

Socialist Worker

Ford hatchet man in the Midlands
SEE PAGE THREE

For workers control and international socialism

131 17 July 1969 every Thursday 3d

March on Sunday

Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign

March to Ulster Office Sunday July 20 Rally Hyde Park 3pm

DERRY YOUTH CHALLENGE

POLICE STATE

Socialist Worker Reporters

ORANGE DAY IN the Northern Ireland police state ushered in what looks like the start of a long, hot summer with an attempted pogrom against a Catholic working-class housing estate in Lurgan, gun shots in a small Derry village, progressing to full-scale fighting in Derry City between mainly Catholic working-class youth and the Royal Ulster Constabulary armed with small arms and armoured cars.

The upheaval started on Friday before the annual marches of the beer-swilling bigots of the quasi-secret, drum-beating, catholic-baiting Orange Order, which rules Ulster in partnership with Northern Irish big business and British Imperialism.

In the small town of Lurgan, people on a housing estate protested at the flying of the Union Jack. This was followed by a Paisleyite-led attack on the estate. The residents erected a barricade to protect themselves and more fighting followed when the RUC attacked the barricade.

Shots fired in village

In the small village of Knockloughrim, revolver shots were fired at the home of the postmaster who refused to fly the British flag, known locally as the 'Butcher's Apron'. Threats were made on his life and he has sold out and is moving to the South.

Also in Co Derry, in the market town of Dungiven, a small party of civil rights supporters who staged a sit-down were forcibly dispersed by the RUC who later looked on while an Orange gang assaulted a local citizen.

Then the Orange parade was attacked in Dungiven and that weekend the townspeople fired the Orange Hall with a half-a-dozen RUC inside.

These are only a few of many incidents that ended in an explosion of pent-up anger by the youth of Derry. The spark that started the explosion in the city was a Union Jack flying from the Municipal Baths. This, with stones thrown by Paisleyites and the knowledge of what was happening in ghettos elsewhere, brought Catholic youths, with some small Protestant support, out on the streets in some of the toughest and best organised fighting that this city has seen.

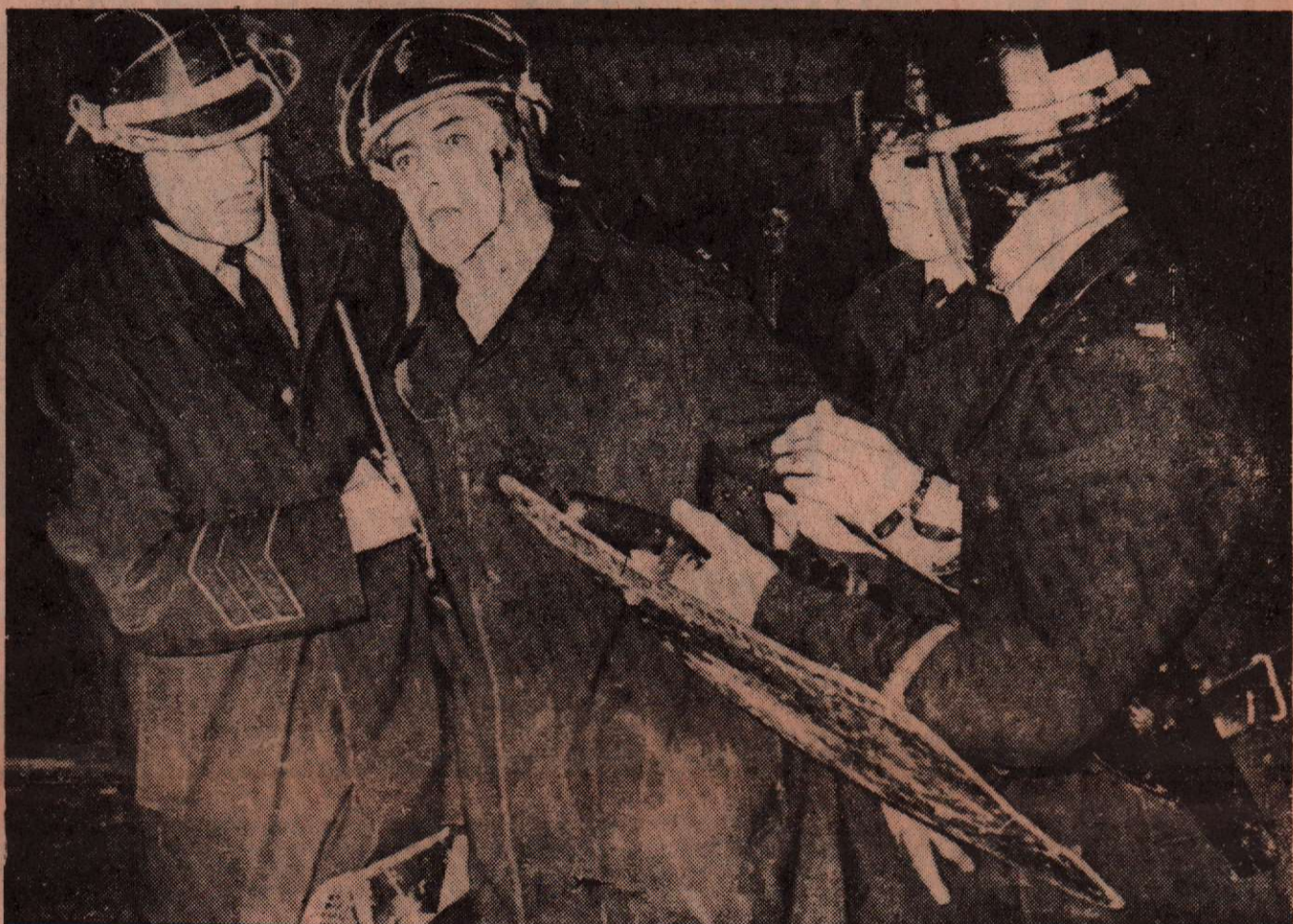
Young people, many as young as 10 and 11 years, fought the RUC with stones, Molotov cocktails, rolling bombs made with barrels and some of the most sophisticated techniques ever seen in street fighting in Ireland. After the RUC fired 'over the heads' of the youths - wounding one in the foot and one in the leg - the young people rained a blitz of petrol bombs, destroying an armoured car and a troop carrier.

Wall of fire

Then in a charge they drove the police from the Guildhall Square back to the doors of the RUC barracks. Later when the RUC counter attacked, they ran into a wall of fire as the kids set off a booby-trap. In other attacks the police, who carried riot shields and wore steel helmets, were fought by stone-throwing youths who aimed at their unprotected legs.

A flexible supply system was working, with the younger children and the girls carrying stones and petrol to their older brothers in boxes and wheelbarrows. As the battle reached a climax on Sunday and it appeared that the RUC might storm the Bogside (the Catholic area) the kids were joined by their parents who helped erect barricades to keep out the cops who at this stage were reinforced by B-Specials and British troops.

One of the most significant features of the weekend's incidents in Derry has been the fighting ability of the youngsters. We can only understand this if we realise that the people of Derry are getting up off their knees and learning their own strength and self-respect after 50 years of despair and degradation.



Battered and bleeding the Orange thugs of the RUC retire after receiving a hammering from young Derry workers.

It is not surprising that this process is most apparent among the young people. They are able to bypass half a century of passivity brought on by the betrayal of the national struggle in 1921/22 because they are encountering politics in the context of widespread agitation. The moderate agitation of the older people mobilises the youngsters in a much more militant fashion. This militancy will in turn have its effect on their elders and Derry may pass through a similar process to that in Dublin in the years 1910-20.

To describe the weekend's events as 'leaderless' is merely to define the calibre of the existing 'adult' civil rights leadership. The young workers were leaderless in precisely the same way as were the black youngsters who raised hell in Detroit in 1967.

As in Detroit, so in Derry, the 'looting' was aimed at a class which held the kids' families in thrall through hire purchase, debts and credit.

Courage

The Derry events took place independently of the civil rights movement, but if the courage and determination of the young workers is to be transformed into a serious challenge it must develop a sense of discipline and socialist objectives, a campaign must be mounted to build a bridge to young Protestant workers. This unity, more than anything, spells disaster for the Tory police state.

There is a strong possibility that the Stormont government will take the opportunity to put the boot in on the civil rights movement. The British troops in the six counties may be used to release the RUC and B-Specials to crush the youth of Derry.

British socialists must escalate the campaign of solidarity with the struggle for civil rights in the terror state maintained by British imperialism.

Demand that British troops be withdrawn NOW. Form local branches of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign (details from Pat Denny, 01-485 0476).

Support Sunday's London demonstration and march to the Ulster Office.

Picket support appeal

STRIKING machine operators at a North London plastic moulding firm have appealed for help to strengthen their picket line.

The 42 workers, many of them Indians and Pakistanis, have been on strike for more than a month at Punfield and Barstow in support of a campaign for recognition of their union, the AEF. They were forcibly evicted from the factory by police when they staged a sit-down protest. As well as union recog-

nition, the strikers are demanding an end to rates of pay that differ according to men's colour, overtime rates for working tea-breaks, improved bonus rates and the scrapping of unrealistic production targets.

The factory is close to the Injection Moulders works, scene of recent militant sit-in strikes by immigrant and white workers.

Readers prepared to support the picket line should

report to the factory at Basil Works, Westmoreland Road, NW9. Donations to M. Bashir, 5 Clayton Ave, Wembley, Middx.

Summer break

NEXT WEEK'S issue of Socialist Worker will be the last for two weeks while our editorial and printing staff go on holiday. But an emergency staff will produce a special issue if an event of major importance occurs.

Airfix strikers get rough time from police

ONE HUNDRED AND thirty moulders at Airfix Plastics, Sunbury (Middlesex) have shaken the management by their nine-week old strike for union recognition.

The managing director of the Airfix group asked for talks with the district organiser of the Transport Workers Union yesterday (Wednesday) at the Wandsworth factory, where one complete shift is now unionised.

Determined

A mass picket this week has reminded the management of the determination of strikers, who have not been deterred by continual police harassment.

On police advice, the management has closed the normal entrance in a service road and is using one on a main road, with only a narrow

pavement for pickets. Strikers exercising their right to dissuade scabs and lorries from entering have consistently been interfered with by the police.

But the police have refused to take action against scabs who have deliberately attempted to run down pickets at the gates.

One shop steward on picket duty was arrested for allegedly using obscene language. It is clear to everyone outside the gates that the only object of the police is to protect the Airfix bosses' profits, which jumped 51 per cent to £840,000 last year.

JONES THE FREEZE GETS PAY BOOST

MR AUBREY JONES has resigned from the chairmanship of the Prices and Incomes Board to join the board of the International Publishing Company, the Mirror group.

Mr Jones is the ex-Tory MP paid £15,000 a year by the Labour government to freeze the wages of the workers.

On Tuesday he said he had no basic disagreement with the government, but felt there was too much emphasis on curbing strikes and not enough on holding down incomes.

Mr Jones will get £20,000 a year from IPC.

Arturo — the grocers' boy who took the biscuit

THE MIDDLE-CLASS London theatre-going public have not enjoyed the brilliant production of Bertold Brecht's *Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* at the Saville and socialists had better go and see it before the laws of profit, which it mocks, bring it to a halt.

It is typical of the contempt which theatre managers have for socialist and revolutionary productions that this is the first ever London production of the play, which only recently got its premier in the Citizens Theatre, in Glasgow's Gorbals.

A review of this production in the *Financial Times*

criticises the play because 'the real thing was more exciting'. It is safe now for the *Financial Times'* theatre reviewers to look back on the rise of Hitler in Germany in the 1930s and describe it as 'exciting'.

CONTROL

By contrast, Brecht is trying to show that under the capitalist system, with its perverted values, it is quite possible for gangsters and thugs to rise to power. And so, in his play, Arturo Ui, a Chicago gangster, supported by thugs, gains control of the city's 'respectable cauliflower trade' and threatens to take

THEATRE: PAUL FOOT

control of all the cities of America.

The unsavoury characters are based on the political leaders of inter-war Germany. 'Old Dogsborough', the local mayor-figure is Von Hindenburg, the respected German general and President. Dogsborough takes bribes from the grocers (industrialists) led by Clark (von Papen), and gives them a 'city loan' (government grant).

When Arturo Ui threatens to expose him, Dogsborough puts Ui in charge of the groceries (makes Hitler

Chancellor). Ui uses his benefactors until they are of no more use to him, then he bumps them off.

The satire is at its best when dealing with Hitler's 1934 Roehm purge. An argument breaks out between a monstrous spiv (Goering) who wines and dines with industrialists, and lays their wives and puts their case and Roma, a working-class thug with a big gang whose appeal is based to some extent on an attack on the vested interests of the idle rich. Goering and Roma argue

with Ui for his support, while Givola (Goebbels) hovers between them. Ui finally decides to support the side with the money, and has Roma, his friend and confidante, shot down.

SUSPICION

Less accurate are the sections dealing with Ui's rise to power, and his continuing support among the grocers. Brecht paints a picture here of universal suspicion and resentment among the bourgeoisie which Hitler overcomes not so much by argument as by force. This is more the fault of the product-

ion than of the script, but the militancy and the enthusiasm for Fascism of the German middle classes does not come over.

The SA, Roehm's National Socialist Army, was in fact a mass movement of the middle classes, which at its peak had some three million members.

Apart from this one flaw, which is political, the production is continuously brilliant, with Leonard Rossiter as Ui outstanding. In the early parts of the play, during Ui's first taste of power, he develops the goose step, the Heil Hitler salute and a rhetorical style in scenes which have the audience in

hysterics. As the play laughter decreases obvious mist speeches and hand gestur

CONC

In the final for world conc no laughter at it all Rossiter stage to recite 'This was the t nearly had us n But do not thin that is all, you for though we b we beat the ba The bitch that is on heat agai

1919: when the Red Flag flew in Glasgow

by JOAN SMITH

FIFTY YEARS AGO, Britain was in turmoil. The flying of a single red flag over Glasgow City Chambers had convinced the powers that be of the imminence of revolution.

They were very nearly right, a wave of revolt was spreading through the international working class movement against the whole capitalist system.

Capitalism, built by their labour, had finally produced a world war and awarded those that survived the holocaust with unemployment and lower standards of living than at the end of the 19th century.

In Germany and Italy the workers rose and took over the factories.

In Britain, there were strikes, agitation over the mounting unemployment and attempts to build a united revolutionary socialist movement out of the old marxist groups, the shop stewards' movement, the workers' control movement and the growing sympathy and support of the workers for Soviet Russia.

In the army 70,000 were involved in mutinous outbreaks at Shorncliffe, near Folkestone, at Dover and at

other camps. There were rumours of soldiers' councils. It was in the midst of this critical and explosive situation that the labour movement in Glasgow declared for a general strike. The general strike, to begin on Wednesday January 27, 1919 demanded as its immediate objective a 40-hour week, 'as an experiment with the object of absorbing the unemployed. If the 40-hour week fails to give the desired results a more drastic reduction of hours will be demanded...'

This call for action was signed by Glasgow Trades Council and the unofficial Clyde Workers' Committee. The chairman of the Strike Committee was Emmanuel Shinwell.

Immediately in Glasgow, 50,000 workers struck work. The next day there were 100,000 workers out.

The list of workers supporting the strike (with no official support except for

Scottish Ironmoulders' Union, President, Tom Bell) reads like a Ministry of Labour employment list. Even the Shop Assistants' Union was there. For those that did not respond immediately, mass pickets 5-6000 strong chanted them in and out of work with the 40-hour slogans.

District committees ran the strike locally. They were formed of all trades, unorganised and the organised, employed and unemployed, even including housewives.

They granted permits to move food and 'A cycle corps ran between the districts and the central committee, carrying reports, messages and the strike bulletin, which was issued daily.' (Tom Bell, *Pioneering Days*.)

Spread to Belfast

By January 30 the movement in Glasgow spread all over Scotland and straight to Belfast, where the strike committee completely controlled the town. But the movement only gradually spread to parts of England and here a dual tragedy became apparent, not only the quiescent trade union leadership, which Willie Gallacher described as

'holding back all the other areas' (Revolt on the Clyde).

There was also the tragedy of the rank and file movement itself.

The areas the Clyde had expected immediate support from were those where, like Glasgow, there had been particularly militant mass rank and file movement during and after the war—Barrow-in-Furness, the North-East, Sheffield. But the Clyde had no way of gauging the mass political feeling in those areas.

Strong traditions

No one had built even a rudimentary organisation in preparation for the time that the rank and file movement would have to face the unions, the state and the bosses together. On the Clyde there had been a strong tradition of political education and all the shop stewards and leaders of the Clyde Workers' Committee were either marxists of the Socialist Labour Party or the Social Democratic Federation, or socialists of the Independent Labour Party.

On the Clyde political education and agitation were combined with industrial activity and marxist classes held in the factories and the shipyards. This happy conjunction of circumstances, the work of previous generations of workers, could not be expected in all the other local rank and file movements.

It was not Sheffield but London and later Merseyside that responded to Glasgow. But the response was too late and too imperfect to be able to generate the changing political consciousness that transforms a general strike into a mass political strike, involving unorganised as well as organised, the conscious socialist and the intuitive revolutionary, in a mass action in which millions teach themselves to create a new social order.

Mass activity

In Tom Bell's words, 'Starting primarily as a Scottish movement, it spread rapidly to all parts of the country and at one time assumed all the possibilities of a general political strike. There was tremendous mass activity all over the country but the trade union and labour bureaucracy did everything possible to prevent the strike spreading. In this they were ably supported by the bourgeois press which inspired by the government spread lying stories about what was happening in other towns and created confusion. (Pioneering days)

The employers' state took fright at the potential of the movement long before the movement realised its own strength. The state quickly moved to suppress the strike.

On Wednesday, the first day, the strike committee had led a demonstration to the city centre, George Square. The Provost (Lord Mayor) of Glasgow promised to intervene with the government and asked the deputation and the workers outside to 'call back on Friday'.

Tom Bell is the eyewitness to what happened when they did. With the Square already packed with 50,000 people and all the side-streets full...

'From the left side of the city chambers came the East End contingent led by the committee and a brass band... the crowd made way for the band. Just as they got to the entrance of the Square and were commencing to march past the main entrance to the City Chambers the mounted police, who formed a cordon round the entrance, blocked the way...'

'Just then one of the mounted police, by a skilful feat, tumbled his horse. This was the signal for drawing truncheons and the police began to attack right and left.'

Guns and tanks

By Saturday the military was everywhere in the town. Tanks occupied the deserted market square, with machine guns discreetly hidden on the tops of buildings.

The strikers fought on until February 12. But with no official support and only limited backing from London, (the engineers, the electricians, Woolwich arsenal, some builders, the tube strike and unofficial railways movement) and Mersey and Manchester balloting on the last days, it could not hold out.

The strike was called off, said the strike committee, 'until such time as we can perfect our organisation of our forces with a view to making our claims for 40 hours on a national basis and to enforce it by a national strike of all the workers in the near future.'

The 40-hour movement in Scotland was built on the agitation and propaganda of the war years, as well as the unemployment that followed it. More than that, it grew out of a socialist movement which believed in and was always prepared to fight for such a 'limited' demand as the eight-hour day.

The socialist movement believed that it had to fight for the 'leisure' of the work-

ers for them to have the chance to be socialists. The struggle for the possibilities of self-education joined hands with the struggle for a better life for all.

In a period of speed-up and the complete absence of solidarity and sympathy strikes between one factory and another, our movement today can learn a great deal from 1919.

We can also learn that industrial activity alone is not enough. During the war, the industrial victories on the Clyde were the easy victories.

Behind the people

The British Socialist Party had called for agitation and propaganda in the army and for mass anti-war anti-nationalist propaganda. This was largely neglected and in 1919 the revolutionaries were thinking like strike leaders and were way behind the people they were 'leading'.

'We were being isolated and encircled with enemies but we had possibilities of bringing great new forces to our side if we had only the necessary revolutionary aud-

The scene in Ge with the red flag the crowd as the of striking work on the city centr

acity and und volt was seeth especially in t 'We had w ranks the pos ing actual e leadership to entered our he we were carry

'Had we b planning befor stead of a ma Green (George would have be Maryhill Be while troops, raw recruits, brought forwa circlement of soldiers of confined to ba barrack gate closed. If we we could eas uaded the sol out and Glasg been in our h on the Clyde)

Whether tha then have be broken before country rose, e is another que we cannot kno

Socialist Worker

6 Cottons Gardens London E2

Tel: 01-739 1878 (editorial) 1870 (business)

Editor Roger Protz
Editorial Committee Paul Foot Richard Kuper Laurie Flynn Sabby Sagall
Business Manager Barry Huggill

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

WHERE WE STAND

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

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

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

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

Ford: one

JIM LAMBORN has a right to feel doubtful about the real intentions of both the TGWU and the AEF (June 26) when it comes to the question of the Ford national joint negotiating committee.

Moss Evans seems to have got the idea in his head that our strike in February and March was for the sole purpose of making him 'King of the Goons'. Let's get it straight, not only for Moss Evans and all the others on the Ford NJNC, but for any convenor who might be suffering from moon madness at the moment.

Our members went back on a promise of an all-out effort to get parity with the Midlands in 1969. This is one promise that must be kept.

For years we have had the position at Ford of the tail wagging the dog. Tolerant of this practice closed on February 24 when the foundrymen at Dagenham led the biggest battle in Ford against the unions and the company.

The men trusted their shop stewards then. That trust must not be seen to have been misplaced. No matter what union a steward belongs to, his first duty must be to the men on the shop floor. All stewards must now

lend themselves ahead. Mark Kealey no lo strings but th ready to step i

The aim of strange as appears to be rank and file from getting a the giant Ford O'FLYNN, s Thames Found

The Evans sell-out

WHILE ALAN to his union d and I reali wrangles in columns tend answer his cha

While he t am wrong, he my facts and v of a collection I challenge his facts.

1. There was made at the De ployment and between Ford for a return to open-end agree 2. Moss Evans enham on Marc to a mass me ommended the return to work of 'Parity in 19

The CIR verdict at Birmid Qualcast is highly predictable: blame the unions

WHY FORD'S HATCHET MAN HAS GONE TO THE MIDLANDS...

From our Birmingham correspondent



LESLIE BLAKEMAN: not impartial

INVESTIGATORS hired by the new Commission on Industrial Relations (the CIR) have been looking into labour relations at three companies of the motor components firm Birmid Qualcast - Birmingham Aluminium Castings, Midland Motor Cylinder and Dartmouth Auto Castings.

The decision to hold the investigation came after the Engineering Employers had complained to the government about the number of strikes within the group and the regular growth in piecework earnings.

The Commission on Industrial Relations was set up recently by the government. It was one of Barbara Castle's ideas for 'dealing' with strikes, along with her proposals to either fine strikers or send bailiffs into their homes.

The two full-time members of the Commission who are leading the investigation are Mr Allan Flanders and Mr Leslie Blakeman. Both get paid a salary of £6500 a year.

Mr Blakeman used to be the Industrial Relations Director of the Ford Motor Company. He was often very busy in that job.

In 1963 for instance he organised the sacking of 17 shop stewards. And earlier this year he tried to sue the Engineering Workers' and Transport Workers' unions for calling an official strike against the company's 'penalty clauses' scheme. For years he was the anti-trade union 'hatchet man' for the Ford owners.

Mr Flanders used to be a senior lecturer in industrial relations at Oxford University. Although he's never worked in a factory, he's always had plenty of ideas about what should happen inside them.

Crack down

He believes in scrapping piecework, cracking down on strikes and that management should manage. This of course means that they should have the right to sack who they like when they like.

Mr Flanders also suggested that the CIR be set up in the first place and at £6500 a year he must be glad that the government decided to take his advice.

For a number of years both Tory and Labour governments have been determined to 'deal' with the trade unions. Not at the top of course, but in the workplaces.

Lots of schemes have been tried. At Ford earlier this year Mr Blakeman tried to get penalty clauses written into a new agreement. This would have cut workers' holiday pay if they went on strike.

A magnificent strike by more than 40,000 Ford workers defeated him. At Rootes

in Coventry the management, after a three year struggle, have succeeded in abolishing piecework.

Throughout the engineering industry the employers have been trying very hard to weaken the workshop union organisation. But they have not been as successful as they would have liked. In many instances they have either been defeated or else the struggle has lasted far too long.

Because of this the state has decided to step in and help them.

Birmid Qualcast profits for last year were £7,302,570 and the shareholders' dividend was 16 1/2 per cent compared to 16 per cent the year before. £3955 of this was given to the Tory Party who, of course, support tough laws against strikes.

With profits so high it seems amazing that the company should complain strongly about strikes and 'excessive' wage demands. Not so. The truth is that the firm want even more money for themselves and less to be paid to the people who work for them. And this at a time when dieselers at BAC get £5 a week less than is paid for the same job in other motor component firms.

In two years the shareholders got a total dividend

of 32 1/2 per cent - did the workers have a wage rise of that size? If not, why not? Surely it's not 'excessive' for someone who works for a living to at least get the same as someone who doesn't?

If a shareholder had £10,000 invested in the company he would have received almost £3000 in the last two years. At that rate, in seven years the same shareholder would not only still have the first £10,000 that he started off with, but will also have got an extra £11,500.

Many strikes

In the last two and a half years there have been many strikes in the group over wages and working conditions. In 1967 there was a three week strike of maintenance men at BAC which eventually won a shilling an hour increase.

During the same period the shareholder will have received a weekly income of nearly £30. No short-time or lay-offs for him. And he did not have to earn it by working in a foundry where the accident rate is always high.

It was furnacemen, not shareholders who were injured in the explosion at Midland Motor North Works in

1967 and which left one man with 22 per cent of his body burnt.

Far from complaining, the top gaffers ought to be grateful to the workers. But no, they want even more money. And that means either taking it from them or trying to stop them getting wage rises in the future.

The best way of doing that is to attack the workshop trade union organisation. But because it's strong the company have asked the government for help.

The management's anti-trade unionism is clear. On the same day that the CIR turned up at the works, one staff trade union made an official complaint about the company's attitude and demanded a special local conference to discuss it.

A few weeks ago a management spokesman told

workers from Midland Motor, Middlemore Road, that if they kept on asking for a wage increase the firm might have to shut the foundry down. That was intimidation and is typical of the management's anti-trade unionism.

On June 20 the Race Relations Board found that an Indian-born worker employed at Midland Motor had been refused an upgrading because of his colour. Why did the management do this? Because they know that if they can weaken the workers' organisation by splitting it and by turning workers against one another it will be easier for them to smash the trade unions and succeed in their plan to increase profits by attacking wages.

The most important fact to remember is that it was the Birmid owners who got £7,302,570 last year. Neither

the black nor the white workers got it and only their unity will defeat the company's divide and rule tactics.

The Commission on Industrial Relations will not be neutral between workers and employers. It will condemn the shop stewards for being too militant and for demanding 'excessive' wage increases.

It will condemn the strikes over sackings which have defended job security. And to be 'fair', it may well criticise the management, probably on the grounds that they have 'given in' to the workers too often.

The verdict will be like all the others when the government sets up an inquiry - the trade unions are to blame.

Their final report will be secret although a special edition will be printed. The full report should be made public, and Birmid workers must insist that it is.

Instead of secret talks with the gaffers and sending a final secret report to the government, all the work of the Commission should be in public.

Debate views

A mass meeting should be arranged in every foundry at which the company could debate its view with the trade unions. Then their opinions can be heard by everyone.

Let them publicly explain why wages can't rise but why profits can. Let them explain why they should get £7,302,570 profit last year.

And let them do it democratically - in public, with a vote at the end. No secrecy should be allowed.

But if the company and the Commission have things to hide and only want to talk in private, then Birmid workers should boycott the inquiry and refuse to give evidence.

In the meantime the fight for decent wages and working conditions should continue and any attack on the shop steward organisation resisted.

In a society where the owners of big business have wealth and power and where, although only 5 per cent of the population, they nevertheless own more than 75 per cent of the nation's wealth, no Commission on Industrial Relations will solve the vital problems.

Only a socialist society where the working people own the wealth can and will do that.

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 18
BRADFORD Bob Kornreich
Flat 1 7 Oak Avenue Bradford 8
BRIGHTON Andrew Moir
14 Upper Wellington Road
BRISTOL David Rose
26 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 22 Estell Rd NWS
CARDIFF Derek Shields
6 Ruthin Gdns Cathays
CHERTSEY Chris Wickenden
Langmead Pirbright Woking Sy
Brookwood 3003
COLCHESTER Ian Noble
12 Coach Rd Arleford
Wivenhoe 272
COVENTRY Dave Edwards
53 Palmerston Rd Earlston
CRAWLEY Deborah Ward
2 Weddell Rd Tilgate
CROYDON Jenny Woodhams
26 Braemar Avenue South Croydon
DURHAM Pam Law 16
Darfield View
EAST LONDON Bob Light 2
Oster Tee Southcoote 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 NW8
KINGSTON John Owen
4 Sandown Court Esher
LAMBETH Andy Smith Flat 6
128 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 Sefton Park Rd Liverpool 8
MERTON Fred Milson 119
Wolsey Crescent Morden
NEWCASTLE Tony Corcoran
26 Leabury Road
NORTHAMPTON Mick Bunting
25 Winton 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
48 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
Thatch Close Selby Yorks
SHEFFIELD J Wilkin 15
Raven Rd Sheffield S7 1SB
SOUTHAMPTON John Fisher
144 Thornhill Park Road
SOUTHDEN Chris Peace 13
Sirling 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
TEESIDE Barry Slater Flat 3
78 Redcar Rd Guisborough Yorks
John Foster 10 Pallister Ave
Rambles Farm Middlesbro
TOTTENHAM Laurie Flynn
374 High Road N17
WANDSWORTH Mark Hutton
37 Brodrick Road SW17
WATFORD Paul Russell
61 Caspenders Avenue
Caspenders Park
WICAN Ray Challinor
34 Whiteside Ave Hindley
WOLVERHAMPTON Dave
Spilsbury 274 Penn Road
YORK Bob Locker 22 Hobgate
VICTORIA Tony Dunne
14 Carlisle Mansions Carlisle
Place SW1

promise that must be kept LETTERS

3. After the Dagenham stewards accepted this and work resumed, Moss Evans and the TGWU accepted a wage freeze until May 1970.

Alan Wild and Halewood may have some euphemism of their own for this but to the 4500 odd workers in Thames Foundry it was a sell-out. While Halewood gained the respect and admiration of Ford workers everywhere for their bold and fearless stand, Thames Foundry led Dagenham and stopped Dagenham and are we being unnecessarily naive to expect that the agreement by which strikers are persuaded to return to work should be kept once they are at work?

Or is it, as Alan Wild suggests, 'discreditable and worthless' to write an article advocating the keeping of pledges and condemning those breaking them? - JIM LAMBORN, Dagenham no 1 branch AEF (foundry section).

IT WOULD SEEM that my analysis of the British Communist Party is 'naive, ill-informed and illogical' (E.J. Shorey, July 10). Well, I'm always willing to learn.

There are one or two misconceptions that need clarification. Perhaps Shorey will explain the tactic behind J.R. Campbell's speech (on Jan 27 1966, North London CP Public meeting) when he urged the government 'to compel the monopolies to invest, to modernise, and to use the most up to date management methods'. Exactly how did that assist workers in their fight against Measured Day Work, etc?

Again my ignorance of the party's strategy would lead me to believe that Will Paynter's attack on absenteeism among miners (Bedwas Colliery South Wales April 7 1967) was an indication of the desire to be thought respectable - confirmed I would have thought by his subsequent capitulation.

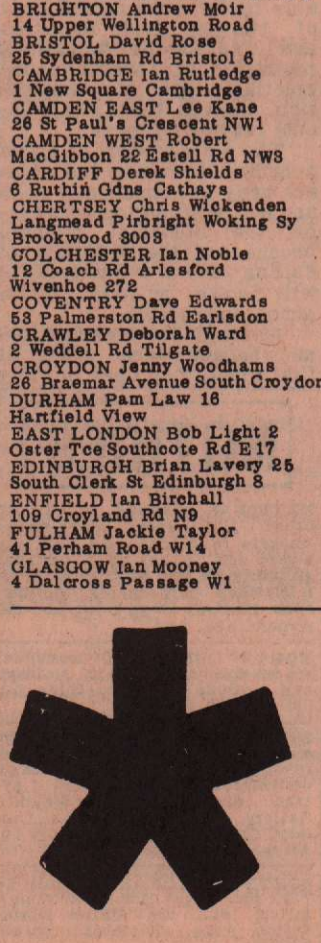
Shorey claims that an attempt was made to link up the builders' and dockers' struggles - pity he didn't expand on it. But if it were true, how does he explain away the fact that when Liverpool dockers attempted to link up with London men

in order to support the national seamen's strike (1966) Jack Dash called them 'troublemakers' and earned the praises of the Beaverbrook press? Who was being divisive to 'Left unity' then?

I was a delegate at a conference called by the party-controlled Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions (Feb 17 1968 Seymour Hall London) when an attempt was made to exclude a shop steward from the meeting, Bro. Bill Hunter (AEF CAV-Lucas, Fazakerley) who incidentally was on official strike at that time. His crime? He had distributed some strike appeal sheets!

There are literally hundreds of issues in which the party has forfeited its right to leadership of the working class and today it is paying dearly for it. Unity we can have on a whole number of issues but we cannot defend the indefensible.

Finally Cde Shorey's comment on the equal pay issue was unfortunate. Bro Sid Haraway, a party member (Ford Dagenham) sent a letter to the shop stewards' committee CAV attacking IS for organising two Ford shop stewards to speak there. I say unfortunate, for Cde Shorey was one of them! - TOM HILLIER, London NW10.



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

Name _____

Address _____

Letters for publication must reach the editor by first post Monday.

NEW FORD MOVE TO DISCIPLINE MEN MAY SPARK MILITANT ACTION

LEFT UNITY VITAL IN TEACHERS' PAY BATTLE

From a Ford shop steward:Southampton

NEW ATTEMPTS TO DISCIPLINE Ford workers could spark off fresh militant action just three months after they returned to work following the long battle against the company's attempt to remove their right to strike.

The men went back on the understanding that the most pressing of their problems would be quickly tackled. The most urgent problem was the need to reconstitute the National Joint Negotiating Committee.

At present all the 22 unions at Ford have one vote each on the NJNC; which means that small unions can veto the two giants, the Engineering and Foundryworkers and the Transport Workers.

Militants want a democratic structure where the voting strength of each union would be in proportion to their members at Ford. Such a system would prevent officials of minor unions frustrating the wishes of the majority of workers.

Both the AEF and TGWU have put forward such a proposal but they are being balked under the existing system by the minority unions. If no agreement can be reached it could mean — and their members hope it will mean — that the TGWU and AEF will break away from the NJNC and negotiate separately with the company.

USEFUL

The company would obviously not want such a situation to develop, for the voting power of the smaller union has been very useful to it in the past to prevent militant action. And if the TGWU and AEF did break away, it is likely that some of the smaller unions would also abandon the NJNC.

The position of all the unions will probably emerge at the next NJNC meeting on July 25 when the company and some union officials hope to sign the Enabling Agreement, which is nothing more than a reshuffle of the original one thrown out by the workers during the strike.

The agreement includes a disciplinary code, which has had little publicity. If put into effect, it would make the supervising staff and management both judge and jury when workers are brought before them.

DANGER

The principle of worker representation is endangered by these proposals. When one of the 'courts' is in session, the worker's shop steward may be present but will not be allowed to speak on his member's behalf.

Any worker who appears before the court will have no redress against its decision, for he will know that it will only make matters worse if he does not accept its verdict.

The Ford management, no matter how high you go, will always support their subordinates, even when they are in the wrong. Shop stewards

Big unions may boycott NJNC

have this fact proved to them every day in their dealings with the management.

How long will militant stewards watch these proceedings? How long will they hold back as they see the little Hitlers of Ford revel in their newly acquired power?

Not long. But when Ford has yet another dispute caused by its dictatorial methods the management will quickly brand the workers as 'wildcats' and 'wreckers'.

When the February/March strike ended, the workers were also promised by the union officials that they would pursue a constructive approach to parity with Midlands' car rates. The last the workers heard of this was that a 'working party', including right-wing Mark Young of the electricians' union, would be set up to decide exactly what parity means.

LIMITED

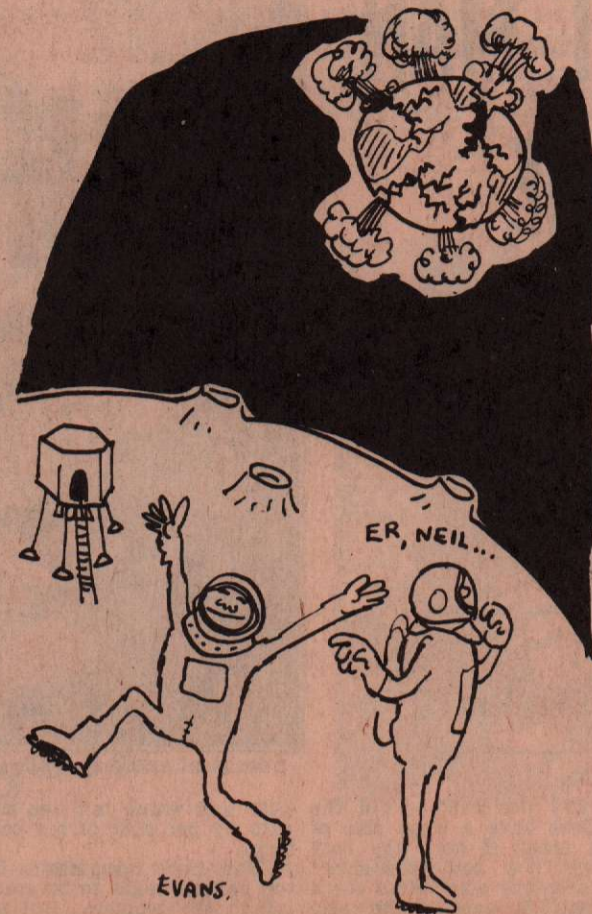
If the union officials and the management are so limited in their powers of definition, the workers can tell them exactly what parity means — the same amount of money in their wage packets as their counterparts in other car plants where profits are lower than at Ford.

The case for parity for Ford workers has been reinforced by the publication of the company's profit of £43m for 1968. It was the workers that produced this huge amount and it is small wonder that they want parity now.

Feelings are running high in this plant and the workers may be outside the gates again in the near future. Many are convinced that they should not have gone back to work in March and, but for the union officials, they could have gone on with the strike until a satisfactory conclusion had been reached.

Now we wait for the NJNC meeting on July 25, conveniently timed for the day before the annual holiday when the majority want to get away from it all and forget the Ford Motor Company for a couple of weeks.

What will they find when they come back? That could be when the balloon will go up again.



College 'prod' deal is threat to students

George Yarrow

DONCASTER: Students at the College of Education are fighting a scheme that would increase the number of students without a corresponding increase in buildings or teaching staff.

The scheme, due to start in September, would get round the lack of facilities by having part of the student body out of college on permanent teaching practice throughout the year.

Similar schemes are being used by the government to increase the 'productivity' of Colleges of Education. It is able to cut down on the cost of training and facilities and weaken the bargaining strength of teachers by creating a pool of unemployed through the extra students leaving colleges.

The introduction of these schemes, in which the student body is permanently split up, will also seriously weaken the students' strength because of the difficulty of calling general meetings. This will make militant action almost impossible.

Although the organisational changes seem small at first sight, they open the way

for much bigger changes in the future which students will find difficult to resist.

The schemes are being forced on Colleges of Education by a type of productivity deal in which finance is only made available to the colleges if they agree to increase their intake of students. This is what has happened at Doncaster.

Faced with this situation, growing numbers of students have been pressing for more militant action and it is clear that struggle is only just beginning.

Metal group hit by strike wave

Alan Woodward

WORKERS throughout the Johnson Matthey metal combine have joined the Enfield AEF men who are on strike for recognition of their union.

The mass stoppage was caused by the company's use of 'pirate' tankers, brought in in an effort to beat a decision by union drivers to black J.M. Strikers are following the pirates to get their supply sources closed.

The tankers were filling up at a railway tanker in Edmonton, but this has been stopped.

The JM shop stewards' combine committee has been active and successful. The Harlow works were out for three days and other plants have stopped work or are banning overtime.

ROCKED

Further action will be considered if necessary. The company has been rocked by the mass solidarity of the workers.

The TUC is considering the situation and must soon recognise the strength of the AEF men's case. They have no representation at Enfield, the only plant in the JM combine that does not recognise the AEF.

It is a sad fact that wild-cat employers and the lengthy official union process do not concern the government, which reserves all its venom for strikers and stewards fighting for their basic rights.

Big turn out for Irish rally

GLASGOW: 650 people packed a meeting on Monday night called by the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign.

Cyril Toman, a member of the militant People's Democracy movement in Northern Ireland, gave a vivid account of the struggle of the people in the Six Counties for basic civil rights against the Tory Unionist regime, its strong-arm police and its British backers.

Stewards wage fight against ICI plans

SW Reporter

FOLLOWING the resistance of most of the shop stewards' committees at the main ICI plants to the company's earlier productivity deal, ICI is now attempting to bring in a new 'weekly staff agreement'.

The company's negotiating procedure is based on agreements made with the unions in the 1920s. Like the Ford Motor Company, ICI does not officially recognise shop stewards' committees in wage negotiations. The company deals directly with the national officials of the 22 trade unions that have members in ICI.

The balance of representation among these unions is not in proportion to the number of members each union has. As at Ford, the Engineers Union (AEF) is grossly under-represented. But the national trade union officials still play ball with ICI, an attitude that reduces the standing of the shop stewards' committees.

The more militant, better organised ICI shop stewards' committees which have emerged in recent years, especially those of Huddersfield,

sent to all shop stewards and which won the day at Leeds.

The shop stewards' reply makes clear what the company wants: redundancies, more night-shift working, staggered day working, dilution of craft skills, individual grading of workers, no payments for abnormal working conditions etc.

All this is rejected by the stewards. In their counter-proposals, the stewards demand that ICI ends its 'bureaucratic obstruction' and makes a start by recognising shop stewards' rights and the right of white-collar workers to belong to a trade union.

As a clincher to rejecting the company deal, the stewards note that there is no provision for a cost of living sliding scale and that ICI profits rose from £100 million in 1967 to £152 million in 1968.

'With a workforce of 64,000 this means a profit per worker of £2375 a year! Moral: there are plenty of profits in the company's piggy bank for substantial wage increases without any productivity strings attached.'

Duncan Hallas

THERE IS A GROWING radicalisation among teachers — that was the significance of last week's token strike and march by London NUT members.

Seven thousand of a possible 9000 came out in answer to the call by the Inner London Teachers' Association and certain categories were not called out. This was in spite of the equivocal attitude of the NUT executive, which refused to back the strike action.

The crunch comes in the autumn. The employers are certain to reject the union's demand for an interim pay award on the basic salary scale, a demand also backed by the National Association of Schoolmasters.

Counter attack

The employers are planning a counter-attack which will take the form of an attempt to impose even more restrictive conditions of service on teachers. The executive is bound by conference decision to call a special conference in the event of a rejection of their pay demands.

At this special conference proposals will be put for prolonged strikes in selected areas of the country. All the indications are that they will be carried.

The outcome will depend very largely on the extent to which unity in action among Left-wing militants can be built and sustained.

Key factor

In London this already exists to a considerable degree. The London strike would never have happened but for the activity of the London Salaries Action Committee, a group of mainly young teachers, most of whom have been influenced by the journal Rank and File.

Their activity was the key factor in galvanising Communist Party teachers and many Labour Party and unaffiliated activists.

Among rank and file teachers the level of consciousness is still uneven. It is now vital that IS members and sympathisers in the NUT work in a flexible and non-sectarian way for the implementation of official union policy of pay and class size, without having any illusions about the nature of the leadership.

Militants must use every possibility of working in the official union organisations. This is not an alternative to the building of rank and file committees — on the contrary the existence of such committees is a pre-condition for successful work in the union.

FRENCH LEFT SORT OUT DIFFERENCES

THE FRENCH revolutionary Left since last year has suffered from all the old problems of division and sectarianism. The Krivine election campaign, which could have revived the spirit of May, was in fact supported only by the Ligue Communiste (Krivine's own group), Lutte Ouvriere, and one or two much smaller groupings.

Two of the biggest revolutionary groups, Humanite Rouge (the largest Maoist tendency) and the AJS (French counterpart of the Socialist Labour League) refused to give any support to Krivine.

However, recent issues of Lutte Ouvriere have carried letters from members of each of these organisations crit-

icising the sectarianism of their organisations in refusing to campaign for Krivine.

Moreover, two members of the unified Socialist Party have recently been expelled for supporting Krivine rather than the PSU's own candidate, Rocard. They claim that Rocard's campaign in no way represented the revolutionaries within the PSU.

These incidents are small in themselves, but suggest that rank and file members of revolutionary groups are tired of sectarianism, and that the prospects of a unified regroupment may be improving.

Published by the International Socialists, 6 Cottons Gdns, London E2. Printed by S W (Litho) Printers, Registered with the GPO Annual subscription £2.

NOTICES

NATIONAL meeting of IS and other Left local government workers to discuss the new pay award and to set up a national grouping on Sat July 19 8 pm at 6 Cottons Gardens E2. Contact John Phillips at 68 Longland Ct, Avondale Sq. SE1.

NORTH LONDON IS branches: discussion on election strategy and tactics, 6 Cottons Gdns E2. Sat July 19, 2.30 pm.

STOKE NEWINGTON IS: film show and discussion on May revolution in France, Chicago convention, Vauxhall and Leyland disputes, etc. Mayor's Gallery, Stoke Newington Library, Church St, N17. Sat July 19. All welcome.

SOUTH LONDON IS: Sun July 20 7.30 pm, Nigel Harris on Imperialism and the Third World, Wilton Arms, Thornton Heath High St.