

PORT TALBOT

SPECIAL

The Newsletter

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The hidden threat of new plant 1,000 jobs are in the balance

Port Talbot, Wednesday
AS the fight continues in Port Talbot, it becomes more and more clear that, for the Steel Company of Wales management at least, there is much more at stake than the pay rise of the craftsmen.

The reorganisation of the plant which the management hope to steamroller through will effect not just the jobs of craftsmen's mates but hundreds of the craftsmen themselves.

Already installed in the works is a new Continuous Casting Plant, built by the British Iron and Steel Research Department.

It is not yet in operation. The management say it is still having 'teething troubles'. Perhaps the teeth they speak of are the unions in the SCOW, for the use of this new plant would involve a major shake-up in the works and eliminate from 600 to 1,000 jobs.

No longer required

At present when the steel is tapped out of the furnaces it is 'teemed', that is, it is swung in a large ladle from the furnaces to where it is poured into moulds for cooling. The moulds are transported to another shop where the steel is stripped from them.

The ingots are cut into slabs, before passing on to be made into sheets.

The Continuous Casting Plant will eliminate all processes between the tapping from the furnace and the slabbing.

Those now working in teeming, transporting, stripping and slabbing will no longer be required.

In the mind

These thoughts are obviously in the mind of Mr. W. F. Cartwright, managing director of SCOW. He is fond of entertaining shop stewards during joint meetings with glowing descriptions of a Pittsburg, USA, steel firm which has the same production as SCOW but employs 8,000 fewer workers.

These prospects are so attractive to Mr. Cartwright that he has sent Mr. Gerald Dennis, chief personnel officer of SCOW,

by Peter Arnold

to the USA for several months to study their methods. The presence of the Continuous Casting Plant shows that Mr. Cartwright is serious in his desire to emulate the American firm.

The importance of this dispute to the employers as a whole is shown by the government's intervention and the meetings with the Minister of Labour.

Seriously consider

Talk of agreement on a 'national level' shows how seriously the employers consider the dispute. The steel barons themselves forced the management of SCOW out of their federation ten years ago, as the less efficient firms were afraid that SCOW would accept wage rises which would drive them out of business.

This change of policy shows how the employing class as a whole is organising for a showdown with the working class nationally.

The government are not the impartial witnesses to the affair that the press make out, for it is their ministry which is refusing to pay unemployment money to the non-AEU craftsmen. The ministry argue that these men are on strike, but this is nonsense.

Locked-out

Only AEU members are on strike. All the other unions are locked out.

In fact, all the members of at least one union, the ETU, who are now refused unemployment money, received telegrams from the company on December 28 saying: 'Do not report for work until further notice'.

Here is proof that the order not to work came from the management. The role of the ministry can only be seen as that of putting pressure on the men from yet another quarter.

The manner in which the state is backing up the employers shows just how 'impartial' any arbitration would be.

The ETU held a large demonstration last Friday against the ministry's decision. About 800 turned out with banners saying 'Locked out but not Knocked out' and 'Give us our dole'.

The lesson of this lock-out becomes clearer every day. Those members of BISA KTA, the TGWU and the other non-craft unions who see the fight as none of their concern, except insofar as it means a loss of wages during the dispute, are being dangerously short-sighted.

The management's demand for the right to reorganise and sack the craftsmen's mates is meant simply to establish a precedent and to help divide the unions.

All threatened

Today it is the mates who are threatened (and it should be remembered that AEU men's mates are members of BISA KTA), but if the management win now, they will turn on all the other unions in the months to come.

BISA KTA men and furnacemen will be involved in the redundancy threatened by the Continuous Casting Plant and members of all unions will be affected by the speed-up which is just beginning.

Must divide

In order to impose these new conditions the management must divide the unions and deny them the right to fight for their members.

Every worker at Port Talbot must understand the company's motives and plans before it is too late and stand by the AEU men despite all the provocation and pressure which is being brought to bear by the management, the government and the TUC.

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THE MOST UNUSUAL MILITANCY OF SIR BILL

by The Editor

WE wonder if Mr. John Boyd, the Executive Council member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, knows what he is talking about when he speaks of 'a fight to a finish' with the Steel Company of Wales.

There are hints in some quarters that the right-wing leaders of the AEU are utilising this dispute as an election-winning issue. Amongst others, Sir William Carron comes up for re-election shortly as the union's president. This might well account for the most unusual militancy coming from Sir Bill and his buddies.

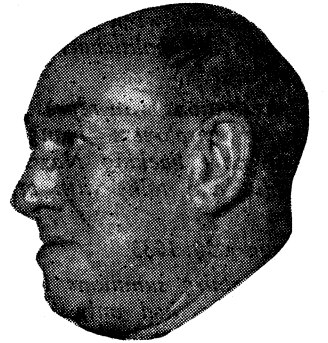
Whilst this may, or may not, be the case, it would be extremely dangerous to underestimate the Steel Company of Wales, who have behind them all the great monopoly steel masters. They know that a Labour government is pledged to re-nationalize the steel industry and their tough line is designed as a warning to Harold Wilson and a future Labour cabinet.

COMPETITIVE

The strike has, therefore, very important political implications. The extremely competitive role of steel in the world's markets is a vital factor to take into account.

In his chairman's address this week, Sir Julian Pöde of the Steel Company of Wales remarked that a year ago he had ended his statement on a note of restrained optimism. But since then, he says, changes in the trading situation have tended to reduce the profitability of the company.

Principal changes include the ending of the famine of flat-rolled steel, of which there is now a world surplus, particularly in Europe. This has



Carron: election coming up

caused a 'dramatic' fall in export prices, and the company, as an exporter, is heavily involved.

Had export prices been maintained, Sir Julian Pöde says, the trading surplus before depreciation would have shown a satisfactory increase.

Here is one very good reason why the steel kings will not have a Labour government meddling in their business. They have, as well, too much capital investment tied up in new plant to allow their industry to be placed at the mercy of the state planners, even if compensation payments are generous.

No matter what Sir William Carron, Governor of the Bank of England, which has very considerable interests in the SCOW, might be thinking, the shutdown at Port Talbot is a very real one for his members. To win will require the full mobilisation of all the trade unions engaged in the steel industry.

It needs immediately a statement on policy for the steel industry by Mr. Harold Wilson and a pledge that if Labour wins the election it will settle accounts with the steel masters once and for all.

The claim of the AEU craftsmen at Port Talbot is a just one and should win the full support of the whole trade union movement.

The big day draws near

TREMENDOUS interest has been aroused in the labour movement by our announcement that The Newsletter will appear from February 7 twice its present size.

The paper is now being produced on one of the most modern presses available. Readers will appreciate its capabilities when the enlarged paper appears in two colours, but still at the same price of 4d.

As the clashes on the industrial field begin to hot up and the date of the general election draws near, The Newsletter will need to pay more attention to all the struggles of the working class. The extra space will enable

us to publish a much fuller round-up of the important news which most other newspapers, despite their considerable resources, prefer to omit.

We plan, too, to publish regular reports from our correspondents round the world so that we can more effectively combat the lies and hysteria of the 'popular' press as the masses in the colonial countries struggle against imperialism.

The new paper will be an exciting and memorable venture in socialist journalism. The response to our appeals has been most heartening, but we again ask all our readers and supporters to rush donations to us to ensure the paper gets off on a firm financial footing.

Germany, winter, 1933.
Six million unemployed.
Street fights between workers
and Nazis.

Desperate problems facing
ruling class and no apparent
prospect of forming a stable
government.

Massive votes still clocked up
by Social Democrats and Com-
munists.

Berlin, January 1933.

Incessant bargaining and
manoeuvres between Hitler and
the right-wing politicians of the
old parties.

Consultations with representa-
tives of employers, many of
whom now backing Nazis to
the hilt, and talks with army
chiefs.

January 30, 1933.

Hindenburg summons Hitler,
whose party had only 37 per
cent of the votes at the previous
election, and asks him to form
a government as Chancellor of
the Reich.

THUS, without striking a
blow, the leader of the
German fascists was vested
with the full legal powers of
the capitalist state.

In the next few months, with
the support of the ruling class
and the great mass of the middle
class, he proceeded to smash
the working-class organisations,
killing or imprisoning many of
its leaders.

Many books of all kinds
which opposed Nazi racialism
and nationalism were taken out
of the libraries and burned. The
regimentation of German youth
began and the whole propa-
ganda apparatus was turned over
to Goebbels.

EXTERMINATION

Persecution of the Jews
began, prelude to the wholesale
extermination of eight million
European Jews which was to be
carried out ten years later.

Watched benignly by many
of the politicians of Western
Europe, Hitler began to turn
the German economy into an
instrument of total war. Hitler
had crushed socialism at home;
many hoped that he would then
go on to crush it in Russia and
throughout Europe.

Most of all the events in
Germany in January 1933 and
the following months, signalled
the defeat of the German work-
ing class, the most advanced
and best organised working class
movement in Europe.

In 1932 the two working class
parties had 221 seats in the
Reichstag against 196 for the
Nazis; the latter had actually
lost seats between the elections
of July and those of November.

How had Hitler been able to

'For the dictatorship of the proletariat' reads the banner at the
head of a mass demonstration by the German Communist Party.
But a few short months later the entire working class was suffer-
ing the dictatorship of the Nazis.



When Hitler came to power

By TOM KEMP

smash what seemed such a
mighty force?

An easy answer is to say that
it was because the class was
disunited. In this way the
Social Democrats have an alibi
by blaming the defeat on to
the Communists and they in
turn can blame the Social
Democrats.

What were the facts? Who
bears the major responsibility
for the defeat of the German
workers?

First of all, from the time of
the downfall of the Kaiser in
November 1918, the Social
Democrats had been a main
force in opposing revolution in
Germany. They stood for the
'democratic', capitalist republic
and social-democratic leaders
co-operated with the catholic
centre, the bourgeois liberals
and the most reactionary ele-
ments in the army for this
purpose.

'SOCIAL FASCISTS'

The Weimar republic could
not have survived if the Social
Democrats had withdrawn their
support from it.

The Communist Party de-
nounced the Social Democrats
as 'social fascists'. According

to Stalin the Nazis and the
Social Democrats were 'not
antipodes but twins'.

On this basis the Communist
Party was instructed to fight the
Social Democratic Party, which
meant, in practice, its working
class supporters, as well as the
opportunist leaders. At times
the CP made tactical alliances
with the Nazis for this purpose,
though not negotiated alliances,
it is true.

HELPED BY MOSCOW

The Social Democratic leaders
were immeasurably assisted in
retaining their hold on the

OMINOUS MOVE BY WILSON FOR SECRET TALKS

From BILL HUNTER

the Tory attack on Suez until
the reaction of Labour's rank
and file pulled him out of
Eden's arms.

Similarly ignoring the party
members, Wilson is anxious for
Tory-Labour unity when capi-
talism is in extreme difficulties.

The Imperial General Staff
have far too few British workers
in their armed forces to protect
their interests in all the many
places where they face, or will
shortly face, trouble. Service
advisers and some MPs are
pressing for a return to con-
scription.

Tory denials that they plan to
bring back the call-up are sheer
humbug. But deny it they must
with an election to fight.

Wilson, with a probable
Labour government only a few
short months ahead, is similarly
anxious that conscription will
not be an issue at the general
election. He doesn't want any

CRISIS

The War Office expects 1964
to be a year of crisis, said
'Peterborough' in last Saturday's
'Daily Telegraph'. It is no
accident that Wilson chooses
such a time to ask for private
talks with the Tories.

It is a natural tendency for
Labour leaders who are nation-
alists first and socialists a poor
second to rally round the flag
when imperialism is in diffi-
culties.

Gaitskell at first supported



Hitler: smashed labour movement

questioned the wisdom of the
Party's tactics in the period
1930-33 found themselves in
prison camps or before the
executioner.

Only the yes-men were left to
fly into East Germany after the
victories of the Red Army in
1945. But the once proud
German Communist Party could
never recover.

ALL AND SUNDRY

As for Stalin, he always knew
how to take over, in a deformed
way, the programme of his
opponents. At the Seventh (and
last) Congress of the Communist
International in 1935 the policy
of the united anti-fascist front
was proclaimed.

Within a short time Com-
munists were being urged to
unite with all and sundry into
'Popular Fronts', not only with
Social Democrats, but with
middle class liberals, radicals
and 'progressives'.

PAVED THE WAY

The Communist Party of
Germany, even when putting
forward the apparently intransi-
gent slogans of the pre-1933
period, had neither the means,
nor the intention, of waging a
serious struggle for power.
Now, with the open revisionism
of the Popular Front period,
Stalin imposed on Communist
Parties everywhere an outright
renunciation of such an aim.

A tremendous process of mis-
education was begun which
prepared the way for further
betrayals in France and Spain
in 1936-37 and throughout
Europe in 1945-47.

feelings on the subject stirred
up in Labour's ranks which
would make it more difficult for
his government to carry out the
measures which the Imperial
General Staff find necessary.

Even before the votes are
cast, let alone counted, Labour's
leaders are preparing the way
for steps against the working
class. But, as Wilson will
quickly find out, Labour will not
carry through measures like
conscription without great oppo-
sition.

CONDEMNS

Young workers, in particular,
already in the forefront of the
fight to throw out the Tories,
will not welcome any attempt
by Labour to marshal them
into the forces to fight in jungle
and desert for the interests of
the monopoly capitalism which
has flung many thousands of
them on to the dole and con-
demns countless others to sweat
away their lives in automated
factories and mines.

Read Trotsky on Germany . . .

Germany: Key to the
International Situation, 1/-

The Only Road for
Germany, 1/6

Two Marxist pamphlets vital for an understanding
of the turbulent 30s.

Available from:

New Park Publications Ltd., 186a Clapham High St., London, S.W.4.

Rag-bag nationalists take over Zanzibar

African's co-existence march

THE African people of Cape Town and district, famous for their march on the city following the Sharpeville massacre, have done it again.

This time, however, it was not for open political reasons. They simply wanted to make the most of the two-day holiday they had for the New Year.

To enjoy this period of 'good-will and friendship to all men' the Africans descended in their thousands on the exclusively white holiday resort of Muizenberg, near Cape Town, and camped in the town itself. It was as if they had taken Verwoerd at his word the previous night when the premier, in his New Year's message, had made a plea 'for friendly co-existence as neighbours' between whites and non-whites living in South Africa.

So, for two memorable days whites and non-whites lived in co-existence. They used the same facilities together, ate or bought food from the same cafes, shared the beach, used the roundabouts, the carnival cars, the trampolines and other holiday facilities.

During those two days apartheid was practically suspended. According to a Cape Town councillor, to enforce the laws would have been to risk an explosion.

By **DAVE HARRIS**

AFTER only five weeks of so-called independence the pro-Tory Arab government of Zanzibar has been swiftly and efficiently overthrown.

The coup, which was sparked off by the banning of the Umma (People's) Party, was carried out by that group along with the Afro-Shirazi Party, which, in spite of receiving a sizeable majority of the votes in last July's general election, was the main opposition party in the island's parliament.

During last September's independence conference in London The Newsletter carried an article which exposed the way in which the island's electoral boundaries, along with the country's feudal backwardness, had been exploited by the Foreign Office to ensure the return of a sympathetic regime.

'SERIOUS TROUBLE'

It concluded that: 'observers in Zanzibar are certain that unless the Afro-Shirazi Party is allowed to form a government, serious trouble will break out. The insistence of the Tories in maintaining a stooge government in power will only serve to undermine imperialism's position in a very short time.' (21.9.1963)

The correctness of this can now be seen but although we have no sympathies for the deposed Sultan and his right-wing government, it would be wrong to have any illusions about the new regime.

In reality the revolt was a

move by the African middle class to gain greater independence from Britain and a bigger stake in the country's Arab-dominated economy, decrepit though it may be.

The Afro-Shirazi Party, whose leader Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume is now President, is far from socialist. The comic-opera militancy of the coup's 'initiator' John Okello is no more than a cover-up for the fact that the new government has no policy for the solution of Zanzibar's acute economic crisis and for the alleviating of poverty amongst its working and peasant classes.

DISARMED WORKERS

Those who look to the 'communists' in the government (Peking-trained or otherwise) should remember that the first act of this same government was the disarming of all workers by a door-to-door police search.

Judging by Okello's methods so far, the appearance of a state à la Nkrumah does not seem unlikely. Fears of an 'African Cuba' were quickly discounted by the 'Daily Herald' which said last Monday that President Karume '... is sufficiently effective as a politician to control the Communists in his Government'.

The island's limping clove-based economy was always more of a liability rather than an asset to British big business. This, seen along with the draining of army reserves caused by the Cyprus and Malaysia crisis, make armed intervention by the Tories highly improbable.

As they have said, they intend to 'wait and see'.

WORLD +

+ NEWS +

+ ROUND-UP

French CP changes line on party

THIS year's congress of the French Communist Party is expected to radically revise its existing programme. The doctrine that a state based on a single party is necessary to carry out a socialist revolution is to be abandoned.

The change will come as no great surprise, for the party have been eager to participate in coalition governments with all manner of political groups for many years now. Such manoeuvres were designed by Stalin, but now his faithful followers have rejected his views on the monolithic Communist Party structure.

'REJECTED'

The party states: 'The Communist Party has rejected the idea that the existence of a single party was a necessary condition for the passage to socialism.'

'This idea, maintained by Stalin, constituted an abusive generalisation from the specific circumstances in which the October Revolution took place.'

Panama: memories of Suez for US

THE flare-up in Panama made Washington brows sweat.

What started off as a dispute over whose flag should fly where, quickly blew up into a violent anti-American demonstration which could have threatened the whole US control of the Canal zone.

It also focussed attention on the blatant and forcible occupation of the zone by American imperialism.

CLOSE

Although government officials tried to write it off as agitation by Castroite agents, they fully realise how close they came to having a 'Suez' situation on their hands.

The pro-American Panamanian stooge government was as much perturbed by the incidents as was President Johnson. They will probably take steps against the students who initiated the original demonstrations and are still pressing for action to throw the US out of the country.

BLOW

At a time when she is trying to improve her overseas 'image' this was a blow under the belt for Yankee imperialism. Even more so was it for Johnson, who has an election image to think about.

In spite of the US's continuous anti-Cuba propaganda in the western hemisphere, this Panama riot is likely to have a big effect on the peoples of Latin America in their struggle against American big business.

GREAT GOINGS-ON ALONG THE NEW YORK-PARIS AXIS

THE National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party at its meeting in late December voted overwhelmingly in support of the decision to send a message of condolence to Mrs. Kennedy.

Like all centrist parties the SWP, as it moves towards the right, hits out at the left.

James P. Cannon, the founder of American Trotskyism, remains silent about the betrayal of his party in relation to the Kennedy assassination.

At a recent birthday party in New York in honour of 'The Militant's 35 years, his name was not even mentioned in the speeches. This festive, liberal occasion ended with the guests standing to sing 'Happy Birthday' to 'The Militant'.

In Toronto, Mr. Ross Dowson, who calls himself, amongst other things, editor of the 'Workers Vanguard', had this to say about the Kennedy assassination:

'All who, as ourselves, fervently believe that political

differences within society should be settled in an orderly manner by majority decision after free and open public debate in which all points of view are heard, are saddened and angered over the death of J. F. Kennedy, and the death at the hands of an assassin of L. H. Oswald too.'

Mr. Dowson is 'on the line' with the SWP. He, too, believes that the problems of a class society can be settled 'in an orderly manner'.

Mr. Dowson, of course, is nothing more than a social democrat who has wandered into the vicinity of the Trotskyist movement.

The 'Young Socialist', a paper very close to the SWP, spoke about the assassination in its issue of December/January 1963-64:

'One of the contradictions of our time is that these events, reminiscent of the days before the establishment of responsible government, were in great part telecast almost immediately to viewers around the globe.'

The authors of this statement no doubt consider themselves 100 per cent real alive Americans who fervently believe that what exists in the United States now is 'responsible government'.

Responsible to whom, may we ask? The author of the article, one Barry Sheppard, is silent.

The theme of this so-called youth paper is its non-class approach to the basic problems facing the working class and in particular the youth of the United States.

Meanwhile, Pabloite circles in Paris are agog with excitement. Almost 26 years after the founding of the Fourth International, they have managed to scrape together enough resources to issue a duplicated hand-out called 'World Outlook'.

This enormous achievement in a jet-propelled age has so encouraged the SWP that they have appointed one of their New York members, Joseph Hansen, to act as their special

correspondent for the paper.

Hansen is quick to see the weakness in the Dobbs-Dowson line, so he hastens to introduce some new matter into the affair.

'Dobbs,' he says, 'also issued a short statement to the press expressing personal sympathy for Mrs. Kennedy in her bereavement. Since Dobbs conducted a most vigorous campaign against both Nixon and Kennedy in the 1960 election as the nominee of the Socialist Workers Party and the only presidential candidate who defended the Cuban Revolution and denounced the projected invasion plans, his statement helped counter the poisonous witch-hunting effort to picture Marxists as unbalanced individuals who revel in bloodshed, gloat in the personal suffering of the class enemy and advocate terror as a means to cure the ills of capitalist society.'

The conclusion to draw from this is that those of us who criticised Dobbs over the Kennedy assassination are,

according to Hansen, 'unbalanced individuals who revel in bloodshed' and 'gloat in the personal suffering of the class enemy'.

One of the great authorities which Hansen quotes in his investigation of the Kennedy assassination is, of course, the 'New York Times'.

'The attitude of this powerful newspaper,' he says, 'is often of great weight in setting the tone for other newspapers in the United States.'

No doubt it is fully staffed by 'balanced individuals' such as Hansen and Dobbs. The only slight difference perhaps is that it is a big capitalist newspaper, published, produced and maintained in the interests of US imperialism.

Of course Dobbs, Cannon, Hansen and company remain absolutely silent about the criticisms of the Socialist Labour League.

This is the new, modern, twentieth century way of replying to critics—just ignore them.

Denby strikers say 'no' to union plan

Secret docks talks threat

By REG PERRY

PORTWORKERS in Liverpool are feeling extremely uneasy after reading reports in last Sunday's newspapers that an agreement is likely to be concluded this week between the port employers and the Transport and General Workers' Union for the decasualisation of the port.

What has particularly disturbed them is the way these latest moves have been made behind the backs of portworkers. The meeting between both sides is being kept a closely guarded secret.

'We have known for some time that the port employers, with the connivance of the Transport and General Workers' Union officials, intend to ram the scheme through. They are looking for the most convenient beach they can find.

'They are well aware that London, Hull and Manchester are tough nuts to crack. But if they try it here they will make the biggest mistake of their lives.'

Walk out

These were the words this week of a well-informed Liverpool docker. He maintained that 10,000 men would walk out immediately any attempt is made to make them sign on as weekly workers.

The main proposals of the decasualisation scheme, strongly recommended last year by the Rochdale Committee of Enquiry, are for the replacement of the daily register by weekly employment with fixed employers, a rapid extension of mechanisation, a reduction in manning scales and a greater mobility of labour.

It is estimated in Liverpool that the labour force would be slashed from 11,000 to 8,500 if the scheme goes through, adding to the serious unemployment which already exists.

Compared to the present wage for a week's work of £9 14s. or £7 19s. fall-back pay, the proposed wage of £11 a week is totally unsatisfactory, especially as work would become considerably harder as a result of reduced gang strength and increased speed-up. It has also been rumoured that night-shift working is to be included as an essential part of the new scheme.

All the signs are that any attempt to bring this scheme in by the back door will meet solid resistance.

'Throw out all the scabs'

Newsletter Reporter

THE twelve weeks' old struggle against the William Denby dyeworkers management at Bradford continues despite a near sell-out by the union officials who represent the 240 locked-out workers.

On Wednesday of last week the officials met the Denby board in talks which lasted all day. When the meeting broke up the workers who have been threatened by squads of police, vicious alsatians and one of the bosses armed with a shot-gun saw the touching picture of union officials and employers leaving together, wreathed in smiles.

The following day the officials met all those involved in the dispute to discuss the proposed settlement. The suggested agreement was that 20 of the scabs now employed in the works should be sacked and 40 union men reinstated.

VICTORY

Apparently Messrs. Sharp, Atkinson and Peel, the leading officials of the dyeworkers union, considered this a great victory for Philip Wright, the managing director, had originally proposed only 15 sackings and 15 reinstatements.

Man after man stood up and opposed this suggested settlement. In a meeting lasting five hours, not one man spoke in its favour.

One man summed up the feelings of all the strikers when he shouted:

'I've been out ten weeks and I'll stay out another ten—or twenty. You're asking us to work with 40 blacklegs. I won't go back if there's only one!'

Attempts to take a vote on the issue were continually

fobbed off by the platform. Finally a striker stood up and said:

'Let's stop all this bickering. Is there still solidarity in our ranks?'

As every hand in the room shot up Sharp and company realised their attempts at a sell-out were doomed.

A further meeting took place with the management but the agreement reached was unanimously rejected by the locked-out workers at a meeting held last Monday.

AGREED

They agreed to ask the craft unions whose members are still at work in Denby's to call them out in support.

Having rejected all compromise, the men are back manning the picket lines. The menacing squads of police prevent them from attempting to stop the van-loads of scabs who are transported in and out of the works daily.

A few union men have gone back into the works after Wright visited them during Christmas and offered to pay their £6 a week strike pay plus normal wages if they returned.

FEAR

But none of the remaining 240 still out say they will return to work until every scab has been sacked. Some of the men fear, however, that it will be impossible to get every man his job back because of the great loss of orders which Denby's must be suffering.

There is, at the same time, a growing realisation that the only basis for a return to work is for every single man to be reinstated even if they cannot be guaranteed a full week's work at first.

It is vital that the present solidarity continues and a victory for the closed shop and work-sharing won.

North-east youth lead fight for jobs

THE BBC television programme 'Gallery' on Thursday, January 9 featured the unemployment problem in the North-east.

Only during the interview with young unemployed workers and with members of the Newcastle-on-Tyne youth unemployment committee did any real urgency appear in the programme.

In spite of efforts by the producers to present a picture of steady improvement, there are still 53,000 out of work in the North-east. 7 per cent of the people in the Hartlepoons area are without jobs.

One young lad from a pit village near Chester-le-Street—17-years-old Donald Watkins—said he had been out of work 15 months. 150 youngsters sign

on at Chester-le-Street dole every Friday.

'If I don't get a job soon I'll have to join the forces,' he said.

Donald is only one of 5,000 young people out of work in the North-east. At Chester-le-Street dole there are 34 youngsters who left school last summer and have not found their first jobs.

One group of young people, at least, is fighting. 'Gallery' filmed a session of the Newcastle Youth Committee against Unemployment and interviewed some of its members. One young girl spoke frankly about the origins of the committee.

'Nobody seemed to be doing anything about unemployment,' she said, 'or about the shabby treatment youngsters get at the dole and the dead-end jobs they get pushed into.'



Busmen's champion is expelled by right wing

Newsletter Reporter

MRS. LAURA BRETTELL, the only West Bromwich Councillor who spoke up in defence of the busmen who staged a series of one-day strikes in the town before Christmas, has been expelled by the Labour Group for voting against their proposal to send each individual busman a letter threatening them with the sack.

A storm of protest has greeted this announcement. 'Appalling', 'unjust' and 'despicable' are words which have been used to describe the treatment she has received from the right-wing leadership of the Labour Group.

There is a history of witch-hunting by the right wing of the West Bromwich Labour Party against members with left-wing views. Much indignation is still felt in the party over the sacking from his office in 1962 of Mr. Philip Elliott, then President of the West Bromwich Trades Council and Labour Party.

'NEVER SO PROUD'

On the occasion when Mrs. Brettell defied the party whip to protest against the sending of dismissal threats to the busmen, she declared 'I was never so proud in my life'. Her defiance was greeted by cheers and applause from busmen packing the public gallery.

Trade union officials and busmen rallied to her support at a packed meeting in the town, called by her ward party to protest against her sacking from the Labour Group. A resolution was unanimously passed deploring the action of

the Labour Group, calling for the restoration of the whip to Mrs. Brettell and declaring that 'the improper use of disciplinary action against certain members of the party' was greatly harming Labour in West Bromwich.

Mrs. Brettell said it was one of the fundamental beliefs of the Labour Party that every man had the right to say, 'I will not work under those conditions.' That was what the bus crews had said.

GIVEN SUPPORT

Tory and other reactionary associations had long tried to make strikes illegal and the Council's policy in sending out the notices had given them support.

'We cannot allow this kind of thing to be done in the name of the labour movement' she declared. 'There is something wrong both nationally and locally with a party that allows things like this to happen. I shall always work in, for and with the working class.'

Mr. Jim Hawker, chairman of the West Bromwich branch of the TGWU, said, 'We at the garage are all proud of Laura Brettell and back her to the hilt.'

'BEING DESTROYED'

Mr. Alan Pitt, former President of the local Labour Party, said: 'This sort of thing is happening all over the country. The Labour Party is being destroyed from within and it is time we cut out the rot.'

'It is driving young thinking people away from our ranks. The Labour Party belongs to all of us and we are going to stay inside it and change it. We are not going to allow the reactionary minority to drive us out.'

The main activity of the committee, she explained, was to campaign for full support for the Young Socialists lobby of parliament on February 11. The committee is preparing to send coachloads of young people to London.

But the programme soon fell off from this high level. Mr. Hudson, a youth employment officer, admitted that 'the future looks rather glum', but then brightened up and cheerfully announced that a new government training scheme was opening in Felling.

How many places would this provide? Why, 36. (Only 4,964 left out of work, now.)

Mr. Hudson felt that criticisms of the dole were unfair. Dead-end jobs? 'I would advise a boy to take a job to keep him occupied.'

Then came some pompous windbagging from Labour councillor T. Dan Smith and Tory Minister Edward Heath. Smith's solution is a regional parliament (guess who for regional prime minister?).

Heath's solution, which differs little from Smith's in effect, is 'partnership between central government, local government and voluntary organisations, cultural organisations, etc.'

This arid drivel is a thousand miles away from Donald Watkins on the Chester-le-Street dole.

It is in sharp contrast to the determination of the youngsters in the Committee against Unemployment.