

The Newsletter

WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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BANKERS SUPPORT

WILSON

By JOHN CRAWFORD

WILSON'S popularity is increasing—among the international bankers and the big monopolies. As unemployment rises and more firms go on to short-time working, the employers look forward to a period where they can discipline the workers.

As Mr. John Davies, of the Confederation of British Industry, said: 'I think that the period of stagnation—although I hope it will be as short as possible—will also allow the labour market to become that much easier to allow some chance for the prices and incomes policy to work'.

The 'flexibility' in the labour market, as the 'Times' called it, is the result of deliberate policy by the so-called Labour government.

Elected on vague slogans about 'getting Britain moving', the Labour leaders have carried out all the measures the Tories would have liked but were not strong enough to do themselves.

Wilson, Brown and Callaghan are destroying the Labour Party, more surely than MacDonald damaged it in 1931. To 'save the pound' they sacrifice the interests of the 12 million workers who elected them.

A new Marxist leadership must be built which can clear this road in the course of the struggles now beginning.

The British working class must unite behind the demand of the Young Socialists — sack the right-wing leaders of the Labour movement — and join the demonstration organised by the National Committee of the Young Socialists at the Labour Party Conference in Blackpool on September 26.

Nationalisation of industry and a socialist-planned economy is the answer to chronic unemployment and misery under capitalism.

Brockway treads the Davies way

AFTER the manifest failure of Harold Davies' mission to Hanoi, the Labour leaders have been hard put to cover their naked submission to Johnson with some kind of diplomatic fig leaf.

They did not have long to wait. Very soon, the ageing centrist, Lord Brockway, ostensibly on a holiday in Moscow, turned up with something which, even if it did not look like the fig leaf Mr. Wilson had in mind, was a good distraction from the cruel war going on in South Vietnam.

The senselessness of the war was revealed when two drunken Marines were recently jailed and discharged from the Corps for having intended to bomb Hanoi, while President Johnson, ironically, was being applauded in the press for masterminding the bombing of all Vietnam!

NO ONE RULED OUT

In the same week that Lord Brockway made his Moscow itinerary, the 'Observer' revealed:

'President Johnson has ordered yet another intensification of the attempt to make diplomatic contact with North Vietnam and is apparently indifferent how this is done. No intermediary is now ruled out.' (Our emphasis.)

Anyway, Brockway, after some hours with the North Vietnamese ambassador in Moscow elicited a plan which seemed a minor diplomatic triumph for Wilson.

(Cont. back page, col. 1)

Woodcock, the General Secretary of the TUC, says the attitude of 'benevolent neutrality' towards the men on strike is 'diminishing'. Who does this so-called trade union chief represent—the workers or the employers?

George Brown, the Minister of Economic Affairs, can always be relied upon to 'do his nut' against any workers on strike at any time. He describes the strikes as 'disastrous'.

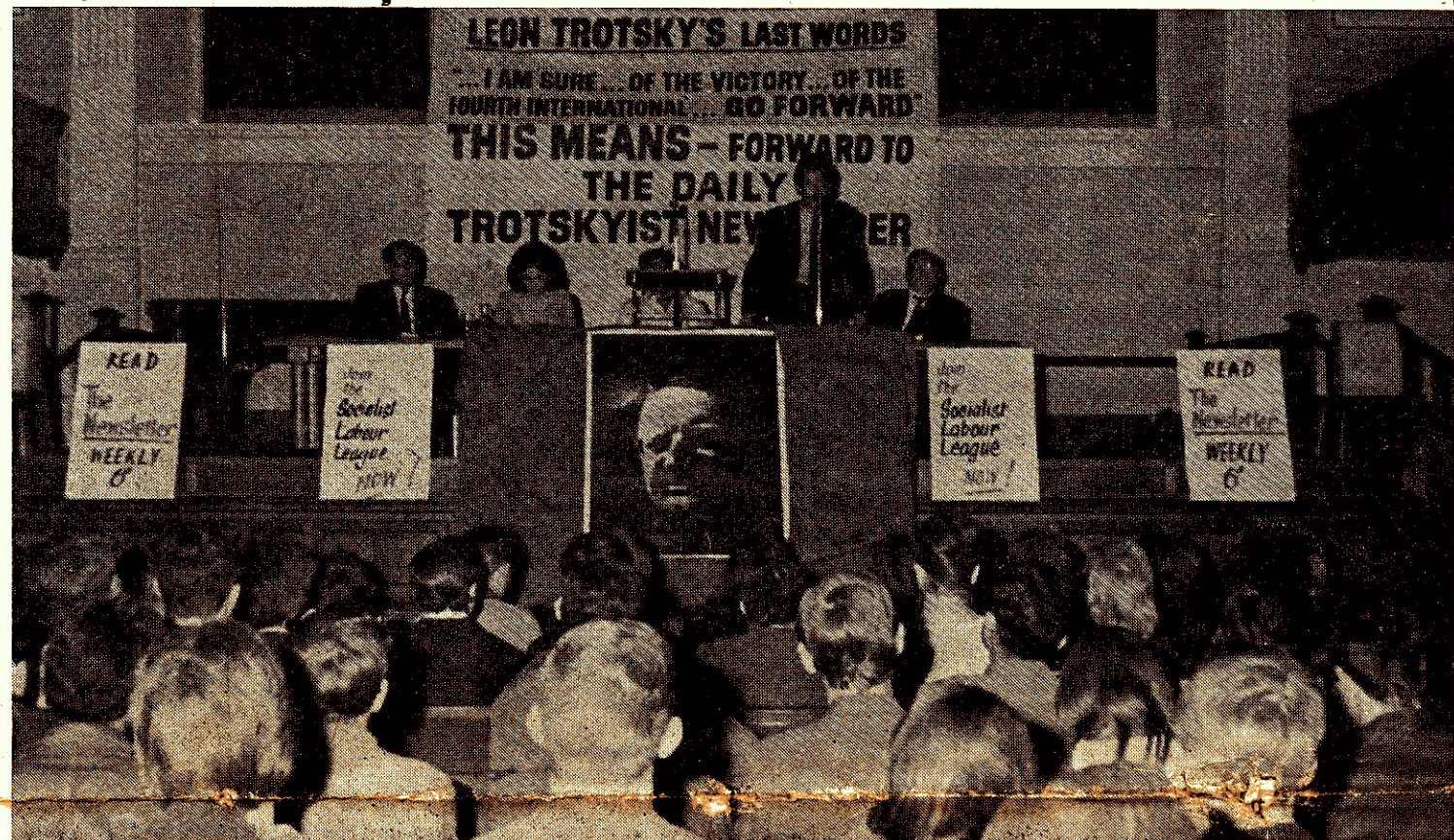
What is all this criticism of the strikes concerned in aid of? Let Labour Lord Peddie speak: 'There is no doubt,' says this noble gent, 'that the lack of self-discipline in these matters has made a considerable con-

THIS WEEK

The Press and Los Angeles page 3

Ford's four-day week page 4

Liner trains page 4



A section of the large audience listening to speakers at the meeting. On the front of the platform is a portrait of Leon Trotsky.

Transport and General Workers Union broadsheet —

Candy-floss cover up for Devlin

HULL DOCKERS REJECT REPORT

By TOM KEMP

HULL dockers, at a meeting called by local leaders of the Blue Union last Thursday, August 19, rejected decisively the Devlin report.

The main speaker, Peter Kerrigan from Liverpool, set the tone for the meeting by declaring that it was of historic importance. Once Devlin had his way, meetings of this kind would no longer be possible, he said.

The Devlin Report, said Kerrigan, proposed to hand the industry entirely over to the port employers. The boss class was in a crisis. It needed to modernise the docks and speed up the inflow and outflow of goods, and to do this had to get complete control of the dock labour force.

Up and down the country dockers were saying wait and see. They felt strong, but complacency was dangerous.

Take offensive

Dockers themselves must take the offensive, not wait for the employers' attack. Profits should be used to pay better wages to the dockers and provide better services in the docks. There was no need for the employers at all on the docks.

The Transport and General Workers' Union, according to its Constitution, stood for the taking over of industry by the workers. By concurring with Devlin, it was proposing to hand the industry over to the employers in defiance of its own constitution.

N.A.S. & D. STILL THINKING ABOUT DEVLIN

Dick Barratt told a 'Daily Express' reporter on Monday, August 23, that: 'No decision has been reached yet. It will need several more meetings,' he said, 'before we are able to finalise our decision. Even then a mass meeting of members will have to be called to discuss it.'

Big response to Trotsky memorial meeting

SIX hundred and fifty people crowded into the Caxton Hall on Friday, August 20, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the assassination of Leon Trotsky.

Young Socialists and trade unionists predominated in the audience, which responded enthusiastically to the confident speeches from the platform. The importance of Trotskyism for the Young Socialists was the theme of the meeting, which took place against a backdrop with the words:

LEON TROTSKY'S LAST WORDS

'... I am sure... of the victory... of the Fourth International... Go forward! This means—forward to the daily Trotskyist newspaper.'

What stood out from the meeting was the burning relevance of Trotsky's fight to build the Fourth International to the urgent problems crowding in upon the working class since the election of the Wilson government. The speakers showed that these problems could be solved only in the context of the mounting revolutionary struggles of workers all over the world. This had been Trotsky's message for the future.

The response to this meeting is an augury for the political future in Britain. Many thousands of workers are discovering in their own experience the truth of Trotsky's assertion in the Transitional Programme: the workers

have suffered innumerable betrayals at the hands of their traditional leaderships; only the banner of the Fourth International remains unstained.

It is this banner of Trotskyism which is today carried forward by the Socialist Labour League and thousands of revolutionary youth who support its policies in the Young Socialists.

Editor of The Newsletter, Mike Banda, chairman, opened the meeting by stressing the solemnity and importance of the 25th anniversary of Trotsky's assassination by an agent of Stalin's GPU (secret police).

Trotsky was not the first, nor the last, victim of Stalin's terror against the working class. But he was certainly the most important, he said.

We remember Trotsky and cherish his memory as the theoretician and propagandist of international Communism, as a man who fought throughout his entire conscious life for the dictatorship of the working class and the overthrow of capitalism, not only in Russia but throughout the world.

The strategy of this struggle is contained in the theory of the Permanent Revolution and the organisation for leading this struggle is the Fourth International, which Trotsky founded in 1938 after the degeneration of the Third International under Stalin.

For other speeches see pages 2 and 3

The Newsletter

Saturday, August 28, 1965

Call Wilson to order

THE Ford Motor Company last week announced that 10,000 of its workers would go on a four-day week. Vauxhall's followed with a statement that some 8,000-10,000 employees would have overtime stopped until the end of the year. Other motor manufacturers will undoubtedly follow suit. Four thousand workers at Hoovers will work only four weeks out of every five.

In the last week a number of small firms have gone out of business. The unemployment figures for August showed the sharpest rise for two years. Local authorities have received, from the government, instructions to cut back on all new road-building schemes.

These results of the credit squeeze do not alarm everyone. Mr. Cyril Osborne, Tory M.P. for Louth, a well-known stockbroker and right-winger, last Saturday welcomed the government measures, prophesied a figure of one million unemployed by Christmas, and called upon men of all classes to support the Wilson Cabinet.

This should leave no one in any doubt about the nature of this 'Labour' government!

All through the General Election year of 1964, 'The Newsletter' and the Socialist Labour League, while fighting for a Tory defeat at the polls, warned consistently that Wilson, Brown and Callaghan would betray the interests of their working-class supporters.

When Frank Cousins, Anthony Greenwood and other supposed 'left-wingers' joined the Cabinet, this was held up by some as a sign of the 'progressive' character of the new government.

We warned that, on the contrary, it was intended only as a means of silencing potential critics.

As we insisted then, Wilson's policies have prepared the way for the return of the Tories. If the working class places its trust in leaders like Wilson, and does not break from him when he serves the bankers, then only defeats can follow.

The return of the Tories, with a big majority and a policy of direct attack on the working class, is being openly prepared by Wilson's policies. But it can and must be prevented.

At Fords, the workers are already fighting back. Different sections of motor and component workers are constantly hammering the employers. Dockers are lining up for an all-out fight against the employers' plans in the Devlin Report.

Unlike 1931, the British working class today faces the employers with a generation of full employment and intact trade union organisation, without a major defeat like the General Strike of 1926.

What is needed is a united movement, behind socialist policies, against the Wilson Cabinet. High prices, unemployment, prohibitive restrictions on housing, all affect the basic living standards of the workers, and these workers must be mobilised for action against government policy.

The Labour Party Conference at the end of September must call Wilson to account. His economic policy, his support for the imperialist war in Vietnam, and his racist measures on immigration control, must be disowned by the Labour movement.

Wilson and his Cabinet have perpetrated a fraud on the working class. Every principle of socialism has been betrayed. The first step to fight and prevent a Tory come-back is massive working-class support for the Young Socialist demonstration in Blackpool on Sunday, September 26.

Stagnation

Even these actions are unlikely to be sufficient to stop devaluation. The recession now beginning, as the National Institute Economic Review indicates, is only the start of a long period of stagnation in British industry. In addition to its previous balance of payments difficulties, British capitalism has also to consider the repayment of the loans made by foreign bankers during the financial crisis.

The redundancies facing hundreds of thousands of workers this winter, and the difficulty school-leavers will have finding jobs, are the start of spells of chronic unemployment.

There is no way out for British capitalism, except to try to drive down living standards. This is the reason for the crisis of the Labour leaders who pretended they could make capitalism work and reconcile the needs of the bosses and the workers.

Brown's 'plan', which was supposed to show how everyone was going to be better off, can be seen as a great computerized hoax. Its projected rates of growth come from a statistical dream-world.

Contrast

But while jobs get scarcer, conditions worsen, and the housing situation reaches new depths, methods of production are developed which could end, not only poverty, but work itself. This contrast between automation and the dole queue lies at the heart of modern society.

The only way forward is through the working class taking the power internationally. A United Socialist States of Europe would provide the framework for tremendous economic advances.

The Wilsons and Browns stand in the way of such a develop-

The Newsletter

Belt up gents!

IS it not high time that the custodians of Tory policies within the trade unions and the Labour Party were told to shut up.

Every time the various monopoly motor groups are faced with a strike, there is an immediate outcry from this well-dressed fraternity. The present strikes at Halewood and South Wales are a case in point.

TROTSKY MEMORIAL MEETING

Below we print excerpts from the speeches of the four main speakers at the Commemoration meeting held in the Caxton Hall, London, on August 20 — the 25th anniversary of the assassination of Leon Trotsky. The theme of the meeting was 'The Importance of Trotskyism for the Young Socialists'.

Dave Ashby (National Secretary, Young Socialists)

THE fight in the Young Socialists would have been impossible without Trotsky.

Now, on the 25th anniversary of Trotsky's death, I can say to all those on the right-wing of the Labour Party who accused myself and others of being Trotskyists whenever we expressed ourselves in favour of socialist policies — yes, I was always a Trotskyist.

How did the position stand? Between the old right-wing reformist politics and the fake left on the one hand, and Trotskyism on the other there can be no compromise. Only the most irreconcilable struggle.

We went into the Young Socialists deliberately to wage that struggle; not to argue with the right-wing, but to build a movement that would defeat and reject them and their policies. We had no other purpose.

MARXISM

The theory that guided our work inside the Young Socialists was the theory of Marxism—the mobilisation of the working class for the overthrow of capitalism, the destruction of its state machine, the taking of power by the working class, the dictatorship of the proletariat, the reconstruction of society on socialist foundations, the freeing of mankind from all evil, violence and aggression, the opening up of a new chapter in human history in which all will be free to develop the rich human potential which capitalism suppresses and degrades.

Trotsky taught that this task was impossible today without a struggle to defeat those bureaucracies which dominated over the working class.

NOT A DEBATE

If we did not openly announce ourselves as Trotskyists when the Young Socialists was part of the Labour Party, that was because we saw Trotskyism not as debate but as a struggle to build a movement.

In point of fact we hid nothing. We fought for a Trotskyist policy, never toned down our policy, and we continuously turned outwards to attract fresh forces for this policy.

The outcome of this struggle was the Morecambe conference this year, which was the most democratic Y.S. conference ever, with delegates from every branch, resolutions and full discussion.

The rump conference of the Labour Party Young Socialists has no political resolutions, and no nominations for national committee. Delegates are not elected by their Young Socialist branches. The right-wing is hostile to the youth, who know that reformism is bankrupt. Transport House tries to exclude young people

'The theory that guided our work inside the Young Socialists was the theory of Marxism—the mobilization of the working class for the overthrow of capitalism.'



from politics.

It was, in fact, Trotsky who persuaded me to join the Young Socialists. I went to University from a working-class background and was drawn towards socialism.

For three years I was considering the different theories of socialism. This was at a time when, in 1960, Gaitskell was defeated at the Scarborough conference of the Labour Party on the question of the H-bomb, and the group around 'Tribune' climbed down and made a compromise with the right-wing.

CONTRADICTIONS

I considered the Young Communist League. But here the contradictions were even greater. Every effort was spent by these people to win the support of the liberal riff-raff.

I read Trotsky's 'History of the Russian Revolution' and the writings of Karl Marx. Trotsky's greatness did not lie in the fact that he was an individual with brilliant ideas. He began with the working class as a revolutionary class. As joint leader, with Lenin, of the revolution, and orga-

niser of the Red Army, Trotsky embodied the past experience of the working class.

Trotsky's fight against Stalin took place in a period of defeats for the working class, but he never deserted the basic standpoint of Marxism.

It was only the theory of Trotskyism that persuaded me to join the Young Socialists. At the time that I joined there was a turn to the youth through dances and social activities.

This turn to young workers became a struggle for socialist policies. The Young Socialists became an arena for class struggle, not debate.

RAN AWAY

Many of those who had claimed to be Marxists in a period when only discussion was involved, now ran away. They made excuses that the youth were non-political.

We did not turn to the youth as youth, but because they were a section of the working class bearing the brunt of the effects of capitalism. The hostility of the right-wing to these youth was a class hostility, shared by the police.

1962 saw the ban on 'Keep

Left' and the expulsion of members of the National Committee of the Young Socialists. The theory of the 'lefts' was that the bureaucracy could not be defeated.

But our campaign against unemployment in 1963 showed the strength of the youth. In the course of the struggle we were able to force the National Executive of the Labour Party to call an official lobby of Parliament on the question of unemployment.

At the annual conference of the Young Socialists, in Scarborough that same year, the youth inflicted heavy defeats on the right-wing.

VINDICATION

The experience in the Young Socialists has been a brilliant vindication of Trotskyism. It has shown that the right-wing cannot be defeated with arguments but only through struggle.

The youth have shown that they are prepared to fight even though in some cases they only have a glimmer of political understanding.

The Brighton conference of Young Socialists, in 1964, was a further victory for the youth, who had carried on a continuous struggle for Trotskyist policies. On September 27 last year the youth showed their understanding of the class character of the Labour leadership in a massive anti-Tory rally.

BASIS

The basis for an alternative leadership for the working class will come from the youth who have shown that they will respond to Marxist theory.

It was the youth who demonstrated on clear class lines on the question of Vietnam—for the victory of the peasants and workers—whilst the Communist Party called only for peace in Vietnam.

There are important lessons to be drawn from the struggles of the Young Socialists; the need to make a conscious break from social democracy. For this task Trotsky's Transitional Programme is the only answer.

bringing together these two things. This could only be done by the building of revolutionary parties.

When Khrushchev revealed in 1956 the depths of the degeneration of Stalin's rule, he said: 'Some may ask why we did not speak out against Stalin.' He explained that they might have been killed if they had.

The politics of Trotsky are very different.

Knowing the risks faced by revolutionaries against Stalin's terror, Trotsky decided to hold high the banner of Marxism, confident that the workers in struggle would take up this banner and defeat the Stalinists, as well as the capitalists.

Who has been vindicated? Trotsky or Khrushchev? Trotsky is not just the tragic figure, exiled and assassinated. He represents Marxism and the revolution of our epoch.

BRILLIANT

Trotsky's writings on politics are certainly the most brilliant of our epoch, but Trotsky devoted himself, even in moments of the most hectic political struggle, to the application and development of Marxism in literature, poetry, the future of human culture, speaking out against all vulgarisation.

He wrote and lectured about psychology, about developments in natural science, the whole import of the conquest of nature.

He wrote about morality, but always against the moralising humbugs of the middle class. For him morality began and ended with the struggle of the working class to remove the bases from which sprang all murder, lying, exploitation of man by man, greed, prostitution and cowardice, and not with high-sounding judgments on the victims of the system.

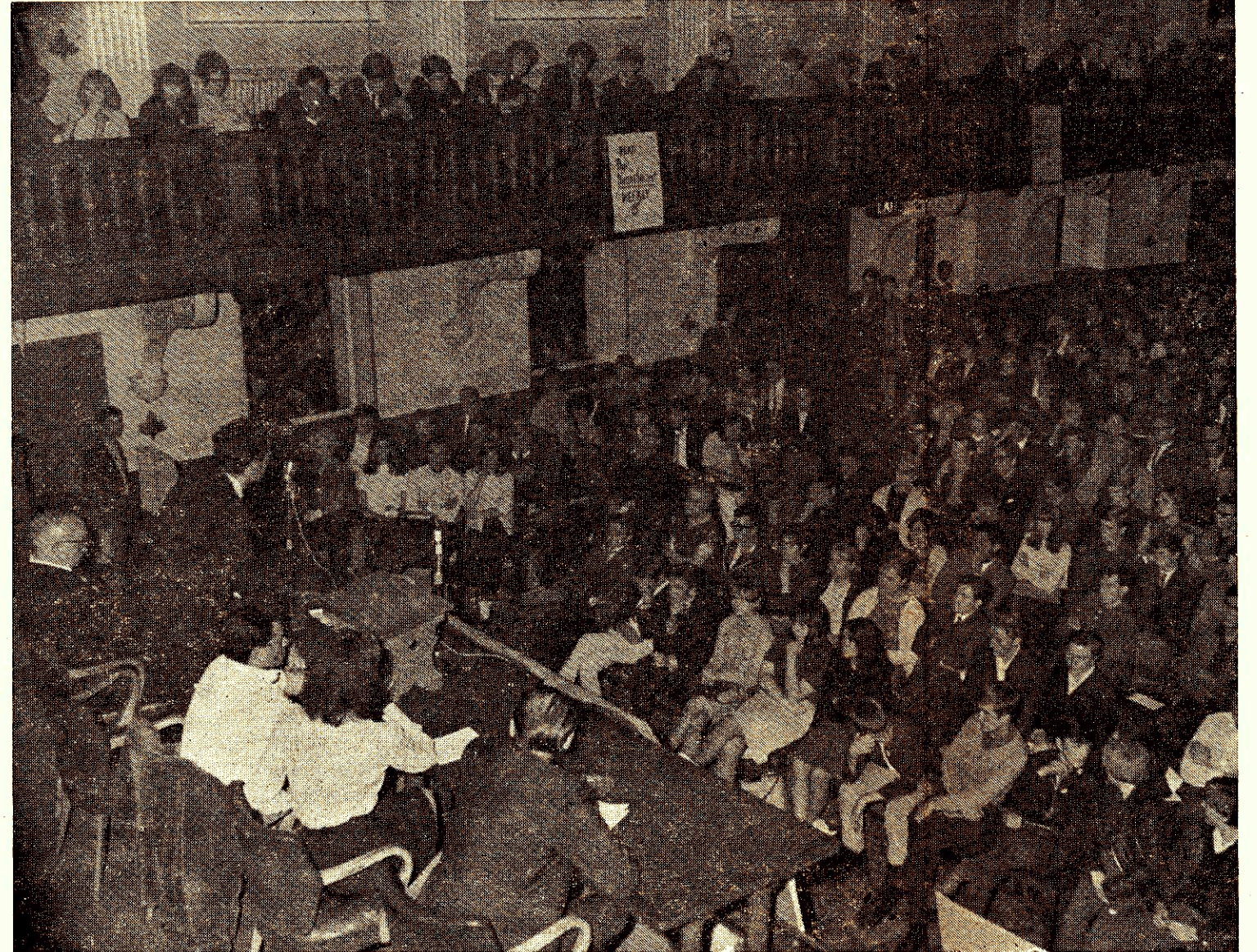
EXPERIENCE

Most of those in the Young Socialists today have gone through the experience of struggle against the Labour Party leadership and bureaucracy. Trotsky's teachings provided an invaluable guide to the tactics of that struggle, just as Trotsky's own life was an inspiration to the determination of these Young Socialists.

But besides correct tactics and revolutionary will, the development of the scientific Marxist outlook is vitally necessary.

Trotskyism remains a force today because of the great strength in struggle of the working class and because of the power of Marxist theory, as developed by Trotsky. His life was devoted to

CAXTON HALL LONDON



Aileen Jennings (Editor, 'Keep Left')

THE whole history of the British Socialist youth movement has been one of struggle against bureaucracy. All those young workers, apprentices, students and school-leavers who joined the Young Socialists fought a fierce battle for the right of youth to discuss and build a socialist youth organisation and the right to have a paper, written and produced by youth and expressing the problems of young people.

We did not want a paper just for a paper's sake, but one around which a struggle for socialist principles could be waged — that paper was the 'Keep Left'.

LEADERSHIP

The fight for the 'Keep Left' became the whole fight for the building of the Young Socialists as a leadership of the youth.

We carried on this struggle, in spite of the proscription of 'Keep Left' and expulsions, because we understood that the right-wing bureaucrats could not offer the youth a perspective of fighting for socialism.

The struggle for the paper was taken out amongst the unemployed youth in 1963, into the factories and on to the housing estates.

The success of our fight was proved at Brighton last year when we defeated the right-wing of the Labour Party, and this year, at Morecambe, when 1,000 Young Socialists attended our conference.

WARNED

Last year on one huge demonstration of thousands of Young Socialists, on September 27, we warned of the betrayals of Wilson and the right-wing in the future Labour government.

The actions of these people, who have attacked the working class through a wage freeze, speed-up and redundancies, in order to maintain monopoly capitalism, have shown that we were right.

Right from the very beginning of the Young Socialists we said: no compromise with the left-wing fakers.

The Young Socialists conducted a fierce fight against the Stalinists of the British Communist Party, who advocated

Those who like to forget Trotsky's politics and admire him as a literary critic or a great orator ignore the fact that behind all these achievements was one purpose — the development of the revolutionary movement which would destroy capitalism. That is why Trotsky never ceased to characterise the alternatives before mankind as 'Socialism or Barbarism'.

DEVELOPMENT

In this context he found it necessary to carry out a constant struggle for the development of Marxist theory in many fields. Those who took only one part of Trotsky's outlook, such as his critique of Stalinism, eventually found themselves back in the camp of bourgeois ideology.

Since the days of Trotsky, the crisis of humanity has deepened, and the responsibility of working-class leadership increased. All the more urgent becomes the all-round development of Marxist theory.

One of the factors in the latest phase of capitalist development is the great might of U.S. capitalism.

But this economic domination carries with it the penalty of sensitivity to every conflict and contradiction within the world capitalist system.

CONTRADICTION

The explosion in Los Angeles must be understood not as a race riot, but as a manifestation of these international contradictions within American society itself. These Negro workers could no longer endure their conditions, and so they were prepared to fight to the death, like their brothers in Vietnam. Will Johnson call up Negroes from Los Angeles perhaps to fight in Vietnam?

The fact is, then, that the objective contradictions of capitalism continue all over the world, not least here in Britain, to provoke struggles which are held back from victory only by the treachery of working-class leadership.

From Hungary to the U.S. this is the situation in which the Fourth International will be built.

SIGNIFICANT

This is the significance of Trotsky and Trotskyism for the Young Socialists. Their future, the future of Marxism in the world today, rests with the Fourth International, founded by Trotsky. Upon the realisation of this rests the future of mankind.

Cliff Slaughter (Editor, 'Fourth International')

TROTSKY's work provides the key to the meaning of the political activity of working-class youth today: only the building of the Fourth International, of revolutionary parties in every country, can take the working class to victory and bring humanity through the crisis of capitalism.

The Young Socialists in Britain are part of a new revolutionary generation of the working class, from Vietnam to Los Angeles and Athens, from which the forces are coming to rebuild the Fourth International founded by Trotsky.

The socialist revolution began in Russia, a backward



'The future of Marxism in the world today rests with the Fourth International, founded by Trotsky.'

country. The international contradictions of the capitalist system were so concentrated in Russia that this country produced the most brilliant leadership of the working class. But Trotsky understood very well that the revolution, begun in Russia that this country pleted by the victory of the workers in the advanced centres of capitalism, such as Britain.

Yet this old country had the most conservative, slow-moving, anti-theoretical and mutton-headed working-class leaders to be found anywhere in the world, a problem often discussed by both Lenin and Trotsky.

WEAKEST LINK

The growth of the Trotskyist movement in the Socialist Labour League and the Young Socialists today puts an end to that state of affairs, and again, as in Russia, this is because of the international crisis of capitalism. The older countries, and Britain in particular, have become the 'weakest link in the chain of imperialism'. The battles now faced by the British working class

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Appendix: A discussion with Trotsky — Stenographic report dated 12-15 June, 1940

Price: Three shillings each. Obtainable from:

NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS LTD.,
186A Clapham High Street, S.W.4.

Nationalize the motor car

industry!

From BILL HUNTER,

'WHAT will the introduction of a four-day week for 10,000 workers at the Ford Motors Companies plant at Dagenham and Halewood mean?' is the question now being asked by many sections of engineering workers.

The immediate reaction at Halewood was a call by shop stewards for a ban on overtime

The responsibility for the present position at Fords rests squarely on Wilson and the Labour government. The 'Newsletter' has consistently warned that the economic measures of Callaghan, Wilson, Brown and Co. would result in recession, unemployment and a tightening of the screws on the working class. Their aim is to salvage British capitalism from its crisis.

On the same day that Ford's announcement was made, the unemployment figures for July showed an increase of 60,000 on the dole and the motorways reconstruction programme was cut by £25 million. Hoover had already announced a plan of short-time working and a number of other sections of the household goods industry are faced with the same decisions.

Illusions

Any illusions that Ford workers may have had, like those expressed after the shock announcement was made by the shop stewards committee at the Halewood plant on the Merseyside, that this was a move to discredit the Labour government and that Wilson would come to their aid, have since been blown sky high.

Local Labour M.P.s from Liverpool who rushed in behind this statement of the Ford stewards trying their best to cover the responsibility of the Labour government for this situation had their eye wiped on Tuesday when the trade union leaders who sit on the Ford Joint Negotiating Committee, publicly accepted the reasons given by Ford for the cut-back.

Fords now claim that they will receive apologies as soon as an enquiry has been held.

Will employers in the motor industry use the present recession to attack wages, working conditions and shop floor organisation?

Instinctive

The action of the stewards in banning overtime is an instinctive move to defend the jobs. It is a move of workers to stubbornly defend the conditions they have won through struggle. A Halewood convener told the 'Newsletter': 'We conceded mobility of labour on the promise that employment would be protected. On the first recession they haven't wasted one moment in cutting employment'.

But the trade union leaders, the fake left Labour M.P.s, and the Wilson government, will not save workers from the dole. The stewards must campaign as they are discussing immediate meetings with Dagenham stewards and other motor industry stewards to oppose sackings. Fords must be made to accept a reduced working week without loss of pay.

The Newsletter says nationalise the motor-car industry without compensation.

Devlin

From page one

employer well in control through so-called permanency. Only a fool will believe that mechanisation, the break-up of defensive traditions and customs, the lowering of manning scales, will mean that the employers will continue with the same labour force.

The Transport Union leaders try to assure the dockers that the Dock Labour Scheme will be protected. It quotes the Devlin Report to show that the Board will still hold the power of dismissals.

In line, however, with its one-sided selection of quotations it does not stress that for a dockerman to be sacked from an employer means, in effect, that he is out of the scheme. Neither does it report that the disciplinary powers of the employer are to be increased apart from the direct power to sack.

The most demagogic promise in the brochure is in the implication that there will be a new democracy in the union.

The Devlin report makes it very clear that the reorganisation of the docks and the dockers, which is planned, can only take place by tightening the control of the union officialdom over their members.

The TGWU is forced to say that it stands for a 'major extension of public ownership' which it says it will campaign for 'alongside our approach to the Devlin Report'. Of course, the two things are incompatible. The mention of 'public ownership' is put in as a sop to the strong feelings along the waterfront for nationalization.

The rank-and-file dockerman has yet to speak out in force. The reality of struggle on the docks will be more compelling than any pretty brochure. That is what will break through just as it broke through all the efforts of the gloss and gimmick that tried to put over the 'new deal' on Merseyside at the beginning of last year.

Brockway

From page one

According to Brockway, the North Vietnamese government was prepared to concede two points:

(a) that Hanoi did not stipulate withdrawal of U.S. troops as a condition for cease-fire or peace talks.

(b) that Hanoi was reconciled to a separate government for South Vietnam.

So it seemed that the persuasive genius of Lord Brockway has done what thousands of tons of napalm, rockets, bombs and shells could not: make Hanoi relent.

Hardly had Lord Brockway made his statement than the North Vietnamese Embassy in Moscow issued a categorical denial of any such proposals. Was Brockway's imagination running amok? Who knows.

Like Davies' trip to Hanoi, Brockway's Moscow visit has yielded nothing. And deservedly so.

Trotsky meeting

From page three

Marxists, is the working class. The whole meaning of the present type of parliamentary politics is contempt for the working class.

To any young person coming into our movement today, we say: fight with the working class against the Tories. Only a programme for power is worthwhile. Any movement is doomed to defeat unless it can offer the youth perspectives leading to the road to power, that is why Marxism now is a major attraction for the youth.

You can only understand Trotsky's great work if you fight along the class lines Trotsky was fighting. It is only when you are firmly convinced of the class struggle, fighting capitalism in the factories and in your place of work, carrying out the hundred and one daily tasks to build the party, that you can understand what Trotsky fought for.

His work covered many experiences. He was a leader of the triumphant revolution, organiser and leader of the Red Army and then, because of Stalin, a man without a visa. Trotsky was at his greatest during that time. He stood out when others capitulated and shut up. Trotsky spoke out; that is his greatness. In the struggle to overcome enormous difficulties we learn how to develop Marxism. That is what Trotsky taught us. 9

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Industrial Newsletter

Leicester tenants movement growing

From Our Leicester Correspondent

THE movement in Leicester against the Labour Council's proposed 30 per cent rent increases is beginning to snowball. Following the successful tenants' meeting on the Cort

Crescent estate, the Young Socialists have organised a meeting of 120 tenants from the Saffron Lane and Eyres Monsell estates.

At this meeting, the Young Socialists received a tremendous response from the tenants. As one speaker asked: 'What is the difference between an 8s. rent rise and an 8s. wage cut?' tenants called out 'None!' When asked what they would do if their wages were cut tenants shouted: 'We'd strike!'

UNITED

The Young Socialist speaker pointed out that if the tenants allowed themselves to be divided on the basis of colour or in any other way then they would be defeated. The slogan of 'United we stand! Divided we fall!' received applause from the tenants.

Those who first attempted to minimise the role of the Young Socialists now stated: 'The Federation of Young Socialists will get a flea in its ear from ratepayers who are not council house tenants and a deaf ear from sensible, reasonable tenants.'

CLEAR

It is very clear from the size of the meeting organised by the Young Socialists that others will get 'fleas in their ears'.

During this week further tenants meetings are being held on five other estates. On Saturday, September 11, an all-Leicester tenants' demonstration is being arranged.

Those few supporters of the Communist Party who have put forward the slogan: 'Keep politics out!' have been left far behind.

Tenants can see very clearly that it is the financial policies of the Labour government and the failure of Wilson to nationalize the banks, the land, the building and the building supplies industries, that is directly responsible for the increase in their rents.

Islington tenants' committee meets

NEWSLETTER REPORTER

OVER 100 tenants at Sickert Court, Islington, attended a Tenants' Association meeting at the Community Centre on Thursday, August 19.

But all they heard from the Association's Committee was that Islington Council will discuss the possibility of staggering the rent increases of up to 30s., which are due to become operative on September 6.

A report was given on a discussion with the Mayor and a Councillor, in which the Labour Council eloquently pleaded that it had to find the money to service 'spiralling debts' and interest charges on the housing revenue account.

Stagger

One tenant asked: 'Since the debt spirals every year, how is it possible to stagger the increases? It is all very well the Council saying where is the money coming from, where do they think ours is coming from?'

The executive committee gave no lead on the question of the form sent out by the Council. These forms terminate the existing agreement between Council and tenant, but the EC recommended they be signed 'under protest' and that normal rents be paid 'until the issue is clear'.

Islington Labour councillors Robert Redrupp and Albert Ley have already resigned in protest against the proposed increases.

Fight against liner trains not over

By Robert James

TUESDAY'S meeting of the executive of the National Union of Railwaymen rejected a recommendation of their negotiating committee that they accept liner-trains for a year's trial. They also rejected any form of operation of the scheme (an express freight service between specially constructed depots in Britain's major towns).

But railmen should not think that the matter is over, or that the executive will not change its mind.

The government and the British Railways Board are determined to go ahead with the scheme later this year, and will probably allow private hauliers to enter the liner-train depots — a blatant attack on the conception of a nationalised industry.

Such a step is necessary in the eyes of the capitalists and the Wilson government to aid the streamlining of the British transport system and the movement of imports and exports in an effort to save the pound.

'BAD THING'

Already, according to the 'Times', NUR Secretary, Mr. Sidney Greene, 'clearly feels personally that the union should accept the trains!'

'Mr. Greene... said it would be a bad thing if they were put into operation, without any agreement with the union, because this would lead to confusion among the staff.'

But who is confusing who, when the matter is left in the air?

The union executive should be taking up some of the demands put forward by their district councils for a militant campaign on liner-trains, instead of waiting for 'further safeguards' from the railways board.

Certain assurances on redundancy and pay have been given by the British Railways Board, in connection with liner-trains, but the streamlining of any industry will eventually mean a diminishing labour force. The Board have, in any case, been pressing in several areas for single-manning of trains.

'CONDITIONS'

And surely the 'package deal' offer by the Board, of two three-per-cent wage increases this year and next year and a 40-hour week, will not be handed to the railmen on a plate. The 'conditions' in return must surely mean further streamlining of British Rail.

Any assurances of no redundancy under the liner-train scheme or the package deal are made to look ridiculous when one considers the case of one railman who was forced to move from Luton, in Bedfordshire, to Bury, in Lancashire, to be assured of keeping a job in the industry.

How many others will leave the industry when offered jobs

miles away from home? The only way that railmen can safeguard their jobs and the industry is to join in the growing struggle of the workers in Fords, the dockers, tenants and youth against the Tory policies of the Wilson government and for socialist policies of nationalisation of the basic industries under workers' control.

Newcastle dockers' strike

NEWCASTLE dockers struck for three days last week in reply to a cut in tonnage rates. Employers cut the rate for non-palletised cargo (not made up ready for fork-lift trucks) from 2s. to 1s. 3d., which is the present palletised cargo rate.

A stormy meeting was held at lunch-time on Thursday (August 19), after many dockers found their pay packets were several pounds light, and the vote for strike action was almost unanimous. The quay was to stop until last Monday, when the men decided to return, pending negotiations.

The 9d. cut came shortly after the publication of the Devlin Report.

Local newspapers claimed that food was 'rotting on the quays' (it stood for two days), but failed to mention the wage-cut which the dockers faced.

BISAKTA men ask for support

Newsletter Industrial Reporter

AT a meeting in Cardiff this week, called by BISAKTA members in the cold roll mill of Guest Keen Nettlefold's Castle Works, an attempt was made to gain full trade union support at the works for their 11-week-old strike.

Action was taken by the men following the management's answer to their demand for a wage increase after several months' discussion. The management offered a slight increase with the introduction of conditions of labour, which were certain to lead to large-scale redundancies within the cold roll department.

Unsuccessful

Attempts were made in the first week of the strike to gain support from the other BISAKTA branches in the works, but these were unsuccessful and the strike was declared unofficial. It was stated that no further discussions on the dispute would take place until the men returned to work.

In fact, considerable support was gained by the strikers this week and their representatives are now to visit several union branches. In this way they hope to win further support, and with this solidarity, fight for higher pay and guaranteed jobs.

EALING'S LABOUR COUNCIL SPLITS

SIX Labour councillors in Southall, Middlesex, have split and formed their own group in the Ealing Labour-controlled council on a platform of discrimination against immigrant workers. At a council meeting in June they voted with the Tories to make immigrants wait 15 years to go on the council's housing list.

One of them said: 'Immigrants are still coming into Southall. Something should be done at a national level to keep them away from places like Southall'.

Although their resolution was defeated, no fight has been waged against these councillors. They are still members of the Labour Party.

REGRET

At the Elthorne Ward Labour Party a councillor, who supports the majority of the Labour group, regretted that a resolution was passed by the Ward condemning the six. A leader of the Labour group now argues that if too

many immigrant workers go on the housing list then they will review the whole question!

Two of the six councillors work at AEC. The 1/680 branch of the Transport and General Workers Union, which represents many AEC workers, passed a resolution condemning these councillors.

WAITING

In Southall, with a population of 60,000, there are only 2,600 council houses in existence. During the next few months the council plans to build only a few more houses to accommodate 300 families. These new houses are being built by Laings, the gigantic building contractor. Slum areas, which were scheduled for redevelopment after the war, have not been touched. Many families have been on the waiting list for 10 or 15 years.

Yet, in Ealing, which is in the same local government area, £460,000 was paid out to purchase land for 200 flats.

'Unique' agreement to be signed in shipyards

By BOB SHAW,

AN agreement, described as 'unique' in a British shipyard, is to be signed between the Clyde Shipbuilders' Association and the Electrical Trades Union, providing for 'dilution' of the 1,500 Clyde-side electricians.

The agreement which is now under consideration by the union's executive committee was described by a union representative as being a fair one.

The scheme provides for 20 to 25 per cent 'dilution' of time-served electricians by the introduction of unskilled and semi-skilled workers. For every four or five tradesmen now working in the shipyards one unskilled or semi-skilled tradesman will be brought in.

This will immediately

provide the Shipbuilders' Association with an additional 300 to 375 electrical workers who can immediately be trained for tradesmen's work and provide skilled and cheap labour for the new orders which have been recently won.

AGREEMENT

The two sides reached agreement after the Electrical Trades Union called out the electricians at one shipyard and put forward demands for increased wages. They also put forward proposals for the introduction of work-study and

bonus payments.

In payment for the introduction of dilution the electricians are to receive an increase in the region of 6d. per hour. The rates of the dilutees will also be raised but they will now be doing work previously paid at skilled rates. The way is now wide open for the breaking down of other trade union practices in the shipyards.

Any such action will be especially appreciated by the shipbuilding employers at this time. One firm announced last week that all its operations on the Clyde failed to make a

profit in 1964-65. Writing on the shipbuilding employers' dilemma, the 'Sunday Telegraph' pointed out that although vast new tonnage orders had been won, it was questionable whether any profit would be made out of the ships now being laid down.

CONFERENCE

The Scottish Trades Union Congress executive has announced that it is to call a conference of trade unions on September 15 to discuss relations between the employers and trade unions in the shipbuilding industry.

It angrily denies that trade union leaders are obstructing the introduction of measures to break down restrictive practices.

The unions, it said, are 'keen to assist in making industry as competitive as possible' (!)

Electricians on the Clyde have no reason to love the leaderships of the Electrical Trades Union and Scottish Trades Union Congress. The witch-hunt conducted by the right wing against rank-and-file electricians in Clydebank and in Glasgow has been particularly harsh.

But it is now doubly clear what that fight is about and that it has to continue. A new leadership has to be built in the unions to remove the right wing and establish a socialist leadership.