

* Socialist Worker

For workers control and international socialism

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What
we
think...

Militant draughtsmen lead fight against sackings

NATIONALISE SHIPYARDS CALL ON CLYDESIDE

Peter Bain, DATA

GLASGOW:- 750 members of the draughtsmen's union employed at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders walked out on Tuesday and voted at a mass meeting to fight for:

- Nationalisation of the yard
- Trade union access to the UCS accounts
- No redundancies - work-sharing if necessary

The UCS bosses have demanded £12m from the government and savage cuts in the labour force to keep the yards going.

The emergency committee of the Nos 1 and 2 divisional councils of the union, DATA, and the shipyards' joint office committee, recommended support for the demands.

DATA will now fight for these policies on the UCS Joint Council and at the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. The 8000 DATA members in the two divisions will be urged to support the campaign.

The draughtsmen also decided to ban overtime and to leaflet the yards with their demands on Friday.

WAGE CUT

The traditionally militant boilermakers, who have been negotiating separately from the other 14 unions in UCS, have decided to give up a 6s a week increase due in December.

The 2000 members at the Govan division of UCS (Fairfields) also accepted a 5d an hour cut in wages to bring them in line with the boilermakers in the other three yards.

No boilermakers are to be sacked, but in the absence of any alternative from their leaders the men have once again been blackmailed into accepting speed-up and wage-cuts. And boilermakers' union leader Danny McGarvey said he is willing to discuss three-shift working. No doubt Mr McGarvey will make his usual militant speeches at the Labour Party and TUC conferences this year - speeches that have little in

But McGarvey backs down

common with his attitudes and actions at UCS.

Now that DATA has put forward clear alternatives to the bosses' plans for speed-up and sackings, it is the duty of militants who have been complaining of isolation to support the draughtsmen's demands.

There are indications that some workers are coming round to DATA's point of view. Welders are thought to be opposed to any sackings.

With the bosses who squeezed the last penny profit from the yards now calling for more concessions from the workers, socialists in the industry must do more than confine their demands to help raising £12m for UCS.

RALLYING

DATA's demands are limited (workers' control was dropped from the nationalisation clause) but they can serve as a rallying call to all those in the yards who oppose the bosses' and government's plans for massive productivity increases, shift-working, wage freeze and 3000 redundancies.

It is vital that opposition to this savage attack on the shipyard workers is not confined to passing resolutions and staging demonstrations. Sit-ins and occupations are as essential as ever.

REAGAN GUNS AND GASSES STUDENTS

John Hanley

BERKELEY, California:- The radical student movement in Berkeley is facing severe repression.

In response to the creation of a 'people's park' by students and local residents on a small piece of land owned by the university, Governor Ronald Reagan has proclaimed a state of emergency and has indefinitely suspended free speech and assembly.

His real aim is to destroy Berkeley as a centre of radical resistance in the United States.

Since May 15 the campus has been occupied by 600 police and 2700 National Guardsmen. The campus area, including a hospital and

children's playgrounds, has been repeatedly and indiscriminately gassed.

One student has been shot, one blinded and more than a hundred injured by police guns. More than 900 have been arrested so far, with bail ranging from £400 to £2500 each.

Money is desperately needed for medical treatment, bail and legal defence. Others face criminal prosecution for conspiracy and incitement to riot.

Cheques and money orders should be sent direct to: The People's Park Defence Fund, c/o The Free Church, 2200 Parker Street, Berkeley, California.



On Sunday anti-Zionists and supporters of a free Palestine demonstrated outside the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, when Israeli premier Mrs Golda Meir addressed a Zionist Rally. One man was arrested and an IS member was assaulted by Zionists. Picture by Jeff Pick.

Police wade in as 200 confront racialists

SW Reporter

POLICE WADED INTO anti-fascist demonstrators outside a meeting called by Mosley's Union Movement and the National Front in Romford, Essex, on Monday night.

Fifteen people were arrested. More than 200 had turned up at the Laurie Hall to attempt to counter the meeting of the two extremist racialist groups.

People wishing to enter the meeting had to pass several high-ranking police officers before being vetted by a National Front steward who turned away anyone suspected of wishing to heckle. Only about 40 were allowed inside.

There was no confrontation between the extremists and the anti-fascists, mainly International Socialists and members of the Young Communist League who had responded to a call for support from a local anti-racialist committee.

Moved in

As the demonstrators waited outside the hall for the meeting to finish, the police, numbering 100, suddenly moved in and made indiscriminate arrests.

One IS member found that his scooter crash helmet had become an 'offensive weapon'.

A trade unionist from Ruskin College, Oxford, who had come in a party of 30 was among those arrested but was quickly released when his friends marched into the police station and demanded that he be set free.

Sir Oswald Mosley was booked to appear as 'star' speaker at the meeting, but he did not appear.



Police move in and arrest a demonstrator at Monday's meeting

Rally for civil rights in Northern Ireland

Sunday June 22 Trafalgar Square 2pm

Speakers will include

Bernadette Devlin, MP Michael Farrell, PD

IRISH CIVIL RIGHTS SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

Hear Bernadette Devlin

Monday June 23 at 8 pm

ISLINGTON TOWN HALL
Upper Street N1

Wednesday June 25 at 8 pm

WIMBLEDON TOWN HALL

THE FARCE of the TUC-government negotiations is drawing to its dismal end. We will soon know whether the trade union leaders have won the right to police the militants on the shop floor.

The Labour government, determined to squeeze the last drop of blood from the union bureaucrats, are even threatening to alter the 1906 Trades Disputes Act in order to make unions and individual strikers liable for damages in any strike action.

The 1906 legislation was won through the strength of the organised workers, following the massive damages against the rail union in the Taff Vale strike.

BALANCE

The Act expressed the balance of class forces of the time, and, roughly speaking, the position of trade unions within the capitalist system but with a right to a separate and autonomous existence. It provides the basis for any defensive organisation of the working class.

This the Labour government is rushing to take away from the trade union movement. And the vast majority of trade union leaders (scared of being made redundant) are trying to preserve their 'independence' by doing the job for the government.

Thus the melodrama unfolds. Barbara Castle sheds crocodile tears and appeals to the trade union leaders not to push her into a 'collision course'. Dennis Healey conjures up the spectre of 'a Tory government hell-bent on crippling trade unionism'.

REVEALED

The sickness of 'Labour', the barrenness of reformism, could not be more clearly revealed. The more the TUC concedes, the more the government demands.

The threat of legislation, the ideological attack which blames workers for all the ills of a capitalism gone to seed, the emphasis on productivity dealing - all these are prongs of an attack designed to sap the strength of rank and file organisation.

The TUC leaders have sold the pass on this issue of principle. They are now haggling about the price.

What is up for sale is the power of the men on the shop floor, the grassroots strength without which there would be no independent labour movement.

Any meaningful socialist politics must be based on a consistent and total defence of rank and file activity and organisation, support for all strikes, official and unofficial. The TUC's interference is a complete betrayal of this.

NEXT WEEK

The Moscow

'summit'

by Nigel Harris

Wolfe Tone: Irishman who called for unity of 'the men of no property'



The men of no property versus guardians of property: British troops fire on crowd during food riots in Cork, 1846.

'To subvert the tyranny of our execrable government, to break the connection with England, the never-failing source of all our political evils, and to assert the independence of my country - these were my objects. To unite the whole people of Ireland, to abolish the memory of all past dissensions, and to substitute the common name of Irishman in place of the Denominations of Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter - these were my means. To effectuate these great objects I reviewed the three great sects. The Protestants I despaired of, from the outset, for obvious reasons. To the Catholics I thought it unnecessary to address myself, because as no change could make their political situation worse, I reckoned on their support to a certainty, and I well knew that however it might be disguised or suppressed, there existed in the breast of every Irish Catholic an inextinguishable abhorrence of the English name and power. There remained only the Dissenters whom I knew to be patriotic and enlightened: however, the recent events at Belfast had showed me that all prejudice was not entirely removed from their minds. I sat down, accordingly, and wrote a pamphlet addressed to the Dissenters, and which I entitled An Argument on behalf of the Catholics of Ireland, the object of which was to convince them that they and the Catholics had but one common interest, and one common enemy, that the depression and slavery of Ireland was produced and perpetuated by the divisions existing among them. This pamphlet which appeared in September 1791, had a considerable degree of success.' (Tone's autobiography, pp.21-22)



Wolfe Tone

WOLFE TONE was a classic middle-class revolutionary, a major figure in the 1798 Irish Rising, an internationalist and champion of 'The Rights of Man'. His career and writings are still of relevance today, especially in relation to the current civil rights campaign in Ireland and the parallel campaign of solidarity which is being undertaken in Britain. Revolutionary ideas do not, of course, fall from the sky, but are themselves part and parcel of a revolutionary epoch. What shaped Tone's political ideas was the success of the middle-class revolutions in America and France, and the condition of his own country, whose capitalists found their economic operations thwarted and baffled by a number of West-

minster Acts designed to hinder the growth of Irish industry and trade. Opposition to this policy, and to the absentee landlords who supported it, came from some commercially-minded landowners and from the Protestant merchants and manufacturers in the towns. These classes formed the social base of the Patriot Party which arose about the middle of the 18th century. Jonathan Swift was their spokesman. His advice was to 'burn everything British except their coal'.

Belfast armed

The American revolution emptied Ireland of British troops, leaving Irish commerce a prey to French privateers. Belfast was allowed to arm in order to protect itself. The Patriot leader Grattan seized the chance to force

through repeal of most of the Acts harmful to Irish industry and the English parliament conceded legislative independence. This satisfied the moderates, but was not enough to guarantee independence. For that it was necessary to take into account the interests of the peasant masses and the small Irish working class. This meant the end of the Penal Laws in force against the Catholic majority and the introduction of a fully democratic electoral system. Tone came to realise this, helped by the French Revolution. He became a champion of the revolutionary cause. Hence the 1791 pamphlet referred to above, which he wrote under the name of A Northern Whig and the formation of the Society of United Irishmen - at first a purely 'constitutional' body, but by 1794 actively in favour of an armed uprising in conjunction

by CHRIS GRAY

with the French as the only sure means of success. Unfortunately the great Rebellion of 1798 was crushed by British imperialism, aided and abetted by the Patriots, the Orange Order, the Catholic hierarchy and Napoleon Bonaparte. Bonaparte's eyes were fixed on colonial plunder in Egypt when a blow in Ireland would have done more damage. ated nobody. Instead he made a concrete class analysis of the situation. Tone's international outlook reappears also in Connolly, who deepened the insights of republicanism by identifying capitalist competition as the evil, and not merely English political control. (See Erin's Hope and Labour in Irish History where Connolly discusses these points.)

Only class

Tone lost his life, but the lesson of 1798 lives on in his own words: 'If the men of property will not support us, they must fall: we can support ourselves by the aid of that numerous and respectable class of the community - the men of no property.' Tone's greatness, as James Connolly observed, lies in the fact that he imi-

The only class in Ireland today whose interests are diametrically opposed to imperialism is the working class, and the only true form of national independence is the Workers' Republic. It is also true that labour cannot be emancipated in its Protestant denomination while it is branded in its Catholic one. Tone-style tactics therefore have considerable value in the current civil rights movement.

It remains to add that the United Irishmen were in touch with radical movements in England at the time and helped to shape the labour movement here.

A society of United Englishmen was founded which infiltrated the armed forces, getting dragoons to swear 'not to obey the Cornall but the - Peapell' (Edward Thompson, The Making of the English Working Class, p 170. Note Irish spelling).

Same demands

The paper of the United Irishmen was called The Northern Star, later famous as Feargus O'Connor's Chartist sheet and the Chartist demands are identical with the programme of voting reform put forward by the United Irishmen.

We must ensure that the current agitation in Northern Ireland for civil rights leads to similar beneficial results in Britain, results which will speed the overthrow of capitalism on both sides of the Irish sea.

All in a day's work -only some people's days are longer than others...

by HENRY BRADFORD

TGWU shop steward
Tilbury Docks

I WAS SITTING in a pub in Croydon during a break in the lobby of the TUC when I was drawn into a discussion with an ex-public schoolboy about unofficial strikes and their effect on the economic stability of the nation.

To support his argument he pointed out just what a wonderful contribution he had made to the solvency of the country by saying that 'he had done his day's work' before leaving home that morning. He had sold £150,000 worth of insurance over the phone.

Before the break

I explained that, as a docker, I had often done several million pounds worth of work before my first tea-break at 9.30 am, which worked out on par with his contribution to the wealth of our society.

There was a slight difference, however. I didn't

earn £25, as he did for his morning's effort. My payment was roughly 12s an hour and I had to finish my day's work on the ship at 6.20 pm.

My acquaintance thought that strikers, whether official or unofficial, should be severely dealt with, no matter what their conditions of pay or employment.

But he was quite convinced that he did more than his share for the country in the 15 hours work he put in each week, for an average monthly pay cheque of £175, against my average wage of £32 a week for a 60 hour week.

This rather warped attitude to the problem of industrial relations put me in mind

of an old man I know who said that during the first world war his company was given an objective to take by a direct frontal assault.

Their attack was beaten off and when they withdrew to regroup, the commanding officer came to 'give them a talking to'. 'A very poor show,' he said. 'We had best have another go and you must do better this time.'

The general was addressing just three men who had survived.

Newspapers castigate strikers. But they will do the same to any individual or group of people if the vested interests that support the press require them to do so.

Press campaign

What we rarely get from the press is the basic truth. At the moment they are engaged in a propaganda campaign to 'press-urise' the Labour government into implementing in Place of Strife.

The oddity of all this is that one day they tell their readers that unofficial strikers are running the economy of the country into the ground.

The next day they say how much the nation owes to the men who stormed the beaches of Dunkirk or the rat-infested trenches of the Somme.

What most people tend to forget is that both groups come from the ranks of the working people. The 'wreckers' of today are the soldiers, sailors and airmen of yesterday who saved the system that the press and government are so fond of.

International Socialists: London Region
Imperialism and the 'Third World'
 Speakers:
Nigel Harris and Malcolm Caldwell
 Saturday June 21, 2.30 pm
 Assembly Hall, Institute of Education,
 Senate House, Malet Street WC1 (tube: Goodge St, Russell Sq)

Socialist Worker

6 Cottons Gardens London E2 01-739 1878

Editor Roger Protz
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 Business Manager Barry Huggill

WHERE WE STAND

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 demand 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 on to workers' power and international socialism.

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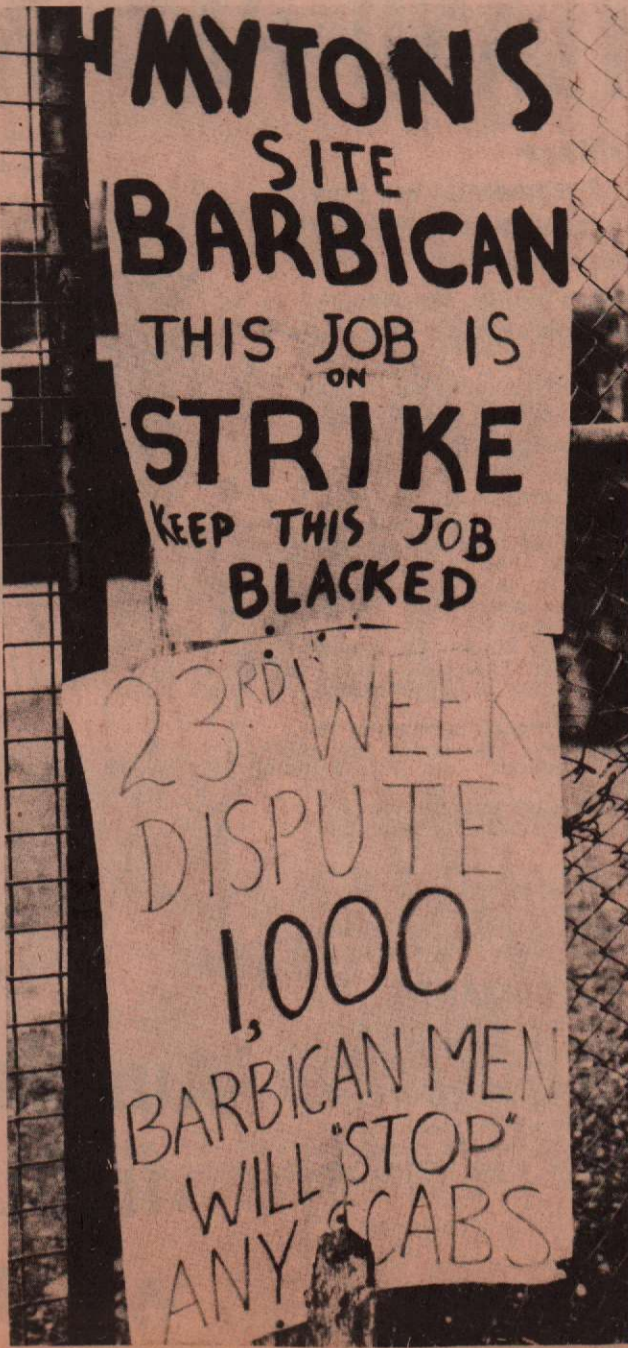
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THE BATTLE FOR SHOP FLOOR CONTROL

by TOM HILLIER, AEF shop steward

Hang on to 'restrictive practices' — they stop bosses turning the screw

The Barbican: scene of militant struggle in 1967. No attempt was made to link building workers' fights with the dockers.



Is Concorde more vital than decent hospitals?

by Jenny Southgate

MORE AND MORE nurses and doctors have been saying recently that the health service is breaking down. I realised how true this was when I went in to hospital to have a baby.

Dirty blankets

Once, on a Friday we had only one clean cot blanket between 30 of us and this had to last until Monday. If the blankets became soiled or wet the mothers had to dry them on radiators, then re-use them.

During labour many women find that once their 'waters' break, their beds are frequently wet. When this happened to me, I discovered that the hospital couldn't afford to give me clean, dry sheets.

Staff disgusted

The grossly overworked nurses and doctors were as disgusted as I was at this state of affairs. It's amazing that the majority can remain cheerful and kindly even when, as frequently happens, one nurse is in charge of 30 mothers and their babies for a whole night.

It was also obvious to me that even the present service would collapse entirely without the coloured staff. Racism is the scapegoat of a sick capitalism, yet ironically we could not afford to tend our sick without the help of the immigrant worker.

The whole capitalist system is irrational and crazy. It can afford £730m to transport a few business men and bureaucrats but cannot afford a decent hospital service.

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a lead and not be seen as a party to the employer's attacks on job control.

When the steward opposes such attacks, the difference will emerge between the purely 'bread and butter' aims of the majority and the progressives who will be prepared to support the steward.

UNDERMINE

The management will make 'financial overtures' to the softer sections and all means will be used to undermine the influence of the steward and his group.

The importance of these struggles cannot be overstressed, for in opposing the deals and spelling out the dangers, the workers will be forced to think about issues around job control which they have taken for granted in the past.

The militants who rallied

around the shop steward will be forced to wage constant struggles in their efforts to defend their organisation. These struggles will end disastrously if their militancy is divorced from political awareness.

Workers' control and socialism are a vital part of the discussion about shop floor tactics and the employers' offensive.

It is a tragedy that when British capitalism is faced with recurring economic crises, when 'reformism' — tinkering with the system — is being exposed as totally bankrupt, that no revolutionary socialist party exists with strong roots in the industrial working class.

LOGIC

The Communist Party, which accepts 'peaceful co-existence' with capitalism on an international scale, logically carries out the same perspective in industry.

In spite of its calls for 'working class unity', it plays the same divisive role as the right-wing of the trade unions. By placing the main emphasis on bread and butter, economic demands the party has successfully avoided linking up struggles such as those of the dockers and builders last year.

REACTIONARY

By pandering to existing levels of political awareness, the CP paved the way for such reactionary developments as the dockers marching in support of Enoch Powell.

The CP has held back militants from developing an industrial strategy and political consciousness. A desire to be accepted within the existing framework of the unions has inevitably led the party from a tactical acceptance of reformism to complete immersion in the system.

Industrial CP members are caught in a dilemma in which they have to refer to past militancy and at the same time emphasise the party's current respectability and desire to win 'power' through parliament.

This is the price of abandoning the class struggle. Coexistence with capitalism means collaboration with the bosses and from this flows the betrayal of men like Will Paynter, former communist, now on the 'trouble-shooting' Commission on Industrial Relations.

ESSENTIAL

If the Communist Party is not a revolutionary organisation it is essential that socialists see the need to build the force necessary to mobilise the working class.

It is in this context that struggles around productivity deals must be seen. The battle for shop floor control will throw up sections of the class that will be looking for an alternative.

We must pose the political solution — workers' control.

In order that members of IS can play their part effectively, we must attempt to build strong industrial bases — factory-based cells and union positions — where political

leadership must be fought for.

Militants are becoming aware that political answers are necessary. The TUC's acceptance of the need to police the rank and file and Scanlon's vacillation enforce this growing awareness.

Our attitudes towards productivity deals, Measured Day Work and In Place of

Strife will be quite meaningless unless we have an all-embracing political and economic perspective linked to the building of a revolutionary marxist party.

It is our task to develop the theoretical and organisational strength that will enable us to lead the working class to victory.

Join the International Socialists

- ABERDEEN Pete Drummond 19 High Street Aberdeen
- ACTON Tom Hillier 59 Denzil Road NW10
- 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'ham 13
- BRADFORD Bob Kornreich Flat 1 7 Oak Avenue Bradford 8
- BRIGHTON Andrew Moir 14 Upper Wellington Road
- 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 Robert MacGibbon 25 Estell Rd NW3
- 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 Tee Southcote Rd E17
- EDINBURGH Brian Lavery 25 South Clerk St Edinburgh 8
- 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, 16 Madras Road, Ilford 01 478 7311
- IPSWICH Brian Mulvey 104 Westbourne Road Ipswich
- ISLINGTON/ANGEL D Phillips 2 Chapel Mkt Grant St N1 01 BRU 1026
- KILBURN Valerie Lloyd 37 King Henry's Rd NWS
- 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 Vince Hall Flat 8 25 Bagby Rd Leeds 2
- Woodhouse: Viv Hopkins 25 Midland Rd Leeds 6
- LOWESTOFT Paul Welby 173 The Avenue
- MANCHESTER J Sutton 11a Rowan Ave Walley Range M16
- MERSEYSIDE Mick Talbot 15 Selson Park Rd Liverpool 8
- MERTON Fred Milsom 119 Wolsey Crescent Morden
- NEWCASTLE Tony Corcoran 26 Lesbury Road
- NORTHAMPTON Mick Bunting 25 Witton Rd Duston N'hampton
- NORWICH Gerald Crompton 220 College Rd NOR 54F

- NOTTINGHAM Tony Evans 289 Derby Rd Nottingham
- OXFORD Dave Peers 21 First Turn
- PORTSMOUTH Pamela Shummer 43 Marmion Road Southsea
- 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 Thaton Close Selby Yorks
- SHEFFIELD J Wilkin 15 Raven Rd Sheffield S7 1SB
- SOUTHAMPTON John Fisher 144 Thornhill Park Road
- SOUTHEND Chris Peace 13 Stirling Ave Leigh-on-Sea Essex
- STEVENAGE Michael Downing 57 Trumper Rd Trots Hill
- STOCKPORT Geoff Hodgson 78a Forest Range M/C 19
- STOKE NEWINGTON Mike McGrath 28 Manor Road N16
- SWANSEA Dick Jones 19 Woodlands Tee
- TEES SIDE Barry Slater Flat 3 78 Redcar Rd Giusborough Yorks
- John Foster 10 Pallister Ave Brambles Farm Middlebro
- TOTTENHAM Laurie Flynn 374 High Road N17
- WANDSWORTH Mark Hutton 87 Brodick Road SW17
- WATFORD Paul Russell 61 Campenders Avenue Campenders Park
- WIGAN Ray Challinor 34 Whiteside Ave Hindley
- WOLVERHAMPTON Dave Spilsbury 274 Penn Road
- YORK Bob Looker 22 Hobgate
- 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 _____



International Socialism 37

Orwell: international socialist?

Revolutionary manifesto from inside Mao's China

The failure of the Italian Left

15s for a year

6 Gilden Road London NW5 01-485 0476

'NO CONCESSIONS' SAY STEWARDS AS LEYLAND PAY TALKS BEGIN

Ray Challinor

LEYLAND, Tuesday:- As 12 representatives from the British Leyland strike committee journey to York for talks to end the month-old strike of 8500 workers at the five Lancashire plants, the management must be ruefully considering their predicament.

The determination of the workers to fight for a decent wage has been a great shock to them. Added to that determination are hard financial facts.

Metal men battle for union rights

Alan Woodward

ENGINEERING workers at the Johnson Matthey metal works in Enfield, Middlesex, are on strike for trade union recognition. The management have refused to allow AEF stewards to represent their members.

In spite of approaches by the AEF district secretary, the management would not budge. When engineering workers downed tools, the firm's chief engineer told them:

'Get outside the gate and leave the premises. Don't forget to clock out - by doing that you are breaking your contract and the company need not re-employ you.'

The men went out. Since then, Johnson Matthey have firmly denied that this is a lock-out.

Spread lies

The local paper has printed a company statement that is biased against the men. The company has called in police to supervise the pickets and has spread lies about them forcibly turning back lorries, threatening drivers and hiding in bushes to intimidate other workers.

Members of the British Iron Steel and Kindred Trades Association are still working and their stewards are not blacking AEF work now done by scabs. BISAFTA is the blue-eyed union in the firm and negotiates on behalf of AEF members.

The AEF district committee has declared the strike official and the Harlow division of the firm has organised a collection.

Donations to: J. Weaver, 112 Lea House, Long Croft Drive, Waltham Cross, Mddx.

Profits up

Johnson and Matthey trading figures show an increased profit of 55 per cent so far this year. The company made a killing over devaluation and silver prices of more than £37m. The company is paying a dividend of 11 per cent out of a total profit of £7.14m. Meanwhile skilled men start at 9s 2d an hour.

The chief engineer, whom the men say was hired through Exchange and Mart, has taken up welding during the dispute. His first attempt was unsuccessful - he set fire to his trousers and socks.

Squatters house mother and children

MANCHESTER SQUATTERS group started a series of occupations on Sunday when Mrs Mary Jordan and her two young children moved into an empty house belonging to the Coal Board in Teddington Road, Moston.

Mrs Jordan, formerly of Denmark Road, Moss Side, has been forced to live apart from her husband because she says, 'I have never had a house of my own'.

TACTIC

Although the tactic of direct occupation is to be commended, the lack of any political analysis by the squatters could be disastrous.

The effects of the strike are starting to hurt.

British Leyland is losing £1,200,000 a week and the shortage of spare parts produced in Lancashire is growing worse and hitting their customers.

Albon Motors in Glasgow is losing £450,000 a week and Jaguar in the Midlands £320,000.

The money is starting to roll into the strike fund. Contributions are coming from all sections of the community, ranging from old age pensioners to even the company's foremen.

But the most important contribution is from the other workers in the British Leyland combine who are giving an hour's pay each week.

DEMANDS

As the strike enters its fifth week no one has attempted to cross the picket line.

They are determined to win their demands of £24 a week for skilled piece workers, parity of bonus for women and £18 10s for new starters. The present flat rate is £14 for a skilled man.

At the last mass meeting, strikers' morale was high. The vote to stay out was unanimous. At the same time there were shouts of 'Bring them all out' - meaning the rest of the 200,000 workers in the British Leyland combine.

PARITY

And the demand for parity with the Midlands appears to be growing. Colin Fishwick, a leading shop steward, chaired the meeting and put a resolution on parity.

It was carried almost unanimously.

Len Brindle, the convenor, said, 'Our position is strengthening. We go to York determined to make no concessions.'

Another steward said: 'The toughest battle will be at 9.30 am at York on Wednesday when we meet the full-time officials. The fight with the management is secondary.'

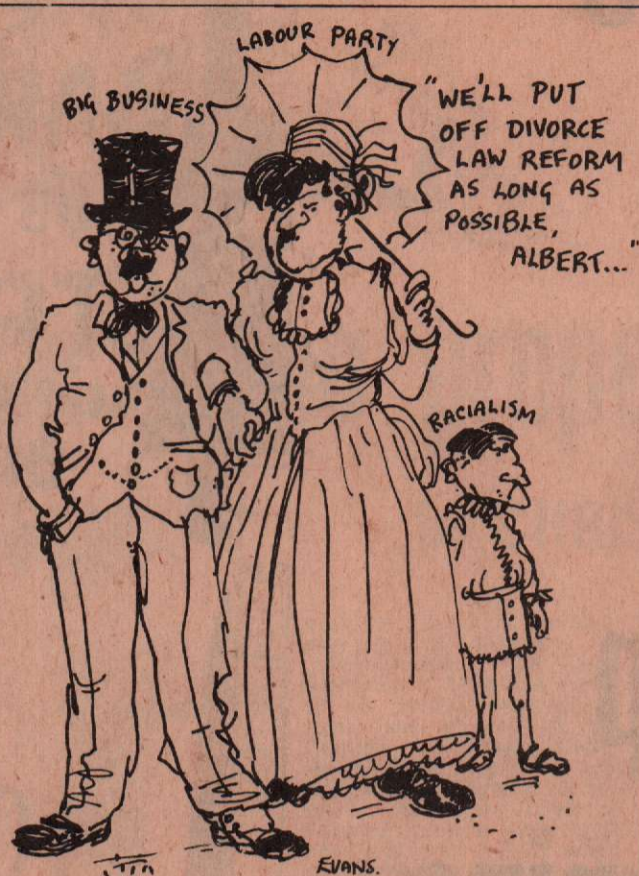
Irish abroad to rally in Dublin

THE IRISH republican movement Clan na h-Eireann is to stage a mass rally of Irish emigrants in Dublin on Saturday, August 2.

Clan na h-Eireann says the refusal of the outgoing Irish Tory government to support the idea of an emigrants hostel in Birmingham, which has 120,000 Irish, is only the latest example of 'criminal negligence' by Ireland's political leaders.

'This is a completely non-political campaign,' said Ron Marsden, full-time organiser of Manchester Squatters. But without a national organisation with a perspective of workers' power to solve the housing problem, the squatters will remain limited to similar sporadic and localised issues.

The Tory council in Hammersmith have been pursuing a very profitable housing policy: the selling of council houses on the open market. Flats in Samels Court are being sold for £8500. At the last council meeting it was agreed to carpet the stairs in Samels Court for £2,550.



Aussie unions fight fines on strikers

Peter Finch

SYDNEY:- More than a million Australian workers took strike action at the end of May against the government's anti-union penal powers and the jailing of union leader Clarrie O'Shea.

In Victoria the strikes on May 21 were backed by 30 unions and involved 300,000 workers. In New South Wales there was a 24-hour state-wide transport strike joined by Sydney watersiders, painters, dockers, seamen and 100,000 workers from 18 unions.

A 24-hour Newcastle strike involved 90,000 workers from 45 unions. A 24-hour strike of some 25,000 workers in the Wollangong areas was called by the South Coast Labour Council.

In Queensland, a 24-hour strike involved some 150,000 members of 39 unions.

In South Australia 100,000 trade unionists stopped work.

In Western Australia, 60,000 workers staged a 24-hour strike.

OFF THE HOOK

Clarrie O'Shea was released from jail following payment of £4000 in fines on the Tramway and Bus Union. The fine was paid by a Sydney man who came along just in time to get the government off the hook.

A similar thing happened in Western Australia last year when boilermakers refused to pay fines and a state-wide general strike was only averted at the last moment by an 'anonymous' donor paying the fines.

Government hopes that the release of O'Shea would end the dispute were dashed as workers in various states took part in massive new strikes for repeal of the penal clauses. The jailing was the spark that ignited the strikes and united all the Left-wing led unions in a potentially explosive situation.

The strong rank and file response to an essentially political issue has been revealed in the attendance at demonstrations and mass meetings. This is heartening in view of likely developments in the economy - rises in the cost of living, a general

hardening of state-employer attitudes and probable moves to some form of government-directed incomes policy.

The Australian TUC executive has said that pending the outcome of discussions with the federal government, 'unions are advised not to meet any outstanding fines imposed under the penal clauses of the Commonwealth Act'. They threatened national action if any penalties are imposed.

A meeting of 2000 shop stewards in Melbourne last week re-affirmed ACTU policy and called for a report back of negotiations within a fortnight.

The main task now for socialists is to clarify the real issues involved - the nature of the arbitration system which is the cleverest and most subtle industrial legislation ever devised by a capitalist state.

THE LIVERPOOL Post & Echo is crying its heart out because 8,000,000 bananas are being dumped in Liverpool through a dock strike at the North End. The dispute is over bonuses.

Anyone would think that the local monopoly press cared about the children deprived of bananas, until you know the facts. The Liverpool Post & Echo is owned by the local shipping barons and what they care about is lost profits, not lost bananas. The dockers wanted a share of those profits to boost their meagre earnings, so they struck.

Malign

The press has whipped up a campaign to malign the men and the stewards have caved in under the attack and recommended that the men return to work - but without the stewards, who will stay out to negotiate.

This is a terrible mistake. It will weaken the essential

One man sacked - four firms stop SW Reporter

TWO HUNDRED lift engineers are on strike in Merseyside because one electrician at Otis Elevator was asked to do painting. He refused, knowing that it would put painters out of work.

The management sacked the electrician. In a magnificent display of trade union solidarity, lift engineers in four firms all stopped work and have been out for four weeks. They are demanding his reinstatement and the status quo.

Polite applause

At a rank and file members' meeting, several men announced their intention to return to work after an overwhelming vote to stay out. The scabs were asked to leave, and did so to polite applause.

The men, members of the Electricians' and Plumbers' Union, are requesting support, especially from other sparks on Merseyside.

Donations to: Lift Engineers Dispute Committee, 6 Bramberton Road, Liverpool 4.

Engineers locked out for 10 weeks

SIX HUNDRED thermal insulating engineers on Merseyside building sites have been locked out for 10 weeks in a struggle for parity of wages. They demanded an increase from 7s 10½d an hour to bring them up to the rates of between 10s and 12s of mechanical construction workers.

The men also want an end to the 'stint system' of payment, a type of piece-work which encourages fast work and the risk of asbestosis, a disease caused by breathing in asbestos dust. The management provide masks but refuse to pay extra money for the discomfort of wearing them for long periods.

No help has been given the men by their union, the General and Municipal Workers' Donations and requests for speakers to: Bro McLean, 143 GMWU branch, 162 Stanley Road, Liverpool 4.

Banana boat blues for Merseyside bosses

SW Reporter

job control that the dockers exercise.

One docker told Socialist Worker: 'We can get hold of a steward in two minutes if there's a dispute, but it takes two weeks to collar an official, and even then he sells you up the river.'

One unfortunate effect of these strikes is that often

attention is deflected from the main issue - the struggle to prevent stage two of the Devlin proposals from being implemented. If these go through, the local dock labour force will be slashed from 11,000 now to less than 7000 by 1972.

The anarchy of the docks will never end until the dockers march in and take control and until the state is under the control of all the workers.

NOTICES

TEACHERS in Technical and Colleges of Further Education are invited to a meeting at 270 Elgin Avenue, W9 8 pm June 27 to draw up a socialist policy towards problems in these institutions.

SOUTH LONDON IS meeting: Sun June 22, Duncan Hallas on the Labour Party and the working class. Wilton Arms, High Street, Thornton Heath, 7.30 pm.

GLASGOW Left Forum: revolutionary work in the trade unions. Spkrs from CP, IMG and IS. Sun June 29 Partick Burgh Hall, 7.30pm

GLASGOW: 'US out of Vietnam'. Hear Linh Qui, Vietnamese journalist. Demonstration leaves Elderslie St (Eye Infirmary) 2.30 Sat June 28.

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Sack threat for 1200

Ross Hill

LIVERPOOL:- 1200 more GEC-AEI-English Electric workers are finding out what the big merger was all about.

Arnold Weinstock and his fellow directors have decided to send that many men out of the gate at Napier's (an E-E subsidiary in Liverpool) for the last time. One hundred and thirty will be asked to uproot themselves and scuttle off to be 'key-workers' at Lincoln or Colchester, where work now done at the East Lancs Road Works is to be concentrated.

For the rest there will be redundancy payments which will very likely be long spent by the time they get new jobs... IF they get them.

But at a meeting outside the gates last Friday, the men and women accepted a resolution from stewards and officials not to accept the sackings. As a draughtsmen's association official told Socialist Worker afterwards: 'The main thing is that each factory that comes under Weinstock's axe must not be allowed to stand or fall by itself.'

LINK UP

Not accepting the sackings is one thing; fighting them and winning is quite another. Not only must the workers at Napier's strike, or better still, occupy the factory, they must link up with the other threatened sites in the combine.

The best means of defence is attack and if the Napier's workers are to defend their livelihoods they will have to move on to a co-ordinated offensive.

In all these goings-on between the top financial boys, one thing has been forgotten - the fact that the factory is operated by human beings, with hopes, fears and families.

RAT RACE

The consumers are also forgotten. The demand for electrical goods and engines made at Napier's would be tremendous in any sane society. But in the insane capitalist rat race, the consumer is forgotten in favour of a mad rush for profit, a rush which brings about an anarchic set-up of booms and slumps, where people are hired and ruthlessly fired.

Socialist Worker looks forward to the Napier's workers helping to bring Weinstock under the control of the GEC-AEI-EE Combine Stewards Committee, in a socialist society - perhaps as the man who cleans the lavatories at the East Lancs Road works.