

The Newsletter

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ALL OUT BEHIND

THE POSTMEN

No room (for Bloom) at the Top

THE sudden descent of the John Bloom meteor badly damaged some of capitalism's favourite fairy tales. For example, the story of Jack the Giant Killer has for many years fascinated the lower middle class.

Small shopkeepers delighted in the exploits of the Little Man Who Got to the Top.

Undaunted by lack of capital, the rags to riches hero, armed with 'drive', 'imagination' and other such qualities, planted his five beans and reaped a millionaire reward.

Bloom's rapid ascent looked like the beginning of a tremendous career. Understanding that domestic appliances were overpriced at a time when the market was about to expand, he substituted a series of gimmicks and gambles for capital.

Survived scandal

When the Rolls balloon was soaring in the early '60s, financiers felt over each other in the rush to lend Bloom cash. Direct selling to the public, huge advertising campaigns, giveaways and trading stamps kept the Rolls shares rising.

The millionaire press even allowed Bloom to survive the scandal of the Holford murder trial.

All this was fine while the consumer goods boom lasted. Unfortunately, for Bloom, modern capitalism doesn't allow such things to continue for ever. Bloom's efforts were affecting the profits of the established firms. The giants did not allow Bloom to eat their breakfast with impunity.

Bringing the power of large-scale capital to bear, they cut their prices and stepped up publicity expenditure.

Last year about £50,000 a week was being spent to persuade the housewife to buy a new washing machine.

Empire crumbles

Now the real world of finance showed its face. As Bloom's shares slid back, vital loans became harder to raise. Unlike the land of make-believe, in capitalist Britain business is business.

For the sake of a mere £1,500,000 the Rolls Empire has crumbled.

Despite all the week-end stories that something might turn up and save the day, the decision to liquidate Rolls Razor was confirmed.

Another legend of more recent origin has been shattered by the Bloom collapse. 'New thinkers' in the labour movement have pretended that the nature of capitalism has changed.

While the monopolies took over larger chunks of the economy, the system was becoming more stable, they said. The Labour leaders told us that the old profit motive no longer dominated. 'Capitalist anarchy could be peacefully planned without the necessity of taking ownership away from the capi-

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SUMMER BREAK

The Newsletter will not be printed in the next two weeks during our summer break. It will appear again on August 15. Order your copy immediately.

10½% - or else!

By The Editor

THE decision by the Executive Committee of the Union of Post Office Workers to call out 120,000 postmen on an indefinite strike as and from midnight on Saturday, July 25, is absolutely correct. It will enjoy the support not only of Britain's ten million trade unionists but the vast majority of people who use the mails. Even the Tory press is hard put to defend its government.

With a worsening trade position and an economic crisis in the offing, Cabinet ministers are staggering between one extreme decision to another. One day they talk of peace plans and the next day they shut the door almost in the face of the General Secretary of the TUC Mr. George Woodcock.

There are still two problems facing the Union of Post Office Workers which are very urgent. an improvement in their wages. Tomorrow they will be joined by dockers fighting not only for increased wages but also for the 40-hour week.

Only way

This latest decision of the postmen is the only way to bring them to their senses. The Tory 'Daily Telegraph' of July 23 denounces the strike call as 'a challenge not only to the government but also to the nation'. Whose government and whose nation may we ask?

It is a Tory government of rich idlers and parasites and a nation owned and controlled by the monopolists in the interests of profit.

The postmen are today in the forefront of the working class fighting desperately for

allows the position amongst the telephonists to continue for much longer.

The government are, in fact, gaining from such a situation since the money they are losing on stamps they are more than recovering in increased charges for telephone calls.

This will also be the case if they continue with the telegram service. The union should therefore think again and decide to make it a complete GPO shutdown.

Bitter split

The first is the position of the telephonists. In one exchange after another they are now working exhorbitant hours of overtime. Ever since the strike began they have had no real lead from their union.

The result is that those members who are new to the service and who badly need money are, in fact, unconsciously engaged in strike-breaking, with a bitter split developing between them and the more union conscious members.

Unfortunately all this is the result of lack of preparation for a serious struggle in the first place. This has been our main criticism of Ron Smith, and his recent action shows that we were right.

Had he sharpened the issues up with the government in the beginning then the postmen would have won by now. It will be quite serious if he

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Luke-warm

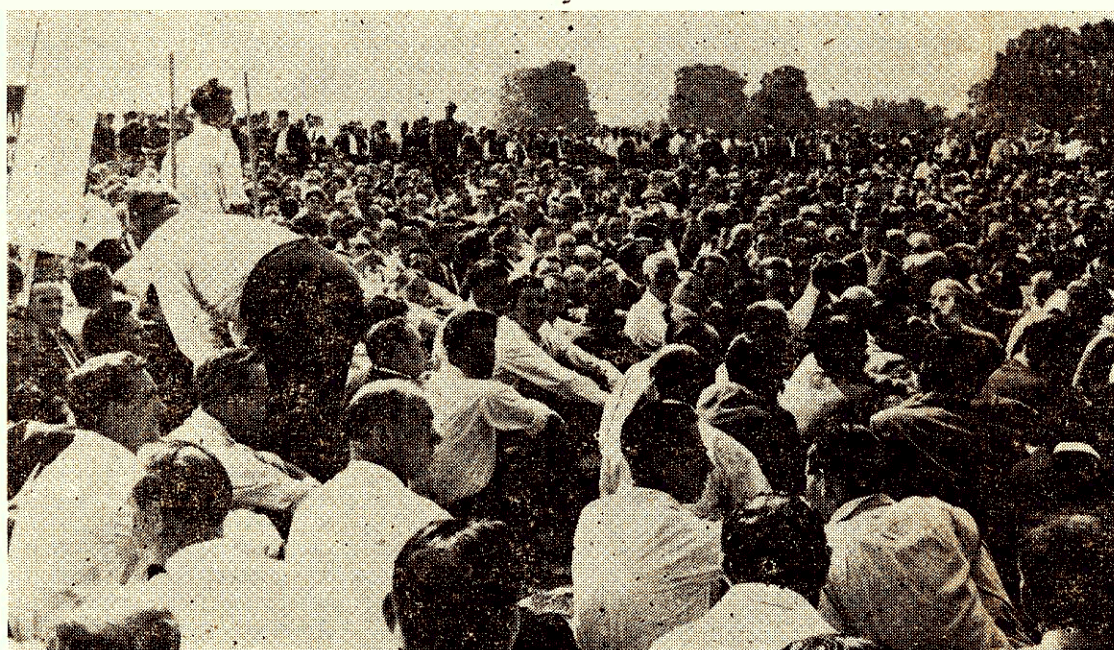
The second problem is what we believe to be the luke-warm assistance which the UPW has received.

Although the union has expressed satisfaction, anyone in his right senses knows that the money so far raised is just not enough to help the postmen out of their trouble.

In any case they should not be subject to the conditions of a loan. It will be extremely difficult for the UPW to repay such a loan. What has been given already, should be immediately turned into donations.

The TUC has provided £50,000 but as Mr. George

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Thousands of postmen marched to Hyde Park during last week's strike

Nigeria House protest

AFTER picketing outside the Nigerian High Commissioner's office students and trade unionists handed in a letter (printed below) from the Socialist Labour League protesting against the imprisonment of Dr. Victor Leonard Allen, a Leeds University lecturer and two trade unionists and a teacher.

Dear Sir,
The Socialist Labour League, representing trade unionists, Young Socialists and Labour Party members in Britain, demands that the sedition trial of Dr. Allen, Sidi Khayam, Jonas Kiamasekenagh Abam and Olu-shengun Adebayo end and that these men be released immediately.

We give full support to the struggle of the Nigerian trade unionists for increased wages and demand that the Nigerian Prime Minister, Abubakar, ceases witch-hunting trade unionists.
Yours faithfully,
G. HEALY, National Secretary

LSSP (revolutionary wing) active in T.U. struggle

A PARTICULARLY embittered strike is now in progress at the Valona garment factory, Moratuwa, Ceylon. The trade union in the factory has been organised by Merrill Fernando, MP, one of the leaders of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (Revolutionary Section).

The owner of the factory is a member of the right-wing United National Party who was defeated in the parliamentary election by Merrill in July 1963. He has called in the police to deal with the strikers and after a baton charge a number were injured.

A public meeting was held on July 8 to protest against the police brutality at which Bala Tampoe, Prins Rajisooriya and Edmund Samarakkody were scheduled to speak.

The Continuing Committee of Trade Union Organisation has decided to carry on with Prins Rajisooriya as its secretary.

Tribute

This is a blow against the coalition and a tribute to the work of the LSSP Revolutionary Section in the trade unions.

Prins Rajisooriya first came into the organisation as Secretary of the Ceylon Federation of Labour. Since he is one of the leaders of the LSSP Revolutionary Section, the right wing who capitulated to Mrs. Bandaranaike, removed him from the post, hoping that he would be unable to play a part in the Continuing Committee set up by the trade unions who support the 21 demands.

As dockers lead attack on wage freeze London and North must unite in fight for £15

By Reg Perry

A MAJOR conflict over wages in the Port Transport industry now seems inevitable. In a series of actions and decisions last week-end dockers in the major ports throughout the country demonstrated their determination to wrest a substantial pay increase from the employers.

On Friday, July 17, over 22,000 dockers staged a one-day token strike in the Merseyside, Hull and London ports.

Coachloads of men from Liverpool, Birkenhead and Hull travelled overnight to join London dockers in a demonstration outside Transport House where a national delegate conference of the Transport and General Workers' Union met and rejected the

Port employers' offer. The strength of the token strike and success of the lobby of the delegate conference is an indication of the bitterness which dockers feel over their wages.

The strike came in answer to a call from the Merseyside area committee of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union which has, for many months, been in the vanguard of the fight to improve the wages and working conditions of Britain's registered dock workers.

But the unity being shown

between members of the 'Blue' and 'White' unions is causing serious concern amongst the employers and the Transport and General Workers' Union leaders.

Undoubtedly, without the action which took place, the offer made by the employers may well have been accepted.

The Transport Union has no intention of fighting to establish a decent wage. They have attacked the 'Blue' union in leaflets distributed this week on Merseyside and in London. Their conduct in the wage negotiations is also highly suspect.

The port employers' first offer was made on July 7. Between that date and the delegate conference the amount was kept a close secret from the members of the union.

After the delegate conference on Friday it was reported that this first offer of 6s. per week was rejected by the delegates and a further offer of 10s. was also thrown out after discussion in a meeting which lasted one and a quarter hours.

Where did the second offer come from?

CHALLENGE

Since no employers were present and no adjournment was taken, many of the dockers are suspicious that the union leaders were sitting with this offer in their pockets from the beginning of the conference.

At mass meetings of dockers in Liverpool and Hull over the week-end, the employers' offer of 10s. a week on top of the basic rate and 2½ per cent on piecework rates was declared totally unacceptable.

Both meetings agreed to prepare a national fight to secure their demands of £15 a week.

They also voted to support the action of London members of the NASD, who are placing a ban on all work done from 5 p.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Monday until the strings attached to the 40-hour week are removed.

This Sunday a rank and file national delegate conference sponsored by the Merseyside Area Committee of the NASD is meeting to decide on the next steps to be taken in the fight.

They are not prepared to sit back and allow the TGWU to negotiate a compromise of a few shillings increase to their claim.

They have declared that if the TGWU leaders refuse to fight they will establish a national committee of dockers from both unions to continue the struggle for £15 a week.

Delegates from Hull, Manchester, London, Birkenhead, Garston, Glasgow and Southampton will be at the meeting on Sunday.

HIDDEN OFFER

This week mass meetings in Liverpool, Hull, Manchester and Glasgow have endorsed this stand.

Such a fight will bring dockers to the forefront in a challenge to the Tory government and the 4 per cent guiding light of Nicky. The resistance shown to the government and the tougher line they are showing in the steel industry and the building industries clearly indicates that a major class struggle with the dockers is inevitable.

Dockers should be under no illusions about the struggle in which they will be engaged.

They can give a lead to the working-class movement. To win they will also need the support of the whole of the labour movement.

They should reject the poisonous gossipy leaflets being distributed by the TGWU which only aim to

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Tarlo resigns

MAURICE TARLO has resigned from the Communist Party. He was legal adviser for some time to the 'Daily Worker' before joining the legal department of the ETU under the Frank Haxell regime. Recently he was the subject of a court action for the recovery of certain sums of money. Shortly afterwards he went bankrupt.

He said in his letter of resignation that he has 'no quarrel with the policy of the Communist Party'. The question is: Did he resign or was he pushed? Maybe we shall have the answer before long.

Political Committee of the Socialist Labour League, 20/7/1964.

