

* Socialist Worker

For workers control and international socialism

123.22 May 1969 every Thursday 3d

What we think...

Millions down tools against anti-worker law

STRIKES HIT AUSTRALIA AS UNION CHIEF JAILED

THE TUC's proposals for the recall conference on June 5 are a double threat for the labour movement.

Their effect, if accepted by the Labour government, would be to concentrate enormous power in the hands of the TUC general council, power which can only be used against militants on the shop-floor.

If Barbara Castle and the rest of the Labour government do not accept the proposals, legislation with penalty clauses will be introduced. In either case, the rank and file will be under greater attack.

Instead of opposing the whole onslaught against the trade unions the TUC accepts in principle that many of the government's proposals are progressive. They ignore the fact that individual proposals cannot be isolated but must be seen in the light of the government's general strategy.

They are giving in to the general atmosphere of recrimination that blames the unions for all the problems of capitalist society. They say 'Yes, we are responsible, but let us reform ourselves'!

DISARMS

This capitulation before the assault that the government press and television have launched disarms them before the struggle starts. Not only the right-wing but also the 'left' officials like Scanlon and Jones accept the TUC compromise. Like the other trade union officials, they object only to statutory penalties.

We have the weird situation now in the AEU where a motion to accept the union's national committee policy of opposition to TUC-type proposals was carried 4-3 - with Bob Wright, a Hugh Scanlon supporter, voting against his own union's policy.

There could be no clearer illustration of the wavering of the left-wing trade union officials in the present situation.

BATTLE

They are involved in an internal power battle in the AEF in which the interests of the workers take second place.

The quarrel between the TUC and the government is about where the final sanctions should lie. The 'Labour' government wants legislation against labour: the TUC say they will police the workers themselves.

Either way the rank and file worker finds his position weakened. Laws to imprison strikers are not necessarily a greater threat to grass-roots militancy than other forms of control. The present situation in Australia is indicative of what happens to laws which are clearly regarded as unjust by workers in struggle.

OPPOSITION

Delegates to the recall conference must tell the TUC General Council what it can do with its Do-it-Yourself policeman's kit. Secondly, they must come out in total opposition to government interference in trade union affairs and support all strikes, official and unofficial.

The struggle is really about power. It is ultimately a political fight, a struggle as to who should exercise power over whom.

The working class has only one interest in this struggle, workers' power whereby all exploiting classes can be abolished and the workers themselves can control their own lives and destinies.

LEFT ROCKS CANNON

DOUGLAS, IOM:- the first conference of the recently merged electricians' and plumbers' union has seen the first victories for the Left since the Cannon leadership was installed by the High Court. The right-wing executive was defeated on all the most important votes on questions of rules revision. Their plans to liquidate the plumbers' district committees and to bring the plumbers' rule book in line with the tough electricians' book failed ignominiously as the Left scored time after time.

In the face of this relatively organised Left opposition, the shaken executive could only whine: 'Delegates musn't think there is an ulterior motive behind everything we put before you' - Fu!! report next week.

Peter Finch
GLEBE, NSW:- Australia is on the verge of the greatest industrial upheaval of its history.

At midnight on Tuesday one million workers downed tools. A series of country-wide strikes have hit industry, commerce, transport and the docks.

At stake is the use by the government of penal clauses against the unions in its Conciliation and Arbitration Act. The strikes were caused by the jailing last Thursday under the terms of the Act of Clarie O'Shea, secretary of the Victoria section of the Tramworkers' Union, ATMOEA.

The Act gives power to an Arbitration Commission made up of judges to prohibit at the request of the employers any ban, limitation, or restriction on work under a negotiated agreement.

POWERS

This power opens the unions to the penal clauses that are available to the employers in the Industrial Court.

If a union persists with industrial action it can be fined £500 a day and individual union officials £200 a day while the action lasts.

The ATMOEA's Victoria branch has been savagely fined, particularly in fighting the operation of one-man buses. The employer appealed several times against court decisions favourable to the union and the union had to bear the trouble and expense of having these decisions sustained.

Finally, the High Court of Australia decided the whole issue in favour of ATMOEA, but the Industrial Court still demanded that the union pay the fines and costs previously imposed for industrial action.

The branch refused to make further payments and the officials refused to reveal information on finances. This culminated in the jailing of O'Shea for 'contempt' of court, for an indefinite period. O'Shea is in a prison hospital with a serious heart complaint.

PROTEST

On Friday an estimated 400,000 workers stopped work in all states to protest at the jailing. Countless meetings of strikers called on the Australian Council of Trades Unions (ACTU) for militant action.

In Sydney and Melbourne, thousands of unionists chanting 'Release O'Shea' filled streets and clashed with police in front of the Arbitration Commission offices. The strikes, called by union leaders affected transport, factories, building sites and docks, and lasted up to 24 hours.

ACTU leaders met the government on Sunday and issued a virtual ultimatum that O'Shea must be released by 1 pm on Monday.

Unless the ACTU executive (nine left-centrists to seven right-wingers) wants to be completely isolated this threat could mean a general strike.

The Boilermakers' and to back page



Pickets at the Sunbury works on Monday

Airfix workers fight for union rights

SW Reporter

WORKERS at a Sunbury, Middlesex plastics firm rebelled against their medieval working conditions last week and are maintaining a round-the-clock picket at the factory until their demands for better wages and union recognition are met.

The strike, at Airfix Products Ltd, is backed by the Transport and General Workers' Union and follows the refusal of the management to even discuss workers' grievances.

The TGWU members are determined to win. 'We are prepared to stay out until we get what we want,' one picket said.

Modest demands

The strikers' demands are modest. They are asking for an extra 3d an hour on the basic rate, a higher bonus and union recognition.

Many of the workers are coloured and the strikers are demanding an end to discrimination over promotions. They say that whenever the bosses lay off staff, it is always from the moulding shop, which mainly employs coloured workers.

Pay packets are notoriously slim and most workers receive little more than £15 a week. And the bosses make sure that workers have to sweat for every penny. There are three eight-hour shifts so that not a second of production time is lost.

Workers are driven ruthlessly. Each machine is fitted with a recording device so that the bosses can spy on the workers' progress. Tea breaks are not allowed

and workers have to ask permission to go to the lavatory. This is a very profitable situation for the employers. Last November Airfix reported sparkling profit figures. In its first six months of the year, sales rose by 16 2/3 per cent, but pre-tax profits soared by 122 per cent to £247,000.

At present the strike is confined to the 123 union members out of the total labour force of 450. The workers still crossing the picket are mainly women from the packing department, who ironically have the most to gain from a victory for the strikers.

No race-hate march

LEICESTER:- 1000 students workers and members of immigrant groups marched through the city centre last Thursday in protest against racialism and apartheid in South Africa. They went past the Grand Hotel where members of a South African trade delegation were giving a reception for local businessmen. There were clashes with a small group of fascists.

SCHOOLS OR GUNS? CROSSMAN GETS HIS PRIORITIES RIGHT

Colin Falconer

SOCIALISM, Harold Wilson used to say, is about priorities. Richard Crossman said it again recently, while defending the increased charges for teeth and spectacles: it was all a matter of social priorities. Taking a look at government policies, we think we know what they mean.

As revealed in Socialist Worker last week, the government is now doling out £2 million a day (or at least £750m a year) to industry, as an incentive to investment, rationalisation, innovation and sackings. The estimated 'defence' budget for 1968-9 was £2,271m which works out at £4,321 per minute, £72 per second and 15s9d per week for every man, woman and child in the country.

Compare this generosity with the following examples of government policy: prescription charges of 2s6d per item introduced (total yield: £25m); abolition of free school milk in secondary schools (saving: £5m); increased charges for teeth and spectacles (total yield: £3.5m).

Finally, we have the refusal of the Whitley Council to grant the student nurses an extra £1 a week. Instead it offered 2s6d a week tea money.

The government's defence of its policies has been nothing short of inspired. First it admitted that its announcement on teeth and spectacles was a mistake - to make such an announcement just before the local elections was the height of folly!

'MERE SYMBOLS'

Then Crossman spoke. False teeth and spectacles, he argued, were mere symbols (obviously the Secretary of State has his own teeth, or he wouldn't speak so lightly). All he had done was to bring existing charges 'up to date'.

In other words, everything else has gone up, so why not slap something on teeth and specs? £3.5m a year had been saved - enough to save the building programme for comprehensive schools. (It was also just enough to keep British industry going for almost two days)

In the name of 'social priorities' the government is asking us to choose between a cheap health service and decent comprehensive schools. But it is clear that the government's priorities have nothing to do with socialism - they are capitalist priorities imposed by the foreign bankers in return for loans baling out British capitalism.

And the government cannot cut down significantly on arms spending and subsidies to industry - for without them British capitalists would not find it profitable to invest.

The real choice is between capitalism and socialism - between their priorities and ours.

The following table compares the costs of certain items of government and local authority spending.

Military research & development (1968-9) £ 254m	Medical Research Council (1968-7) £ 14.2m
Provisions & victual-ling allowances for the Navy £ 68.6m	Food - patients & staff in hospitals £ 44.6m
One Polaris submarine with base £ 87m	Crawley New Town £ 93m
Refit of Ark Royal £ 30m	New Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead £ 15.6m
Guided-missile destroyer Glamorgan £ 14.1m	New Lister Hospital Stevenage £ 6.2m
One Phantom aircraft £ 1.3m	A new comprehensive school £ 400,000
One Polaris missile £ 400,000	110 new tractors £ 90,000
One Bloodhound missile £ 100,000	80 council houses £ 90,000
One Chieftain battle tank £ 90,000	

Figures: Labour Research

Big Brother on the buses is threat to jobs

SCIENCE

THERE ARE FEW people on the Left who do not believe that the success of a future socialist society would depend on allowing the full development of scientific technology. Science is, we are convinced, a Good Thing—even if we may deplore the diversion of scientific research to the production of the horrific gadgets with which modern armies are equipped.

But technology is directed against workers in more ways than the obvious one of trying to clobber their revolts with sophisticated weapons.

One factor that shapes and distorts the future direction of technological change is the need to overcome that increasingly awkward human element in industry—the worker! Many inventions are produced with at least half an eye on their

likely uses for controlling workers or rendering ineffective any resistance they display.

Control crews

An example that recently captured the headlines was the tachograph—the 'spy in the cab'—which transport drivers successfully resisted. It seems likely that busmen will be the next group to be subjected to Big Brother devices.

An instrument will count the revolutions of the wheels and send the information via a radio link to a central computer. Since the computer has information on the route

the bus is taking, it will be able to work out the position of the bus to within 50 feet.

This will enable the employer to control very closely the activities of bus crews. The increased information they will gain about average journey times will enable them to further tighten schedules.

Since busmen are not paid on a piece rate, the employers are interested in packing as many trips as possible into the working day. It also threatens to lead to mass redundancies among inspectors—and remember that promotion to the job of inspector is the only way most busmen can hope for a substantial pay rise.

One Canadian city hoping to introduce the system plans to axe its present force of 200 inspectors, who control 1,200 buses, to a mere 20.

Another topical example is the Container Revolution taking place on the docks. This has been partly inspired by the need to eliminate that troublesome animal—the dockworker.

Redundant

Elimination is precisely what will happen if present trends continue. It is estimated that a container berth can operate with a tenth of the labour needed by a conventional one.

Not only dockers but whole dockyards will be made redundant by containerisation. Fourteen container ships could handle the

entire British trade with North America and one container port could serve the whole of Britain.

It is obvious that capitalism could never achieve this degree of rationalisation. In its search for a means of undermining militancy on the docks it has unleashed a new dockland technology that threatens its own destruction.

These developments do show, however, that in a socialist society even the untidy world of transport could be rationally planned. The bus monitor could be used to ensure that sufficient buses are available on busy routes at the right time and prevent the annoying habit of half a dozen buses for the same destination arriving in convoy. Computer links could help to integrate road and rail transport, so that buses

arrive on time for trains.

They also illustrate how closely, in our society, man management—the disciplining of the labour force—is interwoven with the technical aspects of management.

Obey bosses

Whether control is exercised via a computer or an old fashioned army of inspectors, vast amounts of society's equipment and manpower are tied up in the job of ensuring that workers obey the dictates of the bosses.

Workers' control, by eliminating this need, would make possible a vast expansion of the scale of material abundance.

HARRY GOODE

FOUR BILLION thundered exchanges last week.

It was the international situation in 1968, the biggest since it was devalued.

It has Germany into the Western where France long ago. It is the unity of the G. Cabinet.

It has put workers a s next big con Old Man Cap it means a Labour's scre A lot of m up to go on t firms in the unsure of get to expand ab foreign profit Euro-dollars, side their ow short term.

Volatile

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Tragic case of David Kitson spurs Ruskin march against Vorster's race-hate regime

ON FRIDAY the students and staff of Ruskin College, Oxford will start a march that will take them to Trafalgar Square in London.

When they arrive in the square on Whit Monday, May 26, they will be addressed at a rally by prominent leaders of the trade union movement and politicians.

The purpose of the march is to protest against apartheid and political prisoners in South Africa and to show the connections with the racist Smith in Rhodesia and the repulsive policies of Powellism.

They all have two common factors—the support of monopoly capitalism and the division of the working class by the use of the colour issue.

The demonstration has resulted from the tragic case of a former student of Ruskin College, David Kitson.

Kitson was born in South Africa and lived there for many years before coming to Britain to further his career. While he was in Britain he became an active member of the Draughtsman's and Allied Technicians' Association (DATA) and between 1952-1954 he held the Association's scholarship to Ruskin College, Oxford.

MASSACRE

In 1959, David Kitson returned to South Africa but his passport was confiscated on arrival. His intentions on returning were not to take part in politics but to bring up his family as best he could.

After the Sharpeville massacre Kitson was so moved that he joined the South African Civil Rights Move-

Locked away for 20 years —trade unionist who fought S. African tyranny

by STEPHEN F. KELLY

DATA and Oxford Kitson Committee

ment and became one of their most active members.

On June 23 1964, David Kitson was arrested and held under the 90 Day Detention Law. He was interrogated continuously for 40 hours and twice lost consciousness but was revived by having water thrown over him.

He was then released, only to be re-arrested almost immediately and after 130 days in solitary confinement was charged under the 'Sabotage Act' and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

Immediately after his arrest, David Kitson's wife Norma appealed to overseas organisations for help. She stood on the Johannesburg City Hall steps with her two small children to protest

against her husband's detention. She was told that if she did not stop this 'fuss' she would also be arrested.

In July 1964 she was interrogated for two days and then arrested and held for 28 days. She was subsequently released.

At his trial David Kitson was found to have conspired with Nelson Mandela, who was condemned to life imprisonment in the Rivonia Trial of 1963. According to the judge, Kitson and his colleagues formed the new 'high command' of the African Civil Rights and Resistance Movements after the arrest of Mandela.

David Kitson was sent to Central Prison, Pretoria where he still remains. It is a tough,

grim prison, impossible to escape from and in the criminal world is known as 'die groot huis' (the big house).

All executions in South Africa take place here—more than 100 every year—and if you are in a cell near the death chamber they say you can hear the gallows drop. In 1962, 61 condemned Africans rioted there; four of them were shot and most of them savagely beaten.

BARBARIC

In a period of 19 months, ending December 1964, 140 political trials took place in South Africa affecting 1600 people and 950 people were detained under the 90 Day Detention Law. Of those brought to trial 45 were sentenced to death, 14 to life imprisonment and the remaining 1,202 received a total of 7,256 years imprisonment.

David Kitson is not alone in his struggle against apartheid and monopoly capitalism. Some of his colleagues have escaped arrest but many are imprisoned under barbaric conditions where their diet is insubstantial, their visits infrequent and their mail censored.

Our demonstration will attempt to bring such matters to the attention of the British public, the press, the British government and the South African government and expose the manoeuvres of the international capitalists.

CAMPAIGN

The march is supported by many trade unions, in particular DATA who are attempting to nullify the million pound press advertising campaigns of the South African police state and we hope to make would-be emigrants think again. The Anti-Apartheid Movement is also supporting our campaign.

Ruskin College will be closed down for the duration of the march and it is also hoped to close down many other colleges in Oxford and en route to London.

We appeal to all members of the International Socialists to join us on our demonstration against apartheid.

This is a political demonstration against the South African government. Remember that the present Prime Minister of South Africa is Mr. Balthazar Vorster. During

Norma Kitson and children—they protested against David's detention.



the second world war he welcomed the Nazis as allies. In 1942 he said that he stood for Christian Nationalism which was an ally of Nazism. He said: 'You can call this anti-democratic principle dictatorship if you wish,' and went on to say that in Italy it was called Fascism, in Germany Nazism, and in South Africa Christian Nationalism.

Vorster was arrested in South Africa in September 1942 and was not released on parole until January 1944. This self-same Nazi sympathiser was the so-called Minister of Justice when David

Kitson was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

The case of Kitson cannot be isolated from the policies of apartheid and the repression and violence which inevitably follow from it.

You can join the march at 12 noon on Whit Monday at the Old Exhibition Site in Rotten Row, Hyde Park—nearest tube Knightsbridge. The march leaves at 1 pm via Sloane St, Kings Rd, Victoria St, Parliament Sq and Whitehall to Trafalgar Sq, where speakers will include Bemadette Devlin MP and George Doughty, DATA secretary.

Ford: dangerous

WE ARE NOW in the ninth week since we returned to our places of work at Ford, whether as unskilled or skilled workers.

What has the strike meant to each of us? To me, as a skilled worker and a shop steward, I have found it hard to understand why, when we could have defeated the pressures from the capitalist establishment of the Ford Motor Co and even greater pressure from this so-called Labour government, we as a united force decided to return back to work.

What for, we may ask ourselves now? Our strike could have gone down in history as the greatest strike of our time, the strike that defeated the Labour government's trade union reform Bill.

The Bill will restrict workers from carrying out our right to withdraw our labour, the greatest power we have against the capitalists.

The partial penalty clauses which we now work under could have been completely erased from any agreement now and in the future, but our own greed drove us back.

Now we have to pay the price for that lack of thought before we raised our hands. As a shop steward it will mean a great deal more thought before accepting resolutions from the floor and entering into negotiations with the management, as it may very well come into the category of 'unconstitutional' action.

As for parity with the Midlands, I think we will have to pay for this very dearly in penalty clauses.

It is time we looked at ourselves very deeply and decided which way we are going. I have done this in the last few weeks and I have decided to support the International Socialists.

This movement gives me an understanding of power, the power of being a worker. The average worker in Britain does not know the power he holds as a member of a united body, whether it is political, or a union.

IS has shown me the way in which I will go. To the workers of Britain I say, 'Wake up and find out the real reason for things like the student revolt and, most of all, why we are coming under increasingly harsh attacks by the ruling class.'

I think it is time other workers looked at their political beliefs. The only answer must be workers' control throughout the world.—BRYAN SIMMONS, Dagenham, Essex

Confusion over election tactics

I AM SURPRISED to find an experienced political militant like Alan Woodward putting forward such an unrealistic proposal for IS activity in the next general election (8 May).

The scheme which he suggests, for an alternative parallel ballot for socialism alongside the election, could

hardly prove militant trade socialists. If ingful politics would be total sible to the rank and file to derisory re

Alan's le reflect a wid ion within t Socialists abe electoral tact

The corre to adopt, in be that of rades in de election last for Action Co constituency which already areas to fight anti-strike put forward candidates cies prepar on the basis programme p at the Nation of the Left.

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Socialist Worker

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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 racialist 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' 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 on to workers' power and international socialism.

THE MAD, MAD MONEY WORLD

Hunger for capital means new freeze and squeeze for workers

by MICHAEL KIDRON

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DATE	SYMPTOMS	TEMPERATURE	RESULT
September-November 1967	Flight from Sterling	\$7 billion	Devaluation of £ and other currencies
February-March 1968	Gold rush	\$3 billion	Partial demonetisation of the US \$
May-June 1968	Flight from the French franc	\$1.5 billion	Partial inconvertibility of the Franc; beginning of the end of de Gaulle
November 1968	Rush into D-marks	£1.8 billion	Backdoor revaluation of the D-mark (via border taxes)
May 1969	Rush into D-marks	\$4 billion	???

run, if German capital can win this tangle, it has it made to become the unchallengeable boss of Europe. French capital will need years to recover the wage rises — and the confidence — shaken out of it by last year's general strike. British capitalism is run down and not getting healthier. The US is preoccupied.

In its own European backyard and at current prices, German capital can outsell, outbid and outinvest most of its rivals most of the time. It is unlikely to give up that advantage quickly, or easily, or cheaply.

Nobody can force it to do so. If the rest gang up against Germany by concerting a world devaluation against the D-mark and gold, there's nothing to prevent her doing the same.

Meagre reform

Besides it is hardly likely. They are all so terrified of any move that might affect the relative strengths of different national currencies, that it has taken them 10 years of strenuous bargaining to agree — but not ratify — the most meagre monetary reform. For them now to click into place in an operation designed to affect these relative strengths would require a miracle.

Nor can they afford to wrap controls on the Euro-dollar market. They would themselves have to find the \$30 billion or so it now provides for lubricating world trade, world investments — and world speculation.

There really is little they can do. If German capital keeps its cool through the next couple of months, the burden of adjustment will rest squarely on the others' necks.

forces pushing in the same direction. The Social Democrats are finding the heavy Mark a key weapon in their current electoral campaign.

To their worker-supporters it is made to represent even more jobs, more overtime (even cheaper holidays abroad this pre-election summer) at the cost of slightly higher prices.

To their middle-class voters it is proof of the party's sturdy independence of their Christian-Democrat partners — at the cost of slightly upsetting the small-business and farm lobbies.

And to their NATO allies it is a promise of greater compliance in adjusting to general Western interests than can be expected from a

Kiesinger-Strauss administration.

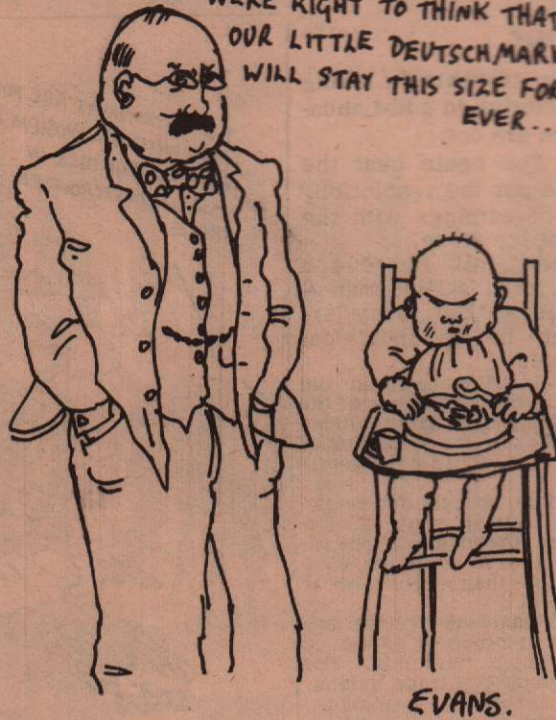
Yet so far the German government has not budged. It has 'recycled' a small part of the speculative funds, lending it back to the countries of origin — at interest.

It has promised to discourage further speculative raids. But it hasn't actually done anything and above all, it hasn't revalued the D-mark.

Nor will it unless a fat price goes with revaluation. The Christian-Democrats can't afford to give in easily to foreign and domestic blackmail. As it is, they will have to run hard against the right-wing NPD for its place as the party of small business and national assertion.

More important in the long

MIND YOU - SOMETIMES I DO WONDER IF WE'RE RIGHT TO THINK THAT OUR LITTLE DEUTSCHMARK WILL STAY THIS SIZE FOR EVER...



all the signs will spin round to indicate competitive restraint.

Restraint — not depression. The system's economy is still functioning. At most there's a slight perforation in its gut; not all the wastes that should get out in the form of huge and stinking arms piles do get out — military expenditure has been declining slightly, both relative to total expenditure and even more in relation to society's labour resources.

This could be a sign of hemorrhage to come; more likely it is a temporary upset, an adjustment between the massive outpourings of the past on nuclear delivery systems and the even more massive outpourings of the future on Anti-Ballistic-Missile systems.

Loosened grip

But whichever way it goes, the purely economic prospect is beginning to look like an academic kickabout. Years of high employment and stability have loosened the system's hold over the minds and hearts of a whole generation.

The current speculative shocks and precautionary squeezes, mild though they be, are propelling many in that generation from apathy to opposition, and some of them from mere opposition to revolutionary opposition.

Whatever happens to the economy in the future, the separation between them and us has been made. It is irreversible.

NEXT WEEK

France — one year after the revolt that finished de Gaulle

Or rather our necks. Since German capital's advantage over its rivals is expressed in a currency 'undervalued' by a tenth or more, British (or French, or US) exports will have to be a tenth cheaper than they are now in order to compete. This means, more or less, that British (and French, etc) workers will have to be made to earn a tenth less in real terms than their German counterparts. It's a long way to fall.

And it could be only the beginning. For one of the consequences of competitive national cost-cutting of this sort is that deflation, wage-freezes, legislative strait-jackets and so on are ex-

ported from country to country.

And as that happens, world economic growth, international trade and their old ally, capital confidence, droop.

It hasn't happened yet, but even before last week's lurch it was on the cards. The best forecasts for this year — the OECD's — envisaged a growth rate in the major countries of Western capitalism one-quarter down on last year's (4 per cent as against 5%).

They thought world trade would slow by a third (from a 12 per cent increase to 8 per cent). They were wrong then. But now they could turn out to be right, and if they are,

Join the International Socialists

- ABERDEEN Pete Drummond 19 High Street Aberdeen
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- BARNESLEY Joe Kenyon 120 Standhill Crescent
- BECKENHAM Mervyn Smith 9 Alton Gardens Copers Cope Rd 01 658 6552
- BIRMINGHAM Godfrey Webster 128 Yardley Wood Rd B'm 13
- BRADFORD Bob Korreich Flat 1 7 Oak Avenue Bradford 8
- BRIGHTON Andrew Moir 14 Upper Wellington Road Brighton
- BRISTOL David Rose 25 Sydenham Rd Bristol 6
- CAMBRIDGE Ian Rutledge 1 New Square Cambridge
- CAMDEN EAST Lee Kane 26 St Paul's Crescent NW1
- CAMDEN WEST Pat Denny 36 Gilden Road NW5
- CARDIFF Derek Shields 6 Ruthin Gdns Cathays
- CHERTSEY Chris Wickenden Langmead Pirbright Woking Sy Brookwood 3003
- COLCHESTER Ian Noble 12 Coach Rd Arlesford Wivenhoe 272
- COVENTRY Dave Edwards 53 Palmerston Rd Earlsdon
- CRAWLEY Deborah Ward 2 Weddell Rd Tilgate
- CROYDON Jenny Woodhams 26 Braemar Avenue South Croydon
- DURHAM Pam Law 16 Hartfield View
- EAST LONDON Bob Light 2 Oster Tce Southcote Rd E17
- EDINBURGH Jim Smith 25 Pitt St (Leith) Edinburgh 6
- ENFIELD Ian Birchall 109 Croyland Rd N9
- FULHAM Jackie Taylor 41 Perham Road W14

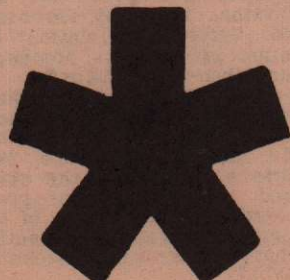
- GLASGOW Ian Mooney 4 Dalcross Passage W1
- GRAYS & TILBURY Alf Waters c/o 1 Russell Rd Tilbury Essex
- HARROW Kevin Simms 56 Salisbury Road
- HAMPSTEAD Chris Barker 36 Gilden Road NW5
- HAVERING Terry Ward 91 Heath Park Rd Gidea PK
- HIGHBURY Joyce Rosser 23 Hampstead Lane N6
- HORNSEY Valerie Clark 18 Dickinson Rd N8
- HULL Paul Gerhardt 52 Freehold Street
- ILFORD Lionel Sims 99 Belgrave Rd 01 SEV 6991
- IPSWICH Malcolm Bezant 45 Melbourne Road
- ISLINGTON/ANGEL D Phillips 2 Chapel Mkt Grant St N1 01 BRU 1026
- KILBURN Valerie Lloyd 37 King Henry's Rd NW3
- KINGSTON John Owen 4 Sandown Court Esher
- LAMBETH Andy Smith Flat 6 126 Streatham Hill SW2
- LEICESTER Lynette Allham Stanford Hall Stoughton Drive South Oadby Leics.
- LEEDS Woodhouse Viv Hopkins 25 Midland Rd Leeds 6; Vince Hall Flat 3 25 Bagby Rd Leeds 2
- LOWESTOFT Paul Welby 173 The Avenue
- MANCHESTER J Sutton 11a Rowan Ave Walley Range M16
- MERYSIDE Ross Hill 5 Lother Rd Anfield L'pool 4
- MERTON Fred Milson 119 Wolsey Crescent Morden
- NEWCASTLE Tony Corcoran 26 Lesbury Road
- NORTHAMPTON Alan Druker 21 Ardington Road

- NORWICH Gerald Crompton 220 College Rd NOR 54F
- NOTTINGHAM Tony Evans 289 Derby Rd Nottingham
- OXFORD Dave Peers 21 First Turn
- PORTSMOUTH/SOUTHSEA Alan Sandham 30 Lowcay Road Southsea Hants
- POTTERIES John Whitfield 5 Grosvenor Rd Newcastle
- PRESTON J Prus, 72 Lower Bank Rd, Fulwood Preston
- READING Miriam Belsey 22 Redlands Rd Reading
- RICHMOND Edward Brown 4 Cheyne Ave Twickenham Mdx
- SELBY John Charlton 12 Thatch Close Selby Yorks
- SHEFFIELD J Wilkin 15 Raven Rd Sheffield S7 1SB
- SOUTHAMPTON John Fisher 144 Thornhill Park Road
- STEVENAGE Michael Downing 57 Trumper Rd Troits Hill
- STOCKPORT Geoff Hodgson 73a Forest Range M/C 19
- STOKE NEWINGTON Mike McGrath 28 Manor Road N16
- SWANSEA Dick Jones 19 Woodlands Tce
- TEESSIDE Barry Slater Flat 3 73 Redcar Rd Giusborough Yorks
- John Foster 10 Pallister Ave Brambles Farm Middlesbro
- TOTTENHAM Laurie Flynn 374 High Road N17
- WATFORD Paul Russell 61 Carpenders Avenue Carpenders Park
- WIGAN Ray Challinor 34 Whiteside Ave Hindley
- WOLVERHAMPTON Dave Spilsbury 274 Penn Road
- YORK Bob Looker 22 Hogbate
- VICTORIA Tony Dunne 14 Carlisle Mansions Carlisle Place SW1

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

Name

Address



concessions on penalties

LETTERS

credible even to the unionists and has no near-consequences, only incomprehensible majority of the and would lead suits.

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is, an active ld be waged in- ding to a poss- ent of industrial militants, along e formation of a ary party.

question of hich Woodward noring the fact e would require of vans out- ds of polling e effective) a could be made

The answer, and I am sure that Alan knows it, is in the hard work of political organisation.—JOHN STRAU- TIER, Enfield J.

But seriously, to quote a recent IS document, 'The only magic formula is that there is no magic formula'. Gimmicks, however ingenious, will get us nowhere.

Neither Dr. Miliband's conservatism nor student ultra-leftism is accidental. A marxism encrusted in academia sees events not in terms of vital and emerging forces but through the traditional political backwardness of the majority of the staff. It is theory divorced from practice — a situation which surely does raise some questions about the kind of 'marxism' held to?

Mistrust of left academics

I TAKE THE POINT made by Peter Sedgwick and Bob Looker in criticism of my comments on Ralph Miliband (May 1): it is mistaken to use derogatory nicknames of even the most vacillating and unreliable ally.

The name used, 'Moribund', derives however from a justifiable mistrust of most left academics, and Dr. Miliband in particular, who have contributed nothing to the student movement in LSE except attempts to retard the struggle.

In this particular case Dr. Miliband and others had spread their activities to the ASTMS branch which was preparing to join the strike — a development which might have been crucial. The 'left' academics defused the strike, and began a slide which the Left students have now crowned by the catastrophic attempts, born of frustration, to disrupt lectures.

Neither Dr. Miliband's conservatism nor student ultra-leftism is accidental. A marxism encrusted in academia sees events not in terms of vital and emerging forces but through the traditional political backwardness of the majority of the staff. It is theory divorced from practice — a situation which surely does raise some questions about the kind of 'marxism' held to?

This in turn in part explains, if it does not justify, the mindless militancy of the students, to which all of us at least occasionally succumb. But this at least is the error of a young movement actively fighting the system.

is it too much to ask that Ralph Miliband and others like him place their theory at the disposal of this movement, instead of acting pragmatically as a brake on its fight? And that comrades Sedgwick and Looker stop being smug and ask themselves why this does not happen as a matter of course, and why the real criticism of Dr. Miliband's role in ASTMS (which they choose to overlook) should be necessary?—MARTIN SHAW, LSE, London WC2.

Saving MacLean's reputation

PETER SEDGWICK implies (May 15) that Lenin is as responsible as British CP officialdom for spreading unfounded stories about John MacLean's 'hallucinations' and suppressing the truth about him. Although Lenin and the other Bolshevik leaders had serious political disagreements with MacLean, it is quite untrue that they acted in this way.

The main cause for disagreement between Lenin and MacLean was the latter's belief in separate Scottish and Welsh Communist Parties. A new biography of the great Clydeside revolutionary is now being published by the John MacLean Society and is being introduced at the society's annual meeting this Sunday (May 18). Enquiries to: Tom Murray, 15 Douglas Cres, Edinburgh 12;—JIM SMITH, Edinburgh IS.

STRIKE BREAKS 40 YEARS' PEACE AT LEYLAND 'HONG KONG' PLANTS

Ray Challinor

THE FIRST STRIKE for more than 40 years is taking place at British Leyland motor factories in mid-Lancashire. All five works with 8500 men are out.

Convenor Len Brindle said, 'You could hear the swish of hands going up when we put the resolution.' The men's demand is for parity of earnings with the rest of the group.

'Bro Fish and Chips'

THE ELECTION of Len Brindle as convenor of the shop stewards at the British Leyland factories in mid-Lancs has come like a breath of spring. For the first time workers are finding their grievances are seriously listened to by a man who will honestly try to do something about them.

The management, of course, are less enthusiastic about the change. They look back nostalgically to the days of cordial relations between company and convenor.

In an endeavour to call back yesterday, Lord Stokes, the BL boss, approached Len Brindle after a particularly prickly set of negotiations. He suggested they should have a friendly chat and a meal together.

But Len politely declined. 'I don't eat caviare,' he said. 'I'm a fish and chip man myself.'

Big meeting rises to Bernadette SW Reporter

BERNADETTE DEVLIN, civil rights MP from Northern Ireland, received an ovation from a packed and enthusiastic audience in Hammersmith Town Hall on Monday at a meeting called in solidarity with the struggle against the Ulster police state.

The meeting was chaired by Sonny McGowan, one of the locked-out building workers from the Ivy Bridge site at Hounslow, Middlesex.

Bernadette said that Westminster is only interested in Northern Ireland when there is trouble there. 'They don't like publicity for their dirty backyard,' she added.

She said she did not expect any support for her campaign from MPs at Westminster. She was asking the ordinary people of Britain to back the civil rights movement.

Republic

Questioned about the border, she said she believed ultimately in the need for a united Irish socialist republic in the James Connolly tradition. But the privileged position of the Catholic Church in the south was an obstacle to such unity. She understood the reluctance of northern protestant workers to domination by the church.

The audience was lively and militant. Every mention of James Connolly and an Irish workers' republic brought sustained applause.

A collection to aid the civil rights campaign raised £55 18s4d and more than 200 people put down their names to help organise the solidarity movement in Britain.

You can hear Bernadette Devlin next week at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, on Tuesday, 27 May at 8 pm and at Leys Hall, Ballards Road, Dagenham on Thursday May 29 at 7.30 pm.

For further details of meetings and the solidarity campaign ring Pat Denny at 01-485 0476.

DATA lockout at English Electric

BOOTLE, Lancs:- 85 draughtsmen have been locked out of the English Electric works at Netherton for three weeks. The lock-out followed protests by DATA members when the management tried to sack four of the colleagues, including the local union chairman and secretary. DATA promptly made the dispute official and the men are receiving 80 per cent of their pay. Messages of support to B.E. Smith, 29 Abbotsford Gardens, Crosby, Lancs, 051-924 8007.

They call for £24 a week for a skilled man - £10 less than many are getting in Midlands' car factories.

One striker pointed out 'This is the Hong Kong of the British Leyland group. Judas sold himself for 30 pieces of silver. He would only get 10 here.'

Another brought out a newspaper cutting showing that lavatory attendants at Pressed Steel were receiving £5 a week more than skilled men at Leylands.

The management have enjoyed a prolonged period of 'good labour relations'. For many years the trade unions, with right-wing leadership, have been pliable and docile. As a result there has been hard work and low pay.

CONTEMPT

But the management has shown it has not appreciated this co-operative attitude. In the present negotiations it has shown nothing except contempt for the joint shop stewards' committee.

'All we want,' says Len Brindle, 'is parity of earnings - dignity for those on piecework.'

British Leyland claim that to grant the men's demands would cost the company £600,000. The strikers think this is an exaggeration but say that if it were true the is peanuts compared with the giant combine's profits.

And if the figure of £600,000 is correct, it only shows how much below £24 a week skilled men at Leyland are getting.

CONTRAST

Vin Murphy, vice-chairman of the stewards' committee, contrasted the shabby treatment they were receiving with the directors' rake-off.

'Top management has devised a scheme that gives them thousands of pounds extra for each one of them,' he said. 'The productivity schemes that have been suggested to us have not been half so generous.'

There are signs that British Leyland is digging in its heels. The feeling is that it may be a long struggle, but the solidarity of the men is tremendous.

Messages of support to Len Brindle, 8 Somerset Avenue, Chorley, Lancs.

AUSTRALIA from page one

Blacksmiths' Society also owes £8000 in fines. It is next in line before the court and has refused to pay.

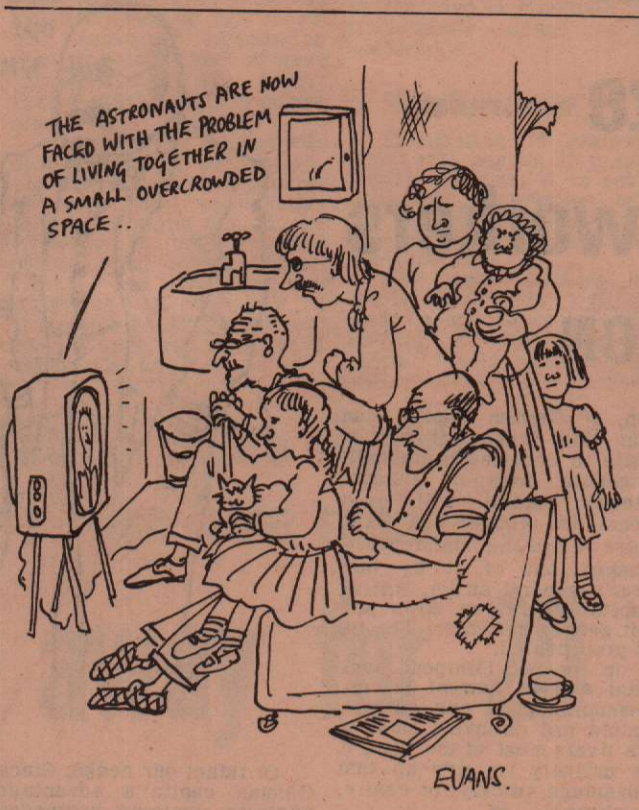
In unions and areas not yet touched by the strike wave, rank and file militants will be planning pressure on their leaders and taking action.

The current dispute has to be seen against the background of an economy enjoying a 'never-had-it-so-good' period - full employment, inflation, and a ruling class forced or willing to buy industrial peace at a relatively high price.

The trade union movement is largely controlled by officials, mainly because of the peculiar nature of the arbitration system. The movement covers a higher proportion of workers than in most western countries.

The number of disputes in 1968 was higher than ever before and working time lost was the greatest for 13 years.

This is an election year and the Liberal government will be trying to show that it can handle the unions in order to placate its supporters and the foreign investors who until now have seen Australia as a safe and stable economy.



Secret clause in prod deal angers Fry's workers SW Reporter

BRISTOL:- Jack Jones, secretary-elect of the Transport Workers' Union, referred in glowing terms to recently negotiated productivity agreements in the area when he spoke to the union's regional festival.

He singled out the agreement at Fry's chocolate and cocoa firm at Somerdale which, he said, 'gave high earnings and was carefully explained at each stage to the workers concerned with ballot votes taken at the meetings for final acceptance.'

But what both Jones and regional secretary Ron Nethercott failed to mention - and what the workers at Fry's were unaware of in all the elaborate process of explanation and 'democratic consultation' - was that the agreement, which provided for 100 per cent trade union membership, also demanded as an 'essential part' for:

'Each employee to give a personal signed undertaking to conform to the rules of the company and abide by all agreements and procedures between the company and the trade union.'

Notice

These blunt words are contained in a notice now being posted throughout the factory.

There have been a few departmental stoppages and walk-outs in the brief period since the agreement came into operation on April 8. The newly-revealed management-union measure for increased discipline can be seen as part response, part anticipation of just such unofficial action.

A careful study of the booklets and leaflets given out before the agreement was accepted shows that while no such measure is ever explicitly mentioned there are veiled hints that something of the sort was coming. They lay the basis for 'internal legislation' against spontaneous stoppages and shop-floor militancy.

The response of many workers is complete shock and anger. Explanations will be demanded at the next branch meeting of the union and if they are not given there could be a rash of the very rank and file action that the agreement seeks to avoid.

notice is summed up in two brief words written across it on the notice board. Perhaps it would be better to pin up a quote from Jack Jones in an article on participation in the latest issue of the union journal, Record:

'Agreements, then, have to be democratically determined by the members - but more than that, they have to provide for a wider measure of democracy in their implementation.'

Fortunately, Jack Jones' ideas on democracy are still controversial and open for discussion.

Left challenge

ALAIN KRIVINE of the Revolutionary Young Communists, a French Trotskyist organisation, is running for the presidency on an uncompromisingly militant programme. He told a television audience that the election was a masquerade and he was standing only to inform people that change must come through the struggle on the shop floor.

He is supported by leading intellectuals, including Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Luc Godard. He is also backed by Socialist Worker's French comrades of Lutte Ouvriere.

Big jump in Ford work pace

Alan Wild TGWU

HALEWOOD:- On May 5 production of vehicles at Ford's Merseyside plant achieved a strike of 1094 units in 18 hours. By the end of the month it is the declared intention of the management to increase production to 1170 units a day.

This represents an increase of 7.1 per cent on the figure for May 5. But last November production was only at a maximum of 1000 cars a day. The latest target represents a 17 per cent increase on the figure reached before the Capri came into full production.

This reckless profiteering has another side. Before the February strike, the plant was taking on men at a steady rate to produce the Capri. Since the return to work, the men who left have not been replaced, and the management is now weeding out more workers by sacking for absenteeism and lateness, as well as tightening up generally on other aspects of discipline.

SHABBY

The management is attempting to increase production from a plant that is short of labour.

Workers claim that the quality of work has fallen during this period of intensified production. The company is repairing paint on some 66 per cent of the bodies it produces and the general shabbiness of the work is a constant topic of conversation.

In spite of the recent strike, the 1967 Measured Day Work agreement still gives the management the right to indulge in this insane quest for increased profit.

The solution is the smashing of the 1967 sell-out, the smashing of MDW. But the management realises that this means new negotiations over line speeds, work standards, and control over manning on the job.

CRUCIAL

Negotiations mean effective organisation. Job organisation is the first step to workers' control.

In the months ahead the company and unions will be conducting negotiations over the crucial issue of parity. The demand of parity without productivity must be raised, for without it parity is meaningless, merely entailing higher line speeds, poorer quality, more suffering for the men and a rotten deal for the customer.

If the line speeds are raised further as part of any parity deal then the company, not the men, will have won the 1969 strike.

Kent youth rebel against police

Ted Parker

FOLKESTONE:- Battles between young workers and police in this Kent seaside town last weekend took on serious political overtones on Saturday night when groups stormed the offices of the local Tory party, the town hall, Midland bank and shops belonging to Tory councillors.

The clashes were a response to blatant police provocation. Anti-police feeling has been building up for years, particularly in the cobbled High Street area near the harbour that is mainly frequented by youngsters.

The police constantly harass them with searches for drugs. They break up groups on the streets and interfere with late-night activities in the cafes.

On Friday night police ordered everyone out of the Earl Grey public house sharp on closing time. They moved the crowd of youngsters down the street until one of them, Harry Brun, protested at the police action.

Smashed bottles

The police grabbed Harry and dragged him to a nearby police van. The crowd shouted 'fascists' and 'filthy pigs' and smashed milk bottles on to the cobbles to prevent the van driving away.

As more youths poured out of nearby cafes, the van tried to move but the windscreen was smashed and it was battered with bottles. A patrol car and fire engine were rushed to give support but received similar treatment from the angry crowd.

Police reinforcements were called from neighbouring towns. The battle raged for an hour and a half until the police, 12 abreast and three deep, forced the crowd down to the harbour where it finally dispersed at 1 am.

Clenched fists

On Sunday night police tore into a demonstration that was carrying banners reading 'No more police provocation', 'Hands off working-class youth' and 'Smash the police state'. Later crowds roamed the streets chanting 'Fascist police' and 'Up the revolution'.

On Monday morning, after a night in deplorable cell conditions, prisoners arrested over the weekend arrived at the court handcuffed in threes but exchanged clenched-fist salutes with the crowd. They were remanded on bail until tomorrow (Friday).

A demonstration has been planned for the court hearing and a mass meeting against the police action will be held in the town hall at 7.30 on Tuesday.

* Ted Parker, an LSE student from Folkestone, was among those arrested on Sunday. He was charged with 'disturbing the peace'.

High Court snub for LSE witch-hunters

Martin Shaw

EVEN THE LAW is not all it could be for the Governors of the London School of Economics. The attempt to put teeth into their much-vaunted injunctions failed last Friday when a high court judge refused to send three students to prison.

The judge had a more balanced view of the political dynamite which was involved. He let the students off despite the fact that they still refused to give an undertaking to accept the injunction.

Instead he accepted a less important undertaking not to disrupt lectures or classes - a tactic which had already been dropped.

However, on Saturday a summary tribunal, composed

of two staff members who had signed a witchhunting motion against militant students, suspended IS member Hazel French for four weeks, Hazel and two other accused students boycotted the tribunal, whose proceedings were in flagrant disregard of Students' Union and Academic Board motions calling for student representation.

The accused stood on the picket line as student scabs gave evidence. Pickets had also ringed LSE on Friday, when the college was practically deserted in a full-scale strike to protest at the court action.

This determination should make the Governors wary of expelling even one student - let alone the hundreds called for by Sir Douglas Logan of London University (the man who is setting up the appeals body for the Blackburn-Bateson cases!).

But LSE students are fighting hard to stand still, and it is clear that the fight in such isolated strongholds will become increasingly difficult and fruitless unless a real breakthrough can be made to the mass of British students.

Published by the International Socialists, 857a High Rd N17. Printed by Socialist Review Publishing Co(TU)Ltd, Paxton Works, Paxton Rd N17. Registered with GPO.

STO PRE

Fascist three Kitson march (see page 2) National Front attempt to disrupt London march support is requested

Folkestone (see page 4) Folkestone IS request support for demo outside court on

Leyland (see page 4) Meeting at Leyland Club tomorrow (F) 1.30 pm on lessor dispute.

Krivine (see page 4) Cash for campaign required. Send to Dwarf (Krivine) 7 St W1.