

# Socialist Worker

For workers control and international socialism 145 6 November 1969 every Thursday 3d

**Six  
page  
paper  
next  
week**

Extreme right wing wants 'trial of strength' with Left

## RACIALISTS PLAN TO DISRUPT A-A RALLY

SW Reporter

A SERIOUS THREAT to an Anti-Apartheid Rally in Trafalgar Square this Sunday (November 9) is posed by a march of the extreme right-wing National Front.

If present plans go ahead, the Front will pass through the Square at the height of the rally.

Officially, the National Front march is from Caxton Hall to the Cenotaph in Whitehall where, ironically, they will pay tribute to the memory of those who died fighting the fascists in world war two.

The march will then officially 'disperse' and will form up again beyond Trafalgar Square for another 'march through the West End'.

But it is no secret within the National Front that there will be little official discouragement if sections of the march propel their banners, vans and loudhailers into the middle of Trafalgar Square.

### CONFIDENT

The recent growth of the National Front has filled its members with confidence. Many NF members feel the time has come for a 'trial of strength'.

Their march on Sunday is expected to attract supporters of racist and extreme right groups from all over the country.

## 23 November —big march against war

THE WAR GOES ON. That is the clear message from President Nixon, who spoke to the American people on Monday.

Although the huge demonstrations in the United States against the Vietnamese massacre of the Vietnamese has clearly shaken the ruling class and the Pentagon hierarchy, it is determined to maintain imperialism's stranglehold on south-east Asia.

'Negotiations and peace talks' will not defeat US imperialism. The Vietnamese must drive every soldier from their land and they must be backed in this by massive demonstrations in the west.

The Vietnam Mobilisation Committee is staging a demonstration in London on Sunday 23 November. It will go from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square past the US Embassy and 10 Downing Street.

It must be a massive and militant gesture of defiance to the American rulers and their British hangers-on.

Details from VMC, Room 1, 13 Whites Row, London E1.

Among these is the newly-formed St. George's Society, 'a strong arm' group whose purpose is to add 'ginger and verve' to the movement.

On Saturday 19 October, the Rainbow Room at the Co-op Hall in Reading was booked by the St. George's Society for a meeting.

Mr Bill Bristow, a Co-op employee, who is responsible for the room and attended the meeting, says he was shocked when he noticed that all the literature carried into the meeting was racist and fascist and that one of the songs due to be played on the gramophone was the Horst Wessell song, the Nazi 'hymn of hate'.

### GUN

Films were announced of student demonstrations so that the audience - about 60 people, many of them young toughs and skinheads - could 'see what they were up against'.

At one stage a revolver was passed across the table. When Mr Bristow asked about the gun, he was told it was a fake.

The meeting broke up in chaotic argument, highlighted by the liberal use of four-letter words. The men were persuaded to leave and scuffles followed in the street.

Says Mr Bristow, 'We managed to keep it out of the papers but the St George's Society will not be getting the hall again.'

The Society's members were prominent as stewards in the recent Immigrant Control Association meeting which attracted 200 people in South-hall, Middlesex.

The 9 November demonstration may give the Society its chance to practice what it preaches, particularly as the national press, which was so full of inaccurate scare stories about the impending violence before the October Vietnam demonstration last year, has completely ignored the real possibility of extreme right wing provocation this Sunday.



East London tenants marching to Bow Court on Monday

## 1000 East End tenants march to counter GLC bid to evict 4 families

SW Reporter

MILITANT tenants from London's East End marched on Monday and Tuesday in solidarity with four families threatened with eviction by the Tory-controlled Greater London Council.

Nearly 1000 people carrying banners and posters demonstrated outside Bow Court. They came from the best organised council estates in Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Poplar and they were joined by many trade unionists, including postmen, printers, dockers and building workers.

In court were four families who have refused, with hundreds of other tenants, to pay a rent increase imposed by the GLC last autumn.

But the GLC is not attempting to evict them because of their rent arrears. Instead, it is arguing that because a notice to quit has been issued to the families, then the council is entitled to repossess the properties.

The hearing took place at the same time as the tenants' leaders challenged in the High Court the legality of the rent

start sweeping evictions of all those tenants withholding the increases.

But the size and militancy of the demonstrations shows that the tenants movement, organised by the United Tenants Action Committee, is still powerful and has built vital links with key sections of the labour movement in London.

UTAC has organised a 'flying squad' that is ready to move into action as soon as any evictions are threatened. Bailiffs and police will be confronted by barbed-wire barricades manned by tenants and trade unionists.

### Inspectors strike

120 inspectors and surveyors at CAV-Lucas in Acton, W London, stopped work from 11pm last Friday to discuss a work measurement scheme that has already caused a work-to-rule when a woman worker was transferred to a man's job. They will discuss further action if talks with the management are unsatisfactory.

### Cheered

It was said in court that in one case the rent increase amounted to 10s 10d and the rent went up from £4 14s 6d to £5 5s 4d from September 1968.

The proceedings ended on Tuesday and the judge retired to consider judgment. The defendants were cheered by a large crowd as they left the court.

If the GLC win the case it will be given the go-ahead to

## One family, one house-McCann

IF THE CIVIL RIGHTS movement in Northern Ireland had from the outset taken a course not just against religious discrimination but against bad housing and unemployment we might have avoided much of the recent sectarianism, Eamonn McCann, leading Derry socialist and member of Derry Citizens' Defence Association, said on Monday.

He was speaking at a meeting in Kilburn, NW London called by the local branch of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign.

McCann traced the history

of the civil rights movement since the police riot in Derry on 5 October last year and he exposed the 'fraud of O'Neillite Unionist liberalism' that had 'failed to book police and B-Specials identified as being responsible for criminal acts of violence.'

He was sharply critical of civil rights leaders who had resisted raising demands on social issues.

'It's perfectly obvious,' he said, 'that if you end discrimination in housing and do nothing to increase the total number of houses there will

be less houses left for Protestant workers. John Hume (the middle of the road civil rights spokesman) doesn't seem to realise that, but many Protestant workers have not missed that aspect of the matter.'

### PROGRAMME

He added: 'We have to call for "one family, one house" for everyone as part of the civil rights programme.'

McCann dealt expertly with many questions, mainly from republicans. One questioner pointed out that in 1916

James Connolly had advocated that the revolutionary flag, the Starry Plough, should be carried with the Irish republican tricolour. McCann drew a distinction between 1916, when the bourgeois forces of Ireland had to be mobilised in the national revolution, and 1969 when the bourgeois forces are in command.

McCann said it was necessary for socialists to distinguish themselves, as he and his comrades had done in Derry, by 'flying the Starry Plough against the tricolour.'

NEXT WEEK Socialist Worker starts production of a regular six-page paper.

This is the successful result of a six-month campaign to raise money to expand our print-shop and buy extra machinery.

We are grateful to all our readers and supporters who have made this important development possible.

The bigger paper will feature more background material of use to militants in industry. In particular, we will analyse in depth a whole series of 'productivity deals' and show how these schemes are designed to weaken rank and file militancy and to boost profits.

Working-class history will get more space, too, together with clear and concise reviews of the classics of marxism and the work of the great figures of the international labour movement.

And underpinning all our reports and features will be facts and figures about profits, prices, wages and the decay of the social services, together with exposures of the rackets of the top people and the plight of the homeless and underprivileged.

More room will be given to your letters. Socialist Worker believes in letting its readers have their say. So if you have something to get off your chest (and it's usually an angry blast at us!) get it down on paper.

Equally important, the bigger paper will give us room to breathe. Socialist Worker will be less crowded and will have more pictures and cartoons.

The price will be 4d. We are sorry for the increase, but unlike the millionaire press we have no lucrative advertising revenue and soaring postal, paper and printing costs make the increase inevitable. But 4d is still excellent value these days.

YOUR help is essential. To build down costs and make us the best value for money, we need thousands of new readers.

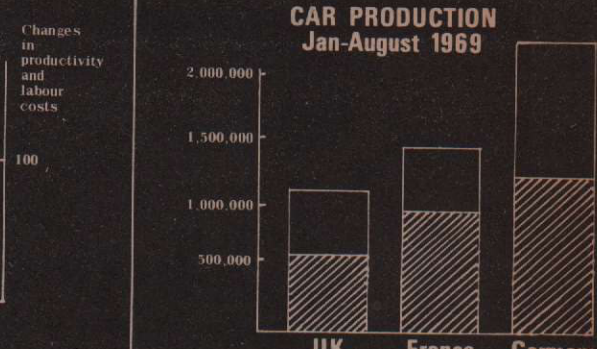
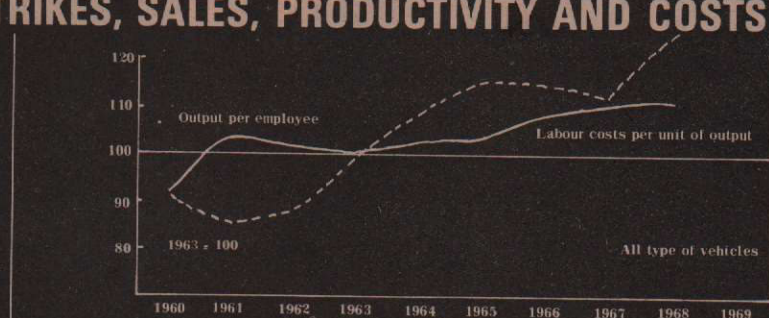
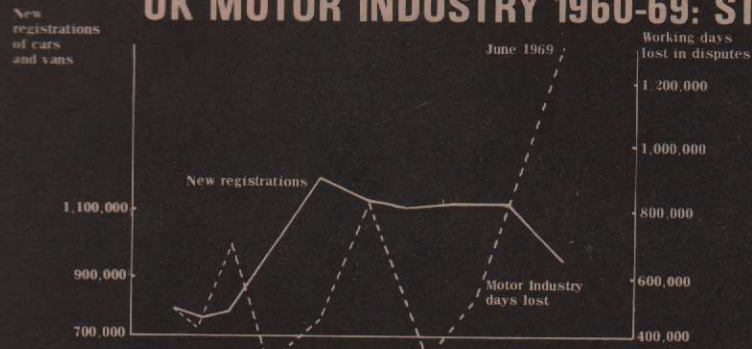
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The bigger paper marks a small but important advance for the revolutionary movement. If we all fight together to build the paper's circulation and influence, the six-pager may just be a stepping stone to even better things...

THE  
EDITOR

# UK MOTOR INDUSTRY 1960-69: STRIKES, SALES, PRODUCTIVITY AND COSTS



# Scramble for profits behind car strik

by Steve Jefferys

ANY MAN of reason and patriotism must at this point cry out "Wake up Britain" and who is there left to cry out?

Not another outburst from Enoch but part of a speech dealing with unofficial strikes by Mr Douglas Richards, president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (and chairman of Zenith Carburettor) at the annual Motor Show dinner.

All the big four motor companies in Britain, British Leyland Motor Corporation and the American-owned ones, Ford, Vauxhall and Rootes, have had big strikes so far this year. During the first seven months of this year the number of days lost in disputes is already double last year's record total, before counting the present disputes at Vauxhall and Standard Triumph (BLMC).

There are three basic reasons:

The depressed economic condition of the market for cars.

A major offensive against their workers by the big car employers.

And the car workers' reactions to this attack.

The left-hand graph shows how new registrations of private cars and private vans moved from its 1960 peak to a new record level in 1964 that has not been reached since.

Profits as a percentage of capital invested in the industry also declined: from 17.5 per cent in 1964 to 1.3 per cent in 1967. In 1968 the success of the employers' offensive enabled profits to jump considerably, more than doubling in Ford, British

Leyland and Rootes. But that is part of the story of the balance of the class struggle between employers and workers.

Cars are not selling in Britain because of the greater pressures of international trade and because the government uses the motor industry as the main tool with which to jack down the economy. For the last year hire purchase restrictions have been back at the 1966 high (40 per cent down and 24 months to pay). But this time HP companies are also prevented from lending at any time more than 98 per cent of the loans total outstanding at the time of devaluation.

Devaluation, making British cars cheaper abroad, was supposed to be a substitute for a healthy home market. But it's not good enough.

## Ready cash

It gives the car firms the ready cash necessary to maintain their existing capacity for production. Yet it does not provide them with big enough profits to satisfy either the greed of their shareholders or their own need to expand at home and overseas.

Thus even the record export performance of the UK car industry in the first seven months of this year falls when compared with those of France and Germany (see chart).

Facing a poor home market and a highly competitive overseas one, the car industry 'big four' acted in precisely the manner urged on them by the Labour government. They tried to raise their profits through an offensive against their workers' job conditions and wages.

The Labour government got the official trade union lead-

ers to accept a succession of squeezes and freezes on straight wage increases. Then the bosses came in with an upper-cut: they would allow some wage rises, but only if the workers agreed to work harder and suffer a worsening of job conditions.

In all the major car factories the pattern has been the same. Since the year of peak production in 1964, when Labour came to power, wage rises have been more difficult to win and, more and more frequently, they have only been won by the sale of hard-won protective job conditions, like cleaning-up time, tea breaks and extra manning.

The Rootes management (completely under American control from 1966) has been able to go one step further. It has also secured a change-over in the whole method by which its workers were paid. Measured Day Working (MDW) has replaced the old Payment By Results (PBR) system.

PBR allowed the workers to fight for wage increases section by section inside the factories - encouraging 'wage drift'. When this happens and wage rises exceed the limits allowed for by national awards, a firm's plans get out of step. And particularly in the car industry, where forward planning is crucial (it takes about three years of planning and £20m in investment before a new model can come out), wage drift is very damaging to profits.

Table 1 shows how much more effective MDW is at reducing wage drift than PBR.

The employers are therefore prepared to pay quite considerably for the initial change-over to MDW, as Rootes have done in 1968 and 1969 at their Linwood and Ryton factories.

But after that they will expect a slower increase in their labour costs than would



STOKES: considering MDW at British Leyland

have occurred under the old piecework system. That is why Sir Donald Stokes of British Leyland is at present considering ways of making the same changeover in all his factories.

Unfortunately for the workers, the employers' attack has been fairly successful. The dotted line in graph number two showing changes in output per worker (productivity) indicates a 36 per cent rise from 1961 to 1968.

Since 1964 the labour force in the vehicle industry has been cut by 6.5 per cent

(the 1963 level = 100 per cent) and the major brunt of the extra work has been borne not by new machinery (as happened before 1964) but by those workers that are left. The continuous line in the graph, showing that from 1964 the industry's labour costs per unit of output have not risen as rapidly as productivity, makes it clear that these workers have also not won wage increases equal to the work they are now doing.

## Double profits

Since 1964 the car bosses have been able to get their workers to increase productivity (work harder) without raising the overall level of production. This has been achieved by redundancy, cutting back the size of the labour force, concentration in the hands of only four UK producers, and by instituting short-time working, lay-offs and frequent management-provoked strikes.

This combination largely accounts for the doubled profits of 1968. In a stagnant domestic market they still pushed profits up with the help of a record number of days lost in disputes, an 11.2 per cent increase in productivity, and a mere 1.3 per cent rise in labour costs per unit produced.

The staggering totals of days lost in the industry force car workers to feel directly the major contradiction of the capitalist system - its tendency to overproduction. In the car industry this is politely called 'stockpiling'.

In recent years the employers have used their ability to produce more cars than they

can sell primarily against their workers rather than in gentlemanly price competition between each other. Indeed, the recent similar all-round price increases announced almost simultaneously by British Leyland, Ford and Vauxhall (who controlled 80.3 per cent of the market in June 1969), suggests that price competition is hardly important at all now.

Where the car firms really compete is in trying to boost their profits by cutting labour costs relative to production. That is, in productivity competition.

Car workers are therefore faced with the following dilemma: accept worse job conditions (and reduce the bosses' labour costs) or strike. But to strike when the market is stagnant and the employers have stockpiled also means to reduce the bosses' labour costs.

In this dilemma the immediate victory is always to the boss. Only a very long strike can really hurt him and only a combine-wide stoppage has any real chance of effectiveness.

This dilemma accounts for what the superficial observer sees as a contradiction in this analysis: how productivity and the capacity for production goes up and yet production itself goes down. The employers' strategy is to make the fullest use of their productive capacity - but for short working periods.

Thus because it is not selling, British Leyland's new Maxi production line is going to be run at its original speed on a three-day week, instead of cutting production by slowing the line down and giving the men a five-day week. As the Financial Times motor industry correspondent explained it on the eve of the Motor Show - 'the factories had to be kept going, when the unions (read employers) permitted, at full stretch to meet even the limited home and export demand.'

This front line position that car workers find themselves in has no easy answer. Both

advance and in victory for you can't even in the sand a problem doesn't

The problem of productivity of socialist finally solved places control in the hands. The conscious socialist aware accounts for the battle and des carworkers' st the world.

For revolutionists, the gent of capitalism stability on t workers must peg on which wider propagandessity for cha importance of organisation.

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In fighting ands, workers the anarchy o car industry. ing to fight fo doing much preparing to calism as a whe

Political

Table One	rate per hour	1957	1967	Increase hr. rate	Incr. by National award	Incr. by Wage drift
PBR workers (Rootes, BLMC)	7/11½	14/5	6/5½	1/9¼	4/7¾	
MDW workers (Ford, Vauxhall)	6/6	9/6½	3/0½	1/9¼	1/2¾	

Table Two	New registrations of private cars and private vans:				
1960:	805,000	1961:	743,000	1962:	785,000
1963:	1,009,000	1964:	1,191,000	1965:	1,223,000
1966:	1,065,000	1967:	1,116,000	1968:	1,117,000
est. 1969:	970,000				

Table Three	Days lost in strikes:				
1960:	515,000	1961:	425,000	1962:	747,000
1963:	315,000	1964:	429,000	1965:	862,000
1966:	344,000	1967:	504,000	1968:	887,000
Jan - June 1969:	1,133,000				
Jan - July 1969:	1,150,000				

Table Four	Vehicles - output/employee:						
1960:	93	1961:	88	1962:	91	1963:	100
1964:	108	1965:	115	1966:	114	1967:	113
1968:	124						

Table Five	Labour Costs/unit of output:						
1960:	93	1961:	103	1962:	103	1963:	100
1964:	101	1965:	102	1966:	108	1967:	110
1968:	111						

Table Six	Car Production: Jan - August 1969:			
UK:	domestic:	610,000	overseas:	500,000
France:	domestic:	880,000	overseas:	653,000
Germany:	domestic:	1,145,000	overseas:	975,000

# Socialist Worker

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state of workers' councils and workers' control of production. Only thus can the transition be ensured to a communist society in which the unprecedented productive forces thrown up by capitalism can be used to assure an economy of abundance. Only the working class, itself the product of capitalism, has the ability to transform society in this way, and has shown its ability to do so in a series of revolutionary struggles unprecedented in the history of all previous exploited classes. The working class gains the experience necessary to revolutionise society by constant struggle against the

ruling class through the mass organisations thrown up in the course of that struggle.

To overcome the unevenness with which this experience is gained, to draw and preserve the lessons of past struggles and transmit them for the future, to fight against the pressure of 'bourgeois' ideas in the working class, and to bond the fragmentary struggles against capitalism into a conscious and coherent offensive, a revolutionary Marxist party of socialist militants is required, embracing the vanguard of the working class.

The struggle to build such a party is only part of the wider struggle to create a World Revolutionary Socialist International, independent of all oppressors and exploiters of the working class, whether bureaucratic or bourgeois.

International Socialists therefore fight for:

Opposition to all ruling-class policies and organisations.

Workers' control over production and a workers' state.

Opposition to imperialism and support for all movements of national liberation.

Uncompromising opposition to all forms of racialism and to all migration controls.

# Joining a denied to

THE MINISTRY of Defence has rejected a request from the Transport and General Workers Union to allow them to represent servicemen.

Louder voices must now join the chorus of trade unionists who, over the years, have spoken of the plight of soldiers, sailors and airmen.

One of the most basic rights of all workers - to form their own organisations - has been continually denied to members of the armed forces and some courageous service-

men have suffered attempts to known.

Revolution may feel that have to conc with the prob troops. After troops cease when they put become the a of capitalism defenders of it

This is to remember the the army in

# Industry: CP's on

WHILE I agree with the general ideas of Fred Lindop's article on the crisis in the British Communist Party (23 October) I think certain aspects must be emphasised.

The essence of the crisis is the decay of the CP under the Gollan leadership, an extension of the general 'peaceful co-existence' line of Moscow. This has led to a dramatic running down of the party's organisation and influence in the factories in favour of enormous efforts in elections.

Instead of the expected influx of recruits and building of a 'mass party', existing members have been dropping out, thoroughly fed up with

pushing leaflet boxes.

The crisis head over the but it is not merely the fo now takes.

Sid French District Comm his Stalinist shortcomings, most progress the party. Do on Czechoslo the fact that putting the C strength back line of the cl

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the paper.

# CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Russian's grip is tightening

## BUT BRITISH CP LEADERS EITHER DISTORT THE FACTS OR IGNORE THE GROWING REPRESSION

by Chris Harman

IT IS NOW more than 14 months since half a million Russian troops invaded Czechoslovakia without invitation and without warning.

Many of the goals the Russian leaders set themselves at the time have been achieved. The implementation of reforms in society generally and in the economy in particular has been halted.

The free and open debate in every area of Czech life no longer takes place. The security police are once again operating to investigate and arrest dissidents.

Yet the ferment caused by the invasion has not subsided everywhere. It still causes problems in the Communist Parties in the West. The invasion is likely to be the most contentious issue discussed at the British Communist Party congress in a week's time.

### DISSENT

At the time of the invasion the executive of the CPGB passed a resolution deploring "the intervention from outside the country to remove some of the leaders of the Communist Party... is a gross violation of the democratic rights of Czechoslovak Communists". Even at the time this met with considerable dissent in the branches of the party.

More than 40 per cent of the membership either voted against this or refused to vote for it. R. Palme Dutt, for more than 40 years a leader of the party, wrote a long article in Labour Monthly implying support for the invasion.

Now those who supported the intervention are openly arguing with the party leader-



Svoboda and Dubcek: Czechs who supported their 'human socialism' now need support from western revolutionaries

ship in the weekly Comment and in the Morning Star.

Their argument is that the invasion was justified because 'counter-revolution' was threatening in Czechoslovakia last year. Palme Dutt, for example, focussed upon the manifesto '2000 Words', published in Prague at the end of June 1968.

He calls it 'notorious' because, he says, it called for 'strikes, disorders... and maintaining with weapons if necessary a government following a mandate they propose' (Labour Monthly, October 1968). In fact Palme Dutt only gives this impression of '2000 Words' as the centre of a counter-revolutionary conspiracy by deliberately distorting what it actually said.

To gain his effect he has to condense two paragraphs 500 words apart. The first in fact reads, 'Let us demand the resignation of people who have misused their power, who have harmed public property, or have acted dishonestly or brutally. We must find ways to induce them to resign, for instance through public criticism, resolutions, demonstrations, demonstrative work brigades, collection drives for gifts to them when they withdraw, strikes and boycotts of their doors. However, we must reject methods which are illegitimate, indecent, or gross...'

Hardly a call to revolution

or to... 'counter-revolution'. But what about the reference to 'weapons'. Yes, this does appear, with reference to defending the communist government of Dubcek. 'We can assure the government that we will give it our backing, even with weapons, as long as the government does what we gave it the mandate to do.'

Just as he deliberately distorts in order to give the impression that a counter-revolution was threatening, Dutt pretends not to understand the revulsion felt by the mass of the Czechoslovak population against the Novotny regime that had lived under for 20 years.

The worst he can say of the old government is that it was a 'routine-ridden bureaucratic regime' with 'restraints and negative features accompanying 20 years of tremendous advance of socialism'. Hardly an adequate description for a regime that could execute 10 Communist government ministers and the secretary of the Communist Party in 1953.

But if the oppositionists can only justify their position by distortion of the facts, the official leadership is hardly better. As repression in Czechoslovakia tightens up, they seem increasingly prepared to ignore it.

They put forward for the Congress a mere three-line



"I would like to know exactly what is constructive criticism and what is destructive criticism?" — "That's very simple: If you criticize yourself or someone below you, it's constructive criticism. But if you criticize someone above you, it's always destructive criticism." A cartoon from a Prague magazine during the brief 'thaw' before the Russian invasion.

resolution to justify their position of a year ago. A few months ago they seemed to refuse as a matter of principle to sign the declaration of 61 Communist Parties meeting in Moscow but now they claim that an obscure statement by their executive and a letter by John Gollan should be considered as their signing the declaration with 'reservations'.

It is clear that further arrests are now taking place in Czechoslovakia. It is also clear that there is still huge opposition among the mass of the people to both the Russian occupation and the acquiescence in it by Husak.

Those who took seriously Dubcek's talk of 'socialism with a human face' need solidarity and support from revolutionaries in the west more than ever now. Yet as this need increases, the CPGB seem more and more inclined to try and forget the whole business.

You do not have to be particularly profound to see the reasons for this. The CPGB has not even begun to analyse why the Russians should behave as they did last year.

No attempt is made to link this behaviour with their actions towards China (the withdrawal of desperately needed aid and technicians in the early 1960s, threats of war over a few square miles of barren territory), or with

the invasion of Hungary and the murder of the Communist Nagy 13 years ago.

Of course, the Chinese who refer to the 'fascist invasion of Czechoslovakia', cannot make such an analysis either, having said in 1956 that 'the joyous news has arrived' that the Kadar government had been set up 'with the support of the soviet armed forces'.

There had been no attempt to explain the economic exploitation of Czechoslovakia by the Russians shown over 18 months by the refusal of the Russians to give the Czechs a 'hard currency loan', although the Russians owe the Czechs more than \$500m as a result of trade transactions in the last eight years.

### SUPPORT

Such an overall account of the actions of the Russian leaders could only lead to support for those intransigent elements in Czechoslovakia and the rest of Eastern Europe who are still fighting to end the Russian occupation and to establish a regime based upon socialist, working class democracy. It would mean support for those like the 'Revolutionary Socialist Party' in Czechoslovakia, whose manifesto was recently published in Black Dwarf, and Kuron and Modzelewski in Poland, now imprisoned for

their second spell of three years.

The CPGB's leadership shows no signs of taking its opposition to the Russian invasion seriously. Although many communists were sincerely shocked by the invasion, one suspects that the chief motive of the party leadership in this country (and even more so in somewhere like Italy) was to convince those in the trade union bureaucracy and those 'left MPs' with whom they collaborate that they were no longer 'subversive', that they really are an integral part of the reformist 'left'.

But at the same time the CPGB leaders do not want to finally break with their older friends in Moscow and the advantages such friendship brings — for example advertisements for the party press and a guaranteed sale for the Morning Star in Eastern Europe.

Those in opposition to the leadership, who refer to it as 'soft', are correct, but for the wrong reasons.

Its softness lies not in opposing Russia but in refusing to do so in a clear and consistent manner, just as it refuses in this country to clearly and consistently make clear its opposition to 'left' trade union leaders who sell out and 'left MPs' who vote solidly for Wilson and usually accept government jobs from him.

## Join the International Socialists

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36 Gilden Road NW5
- HARLOW Hugh Kerr  
70 Joiners Rd Harlow Essex
- HARROW Kevin Simms  
56 Salisbury Road
- HAVERING Terry Ward  
91 Heath Park Rd Gidea Pk
- HEMEL HEMPSTEAD  
John Barrett 20 Belswaines Lane
- HORNSEY Valerie Clark  
18 Dickinson Rd NS
- ILFORD Lionel Sims  
16 Madras Rd Ilford 01 478 7311
- IPSWICH Brian Mulvey  
104 Westbourne Road
- KILBURN Valerie Lloyd  
37 King Henry's Rd NW3
- KINGSTON John Owen  
4 Sandown Court Esher
- LANCASTER Don Milligan  
56 Norfolk Street
- LAMBETH Andy Smith  
Flat 6 126 Streatham Hill SW2
- LEICESTER Lynette Allham  
Stanford Hall Stoughton Drive  
South Oadby Leics.
- LEEDS Vince Hall  
Flat 3 25 Bagby Rd Leeds 2
- Woodhouse-Viv Hopkins  
25 Midland Rd Leeds 6
- LOWESTOFT Trevor Moss  
82 Blackheath Rd
- MANCHESTER-J Sutton  
11a Rowan Ave Wally Range M16
- Joni Jones 15 Parsonage Road  
Manchester 20
- MERSEYSIDE Janice Humphrey  
96 Princes Rd Liverpool 8

- MERTON Pam Kelsey  
47 Richmond Avenue SW20
- NEWCASTLE Barney Hardy  
26 Lesbury Rd Newcastle 6
- NORTHAMPTON Mick Bunting  
25 Witton Rd Duston
- NORWICH Gerald Crompton  
220 College Rd NOR 54F
- OXFORD Steve Bolchover  
181 Ifley Rd
- PORTSMOUTH Alan Sandham  
43 Marmion Rd Southsea Hants
- POTTERIES Dick Pratt  
27a North St Newcastle Staffs
- RICHMOND Edward Brown  
4 Cheyne Ave Twickenham Mddx
- SELBY John Charlton  
12 Thatch Close Selby Yorks
- SHEFFIELD Rick Osborn  
159a Rustlings Rd Sheffield  
S11 7 AD
- SOUTHAMPTON John Fisher  
144 Thornhill Park Road
- SOUTHERN Chris Peace  
18 Stirling Ave Leigh-on-Sea Essex
- STOCKPORT Geoff Hodgson  
73a Forest Range M/C 19
- STOKE NEWINGTON  
Mike McGrath 28 Manor Road N16
- SWANSEA Dick Jones  
37 Bryn Road
- TEESSIDE Phil Semp 72 Mersey  
Rd Redcar: Rob Clay 33 Pasture  
Lane Lazenby Teesside
- TOTTENHAM Laurie Flynn  
374 High Road N17
- WANDSWORTH Mark Hutton  
87 Broderick Road
- Wandsworth Common SW17
- WATFORD Paul Russell  
61 Carpenders Avenue  
Carpenders Park
- WIGAN Ray Challinor  
34 Whiteside Ave Hindley
- YORK Bob Locker 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Send to 6 Cottons Gardens London E2

## Union — basic right servicemen

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situation. Will politically conscious soldiers and sailors have a history of struggle to show to workers? At the moment, the serviceman who is the slightest bit militant is immediately crushed, for we are not allowed to take part in political activities.

The situation in the armed forces is becoming explosive. Class differences are razor sharp and conditions atrocious.

The majority of servicemen come from the most depressed

areas and are the sons of the most oppressed members of the working class. More than half a million servicemen are recruited straight from school and spend their youth in a job they detest.

The most desperate of these reluctant servicemen attempt suicide or desert. Some deform themselves for life in trying to get out.

Thousands apply in vain for discharge — you can not resign from the services, but have to 'buy yourself out' if you are given permission.

The armed forces are not what government propaganda would have us think. There is acute discontent.

Trade unionists should raise the issue of representative rights now to force the government's hand. Only then will the men of the armed forces begin a real fight and know where their strength lies.

At present they stand as individuals against the system. They suffer humiliating and degrading conditions under capitalism which the majority of workers have not tolerated for half a century.

Our political struggle and an understanding of the human problems that face all sections of the working class must go hand in hand.

Trade union rights will be the first step in bringing to



light the problems of the armed forces that have been swept under the carpet for so long.

THREE YOUNG British soldiers serving in Northern Ireland were sentenced to nine months' detention in Belfast last week after staging a protest against their living conditions, food and length of guard duties. The men were court-martialled when they refused to leave a damaged house in Dover Street, Belfast which they had occupied as part of their protest.

Young  
Serviceman

# WORK ACCIDENTS RISE AND BOSSES MAINLY TO BLAME

SW Reporter

**THE ANNUAL REPORT of the Chief Inspector of Factories, published last month, shows an alarming increase in the number of accidents and deaths in 1968 and an equally alarming failure on the part of the inspectors to take legal action against responsible employers.**

As we reported on 24 July, when the figures were tucked away without comment in the May issue of the Department of Employment's gazette, accidents were 2.8 per cent higher last year than in 1967.

The rate of accidents is also rising. Reported accidents per 1000 workers in manufacturing and certain services were 30 in 1966, 31.5 in 1967 and 33 in 1968.

Total accidents in 1968 were 312,430 against 304,016 in 1967 and 296,610 in 1966. Total deaths for the same three years were 625, 564 and 710. Once again the highest number of deaths and accidents were in the building and construction industries.

## PLAY DOWN

In his report, the Chief Inspector is careful to play down the responsibility of the employers for the rising toll of deaths and injury.

After taking a 5 per cent sample of accidents in 1968 he concludes that 'in 50.3 per cent of the cases, no reasonably practicable precautions could have been taken by anyone in the factory to prevent the accident or mitigate the injury.'

Investigations of the 359 factory fatalities 'suggest that there were breaches of the law by the employer in 128 cases and by the deceased in two cases.'

And in the construction industry, reports 'suggest breaches of the law in 134 cases by the employer, in four by the deceased and in five by a fellow workman' out of 238 deaths. More than a third of factory deaths and 56 per cent of construction fatalities were due to criminal breaches of the Factories

Act and regulations by employers.

If these proportions are applied to all accidents, 60,000 factory accidents and 25,000 construction accidents were due to criminal breaches of the Act and regulations by the employers. But the Inspector blandly reports that only in 1,597 cases were complaints filed against employers for breaches of safety regulations.

The Chief Inspector makes a disgraceful slur against injured workers by suggesting that increased social benefits encourage them to take time off and therefore artificially bolster the injury rate. He adds that the gross total of accidents reported to the inspectors 'cannot be used as an index of the safety performance of industry.'

The remarks are quite clearly an attempt to whitewash the employers and their proven responsibility for accidents and death. This is not surprising, for the factory inspectors form part of the Department of Employment and Productivity, the vanguard of the government's attack on wages and working conditions.

It would be interesting to know what part productivity deals, aimed at weakening shop-floor control of job organisation, are responsible for the increasing rate of accidents.

And it looks as if the inspectors have undergone their own pay and productivity deal. This year, unlike previous reports, there is no mention of the sum spent by the inspectors on their own investigations, neither are we told the number of inspectors employed in 1968.

These omissions suggest that both money and staff have been cut. If this is the case, trade unionists will have clear evidence of the Labour government's determination to go the whole way—even as far as the graveyard—to attack the safety and conditions of the workers in order to help the employers boost their profits.

Facts from Labour Research.



## Angry teachers demand tough action on pay

Eric A. Porter

**THE EXECUTIVE of the National Union of Teachers decided last week to organise half-day strikes in selected areas' if negotiations on the present claim for £135 a year as an interim pay increase break down.**

Feeling among teachers is now so strong that the move by the executive will certainly be challenged as insufficient to meet the situation. Seven thousand London teachers have already taken such action last July when they left their classrooms and marched through the streets of the capital to two great mass meetings in Central Hall and Festival Hall.

The 7 per cent increase granted to the teachers in April was represented as the maximum possible under the Prices and Incomes Act. Yet massive increases have been granted to senior civil servants and to chairmen of nationalised boards.

### Desperate

The 7 per cent represented 3½ per cent (the so-called government ceiling) for each of the two years since the teachers' last increase in 1967. The cost of living increase in the same period, according to official figures, was 10.5 per cent, leaving them in fact worse off. As the award was supposed to be for two years, even if the cost of living rises at the same rate, it would reach a figure some 16.6 per cent above 1967 in 1971. Teachers would then be in the desperate position of having to demand an increase of 10 per cent merely to get back to 1967 standards.

There will be loud demands for much stronger action than half-day strikes. The Inner London Teachers' Association (the NUT unit for the area) is demanding a national one day strike by the first week of December, followed by longer area strikes if their demands are not realistically considered. The national NUT Young Teachers' Conference in September made a similar demand.

The management panel of the Burnham Committee, the teachers' negotiating body, must be considering how little they can concede to buy off sufficient of the fainthearted and at least temporarily stem the rising tide of militancy that threatens to sweep a reluctant and timid NUT executive before it and bring

large numbers of the nation's schools to a standstill.

An additional alarming feature for both the employers and the NUT executive diehards is the growing unity in action between the NUT and their traditional rivals, the National Association of Schoolmasters.

A united delegation lobbied MPs last week from Wandsworth in London. Joint meetings are to continue there. Similar developments are reported from all over the country.

Secretary for Education Mr Edward Short who pleaded at the Blackpool NUT Conference for teachers to turn away from trade unionism and become 'professional', must learn that teachers have come a long way from the days when they shuddered at the mere mention of the word 'strike'. They are learning fast that demands, no matter how 'just', will be conceded only if backed by united strength and determination.

## No redundancy scheme used to sack 7 workers

Rob Clay

**MIDDLESBROUGH:-** 500 process workers at British Tritan's Teesside chemical works are on unofficial strike caused by a management dodge to sack workers through a productivity deal.

The firm used a loophole in a trial productivity scheme, that was designed to prevent redundancies, to sack seven men — and then ordered seven other workers to do the 'redundant' jobs.

When shop stewards told the management that none of the workers would do these jobs, managerial staff took over. The entire shift walked out on 28 October.

The stewards have offered to meet the management but the men will not go back until the company agrees to at least re-employ the sacked men on a week to week basis while negotiations take place.

The strike is distinguished by an inspiring degree of class solidarity. Middlesbrough dockers are blocking both supplies of raw materials to the plant and finished products coming out.

## What we think

### The by-election sham

**LAST WEEK'S BY-ELECTIONS,** seen against the background of many prolonged, hard-fought and bitter strikes, notably those of the dustmen and the miners, have highlighted the irrelevance of official party politics to working-class hopes and aspirations. The make-believe world of the Labour politicians conceals the grim realities of their policies. Myths about the 'national interest', the necessity for 'self-restraint', for 'Britain to pay her way' have been used to mask consistently anti-working-class policies.

What all this means is that the working class has to make the sacrifices and bear the burden of modernising British capitalism. Incomes policy was sold to many Labour Party left-wingers in 1964-65 by the promise of social justice tacked on to it. It was stressed that incomes policy would be used to improve the lot of the lower-paid workers. Such a statement today would cause only a hollow laugh for it was always meaningless to talk of controlling profits under capitalism, as the disintegration of incomes policy has shown — first into a wages freeze, then into wage 'restraint' with increases limited to 3 per cent and then only if tied to productivity deals.

Now, however, with a general election approaching, Wilson and his 'team' have to show that everything has been worthwhile after all. The rosy trade figures that are banded around are a sign of how well the workers have been fleeced. Labour has life and soul and capitalist heart.

But many workers have had enough. The dustmen in Hackney led the first breakthrough, followed by the rest of the dustmen in London, then in Manchester, Nottingham, Glasgow and elsewhere as well as by large numbers of local government manual workers. The miners followed, out in solidarity with the struggles of the grossly deprived surface workers. Now the firemen have threatened action. In all cases substantial concessions have been made to the men (the threat of the London firemen already leading to an offer of a 17 per cent pay rise) — substantial that is in terms of what the government has claimed to be possible.

### Apathy and cynicism of Labour voters

Though the demands of the strikers have not anywhere been satisfied, the gains they have made have clearly shown that the Labour Party's politics are a fraud, its declarations of intent a mockery. It is still class struggle which determines your position in this rotten capitalist system. And that struggle can only be waged in one way — by being willing and able to fight against anyone, the Labour government included, who attacks, threatens or helps to maintain the workers in a subordinate position in society.

What the by-elections have shown is the apathy and cynicism towards the parliamentary sham that is felt by many people who previously voted Labour. In Swindon, Labour's vote fell by over 9000 while the Tories' only went up by 900; in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Labour lost about 10,000 votes, the Tories over 1000. Overall, Labour lost between 7000 and 10,000 votes per constituency while the Tories nowhere gained as many as 1300. This apathy and cynicism towards conventional politics is justified. These politics are a mask which hides the grim realities of class rule and exploitation. The real life and soul of the labour movement is elsewhere: in the mines, among the council workers, among the factory workers. Here the real politics of the situation — class politics — have come to the fore and they are as alive as ever.

Genuine gains may be made, but only by workers prepared to go beyond the bounds of what the rulers define as legitimate, by going beyond the fake reformism of the Labour Party machine and the parliamentary system. And these gains can only be safeguarded, once and for all, by the overthrow of the capitalist system.

## STRIKING BREWERY MEN SAY NO TO PAY OFFER WITH 'STRINGS'

Mick Bunting

**NORTHAMPTON:-** 160 transport workers who have been on strike for two weeks at the Watney-Mann brewery were joined by 400 employees from inside the works last Friday.

The unofficial dispute is over wage negotiations that have dragged on for months but which came to a head when the management cut the transport men's overtime.

The men's present basic pay is £150s6d for a 40 hour week, but with bonuses average earnings are £1917s6d. The men are demanding £26 and the management has offered £222s with 'strings attached'.

Transport workers from Watney's Norwich depot who came to Northampton for loads during the first week of the dispute told the strikers that they had accepted a similar offer and now regretted it because of the strings. The Norwich workers returned to their depot with an empty lorry rather than scab.

### Loading ban

In the past, the brewery has employed outside hired vehicles for deliveries. The men accepted this state of affairs but recently Saturday loading by brewery transport workers was banned without a similar ban being placed on the outside vehicles.

During the first two weeks of the dispute pub landlords were allowed to collect their own beer supplies but this is no longer possible since the inside workers joined the strike. Landlords may find it hard to get beer from other sources.

The inside workers joined

the strike because their TGWU branch standing orders state that all members must support an unofficial strike by any section of the membership if it lasts for 14 days or more. The men have resolved to stay out until both the pay and the Saturday loading issues have been settled.

This is the first big strike for a long time in Northampton, a town where wages are very low. The Watney-Mann workers need support and encouragement.

Messages of solidarity and donations should be sent to the TGWU branch secretary, J. Allen, 52 Warren Road, Dallington, Northampton.

### TWO STUDENTS LEAVE JAIL

**TWO students** have been released from Brixton Prison two weeks after being remanded in custody as a result of a small demonstration at the University of London's Senate House. A third student remains in jail because of an alleged visa irregularity.

Five students were arrested on 21 October while protesting at the University's support for University College, Salisbury, Rhodesia, increasingly dominated by Smith's racist Rhodesia Front Party. The arrests followed particularly brutal attacks on the demonstrators by university officials. One student had to be admitted to hospital.

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One shop steward said: 'In my opinion it has been shown that productivity deals at British Tritan are not the best method of improving conditions. We should go for a straight across-the-board cash increase.'

Donations and messages of support to: Tim Barrass, 44 Longford Street, Middlesbrough.

## NOTICES

**LSE SOCIALIST SOCIETY:** Charles Leinenweber, Berkeley California International Socialists, on The Revolutionary Movement in the USA. Tues 11 Nov, 7.30pm, LSE, Houghton St, WC2. Tube: Holborn.

**MANCHESTER:** Michael Farrell, People's Democracy, on The Struggle in Northern Ireland. Chorlton town hall, 7.30pm Sun 9 November.

**IS TEACHERS meeting,** Sun 9 Nov, 2.30pm 14 Carlisle Mansions, Carlisle Place SW1.

**PREPAYMENT of notices is essential.** Average 5 words to a line, is a line. Remittance and copy not later than Monday.