

# CHARTIST

LABOUR'S REVOLUTIONARY VOICE No. 32 JULY 1975 Price 6p

Labour Lefts must fight-

## DEFEAT WILSON'S TORY POLICIES

THE WILSON LEADERSHIP is digging the grave of the Labour Government. This is the meaning of the retreats on the election manifesto pledges and the attacks on the Labour Left. No wonder there is talk of coalition, when, at every step, the Labour leaders give in to the demands of the employers and the City of London bankers, who constantly beat the drum for higher unemployment, savage cuts in public spending, a wage freeze and a halt to Labour's nationalisation programme. Labour was elected on a clear pledge to refuse to carry out such Tory policies.

Instead, our leaders choose to wave the white flag of surrender. Prices, which Labour's programme promised to control, rose by 4.2 per cent last month—a rate at which prices would double every two years. Unemployment has risen to 869,000, a record for any June since the War.

### Gospel of cuts

On the wages front too, the Labour leaders spare no effort to spread the gospel of cuts in living standards and the idea that reducing pay claims will have a similar effect on unemployment. Unfortunately, all the TUC leaders do is echo this nonsense. They play on the loyalty of workers to the Labour Party. Now, TUC Secretary, Len Murray, has delivered his latest brainstorm: a revamped Social Contract with the TUC attempting to police the rank and file on Wilson's behalf.

The partial victory of the railwaymen and the rejection of incomes policies—voluntary or otherwise—by the conferences of the Engineers union and the Scottish miners are the best answers to the TUC leaders who seem as distant from reality as Wilson is from carrying out his election pledges. Remember, the promises to control prices, stop rising unemployment and take over profitable capitalist enterprises?

### Avoid pledges

Wilson and the right-wing avoid carrying out these pledges because they know that this will involve a head-on clash with the monopolies. Judith Hart — victim of Wilson's purge of the left—was correct when she said that the right-wing was preparing a catastrophe for the Labour movement. She was also correct when she spelled out the failure of capitalist policies to resolve the crisis and warned of the danger of betrayal if this course was continued.

### by Graeme Atkinson

Benn and Hart were not sacked simply because they opposed the Common Market—the new Industry Secretary, Eric Varley did that. Rather, they were removed because by sticking to the manifesto, they voiced, in a distorted way, the anger of the working class at Wilson's headlong retreat into the arms of the CBI. As such, they were an obstacle to Wilson's further retreat.

Wilson admitted he was blackmailed by Shirley Williams and Roy Jenkins to keep their friend, Reg Prentice in the Cabinet. Concessions to the right... the chop for the left. That is Wilson's policy. Benn and co should have resigned from the Cabinet and carried the fight into the ranks of the Labour movement. It is still not too late to follow that path. At present, Benn is allowing himself to be a prisoner of Labour's right-wing.



Judith Hart: right-wing are preparing catastrophe

Every day, the Tory press gloats over 'the growing gulf between the Government and the Labour Party'. Let us be quite clear: millions voted for Labour to put a halt to Tory policies. It is Prentice, Williams, Jenkins, Wilson... and Foot who are the splitters, who refuse to carry out the pledges and who betray the Labour movement.

A fate worse than Heath awaits us if Wilson is not stopped. The Labour lefts must be made to launch an all-out struggle to turn the tide.

This will involve:

- Total opposition to the Social contract and any other form of wage-restraint—including the Jones' flat-rate scheme. Benn and the Tribune MP's must line up with the miners and engineers against wage-cuts.
  - Total opposition to any more unemployment. Fight for a reduced working week, with no loss of pay, and a scheme of useful public works to re-employ the jobless.
  - Defend and strengthen those parts of the Industry Bill relating to the compulsory disclosure of company information. Open the books of all industry! Abolish business secrecy!
  - Total refusal to offload the burdens of the capitalist crisis, especially inflation, on to the backs of the working class. Fight for an extension of the threshold system to compensate fully for rises in the cost-of-living.
- The more Wilson gives to Big business the more Big business will demand. It is time to call a halt. Either the power of big business is conquered or the capitalists will bring this government down. The lefts must act upon this.

## The Stonehouse way

THE PATHETIC ANTICS OF John Stonehouse—his airport incidents and two-day hunger strikes—should not blind the Labour Movement to the very serious questions involved.

How do people like Stonehouse—now facing 21 charges of fraud, forgery, theft and corruption—get to represent the Labour Movement and become Ministers in a Labour Government?

Don't be taken in, John Stonehouse's story is not that of an "honest politician" who lost his way as a result of pressure and emotional stress. Since the day he entered politics, shady financial dealings and corruption have been the methods of this man.

● 1959. Stonehouse first becomes an MP—a warrant for his arrest is pending in Uganda (some Co-ops he ran there went bankrupt).

● Backed by the BBDO advertising agency, Stonehouse set up his own electoral organisation, the Democratic Cooperative Alliance, within

the London Co-op. The DCA was a right-wing Labour Party organisation involving youngish Gaitskellites like Jim Daly, now a GLC councillor.

To oppose the 'broad left' 1960 Committee, it got together with the long-standing L.C.M.O. (also a Labour Party organisation) to adopt a joint panel of candidates. Witnesses testify that the joint meeting was packed with 100 employees of the BBDO advertising agency, and a purely DCA slate was elected.

The 'Gaurdian' estimates that the BBDO spent a minimum of £30,000 on the Co-op campaign in 1963, providing the services of paid canvassers. As a result Stonehouse was elected President, and practically his first act was to give a £750,000 advertising contract to BBDO.

● Stonehouse resigned from the Presidency of the Co-op in 1964. There was no explanation. Shortly after, John McGrath, the Society's chief accountant was sacked by the

Board of Directors for corruption. He had run a private company which had traded with the London Co-op contrary to the rules. McGrath's only justification was his claim that Stonehouse had personally approved the dealings with his company. Currently McGrath is a director of several of the companies involved with Stonehouse.

● In the early 1960's, Stonehouse was involved as a director of the Ariel Foundation which was financed largely by the CIA, and which subsidised African political leaders as Britain handed over 'independence' in the various African colonies.

● Paul Foot in the 'Socialist Worker' has revealed the details of the involvement of Stonehouse in various money-raising activities when Bangladesh was fighting for independence in 1971. He became trustee of a relief fund, whose acc-

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# THE CHARTIST

Monthly Journal of the Socialist Charter Movement.  
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## Referendum: EEC utopians win the day

HAROLD WILSON'S decision to announce that the fifteen year old "Great Debate" on the EEC is now over, will prove premature. It's said the proof of the pudding is in the eating. And in eating the Common Market pudding many people will be expecting to find the promised end to rising unemployment and sky-rocketing inflation.

This is what those working class voters who decided on balance to accept the recommendations of the Labour Government by voting 'Yes' have been led to expect. The ideas of European unity and international cooperation were held out by the Labour right-wing pro-marketiers, the Tory and Liberal parties and the millionaire press, as plums to be picked from the EEC tree. On the basis of this "cooperation" the European capitalist class is apparently to be persuaded to do what the British bosses have steadfastly refused—invest in new plant, new machinery and put the British economy back on a competitive basis in the grab for the world's markets.

### Patriotic colours

These pious hopes are a fraud. For as the international capitalist recession gathers pace, millions of workers throughout the Common Market, and outside, will be thrust onto a new level of class struggle. In this conflict each capitalist nation will reveal its true patriotic colours in attempting to offload the crisis onto its "partners".

Almost 9 million voted against this fraud of 'unity'. The bulk of the votes were almost certainly working class—in line with LP and union conference decisions. But a vital point was missing from the "official" 'No' vote campaign of Labour's left-wing.

Tony Benn, Michael Foot, Eric Heffer and co said, quite cor-

rectly, that the Common Market is a bloc of the nine most powerful capitalist nations in Europe. They also pointed out that the EEC, being a capitalist club, is dedicated to opposing socialism in Europe. But in making these points they proceeded to arrive at the wrong conclusions. Leading Labour lefts explained to us that a "faceless bureaucracy" is developing from EEC headquarters in Brussels, which is quite indifferent to the real needs and interests of the "British people".

### Super-state

The nations of Europe are, according to this argument, to be united into one single European "super-state" through the extension of the power of the "Eurocrats" in Brussels. The point which the Labour left missed is precisely the fact that Europe can never be united, either bureaucratically or democratically (as the Jenkinsites would have us believe) as long as Europe remains dominated by capitalism.

The contribution of the Socialist Charter to the campaign for a "No" vote to the EEC, something which was hammered home at LPYS meetings, Labour Party meetings and out canvassing, was to spell out that the fragmentation of Europe into different, independent nations, is an obstacle to socialism and progress and it is identical to the existence of a "national" and "independent" capitalist

class in each of these European countries. As we pointed out in a major article on the EEC in the March issue of the CHARTIST and have always stressed since: "...Now that recession—growing unemployment, industrial stagnation, together with unbelievably high rates of inflation are ripping through the Nine countries, European 'unity' is being exposed for what it always has been; a unity of thieves, squabbling over the share of the spoils."

What the various capitalist classes of Europe will require from the Common Market is a whip with which they can tame the militancy of their own working class—French bosses against French workers, Italian capitalists against the increasingly militant workers in their country, and so on.

### Phoney ideals

The "faceless bureaucrats" of Brussels have no armies or police at their disposal and would be incapable of breaking the mass strikes and occupations that are flaring up over Europe. The phoney ideals of capitalist "internationalism" will be lost as the ruling classes of Europe prepare to do battle with their own Labour movements. The struggle for profits will break down the free trade agreements as each group of bosses attempts to preserve the prosperity of his own national state.

We have already seen Italy and Denmark beat a retreat from free

trade under the impact of particularly severe balance of trade crises. We can expect to see the German bosses become more jealous of the well-placed value of the Deutchmark and begin to cool on its enthusiasm for a European currency because this will mean baling out the lira and the pound. In short, the EEC house of cards will collapse over the next few years into a war-mongering shamble of national-states.

### Chauvinism

If this issue had been raised by Labour's left-wingers during the Referendum campaign, and if they had fought against the shambles of the EEC with the slogan of a United Socialist States of Europe, then they would have done a valuable service to the struggle for socialism. Hundreds of thousands of trade union militants and Labour Party activists, campaigning for a 'No' vote, would have been immersed in the politics of international socialism, instead of the mire of wretched chauvinism they found themselves in. The 'radical' image of the self-styled "pro-Europeans" would have been exposed as a half-hearted apology for capitalism, and particularly British capitalism's efforts to grab some of the benefits of the spoils whilst the EEC survives.

The question of the European debate will be raised in Britain again over the coming years. But this time it will be raised against the rise of workers struggles throughout capitalist Europe: from Portugal through to Italy and West Germany on the one hand, and collapse of the rotten facade of the capitalist Common Market on the other. Just as the referendum vote has not changed the class character of the Common Market neither must socialist militants change their opposition to this fraud of European unity.

## Prentice to Go!

ATA SPECIAL Executive Committee meeting of Newham North East Labour Party on 23 June, Reg Prentice, ex-Labour Minister of Education, was presented with what could well be his marching orders.

By 12 votes to 8 the meeting voted that Prentice, "member for Newham North East, should retire at the next election". This decision now goes to the General Management Committee, and from there it should go to a Special General Council meeting of the whole Constituency Party.

This vote against a sitting member of Parliament of Cabinet status, is virtually unprecedented. It is the turning-point of a long fight both locally and nationally to oust the notoriously anti-working class Prentice. His attacks on the Shrewsbury Two building workers and on trade unionists who fought the Tory Industrial Relations Act are well known.

Flushed from sharing platforms with Heath and co during the EEC referendum, Prentice has now received a verdict from where it counts that his days as a 'Tory' in the Labour Party are numbered. Messages of support for the decision against Prentice should be sent to Newham N.E. LP and also to TGWU headquarters urging Jack Jones and co to withdraw sponsorship from Prentice.

## PAY VICTORY FOR RAILWORKERS —

# BUT DANGER SIGNALS FOR JOBS

BY KEVIN MOORE  
(BATTERSEA NUR).

live on even the new rate of pay with the current scarcity of overtime.

There is no doubt that it was a victory. It was forced out of the BRB after a firm stand by the NUR EC and it runs contrary to the wage cutting Social Contract of the Labour Government. Richard Marsh, ex Labour MP, has viciously attacked the settlement. He and the BRB have threatened massive cut-backs in manpower in order to pay for the settlement. The Government, through the Treasury and the Department of the Environment, will also be watching the way their money is spent and urging cuts in jobs, overtime and spending in general, just like they are doing in Local Government.

This is the situation that will confront the NUR EC in the near future. Weighall may have won his personal battle and proved himself, but it is this battle over cuts that will be the test for the NUR EC. Weighall was forced into the last battle by his own EC. Union members in most areas

AT BEST the recent pay settlement for railwaymen could be described as a minor victory. A close analysis of the rates of pay involved and the new money offered, show that the rise is not as good as many papers would have us believe. Worse still is the fact that the British Railways Board is now talking about cutting even more staff in order to pay the increase.

In the settlement the rate of pay for the Railman grade goes up from £25.65 to just over £33 in August when the total 29.8% is to be paid. This includes £4.40 threshold already being paid. The rise is nothing like the parity with mine surface workers (£41) that was demanded by branches for Railman grade. There is also no threshold to protect against further price rises. It is, in fact, debatable whether the rise even compensates for the price rises and tax increases suffered so far. When the traditional low rate of pay of the railway worker is taken into consideration the true nature of the victory becomes even clearer, and one wonders how a Railman with a family will

were ready to respond despite the small amount the EC were in dispute over (2½%).

The next battle that the EC must lead is for the maintenance of the present staff levels. Contrary to what railway "enthusiasts" and businessmen like to say, people like the second men in trains do perform a useful role—maintaining the safety record of British Rail. Where men are made redundant through modernisation (like some guards on freight trains) then they should be given jobs in an expanded railway network.

The NUR EC, together with ASLEF and TSSA must also obtain all the financial accounts of the BRB to aid them in this fight. Reports that filter through to men in the wages grades show extortionate amounts being given away in contracts to private industry. All union members should be involved and fully informed this time. One criticism of the strike call was that it came completely out of the blue. The next struggle will be a difficult one to win. A firm leadership and a fully involved membership will be essential.



## After Boyd election success and postal ballot rumpus

PETER GOLD

AT ITS May National Committee meeting, the Amalgamated Engineering Union (AEUW) decided, on the casting vote of union president, Hugh Scanlon, to end the postal ballot system of electing officials and return to branch voting. The Executive Council endorsed this step on 3 June. This was a victory for union democracy despite being the product of a dubious manoeuvre whereby the two rightwing S. Wales delegates of the N.C on grounds of improper district elections. Only real rank and file action can smash the undemocratic postal ballot once and for all.

This precipitated an outburst of Tory Press hysteria. The right wing's response was equally swift. One S.Wales delegate, Weakley took the issue to the law courts, encouraged by new AEUW General Secretary and Salvation Army tuba player, John Boyd. On 12 June, High Court Judge Walton ordered the AEUW to retain postal voting. He also ruled that Scanlon had no right to use his casting vote, that the National Committee's action was illegal and that the Executive Council had no business approving it. Boyd was delighted. Hardly surprising: this was his second victory in as many months.

### Blow to union democracy

Walton has delivered a serious blow to union democracy. His ruling makes the fulminations and slanders of the Tory Press—whose editors are elected by nobody—the focal point of the union election system. Branches won't get a look in. The rank and file must rally to the defence of union democracy and their left-wing leaders and steadfastly defy this ruling.

A right-wing resurgence is taking place in the AEUW, as Boyd's election win over left-wing Bob Wright shows. Boyd owes his success to two factors: the help he enlisted from his 'moderate' and 'democratic' friends in Fleet Street and the weak policy of his 'Broad Left' opponents who did little to rouse their followers against Boyd.

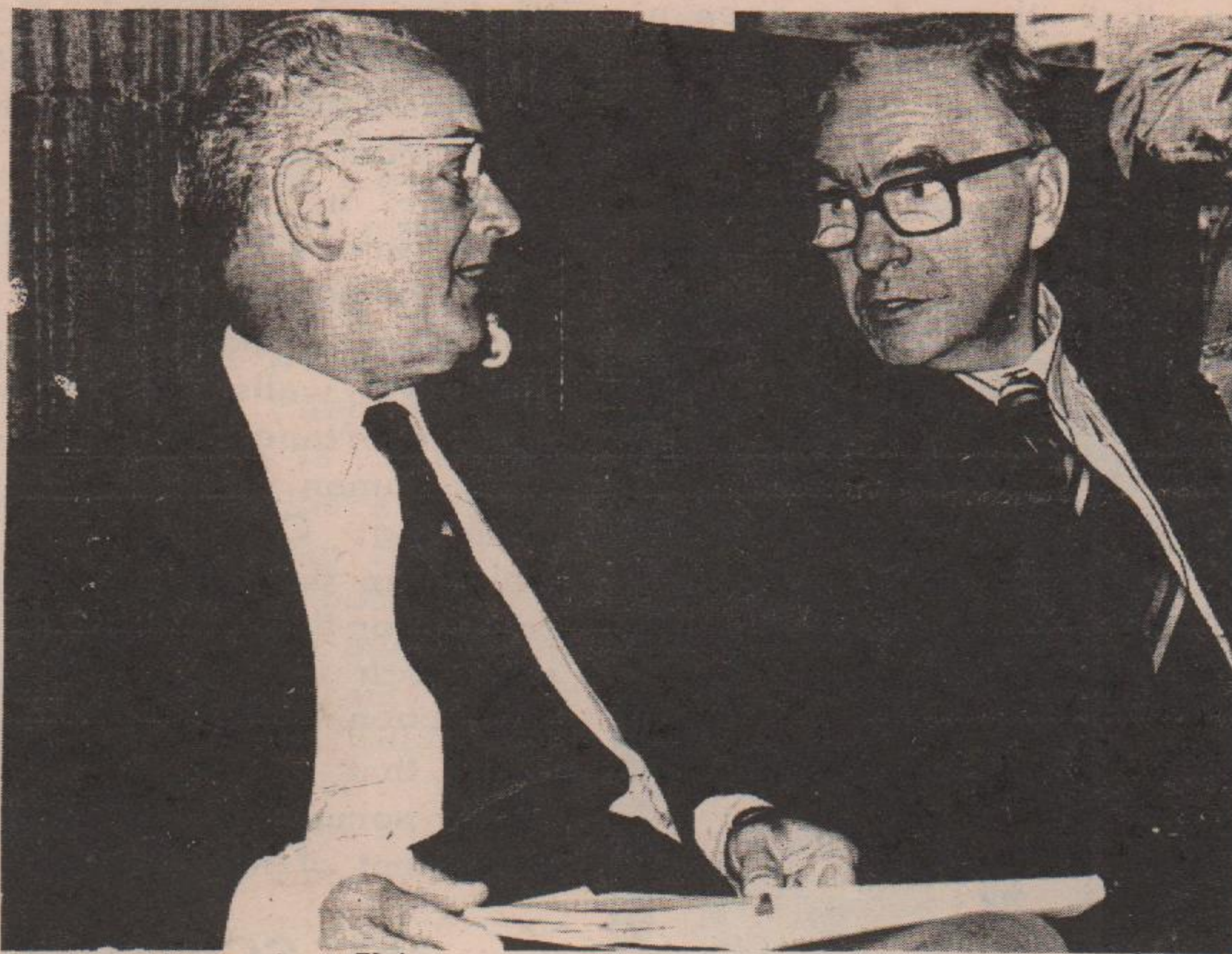
### "Broad left"

Begun in the 1960's the 'Broad Left' has been little more than an electoral alliance between Labour Lefts and the Communist Party, aimed at capturing official positions for so-called 'progressives', whose policies included more rank and file control over officials and national pay claims. These objects found an echo amongst a rank and file fed up with years of 'Carron's Law'. This tide of militancy swept Scanlon into the presidency in 1967.

Now, after the disasters in the last round of elections, the 'Broad Left' (B.L.) is at the cross roads. Failure to develop a unified wages strategy and defend jobs have undermined rank and file confidence. Significantly, B.L. policy omits reference to the defence of jobs or the wages struggle.

Successive defeats on the Wages front in 1972, 1973 and this year

# AUEW Lefts at the crossroads



Scanlon and Boyd

have helped erode the militant bedrock upon which the Broad Left is based. In 1972, in the absence of national leadership and support, Manchester engineers occupied 30 factories. They were left isolated and forced to settle on the employer's terms. The final 1972 National Settlement fell far short of what was demanded, especially on shorter hours and equal pay. The 1973 and 1975 claims have gone the same way. The real fighting demands for across-the-board increases, shorter hours and equal pay—solid foundations for unity—have been abandoned and militancy dissipated.

### fear of struggle

The 'B.L.' leaders, Scanlon, Wright, Brett and Foster, display an almost pathological fear of struggle, as Wright's conduct during the Perkins Diesel strike shows. Their outlook helps Boyd and his allies who become daily more arrogant. While it is true that the AEUW alone maintained opposition to Heath's Industrial Relations Act, they only opted for all out action when faced with seizure of the union's total assets. Their call met with resounding support and showed the will of the membership to defend the union. Tragically, this sort of appeal has been the exception.

All too often, the 'Broad Left' fails to translate its words into deeds. It opposes the 'Social Contract', but it was 'Broad Left' leader, C.P member Ken Gill, who withdrew the AEUW motion of opposition to it at the TUC. Menoeuvring and shabby deals are no substitute for a fighting policy.

The AEUW Conference at Hastings has rejected the 'Social Contract'. But more must be done. Inflation is running at 25% and unemployment rising.

\*National across-the-board increases must be demanded with a rising scale of wages clause to ensure full and automatic compensation for price increases.

\*Redundancies must be resisted

with demands for shorter hours, work sharing without loss of pay and occupations to give these demands muscle.

\*Employers lies about profits must be challenged with mass campaigns to force open company accounts to inspection by elected committees.

These policies can defend jobs and wages and be concrete steps towards the establishment of workers' control in the engineering industry.

The Conference decision indicates the will to fight. The Left must lead or sink further into the waters of opportunism and betrayal. The Stalinist Bernard Panter, who said 'It's too easy to attack the leadership' and who deserted his supporters at the height of the election for the post of National Organiser is an object lesson here. He put his principles up for sale at £3,700..an offer he couldn't refuse was made... by the anti-Communist leadership of the Electrical Power Engineers Association, who later withdrew the offer. Unless they are brought under control the 'Left' officials, who rise into positions on the backs of the rank and file, will give Boyd and his allies a field day.

### Unemployment warning

Correctly, Scanlon and the 'Broad Left' warn about unemployment but only offer solutions like 'expansion of investment' and 'reflation'. These are no solutions.

Now is the time to fight. The Boydites are preparing to capture the presidency on Scanlon's retirement. Real mass participation control of officials, a mass rank and file struggle to organise for the policies outline above: these are the weapons to thrash Boyd and half the right wing advance. The urgent issues of the Social Contract and postal voting give added impetus. If Scanlon and the Left leaders won't fight, the ranks must force them to...after all that's what they were elected for, whatever excuses the 'Morning Star' and the Communist Party might make.

## Journalists' victimization prelude to redundancies

IN WHAT LOOK like flagrant cases of victimisation two book publishing firms this month sacked NUJ chapel (union branch) officials. At St. James's Press Father of the Chapel Mike Scherk and deputy FoC Frances Ryan were dismissed the day after the chapel had been formed. A long wrangle at Calder and Boyars over recognition came to a full stop with FoC Tim O'Grady being made 'redundant' even though he is the only copy editor employed full-time by the company.

Both firms have very small chapels. At this stage it appears that the St. James's Press chapel have been cowed by the immediate clampdown on union activities into relying solely on negotiations by paid union officials.

Fighting back at Calder and Boyars, chapel members have manned picket lines to secure reinstatement.

Both cases are indicative of a growing determination in book publishing managements to break the backs of the union in order to carry through further redundancies.

To leave cases of unfair dismissal to the law (the ACAS and the Industrial Tribunals) results more often in compensation than in reinstatement. Compensation is no good to someone who, in the current situation of print redundancies and cutbacks, has little chance of re-employment. And it can be no use to the chapel and the union to have martyrs to the cause and no one left to fight it.

Further weakening the position of their own union members, paid officials have refused to ask other unions, mainly SOGAT, to support. A situation such as this calls for determined activity at grass roots level to achieve the answerability of officials. But, more important, before other unions are called on, NUJ members must show by their own efforts that they are worthy of support.

BY IRENE MACDONALD (NUJ)

## Police evict journalists at Sterlings

On the eve of publication of the definitive book for oil pundits its publishers, Sterling Professional Publications, sacked the 5-strong editorial team, saying they had no work for them.

Taking the position that they were permanent staff employed solely for one project, the five acting on NUJ instructions, attended for work as usual. Evicted by the police and effectively 'locked-out' they proceeded to picket the Edgeware Road offices.

Negotiations are now going on although these were, at one stage, postponed for the management to investigate what other work there could be. The five NUJ members consider they could now be promoting the book, a job they were first employed to do.

This latest wave of redundancies hitting the print illustrates the crisis in the print managements, a financial crisis that always sees cut-back in terms of employees not in bank-balances.



# Woman's Evolution

Chris Knight reviews Evelyn Reed's new book -  
 'Woman's Evolution' - Pathfinder Press Inc. NY. 1975

IS IT NATURE which condemns women to being the "second sex"? This question was first seriously taken up by the labour movement in 1884. In that year Frederick Engels published his "The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State".

For the greater part of human history—Engels argued—women experienced no sexual oppression at all. Among the Iroquois Indians no tribal decisions could be reached without the consent of the women, who not only spoke at meetings and voted on all important issues, but held the upper hand over their husbands in many respects. In Engels' view, this was the pattern among all big-game hunting peoples—in the period before domestication and agriculture permitted surpluses of wealth to be accumulated, when class oppression arose simultaneously with the oppression of women and children in the family.

The American feminist, Evelyn Reed, has performed a service by publishing her new book. The significance of "Women's Evolution" is that it is the first full-length attempt to provide a Marxist account of the evolution of the family and society since 1884. An enormous amount of knowledge on this subject has been accumulated since Engels wrote his book, so a new work on the theme has long been overdue.

## GENERALISATIONS

In the nature of things, a book of the kind Reed has written will stand or fall on points of fact and detail. Her broad generalizations—that women are not "naturally" inferior, that sexual oppression has not always been the rule and so on—are ideas which most socialists would feel inclined to accept. The point is, however, that on grounds of fact and details which seem difficult to refute, these generalizations are disputed by nearly all "qualified" (academically-trained) anthropologists. They say, for example, that in all known societies today—even "primitive" ones such as those of the Australian aborigines—men are very much the dominant sex. They argue that this "universality" of male dominance stems from the fact that it is women, not men, who must give birth to children. They point to the fact—which seems indisputable—that male dominance is marked among man's ape and monkey "nearest relatives", among which the males fight each other for possession of females, the strongest ending up as the "overlords" of "harems" of females and young. They say that all this proves that our species has inherited male dominance from our animal past, just as we have inherited two eyes and a nose. It is something which no revolution could ever change.

Engels fought such ideas by

arguing that there was once a time when all human societies were organized along 'matriarchal' lines. In 1884, this was the view of the great majority of bourgeois anthropologists, too. Today



EVELYN REED

no "qualified" theorists subscribe to this theory, which is generally thought to have been disproved again and again by new facts about our past which have come to light. Despite this, in the opinion of the author of this review, Engels was mainly right, and a book is being written to attempt to justify this view. But it is an extremely difficult task.

## DIFFICULTIES

The trouble with Reed's book is that the difficulties are not recognized. Reed facilely "proves" the "matriarchal theory" with completely unconvincing, often thoroughly unscientific arguments, whose only "advantage" is an easy feminist appeal. This, for example, is how she explains the matriarchy:

"The matriarchy was the necessary first form of social organization because women were not only the procreators of new life but also the chief producers of the necessities of life."<sup>1</sup>

The bulk of the food-producing was done by women. Consequently women were the most important sex in early times.

## MYTH-MAKING

Now is this argument convincing? Or does it strike the reader as mere "feminist" myth-making and dogma? How on earth can men have been unimportant when big game hunting was the principal source of food?

Reed's "answer" is to bolster up one factually hopeless assertion with an even more ludicrous one. According to her, the women "chose" not to eat the meat which the male hunters caught:

"in the matriarchal period women decided for themselves whether they would eat meat, and usually they did not."<sup>2</sup>

Now, can we seriously imagine that women "chose" not to eat meat, when the ability to utilize this new food-source was the supreme benefit conferred by the

mastery of artificial tools—the great technological break-through which laid the basis for the emergence from an animal way of life? Whether in the form of chipped stone arrowheads, earth-traps filled with bones, tools for scraping hides or paintings of animals on cave walls—the evidence of the importance of meat-food to early human society is overwhelming. Only a writer without training in the subject, with scant regard for the methods of science and with an "ideological" preconception and aim in view could claim that in this period women were somehow economically independent of men.

## NOT SCIENTIFIC

Reed's real argument is a "moral" rather than a factual or scientific one. She believes in what she calls "the violent characteristics of male sexuality in nature".<sup>3</sup> Counterposed to these are the non-violent, co-operative "maternal functions" of women.<sup>4</sup> In Reed's view, big game hunting was a form of "male violence", and was originally associated with cannibalism. Both forms of violence had to be overcome, and

"it was the females, with their highly developed maternal functions and their inhibitions with regard to eating meat, who led the way."<sup>5</sup>

Eventually, says Reed, the women forced the men to develop a guilty conscience about killing. This is



Frederick Engels



North American Indians

her explanation for "totemism". Primitive savages, in her view, are unable to distinguish between other animals and human beings. Consequently, to stop the men from eating each other, the women had first to get them to stop eating certain species of animals. The "taboo" on eating an animal "totem" was the result.

All this is so far-fetched as to be almost beyond belief. Reed naively accepts at face-value the most ridiculous Victorian allegations as to the crude mental level of "savages". Are we really to imagine that a male "savage", seeking a sexual partner for a few moments of innocent pleasure, could have been so stupid as to mistake a human female for a monkey or a cuttlefish?<sup>6</sup> Can we really take seriously the idea that a taboo on eating animals was necessary to stop men from eat-

CHARTIST: How was the National Abortion Campaign (NAC) organised?

LIZ ADAMS: NAC was set up at a meeting sponsored by Brent Trades Council in early March, after the second reading of James White's Bill. It was a public meeting with over 100 women attending—it was an open meeting and certain "resolutions" were passed such as that NAC should be set up to fight all restrictive legislation, to defeat the White Bill, and to use the slogan "A Woman's Right To Choose." This slogan was chosen in order not to sound too negative, a slogan like this touches on social aspects of child rearing, raising issues like free contraception and abortion on demand, and not only to defeat the White Bill.

C: What kind of support did NAC gain on a national scale?

LA: Within about three months, 50 or 60 groups sprang up all around the country, acting autonomously, but sometimes using material produced in London for their meetings. We were coordinated to the extent of building the 21st demo, in the short term, and we provided speakers for meetings up and down the country. Groups work through political organisations such as the IMG and IS and through trade unions, who passed resolutions and provided financial support as well as support for the demo.

C: What has NAC achieved so far?

LA: The first major campaign has been initiated along with the women's movement in the country and it brought a lot of women into political activity. We have put women's rights within a fairly organised struggle and shown women to be able to work together and mobilize. It's a good platform

ing each other? Couldn't there have been a simpler way of achieving the end in view?<sup>7</sup>

## METHOD

Reed's book suffers from the most serious defects of method. No-where is a given community systematically analysed. Instead we have a jumble of isolated "quotations", often from the most dubious sources, and relating to wholly different times, places and systems of social organization.

For example, to "prove" that the matriarchal system rests on the overriding importance of women's labour in gathering vegetable food, Reed cites a number of authorities to the effect that women's labour is the chief food-source among the Australian aborigines. She forgets to mention a small detail—no-where on the Australian continent have we an



# ABORTION: THE FIGHT GOES ON!

LIZ ADAMS, NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN ORGANIZER SPEAKS TO THE CHARTIST

—a lot of women are involved for the first time and it's making them re-think their position in society. C: What do you find to be NAC's weaknesses?

LA: You have to be careful—it's easy to be critical—I think NAC is a very good start for actually bringing women to political work; by actually bringing political organisations into it like the Working Women's Charter, IMG, CP, the Labour Party, LPYS, etc. But the campaign is so broadly based—what direction can you give it with all the different organisations involved? It's up to socialists to point out that it is only through social revolution that women will actually achieve fundamental change in their social position, and control over their own bodies. And it is the responsibility of revolutionary orga-

nisations to do this rather than to just criticize NAC. The campaign is an opportunity to educate women from a political point of view but NAC, itself, will not do this because it will not become a multi-issue campaign but will remain a mainly single issue campaign.

C: do you think there might be a possibility that White's Bill will never go through Parliament?

LA: Yes, but this is no cause for complacency. There are two things that can come out of this from a parliamentary point of view. The select committee sits for the duration of a government. They can either allow the Bill to fall and change the select committee and adopt new terms of reference such as the Lane Report on the 1967 Act which came to the conclusion that the 1967 Act was very

good; or they can adopt the Bill as their own rather than its being sponsored by an individual like James White. On the other hand, a lot of MP's are changing their minds and saying that they voted in ignorance.

C: Now that the demonstration is behind us, what are NAC's future perspectives?

LA: Even when White's Bill is defeated, we will go on in the abortion struggle. We are planning a National Conference in the Autumn to discuss future campaigns. The conference will be on 18 and 19 October in the Imperial College. The feeling is that we will fight to extend the

1967 Act, to provide for abortion on demand, giving women—and not their doctors—the right to decide whether they can have an abortion. Unfortunately we seem to have had to take ten steps backwards in order to move two steps forward. I look forward to the next stage of the struggle. The difficulty is to what extent can you sustain a single issue campaign—what direction can you give to the impetus you've developed so far? Women's understanding of oppression under capitalism is not automatic. It is up to the socialists in NAC to use this impetus that has come about it opposition to the Bill and to take it forward to involve women in the political struggle to free them from all oppression.

## Equal pay: but when?

EVERYONE HAS been telling us that 1975 is the year when women will get equal pay with men. But I, for one, am still not convinced that the Equal Pay Act will do anything to give women real equality in wages with men. The terms of the Equal Pay Act of 1970 have given employers five years to implement the demands laid down in the Act and yet five years later a woman's average wage is £19 for manual workers and £25 for non-manual workers. Therefore, despite equal pay legislation, women still only earn half the male rate.

It is very easy for employers who employ a majority of women, doing largely what is classified as women's work, to get away with paying a lower rate. For example, a large proportion of women do jobs that are really an extension of their role at home. They are the cleaners of offices

and hospitals, canteen workers, nurses, child care workers, shop assistants and food processing workers and machinists. These people are all low paid workers. They are overwhelmingly poorly unionised. Is this, too, because they are women? The fact is, of course, that women find it very difficult to become active in unions when their domestic ties force them to rush home to their second job as housewives and mothers.

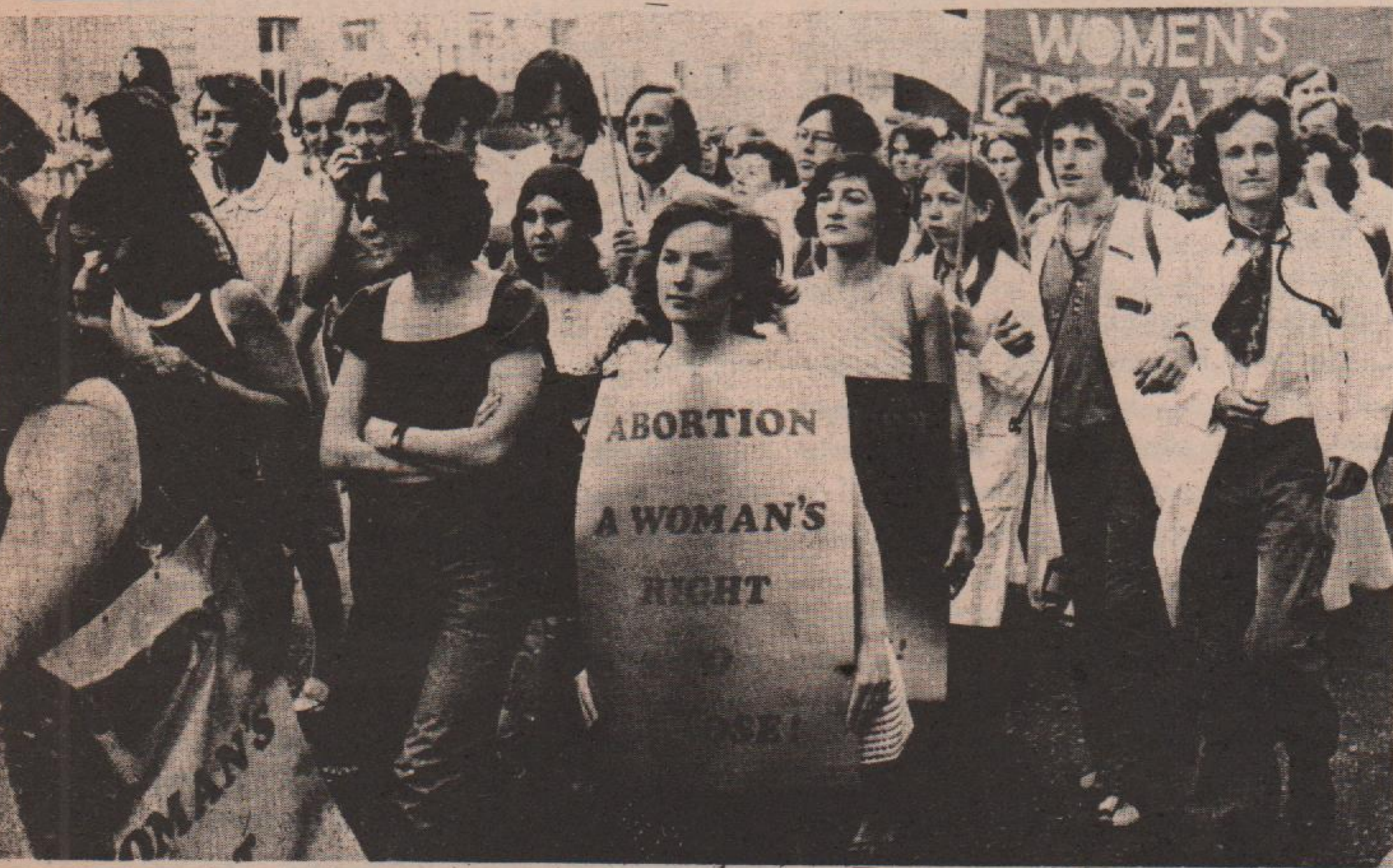
by Ann Harber

Many women work part-time to supplement their husbands' incomes. Part-time women workers are exploited more than any other sector of the work force, even the trade union movement treat part-time workers as not worth organising.

There is still the attitude that a woman only works for the "luxuries," on the other hand the money she earns is often called "pin money" and that is about what the wage buys—a couple of packets of pins! Certainly not the luxuries. These women work out of necessity to make ends meet in keeping up with the ever-rising cost of living.

The struggle for equal pay lies with the women themselves. Difficult as it is for women to involve themselves in union affairs and political life, because of their ties at home, women must start to fight their own battles. Unless women confront the trade union labour leadership and demand teeth to the Equal Pay Act, women will continue to find themselves treated as cheap labour.

With the economic slump forecast, it will be easier for the employers to ask the Labour government to put back the Equal Pay Act until after 1975. For this reason it is crucial that women workers unite their forces, linking the demand for real equality in wages with the demand for a national minimum wage of £40 with automatic increases to cover rises in the cost of living. All too easily, men shy away from fighting with the women on issues like equal pay. But unless they do, the ruling class will drive a wedge between the sexes in times of high unemployment and the situation will arise where men will actually scab on women strikers, as happened at SEI last summer.



example of a "matriarchal" system. It is true that women aboriginals work hard—but most authorities have described this as a form almost of slavery: the males use their wives as drudges, forcing them to do all the heavy work. No reader of Reed's book would realize this. The method is one of "well-intentioned" distortion.

Secondly, Reed gives no indication as to the way in which the family, forms of religious ritual etc evolve out of the development of the forces of economic production. Rather are we given, if anything, an imaginary picture of just the opposite: the alleged effects of "women's maternal functions", of "totemism" or of some other "natural" or "moral" factor in actually defying and overturning the economic bases of society. Marxists have traditionally used the term "idealism" to describe this philosophical method.

Thirdly, there is not the slightest evidence of a conception of the dialectic—the way in which evolution proceeds through the gradual accumulation of conflicting forces which eventually erupt in a quite, sudden explosion, in which things are changed into the opposite of what they were before.

How can women's maternal nature explain "totemism" or the origin of society? If this "nature" has always existed, why did society only arise at the particular moment it did? Why does

Reed feel the need to argue that it is "natural" for the female sex to be emancipated—devoting a whole chapter to the extraordinary argument that the members of a baboon overlord's female "harem" (like other female animals) are really quite liberated?

Has Reed never thought of the possibility that a central feature of the contradictory origin of human society was the emancipation of the female sex from precisely the male dominance which is so characteristic of the social life of monkeys and apes? Has she never thought of the possibility that human society arose out of a social revolution, and that a precondition for this was the preceding intensification of male dominance to a level incompatible with new economic needs?

### DISASTER

However "understandable" in terms of feminist sentiment, as an attempt at dialectical materialism Reed's book is a disaster. Marxism is not a particular "theory" which someone can think up and then counterpose to all preceding achievements of scientific investigation and thought. It is nothing other than the sum total of the real findings of the various branches of science themselves—synthesized so that a picture of the whole process of nature and its evolution into man emerges. It is true

that Marxism is also a political weapon in the class struggle and in the struggle for women's emancipation. But this is true only in the sense that only the working class (and within this class, the oppressed sex) has a consistent objective need for scientific truth in all fields. Reed has provided the women's movement with one more attempt at a feminist mythology. But it is not myths which working class women need, but the truth.

1. Reed, Women's Evolution, p xv.  
2. p 93. 3. p 44. 4. pp 44-49. 5. p 73.

6. In support of her position, Reed quotes uncritically a remark by Frazer that "when the Russians first landed on one of the Alaskan Islands the natives took them for cuttlefish 'on account of the buttons on their clothes'". p 30.

7. The real explanation for "totemism" is something we cannot go into here. In the book to be published by the author of this review, it will be shown how this precursor of all religious systems represents, in fact, the endurance in ritual form of an economic principle of exchange, the idea being that a man may not eat the meat which he himself has killed. A similar idea rests at the root of rituals of sacrifice, where an animal has to be offered up by its owner "to the gods" before it can decently be eaten.



SPAIN:

# Basque strike shakes Franco dictatorship

BY GRAHAM DURHAM

ON 11 June, a magnificent protest involving over 100,000 workers in the Basque towns of Guipozcoa and Vizcaya showed the continuing determination of Spanish workers to overthrow the decaying Franco regime. The one-day strike, organised by the joint efforts of all the underground groups, including the separatist ETA, followed a successful one-day general strike in Madrid at the end of May.

The success of these protests is remarkable in view of the increased repression of the civil police—particularly in the Basque region, where right wing extremist groups such as the 'Guerillas of Christ the King' have been allowed to impose terror. Many thousands of Basque workers have been arrested and tortured and even Catholic priests have been detained for preaching banned sermons against the terror.

While the Basque opposition organises through the illegal trade unions—the Workers Commissions, for a longer protest in July against the trial of two militants—the severe crisis of the Spanish dictatorship is revealed. The military establishment, having already refused to fight a colonial war in the Spanish Sahara has now expressed disquiet with the increased repression which, it fears, may lead to the need for armed forces intervention against workers and increase the possibility of agitation in the army. Franco himself is under increased pressure to resign; many former supporters have demanded the succession of Prince Juan Carlos.

The prospect of a change in reactionary leadership was the reason for President Ford's visit to Spain. American imperialism recognises the decisive blow which could be struck by Spanish workers against world capitalism and is desperately trying to strengthen US and NATO bases in Spain. Ford hopes that, after Franco's removal, Spain may be allowed to join NATO.

Following the huge Basque general strike last December, and the Pamplona general strike in



Francisco

January, the protests show the high combativity and consciousness of the Spanish workers. An extension of these struggles must lead to a national struggle against Franco and his successors. The real possibility of a victorious Spanish revolution allied with the development of revolution in Portugal would shake the world capitalist system to its foundations and lead to massive new struggles by the European working class.

# PORTUGAL: AFM CLAMPS DOWN ON LEFT

BY GEOFF BENDER

AFTER EIGHT days of deliberation the right-wing of Portugal's ruling Supreme Revolutionary Council (SRC), the executive of the Armed Forces Movement (AFM), has won a temporary victory. A communique was issued condemning political activities inside the armed forces, denouncing the arming of civilians, pledging their faith in a pluralist Portugal and condemning those groups to the left of the Communist Party.

The maintenance of this facade of democracy can only be done by heading-off the revolutionary process, establishing links with the EEC and remaining in NATO.

Paradoxically though, to do these things will require a tightening of control over the activities of the working class and the left-wing. Already this has led to the break-up, with shots and tear-gas, of the demonstration of June 22nd demanding the release of 500 Maoists jailed earlier in the month. It is this so-called "moderate" section of the SRC to which the Portuguese Communist Party have given their support. The closing down of the Socialist Party paper 'Republica' and the announcement of the SRC decision to take over two papers as voices of the AFM are further evidence of this process.

Standing opposed to the majority of the SRC, from the left, is Otelo Carvalho whose 10-point plan turned down by the SRC, included "revolutionary councils of workers, soldiers and sailors", a "peoples' army" and neighbour-



PARATROOPERS GUARD NEWSPAPER OFFICE

hood committees to control rents and run small towns and villages.

Though defeated in the SRC, as head of COPCON (armed security force), Military Governor of Lisbon and with links with the PRP-BR and the revolutionary council at the Lisnave ship-yards, he remains powerful. As Manuel Crepsa, leader of the Lisnave ship-yard commented, "Otelo (Carvalho)... may not succeed this time at the revolutionary council but the final strength is in arms and he has the arms".

However both Carvalho and the right-wing of the AFM see the workers' councils and organs of popular power as a means of undermining the political parties and stilling the inter-party strife. As the impotent Constituent Assembly convenes for the first time it becomes clear that the Portuguese working class will need both parties and workers councils to gain control of the revolutionary process.

# Urban Italy votes Communist

by Graham Bash

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL are not the only countries in Southern Europe where the ruling class is in deep trouble. Italy too is near exploding point.

Faced with a growing threat from the MSI, the Italian Fascist Party, the working-class is showing its determination to resist any attempt to return to the Italy of Mussolini. Following the murder of a left-wing student there were massive worker's demonstrations in April culminating in a one-day General Strike involving 12 million workers. And this strength has now been reflected in the enormous gains made by the Communist Party in the June regional elections.

At these elections, the Italian Communist Party (PCI):

- Pólled 10.15 million votes—a gain of 2½ million over the 1970 regional election results;
- Narrowed the lead of the ruling Christian Democrats from 10 per cent to 2 per cent;
- Emerged as the strongest single party in seven out of fifteen regions in which the elections took place;
- Became the strongest party in nearly all the major Italian cities, including Rome, Bologna, Genoa, Turin, Milan, Florence, Naples, and Venice.

The combined electoral weight of

the parties based on the working class—ie. the PCI, the Socialist Party (PSI) and the revolutionary groups—is now 47 per cent.

The result expresses a major groundswell of discontent at the failure of successive Christian-Democratic dominated coalitions to do anything to solve the economic crisis (Italy has balance of payments problems and inflation rates akin to Britain) and the most acute social problems of the masses. These include appalling poverty, especially in the south, and over a million unemployed.

It is the third serious defeat for the Christian Democrats in little over a year—and follows their defeat in the divorce referendum in May 1974, and their more recent defeat in the Sardinian elections. After three decades of power, they are now heading for disaster.

The present minority coalition government—led by Aldo Moro—consisting of Christian Democrats and Republicans, and with support from the Socialists and Social Democrats, is now weaker than ever.

But the Italian Communist Party does not know what to do with its victory. It is one of the most



Where Italy's Communists hold sway—they are the largest party in the shaded regions on the map. Key to regions: 1 Val D'Aosta, 2 Piedmont, 3 Lombardy, 4 Alto Adige, 5 Veneto, 6 Friuli-Venezia Giulia, 7 Liguria, 8 Emilia Romagna, 9 Tuscany, 10 Umbria, 11 Marche, 12 Lazio, 13 Abruzzi, 14 Molise, 15 Campania, 16 Puglia, 17 Basilicata, 18 Calabria, 19 Sicily, 20 Sardinia. In comparing results on the chart, note that five regions were not voting in the regional elections—1, 4, 6, 19, 20.

PARTY	REGIONAL ELECTIONS 1970	GENERAL ELECTION 1972	REGIONAL ELECTIONS 1975
Christian Democrats	37.9%	38.4%	35.3%
Communists	27.9%	28.3%	33.4%
Socialists	10.4%	9.8%	12%
Social Democrats	7%	5.2%	5.6%
Republican Party	2.9%	2.9%	3.2%
Liberal Party	4.7%	3.9%	2.5%
Neo-fascists (MSI)	5.9%	8.1%	6.4%
Various extreme left	3.3%	3.4%	1.6%

right-wing CP's in Europe, with a totally reformist programme. It rejects the revolutionary road to workers power. It voices its respect for 'democratic institutions', 'acknowledges the value' of private enterprise, and rejects further nationalisations. It insists that overall economic policy guidelines be worked out in the context of an effective national planning body in which capitalists and bankers... and of course, the trade unions, will be represented. This is the PCI's programme called the 'Historic Compromise' which aims at an alliance of Communists, Socialists and Christian Democrats, with the aim of establishing, not socialism, but 'advanced democracy'.

But the more the PCI temporises, the more determined will be the fascists around the MSI to force through THEIR solution to the crisis.

The working class has won a victory. This must now be followed through. The Socialist Party must break off its support for the Coalition Government, and together with the strengthened PCI, must launch a struggle to bring down the coalition government now. The PCI must end its criminal policies of class collaboration, and use its massive industrial base not to prop up the teetering base of Italian capitalism but to strike out for a united front of all workers parties and launch a fight for a workers government.



## BOOK REVIEW: 'The Black Jacobins' by C.L.R. James

IN THE LAST issue of the 'Chartist', we saw how the revolutionary leader of the slave uprising, Toussaint L' Overture, had allied his forces with the Spanish monarchy and was waging war against the representatives of revolutionary Europe in San Domingo. But far from giving uncritical support to the Spanish colonists, Toussaint was using the opportunity of his victories in the French half of the Caribbean island to arm the insurgent blacks against the white slave-owners.

But in 1793, the forces of British imperialism—an armed expedition of 900 men—joined by emigre French plantation owners eager for the restoration of the landed and human properties, began a war against the liberty of the black people of San Domingo. Britain allied with the Spanish King in pursuit of these objectives. Toussaint then knew that the future freedom of the black masses of the colony lay in the suppression of this attempt at counter-revolution.

## REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE

Events in revolutionary France, governed by the Convention, were also rapidly moving to a head. One year of faltering progress in introducing agrarian and industrial reform had turned the Parisian masses against the 'moderate' Girondist Party who were the dominant faction in the Government.

On May 31st and June 2nd, 1793, the working people of Europe's greatest city acted independently for the first time in history and forced the bureaucratic-conservative Girondins from the Convention. A whole new epoch was opened up. CLR James describes the event in this way:

"Paris between March 1793 and July 1794 was one of the supreme

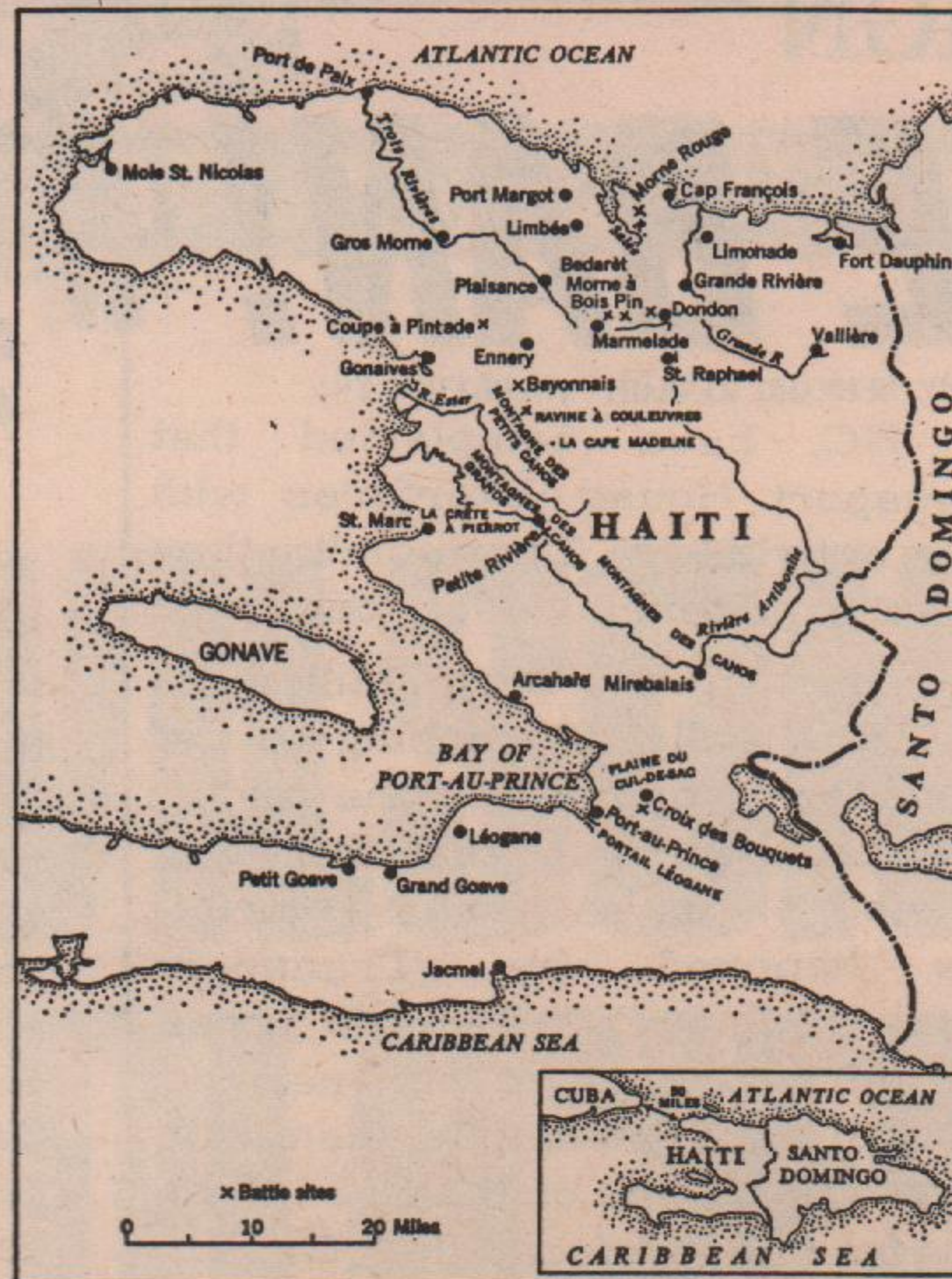
## THE FIRST BLACK STATE IN THE MODERN WORLD

Part 2  
by Don Flynn

epochs of political history. Never until 1917 were the masses ever to have such a powerful influence... on any government. In these few months of their nearest approach to power they did not forget the blacks. They felt towards them as brothers, and the old slave-owners... they hated as if Frenchmen themselves had suffered under the whip".

A new Convention was summoned, and to this came representatives from San Domingo. A black ex-slave Bellay and a mulatto by the name of Mills. The new Revolutionary Convention, dominated by the extreme-left faction of the Jacobin Party and the "Mountain", was overjoyed at the presence of these representatives of the San Domingo revolution in their midst. The deputy Camboulas arose. "Since 1789 the aristocracy of birth and the aristocracy of religion have been destroyed; but the aristocracy of the skin still remains. That too is now at its last gasp and equality has been consecrated. A black man, a yellow man are about to join this Convention in the name of the Free citizens of San Domingo".

The French deputies, who reflected the real enthusiasm of the mass of the French people for sweeping change, were ecstatic at the pronouncement of this last, great leap forward in the progress



of the Revolution.

In May 1793, Toussaint brought over his forces into an alliance with the French Commission, now under Governor Laveaux. In a brilliant military manoeuvre, they recaptured the North Province from the British and routed their Spanish allies. Toussaint was in command of an army of 5,000, most of whom were native born Africans who could scarcely speak two words of French. His chief officers, like Toussaint, were ex-slaves. Dessalines, soon to take up the leadership of the blacks after the victory of Napoleon's counter-revolution in France, Christophe, an ex-waiter in the town

of Cap Francois, Paul L'Overture and Moïse. The army was an army of the most oppressed layers of San Domingo society, and that was its strength.

After the victory over the British and Spanish efforts at counter-revolution in San Domingo, Toussaint turned towards the reconstruction of the agricultural economy of the island. In this task as well as in military action, he showed great skill and appreciation of the problems of economic development. All the black masses rallied around the revolutionary leader.

## TOUSSAINTS' DOWNFALL

Toussaint, the individual, eventually shared a downfall with the workers and poor peasants of France. The revolutionary tide of 1793-4 was stemmed by the bloodshed of the "Thermidor" in France. The overthrow of the reign of the left-wing of the Jacobins, led by Robespierre, saw the sweeping away of the gains which these months had brought to the French masses. Bonaparte succeeded the Thermidor and aimed at the restoration of slavery in San Domingo.

Toussaint was betrayed, and while he personally shared the terrible fate of the finest revolutionary elements in France—dreadful imprisonment and eventual death—the hard-fought for gains of liberty for the blacks were too precious to abandon.

The great general, Dessalines, replaced Toussaint as the popular leader of the ex-slaves. With the army built by Toussaint, Dessalines finally defeated the French in 1803, and established the first independent black state in the modern world. It was a great step forward for human liberty and freedom.

## Arab leaders seek deal with Zionists

By Geoff Bender

UNDER THE IMPACT of economic difficulties, the Egyptian government of Sadat is increasingly yielding to pressures to come to a compromise settlement with Israel and adopt an increasingly pro-Western foreign policy. The former close relations with the USSR have come to an end and large arms deals have been negotiated with France and Britain. The recent opening of the Suez Canal is hoped to bring in \$450 million in revenue needed to offset popular discontent. However, its immediate impact has been expansion of the private sector and an increase in the divisions between rich and poor. The triple insurance rates for canal traffic while there is no formal peace is a further incentive for a deal with Israel.

So far the Israeli response to the Egyptian moves has been the "thinning" of Israeli troops in Sinai. However, Premier Rabin has declared that Israel will demand as the condition for further disengagement "presence and control" but not necessarily sovereignty, in Sinai and access to the Suez Canal.

Further north the recent visit of President Assad, of Syria to Amman for talks with Hussein is further evidence of the moves

towards compromise in the Middle East. The talk about a Syrian-Jordanian joint military command obviously constitutes a political jettisoning of the Palestinian cause which Syria has in the past defended.

Meanwhile, in Lebanon, the Palestinians have once again had to defend themselves, with the support of left-wingers against the Phalangist organisation of extreme right-wingers. Whilst a civil war situation is developing there—the military government appointed by President Frangieh resigned after three days—the continuing process of raid and counter-raid over the Israeli borders continue.

This cynical abandoning of the Palestinians' struggle by Egypt and Syria once again underlines the bankruptcy of the Fatah policy of not intervening in the affairs of "host" Arab states. This will strengthen the hand of the so-called rejection front groups, the PFLP and the PDFLP whose leaders, Habash and Jabril, have been seeking the support of Col. Gaddafi's Libya. However, while these organisations correctly recognise the need for a struggle against the reactionary Arab regimes, they are now trapped in the dead end of suicidal terror raids.

## STOP THIS THUGGERY NOW!

## LETTER FROM THE IMG

Dear Comrades,

On Thursday 22 May, two members of the International Marxist Group attended a meeting of the Workers Revolutionary Party in Basingstoke. They were physically attacked by members of the WRP and had copies of *Red Weekly* torn from their hands and ripped-up. Prominent in this attack was Mike Banda—a leading member of the WRP.

After Banda had spoken on the Common Market, the WRP chairman asked for questions. A member of the IMG then spoke about the need for organisations like the WRP and the IMG to make a united front on the Common Market. Banda's response was to unleash a flood of slanders against the IMG, accusing it of capitulating to Stalinism on issues such as the Vietnam Solidarity Committee.

After another IMG member spoke, the IMG was refused any more speaking rights. Protests to the chairman about this bureaucratic decision were of no avail and the comrades were told that as it was a WRP meeting the WRP would decide who would speak. Banda then boasted of having ejected IMG members from other WRP meetings and advised our members to leave the hall. Later the IMG comrades started to sell *Red Weekly* outside the hall. Several members of the WRP, including Banda, then rushed at them, snatching their papers from their hands, and Banda and his colleagues started to tear up the *Red Weeklies*. In the process of trying to retain their papers our comrades were battered, sustaining extensive bruising and cuts. The action of the WRP is scandalous. Using physical violence to prevent members of other revolution-

ary groups from selling their newspapers and putting forward their ideas has nothing in common with Trotskyism but belongs to the tradition of Stalinism. Using slanders instead of political discussion, and refusing to debate ideas, helps no one but the Stalinists and the reformists.

All the experience of the revolutionary movement shows that this type of hooliganism has to be stopped as soon as it raises its head. This is why we are publicising the details of this disgraceful incident and are asking other revolutionary journals to publish both this letter and the letter sent to the WRP.

We also ask that every effort is made to make these facts known to the members of the WRP, so that they can demand that their organisation takes action against the hooligans in their ranks.

—The Executive Bureau of the International Marxist Group.

## (Stonehouse contd.)

counts show that over 300 receipt books were missing.

In all, about half a million pounds was unaccounted for. And again, he was in charge of another fund-raising scheme—the publication of special Bangladeshi stamps—and again substantial sums of money were missing. Yet NONE of this appears in the charges against Stonehouse.

A number of questions need to be asked about John Stonehouse. Firstly, is Stonehouse being protected? How much more is there to know about his activities, which the authorities are not letting out?

How many more budding Stonehouses are there living off the Labour movement and claiming to represent it? The Poulson affair revealed a lot about many of our 'leaders' in the North East, especially at local level. But how much more corruption and graft is there below the surface?

This is not just a 'moral' question. It is above all political. How can labour movement representatives act in the interests of the working class when they lead these kind of lives? How can they lead the fight against capitalism, when they are so closely associated with the most corrupt practices of it?

The Stonehouse affair must act as a lesson to the labour movement. We must insist on:-

- The immediate expulsion of Stonehouse from the Labour Party.
- Far greater control being exercised over representatives of the Labour movement, with the right of recall over Labour movement officials at all levels.
- A full Labour Party/trade union enquiry into the Stonehouse affair—to openly reveal how someone with his record could have become a Labour M.P. and Minister—and to extend into the whole state of corrupt practices within the Labour Party.



# young socialist NEWS

## Y.S. IRISH CAMPAIGN

# FIGHT THE BAN!

I'M SURE I wasn't the only Young Socialist shocked to hear that not only had the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Labour Party forbidden the Young Socialists (YS) from continuing their Irish campaign (such that it was) but that the YS National Committee (NC) had tamely submitted to this ban.

The NEC's excuse was that YS money was being used to buy arms for the Irish struggle. Even 'Lefts' like Joan Maynard opposed the YS. Really, the Labour leaders wish to prevent any discussion of the failure of the Government's Irish policy.

In fact the NC are setting up an ad-hoc committee nominally independent of the YS to continue the Irish campaign without having to confront the NEC. For years

### HACKNEY

## Labour Council knocks nursery nurses

DAY NURSERY staff in Hackney who have been at the bottom of the low-pay league for so long have now risen to their feet in a dispute against the local 100% Labour-controlled council.

The nursery workers became increasingly militant over a claim which Hackney council agreed to last August 1974, but which they later refused to honour, claiming that it would break nationally agreed pay levels.

After months of foot-dragging by the council, the nurses decided to take a limited form of industrial action which involved a refusal to collect fees from mothers. The Council Administration Committee under chairman John Kotz met this mild action by refusing to negotiate until all actions and threats of action were withdrawn.

The council have now climbed down from this hard-line stance and on June 18th made a new offer. This was approximately 70% of the former agreement for matrons and deputy matrons and almost the full amount for the other nurses.

As nursery workers said, the offer, though it was much lower than the original demand and intended to be divisive, was accepted at a full meeting of the nurses PROVIDED THAT their working hours were reduced to be in line with other town-hall workers and backdated to January 1st. The council refused to consider this. Without backdating, the nurses stand to lose almost £500 alone!

The nurses, the majority of whom earn a paltry £19 a week for 40 hours, are understandably bitter at this insulting offer. They

BY BERNARD MISRAH (SURREY YS)  
the NC have complained that Transport House interferes with their activities. They admit they have the material resources to be independent, yet they still allow the NEC to dictate, hoping to get round their orders on the sly.

It is about time that the NC resisted all bureaucratic restrictions imposed by Transport House. Although we don't agree with the NC position on Ireland, we will fight alongside them for the independence of the YS. The NC fear to confront the Labour leaders on such an unpopular issue as Ireland. But the NEC decision partly reflects the chauvinism within the labour movement which the leadership of the YS must confront if they are serious about winning people to their ideas.

If they had chosen to defy the NEC ban, then both the issue of Ireland and of the independence of the YS would have been brought into the open, instead of being smothered. YS branches should send resolutions to the NEC condemning their ban, and to the YSNC calling on them to fight it.

are determined to fight this injustice and have decided to give the council two weeks to meet their claim. The nurses will then 'resume an escalated programme of action.'

As the nurses themselves stress, their fight is not just to improve conditions of service of the low paid and equality for women but also a fight for women's rights and organisation.

Above all, if the nurses are not given decent conditions, they say, what chance is there to improve Hackney's desperately bad day nursery provision - 7 nurseries to cater for 20,000 under fives, with 1,000 on the emergency waiting list?

Hackney Labour council must be told not to unload the burden of the public expenditure cuts on the working class but implement their pledges to EXPAND public services.

The nursery nurses have the overwhelming support of the local NALGO branch, to which they belong, the Hackney Trades Council, Hackney Under Fives Committee, local LPYS's and other trade unionists. A march and lobby of the June Council meeting gained widespread support, illustrating the sympathy for the nursery workers case.

### £300 FIGHTING FUND

£300.24p collected... TARGET REACHED with FIVE days to go!

We thank all our readers for helping us reach the target. To maintain and improve the *Chartist* we hope our readers will continue to send contributions for our next target of £300 in the next 6 months. Contributions to *Chartist Publications*: 42 Loughborough Road, London, N.W.9.



## 25,000 MARCH AGAINST ANTI-ABORTION BILL

SATURDAY JUNE 21st saw a massive march through London against the James White Abortion Amendment Bill. Approximately 25,000 marched against this vicious Bill which will make it practically impossible for working class women to obtain abortions. The march, organised by the National Abortion Campaign, demanded abortion on demand and the right of women to control their own bodies. The march was in complete contrast to a small gathering of anti-abortionists who paraded in Trafalgar Square on the

same day.

The demonstration was a magnificent climax to the NAC campaign against the Bill. But the fight must go on. Labour MP James White must not be allowed to continue with this right wing anti-abortion Bill. Working class women must have immediate access to free pregnancy testing and abortion facilities. Young Socialists on the march demanded this, along with an end to Wilson's local government, health and education cuts.

## G.L.C. MEMBERS OPPOSE CUTS

### 9th June Statement

"On today's agenda for the GLC are three items we feel are fundamentally contrary to the objectives of the Labour Party and which are diametrically opposed to the election manifesto on which we were elected in April 1973. We will not be supporting these measures

an attack on the living standards of ordinary Londoners for the benefit of the large commercial ratepayers of the city.

"We feel that the solution to the problems the GLC now faces lies with the government. They have the power to end the crippling debt charges that are slowly destroying the Council's service to the public.

"We call on all Labour Parties, Trade Union branches, Tenants Associations and Community groups to campaign to force the government to introduce those measures which will allow the GLC to reverse today's retrograde decisions and to press ahead with a "Socialist Strategy for London."

Signed: David White Maureen Harwood Dick Collins Ken Livingsstone Dudley E.R. Barker Tony Banks E.W. Ashe Marie Jenkins David Chalkley

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### MEETINGS

"LABOUR AGAINST THE HOUSING CUTS": SAT. 19th JULY, 10.30am  
AT: Friends' House, Euston Rd, Ldn.