

**NOTTINGHAM  
WORKER**

**Solidarity Forever!**

L' BOROUGH

STRIKE

National Focus  
For Struggle.

**5p**

EDITORIALThe Labour Conference.

The Labour movement in Nottingham has undergone a number of experiences with regard to the local Labour Party. In the field of education, Labour Councillors successfully held back the threat of comprehensive schools for over a decade. The bilateral system, which gave Nottingham its appalling record, with regard to working class children staying at school after 15, was defended through thick and thin by the Labour Aldermen. On trade union questions, the Labour group as a whole, either did nothing or even lined up with the Tories. The busmen, in particular, have bitter memories about the role of the Labour leaders. The Labour group has played a despicable part on the rents issue. They are going to implement the Housing Finance Act, and all those radical noises made at the last May elections have been shown up as being so much hot air.

Not content with doing nothing positive, they then tag along in the wake of Powell and the anti working class racists by arguing that the Ugandan Asians should not come, because of the housing problem. There is a housing problem, but the Labour Party must shoulder its part of the blame for that. There is no lack of resources and enough builders on the dole.

The Labour Councillors do not inspire confidence but the Labour M.P.'s are worse. It will be a long time before William Whitlock can live down his role as some latter day 'Sanders of the River' in Anguilla. But the wooden spoon, as a so called workers' representative must go to Jack Dunnet. He excelled himself with his support for 'In Place of Strife' (Labour's own Industrial Relations Bill), and for British entry into the Common Market. He talks as a concerned capitalist on housing but his own tenants find him a hard, tough landlord, more interested in his profit than their needs.

All the above might seem a little remote from the Labour Party Conference. But it is essential that we look at the record rather than the rhetoric. It is deeds that count, not words. There were certainly enough words at the Labour Party Conference. We were assured that the Party was in favour of prosperity, full employment and good housing and deplored poverty, unemployment and slums. But what criticisms did it make of the performance from 1964 to 1970, when the housing problem got no better, actual poverty increased and the Wilson leadership spent a lot of its time attacking the Unions? Callaghan's answer was that Labour tried to do too much and it will have to carry out reforms at a slower rate in future!

The crucial test for Labour is how it helps the actual struggle of tenants, trade unionists, etc. now. It is not good enough to say, 'Vote for us and we will solve your problems.' This is what the Labour M.P.'s said to the Stanton iron workers at the protest meeting against redundancies in Ilkeston. It solves nothing. The way forward for the Stanton workers can only lie in their own hands and only a struggle like that carried out at U.C.S., and learning from some of the weaknesses of that experience, can help. An example of the Labour method shown at the Conference occurred in the housing debate. A resolution calling on the Conference to support all those who fought against and refused to implement the Housing Finance Act was being discussed. This was a very good resolution. But how did the left sounding Labour leaders react? They opposed it and they used the left Labour M.P. Frank Allaun to speak against it and got it rejected. They do not want a real fight against the bosses and landlords but merely to use these struggles for their electoral ends. It is also significant that they used the left winger Allaun as the sugar coating on their poison pill.

Perhaps not all of our readers will agree with Nottingham Workers' views on this Conference. This is their right, of course. But rather than leave it as an interesting debating point, let us put it to the test. In the event of the Tories failing to trick the Unions into lowering their wage claims, sections of workers could be forced to take industrial action to protect their standard of living. The response of the right will be immediate. Scare stories will appear in the press. There will be attempts to whip up hatred against that section of workers in particular and trade unionists in general. What a real Labour Party ought to do is obvious. The Party leadership should spearhead a national campaign of solidarity with the workers. Locally, the Nottingham City Party should call demonstrations of solidarity, particularly if local workers are directly involved in the dispute. The Party and Councillors should give all political and financial help that it is humanly possible to give, so that the bosses and Tories receive a resounding defeat. But will they? Let us see, and let us also draw the conclusions from what does happen. But above all, we have to ensure that the left in Nottingham does play an active role in solidarity with workers' struggles and not just sit back and wait for a General Election to return Wilson and his crew.

NOTTINGHAM BUSMEN FACE CHARGES: See Page 10.

Readers will remember that in our last issue we ran an article by Roger Tanner, which described the dispute between busmen employed mainly at the Sherwood Depot and the Nottingham City Transport Authority. Basically this dispute is concerned with the inadequate bonuses, the insufficient rest breaks and the unsatisfactory working conditions which the operators of one man buses have to endure.

Recently, this struggle has taken an extremely serious turn, with the laying of thirteen charges against four busmen, arising out of alleged incidents which took place on September the 2nd., when the Transport and General Workers Busmen's Branch held their first of a series of one day stoppages. The four men: Jim Butler, Ernie Sweeney, Pete Franks and Paddy O'Neill - have twelve charges against them, under the 1875 Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act and one charge under the offences against the person act of 1947. These include alleged assault, persistently following and intimidation. It is believed that the Industrial Relations Act has some bearing on the charges that have been laid and the case is especially significant for this reason.

We cannot comment specifically on the legal proceedings at this stage, due to the matter being subjudice. However, we know that our readers will wish to do everything possible to help the men, both in terms of the court case and in terms of the industrial dispute at the Sherwood Depot. The employers and the courts are becoming far too trigger happy these days. We have had the gaoling of the Dockers, legal proceedings taken against building workers and a host of other less spectacular but nonetheless very important attempts by the forces of repression to use 'legal processes' against working class people fighting for their rights. Of course, the employers and the Government, etc. have a lot going for them. The laws are rigged in their favour and they have anti working class, arrogant bourgeois bigots called Judges to administer them. To use a football analogy, when a working man goes into Court, not only has the other side drawn up the rules but it has appointed its own referee and linesmen as well.

However, even more power lies in the hands of working people as the fight to free the London dockers showed. There should be massive solidarity action organised in support of the Sherwood busmen.

Brian Simister.

The First International Branch in Nottingham

There is one constant feature to real socialist and working class politics: internationalism and the need to build an International based on linking up the separate struggles of the workers in different countries against their common enemy. There have been formed the Second International, which the Labour Party still adheres to, the now defunct Third International and, the Trotskyist Fourth International. The first of these Internationals was formed in London in 1864. The founders were British trade unionists and French and German socialists, including Karl Marx himself.

The First International, or International Working Men's Association, steadily set up branches around Europe and a strong group of the 1st International was set up in Nottingham with its centre on Houndsgate. This branch was involved in co-ordinating strike action between the various trades so that only one trade struck at a time, receiving assistance from the others. It played an important role in politically guiding the struggle of the building workers and had large numbers of plasterers in its membership. Affiliated to the Branch was the Section Francaise de Nottingham. This group, based on Kirk White Street, was made up of refugees from the Paris Commune of 1871 - the first attempt in world history to carry out a Socialist Revolution. One of the leaders of the Commune, citizen Gerbaud, was buried in Ilkeston together with one of the original red flags from the Commune.

But the Nottingham Branch of the 1st International was important not just because of its size and activity but also because it was one of the most politically advanced branches. Its programme is certainly far more coherent than those of other branches. This began: "...this society will advocate and promote the principles of the political and social revolution as being the only principles that will advance the welfare of society as a whole, as being the principles on which alone just and equal government is based, and to which all civilization tends." The programme then went on to call for freedom of expression and education, abolition of class and sex privilege, ownership of the land, national and racial equality and the protection of the rights of oppressed minorities.

The key figure in the branch was Thomas Smith. He was the only English member of the International to develop a philosophy of history. His most famous work was a pamphlet produced by the Nottingham Branch "Letters on the Commune. The Law of the Revolution; or the Logical Development of Human Society". This pamphlet even came to the notice of John Stuart Mill the famous philosopher. He praised it but was worried by the term "revolution" which he saw as an abstract French concept and which ran against traditional British empiricism (i.e. not looking further than your own nose). What Mill failed to grasp was that Smith's socialist outlook was based upon the fact that the present period was the "era of revolution". Smith argued that, until class injustice was removed and a real democracy came into being, there would inevitably be periodic social upheavals and bloodshed. Today, when one considers Ireland and Vietnam, it is clear that it was the Nottingham working man who saw more clearly than the famous John Stuart Mill. Furthermore, Smith not merely saw the roots of present day injustice but how to remove it. The power of the bosses had to be toppled: "capital the servant of labour, and not labour the servant of capital."

A. Jenkins.

The Danger of Organized Racism

In September the National Front began their campaign to get membership in Nottingham, estates were leafleted and about 30 members of the N.F. came from Leicester to Nottingham, holding a meeting in the Market Square. Since then they have begun to hold regular meetings here.

This racist group, whose leaders like Martin Webster, are admirers of Hitler, are taking advantage of the hysteria created by the press and Powell over the entry of the Ugandan Asians, to intensify their membership drive. Planned long before the Ugandan Asians crisis, the N.F.'s "autumn campaign" has had a large amount of success. Many workers have joined the ranks of their fascist group. In Leicester, the NF headquarters, they control several factories, and in Birmingham their 'youth clubs' (!) are attracting many young members of the working class.

This represents a real threat to the working class in Britain. While the traditional leaders of the trade unions and the Labour Party are happy to sit back and moralize, the spread of organized racism in groups like the National Front can split the labour movement as its struggles the Industrial Relations Act and other attacks of the Tories and employers.

The National Front is the old phenomenon of fascism. In the 1930s workers forced them off the streets of Britain, as in the Battle of Castle Street in the East End of London. This must be done again. A group which wishes to smash the organized working class and divided it against its real enemies, cannot be allowed to grow. There should have been no free speech for Hitler, and now none for the National Front!

Black people did not cause unemployment. It was not them who make the government close down the Stanton and Stavely works- it is the employers who fear for loss of profits when they are hit by the competitive system that they stand for. While black and white workers fought together in the builders strike, the bus strikes in Nottingham and the miners strike, it was the National Front who were condemning these actions.

Organized racism then, must be smashed and counter demonstrations to those of the National Front have been organized in London, Birmingham, Blackburn and Leicester. In Birmingham, building workers helped break up a NF rally. While on strike they had had found who were the real enemies and who had stood with them.

On Thursday 12th October, a broad front of Nottingham left wing and anti-racist groups was called together by the IMG to organize action against the resurgence of racism and to show the NF they could not get a foothold in Nottingham so easily. Among the groups represented were the Communist Party, Labour Party, Black Peoples Freedom Movement, IMG, IS, Womens Liberation Group and several college socialist societies. A meeting was planned for Saturday 11th November in the Market Square and all members of the labour movement and those who wish to fight racism are invited to give their support. We hope that all readers of 'Nottingham Worker' support the demonstration which will indicate the only real way of solving the problems facing workers today - smashing organized racism and intensifying the struggle against the attacks of the Tory government and the employers.

L. Ascov.

Students and Accomodation

( Editorial note: in the last issue of Nottingham Worker we examined the Housing problems of working class people in Nottingham. Students are also facing grave problems of accomodation and in this issue, therefore, we got Mike Hanlin a student at the University to write about the problems that students face)

Every year about now the annual student accomodation crisis begins. No flats no bedsits. Hall places (if you can get one) too expensive, accomodation office manned by people who can only inform you that there really is nowhere to live. Who's fault is it?

Firstly there is not much point in the students blaming the University Accomodation Officer. He might well be inefficient and would probably be

better off if he went back to flying Spitfires. But the accommodation problem will not be solved by easing him out and easing somebody else in.

Secondly, we enter a blind alley if we "welcome" as an article in the last Gongster (University student newspaper) did, the news that "the University has decided to let houses to students in the Parkirk area" - congratulating the University on being a good landlord is at best naive. The University owns property, as does any other landlord, for one reason - profit, and it is just this profitability which places a very hard limitation on the degree of "humanity" or "social concern" which the university, or any other landlord for that matter, can be expected to show.

Certainly, "it is right that students should expect to have little or no h accomodation problems" (Gongster) but then so should low income families in the city centre, so should black people, so should the old. The grim reality is, however, that council housing lists are growing longer and longer and this increasing need is not being met by increased house building. In fact the total number of houses built every year has been falling steadily since 1967. In this sort of situation an escape into 'student elitism' - whereby students claim 'special rights' above those of the rest of the working class - in the long run is no escape at all.

The real answer only comes with seeing that student accomodation problems along with other "student" problems of fees and grants are only one aspect of a more general problem - the problem of the national allocation of the States resources in the whole field of social expenditure. The area of social expenditure which most interests students is, of course, that of Higher Education, but this perspective allows us to see the essential links and similarities between the State's strategy in educational expenditure and its strategy in other sectors, especially housing - via the Housing Finance Act.

For students the state's strategy was made very clear a couple of years ago when the Department of Education and Science told the Universities that no more money would be made available for student accomodation and that any new schemes would have to be financed by the Universities themselves through loan finance arrangements. This decision had two effects. Firstly, Halls of Residence were now supposed to become financially self sufficient and the Universities could no longer count on the state to clear up any debts that they might incur. Secondly, the logic of the 'loan-finance' schemes - whereby the students would contribute to future university building programmes through their fees and other costs, rather than the university getting money from the state - meant that there would be a constant upward pressure on Hall fees and other costs. In short students were being expected not just to rent university accomodation but to buy it!

What this has meant is that while student numbers have been steadily increasing in recent years, and this is especially true for the Polytechnic, there has been an insufficient increase in the amount of college or university built accomodation to keep pace. Therefore more and more students are being forced to chase fewer and fewer flats and bedsits in and around the city with the inevitable result that prices have risen. So much is this so that in some areas families on low incomes are being priced out of the market.

It is in this way that the cut back of expenditure in higher education can be seen to work against the interests of all working people and not just students. Of course, cut backs are not just occurring in higher education. Because of the increasingly critical condition of British capitalism the whole spectrum of State social expenditure is in the process of being 'rationalised' i.e. actual cutbacks in social provisions are being attempted in those areas where they think that they can get away with it (free school milk, prescription charges etc.) and a general attempt is being made to simplify existing bureaucratic structures and to cut costs. It is this type of thinking which is behind both the Housing Finance Act and the recent "Tax-credit" proposals.

We should be very clear that cut backs in any sphere of social expenditure inevitably works against the interests of the entire working class. Students should attempt to link wherever possible, their activities on accomodation

and finance with the activities of the working class who face similar problems in the fields of housing and social service provisions. For example, joint activities and campaigns could be held, using University facilities and equipment wherever they might be useful, with local tenants associations and the Claimants Union.

In all our work, however, we should remember that the struggle of students against cutbacks in educational facilities is closely linked to the struggle of the working class against the Housing Finance Act and other attacks (like the Industrial Relations Act, Social Service cuts) - and that all these struggles directly relate to the particular way in which a decaying British capitalism is reacting to the crisis condition of the 1970s.

Mike Hamlin.

### THE HOUSING FINANCE ACT AND LOCAL ACTION AGAINST IT

The Housing Finance Act is an attack by the state on the living standards of the working class. Basically it does two things:

- 1) It provides massive profits for landowners and property speculators by pushing rents up in the public and private sectors to the level of so called 'fair rents'. In the words of the Act, this is the level which would give 'a reasonable return on a dwelling as an investment....' In other words - ensure a substantial profit.
- 2) To offset these major rent increases, and in order to provide a pretence of cheap housing for 'lower paid workers', the act sets out a complicated rent rebate scheme. The aim of this is to make a certain sector of the working class - higher paid council tenants and single men - subsidize the rents of people on low income, instead of attacking the problem at its root by providing decent wages, benefits and pensions for all.

Following the example set by tenants associations up and down the country, the Nottingham Federation of Tenants Associations has recently been organising a campaign against the Act and against the impending rent increases. For example the first two Fridays of October saw Strelley and Bulwell Tenants' Associations mount pickets outside the Rent Office in Burton Street. On these pickets, leaflets were handed over, calling for a total boycott of the rent increases and stating that those families withholding the increase should display a sign - 'No rent increases paid here' - in their windows, thus attempting to create the necessary visible solidarity needed in order to broaden and strengthen the fight.

At the moment it is difficult to estimate the total number of tenants withholding their increase, but the Oct. 26th. edition of the 'Nottingham Evening Post' reckoned the figure to be around the 2,000 mark! Whatever the precise figure, one point remains clear - strong and active tenants' associations are going to be increasingly necessary in the future. Otherwise, the real interests of tenants will become submerged and camouflaged in the welter of bureaucratic rigmarole and form filling, which accompanies the Housing Finance Act and other so called welfare measures.

Nottingham Worker fully supports the activities of tenants' associations in their struggle against this repressive legislation. We will continue to report their activities as they occur.

Jane Browne.

---

### READ 'THE RED MOLE'

News and analysis on all subjects of importance to the revolutionary left. Annual subscriptions £3, from 'The Red Mole',  
182, Pentonville Rd., London, N.1.

---

On October 27th., 200 Indian workers at the Trinity St. Works of Mansfield Hosiery Mills Ltd. came out on strike in support of a wage claim for an extra £5 per week for barloaders in the factory. 80% of the strikers are 'runners on' who have come out in sympathy. Since then the struggle has spread and workers at the Clarence St. branch of the company have also come out, swelling the total strike force to over 400. Unfortunately, the knitters, solely white workers, have stayed at work. The strikers have been given the sack by the management.

At present, bar loaders at this Loughborough factory, get wages of £20.35p for 40 hours a week, well below the national level for the job, or even for other workers in the area. There is also no shift allowance, except that an extra 12½% is earned on night work.

The strikers are also demanding the right to work as knitters. At present this job is kept for white workers only. The Race Relations Board has recently found that both the management and the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers have been guilty of racial discrimination in this matter. All the ~~members~~ are members of this Union. 3 or 4 years ago, when a small number of Indians commenced training to become knitters, the white knitters went on strike in protest. This strike was made official by the Union. At the factory, the Union has no shop steward or branch structure. Its affairs are conducted by full time officials plus a factory committee on which sit a majority of white workers, even though they are in a minority in the factory as a whole.

The other demand of the strike is that there should be no victimisation and that there should be full reinstatement for all the strikers. A recent offer by the management, whilst it made some vague concessions on the knitting jobs question, implied that they wished to drastically reduce the number of bar loaders in the future.

The Union has refused to make the strike official and has continually demanded that the strikers return to work. The local official of the Union, Mr. Carter, displayed such a hostile attitude to the strike, that the men demanded that he should no longer be involved in the dispute. He was replaced by another official, Mr. Gee.

The strike has also been attacked from other sides. The D.E.P. has classified the strikers as redundant, thus making them ineligible for social security benefits, even while their dependents suffer real hardships. The management and the D.E.P. say the strikers broke the N.J.I.C. Agreement, but even had the strikers gone through the requisite number of stages of this agreement, they could only have struck legally if the Union had made it official. Yet, in spite of being attacked by management and the 'unbiased' laws; and in spite of being scabbed on by their Union and the white knitters, they remain determined to win.

Of central importance to the strike is the solidarity received. Early on in the strike, the Nottingham based Solidarity Committee, an organisation set up during the Crepe Size strike, were able to offer their full support to the strike committee. Collections have been held and support organised throughout the East Midlands area. Support has been received from workers in Leicester, Loughborough Trades Council and students at local universities. Nottingham Trades Council whilst not able to give full formal support before consulting the Union involved, took an informal collection at its November meeting. Also, members of the Solidarity Committee have helped on the picket lines. On Saturday, November 18th., pickets



were organised outside the Marks and Spencers stores of Loughborough, Leicester and Nottingham. Apart from the fact that Marks and Spencers is the major customer of Mansfield Hosiery Mills, it also owns 20% of the hosiery firm's shares.

The importance of solidarity has been recognised by the Strike Committee and workers at another branch of the firm (The Nottingham Manufacturing Co.) have come out on sympathy strike. Workers at other branches of the firm in Leicester, Sneyshed and Mansfield have also been approached and have given support. But it is the determination to win of the strikers themselves, which is their basic strength.

This strike has a relevance outside of the confines of Loughborough or even of the East Midlands. It is a fight of Black workers who refuse to be treated as second class citizens and as sources of cheap labour. As a member of the strike committee said: 'The strike represents the struggle of all black workers in Britain to be treated as human beings.' The strikes at Crepe Sizes Ltd, and at Jones Stroud over the summer months pointed out to all and sundry that black workers were no longer prepared to accept the appalling conditions all too prevalent in the East Midlands textile industry. The Mansfield Hosiery Mills strike at Loughborough is another example of this. It also points the way for white workers, if only they would fight against the divisions caused by ~~social~~ prejudice. The way towards the struggle for their rights, whether it be nationally against attacks like the Industrial Relations Act or the Housing Finance Act, or locally against firms like Mansfield Hosiery Mills Ltd., who use racial divisions to divide workers in their fight against the real enemy. When a picket was shouted at by workers in the factory, who called him an idiot for being on strike, he just turned and shouted: 'But it's you who are the idiots. Helping the boss make another million instead of fighting for yourselves.'

Solidarity with the struggle of these workers is essential if this struggle is going to be brought to a successful conclusion. Donations should be sent to one of the following addresses:

The Solidarity Committee, c/o B.P.F.M. Offices, 128, Derby Road, Nottingham.	or	The Strike Committee, 31, Station St., Loughborough, Leics.
---	----	--

Roger Tanner.

### Shivers In St. Annes.

In certain respects St. Annes is rapidly changing. Old streets like Alfred St. (Central), Union Road, Peashill Road, Robin Hood Chase, etc. with their decaying terraced houses, malfunctioning outside toilets, small shops and murky factories are gone for good. No one except perhaps the very old and the over sentimental regrets their passing. Into their place rises the new St. Annes: red barrack like buildings two or three stories high. The Corporation paint is still fresh; these places are not slums yet - but that doesn't mean that the unfortunate tenants haven't got problems.

To problems like high rents are added others in the shape of central heating bills which amount to about £1.50 a week. These bills are paid to a private heating firm who were kindly given the contract by Nottingham City Corporation, even though their tender was not the lowest. Another big problem is that many tenants have found that the central heating system doesn't work and that no alternative heating is supplied.

When the St. Annes Tenants and Residents Association first raised the matter with the Nottingham City Housing Dept., the latter body initially tried to deny responsibility. However, continuing pressure has forced them to change their position, and they have promised to take action on the matter.

A St. Annes Tenant.

### Rally Against Threat To Family Allowances.

A recently issued Government 'green paper' contains proposals which, if implemented, would eventually phase out family allowances. Under the proposed new system, the allowance will become part of the husband's tax relief. Obviously, the allowance could then be wiped out altogether by a juggling of tax figures.

Apart from the above aspect, the proposed change would discriminate against women. At the present time, the allowance is payable directly to the mother. Under the new proposals, it would be up to the father to decide whether or not to hand over the money to the mother to help with the upkeep of the child. Some fathers would hand over the money - but many wouldn't. When one considers the cases of unmarried mothers, separated mothers, etc., it is clear that real hardship would result from such discrimination.

There has been a quick local response to these proposals. On Nov. 21st., women representing Nottingham and District Trades Council, The National Council for Single Women and her Dependents, The Nottingham Women's Liberation Group, Beeston Labour Party and West Bridgford Labour Party agreed that a rally should be organised in the Old Market Square on Saturday, January 13th as part of what will be an ongoing public campaign against the abolition of family allowances.

From press release issued by organizers of meeting.

### 'Tis A Far Far Better Thing That I Do.

People in the habit of reading the 'Nottingham Evening Post' could hardly have failed to notice the recent controversy over the appointment of Mrs. Betty Bakewell to the £3,000 a year post of Senior mistress at Mundella Grammar School. Mrs. Bakewell is the daughter of that revered civic pair Alderman R.E. Green (Chairman of the Education Committee) and his wife Ethel. Upon her appointment, idle tongues began to wag, largely using the trivial argument that Mrs. Bakewell would have been the only non graduate on the Mundella staff. Teachers resigned; parents and pupils complained. Finally, the Nottingham Secondary Education Sub Committee surrendered to mob rule by deciding not to confirm the appointment; at which Mrs. Bakewell issued the following statement, which is deserving of the widest circulation:

'Across the decades my mother, father and I have enjoyed working hard for the people of Nottingham in our various ways. In the 1940's and 1950's we supported flood prevention - my father led the motion which widened and deepened the Trent. Another venture was the maintenance of Mundella as co-educational. In the 1960's the Nottingham Playhouse is a tribute to my father's determination and a secondary bilateral school was named after him. The river carnival from which sprang future festivals was my mother's inspiration.

'My own efforts lie in education in many different spheres and in helping the community in general. As a former prefect and head girl married to an ex Mundellian, it was an ecstatic day when I was given and I accepted the post of senior mistress at Mundella - it lasted nine days. After seven days and nights of serious consideration, it

is with regret that I have today withdrawn my acceptance of the post, since further consideration of the post has been thought necessary by a committee other than the appointing one. It is therefore in the 1970's that I now say; "My family and I love Mundella," and by my act today I hope I am living up to the words of the Mundella school song and am furthering "the welfare of our city and of our motherland" !

Edna Arkwright.

The Busmen's Case Updating Article. (See Page 2)

By now, most people will have heard that the Magistrate's Court discharged the four busmen on November 22nd., 'because a prima facie case had not been established by the prosecution', and because, in the words of the magistrate, 'no jury would convict on the evidence heard.' The Police were furious. The Chief Constable, Mr. Rex Fletcher stormed that the case would be taken on appeal to a judge in chambers, but he was eventually talked out of it.

So a great victory has been won. 'Nottingham Worker' sends its congratulations to the four men involved. The fact that the Magistrates considered that the case against the men was too flimsy even to pass in the anti working class courts, shows how malicious and politically motivated the prosecution was in the first place.

And Another Victory at Loughborough: Updating Article. (See Page 7)

News has just come through that the strike of Indian workers at the Mansfield Hosiery Mills is over. The management and union have signed an agreement to the effect that job discrimination will be ended, that there will be full re-instatement of all strikers, and that there will be no redundancies. Unfortunately, the men haven't got a £5 rise - merely a promise of £1 after the freeze, plus negotiations on this issue. Space does not permit a full analysis of this victory, but it is obvious that from now on, any employer or right wing union which thinks it can continue to get away with racial discrimination will have to start thinking again.

---

CONTENTS: NOTTINGHAM WORKER: FOURTH ISSUE: 23rd. November.

- Page 1. Editorial: The Labour Conference.
- Page 2. Nottingham Busmen face Charges. By Brian Simister.
- Page 3. Nottingham Labour History: The First International Branch  
In Nottingham. By A. Jenkins.  
The Danger of Organised Racism. By L. Ascow.
- Page 4. Students and Accommodation. By Mike Hamlin.
- Page 6. The Housing Finance Act and Local Action Against It.  
By Jane Browne.
- Page 7. The Strike At Mansfield Hosiery Mills Continues.  
By Roger Tanner.
- Page 8. Shivers in St. Annes. By a St. Annes Tenant.
- Page 9. Rally Against Threat To Family Allowances: Press Release.  
'Tis A Far Far Better Thing That I Do. By Edna Arkwright.

---

Editors: Brian Davey and Brian Simister.

Subscriptions: 75p per annum (Cheques and P.O.'s marked cash bearer).  
Letters and subs to: 32, Greys Road, Woodthorpe, Nottingham.

---

Published by I.M.G. (Nottingham Branch), 56, Park Rd., Lenton, Nottm.