for the defeat lies in two quarters: the TUC and the Union leaders. The strikes conducted by the major health union, NUPE and others was not directed according to the ballot, which had shown a majority for all-out action.

Manoeuvring to control the strike and dampen militancy, the Unions led the hospital workers to nowhere but the original offer.

The failure of the TUC to organise any solidarity - other than words of 'sympathy' - considerably helped towards the defeat. Other sections could have been mobilised in support. But Feather, at the beginning of the battle over the Freeze, said this: "We shall not seek dramatic confrontation with the government or with the employers, either in court or otherwise." And he kept his word to the employers and their government!

Hospital workers in many areas ran their strikes without the union

officials' help, and even now some form of unofficial actions are continuing, e.g. banning of private patients.

One of the major lessons that comes out of the strike is the need for an organised rank and file leadership. Many attempts were made during the strike (and before) to organise. These were uneven in their success. The building of a credible and consolidated rank and file organisation could still be carried through, and should again be attempted.

One of the first tasks of any such body, and of militants, is to demand an explanation from Alan Fisher and the EC of NUPE at the Annual Conference in early May. This union official, like other 'labour fakers', has spent most of his union life in an office, and was selected (not elected) for the job he holds. He must not get off the hook.

JACK SUTTON

DOCKS STEWARDS

Serious Questions Still To Tackle

Support For North Wales 24

On April 7th, the NATIONAL PORT SHOP STEWARDS met in Birmingham. The meeting had great possibilities for organising against the attacks which dockers had come under, first from the Jones-Aldington Committee, then from the government backed National Ports Council report which refused to recommend any action against non-scheme ports. As one Manchester steward said before he went in, "This could be one of the most important meetings we have ever held."

Unfortunately the meeting did not rise to his expectations. The issue of the NPC report was discussed, and even though the Hull delegation felt strong concern over the issue, no policy or action was decided on. An attempt to get delegates interested in a discussion on the plans being prepared by

dockers in Region 6 of the T&GWU led nowhere.

The meeting took place on the day after the London dockers had gone back, against their leaders' advice. One of the London stewards expressed his astonishment when he said "I have never seen the two unions so united, and yet the men still went back."

The failure of the 18 man committee to lead the London dockers into a struggle against the Green Book and the Tory Government's pay freeze is connected with their recommending acceptance of the £2.60 offer at an earlier meeting.

What will happen next on London docks is not yet clear, but the intentions of the employers are expressed by Sir John Lurch of the PLA. He stated that in return for discussion on holiday and sick pay, plus a possible increase to meet

the rise in living costs, they wanted discussions on the 'introduction of a third shift and the possibility of transferring dockers from one employer to another to maintain full employment'.

It is highly likely that anything the employers are trying for in London will sooner or later come up in other ports. Thus it is not just a matter of how the London men decide to fight these productivity offensives. The NPSSC cannot stand aside from the London struggle, but must work out a common strategy for a nationwide struggle in the ports. A struggle for a 30 hour week

This is part of the nationwide employers' productivity offensive - and thus the NPSSC cannot stand aside from the London struggle. It must work out a common strategy for dockers - focusing around a campaign for a 30 hour week.

The meeting did decide on at least one thing. That was to send delegates from all ports represented at the meeting (Manchester, Preston, Ellesmere Port, London Hull and Liverpool) to Shrewsbury for a demonstration when the 24 victimised North Wales building workers (see centre page) come up for their second Court hearing. The motion for this came from Bro. Youd of Manchester.

The Committee also decided to back the call to come out on May Day and to meet itself again before May Day.

Then, the committee must consider the call by some delegates to the national docks trade group committee for a recall of the national docks delegates conference on the questions facing dockers around the National Ports Council report and the effects of severance.

The NPSSC will have to come to some agreed strategy.

STEPHEN CORBISHLEY.

ruling had been replaced by that of the 1971 Act, which came into operation on January 1st this year. People who considered themselves safe under the terms of the 1968 (or 1962) Acts - some of whom have been living in this country for five years or even longer, are now liable to expulsion as illegal entrants.

All the men now at Pentonville Prison are there for similar reasons. They were immigrants who sought to legalise their position by applying to the Home Office, or who tried to get relatives over here. All were picked up from their homes or workplaces.

On April 16th, three of these men appeared before Lord Denning, Mohamud Azana, Siddhu, and Khera, to be told that the judges reserved their judgment for two weeks. Lord Denning was prepared to give bail to eight of the men, but in the court

room, news came from above...NO!

The imprisonment of these men means that anyone who entered Britain by the terms of the 1968 Act can now be considered illegal entrants, and therefore liable for expulsion. In the opinion of Lord Widgery they have entered as visitors, and outstayed their welcome.

All the people who entered Britain under that "28 day" clause will now have to live their lives in fear, waiting for the knock on the door, prison, and expulsion. They will have to give up all hope of their families joining them here. Any application to unite their families with them will bring their existence to police notice.

This also renders them totally inactive as union militants or as political activists, because as soon as they stop creeping round in fear, the police can pick them up.

MARION KAVANAGH