

December 71

CHARTIST

Bulletin of the Young Chartists

No.10

4p

Expel the Labour traitors!

THE TREACHEROUS action of Roy Jenkins and the 68 Labour MPs who voted with the Tories on Common Market entry must not go unpunished. We must clearly show that we are not prepared to idly stand back and let "representatives" of ours defy the democracy of the Labour movement by arrogantly flouting a 5 to 1 majority at Party conference and a 9 to 1 majority at TUC - against entry.

Class party

The Labour Party was founded to represent the working class in Parliament, not as a breeding ground for careerists and aspiring-bureaucrats who are not of sufficient quality to make the Tory "elite". We do not subscribe to the reactionary view that a Labour MP's first duty is to lead his constituents. Such nebulous nonsense merely supplies a smoke-screen for betrayal and is an open invitation to any Labour MP to vote according to his "conscience", rather than the class interest of the movement who put him where he is. If our MPs are not responsible to us, if they do not serve the interest of the organised working class (who are the majority of his constituents), then they can only aid and bolster the Tories, the major monopolies and the gamut of parasites who rule this country via their ownership of the economy and their control of the mass media, the police, the army and all the facets of state power. It is no coincidence that the Tory press are constantly eulogising the Labour men of "integrity" and "conscience"!!!

Betrayal

The betrayal of Oct. 28th is not simply a question of abstract democracy, neither is it confined solely to the Common Market issue. Entry into the EEC is the CENTRAL PILLAR of the Tory offensive on the working class movement. The Industrial Relations Act, the Immigration Bill, the cuts in social services and education, the lame-duck policy, unemployment, the "fair" rents, the occupation of Ireland - all these are structured to facilitate Market entry and are part and par-

cel of a concerted strategy to solve the present economic crisis at our expense.

In this context, the betrayal of Jenkins & Co. is doubly criminal. By voting with the Tories, by posing as fake-internationalists and effecting a coalition with the Government, they illustrated their preference for the well being of the international corporations and their contempt for the aspirations of working class people. More than this, they gave concrete support to ALL these viscious anti-working class policies by acting as a Tory crutch and refusing to use the Tory split to force a General Election. Their betrayal is perhaps worse than the Ramsey MacDonald coalitionists. They have paved the way for attacks of increasing intensity and have sown confusion into the movement at a time when the working class needs a resolute leadership that must be prepared to force out the Tories by a General Strike if necessary and destroy Tory rule for good by depriving the ruling class of its economic, financial and state power.

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DEFEND THE IRA

INSPIRE OF the efforts of the British gutter press to distort the events in Northern Ireland, there can be no doubt that the role of the Army is not to "Keep the peace!" but to suppress the catholic minority in order to maintain the Ulster Unionists in power.

Internment without trial has failed to crush resistance and prisoners are now being subjected to mental and physical torture - one detainee upon release was admitted, completely broken, into a mental hospital. There have been many acts of violence against the civilian population. Perhaps the most blatant so far, was the gunning down, by soldiers, of two women - described by the "Evening News" as "terror women". Their only crime was to pass in a car sounding a horn to warn their neighbours of approaching troops. An army spokesman ex-

posed this outrage by saying that the women had broken a window in the car and fired a revolver; but no windows in the car were broken from inside and NO GUN WAS FOUND!!

Every day the press celebrate some act of violence carried out by the British Army, while hypocritically condemning the IRA "terrorists". While we are very critical of the indiscriminate bombing carried out by the Provisional IRA as it will only deepen the differences between protestant and catholic workers, we realise that the frustration and anger that lead to these acts are a product of British oppression.

It is criminal for British socialists to dismiss the Provisional IRA as a "terrorist organisation" and raise such abstract slogans as: - "Victory to Working Class" and "British and Irish Workers Unite

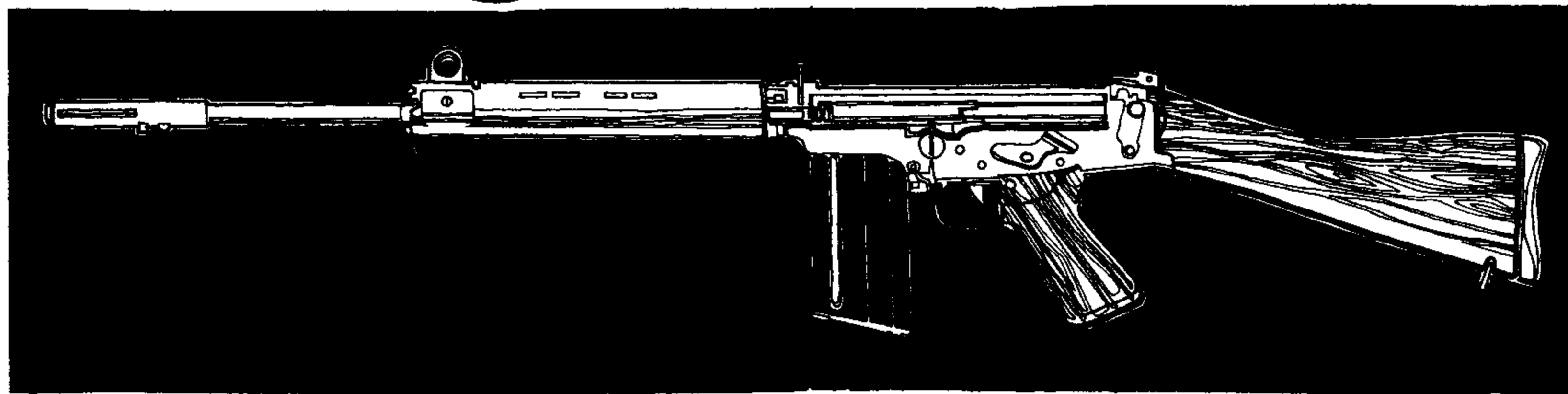
and Fight". While we must always raise the question of workers' unity by calling for the activation of the Irish Council of Labour and the setting up of armed workers' defense committees based on the trade unions, our unconditional support must go to those organisations which are actually fighting British imperialism.

Therefore, in the Irish struggle, our support must go to the Provisional and Official IRA, however critical we are of them.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE IRA IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST BRITISH IMPERIALISM!

Peter M'cLintock

T.U.C. - organise the army



WITHDRAW TROOPS NOW!

WITH THE increasingly ruthless use of the British Army for political purposes in Ireland, and with the Tory Government in this country clearly preparing for a major show-down with the trade unions and working class, the question of the soldiers - of their mood and allegiance - is acquiring ominous significance for the whole of our movement. We may find ourselves, in the not-so-distant future, having to face the use of troops - fresh trained from Ireland - to crush and cow our class-organizations in Scotland, England and Wales.



Does it seem a far-fetched idea? But in the Dock Strike only eighteen months ago, the Tory Government - then fresh from its election victory - assumed emergency powers enabling it to use troops against the dockers. At that moment, the whole situation was leading towards a clash with the troops when Jack Jones and his supporters took fright and called the strike off. Since then the scale of class struggle has enormously stepped up. Suppose the TUC last March had called a General Strike, as the Engineers, Boilermakers and others demanded? Or suppose the UCS "take-over" had gone a little further this summer, and the men had infringed property rights with the backing of their organizations? Can anyone doubt that in either case, the troops would have been used? Only last month, police with dogs were brutally used against the striking workers at Heathrow Airport. With the anger of the working-class mounting from month to month, and the Tory Government forced to attack us harder and harder to keep British capitalism alive, there cannot be the slightest doubt that we are heading for a period of violent class-conflict, whether we like it or not.



At some stage, in the relatively near future, the Army most definitely will be used against us. It is simply a question of when. And since we cannot rule out altogether the possibility of a General Strike even within the coming year or two, it is essential that we start preparing now.

On the LPYS rally against unemployment, we Young Chartists put forward the slogan: "prepare for the General Strike!" Unlike the comrades around "Militant" who denounce this slogan as "Ultra-left", we think it is urgently necessary that even now - that is, before a general strike situation takes us by surprise - we should start thinking about preparing the movement for it. And we insist that work in connection with the Army must be an integral part of this preparation.



In any show-down with the ruling-class, the attitude of the Army ranks - are they for or against us? - will become the decisive factor at a certain stage. And should they be against us, and allow themselves to be used to crush our organizations, the result could be a defeat more humiliating and disastrous even than 1926, dashing the hopes of millions of workers not only in this country but throughout the world.

So we must take care! The dangers are terrible. And for us "revolutionaries" - whatever "faction" we support - the responsibilities on us could be vast. And yet, in our opinion, even a minimum of action taken now could contribute much, if not everything, to the security of our movement.



Why not start NOW a vigorous campaign to get the troops organised into a trade union? If anyone thinks "all soldiers are scabs" they should come with us Young Chartists when we leaflet troops with the "Soldier's Charter". Many of these young workers in uniform are the most class-conscious lads you could find anywhere. Almost all O.R.'s (i.e. non-officers) identify in some way with "us" (that is, with the Labour Party) against the Tories. And this is despite the Labour Party's almost total unconcern for the sufferings and conditions of the soldiers - who in Ireland are forced to face the justified fury of the "Catholic" working people against British imperialist and Unionist repression, and must endure without complaining not only the hazards of a war in which they have no interest whatsoever but the most shameful sleeping and living conditions as well. Despite all the right-wing balley-hoo about "our lads in Ulster", the real feelings of the soldiers being voiced by no-one, are not so very different from those of workers everywhere. With unemployment at its present peak in Newcastle, Glasgow and the depressed areas, the number of reluctant - and often trade union minded - youth being forced into the Army is at a record level since conscription ended. The appearance of the Soldiers' Trade Union Rights Movement this year has been only one sign of a growing mood of unrest among the ranks. And only an idiot could imagine that the majority of Soldiers would fight in Ireland if they had any say in the matter.



Withdraw the troops now! Within the depths of the Army itself - ask any private back from Ireland, once

the immediate pressure of fighting has been relaxed - this call finds an echo. But it is no use simply requesting the Tories to remove the troops from Ireland. The Irish situation presents us with a unique opportunity to deal British capitalism a body-blow which could prove fatal to it. We've got to bring the troops out ourselves! As a movement, we have the power to do it. The campaign for soldiers' trade union rights must be the point at which we start. If we can defeat the Tories on this issue, the problem of the Army will be far on the road to being solved.



Colin Knox

CP CONGRESS

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from

THE CP CONGRESS held at the end of November really exposed the utter bankruptcy of the leadership of the rapidly ageing Communist Party. No real lead was given in struggle against the Tory offensive on the working class nor was any real perspective put forward on the current battles being waged inside the boundaries of the occupied part of Ireland. Instead the hierarchy put forward veiled calls for "left" unity and rallied its supporters with boasts of its role in certain industrial struggles and its "broad front of united action over the question of the Common Market" which it claimed to have achieved. In fact of course, this so-called unity was achieved at the cost of abandoning any sort of working-class internationalism and united only those middle-class elements within society who felt their "patriotism" at stake. By pandering to this crude nationalism the CP effectively cut itself off from the rank-and-file of the labour and trades-union movements who found them-

THE B

OF HEATHROW



THE BATTLE at London Airport over the General Aviation Services (GAS) contract, has now twice erupted into the national headlines because the Airport workers have refused to let their job security and working conditions be "hived off", and to allow a private contractor to get rich at their expense. Recently GAS, a Canadian firm who specialize in airport work, have been awarded a contract to handle baggage for Iberia Airlines. This work was previously done by Iberia's own ground staff and leaves the way open for considerable redundancies.

Mass Meeting

Workers at Heathrow reacted in the only way they could by stopping work and demanding the end of GAS's contract. The strike was both solid and extremely militant. They filled Griffin Park (Brentford football ground) and voiced their demands in no uncertain terms. They were assured that any settlement would only be on the basis of GAS's work at Heathrow being terminated.

Whilst picketing the Iberia building the men were victims of a blatant police provocation. However, much to the horror of both the police and the British Airport Authority, when the police attempted to manhandle pickets they were given a thorough "going over" by the blokes, who showed they are well capable of looking after themselves. Faced with this, Peter Masefield, the wretched Chairman of the BAA at Heathrow, was forced to claim that the men's struggle was part of a campaign "instigated by Moscow" and "inspired by communists and other subversives".

Imagine the surprise of the men when they were told to go back to work in return for only the most minimal concessions! Though the leading light in this betrayal was Mark Young, a full time ETU official, he was clearly aided and abetted by leading shop-stewards like Billy Benson, a CP member of long standing. This disastrous course has encouraged the employers in their offensive and they are now surcharging leading BOAC and BEA stewards for all baggage handling charges lost during the strike. Phill Gibbons and Mike Lecomu, two leading militants, have been singled out for this attack. (The reason for the employers rage and vindictiveness was because when the men who were arrested at the "Battle of Iberia" appeared in court, over 1,000 workers attended a hangar meeting and subscribed £925 to pay the blokes fines.)

Sell-Out

This prosecution will be one of the first under the new Industrial Relations Act. Airport shop-stewards have a real duty to turn this into a test-case to smash the Act and the government behind it. The 50,000 workers at the airport are certainly ready to fight - the GAS affair and before that the BUA struggle has clearly proved this. However, all along the line they have been sold out by the full-time officials like Mark Young and before him Clive Jenkins. Neither have the elected representatives given any useful lead.

The precedent for this battle has already taken place in Montreal where the unions tamely allowed GAS to operate in return for a wo-

Retreat Moscow

selves in the ranks of the pro-mar-keteers because they felt they were "international socialists". Instead all the party managed to rally to its campaign was a vulgar assortment of right-wing Tories, trade-union bureaucrats and vicars who only confused the movement and led to the demoralisation of a large section of activists.

Appeals to Westminster

Equally on Ireland, at no time during the course of the Congress did it pledge its support for the just struggle of the IRA against the forces of British Toryism - but instead took the view that the army was "necessary to prevent sectarian rioting" and contented itself with calling for an end to internment and a "fair trial" for detainees". This is the logical outcome of its pitiful appeals to Westminster called for some mystical form of action from the government.



ARCH-STALINIST JOHN GOLLAN (left), seen here with Jack Woodis who defended the use of British troops in Ulster.

The only real opposition to the platform came from the Surrey District Committee and their supporters and was led by Sid French - an old guard Stalinist of longstanding. The "Frenchites" attacked the leadership on three basic grounds. One was its blatant subordination of its industrial work to the ludicrous pretensions of electoral work undertaken by the more petty-bourgeois elements in the Party. On this, they won a fair amount of sympathy from delegates but their other points of criticism bordered on the ludicrous.

Firstly, even though the Party's criticism of the Soviet bureaucracy's

invasion of Czechoslovakia were rather lame, they attacked them for this. They followed this up by calling for a "more political MORNING STAR" - which presumably meant more pictures of Bulgarian tractor factories and pin-ups of Uncle Joe. Replying, George Matthews, who edits the "STAR", weakly pointed out that the paper is a "united-front paper" and was open to all "progressive and socialist" opinions. This obviously doesn't include the dreaded Trotskyites who everyone spent a lot of time decrying but did include Reverends, Lords and various other "struggles for peace and democracy".

Split

What did become clear was the utter division of the Party between Gollan, Matthews and co., who are still chasing the utopia of a few MP's in parliament and a certain "respectability" and the hardliners from Surrey who long for a return to the "good old days" of the 1930's when Moscow handed down a line and everyone jumped accordingly.

What the still fairly large industrial base of the Party must now ask itself is what useful role their own self-imposed sectarian isolation from the Labour party serves and to really critically re-examine their own history if they are to face up to the immense responsibilities imposed on them by the Tory offensive. In the next period we are confident that the best elements on both wings of the CP will break with the whole historical dead-weight of Stalinism and turn to revolutionary Marxism. In doing this, we are confident they will turn towards the Chartists as the only group raising the question of POWER in the Labour movement.

Charlie Marks

Cook's Column

THE YS National Rally over the weekend of Nov. 6th-7th was an indication of the growing size of the LPYS - but very little of substance emerged from it. Long boring speeches by Bob Labi, Brian Monaghan and Ernie Roberts characterised the Saturday meeting. One after another "Militant" supporters mounted the rostrum to call for a socialist programme and to quote statistics at the bemused audience. Although the first with their hands up - Young Chartists were the last to be called - by which time the audience had been anaesthetised. They were aroused from their slumbers by Paul Moore, a Young Chartist from Norwood YS, who called for the expulsion of the Labour traitors that voted with the Tories, and de-



The marchers at the Square.

manded the YS National Committee should adopt the slogan "TUC Prepare for the General Strike!" Phil Elliott from Greenwich followed this up by calling for a real campaign to unionise the British Army.

On Sunday a fairly large march proceeded to Trafalgar Square. On route various abstract slogans were bellowed, such as VICTORY TO WORKING CLASS, SOCIALISM IN, UNEMPLOYMENT OUT, etc. In the square, Anthony Wedgewood Benn pleaded with the YS not to do anything rash.

Unfortunately knowing the 'Militant' comrades, he has little to fear! At the end the former Viscount Stansgate showed great difficulty in remembering the words to the Internationale; he spluttered and mumbled until "unites the human race" ended his embarrassment.

COOP INVITE

A sign of the Young Chartists growing influence in the Labour and Co-operative movements was the invitation received to send three delegates to the London Co-op Political Committee conference. The invitation was the first one ever sent to an "unofficial" body. As a gesture of gratitude, we've sent in a resolution calling for the expulsion of Jenkins from the Labour Party. This would, if passed, be even more effective if our advice had been heeded and the LCS had affiliated to the Labour Party nationally.

MARTIN
COOK

ATTLE

N

HEATHROW MEN SHUN AGENCY

Daily Telegraph

MEMBERS of a number of trade union branches at Heathrow airport have adopted a non-co-operation policy against:

1 - General Aviation Services, the Canadian-based ground handling agency over whose presence at the airport there was a three-day strike this week.

2 - The British Airports Authority police against whom there is resentment over use of dogs when workers demonstrated.

The union members concerned are refusing to accept baggage or freight handled by the agency.

The branches have said their members will handle such transshipments only if they are delivered to or collected from them by staff of the airlines concerned: Iberia, Saudi-Arabian, and Ariana, the Afghan airline.

Referring to the police, a shop steward said yesterday: "We shall no longer co-operate when they make spot searches."

Varney

ardless "no redundancies" clause, which the bosses reneged inside six months.

The unions at Heathrow must prepare now to smash GAS and other sub-contractors on the site. Simply "blacking" them is necessary but of itself totally insufficient. Only industrial action by strikes, walk-outs and mass meetings, connected to a real political struggle against the Tory government, can defeat this attack on the unions. The Airport Joint Shop Stewards Liaison Committee, has an enormous responsibility to carry this fight out. No real lead either has emerged from the so-called "Labour left". Tribune Russell Kerr, the local Labour MP for Feltham, has gone on record as saying, "Despite my efforts, Mr Masefield remains insensitive. He lives on Cloud Seven". This sort of rubbish only prepares the way for fresh confusion.

Peter Masefield is not insensitive or confused. He is an open agent of the Tory government, the CBI and the bosses. He is consciously trying to undermine the organisation of the airport unions and make the most of the declining profits. His replacement by another bureaucrat or functionary will not alter anything.

Choice

Only a political struggle to get rid of his backers will suffice. The choice before the unions is clear. Either they prepare now for industrial political action or see their living standards and conditions of work depressed and many workers joining the ever lengthening dole queues.

Editorial.

Greetings Comrades,

The CHARTIST, as you can now see, has a new editor and editorial board. These changes were made at the National Conference of the Young Chartists, held on the 30th and 31st October. The expansion of the organisation has been reflected in the paper: our next objectives are a political headquarters and a six-page paper. We can do this if you our readers and supporters back us in this.

We take this opportunity also of greeting the new Y.S. paper, the YOUNG SOCIALIST, initiated by the Lambeth-Norwood LPYS branch. This is the first rank-and-file YS paper for many years & is certainly the first one ever to attempt to build a real leadership for the YS around the major issues affecting the struggle for power in the Labour movement.

Any of our readers wanting a copy should write to :- Paul Moore, 61 Selsdon Road, London S.E.27, enclosing 6p. to cover the cost of postage.

Soldiers' Trade Union Rights Movement

Join the
growing campaign.
Support the Soldiers
Read the
"Charter"
Box BM 453
London WC1

P&P Chartist publication



So far these people have been allowed to cross the "class line" with impunity. Far from censuring and expelling them, the Wilson leadership and the Parliamentary Labour Party have given them a blank cheque to do what they want, by re-electing Jenkins as deputy leader and Houghton as Party chairman. This is not very surprising since the 69 are consistently carrying out the policies of the last Labour government. It was that administration which really started the ball of unemployment rolling, it was our Labour government which subordinated itself to the Stock Exchange and the big monopolies - attempting to introduce "In Place of Strife" and to enter the EEC; it was Wilson & Co who failed to mobilise the Labour movement and seize real power from the Tories. It was this abysmal record that enables the Labour marketeers to scab without fear of reprisals!



Jenkins—
Tory Agent

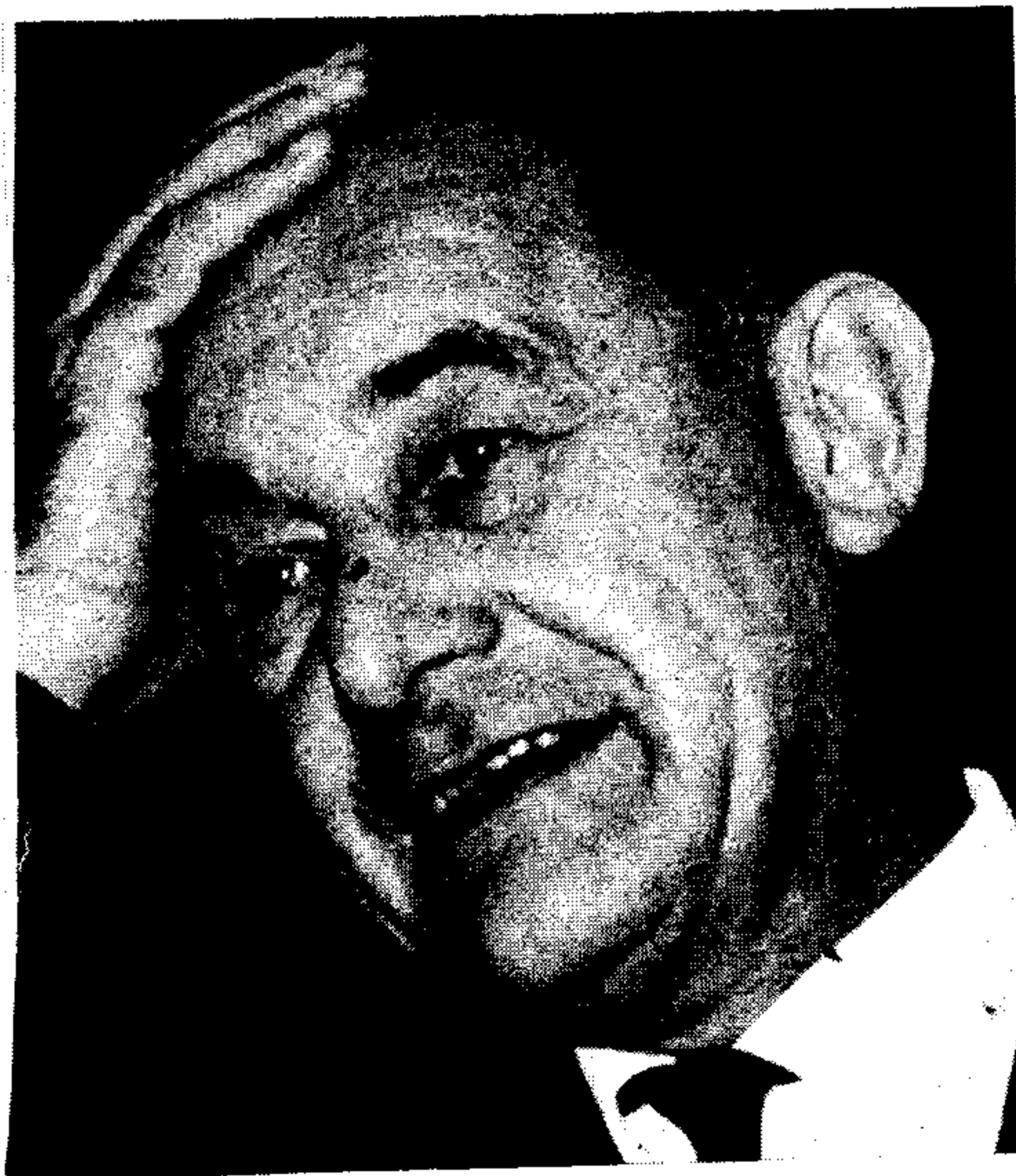
No wonder the NEC does not wish to dispense with the Labour traitors: they are merely the image of its own recent past! Had our leaders carried out a full-blooded campaign against the Common Market on ANY TERMS, had they posed the alternative of the United Socialist States of Europe and been willing to prepare the Labour movement for industrial action; had they warned the Jenkinsites that they would be expelled if they extended a helping hand to our class enemies, then the Tories could have been removed and entry prevented. Even now it is not too late. The NEC and PLP must expel and withdraw the whip from these renegades, and prepare the type of action aforementioned.

Cowardice

At the moment however, we have had no lead at all from any of our Party's higher bodies. Even the Tribunites tell us they don't want any "witchhunts". We are in full agreement!! We have always opposed the Transport House purges which have hounded many socialists, communists and revolutionaries out of our movement simply because of their ideas. At present the Young Chartists are actively campaigning against the divisive bans and proscriptions which have allowed the Jenkins' of this world to capture the leadership. However, when it comes to propping up a Tory government, when it comes to open betrayal and blatant defiance of our democratic decisions, this is a different question! This demands immediate disciplinary action if our organisations are not to crumble in the face of the Tory onslaught.

Until the NEC is prepared to expel the coalitionists, we must carry the fight into the constituencies. Already there are moves afoot to censure these people and prevent their reselection as Labour candidates.

LEYTON



Patrick Gordon Walker

In normally subdued Leyton there has been a real upsurge on the issue. Previously the GMC called upon Patrick Gordon Walker not to vote with the Tories. A motion introduced by a Young Chartist in Forest Ward expressing no confidence in Gordon Walker and declaring that he would not be nominated at the next election, was comfortably passed and awaits discussion at the next GMC.

HAYES & HARLINGTON

Here, where the appalling Sandelson was elected in a recent by-election, similar moves have been initiated. The verbal contortions and stark betrayal of this barrister when he marched into the Tory lobby, have shaken and embarrassed the catholic mafia that controls the party. Despite their desperate manoeuvres, other delegates, mostly left wing trade-unionists, are determined to boot him out and have already forced a formal condemnation.

MISCELLANEOUS



MAYHEW— Will his CLP ditch him?

The arch-renegade Mayhew in Woolwich; Taverne who defied his GMC in Lincoln, and various other Labour traitors, including Mason in Barnsley, are also being grilled.

L.P.Y.S.

Several resolutions, calling for an expulsion campaign, have been submitted to the forthcoming Greater London Region Labour Party Young Socialists conference, the leadership of which have kept silent on this vital issue.

The fight is just beginning. It must be an ongoing campaign to ensure the coalitionist cancer is cut out of our movement!!

John Henry



Prepare For Mass Rent Strikes !!

THE PROPOSED Tory legislation on rents is going to be the testing-ground of the newly-elected Labour councils throughout Britain. Already several councils such as Halstead in Essex and Clay Cross in Derbyshire have openly pledged to defy the Government on this issue.

Rents Doubled

As "Labour Weekly" recently pointed out, the effect of this legislation will be to double the rent of most council tenants, over a period of several years. The first increase of between 50p. and a £1 is due to come into effect in 1972 and there are no loopholes which Labour councils can use to evade the issue. If this law is passed, it will be illegal for councils NOT to increase the rents, and if they threaten non-cooperation, the Tories will simply appoint a Housing Commissioner to replace the offending authority.

In fact, Labour councils will not even be able to limit this to minimal increases either. Every council is obliged to assess new "fair rents" and submit these to a special committee drawn from the Rent Assessment Panel, which will have the power to change any assessment it feels to be too low.

The "Fair Rents" Bill is significant in two respects. Firstly, it is a major attempt by the Tory government to directly cut the income of a large section of the working class. Secondly, the scope of the present economic crisis is so great that the Tories are being forced to centralise administration more and more. Previous legislation had given local authorities a certain amount of leeway in interpreting and implementing

policy, now with so little room to manoeuvre, the Tories are forced to issue strict directives.

At present no real fight is being launched by the Labour movement against the Tories and their rent policies. (Indeed, all we have had from the Labour Party is a lot of stale rhetoric with a few protests from Labour councils thrown in for good measure). Instead it is being left to the Tenants Associations to actually contest this issue. This they are trying to do within the bounds of their obvious limitations.

Strikes

Tenants Associations throughout Britain have been holding public meetings and lobbying Labour MPs. In the London borough of Greenwich, three associations have combined to co-ordinate action.

What is needed now is real unity in action between the Labour Party, the Tenants Associations and the Trade Unions. A defeat for the Tories on this question could pave the way for the removal of this ruling class government. But the Tories will only be defeated by co-ordinated action. To begin with, Tenants Associations should have the right to affiliate to Labour Party GMCs. During the last rent strike in London several associations won control not only of Wards, but also GMCs and constituted a real threat to the Wilsonites with their prices and income policy and all!

Our Labour councillors could give a real lead by defying the district auditors, but if they don't, we must be prepared to do this by rent strikes backed up by industrial action

Phil Elliott.

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Published by CHARTIST PUBLICATIONS