

The Newsletter

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SAY NO TO YANKEE WAR

NOV Showdown

looms

at
Fords

By REG PERRY

BY 5,879 votes to 86 against, the workers in the paint, trim and assembly plant at Fords Motor Works, Dagenham, have hit back at the attacks made against them by the Fords' bosses.

In seven days their strike against the sacking of shop steward Bill Francis has been subjected to a constant barrage of accusations and threats.

Not only have they been accused of irresponsibility, disruption and of ignoring correct procedure, but have also been intimidated by threats that many of them will not now be re-employed.

Contrary to the normal practice at Fords, where the smallest stoppage of work in the past has resulted in laying-off the whole labour force, the management are striving to keep as many working as possible in order to create divisions amongst the 45,000 workers employed in Dagenham.

SWEEPING UP

This policy has been taken to the extent that skilled engineers have been kept occupied sweeping the floors and cleaning the machines.

This get-tough policy of Sir Patrick Hennessy and his managers is a repetition of the stand made by Rootes at British Light Steel Pressings last year. It should be seen as part of the preparations of British motor manufacturers to meet increased competition upon entry into the European Common Market.

In their drive for increased efficiency, motor bosses require a docile, disciplined labour force which will accept speed-up, rapid changes in working schedules, transfers and curtailments of working conditions.

The figure given by Fords last week of £3 million loss per year through inefficiency was undoubtedly calculated on a computer where the worker is classified like a machine and is expected to work with robot-like precision and consistency.

ON THE CARDS

The sacking of Bill Francis has nothing to do with the calling of a meeting. It is part of Fords' plan for a showdown with the shop stewards which has been on the cards for many months.

When Francis was first sacked, he was accused of calling a meeting in worktime. This was amended later to a

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EDITORIAL

Support China!

IN the border dispute between India and China which has now flared into armed struggle, there can be no question where socialists should stand. We must support the Chinese workers' state against India in every way possible.

The patriotic rubbish put out by the Indian Communist Party, backing the defence of 'their' employers' government, is treachery to the Indian workers and to the international Labour movement. The Russian press and radio remains completely silent on the question.

Nehru, who talked not long ago of peaceful co-existence, now shows just what the term means. He defends the frontiers drawn up under the British rule in the Ladakh area of Kashmir and in the North-East Frontier Agency. In these regions, his government engaged in preventing the national self-determination of the Kashmiri and Naga peoples.

The Congress leaders, who were prepared to allow British imperialism to chop the country in half in 1946, now risk war with the Chinese Republic over their northern border regions.

The Chinese have forestalled this operation. The Indian appeal for arms to be supplied by the United States and by Britain will be sympathetically heard by the imperialists. But some of the weapons and planes at present in use against the Chinese forces came from the Russians.

Nehru and Menon posing as 'progressives' and peace-lovers, nonetheless remain the political representatives of capitalism. And this means that they are tethered economically and politically to imperialism.

Menon's description of the fighting as a 'peoples war' is a lie. It is a war to protect the state power, which maintains the exploitation of the Indian workers and peasants. The duty of socialists is to fight for the overthrow of that state and replace it with the power of the working class. Only when the Indian workers have completed that operation will imperialism have been eradicated from the sub-continent.

The fight for socialism is inseparable from the defence of the Chinese revolution.

Hands off Cuba! Defend the USSR!

By GERRY HEALY

ARE you ready for an invasion of Cuba and a nuclear war? The American imperialists have decided to risk one. They did not consult you; they did not even consult their allies in the Tory government. They have conspired behind the backs of all the human beings on this planet to take steps which may eventually lead to the end of life as we know it.

Kennedy's blockade of Cuba is an act of brutal aggression against the Cuban and Soviet people which must be universally condemned and fought against by the international working class.

Do not underestimate the gravity of the situation. The *Daily Express* of Wednesday, October 24 reports:

'President Kennedy spent the day by his emergency "red phone" as he brought the US into readiness for the big showdown...'

Deadly cargoes

It is from this 'red phone' that the call to end the human race may be given. This telephone connects the vast fleets of nuclear bombers which circle the Soviet Union and its allies and can summon them into action, with their deadly cargoes, at a moment's notice.

We could well be near this moment now.

The *Daily Mail* writes:

'Washington and Moscow are now set on a collision course with virtually no room left on either side for a face-saving withdrawal.'

Correct, but the responsibility rests on Washington. It is US imperialism which is the aggressor. Kennedy's arguments for war are a mixture of falsehood



and hypocrisy.

Even the *Daily Herald* of October 24 is able to expose his claims. In an editorial statement it says:

'Kennedy claims that the Russians are building rocket bases in Cuba which can be intended only for aggression.

But America and her allies have for years ringed Russia with bases in Britain, Italy, Spain, Greece, Turkey and Pakistan.

Castro could equally claim that any Soviet bases in Cuba are defensive—especially in view of the armed attack encouraged by America, to which he has already been subjected.

Castro has as much right to choose Russia for his ally as the NATO countries have to choose America.'

Precisely!

False information

And what about the pictures which the U2 spy planes have provided? The *Times* also of Wednesday, October 24 warns against the danger of false information. Its editorial remarks:

'In judging whether President Kennedy is right in militarily blockading Cuba, almost everything depends on the accuracy of the evidence that the Russians are in fact building missile bases on the island. Past American mistakes in coping with Cuba, the violent emotions which possess so many Americans when Fidel Castro and communism are mentioned, the wrong information which was served to the President before the invasion fiasco eighteen months ago... all these things were bound to make people in Britain ex-

tremely wary on first hearing the news.' (Our emphasis.)

Who knows in what part of the world these pictures were taken?

On April 17, 1961, the Kennedy administration almost plunged the world to disaster when it launched an attack on the freedom-loving people of Cuba. This ended in a total fiasco for its mercenary forces. In a matter of hours the remnants of the invasion were driven into the sea at the Bay of Pigs.

One step further

It has since been admitted that the information supplied to the US government by renegade Cuban emigres then was false. Far from learning the lesson, Washington has decided that it will go one step further and take on the Soviet Union.

The present crisis proves once more that the theory of peaceful co-existence is a fraud. It disarms the working class and deprives them of leadership at a time when they should be concentrating their efforts to get rid of world capitalism which is the cause of war, and replace it with international socialism.

The fake Lefts of the Labour Party who together with the Communist Party have shouted 'peaceful co-existence' from the housetops must take their share of the responsibility for the startling suddenness of the present crisis.

Harmless demonstrations

Instead of preparing the working class to develop leadership which would strengthen the class fight against war during

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THE following is an extract from a speech made by Dr. Dorticos, President of Cuba, to the General Assembly of the United Nations on October 8, 1962. This very clearly exposes the preparations for war which have now entered a stage of open and undisguised aggression not only against Cuba but against the Soviet Union.

Everyone can see and watch the manoeuvres, the activities that are being carried out under the tutelage of this climate of anti-Cuban hysteria and aggression.

For example, not in the United Nations, but with obvious contempt for the United Nations, an invitation is sent out to the foreign ministers of Latin America to meet at the State Department. They are invited to conspire, to join in the domestic subversion of my country. Once again, the so-called inter-American system is wielded, that system which the United States government itself has been good enough to disdain. Why was the system not invoked at the time of the aggression? Why was the system sidestepped at the time of the invasion of Playa Girón? Doubtless the same system will also be overlooked in the case of a new armed aggression against my country.

We have noticed that the Secretary of State of the United States is not even present at the United Nations. He has not shown any concern for disarmament, peace and tranquility. He has been outside our organization, taken up with his work of subversion, of conspiracy against my country.

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We also know full well that at the meeting of Latin American foreign ministers respectable representatives of countries of Latin America, despite their ideological differences with our revolution, defended the principles of non-intervention and the self-determination of peoples. From this rostrum I praise some of those foreign ministers. I challenge them to tell us what was discussed at that meeting, and what was discussed outside the meeting, too, so that one and all may know that it is not Cuba that is upsetting peace in this continent; it is not Cuba that is attacking sister republics; but it is Cuba that is the victim and doubtless will be the next victim of interference and new aggression and new obstacles to its development.

Outside the Organisation of American States, and without consulting any of the international bodies, showing contempt for one and all, the United States government takes unilateral decisions and continues to engage in activities which flagrantly flout and violate the principles of the United Nations Charter.

On the one hand, there is the policy of the Alliance for Progress, a policy of opportunism that is set up in this continent only because of and in view of the example of the Cuban Revolution. On the one hand, a decision is proclaimed to support the development of the backward countries because of and in view of the case of Cuba, which also has an underdeveloped economy, whose people are filled with aspirations for economic development and cultural development.

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On the other hand, there is an entire policy of creating economic difficulties, of trying to stifle and strangle the forces of the revolutionary government of Cuba. And to all that has been done are added these official decisions—officially proclaimed—to use coercion and reprisals against any shipping firms whose ships carry any cargo to supply and feed the Cuban people: raw materials for



The Cuban people have enthusiastically demonstrated on many occasions their determination to defend the Revolution against American aggression.

'The conspiracy against Cuba'

Speech by President Dorticos

our industries, fertilizers and tools for our land. Reprisals and coercion are used to force a naval blockade of our island. In full daylight, openly, pressures are exercised on the countries of NATO to make them stop their ships from carrying cargo to our country.

And if that is unsuccessful there is still another tool: reprisals against ships that do carry cargo to my country, even to the detriment of the interests of shipping firms flying flags of countries friendly to the United States.

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This, in the first place, is the most obvious and tacit confession of failure on the part of those who predicted the economic collapse of Cuba. It was said that because of the historic roads that our revolution was following, our country would be led to hunger, famine and disaster. The fact that they now have to use these manoeuvres, these reprisals, this repression, to cut off maritime trade with Cuba proves that those predictions were wrong. Now they have to destroy the Cuban Revolution by the artificial establishment of economic difficulties, fully aware as they must be and are that the economic development of my country depends, and will depend for a long time, on the

strengthening and expansion of our trade relations with other countries.

This pressure for blockades, this carrying out of unilateral acts to force blockades: I ask myself, and I ask you, gentlemen, whether in a time of peace these are or are not acts of war? I ask you, gentlemen, whether the United States government is entitled or empowered—outside this international organization, showing its contempt for this organization—to take such unilateral decisions with such repercussions?

I ask you whether this can be made to jibe with the purposes of improving and widening international relations that led ultimately to the setting up and establishment of the United Nations. I ask and I wonder whether the United Nations can impassively watch such events take place. And I wonder and I ask whether this blockade against my country is or is not an act of war, preparatory to war, facilitating war, and whether, in view of this fact and event, the United Nations can remain silent. Cuba asks the condemnation of such aggressive acts, a condemnation from the United Nations.

The guiding principles of the freedom of trade are attacked. But these principles are an ancient victory of mankind. Naturally, no one would dare to submit to an international organization

the right to exercise a duty or a privilege that is not theirs. Without such a right, without such privilege, they act as though they had it—and naturally, this being the case, the representative of the United States has not brought this matter up to the assembly. But it is our responsibility, it is our duty, to refer to it—to violation of the principles guaranteeing freedom of international trade and commerce, the carrying out of an act of war in times of peace, and the absurd and haughty adoption of measures of this nature by a great country against a small nation.

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But these efforts will fail again, as they failed in the past. Cuba does not stand alone. Cuba has friends. It has the international solidarity of peoples. And Cuba has friendly governments on its side, and they will allow Cuba to enjoy international trade.

(This extract is taken from *The Militant* of October 22, 1962, an American socialist weekly. Any of our readers who would like to obtain the full text of Dr. Dorticos' speech should write to THE NEWSLETTER for a copy of *The Militant* [8d. post paid].)

Language riots divide Belgian working class

By TOM KEMP

WRITING before the recent linguistic riots in Brussels, the Belgian paper *La Gauche* took the view that the demonstrations to be held by the Flemish regionalists were of little importance.

'The march in Brussels,' it wrote, 'promises to be a simple repetition of the preceding one. A hundred thousand demonstrators, a few skirmishes between chauvinistic elements on both sides, but above all the background of an almost empty capital as on every Sunday, totally indifferent.'

The problem is, of course, more serious than that and the federalism recommended by the paper is no solution.

The cleavage between Walloons—French-speaking Belgians—and Flemings has social roots. The cleavage is per-

petuated by the inability of the Belgian socialist movement to develop a militant policy and leadership able to break the influence of clericalism in the Flemish areas and attract to it the Flemish workers who now provide cheap labour for Belgian capital.

The right-wing leaders now in the government, not only approve of increased funds for the strike-breaking gendarmerie but prepare laws which can be

used to hamstring the workers.

If anything, divisions on linguistic lines within the socialist and trade union movement suits their book.

The failure of the General Strike in December 1960 is at the heart of the reactionary trends in the Labour movement today. Federal slogans provide a substitute for re-grouping and rebuilding a strong opposition to the entrenched Right wing, whether Walloon or Flemish.



Failure of the General Strike is at the heart of the present reactionary trends.

Sociologist blames Rent Act for homeless

Newsletter Correspondent

FIFTEEN London families become homeless each week. There are now nearly 5,000 homeless people in London. These facts were stated by John Greve, B.Sc. (Soc.), at a talk given at Goldsmith's College, London, last Saturday.

He pointed out that these figures did not give the full picture, as only couples with children under 16 were registered as 'homeless' and couples with no children or children over 16 were excluded.

Unlike the national average (nearly 50 per cent) only 10 per cent of London's population could afford to be owner-occupiers. Approximately 25 per cent live in council dwellings. The majority, approximately 65 per cent live in privately rented property.

The figures for London's homeless had jumped in 1958 when many dwellings ceased to be subject to rent control as a result of the Rent Act. Each year 10,000 houses now ceased to be rent controlled and another 10,000 cease to be available for rent as a result of being sold or demolished.

LANDLORD BLAMED

When the homeless in 1957 were questioned 1 in 10 stated they had become homeless as a result of the landlord requiring the accommodation. In 1961, 4 in 10 had given this reason.

It was estimated the population of London would increase by one million in the next 10 years. More and more land had to be allocated for roads, industry, and for open space.

Mr. Greve said that the number of wage earners in London seeking rented accommodation was increasing while the number of rented dwellings was shrinking.

He said that the average homeless couple were between 20 and 40, had two to three children and earned £10-£12 a week. Most had unskilled and insecure jobs. Many worked for small builders.

ACQUIRE DWELLINGS

He suggested that the solution was to be found by recognising that private landlords could not solve the housing shortage. He stated that the survey were recommending that the LCC should strengthen its welfare department and that the LCC and the borough councils should acquire at once all dwellings which are due to be replaced over the next 10 years and request money from the government for this purpose.

He also urged that a vigorous and strong policy in relation to the distribution of industry was needed from the government.

The audience which included several homeless people, were not very satisfied with chairman Peggy Jay's remarks that the LCC were doing all they could to solve the problem.

Soblen, the GPU and the Fourth International

Statement by the Editorial Board of The Newsletter

AT the time of the imprisonment and subsequent suicide of Dr. Robert Soblen certain newspapers mentioned his early connections with the Trotskyist movement. As a result of this we have received a number of enquiries to which we hope the following statement will serve as a reply.

Dr. Robert Soblen and his brother Jack Soble, who has recently been released from serving a five-year jail sentence in the United States for spying, appeared in Germany as university students early in 1930.

They joined the Communist Party of Germany and soon after became active in the German Left Opposition, which was part of the international movement founded by Leon Trotsky during his struggle with Stalin in the late 1920s.

In the German section of the Left Opposition Dr. Soblen adopted the pen name of Roman Well and his brother Jack was known as A. Senine. They were extremely active in the Opposition during 1931 and contributed a number of articles to its publications.

During 1931 they were appointed to the leading committee of the section and to the International Executive Committee of the movement which met frequently in Paris. One or other of the Sobles was always en route either from Germany to Paris or from Paris to Germany. They had full knowledge of all the activity of the Left Opposition.

Towards the end of 1932 they proposed a policy which was tantamount to capitulation to the German Communist Party. This gave rise to suspicions by other members of the German section of the Left Opposition and they were expelled as Stalinist agents towards the end of 1932. The announcement of their expulsion appeared in the Trotskyist paper *Permanent Revolution*.

The brothers then disappeared and as far as we know engaged in no public activity either for the Communist Party or the German section of the Left Opposition.

They were next heard of during the first and second Moscow Trials when their names were quoted as evidence against some of the defendants, notably Berman Yurin. In these trials they helped to denounce German Communists who were involved in the trials but who were not Trotskyists.

Some time in the early 1940s Dr. Robert Soblen made his way to the United States apparently via the Vladivostok-Japan-Canada-New York route. He was then placed in charge of one of the GPU rings operating in New York for the purpose of spying on the Trotskyist movement. He continued with this activity until the late 1950s.

During the war years he worked with a Mr. Floyd Cleveland Miller who was instructed by the GPU to associate with the American Trotskyists. This man adopted the pen name of Michael Cort and edited a journal for the Seafarers' International Union.

While working for the GPU, he participated in the seamen's Trotskyist group and at that time a number of young members of the SWP were torpedoed and lost their lives on the way to Murmansk.

Miller ultimately gave evidence against Robert Soblen in a US Federal Court and explained that during the war Moscow was worried about Trotskyists shipping to Murmansk and Archangel as crewmen on American vessels.

Some time in the late 1940s, Soblen engaged as an assistant a man by the name of Mark Zborowski. Zborowski had previously been active as a GPU undercover agent in several European capitals, particularly Paris. During that time he worked with Jack Soble (A. Senine) who was in Germany.

It was Zborowski who was responsible for the murder by the GPU of Trotsky's son Leon Sedov. The arrangements for Sedov to be sent to the White Russian hospital where he died were made by him.

Another collaborator of Zborowski at that time was Jacques Mornard, the assassin who murdered Trotsky in Mexico in 1940. Mornard and Zborowski worked as part of a murder squad organized by the GPU and there is a considerable amount of evidence building up that it was they who were responsible for the murder of Trotsky's secretary Rudolph Klement, whose headless and legless body was found in the Seine in 1937.

Mornard was released from prison in Mexico early in 1961 and it is believed that he is at present living in Prague.

The newspapers carried the story that it was Jack Soble who was responsible for denouncing his brother Robert Soblen to the FBI, but there is fresh evidence to hand which seems to indicate that both brothers were denounced to the FBI by Mark Zborowski.

We are informed that Mark Zborowski now teaches anthropology at Harvard University. Presumably the directors of education at Harvard believe that the employment of an assassin is useful for providing their students with an all-round view of life.

THE NEWSLETTER will from time to time issue statements dealing with the activities of the GPU which is still, we believe, extremely active in a number of Trotskyist sections in different parts of the world.

Leeds march against US aggression

Newsletter Reporter

350 Leeds University students marched in protest on Tuesday against a war on Cuba. The march was led by the Marxist Society following a packed meeting addressed by Cliff Slaughter.

A number of leading members of the Conservative Association, who came to heckle the demonstration, protested loudly at a banner inscribed 'The Labour Movement must say "Out with the Tories. Labour to power to defend the Cuban Revolution".'

They were joined by members of the Communist Party who also objected to this banner. In their anxiety to oppose the Marxist Society and avoid any mention of the Labour movement, the Communist Party members openly aligned themselves with elements who were in favour of the Kennedy approach to Cuba and marred the unity of the demonstration.

STUDENTS 'CUBA DEFENCE' WEEK

NEARLY a hundred Manchester University students and Young Socialists aroused the shoppers with shouts of 'Food for Cuba', 'Hands off Cuba' last Saturday afternoon. At the American Consulate a letter saying 'We, students of Manchester University and Young Socialists deplore the attempts of the American government to destroy the achievements of the Cuban Revolution by means of military invasion and economic blockade' was read out and delivered. The police had banned any meeting.

The march was the climax of a 'Cuba Defence Week', organised by the Labour, Arab, Socialist and Communist societies at the university.

I WROTE last week about the way rates of profit are falling, due to heavier capital concentration and higher depreciation charges.

What solution does big business propose to arrest its declining profits? Much of the increased capital expenditure of recent years was to increase the capacity of output. But this does not mean simply increasing the number of machines. It means introducing machines that dispense with the need for labour.

In other words an increase in the concentration of capital can only 'pay dividends' if it is accompanied by a pro-rata decline in the amount of labour required.

Much of the machinery introduced in recent years is capable of dispensing with a great deal of labour. In the printing industry, for instance, work that could only be done by skilled craftsmen can be done now by automatic electronic machinery using only one-tenth of the former labour required.

The snag for capital, however, has been that workers—as in the printing trade, for instance—have shown that they are not in the mood to accept 'redundancy'. Talk of the need for workers to understand that they must leave dying industries because they are

NEDC plans showdown

FROM OUR ECONOMIC CORRESPONDENT

THE shadow of unemployment creeps over wider sections of British industry. In South Wales, Merseyside, Scotland and the North-East coast, it has reached 3 or 4 per cent. Now in the South of England also, parts of the engineering industry are slowing down and men are being laid off. Many youngsters are still looking for jobs, three months after leaving school.

The stagnation of British industry is part of a world-wide trend. Economists in both Europe and the United States predict a slackening of production and trade and the possibility of recession and deflation. This is the economic background to the Common Market.

The report to the National Economic Development Council, prepared by its staff of economic experts, is not concerned with such gloomy prospects, however.

Published last week, it says that if the annual rate of increase of exports is raised to 5.7 per cent, and if investment goes up to 6.2 per cent a year, then personal spending could rise at about 3 per cent.

EYEWASH

This message is delivered at a time when investment is dropping and exports meeting fiercer competition. The calculations of Sir Robert Shone's bright young men have therefore produced so much eyewash.

NEDC was set up as part of an effort to use the TUC leadership to control the trade union rank and file as the monopolies prepare for the Common Market. The idea of a 'wages policy', discussed by the TUC at Blackpool and accepted also by the Labour Party leaders, involves the agreement to hold back wage increases in the 'national interest', i.e., to maintain profits.

NEDC has not yet got

around to raising this delicate matter, at least not in public, but it is implicit in every line of last week's report. What is Development Councillor Cousins going to do when this issue comes up for discussion with his Tory and big business fellow members?

Messrs. Douglass, Cousins and Woodcock, who discussed the unemployment situation with Maudling on Monday are reported to have been 'impressed' with what he had to say. Apparently they consider a friendly chat with the Tories is an adequate line of action.

GETTING READY

Far from planning any rise in the standard of living, Neddy is concerned with getting ready for a showdown with the Labour movement. The tactics of the Fords' management is the shape of things to come in British industry.

As THE NEWSLETTER has been warning for some time, the employing class began an offensive against the Labour movement in order to cut wage costs. Whilst Gaitskell makes speeches about the 'terms' for entry into ECM, unemployment rises and is already being used to split the working class.

A political and industrial campaign to unite employed and unemployed workers in the battle to throw out the Tory government must be begun at once.

City Slants by colin chance

wanted in new ones should not deceive anyone. Some of those 'dying' industries have invested heavily in automation in recent years.

Although the Tory government can by its own action increase public investment, it can only encourage 'private industry' to carry out large reinvestment programmes, which entail heavy

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The soft sell

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capital expenditure in plant and machinery.

But big business is hesitant to spend money unless it can be sure that its expenditure will effect 'economies' by massive sackings.

The Tory government by bringing out its 'Workers' Charter', hope to make the sack more palatable. And they are hoping to get the union leaders' blessing for their measures.

Recent speeches of Cousins and Greene would indicate that they object more to the way in which

redundancy is to be carried out than to redundancy itself. 'The problem basically was one of human dignity,' said Cousins at a conference of the Institute of Personnel Management.

The true connection, however, between the 'Workers' Charter' and the needs of big business was illustrated last week, when Mr. John Hare, Minister of Labour at a businessmen's dinner spoke of the need for 'certain minimum standards' so far as a worker's contract of service was concerned.

He was followed by Sir Hugh Fraser, chairman of the House of Fraser. He forecast a change in industry that would mean more amalgamations and very considerable expenditure, which, he said, would be in many cases beyond the capacity of a single company or community.

The scale of amalgamation that Sir Hugh has in mind, will mean wholesale sackings. But the motto for the rank and file must be as enunciated by the AEU—'redundancy is not a word in our vocabulary'. There will be no soft-sell of the so-called 'Workers' Charter' to us.

Kilmarnock: workers fight redundancy

NEWSLETTER INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE action of the Massey-Ferguson management at Kilmarnock in declaring 230 men redundant, despite recent promises of many years of work, was met by strong resistance from the workers. At a mass meeting on October 11, the day after the redundancy was declared, they demanded that short-time be worked in preference to redundancy.

When this was rejected by the management, the workers banned piecework and overtime as a form of protest while the union officials negotiated.

At a mass meeting, shop stewards from Coventry and Manchester pledged 100 per cent support including strike action if the pay-offs took place.

AGREEMENT

Despite the mandate from approximately 7,000 workers, the AEU Divisional Organiser made an agreement with the management for a compensatory payment of £20 for each employee dismissed as redundant.

This was rejected by the workers and a decision to strike and call out the other factories in support was agreed by an overwhelming majority.

This rank and file action provoked an immediate reprimand from the trade union leaders, who demanded that the workers immediately return to work and condemned the action of the unofficial Joint Shop Stewards' Committee.

Under this pressure the combine committee wilted and asked the workers to return to work to allow negotiations to proceed at national level. This was accepted after a rowdy mass meeting.

NIGHTMARE

The possibility of the development of any action of the rank and file to unite the workers in Scotland and England against the Tories and the employers can only be a nightmare for those officials who signed the agreements with the motor car employers that the wage rates in the new factories would be approximately half those in operation in the Midlands.

It is quite obvious that there can be no real fight against redundancies and sackings until the

Labour movement hammers out a policy to fight the attacks of the employing class.

The main points of such a policy must be:

1. No sackings.
2. Ban all overtime until the unemployed are found work.
3. Work at equal wages for workers who cannot be maintained in their present employment or full maintenance until they are found work.
4. An all-out attack by the Labour movement to bring down the Tory government and replace it with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

With 85,000 unemployed in Scotland and a forecast of 100,000 unemployed by January, the formulation of such a policy becomes daily more vital for the Labour movement in Scotland.

GEC WORKERS BAN OVERTIME

6,000 workers at the General Electric Company, Whitton, Birmingham, commenced a ban on all overtime on Friday, October 19. This was their answer to the firm sacking 65 workers. The decision was taken at a mass meeting at which over 3,000 workers were present.

The action of the GEC workers in the fight against sackings is a principled one. The general rise of unemployment in Birmingham makes it essential for the unions to campaign for a general ban in the district and a real fight for the 40-hour week.

Whitton workers have shown that if the issues are explained by the stewards, they will respond and certainly answer the pessimists who say, 'You'll never get the workers to ban overtime.'

Fords showdown: from p. 1

charge of calling a meeting on Fords' property, which the firm claim they have agreed with union officials, during the last wage settlement, shall not happen.

As one shop steward remarked at a mass meeting on Monday, 'This is a cold, premeditated showdown.'

The 'Fight to the end' attitude of the management must be answered by the whole Labour movement. The stand of the paint, trim and assembly workers in demanding the reinstatement of the shop steward before they return must be given the full support of all engineering workers.

The engineering employers must be told that the working

class will not co-operate in plans to maintain profit levels which mean unemployment, speed-up and attacks on working conditions.

But the lessons of British Light Steel Pressings must be learned. The vacillation of union leaders over the Fords strike could well turn into the treachery which helped defeat the BLS strike.

The Dagenham strikers must not be left to fight alone. The statement of support made by the Fords' national joint convenors meeting must be more than mere words.

FORDS WILL ONLY BE DEFEATED BY EFFECTIVE WORKING CLASS ACTION. THIS CAN BE DONE BY RAPID EXTENSION OF THE STRIKE TO ALL THEIR FACTORIES.

Students defeat Mosley

Newsletter Reporter

WHEN students at Leicester University returned from the summer vacation, a rumour was circulating that Max Mosley, son of the Union Movement's leader, was to speak at the Opening Debate. Officials of the Students' Union refused to either confirm or deny the rumour.

In order to thwart any plan to provide a public platform to Mosley's son, the Marxist Society, Socialist Society and CND produced a joint leaflet demanding that the invitation to Mosley be withdrawn immediately.

As a result of this, and the obvious opposition of many students to the propagation of Mosleyite ideas, an Emergency General Meeting of the Students' Union was called in order to discuss the invitation.

At a packed meeting which lasted 2½ hours, students voted 268 to 223 in favour of withdrawing the invitation. This was in spite of several confusing speeches, some from so-called 'left-wingers', who demanded free speech for Mosley and the far Right. Despite the narrowness of the vote, the result represented a marked victory for the Left in the University.

FRIGHTENED

The result of the Emergency General Meeting and the rapid growth of the Marxist Society in the University has provoked frightened reaction from extreme right-wing elements.

In conjunction with the local press, they are attempting to whip up a movement to stamp down on the growing interest in Marxism in the University.

An article in the Leicester *Evening Mail* stated that, 'Leaflets which were circulated yesterday at Leicester University by the Marxist Society have angered some students. . . . Today the society invites students to its first meeting of the term and a talk given by Cliff Slaughter, lecturer in Social Anthropology at Leeds University on "Marxism, Fascism and the Student".'

"Moderates" . . . are saying that Cliff Slaughter, who speaks today, is as extremist and anti-democratic in his way as Mosley.'

'INTOLERANCE'

A student interviewed by the paper said, 'The Marxist Society were the prime movers in getting the invitation to Mosley withdrawn. They now display the intolerance and dogmatism of a Fascist.'

The development of the Marxist Society into the largest left-wing society in the University and the high attendance at their meetings suggests that the 'lunatic fringe' which the reactionaries fear so much is developing into something far more significant than a 'fringe'. The growing interest in Marxism, particularly among students entering the Universities for the first time, is of great significance.

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● Cuba: from p.1 CALL A HALT TO WAR PLANS!

the period of prolonged Cold War, they have concentrated on the organization of harmless non-class demonstrations which are now shown to be absolutely useless.

We have constantly urged that the fight be taken into the factories and shop stewards' committees through the organization of industrial action against nuclear war. But the middle-of-the-road leadership of CND and its *Tribune* allies have gone out of their way to condemn people who have even shouted anti-Tory slogans on demonstrations.

If there is any lesson to be learned from the past it is that such people should be removed from the leadership of the CND movement.

The Labour Party Right wing who are now busy licking Macmillan's boots and urging him to visit Kennedy, did not think



Kennedy: brutal aggressor

it necessary to organise a serious debate on nuclear war at the Brighton Labour Party conference.

Sham debate

By common agreement between the Left and the Right wing, this was postponed until the last day of the conference. It was entirely overshadowed by the sham debate on the Common Market.

Yet a few weeks after the conference the threat of nuclear war is right at the top of the world's agenda. This is an example of how the theorists of 'peaceful co-existence' disarm the Labour movement.

The Cuban revolution is a continuation of the great colonial revolution. Its defence cannot be organised within the framework of 'co-existence with world imperialism'.

Defend revolution

To defend the Soviet Union is to fight for the extension of the revolution which gave rise to it in the first place.

The Cuban revolution is just such a revolution. That is why US imperialism wants to destroy it, and in doing so has now decided to attack the Soviet Union itself.

The searching and possible sinking of Soviet ships cannot be regarded as anything but an attack on the Soviet Union.

Only resolute action by the international working class against the imperialists can now save peace. This action must be class action designed to bring down the Tory government and show the American imperialists that we will not follow them along the path of nuclear suicide.

Every meeting, demonstration

or any form of protest must enjoy the fullest support from the organised Labour movement.

We call upon the Labour and trade union leaders to stop appealing to Macmillan and get on with the job of forcing him and his government to resign.

Action by British Labour can serve as a powerful stimulus to the American working class who in their heart of hearts do not want war.

Now is the time for Frank Cousins to speak out. The powerful general executive council of the Transport and General Workers' Union should demand that the TUC immediately call for a one-day general strike against the Tory government who are backing Kennedy.

Two Americas

We must not, however, be diverted by a spate of crude anti-Americanism. There are two Americas just as there were two Germanies in the Second World War. There is the America of the working class and the America of the Sixty Families.

These two Americas, like the two Britains, are divided by class lines which cannot be eradicated.

Peace can be saved; the imperialists can be defeated; the Soviet Union can be defended; the freedom of Cuba maintained — but only if class action is immediately undertaken by the Labour movement.

During the next few days, great pressure is to be put on Cuba to accept the intervention of the United Nations. Fidel Castro is absolutely right when he refuses to agree to an inspection of Cuba for missile bases.

The United Nations was exposed in the Congo; it helped organize the murder of Lumumba. It is an agency of imperialism.

The Cuban government must beware of a sell-out of United States imperialism by the Soviet bureaucracy. Khrushchev is playing the game of power politics. He cares nothing for Cuba except as a means of bargaining with Kennedy.

Mass action by the world working class is essential if Cuba is to be saved from invasion.

Force the leaders

We urge you to call factory and shop meetings to force the Labour and trade union leaders to act for a one-day general strike.

Get out on the streets and support every demonstration against war. Work to transform them into a mighty campaign to bring down the Tory government.

Force Gaitskell to break off all relations with the Tories.

If tens of thousands of British workers act along these lines during the coming weeks, it will be possible to call a halt to the suicidal plans of the imperialist madmen.