

CHARTIST

LABOUR'S REVOLUTIONARY VOICE

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4p



SMASH THE

COMMON MARKET

CONVENE A EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF LABOUR!

by **Graham Bash** (Socialist Charter National Secretary).

ABOVE: 45,000 metalworkers on the streets of Stuttgart in 1971

NOW THAT BRITAIN has at last entered the Common Market, the question facing millions of working class families is not whether to fight the E.E.C. but how to.

Entry into the Common Market represents a major attack on the trades union movement. Against this declaration of war from the giant monopolies—against soaring prices and attacks on our living standards—our movement must hammer out a strategy for a fight that has already started.

For too long, the struggle against entry has been misled by those members of the 'Labour Left' and Communist Party whose opposition to the EEC is based on their defence of "national independence" and "Parliamentary Sovereignty". For these elements, the alternative to entry is a Britain standing grandly by itself.

This kind of nonsense must be fought and fought hard. The Common Market represents an attack, not on any mythical "independence" or "sovereignty" (which the working class has never had), but on the organizations of the working class itself. Our allies in the fight against it are not class-enemies such as Enoch Powell or the National Front—who oppose entry for their own reasons—but the organizations of the European Labour Movement: the trade unions

and mass workers' parties, including the ranks of the French and Italian Communist Parties. And to the Common Market must be counterposed not the reactionary Utopia of Britain standing alone, but the struggle of European Labour to unite Europe under its own class rule—the fight for the Socialist United States of Europe.

For isn't it absolutely clear that the national boundaries that divide Europe are obsolete, that they are hampering the development of production, and that they must be broken down? And isn't it obvious that the resources of Europe must be planned and organized on a continental basis?

BUT this task cannot be left to our class-enemies. The unity of Europe can only be achieved under the rule of the European Labour Movement itself.

SOLIDARITY

With Britain now in the EEC, our trade union leaders must act fast. They must take the initiative in organizing an all-European Conference of Labour Organizations to prepare and implement a strategy for joint struggle against the attacks of European Capital.

The way has already been shown by a whole number of examples of international working-class solidarity: as when French and German

miners blacked coal supplies to Britain during last year's miners' strike. With European capitalism in ever-deepening crisis—attempting to solve its problems on the backs of our class—this kind of unity in action must be developed to the full. The struggle against closures and unemployment must be waged on an all-European basis.

Most immediately, we are facing terrible increases in the cost of living. In our last issue, the CHARTIST demanded Labour and TUC sponsorship of committees of housewives and trade unionists to check and fight price-rises. These, we said, should be bound with tenants' associations, Trades Councils, Co-ops and Labour Party General Management Committees to form joint Councils of Action with real power in each area. Now that we are in the Common Market—with price-rises hitting our class in no matter which part of the continent we live—it is vital that such Councils be co-ordinated to act and challenge for power on a European-wide basis.

The European working class is on the move. German Labour is again rising to its feet, stronger than at any time for the last forty years. In France, the working class is heading for a situation of

crisis that will put even the 'May Events' of 1968 in the shade. Together with such allies, the fight against the Common Market can be won.

But there are grave dangers ahead. The Labour Party has made a lot of noise about withdrawing from the E.E.C. But we should not be fooled. No future Labour Government will really carry out a struggle against the European monopolies UNLESS at the same time it breaks from the ruling class in this country, takes over the major industries and uses Britain as a base from which to struggle in alliance with the European workers for a Socialist United States of Europe—embracing both West AND East of the Continent.

Our leaders today have no intention of fighting along these lines. Which is to say—they have no serious intention of fighting the Common Market at all.

CHOICE

The choice is now clearly posed. Submission to the Common Market—or the Socialist United States of Europe. For us and our class there is no third course.

- NO to the Common Market!
- BRING DOWN the Tories!
- CONVENE an All-European Conference of Labour!
- For the Socialist United States of Europe!

INSIDE:

LABOUR PARTY IN CRISIS



THE CHARTIST

Editor: Chris Knight, 7 Park View, Olive Rd, London NW2. Published by CHARTIST Publications.

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WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR?

THE "FIRST STAGE" of the so-called "temporary pay-freeze" has been in operation since November 6th. Its enforcement—coupled with the seizure of the AUEW's funds by the Industrial Relations Court—has presented us with the biggest threat our movement has faced since the 'thirties.

Since November the treachery of Vic Feather has been all but unprecedented. Even as we go to press, he's engaged in new Downing Street talks with Heath to "complain" of "unfair side-effects" of the freeze. And so far he and his accomplices have to a large extent succeeded in keeping our movement under Heath's heel.

Now, however, as Heath prepares the transition to his "Stage II", it is clear that we are once again heading for an open confrontation with the Government. The patience of the civil servants, gas workers, health workers, railwaymen and many others is running out. The Engineers—with more strikes planned such as that on the Merseyside on January 14—have far from finished their fight. Throughout the working class, the will is there, the anger is there, the strength is there for an all-out assault against the Government and the state.

The Tories are in no position to take on our movement at the moment. With disillusion even among themselves rife, there is scarcely

one section of the population—not even the army ranks—that they could rely on in a General Strike. The strike threat of the civil servants is for them a serious blow. "It is rightly", wrote the Times (Jan 2) "regarded as a sign of social deterioration, because if they do not back up the state, who will?" But their great advantage is leadership. Once again at the back of our rulers' minds is the uncertainty whether they could win if matters developed to the point of a General Strike. It is their calculations on this issue which will determine their strategy in the battle against our movement over the coming months.

The Tories are manoeuvring to find a position from which they could strike us a crippling blow. That is the meaning of their attacks on the AUEW. That is what makes "non-co-operation" with the Industrial Relations Act meaningless and in the end impossible unless it forms part of a plan for conquering power in the coming General Strike.

On our side, the absurdity of the situation is that the only tendency which is even raising this matter is the Socialist Charter. The tasks—and not simply in relation to the armed forces—are almost infinitely beyond our tiny capacities as an organization. The Tories are busy. There is no time to lose. The question arises: what, exactly, are our "left leaders" in the movement waiting for?

FRUITS OF BETRAYAL

Since the Jenkinsites are blaming Labour's "left lurch" for the Uxbridge and Sutton by-election results, a few points need to be made.

Firstly, at Uxbridge, the Labour candidate—Manuela Sykes—campaigns on exactly the failed policies of the last Government. Just how much enthusiasm that inspired was shown when Jim Callaghan came down to address a meeting—and three people turned up to hear.

Secondly, Sutton (where Labour lost its deposit) reveals the

extent to which middle-class voters are losing confidence in the Tory Party—the party of the monopolies. The only way to win such people is to show we have the power to conquer the monopolies and defend their standards against them. Aping the Liberals will mean only that our Party shares the blame when liberalism's bankruptcy is exposed. That way the road would be open to the fascists—whose successes in Uxbridge were already these elections' most significant feature.

SUPPORT CAMDEN COUNCIL!

WHILST EVERY OTHER Labour Council in London has caved in to the Tories' Housing Finance Act, Camden alone has stood up and fought.

This stand must be backed up by every section of our movement in London. Full support must be given to the Camden Action Committee Against the Housing Finance Act. As well as organizing the demonstration of January 7th, this Committee is campaigning for the implementation of the decisions of Labour Party National and London Conferences:

(a) Refusal to Implement the Act

(b) All Councillors surcharged to be reimbursed by a future Labour Government. These decisions must be acted on! They must be confirmed at London Labour Party Conference in February and included in the GLC election manifesto.

Funds for this and further campaigns are needed urgently. All donations should be made out to:

Ron Taylor, Treasurer,
Labour Movement Defence Fund,
L.C.S. Political Committee,
116 Notting Hill Gate, W 11.

THE

"WE HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER...."

In each case the constituency party consists of half a dozen of the "extremists" who have moved in. And these fellows have now captured control of the Labour Movement at every level: constituency parties; trade union branches; executives of the trade unions; the general council of the TUC; the Labour Party National Executive; and the Shadow Cabinet....

They are for the most part people who don't believe in our way of life or in our social democratic outlook. Frankly, I think they are just believers in destroying what exists.

I see several things coming out of this: quite frightening things. The party could possibly split. We might get a Lincoln on a really large scale. We might have the kind of thing that the Liberals had in the early twenties because some of us won't put up with it any longer.

I am therefore urging that we in the Labour Party stop papering over the cracks, the paper is too thin and the cracks are too wide."

LORD GEORGE-BROWN (Times 9.12.72)

THE LABOUR PARTY HAS BEGUN TO SPLIT. The process is still in the earliest of stages. But that is the clear meaning of events of recent months:

- The removal of Taverne by Lincoln Labour Party. This has received massive support from the entire rank-and-file, while it has outraged most of the Parliamentary Party.
- The refusal by North Derbyshire Labour Parties to re-nominate Councillors who voted to implement the Tory Housing Finance Act. Inspired by the defiance of Clay Cross Labour Council, this action provides an example for the whole movement.
- The burst of recriminations over the Uxbridge and Sutton-and-Cheam by-election results. George Brown's outcry, however "indiscreet", in fact gave voice to feelings which are widespread among the Jenkinsites. The extract we reprint above—and the passage from Eric Heffer's reply—speak for themselves.
- The defiance by Labour's NEC of the 1972 Conference decision that the next Labour Government re-imburse Councillors surcharged for resisting the Tory Housing Finance Act. The rank-and-file are used to being told they can't "instruct" the Parliamentary Party. Now, apparently, Conference cannot even instruct the NEC! The Constituency Parties and affiliated unions are unlikely to take this kind of thing lying down.
- The increasingly hysterical Jenkinsite attacks against "extremist" control of the Labour Party. In their efforts to retain control of the grass roots, even Wedgwood Benn and the TRIBUNE MPs are getting themselves accused of "extremism".

Since the war, the Labour Party has been divided many times. And every time the cracks have been papered over. But in the past, it has always been the left-wing who were seemingly the "splitters". And no split-off to the left has been able to alter the character of the Labour Party. The working class cannot split away—it has no-where else to go.

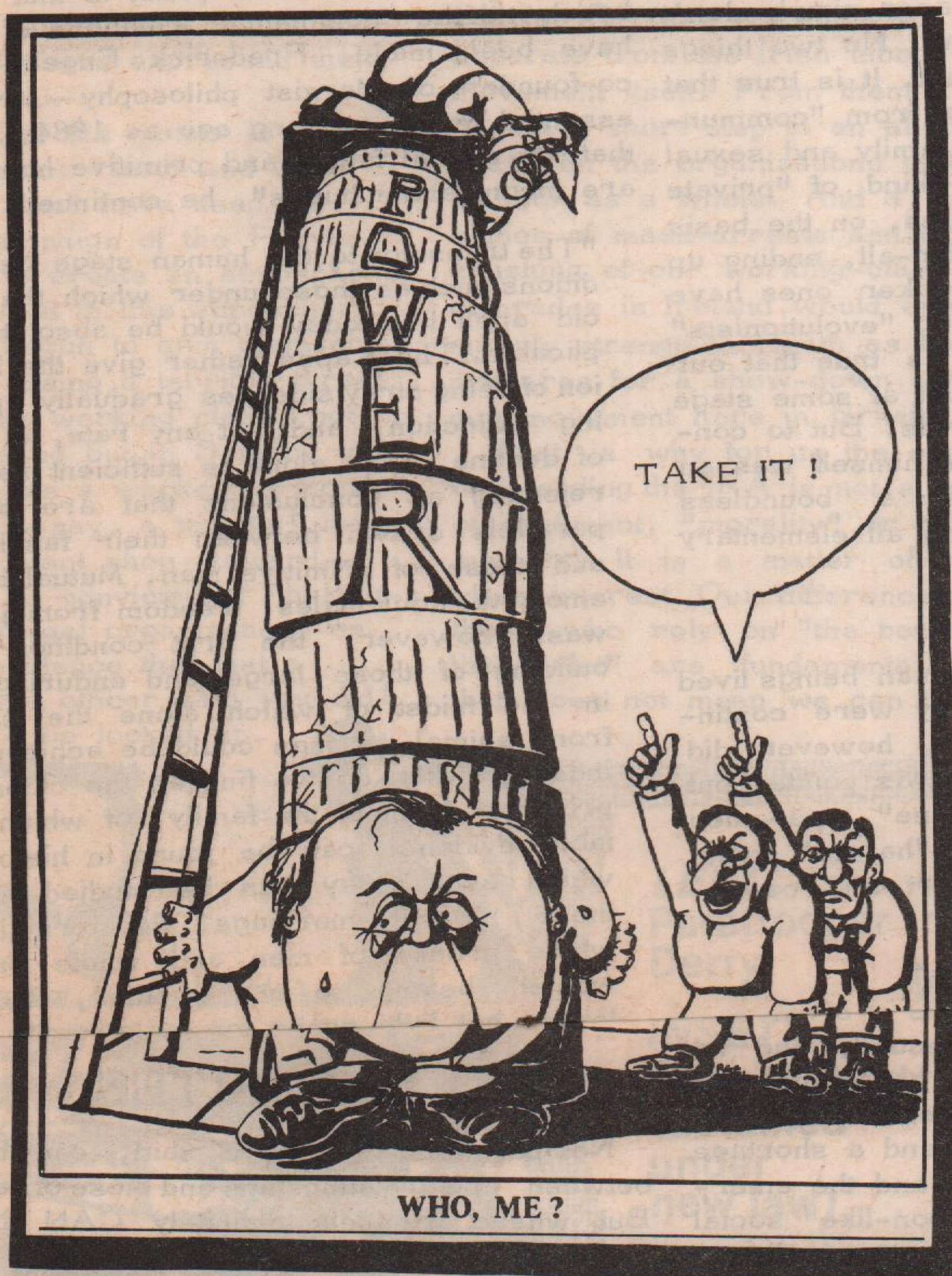
But today it is a different story. It is not simply that this time, the "split" in the Party is a reflection of a much mightier social crisis in Britain itself. The point is that now it is the right-wing and the Parliamentary leadership who are isolated. And these people—the mass of middle-class Jenkinsites and their allies—HAVE got somewhere else to go. They can leave and further their careers along with their Liberal and Tory friends with whom they belong. And an exodus of these people and a weakening of the right wing in the Party could lead to a fundamental alteration in the class balance of power within our whole movement.

The Jenkins group are now seen by all as collaborators with the Tories. Taverne was the first to openly stand against us in an election. But—provided our offensive is maintained—the others will follow his example in due course. Even a victory for Taverne in Lincoln—which would almost certainly be followed by his re-admission into the Parliamentary Labour Party—would only deepen the sense of outrage felt in all the Constituency parties.

Harold Wilson's attempts to "paper over the cracks" are doomed. The real ISSUES dividing the right-wing traitors from the rest of us—the Common Market, the Industrial Relations Act, the Housing Finance Act—will become not less but more central as the struggle against this Government goes on.

But a split from George Brown, Dick Taverne and their like is in reality not a split in our movement at all. The further we are from them, the stronger will be the fighting unity of our whole organized movement and class.

LABOUR PARTY IN CRISIS



'The Trade Unions and Constituency Parties have a greater collective right to decide what the Parliamentary Labour Party should do than Harold Wilson, Roy Jenkins and Jim Callaghan put together.'

The Labour Party is heading for the biggest bust up ever if it continues to ignore its own rank and file.'

NORMAN ATKINSON M.P. (Times, 9.12.72).

"BY IMPLICATION the party is threatened with a split. If such a split occurs, it cannot be laid at the door of those George Brown calls the extremists.

The party at the 1971 and 1972 conferences has passed resolutions demanding a more socialist policy. The delegates have become fed up with the mealy-mouthed milk-and-water policies of the mixed economy don't-go-socialist brigade. They had those policies during the six years of Labour's term of office. They not only did not work, they positively lost us the support of whole sections of the grass roots that Labour requires in order to become a Government.

It is a fact of history that it has always been people on the right of the Party who have betrayed its interests. It was the Ramsay MacDonalds, the safe men, who ended up as Conservative stooges and it is no different today.

I conclude with a loud and clear message to George Brown and his friends. If you don't like the Labour Party then you know what you can do—you can leave. In the meantime, stop acting as the fifth column for its enemies who have only one basic objective, to see its destruction."

ERIC HEFFER, M.P. (Times 9.12.72).

For the Right to Affiliate!

ONE of the Labour Party's legacies from the Gaitskell era is the idea that "parties within the Party" cannot be tolerated. The Socialist Charter is firmly opposed to this miserable trickery which allows the Parliamentarians to organize against the rest of us through their own "party within the Party" but prevents us from organizing against them.

We demand:

- the abolition of all bans and proscriptions in the Labour Party;
- the expulsion of all those—including the Jenkinsite MPs—who refuse to abide by Conference decisions;
- the right of all organizations loyal to the principles enshrined in Clause 4, par. 4 of the Party Constitution to affiliate to the Labour Party both locally and nationally.

If it is to conquer state power, the Labour Party will need a firm guiding hand, a far-sighted and uncompromising socialist leadership. It will not gain this as long as it keeps the best sections of socialist youth and the working class outside its ranks. The Socialist Charter seeks immediate affiliation to the Labour Party with rights at least equal to those given the academic middle-class grouping known as the "Fabian Society". Why should this clique of political imposters be the only body allowed national affiliation to the Labour Party? We demand the right of ALL bodies pledged to Clause 4—including the Communist Party, Socialist Labour League, International Socialists and other groups—to affiliate to the Labour Party if they so wish, with delegates proportional to their paid-up numerical strength and with rights no less than those enjoyed by the Fabians.

This would not be a break with party tradition, but, on the con-

trary, a return to one of the earlier principles on which the Labour Party was built. This was the conception of it as a democratic federation of ALL the socialist, co-operative and trade union bodies in the labour movement as a whole.

Throughout its early life, the dominant political influence in the Labour Party was the "Independent Labour Party". This was a paid-up membership organization, a "party within the Party" which effectively controlled the entire Party machine.

We CHARTISTS aim to control the Labour Party too. Unlike the Parliamentary Labour Party however, we seek to do this not by back-stage organizational manoeuvring, not by the suppression and defiance of Conference and the trade unions, and not by currying favour with the mass-media—but by the force of support for our programme within the rank-and-file of the party itself. And unlike the Independent Labour Party, we will campaign for this support on the basis of not Parliamentary illusion mongering but the clear warning that if state power is to be taken we ourselves—as tenants, as workers and as an organized class—will have to do the job alone. Our aim is to use the mighty potential strength and machinery at the disposal of the Labour Party for the purpose of overthrowing capitalism and establishing a Labour Government based on social ownership and the rule of the class we represent. We call on all Labour Party members who support us in this aim to campaign for the necessary rule-change which would permit our application to affiliate.

THE FIRST REVOLUTION

by CHRIS KN...

ON THIS page last month, we saw the "communism" of so-called "primitive" peoples in the way they shared out food. But in fact, their communism was far more thoroughgoing than that. They also shared even their children, their mothers, brothers, sisters and relatives of all kinds.

SOLIDARITY

Theirs was a system based on solidarity. The women of a clan would live together in a communal dwelling-place, collectively fetching water, cooking and caring for their children. So close was their identification with each other, that they would speak of "our children" in a collective sense, but never of "my" child as opposed to "yours". Their very language—their so-called "kinship terminology"—just did not allow them to distinguish. Likewise, they could speak of "our brothers", "our husbands" "our mothers"—but not of "my" brother, husband or mother. For a woman to discriminate between "mine and thine"—for example, to favour her own child at the expense of her sister's child—would be to break the solidarity upon which the clan-system was based. By maintaining solidarity, a woman gained a security which no mother in capitalist society can have. She could always rely on her "clan-sisters" to help her in caring for her children, and these could be confident of receiving all the love they required.

DRASTIC

You might think that so drastically collectivist a system must have been exceptional even in the so-called "primitive world". In actual fact, however, just about ALL the native tribes of America, Africa and Australia—since the White Man began investigating them a hundred or so years ago—have proved to have this "classificatory" system of kinship terminology. Even today, it is those communities which CAN distinguish in their kinship terminologies between "my" relatives and "yours" which are the exceptions, not the other way about (except, of course, where the tribal system has broken down altogether).

UNOFFICIAL

This is not to say that in practice, people did not tend to discriminate on biological grounds at all. A mother, for example, would naturally know, and in subtle ways "favour" her own offspring from among those she called "our children". And she would tend to establish a personal—albeit loose and easily-dissolved—bond with one from among those she called "our husbands". The point is simply that she would not admit it or talk about it. For such "discrimination", while overlooked, tolerated by society within limits, was strictly "unofficial"—and thought of as a private yielding to personal weakness. To have accepted it into the tribal language and kinship-terminology—in other words, to have officially-recognized its existence—was out of the question.

PEOPLE

To students of "primitive culture" it is a commonplace that in a society without riches and fixed property, one's chief real wealth lay in the number of relatives one could call upon for help whenever it was needed. To the extent that in such conditions people "belonged" to one another not individually but collectively, we can say that such "wealth"—the only real "capital" one could have—was collectively-owned. This common-ownership in PEOPLE was the linch-pin of the social order of mankind for thousands of years.

Now those who make comparisons between the social life of early man and the "family" arrangements of monkeys and apes simply don't know what they are talking about. No two things could possibly be more different. It is true that monkey and ape societies are far from "communist". It is true that their family and sexual relations have developed on a kind of "private property" basis—the strongest males, on the basis of a more or less violent free-for-all, ending up with all the females while the weaker ones have none. And—as the stupid right-wing "evolutionists" never tire of reminding us—it is true that our own ape-like animal ancestors must at some stage have had such a system themselves. But to conclude from all this that early man himself was an ape-like brute simply shows a boundless ignorance of the principles on which all elementary human cultures were based.

HUNTING

We are told that the earliest human beings lived like monkeys and apes. But if they were continually competing against each other, however did they manage to hunt big game? It was pointed out last month that the "Australopithecine" ape-men did not manage. Their baboon-like "harem" social system ruled out the mutual support and co-operation needed.

REVOLUTION

But the new "Leakey Man" has a brain-size nearly twice that of "Australopithecus", and its slender build gives us no sign of its having become adapted to the brutalities of a "harem" system. And so when changing conditions—and a shortage of food—created fierce competition and the emergence even among them of "baboon-like" social relations, they were equipped anatomically to escape the dilemma in which they were placed. There is little space here to do justice to what actually took place. But in brief, the evidence points to something like the following. With the removal of their old protective environment and food-sources, the harem-system enveloped our ancestors suddenly. It intensified, became an intolerable burden for most of its members—and then exploded. At first, as with all other monkey or ape-like species which leave more sheltered surroundings for life on the open ground, groups of females and their offspring came to belong personally to a few dominant males. The remaining males formed a separate "bachelor band" on their own. But as the crisis deepened, so many males were "outcast" that their existence became a threat to the whole system of male dominance itself. Moreover, it was they who were coming to control the new food source in the shape of big game. Their growing ability to hunt contrasted ever more starkly with the uselessness of the "overlord" males—whose jealous guardianship of their slow-moving "harems" of females prevented them from chasing after animals at all. Sooner or later—as meat became essential for survival—the hungry females themselves would have rebelled against their forcible separation from the only group capable of feeding them. They broke from the control of their "overlords", joining instead with the formerly outcast band of males. In this way occurred the "revolution" from which all human life was to stem.

COMMUNISM

We can be fairly sure that some such thing as this actually happened—because the resulting collective "marriage" would give us much the same sort of communist relationships (at least in embryonic form) that we have described among "primitive" peoples.

You may argue that the theory cannot be proved. But what surely needs no proof is that a complete break with the "dominance" relations of apes must have been made. Frederick Engels—the great co-founder of Marxist philosophy—stressed this essential point as long ago as 1884. Remarking that "the animal family and primitive human social relations are incompatible things", he continued:

"The transition to the human stage out of conditions such as those under which the anthropoid apes live today would be absolutely inexplicable. These apes rather give the impression of being stray sidelines gradually approaching extinction, and, at any rate, in process of decline. This alone is sufficient reason for rejecting all conclusions that are based on parallels drawn between their family forms and those of primitive man. Mutual toleration among the adult males, freedom from jealousy was, however, the first condition for the building of those large and enduring groups in the midst of which alone the transition from animal to man could be achieved. And indeed, what do we find as the oldest, most primitive form of the family, of which undeniable evidence can be found in history, and which even today can be studied here and there? Group marriage, the form in which whole groups of men and whole groups of women belong to one another, and which

OPPOSITES

No parallels, we have said, can be drawn between ape relationships and those of early man. But where parallels definitely CAN be drawn is between CAPITALIST society and "dominance" relations of monkeys and apes. There is nothing mystical about this. It is simply, as the Russian Marxist Plekhanov has concluded, that "every phenomenon, developing to its opposite, becomes transformed into its opposite; but as the new phenomenon, being opposed to the first, also is transformed in its turn into its own opposite, the third phase of development bears a formal resemblance to the first."

RETURN

The modern capitalist world is in a real sense a reversion to the competitive relationship of our pre-human past. As Engels puts it:

"It is the Darwinian struggle of the individual for existence transferred from Nature to Society with intensified violence. The conditions of existence natural to the animal appear as the final term of human development."

But this is not the only parallel which can be drawn. For it is also true that the future communist world will represent a formal "return"—although on an almost infinitely higher level—to the relations of solidarity of our Stone Age past. And, for the final parallel, we can say that today—as was the case at the beginning of history—the transition from animal conditions to really human ones requires a revolution.

concluded

1. Frederick Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, Moscow, Sixth Impression, pp 54-55.
2. G. Plekhanov, *The Development of the Monism View of History*, Moscow 1956 p. 100.
3. Frederick Engels, *Socialism Utopian and Scientific*, Marx and Engels *Collected Works*, Volume II 1951, p. 131.

A THREAT TO IRISH LABOUR

THE LYNCH Government's anti-IRA act is much more than it seems. The Irish Trades Union Congress has correctly described it as a threat to trade unionism in Ireland. Left-wing Irish MP Dr. John O'Connell has warned militant tenants that they too could find themselves attacked under the legislation. And even in the British House Of Commons a large number of MPs have expressed their "disquiet".

The fact of the matter is this. Prime Minister Heath and Irish Premier Lynch have used the bombing-campaign of the Provisional IRA to create an atmosphere of panic. And in this atmosphere, they have begun to arm themselves with laws posing a terrible threat to the entire working class, not only in Ireland but in Britain, too.

If you were a worker in Southern Ireland—say, a tenants' leader or a militant shop-steward—you could be convicted of "belonging to an illegal organization" on no other evidence than that a senior police officer said you did! Then you'd be locked up.



LEFT:
Paratrooper in
Derry.

INSET:
Rory O'Brady
(detained
under
new law).

Already trial by jury would be denied to you in the North of Ireland under laws just passed bringing that 'Province' into line with the South. And—nearer home still—the savage sentences meted out to the Angry Brigade show what is in store for us here.

Heath and Lynch have chosen the "bombers" as their first target with good reason. They are hitting us where we are weakest. The "Provos" are a politically-bankrupt, middle-class nationalist tendency whose tactics—in this respect like those of the "Angries"—seem almost tailor-made to suit Heath's needs. It is true—as recent events have confirmed—that the Dublin bomb-explosions of November 30 were the work of agents of our own ruling class.

But without the follies of the Provisionals in the past, the trick of throwing the blame on to the IRA could not have been made to work. That is why bomb-blasters are so useful to the Tories. By cracking down on them to start with—exploiting bomb-scares even to the point of exploding their own devices—they can introduce their laws without encountering the normal working class resistance. Workers will think "the bombers must be stopped!" And on the pretext of "saving lives" the Tories will arm themselves with dictatorial powers.

What all of us in the working class movement must understand is this. An attack on the "terrorists" is—in however disguised a form—an attack on us. Having dealt with the Provisionals, Lynch and Heath will quickly move to the "marxist" Official IRA, who pose—in their potential at least—a far greater threat to their rule. The Official IRA are not entirely separate from the Irish labour movement itself. From them it will be but a short step to an all-out attack on the organizations of Irish Labour as a whole. And a series of mass-arrests and a crushing of our working-class comrades in Ireland would enormously strengthen Heath as he prepares for a show-down against our movement here in Britain.

That is why for us the question of defending the IRA is not a matter of sentiment, "morality" or political support. It is a matter of simple class-interest. Our differences with those who rely on "the bomb and the bullet" are fundamental. But that does not mean we can turn to

the Tories to help them "maintain law and order". Our movement—the working class movement—will establish its own law and its own order once we have state power in our hands. We will end terrorism by removing from power the real terrorists—the ruling class and its armed agents—and by ending the conditions which create "terrorism" as a response of despair. But a precondition for all this is that the Tories' attempts to crush the IRA are resisted and smashed. We CHARTISTS fight to defend both wings of the IRA against British Imperialism and its Irish agents. We demand the release of Sean McStiofain and of all Irish political prisoners now. In Britain and Ireland this fight is a crucial part of the working class struggle for power.

Chris Knight

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VICTORY to the VIETNAMESE REVOLUTION!

IN OUR LAST ISSUE—when most of our "revolutionary" friends were talking of victory emerging out of the Paris "peace" talks—we presented a much more sober analysis of our movement's prospects in Vietnam. "Any 'peace'", we wrote, "to which the Pentagon agrees—short of a decisive defeat imposed by the revolutionary forces in Vietnam—will exist on paper only..." United States imperialism, we warned, would exploit the treacherous willingness of Peking and Moscow to see negotiations and concessions forced on Hanoi. The concessions already made by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in the "October agreement", we wrote, were dangerous; "the situation in Vietnam... is now full of risks."

Many comrades thought we were "too pessimistic". But the month since then has unfortunately confirmed our view. Contrary to what our 'Militant', 'Red Mole' and other friends seem to believe, President Nixon is not going to sit back and see South Vietnam "go communist". U.S. Imperialism's position in the world is not strong enough for him to be able to afford to do that. The massive December bombing campaign—perhaps the

most savage in the history of air-war—was not designed to secure from the resumed "Peace" talks only a means of "saving face".

Concessions of substance are being demanded—sufficient to guarantee a permanent (if disguised) imperialist presence in South Vietnam.

The Vietnamese revolution is mingling and coinciding to an increasing extent with the development of the world revolutionary movement itself. U.S. imperialism is struggling not for some secondary foothold with which it can in the final analysis dispense. It is engaged in the Vietnam war as part of a wider struggle for its very survival. It cannot pass on the imperialist 'burden' to someone else—as the French after Dien Bien Phu passed it on to Uncle Sam. It has decided to stand and fight—and today it just cannot afford to lose. That is why the Indo-Chinese revolutionary war can end in NO "negotiated peace". The war will go on—until our heroic comrades in Vietnam have been joined by their giant sleeping ally, the US working class itself, when the American imperialist colossus will be felled.

Australia New Zealand Go Labour

FOR OUR MOVEMENT internationally, Labour's victories in Australia and New Zealand mark an important step forward.

The new Australian Government is withdrawing all troops from Vietnam and Malaysia, ending conscription and offering an amnesty to all those who have broken the conscription laws. It is also leaving SEATO and has recognized the Peoples' Republic of China.

In New Zealand, the Labour Government is threatening to send naval vessels into areas destined for H-bomb tests.

Australian Labour leader Gough Whitlam owes his election victory above all to the militancy forced on the Australian Council of Trade Unions in recent years. Since 1970, when a mass political strike-wave forced the release of trade unionists jailed under an Australian equivalent to Britain's "Industrial Relations Act", the whole class-balance of forces has shifted to Labour's advantage. Dockers and seamen are now blacking U.S. ships and war materials going to Vietnam, while the building trade

unions have announced that "if the U.S. does not sign a peace agreement by the end of this month, consideration will be given to a boycott of all American goods and services in Australia". Moreover the whole working class has been responding magnificently in strike struggles to defend their living standards against inflation. In comparison, Whitlam's own acts of "defiance" to the ruling class—such as refusing to join the Privy Council or to grant New Year Honours—seem puny. Unless more serious action is taken, the Labour Government will soon be in serious danger. Already, Sir Robert Askin—Tory Premier of the State of New South Wales—has "warned" it not to "encroach on the sovereignty" of those states (his own, plus Victoria and Queensland) which the Tories still control. Only through the mobilization of the working class through the Australian Council of Labour on a programme of nationalization and workers' control can the Labour Government defend itself against the threats of Askin and the class he represents.

Phil Eliot.

young socialist NEWS

NORWOOD YS meets every Thursday at 264 Rosendale Rd., SE 24
STREATHAM YS meets every Tuesday at 298 Streatham High Rd., (behind Photo Studio near St Leonard's Church) at 8 pm
BRENT EAST YS meets every other Wednesday at 7 Park View, Olive Rd NW2 at 8 pm.
VAUXHALL YS meets every Wednesday at 179 Kennington Road at 8 pm.

'KICK OUT COUNCILLORS—NOT TENANTS' call at vauxhall meeting

FORTY ATTENDED a public meeting organised by Vauxhall Labour Party Young Socialists on December 6th. The central demand from this lively meeting was for a campaign throughout the Party to throw out all the councillors who had voted for the rent rises under the Tory government's Housing Finance Act.

"The Labour Party Young Socialists in Lambeth are leading the fight to replace those Labour Councillors who put up your rents," said the Chairman, Kevin Moore, in summing up.

He appealed to everyone in the audience to play their part in the struggle in the Labour Party to select Councillors who would be prepared to "take risks".

Chris Knight opened, speaking for the Socialist Charter. "It is a scandal that it was left to the Young Socialists to organize this meeting," he declared. "What is the Labour Council here doing? If the Lambeth Councillors had the courage of those in places like Camden—if they had defied the Government and convened this meeting themselves—we would have had a massive turn-out here and a movement involving all the working-class organizations in this Borough".

Ted Knight, a local Labour Party member, also spoke. "There IS a division in the Party, and we ARE going to talk about it openly," he stressed. Councillor Ken Livingstone followed, and explained what would be happening in the future. Nine hundred tenants in Lambeth were withholding their rent increases. "Make it nine hundred and one!" shouted a woman at the back of the hall to great applause.

When arrears built up, he continued, the council would be faced with a choice just before the next local elections — whether to evict working class families from their homes. He had voted against putting up rents, and would do his best to prevent any evictions. The council had to stand up to the Tories, even though the government might use troops to carry out evictions.

DESPIITE the pressing need for a Young Socialists' intervention in the campaign against Dick Taverne, the Y.S. leadership has been far from active. The London Regional Committee chose to ignore a resolution from the Norwood branch calling for a demonstration in Lincoln

against Taverne and his policies. "The matter was being discussed on the National Committee of the Y.S." said the Secretary. Nothing has yet come of this discussion, however. It is still not too late. The Y.S. can still show that it can ACT on

this issue. A fighting campaign to win Lincoln for Labour will be a blow to Taverne and to all those like him in the Labour Party leadership who help keep this Tory Government in office.

- Smash Taverne!
- Expel the Labour Traitors!

FOOTBALL CHALLENGE



ANY of the YS branches above will accept a challenge to a football match.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN PARTY CLASH

STREATHAM'S Young Socialists clashed this week with the main Streatham Labour Party over the Government's wage freeze.

The YS branch wanted to push through a resolution condemning the TUC for negotiating with the Government, and they also called for the Labour movement to prepare for a General Strike.

But this found no favour in the Streatham party who rejected the idea and, instead, demanded an immediate General Election over the issue of the Government's record on prices.

Speaking for the YS resolution, Miss Elaine O'Neill claimed that the Government was "out to precipitate a general strike at a time of its choosing."

The Labour movement, she declared, must be ready to resist.

Opposing this proposal, Mr Joe Rosenbaum described the Young Socialist motion as undemocratic, and the party sec-

retary, Mr David Lipsey, called it "divisive, impractical and a recipe of disaster."

The resolution was lost by 16 votes to five.

But the party went ahead and passed a resolution condemning the freeze which affected wages "while food prices are free to rise and dividends are allowed to pile up for shareholders until after the freeze"

Streatham News
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NORWOOD DEMANDS CAMPAIGN TO SMASH TAVERNE

HOSPITAL WORKERS FIGHT PAY FREEZE

IN THE FRONT LINE of the battle against the Tory pay freeze are the hospital ancillary workers. These lower paid workers whose take home pay is around £15 a week have had their £4 claim frozen by Heath.

On December 13th, 180,000 of them struck for their £4 pay claim, and demonstrated in large numbers in various cities.

The National Joint Negotiating Committee advised workers to strike for a half or whole day "as applicable". This gave local officials the opportunity to drag their feet and restrict the strikers to coming out for as little as 4

Workers Union in particular made very little preparation for the strike. This, however, didn't prevent massive enthusiastic demonstrations in every city in Britain.

In Liverpool, 2,000 marched through the city centre.

In Glasgow, 7,000 demonstrated, and in Bristol 2,000

AT THE WHITTINGTON hospital in North London, pickets had no armbands, picket boards or loud hailer, and most of the strikers did not even know the destination of the march. But at its sister hospital, the Northern, pickets were informed by General and Municipal officials that "help is not needed at the Whittington", despite a picket arriving there in his own car and asking for help. It was not surprising that many strikers, feeling

while in Wales 5,000 marched from 50 hospitals.

In London workers from Guy's, St. Thomas' and Westminster hospitals converged on the Department of Health and Social Security at the Elephant and Castle, where a letter was handed to Keith Joseph saying "This is the first time we have

ever done anything like this.... We are tired of having our dedication to the patient exploited"

A real warning to Heath. Such was this demonstration of strength by the Health Service Unions, a strike by members normally far from militant and obviously pushed to their limits. It showed that if Feather and his friends in the TUC think that Heath is going to help the low paid, his members are rapidly shedding any illusions they had in that direction. If our leaders were half as militant as the health service workers, the freeze could be smashed and the