

Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

MAKE
FEB 27 A
RED LETTER
DAY

MORE AND MORE sections of the labour movement are rallying to the Scots miners' call for one-day strike on February 27 against government plans to hammer the trade unions.

The freeze and squeeze Labour government wants to strip rank and file militants in industry of their power and give more authority to safe and reliable full-time officials. The demands for cooling-off periods, national ballots before major strikes and power to force unions to register their rules—if suitable—are dangerous inroads into the hard-won rights of organised workers.

The plans have to be fought by mobilising mass opposition to them. February 27 is a good start, but it must be seen as the beginning, not the end of the campaign.

CRISIS

If the White Paper becomes law it will open the door for future governments, Labour or Tory, to mount greater offensives against the trade unions as part of the drive to make workers pay for the crisis of British capitalism.

As well as a strike, February 27 will see a lobby of the conference of TUC executives in Croydon, meeting to discuss the White Paper on trade union law.

Support this week for the strike and lobby has come from:-

Radio Times Park Royal
SOGAT Machine Chapel; Branch committee of SOGAT London Central Branch; Horseferry Road (London) site electricians; GEC shop stewards, representing 27 of the 48 factories in the monopoly; painters, craftsmen and electricians at Govan division of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders; Midlands district committee AEF; Shell site workers near Manchester.

BANNERS

Socialist Worker urges all its readers and supporters to wholeheartedly support the strike and to move resolutions calling for strike action in their trade union branches, factory committees, and other places of work.

Socialists active in tenants work, industry and youth should seek support for the Croydon lobby. Thousands of union and socialist organisation banners are needed there to ram home the opposition of the rank and file to the government's plans.

Leaflets (£1 a 1000) are now available from Socialist Worker calling for support for the strike and outlining the politics of the government's attack and how workers should fight back.

Next week Socialist Worker will be a special pre-strike issue with important articles on the White Paper, productivity deals and how to fight them and the industrial role of the Communist Party.

Socialist Worker is a vital weapon in the campaign. Order extra copies of next week's issue NOW—plus thousands of our special leaflet.

Ring your orders to Jim Nichol, 01-808 4847.

ALL OUT ON FEBRUARY 27!

Jeers greet Benn

CLYDEBANK:- 15,000 workers booed and jeered Minister of Technology Anthony Wedgwood Benn on Wednesday when he visited John Brown's shipyard to inspect the turbines of the QE2.

The workers lined the streets as Benn drove to the yard. They were protesting at plans to shut down a number of factories in the area which would cause heavy redundancy. It was the largest and militant demonstration seen on Clydebank for many years.

Sithole: savage sentence

THE SAVAGE six-year jail sentence in Salisbury on Wednesday of nationalist leader Sithole spotlights not only the thuggish nature of the Smith regime but the hypocrisy of the Labour government. Wilson promised speedy action to crush the 'rebellion' of the white settlers but nothing has been done. Meanwhile thousands of Africans languish in jail or under detention.

Ulster: Left challenge to Orange and Green

From SEAN REED

BELFAST:- Peoples Democracy, the militant civil rights movement, is putting forward 11 candidates in the Northern Ireland crisis election on February 24.

Among constituencies which they will contest is Bannside, where Michael Farrell will oppose both Prime Minister O'Neill and the Rev Ian Paisley.

And socialist Eamonn McCann is standing as a Northern Ireland Labour Party candidate in the Foyle constituency in Derry.

The policies on which the PD candidates will fight the election are:-

One man, one vote
The repeal of the Special Powers and Public Order Acts

The disbandment of the armed B-Special police

A points system for housing and a crash programme of housebuilding, linked to the demand that the Housing Trust debt to the Central Bank be cancelled

The direct intervention by the state in industry

Workers' control in the factories

The break-up of large estates to enable small farms to form co-operatives.

Highlight

'The forthcoming general election, like all elections in N. Ireland, is essentially undemocratic,' says PD in a statement. 'This is the main point which we want to highlight and change.'

The statement stressed that PD remains a mass movement and that individuals within it, if elected, were committed to the struggle for civil rights both inside and outside parliament.

The election has been presented by the right-wing press here as a struggle between 'moderates' and extremist Tory and Unionist forces.

The people who have supported PD in their civil rights campaign are combining to ignore the original alternative to a torn and discredited Tory Unionist Party and the 'half-a-loaf' Green Nationalist Tories, who are the other side of the two-tone sectarian coin.

British socialists and others who want to help should contact Alan Morrison 01-969 0915 or PD in Belfast 0232 60861.

Money, election workers, cars and loudhailers are needed. Money to: PD, c/o Belfast Bank, Bradbury Place, Belfast 9.

DIRECT ACTION HOUSES HOMELESS FAMILIES

From LIONEL SIMS

ILFORD:- Several empty houses have been taken over by homeless families in this east London borough. A demonstration in solidarity with one family that had occupied a house in Cleveland Road was staged on Sunday by the London Squatters' Campaign.

As the homeless stated their case to the crowd, a shout went up that three spontaneous occupations of empty houses had just taken place in Oakfield Road, just round the corner.

A great cheer went up and the protectors of property, the police, looked dumbfounded and ill-at-ease. Campaign leaders stressed that it is illegal for the police to evict squatters.

The demonstrators rushed to Oakfield Road and formed chain gangs to reinforce barricades at the occupied houses.

Latest score: Squatters 4, police 0.



The scene outside the occupied house in Cleveland Road on Sunday

DOCKS: THREAT TO RIGHT TO STRIKE

LONDON PORT employers are attempting to take away from the dockers their fundamental and legal right to withdraw their labour.

They want a show-down in order to weed out the militants as part of their campaign to streamline the docks by making thousands redundant. A leading docks militant explains the background.

By

TERRY BARRETT

TGWU, Tilbury Docks

MR TOMMY CRONIN, a Transport Workers Union docks official, said recently in the employers' paper Port that the union had allowed Phase 1 of the Devlin decasualisation proposals to be put in action too quickly.

This attitude was expressed more than two years ago by the unofficial Liaison Committee and other dock militants.

The last 18 months has been a period of contented apathy. The limited security that Devlin gave the dock labour force has momentarily blinded the men to what Phase 2 threaten.

LOSS

In these 18 months, the National Docks Register has been reduced from 61,000 to 56,000. This is a loss of 5000 wage packets and 5000 job opportunities.

According to the Financial Times, the port employers will attempt a further reduction in the next two years of at least 16,000 men.

There are many berths now which employ 20 men compared with 200 on conventional operations. In Tilbury six new berths now nearing completion are expected to do the work previously done by 55 conventional berths.

Fifty-five berths would employ at least 5000 men. The employers intend to man the six berths with a small but mobile labour force of between 250-300 men.

The employers have

proposed when Phase 2 of Devlin comes into operation, that the basic minimum wage should be £21 5s. plus some kind of productivity bonus of approximately 40 per cent.

In return for this wage the men will be expected to give up all protective practices, to allow complete mobility of labour and for sweeping changes in manning scales. On top of this, there are proposals for the introduction of a shift-work system based on two shifts a day, from 7am to 2 pm and 2 pm to 9 pm.

In spite of press and television propaganda, dockers must realise that such proposals are anti-social. It would mean that a man's social life is taken from him every second week.

SUPERIOR

The press often suggests that the Port of London is not competitive with Tilbury. But in a recent issue of the Port of London Authority magazine, PLA director Dudley Perkins stated clearly that the method of cargo handling in London is in many instances far superior to the Dutch port of Rotterdam.

There is no turn round in Rotterdam that can surpass

any of the mechanised or automated berths of London.

But there is a vast difference in the conditions and amenities enjoyed by Dutch and British dockers.

Dutch dockers do not have to beg, pray or have a stoppage to get a pair of ill-fitting, second-hand, badly-washed and often torn overalls when they work on dirty cargoes.

Dutch dockers are issued with full protective clothing on each job, plus footwear. They have free transport to and from work.

There is a scheme in Rotterdam which provides for subsidised dockers' housing. Dutch dockers who are replaced by mechanisation at the age of 60 receive 80 per cent of their average weekly earnings in the dock, estimated over a five year period.

These benefits are conveniently forgotten by British port employers when comparisons are made between London and Rotterdam.

Dockers must demand the full social benefits of mechanisation. They must think in terms of a 30-hour week (not on a piece-work basis), four weeks' holiday a year, proper medical facilities and real amenities—not the 12 showers

in the Tilbury Europa to be shared by 2500 men.

Dockers have seen how much they have in common with the employers by their actions in the Royal group against men who withdrew their labour in pursuit of a better deal.

UNITE

This is the writing on the wall for all dockers who can see what the employers would do if they ever regain the right to hire and fire labour, taken away from them in 1942.

To deal with the arrogance of the employers, who have used intimidation to deny men their lawful right to withdraw their labour, dockers throughout the country must unite.

The government plans to nationalise only 30 ports—32 others will be excluded. Dockers must demand that all these ports be included in the plan.

In the past, official enquiries have agreed with union officials and militants in stressing that all dockers should be employed by one employer. Until the govern-

turn to back page

Franco lashes out at Left

From P. LIZARRALDE

ON JANUARY 24 the Spanish government declared a state of emergency under which civil rights were suspended. Thousands of people have been arrested or deported to other parts of the country.

The immediate reason for the emergency is obscure. Admiral Carrero Blanco, Franco's Vice-president, has claimed that there was grave danger from the revolutionary students and the illegal trade union organisation, the workers' commission.

But the reasons are not convincing. The student movement and the workers' commissions are a threat to the regime but there has been no recent dramatic increase in their activities or influence.

A number of strikes combining industrial and political demands have taken place in Barcelona and the Basque

country, but they have been a reaction to the state of emergency, not a cause.

The Communist Party, split over Czechoslovakia, is in no state to present a challenge to the regime.

Rumours

Rumours multiply, helped by the fact that the press and radio carry little home news. One rumour says there was an attempted military coup in favour of the Carlist claimant to the throne, another that Franco was about to announce the restoration of the monarchy.

The emergency expresses the internal crisis of Franco's regime, which is a suspicious coalition of interests ranging from corporate-state financiers to technocrats and pro-Common Marketers.

When the future of Francoism seems in doubt, the

unity of these forces cracks.

This is shown most clearly by the attitude of the church, one of the chief pillars of the regime since the 1930s. A number of priests have been arrested under the state of emergency, mainly those working in the shanty towns around Madrid and Barcelona.

Monseigneur Morcillo, the reactionary Archbishop of Madrid has refused to intervene on their behalf. But rumours say the Vatican has 'suggested' to the Archbishop that he renounces either his post or his seat in parliament. The Vatican seems to doubt whether it would be wise to continue to give Franco uncritical support.

The position of the universities is extremely important. They are the only places where any kind of socialist debate takes place.

The government, alarmed

at the prospect of revolutionary students making contact with workers, has announced university reform. Admiral Carrero Blanco has made a speech remarkably similar in tone to the one made by Edward Short, Britain's Secretary of Education, appealing to moderates and threatening the revolutionaries.

The Admiral's fears may be premature. Thirty years of repression have left the marxist forces very weak.

Develop

They do not at present pose an immediate challenge to the regime.

But although the emergency was caused by the internal crisis of the regime, it might lead to a revolutionary situation developing very quickly.

Drugs: the giant firms are hooked on bigger profits

WHAT DO YOU THINK of when you see the word 'drugs'?

Dimly-lit dens full of pot-smoking students? Shifty-eyed men in dirty brown macs and pale-blue shirts pushing pills in coffee bars?

Or millions of pounds in profits bursting the wallets of Glaxo share-holders? Or the millions more wasted on advertising laxatives and indigestion remedies?

ROCKETED

In 1964, the year the Labour government came to power, total sales of Beechams—makers of the famous powders—were £61.09 million. By 1968 they had rocketed to £115.5m.

Profits in 1964 were £9,289,000. In 1968 they were £20,600,000.

In 1968 Boots profits were £16,813,382, an increase of 13 per cent on the previous year.

In 1961, the Ministry of Health spent £7m on tetracycline (an antibiotic) at a cost of £60 per 1000 tablets from Pfizer, an American firm. In the same year DDSA Pharmaceuticals began marketing tetracycline at a mere £6 10s. per 1000.

If this selling price represented a profitable deal to DDSA it is not unreasonable to suggest that of the 1961 figure of £7m, more than £5m represented clear surplus profit to Pfizer and the other American companies market-



CALLAGHAN Hits the peddlers, ignores the profiteers

ing tetracycline here.

'As in other industries, our driving force is profits', said John T. Connor, the president of an American drug firm. He was later made Secretary of Commerce by President Johnson.

It would take two rail-road mail cars, 110 large mail trucks and 800 postmen to deliver the daily load of drug circulars and parcels to doctors if they were mailed to a single city in America. If they were dumped in a pile and burned the blaze would be seen for 50 miles.

Taking the entire US drug industry into account, it is estimated that advertising expenses were running at around \$750m in 1958. The total amount available for all

the medical schools in the United States in 1957 for their educational programmes was only \$200m.

The amount of money spent on boosting sales by high-powered advertising techniques in Britain is also colossal—£6m in the first six months of 1964. £726,000 was spent in three months advertising painkillers and laxatives on television and in the press.

When a member of the Committee of Public Accounts urged that the Ministry of Health should put pressure on the drugs industry to reduce advertising costs, Sir Bruce Fraser for the Ministry said that this was not the Ministry's function—I cannot see them taking it on.

This is only to be expected. The government isn't bothered by the vast profits raked in by the drug firms. Its only concern is to run the capitalist economy efficiently and to settle the balance of payments problem.

That's why prescription charges were reintroduced last year as a gesture to restore confidence in the international fraternity of bankers.

IRRELEVANT

In fact, the balance of payments problem could have been helped to the tune of £25m or so by nationalising the drug industry, for that is the sum returned in profits by foreign-owned drug firms.

Smiling Jim Callaghan's proposed legislation to curtail illicit trafficking in drugs—and to increase the penalties for offences concerning drug-taking—is entirely irrelevant to the needs of the present pill-swallowing society.

As a writer in the book *The World in 1984* says, 'Intellectual, technical, industrial or administrative activity associated with health problems—in which drugs and medicine play a significant role—will take an ever increasing part of every nation's income...An endlessly intricate and costly administrative network, in which the patient will lose human individuality and the medical man his spiritual interest, must be foreseen.'

The possibility of a solution to the problem under class society is remote. Only a thoroughgoing smashing of present class society and the establishment of a new socialist society, in which health will be regarded as a right and not a privilege, will provide the real solution.

JACK SUTTON

FREE SPEECH

THE ATTEMPTS by militants to stop Enoch Powell, Patrick Wall and other prominent racialsists from speaking at universities, even when they are speaking on subjects other than race and immigration, has given rise to a lot of confusion among people who have no sympathy with Powell's policies.

'We don't agree with what he says, but he has the right to say it' is the natural reaction.

When the average worker sees students using direct action to preserve and extend their own freedom against university authorities and then using the same methods to deny freedom of speech to people they dislike, it is not surprising if he draws the conclusion that all they really want is a punch up, and that they should stop wasting the taxpayers' money.

Freedom of speech is an abstract principle which, like 'freedom' itself, looks fine at first glance, 99.9 per cent of people, anywhere in the world, would be in favour of 'freedom' in an opinion poll survey.

Tiny minority

Until of course you start to put some flesh on the bare bones of this principle by asking 'freedom for whom?' or 'freedom to do what?'

We live in a country where the land, factories, banks, newspapers, etc are owned and controlled by a tiny minority of the population.

Thanks to this wealth, the ruling class can marshal all the resources of the state for the defence of its interests.

In the front rank of the army of capital are the mind-benders, newspapers, TV and radio, resting on years of brainwashing from the education system.

By these means the vast majority are taught to accept the rule of a parasitic ruling class as being the natural order of things, and where



'When Powell gives his opinions on black people against him, but there is no comparison between them'

this psychological control breaks down the police, the legal system and the army are ready to maintain their 'law' and their 'order'.

But no society can survive for long on the basis of force alone. A ruling class can only feel secure when people feel 'free to do what they must'.

The harsh realities of power relations are therefore obscured in a fog of abstract ideals such as 'freedom', 'democracy', 'justice'.

Powell virus

Behind the empty formula of freedom of speech lies the reality of the control of the mass media by a handful of men.

When Powell gives his opinions on black people, his words go into millions of homes, and therefore carry considerable influence. Every virus depends on a carrier,

and the virus of Powellism is no exception.

Of course we are free to stand on the street corner and speak against him. But there is no comparison between the freedom of speech enjoyed by Powell and the freedom available to his opponents.

The publicity Powell receives has nothing to do with the originality of his ideas, and he knows it.

On the Frost programme he defined himself as a 'safety valve' and as the traditional safety valve of the system—the Labour Party—is otherwise engaged, the ruling class is badly in need of an alternative to see them through their present sticky patch.

As the crisis develops, other countries throw up similar creatures—Paisley in Ulster, and George Wallace in the US for example.

All rely on the time-worn prescription of dividing the

by I

working class if the white w footed into b rants and stu ship going off they're unlikely is actually doing

The opposi new wave of assumed man Oxford there w 4000 against P Day, which go in the corners press.

Race h

The usual worthies, left and even one union leaders denounced him. past year there

International Socialism

winter 1968/69 edition

contents include:

China by Nigel Harris Party and class by Chris Harman Housing France Vietnam campaign Book reviews

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SOCIALIST WORKER is the paper of International Socialism, a movement of revolutionary socialists who believe that the present form of society, with its blatant inequalities, its periodic crises, wars and racist hysteria must be replaced by one based on a planned economy under full workers' control; those who produce the wealth should own and control the means of production. International Socialism is opposed to any incomes policy that seeks to restrict the wages of the workers in order to boost the profits of the employers. We unconditionally support all shop stewards and rank and file trade union members in their struggles for better wages and conditions and oppose all reactionary laws that threaten the liberties of the labour movement. We support all strikes in defence of workers' interests with the de-

WHERE WE STAND

mand of no victimisation of trade unionists. Redundancy should be opposed with the demand: five days work or five days pay. Shop stewards organisations should strengthen and extend their in-

fluence by linking up on an industrial and ultimately a national basis.

We are opposed to racial discrimination, a weapon used by the ruling class to divide the labour movement. Immigration control must be ended, ensuring the free movement of peoples regardless of race and colour. Black and white workers must unite and form their own defence organisations to fight fascism and racialism. The labour movement must demand the immediate recall of British troops from abroad as the first step towards ending colonial exploitation.

The task of revolutionary socialists is to join workers in their struggles with socialist ideas that will link up the various sections of the labour movement and help create a force that will lead to workers' power and international solidarity.

Under the noses of union bureaucrats, nearly

Behind Geneva's the terrible pligh of second-class

by STEPHEN CAST

THE CITY OF GENEVA in Switzerland is well known to trade unionists as the headquarters of several trade union internationals and as the home of the International Labour Organisation.

The ILO represents the governments, employers and unions of many countries. Its aim is the improvement of workers' conditions all over the world.

The ILO is situated in a large villa, surrounded by a park, on the shores of the Lake of Geneva. Here several hundred bureaucrats work in blissful isolation: their well-being is ensured by high salaries (free of tax), special allowances for the education of their children, subsidised canteens, tax-free cars and so on.

Wooden huts

But what of the workers whose welfare the ILO is supposed to work for? One might expect that in Geneva, at least, bad conditions would not be tolerated.

And yet, leave the lake and the villas, the new high rent apartments in the suburbs, the expensive shops of the town centre, and you can find conditions far removed from the ideology of modern capitalism.

Near the factories and railway sidings of the industrial area, surrounded by mud, are the wooden huts occupied by the immigrant workers.

A typical group of such huts has been put up by a building firm to house two or three hundred of its Italian and Spanish workers. Three or four men live in each room, about 12 feet square.

There is no room for a bed for each man, and mattresses have to be rolled out on the floor at night. All cooking has to be done in the rooms, on two-burner Calor gas stoves.

Heating is by Calor gas too, but is quite inadequate for the cold autumn and winter, which the thin wooden walls

cannot keep at bay. The walls are damp and dingy and the men's clothes are covered in mould.

The workers complain of illnesses caused by the bad conditions: flu, colds, rheumatism. Such housing can lead to much worse things: tuberculosis or bronchitis.

For the privilege of living in such conditions, each foreign worker pays the employer 65 Swiss Francs per month for each tiny room.

Heaters banned

If the workers use more than one container of gas for heating and cooking, they have to buy more themselves. Electric heaters are forbidden, they use too much current.

In some of the rooms, the windows do not close properly. Sanitary facilities are also inadequate.

No wonder that the employers have taken the precaution of surrounding the huts with signs saying: 'PRIVATE, KEEP OUT, NO ENTRY FOR UNAUTHORISED PERSONS'.

Those responsible for inspecting 'foreign workers' accommodation certainly seem to have obeyed the signs. So have the trade union officials. The workers living in these

huts are so-called 'seasonal workers'. They are engaged for about nine months each year to work as labourers on building sites.

This means in theory that the employer does not have to pay them in the winter when weather conditions stop work. The foreign workers are sent home—usually from mid-December to early March. In practice, however, the labour shortage is so bad that employers prefer to keep working right through the winter. The Italians and Spaniards are only sent away for a few weeks at Christmas.

This keeps them in the legal position of seasonal workers: they are not allowed to bring their families with them, they have no political rights and very little security of employment.

A man has to work five 'seasons' before he can hope to get a year-round labour permit, and even then his rights are extremely limited.

There are nearly three-quarters of a million foreign workers in Switzerland. They make up about a third of the labour force.

The overwhelming majority of them are unskilled workers. Most of them are from Southern Italy or Greece. There are a few Algerians and other refugees.

They are there because there is no work for them there. Some are from Portugal and other countries.

They are at comparatively low levels of pay. In Switzerland, where the cost of living is high, they are paid less than in their home countries.

Save mo

but they s this is less t The cost of l high—even hig England.

They frequ family to sup and they want to buy a farm, machinery, or children to school.

The foreign one third or ha home. They are in poverty, an

CH FOR ENOCH?



...ple his words go into millions of homes...we are free to speak
...ween the freedom enjoyed by Powell and his opponents'

DAVE PEERS

...against itself: workers can be
...aming immig- dents for the
...course, then to notice who
...g the steering. tion to this
...racism has forms. In
...as a march of well last May
...tucked away of the national

ate

...parade of MPs, bishops
...or two trade have also
...And in the has no doubt

...been a considerable output of
...resolutions, silent vigils and
...prayer directed against
...Powell's version of race
...hate.

All to no avail.

The burden

The paralysis of the official
...organisations of the labour
...movement in the face of
...Powell's provocative attempt
...to mobilise working-class
...support around the right wing
...of the Tory Party has thrown
...the burden of resistance largely
...onto the student movement.

The task is clear—to mobilise
...the forces of the Left to rouse
...the workers to the danger that
...Powell represents—but the
...resources are pitifully small.

It is not a debate taking place
...in which we swap arguments and
...discuss who gets the most press
...space. Powell is mobilising a
...mass movement and we have to
...mobilise against him using all
...the means at our disposal. Militants
...in the universities are aware of
...their isolation from the working
...class, especially on the issue of
...racism, but the student movement
...will only be significant to the
...extent that it can fertilise the
...workers' movement.

Already it is evident that the
...defiant spirit of student actions
...over a variety of issues is
...starting to attract support from
...young workers, but this is only
...a beginning. A deadly struggle
...for the mind of the working class
...is now under way. Ultimately
...what is at stake is socialism or
...barbarism, and as the struggle
...deepens the ruling class will
...have no hesitation

in removing any of the traditional
...‘freedoms’ of parliamentary
...democracy if they become
...obstacles in its path.

The limited freedoms enjoyed
...by the working class and the
...opponents of the system are
...certainly in danger. While
...Powell the ‘safety valve’ poses
...as the champion of freedom,
...the state apparatus of the
...capitalist system he supports
...grows more and more repressive.

Urgent task

The right to strike is now
...under attack and the legal
...penalties for political protest
...become increasingly severe.

It is an urgent task for the
...revolutionary movement to cut
...through this smokescreen of
...deceit and reveal the ugly
...reality of a decaying social
...system, in which Wilson and
...Powell are two sides of the
...same coin.

POWELL —THE VOICE OF PROGRESS

'When I see a rich man I
give thanks to God'
(Sun 26.2.65)

'The council house system
is immoral and socially
damaging' (Daily Telegraph
23.11.59)

'Shortage and squalor in
housing are due to the two
great evils: rent control and
subsidy' (Times 29.11.68)

'Aid to underdeveloped
countries is both futile and
harmful' (Times 13.12.64)

The decision in 1965 not to
allow an increase in the
price of bread was 'the
popular measure of a
tyranny' and 'of evil
consequences' (Times 26.9.65)

The government's ban on the
sale of certain tins of corned
beef after the typhoid
epidemic was 'a particularly
atrocious example of lawless
action by the government'
(Observer 2.1.66)

'Work spreading, profit-hating
almost Luddite attitude of
British trade unionists'
(Financial Times 4.3.68)

'Why should any social
service be provided without
a test of need?' (Tory
pamphlet 1952)

'Our purpose cannot be less
than to convert to private
industry that great block of
British industry... there is
nothing impracticable about
denationalising our national-
ised industries. All of
them.' (Times 13.9.68)

Powell is an ardent church-
goer. The original Enoch was
the son of Cain who 'rose up
against his brother and slew
him' (Genesis 5.8.)

Facts from Labour
Research.

The Red Peril shakes Chalky and the Fuzz

A SPECTRE is haunting
Ilford.

On Friday morning and
evening a group of revolu-
tionary socialists gave
out leaflets at local gram-
mar schools, much to the
consternation of teachers
and headmasters.

Such is the power of the
revolutionary printed
word that within minutes
squad cars were zooming
round to Beal Grammar to
rid the area of the 'red
peril'.

In the course of their
duty, police officers learnt
not only the names of the
'offenders' but that there
had been a police strike
and demonstration in 1919.
Why not emulate their
brave forefathers? they
were asked.

Police officers were
seen to leave the scene of
the crime with furrowed
brows and vague promises
to visit the history section
of their local library.

Clamouring

Meanwhile, at Wanstead
Grammar School, a pale-
faced teacher, alarmed by
the way in which his
pupils were clamouring,
fighting and queuing up
for revolutionary litera-
ture, asked the 'conspir-
ators' if they had permis-
sion from the headmaster
to distribute leaflets.

When the revolutionar-

ies replied in the negative
and thrust dozens of leaf-
lets about Ireland and
LSE into his trembling
hand, he accelerated imm-
ediately into top gear and
disappeared down the
high road.

Spreading

But that's not the end.
The virus of socialism
was spreading.

At Ilford County High,
International Socialists
were actually greeted at
the gates of the school by
the headmaster himself,
who paternally asked them
who they were.

He retreated, shocked
and stunned, when the 'red
perils' asked him who HE
was, and accused him of
trying to opt out of his
duties as headmaster,
since it was five past
nine.

The revolutionaries ret-
ired to their secret dug-out,
well satisfied. After all,
we've put up with capital-
ist education for three
centuries and just look
at what one day of OUR
education does.

KATHY
SIMS

a million workers live in shocking conditions

glitter,

citizens

TLES

...lming majority
...skilled manual
...come from
...Spain, though
...from Portugal,
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...workers send
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much overtime as possible.
Foreign workers tend to be
completely isolated from the
Swiss. Their housing is cut
off and their poverty prevents
them from taking part in spare-
time activities.

Some of them eventually do
get a permit to bring their
families, but this is very
difficult because of the high
rents and the refusal of many
landlords to rent to foreigners.

Hardest jobs

The Swiss trade unions
have followed a rather unde-
cided policy towards the
foreigners. On the one hand
they feared that foreign labour
would keep wages down. On
the other, they realised that
Swiss workers were achieving
promotion through the creation
of a foreign 'sub-proletariat'.

The foreigners do the least-
pleasant, hardest, dirtiest and
worst paid jobs. The labour
force in some industries, such
as building and textiles, is
now almost entirely foreign.

Hardly any Swiss are in
the lowest grades any more
except for old workers, whose
retraining would not be profit-
able for the bosses.

Few foreigners get further
than being semi-skilled. The
unions have supported the

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bureaucrats
working in
splendid
isolation

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government's policy of limita-
tion of immigration since
1964, and have done little to
combat nationalistic groups
who exploit and encourage
prejudice against foreign
workers. Few foreign workers
join the unions, which they
accuse of doing nothing for
them.

In any case, the policy of
social partnership followed
by the Swiss unions (there
has been no major strike since
1936) is little to the taste of
the militant Italian and
Spanish workers.

There is no doubt that the
exploitation of the foreign
workers leads to the devel-
opment of class conscious-

ness, which is reflected in
the growth of broadly based
democratic organisations, like
the Colonia Libera of the
Italians. Apart from political
action, there are self-help
bodies like the Workers'
University in Geneva.

Fear militancy

The restrictionist policy
followed by the Swiss ruling
class despite the economic
advantages of immigration, is
certainly due in part to fear
of the rebirth of working-class
militancy in Switzerland
through the foreign workers.

Let us hope that their fears
are justified.

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Please send further details of the meetings and
activities of the international socialists to

Name

Address



Teachers demand strike action

By DUNCAN HALLAS

President Wandsworth Teachers' Association

ON SATURDAY (February 15) the National Union of Teachers is holding a special conference in London to decide on acceptance or rejection of the employers' final pay offer. The executive, split by 28 votes to 10, is recommending acceptance.

Teachers are legally bound by the Teachers Remuneration Act to compulsory arbitration unless a settlement is reached.

300 say 'Hands off our laundries'

By CHRISTINE PROTZ
Chairman, Laundries Action Committee

THE PLAN to shut down two municipal laundries in Tottenham, North London, is only part of the Haringey Tory Council's active policy to close or restrict many of the social services enjoyed for years by the community.

The services include a municipal restaurant (a non-profit making venture which can provide cheap meals for workers and pensioners) and an open-air swimming pool.

Three hundred housewives turned out to a public meeting last week to demand that the laundries remain open as a public service, desperately needed in an area of young families and council and private flats.

The meeting unanimously agreed to organise a mass petition, to march through the streets on a Saturday, and to stage a mass lobby of the next council meeting, complete with dirty washing, for a 'wash in with the wash-outs'.

The local trades council has pledged its support for the campaign.

Tiny amount

The council claims that the laundries are losing too much money, but the sum—£11,000—represents a tiny amount on the rates and is mainly composed of repayment (plus interest) of long-term loans taken out to modernise the laundries.

The issue is clearly not one of economics, but simply that the Tories' main concern is to close down social services run on a profitless basis by the community when these services stand in competition with private enterprise.

The council tells the Tottenham housewives to use the commercial laundrettes, but apart from the fact that the municipal ones give a far better service, we want to know why we should have to contribute to the profits of commercial laundrettes when we already have provision for a community service, only slightly financed by the rates we pay.

The Tory Wandsworth Council in South London plans to close a modern children's library and recreational centre in the Nine Elms area because it is 'losing' money.

Docks from page one

ment agrees to this demand, dockers should refuse to work Phase 2 of Devlin.

But while complete nationalisation would go some way to helping dockers to unite under one employer and to have equal conditions, it will still leave many problems unsolved unless it is founded on the principle of workers' control.

Our slogan for the future must be: NATIONALISATION OF ALL PORTS UNDER DOCK WORKERS' CONTROL.

HEALY-CLIFF debate: new venue

DEBATE between Gerry Healy (SLL) and Tony Cliff (IS) planned for LSE this Thursday (February 13) has been moved to University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1 starting at 7.30.

None of the opponents of acceptance have any faith in arbitration.

They want strike action to force the government to make a bigger offer together with a refusal by the union to participate in any arbitration farce.

Many workers probably think that teachers are pretty well-off. Some are, but the ordinary teacher on the basic scale gets £15 7s 8d a week minimum, rising to £28 15s a week maximum after 14 years' continuous service. London teachers get £1 12s 8d extra.

The employers are offering an increase of 7.5 per cent on the minimum and 6.6 per cent on the maximum. This may not seem too bad, but it is the first increase for two years and it has to last until 1971.

Just to get back in real terms to the position of two years ago, we need, on the government's own cost of living statistics, an increase of not less than 9 per cent. What we face, therefore, is a cut in real wages.

ILLUSIONS

The NUT is traditionally non-militant. This is because of the illusion cherished by many teachers that they are professional and middle-class, and also because the union at national level is dominated by head teachers (that is, administrators) who are themselves quite well-paid.

All this is beginning to change. In the last few months there has been a remarkable growth in militancy both on the salaries question and on the issue of more democracy in schools for both staff and pupils.

Whether enough steam has been developed to force the union into a head-on conflict with the government remains to be seen.

REJECT

One encouraging sign is the decision of the Inner London Teachers' Association to contact every association in the country calling for rejection of the pay offer and for a pre-conference meeting for delegates to organise opposition to the executive's motion.

The ILTA is not noted as a particularly radical body and its action reflects the profound discontent among London teachers.

A mass demonstration outside the conference has been called by the Greater London Ad Hoc Salaries Campaign Committee, an unofficial grouping of mainly young teachers in London. A leaflet setting out the case for militant action has been printed.

SUPPORT

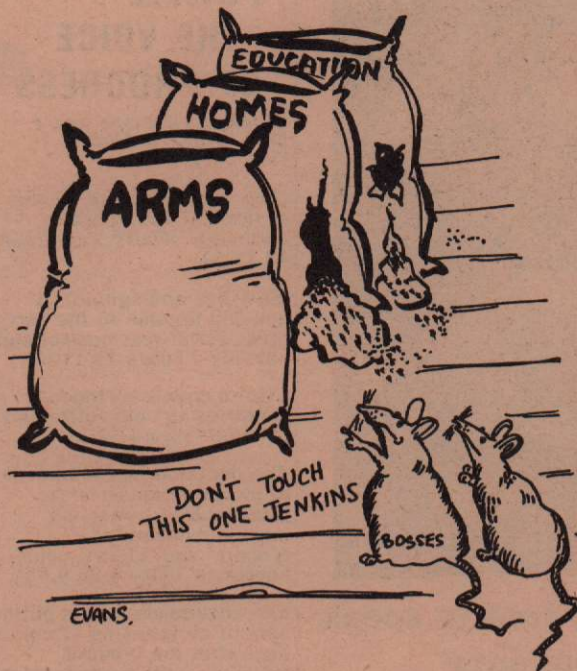
The aim is to get it to every conference delegate. The conference starts at 9am Saturday morning at Central Hall, Westminster and maximum support is needed from 8am onwards for the demonstration and leafletting.

Whatever the outcome on Saturday, Left-wing teachers need to organise nationally for the struggles to come. The future Labour offers us is one of education cuts, overcrowded classes, poor pay and worsening conditions.

We need to transform the NUT into a democratic and militant organisation to defend the interests of teachers and children alike.

A broadly-based grouping around the unofficial paper Rank and File has made a start in this direction. The paper fights to democratise the union and the schools, for militant action on pay and conditions and for the need for freedom in education.

The urgent need is to develop local groups in all main centres to work systematically towards these goals.



Lock-out at Plessey as men reject bonus

From DAVE BRIDGE

TWENTY-FIVE sheet metal workers at Plessey Radar, Addlestone in Surrey were sacked on February 5 for refusing to work a bonus scheme.

The men, who have the support of the branch and district offices of their union, the Sheet Metal Workers, regard the action by the bosses as a lock-out. It is also an attempt to smash a militant shop which has given a lead to other less well-organised parts of the factory since it opened two years ago.

The bonus scheme has been a continuous source of grievance since it was introduced when the factory opened. The men have no control over raising the rates, and it has

led to a gradual cut in their standard of living.

When the men invoked their right under a national agreement to return to a day rate, they were instantly dismissed. While they were actually packing their tool-boxes, the bosses tried to talk individuals into re-employment on their terms. This has made the men more determined to go back only on their own conditions.

Leading local militants have been assisting the Plessey workers on the picket line, and support is coming from all over the country.

Messages of support and financial contributions to Jim Shackle, 86 Bournside Rd., Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey.

MIDLANDS LINK-UP TO FIGHT RACIALISM

Socialist Worker Reporter

BIRMINGHAM:- A number of local organisations that co-operated in last October's Vietnam demonstration recently came together to discuss the question of the militant Left working more closely together in the area.

The result of the meeting was the setting up of a united front body called Militant Action. It will attempt to co-ordinate activities of militants around specific issues.

Militant Action's political programme is:-

1. for a society based on workers' power
2. support for genuine national liberation movements
3. opposition to racialism and to any form of immigration control
4. support for the revolutionary student movement

The creation of this united front, linking such groups as

IS, Black People's Alliance, mass immigrant groups such as the Indian Workers' Association, Irish Republicans, students and Young Communists, is a significant political gain for militancy in Birmingham. While the extreme right, the racials and their allies in the conventional political parties, are stepping up their efforts to smash the immigrant and militant groups, the Left has shown that it can respond and unify without watering down its principles.

May Day

Militant Action is now working towards a May Day campaign in Birmingham aimed at uniting black and white workers around socialist demands.

Details of Militant Action, its meetings and activities can be had from Mike Sheridan, 47 Ashley Close, B'ham 15

Industrial militants to hold conference

MEMBERS of the International Socialists working and active in industry are meeting to form policies for future work on the afternoon and evening of Saturday, March 1st.

It is proposed that IS's past, present and future work will be critically examined, together with such problems as the struggle against productivity bargaining, the role of the union bureaucracies,

rank and file movements and prospects, union elections and perspectives for industrial militants.

Opportunities will also be given for members to meet in industry/union groups to plan detailed work. For further details contact your IS branch secretary or write to John Phillips, 66 Longland Court, Avondale Sq, London SE1.

French call to unite Left forces

PARIS:- 4500 people attended a meeting on January 31 called by two revolutionary papers, Rouge and Lutte Ouvriere. It was the first of a series to discuss the formation of a revolutionary party.

The meeting was at the Palais de Mutualite and the audience overflowed into the corridors and the street. It was held under the 'honorary presidency' of the two jailed Polish revolutionaries, Jacek Kurpn and Karol Modzelewski.

Proved

A Lutte Ouvriere spokesman said the aim of the meeting was 'to work towards joining in a united political force all those Trotskyist, Maoist and anarchist revolutionaries who proved their common ground last May' during the revolutionary upheaval.

He added: 'Only such a force could offer real support to the many thousands of worker-militants now scattered and isolated and feeling helpless in the face of the Communist Party union bureaucratic machine.'

'It was from these militant workers that the backbone of a new party would be built to ensure that future May Days would not be defeated.'

Workers' sit-in beats the bosses

Socialist Worker Reporter

YORK:- 2,100 workers at Armstrong Patents factory returned to work on Monday after a fortnight's strike beginning with a sit-in at the works against the management's interpretation of a national engineering award.

The bosses claimed that no increase was payable at Armstrong under the award, since various extras (bonus, merit money, productivity award) already raised earnings above the new national minimum.

The workers insisted that all 'extras' should be considered to function in addition to any minimum rate—and won their case by staying out solidly. National negotiations, hastily summoned by the employers, conceded the workers' case as the factory remained at a standstill.

The nationally agreed minimum with its increase, now forms the 'floor' of the Armstrong pay-packet, on top of which locally-won extras will be added.

The bosses' attempt to collapse extra payments into the minimum has been defeated.

Dramatic

The 10 per cent productivity award that was the main bone of contention stays untouched and the other extras run undisturbed pending the negotiation of another local wage agreement.

Since the whole factory—skilled and unskilled, women and men, day shift and night shift, acted with dramatic solidarity in the recent dispute, all looks well for the workers in the next round.

The militancy of the women workers was particularly notable in the Armstrong battle. The ladies—50 per cent of the work force—in many ways set the pace of the struggle and have learned that they can win.

The ease of picketing was also noteworthy; hardly any drivers of suppliers' lorries broke the line.

Drivers returned straight back as far as the Midlands, with their load intact when they saw that a dispute was on.

The suspension struts for the Ford Capri come from Armstrong. With this dispute resolved the way is now clear for Ford workers to act to the best advantage in their current struggle

LSE: THE FIGHT GOES ON

By MARTIN SHAW

THE GOVERNORS of the London School of Economics have announced that the college is to reopen on February 19.

'Alterations' are to be made to the steel gates which were the immediate issue of conflict when the school was closed. Disciplinary action against a wider group of students which was expected, was not announced.

These decisions represent real gains for the students. Following the massive unity which was shown at the Union meeting on February 3, it was inevitable that the other side would start to have misgivings.

The press, as I reported last week, started the slide. Then the academic staff voted against the original plan of the Governors and their own General Purposes Committee to keep the school closed until March 10 while proceeding with disciplinary action.

Determined

Now the Governors have themselves, after five days of meetings, gone back on this decision.

Even the backing of the Secretary for Education does not make the authorities all-powerful when faced with the determination of the students to fight for their demands.

But the struggle is not over. This Saturday the first of three lecturers facing disciplinary action comes before a tribunal.

Next Tuesday, 36 students arrested on January 24 will appear in court. LSE dons are expected to give evidence against the two students charged with 'malicious damage'.

And the injunctions against 13 students remain, while the Governors threaten that at the conclusion of legal proceedings, 'appropriate disciplinary action will be taken'.

Greater threat

The postponement may contain a greater threat if it means that action will be taken against students out of term or during exams when it is difficult to fight.

If the gates are restored and the provision for staff informing on students remains, they will not be tolerated.

The Governors clearly threaten that if students do take action, LSE will be closed again. It may be that the present reopening is largely a tactical retreat—a trap in which to catch the militants against whom the authorities feel they have insufficient evidence to take disciplinary action.

Campaign

LSE students are preparing for a long and arduous fight, and will need to mobilise further support outside the college. They must carry on their campaign for trade union support to black LSE while their demands are not met, starting from the threat of the LSE branch of ASTMS to strike if the school is reopened under unsatisfactory conditions.

Students in other colleges must continue to watch LSE for the moments when support will be needed. LSE remains a crucial test for the whole student movement. Tuesday's gains do not mean that the battle is won.

Pickets: Church House, Deans Yard, Gt. Smith St., SW1, Saturday 5 pm (lecturer's trial); Bow St. Magistrates Court, WC2, Tuesday all day. Donations to LSE Legal Defence Fund, LSE Union Committee, ULU, Malet St., WC1.

Threat to militant

RON BEAK, secretary of the London HQ district branch of the Union of Post Office Workers, has been threatened with disciplinary action by the union executive for publishing a 'blacklist' of overseas telegraphists who worked during the recent strike. It is hoped that post office workers, who showed such magnificent solidarity during the strike, will rally to the support of a leading militant.

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