

# The Newsletter

WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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B/OSL FILE

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## THIS WEEK

Trotskyism in the United States  
—a statement (see page 2)

S. Rhodesia

## SMITH'S SLOW MOVE TO UDI

By JOHN CRAWFORD

BEHIND all the talk of 'sanctions' against the Rhodesian white minority in the event of a breakaway, Wilson is preparing a compromise.

Whatever formula may be found to make it look as if the three and a half million Africans have agreed, the tiny white minority will be left in control.

There is no need for Ian Smith to declare independence immediately. He can take his time to build up support among the imperialist powers.

Despite the vote at the United Nations on Tuesday, there could easily be a deal made between the Rhodesian settlers and the U.S. government.

### STRENGTHENED

Meanwhile, the re-emergence of Lord Salisbury and the shift to the right in the Tory policy last week, shows how Smith's position can be strengthened as time goes on.

It also marks the change taking place in the relationship between imperialism and the colonial nationalist movements.

Salisbury, in his 'Daily Express' article on Tuesday, repeated his opposition to the MacMillan policy of reliance on agreements with African nationalism. This was expressed in the famous 'wind of change' speech in February 1960.

The crisis of world imperialism in 1965 has exposed the weakness of bourgeois nationalism throughout Asia, Africa and South America.

Nyerere's statement that 'it is infinitely preferable to have a peaceful solution than to have the peoples of Rhodesia suffer the horrors of war', shows how far such politicians are from leading a struggle against imperialism.

### CRITICISM

He severely criticised the speech of the Rhodesian nationalist leader, Chikerama, who threatened an all-out fight against white domination.

How can Wilson fight the Rhodesian racialisists? His immigration policy in Britain has itself encouraged racialism. The new Tory line will be correspondingly strengthened as a result.

The denunciation of Smith as a 'traitor' (by the 'Daily Worker' among others), and calling for his arrest as an 'enemy of the Queen' is so much rubbish.

The examples of Carson in Ulster in 1913 shows that the state will never act against opposition from the right.

Socialists must expose Wilson's compromise plans. We must support every move towards the building of the workers' movement in Africa, which is needed if imperialism is to be defeated.

# OUR ANSWER TO DEVLIN

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### NO LEGISLATION AGAINST THE TRADE UNIONS!

### CLEAR OUT THE WILSON-MACDONALD TRAITORS! FIGHT FOR SOCIALIST POLICIES!

#### LONDON

7 p.m., Sunday, October 17  
New Ambassadors Hotel  
Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1  
(nearest tube station: Euston)

#### Speakers:

G. Healy, National Secretary, SLL  
M. Banda, Editor, Newsletter  
Peter Kerrigan, Liverpool dockworker

#### LEICESTER

7.30 p.m., Sunday, October 24  
The Corn Exchange

#### Speakers:

Cliff Slaughter, Editor, 'Fourth International'  
Dave Ashby, National Secretary, Young Socialists  
Jack Gale, Central Committee Member, SLL

#### SHEFFIELD

7.30 p.m., Sunday, October 31  
The Vestry Hall,  
Cemetery Road (Moor End)

#### Speakers:

Cliff Slaughter, Editor, 'Fourth International'  
Dave Ashby, National Secretary, Young Socialists  
Jack Gale, Central Committee Member, SLL

#### GLASGOW

7.30 p.m., Sunday, November 7  
Partick Burgh Hall, Lesser Hall

#### Speakers:

Cliff Slaughter, Editor, 'Fourth International'  
John Robertson, Young Socialist and engineering convenor

#### BELFAST

7.30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 14  
International Hotel,  
Donegall Square South

#### Speaker:

G. Healy, National Secretary, SLL

#### LIVERPOOL

8 p.m., Sunday, November 21  
Lecture Room, Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street

#### Speakers:

G. Healy, National Secretary, SLL  
Cliff Slaughter, Editor, 'Fourth International'  
Peter Kerrigan, Liverpool dockworker

#### BIRMINGHAM

7.30 p.m., Sunday, November 21  
Digbeth Civic Hall, Digbeth

#### Speakers:

Aileen Jennings, Editor, 'Keep Left'  
Mike Banda, Editor, Newsletter  
Jack Gale, Central Committee Member, SLL

#### NEWCASTLE

7.30 p.m., Sunday, November 28  
Bridge Hotel, Castle Square

#### Speakers:

Cliff Slaughter, Editor, 'Fourth International'  
Jack Gale, Central Committee Member, SLL  
Chairman: J. Williamson, Young Socialists National Committee

THE Labour government under Wilson's leadership is to propose legislation on the basis of the Devlin Report on the docks. Portworkers will, therefore, be the first victims of the attack which is now being launched against the trade union movement.

Needless to say, the Tories will support Wilson wholeheartedly. Indeed, the only valid reason for the functioning of the government, is that it will prepare the legal groundwork against the trade unions, so that later on a Tory government would have more power to enforce its own reactionary decisions.

Towards this end, the international banking fraternity has provided a bridging loan to enable the government to stagger over its balance of payments difficulties during the next few months—long enough to get legislation against the trade unions on its way to the statute books.

Portworkers rank traditionally amongst Britain's most class-conscious and solidarity-minded section of workers. There will be a big fight against all attempts to speed up and worsen conditions on the docks. It is, therefore, very important for them to be clear about what solution they propose in place of Devlin.

Britain is an island whose economic lifelines flow through six major ports, Southampton, London, Liverpool, Hull, Manchester and Glasgow.

The rank-and-file portworker, generally speaking, supports the policy of the Socialist Labour League, which says clearly that all docks and harbour installations should be nationalized.

### Vital industry

If the nation depends on the docks, why should this vital sector of industry remain in the hands of private owners who make massive profits through exploitation of the portworker, leading in turn, to a continuous increase in the cost of goods which are imported and exported.

Devlin says the opposite of this, and he is supported by the Labour government. He says that what we need is a growth of more monopoly ownership and control on the docks and the elimination of the small and medium-sized port employers.

Under capitalism monopoly ownership is essentially restrictive in the interests of profit-making. By concentrating greater and greater power into fewer and fewer hands, the way is open for this powerful handful to raise their costs at will, without regard for the requirements of the people as a whole.

By supporting the Devlin Report, the Labour government comes down on the side of the most anti-social and ruthless group of monopoly capitalists. These are the people who are the real 'wreckers' and not the

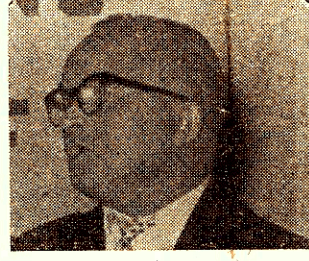
### NOW TORIES DEMAND: FINE REBEL UNIONS

ON Wednesday this week the Conservatives outlined, at their annual party conference in Brighton, their reactionary plans for the trade unions.

Sir Keith Joseph, Shadow Minister of Labour, said that one main proposal was to make procedures for dealing with disputes legally enforceable against unions.

Trade unions would be fined if their members broke agreements with the employers.

The Labour government prepares the way for such an action by its declared intention of legislating against the trade unions.



by GERRY HEALY  
National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League

portworkers fighting for better conditions, as Devlin alleges.

The right-wing Labour government has moved a long way from the nationalization demands of the early pioneers who built the labour movement. Today, it supports monopoly capitalism on the docks.

### No compensation

The Socialist Labour League is not in favour of the kind of nationalization on the docks which has virtually crippled the railways and mining industries. There should be no compensation, except in very needy cases, where the former employers would have to establish that they would be destitute unless they received some assistance.

The majority of the profits must be ploughed back into the industry enabling wages and working conditions to be improved, whilst costs of imports and exports would be reduced, thus reducing the cost of living and assuring a greater volume of exports.

Neither are we in favour of a bureaucratic hierarchy of ex-owners, or their agents, running the docks after

Cont. page 2, col. 3 →



## Hands off the Indonesian Communist Party!

By MICHAEL BANDA

THE counter-revolutionary forces led by the Generals and incited by Islamic fanatics are rampaging through Java and Sumatra.

An unprecedented campaign of violence and terror against Communists and trade unionists is in full swing. Houses of Communist MPs, including the residence of D. N. Aidit, leader of the party, have been ransacked.

District and provincial offices of the Indonesian Communist Party (KPI) have been burnt down. Wholesale arrests and executions of Communist Party members and sympathisers have been reported from many areas.

Colonel Untung, leader of the palace corp, has been captured, and many of his supporters disarmed. Sporadic fighting is reported in East Java and parts of Southern Sumatra.

### FEEBLE UNITY CALLS

The ailing Sukarno—now a reluctant hostage of the Generals—issues feeble calls for 'national unity' which the generals use to repress the Stalinists even more fiercely.

The KPI adds to the confusion and helps to strengthen the position of the reactionary Generals by shamelessly supporting the appeals made (supposedly) by Sukarno for an end to the fighting and for 'national unity against imperialism'.

The KPI in a statement reported in the 'Daily Worker'

(7/10/65) calls on the working class and toiling peasantry of Indonesia to:

... increase their vigilance, to strengthen the front of national unity in order to achieve the realisation of the five principles of the Revolution to foil the joint British-American project of Malaysia and also step up the struggle against neo-colonialism in general.

This at a time when illegality, imprisonment and summary execution is the lot of thousands of Communist Party members!

### 'DAILY WORKER' SILENT

The 'Daily Worker' remains in-scrutably silent on these events, even Kosygin is forced to protest against the murder of KPI members.

This is where class-collaboration has led Aidit and his advisers in the international Stalinist movement. For over 10 years they laboured to support capitalism in Indonesia under the spurious political banner of 'national democracy'—the brainchild of the Soviet leaders.

At the same time they gave full support to so-called policies of 'non-aligned peaceful co-existence' of Sukarno, who tried to walk the diplomatic tight-rope between the workers' states and imperialism.

This policy, needless to say, disarmed the working class theoretically and disoriented the KPI politically. Sukarno by involving KPI leaders in his National Council compromised the KPI still further.

While everyone knew that the Generals were plotting to take the power for some time, the KPI leaders looked imploringly to

Sukarno to do something.

Exasperated by the opportunism and collaborationism of the official leaders, the young communists, together with junior officers from the army, tried at the last moment to turn the course of events by a premature and ill-prepared uprising.

No mobilisation of the working class was undertaken nor was the peasantry drawn into the struggle. The trade unions have remained

indifferent and the party remains hopelessly divided.

Now the uprising has been crushed and the white terror has begun.

World labour cannot stand aside while the butchers in Djakarta slaughter workers and peasants with impunity. We demand that all executions cease forthwith, all political prisoners be released, and attacks against the KPI and left-wing groups be stopped.

## Campaign against union law now

SIR WILLIAM CARRON,

president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, has described the vote by his union delegation against legislation on the trade unions as 'disloyal'.

Sir William was prohibited from attending the Labour Party Conference because of a recent operation.

At the opening ceremony for new offices of the union in Leeds, he declared:

'In case there should be any doubt, let me make it quite clear that the AEU is in full agreement with all that the TUC General Council has done and that we will fully co-operate in the implementation of policies worked out in consultation between the TUC and the government.'

### Power is slipping

He further stressed that since his union was fully committed to supporting the government this meant that those who represented it at the Labour Party Conference should have voted for legislation.

By Newsletter Reporter

Sir William is one of that small band of powerful right-wing leaders who can see power slipping from their hands in the days that lie ahead.

So far as they are concerned, government legislation, curbing the rights of their members, is absolutely necessary if they are to cling on to this power for a little while longer.

### Anti-Communist scare

During the period of inflationary boom, when their members enjoyed relatively full employment, they whooped up the anti-Communist scare to hold their offices.

Now, more and more trade unionists are beginning to see through this sham, so the right wing feel that it needs fresh assistance in order to carry on.

It will be recalled that at the National Committee of Carron's union, which met last April, the Communist Party delegates voted for the resolution of 100 per cent support for the Labour govern-

ment, which he now claims gives him full right to cast the votes of the union for legislation.

### Refused delegation

At the same National Committee the Communist Party delegates also joined hands with Carron and the right wing in refusing to meet representatives from the apprentices' movement who had travelled to the Committee to exercise their right to put pressure on their elected representatives.

This cowardly capitulation paved the way for Carron. It was the same as the retreat over Ford's victimisation of shop stewards. The more the Communist Party retreat, the stronger become the right wing.

The militant rank and file must draw their own conclusions—the time has come to learn the bitter lessons from the betrayals inside this union.

Carron will never be defeated by those who retreat before him. Now is the time to start the ball rolling by taking steps to launch a real campaign inside the factories and the AEU against legislation against the unions.

## Statement by the Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League

**T**HE United States of America is not only the main centre of the power of world capitalism. It is also the most vital sector of the world proletarian revolution for the overthrow of the capitalist system. For this reason, no international revolutionary movement is worthy of the name if it does not accept the responsibility of seeking every possible path to assist in the building of a revolutionary party in the very citadel of world imperialism.

The reconstruction of the Fourth International cannot be successful without an advance on these lines inside the United States. It is in the context of the preparation of the international conference of the International Committee of the Fourth International that this step forward can be consciously prepared.

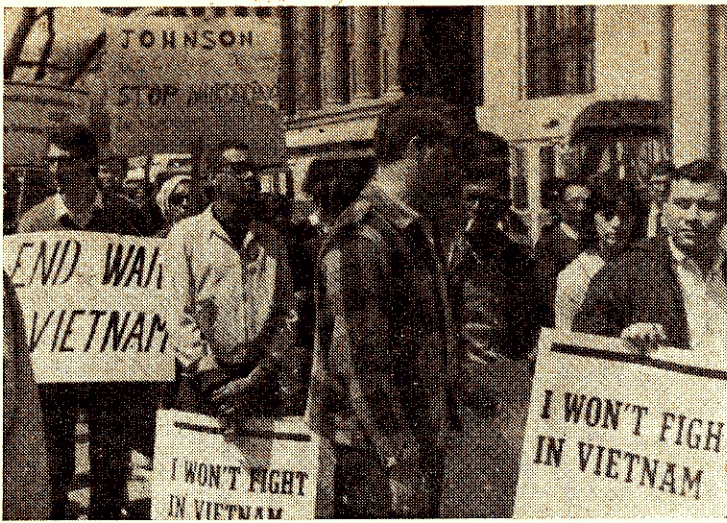
Those who go on impressions and moods, the professional opportunists and centrists, can always be relied upon to leave out of their political calculations one overwhelming factor in the world situation: *the American working class.*

Blinded by the mighty wealth of American capital, its military power and its ability to corrupt politicians on an international scale, these reformists see the American workers as an inert and passive mass, victims of all the illusions of the American way of life, including anti-Communism and racialism. They mistake the appearance, where everything is dominated by bourgeois ideology, relayed to the working class by its treacherous leaders as well as by the capitalist institutions themselves, for the fundamental process of production and class struggle.

The American worker is inevitably driven to the sharpest class struggle. At the point of production, he experiences the consequences of unprecedented changes in the forces of production. Capitalism has been able to introduce automation on only a very small scale, but already, in conditions of high boom, this limited application has brought back the phenomenon of the capitalist 'reserve army of unemployed' on a new and expanding scale.

This introduction of automation into an unplanned economy is producing the most violent social struggles, especially as it coincides with the historical legacy of one of the main preconditions of American capitalist wealth, the super-exploited Negro population, America's 'internal colony'.

The actual content of the insurrection in Los



Angeles, the riots in Chicago, the self-arming of Negro workers throughout the United States, is the incompatibility of American capitalist social relations with the new productive forces. The impact of the Vietnam war, which U.S. business finds so necessary to maintain a high level of government spending, as well as to assert its leading international role on behalf of capitalism, is thrusting hundreds of thousands of young American workers and students into struggle against the system, a struggle which they will very soon learn in experience is the same as that of the Negroes.

All the struggles of the colonial peoples, in which the blood of millions has been shed since the Second World War, and the struggles of the workers in Russia and Eastern Europe against the bureaucracy, which came to a head in 1956, and are now surging forward once more, has as a precondition of success the coming forward of a revolutionary leadership for the workers thrown into struggle in the advanced capitalist countries. This has always been the standpoint of Trotskyism: it is possible, as in Russia, for the workers and peasants of a backward country to overthrow the native capitalist state, but for the victory of socialism in these countries the struggle must go forward to success in the main centres of advanced capitalism.

For this reason, Trotsky paid particular attention to the class struggle in the United States, and not at all only because his years of exile ended near the borders of that country. Trotsky was in essence the real founder of the Socialist Workers' Party of the USA.

But there will be no successful building of a

The Kennedy assassination should have sharpened the class perspectives of all Marxist revolutionaries. The SWP response was to send condolences to the President's widow.



# TROTSKYISM IN THE UNITED STATES

revolutionary party in the USA unless it is based upon a full appreciation of the consequences of the revisionism and capitulation to the class enemy of the party founded by Trotsky. The SWP has, in recent years (though the roots of the process are much farther back!) abandoned the internationalist positions of Trotskyism. Internationalist politics in our epoch are the politics of the working class. All other classes have particular stakes in the 'national interest' and are unable to carry out a consistent internationalist line. Insofar as the working class has become affected by this national opportunism, it has been the result of the creation of a specially privileged minority of the class on the basis of colonial super-profits. The revisionists, those who abandon the construction of the revolutionary party of the working class, are representatives of these alien class influences.

The SWP has arrived at a position where its political line is determined, not by the class struggle and the need of the working class for a strategy, but by estimations of the movements of middle-class national political trends. Insofar as the workers are considered at all, it is as some

The impact of the Vietnam war is thrusting hundreds of thousands of young American people into struggle against the system, a struggle which they will very soon learn in experience is the same as that of the Negroes. Pictured is one of the many demonstrations.

sort of 'pressure group' to give weight to one or other of these surface tendencies in the 'radical milieu' inhabited by middle-class reformers.

When Kennedy was assassinated, there is not the slightest doubt that here was an event absolutely indicative of the Watts rebellion in Los Angeles. It should have sharpened the class perspectives of all Marxist revolutionaries. What was the response of the SWP? Its General Secretary, Farrell Dobbs, sent a telegram to the widow of this millionaire President, expressing the condolences of the Party!

At that time there was drawing to a close another phase of SWP activity which in its own way proved just as fatally the degeneration of the SWP. The members of the Party had their attention turned almost exclusively not to the explosive changes in American society, which were given peculiar expression in the Kennedy assassination, but to the revolution in Cuba.

Solidarity with the revolutionary people of Cuba was certainly an outstanding task of revolutionaries in the United States, but the SWP leadership made sympathy for the Cuban revolution the be-all and end-all of party activity. The 'Fair Play for Cuba Committees' in which they enthusiastically participated fell around their ears once the heat was turned on by the U.S. government. As always, peace movements not based on the preparation for working-class power capitulated to the enemy once the first shot was fired.

Earlier the SWP had failed objectively in its attempt to 'regroup' the left after the crisis of Stalinism in 1956. Here again there was an attempt at compromise, an attempt to trim principles in order to attract those moving away from Stalinism. Thus it was in this period that Hansen and others first publicly made concessions to the idea that the Stalinist bureaucracy might reform out of existence the negative features of Soviet society.

Eventually, in 1963, the SWP leaders acknowledged the source of the degeneration of their

1. See the magazine *Fourth International*, Summer 1965.

politics by supporting the so-called reunification with the Pabloite 'United Secretariat of the Fourth International', from which they had broken in 1953, on the grounds of its capitulation to Stalinism. This 'reunification' was made the excuse for suppression of principled discussion of the previous split. Those who demanded discussion on this, and later on the consequences of it in the Ceylon betrayal of N.M. Perera, were summarily expelled from the Party.

The recent Convention of the SWP confirmed all these developments, virtually liquidating the political line of the Party in the 'broad' anti-war movement. The Party's newspaper reports the Convention's call on this question without a trace of analysis of the specific line and struggle of the revolutionary party, to build the movement which will take power from the capitalists as the only answer to war. Outside of this, 'internationalism' is only a series of pious references to the identity of the struggle all over the world, which is exactly what Joseph Hansen provided.

It was fitting that alongside these political conclusions went the refusal of any right of appeal to the revolutionary minorities expelled from the SWP since its last Convention. By a small majority, these rights, never revoked in the history of the Trotskyist movement, were refused to those ex-members at present working in two groups, the American Committee for the Fourth International and the 'Spartacist' group.

The above account should make it perfectly clear that the sources of the present position of the SWP are political and international. Not only have the steps in degeneration been intimately linked with the struggles against revisionism inside the international Trotskyist movement; the political ideas at the base of the degeneration are part of an international tendency in the movement, the tendency of Pabloite revisionism and liquidationism.

If this is clearly understood, then the pre-conditions for a struggle to build a genuine Trotskyist party can quickly be grasped. From this point of view, the personal evolution of this or that individual in the SWP leadership, the special combinations and cliques in the leadership, etc., are seen to be purely incidental to the main point.

The recent Convention of the SWP must be analysed from this internationalist viewpoint, otherwise there will be nothing but disorientation and confusion, and no possibility of potentially revolutionary elements in the SWP being attracted to the politics of the International Committee.

This raises the question of the responsibility of revolutionary Marxists in the United States. Not only the American Committee for the Fourth International, but also the 'Spartacist' group, has expressed agreement with the main lines of the

International Committee's draft resolution for the 1966 international conference. What is now necessary is the working out of a revolutionary perspective for the struggle of the American working class.

With such a perspective, American Trotskyists will be able to carry forward the work of Trotsky in developing Marxism in an everyday connection with the living movement. Only in this way can a successful battle be waged against the pragmatism which permeates every aspect of American philosophy and politics. On this basis, as the International Committee has rightly insisted, unification of all those who accept our international perspectives is essential.

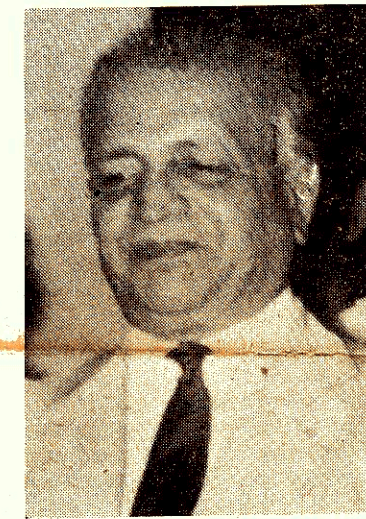
The bedrock of this unity must be, we insist once more, the recognition of the international roots of the SWP's political degeneration. It is in no way a question of counting heads, but of insisting on Trotskyist principles as our starting-point. Only in this way will American Marxists uphold the traditions of the revolutionary movement.

With this as starting base, a correct attitude to the current crisis in the Socialist Workers' Party is necessary and can be worked out. It is dangerous in the extreme to ignore the potential of the youth recruited in the recent period to the SWP. They are not simply errand boys and voting fodder for the Dobbs-Kerry leadership.

What is happening is something more profound, and if this is not grasped, or is obscured by one-sided commentaries which concentrate on the line-up of internal party groups, then American Trotskyists will be hopelessly left behind by events.

In the ironical sense which history so often gives to such processes, it is inevitable that the most profound degeneration of the SWP coincides with the most agitated ferment among American youth. This ferment will develop at a very rapid rate, and will bring to a head very quickly the contradiction between the degeneration of the SWP and the objective needs of the American working class. The latter contradiction is only the manifestation of the sharpened international crisis of centrism and revisionism, a face of the working-class offensive.

The first responsibility of those in the United States who adhere to the positions of the International Committee will be to ensure the political



The SWP expelled all who demanded discussion on the 1963 'reunification', and later, the consequences of the Ceylon betrayal of N. M. Perera (left).

clarification of these young workers and students who have joined the SWP. Without tackling this necessary political task, it will not be possible to fully prepare for the tasks in the trade unions and the Negro movement.

Here again, this clarification will require a correct international starting point. It will not be possible for them to understand and change the situation in the SWP without this internationalist perspective.

These remarks on the SWP illustrate a general truth which must be burned into the consciousness of every American Marxist: nothing will be solved in the USA without a recognition of the international source of the internal political problems of the USA and of the Trotskyist movement in that country. We are confident that Marxists in America will be able to unite their forces in the common struggle with us to rebuild the international revolutionary movement.

Central Committee of the  
Socialist Labour League  
9/10/65.

## DEVLIN

from  
page  
one

nationalization. This is the most costly way to run a nationalized industry and results in nothing more than behind-the-scenes conspiracies to utilize the industry concerned in the interests of private capital instead of in the interests of the majority of the people. It simply amounts to rule by the capitalists under the 'old pals act'. The Socialist Labour League demands workers' control on the docks.

Every day of their lives portworkers work together in the holds of great cargo vessels. By their skill and understanding they save each other's lives. They know the docks and they know ships. Who are better qualified to run their industry?

### Vital workers

They are a vital part of the working class and they know and realise the needs of other workers. They know what short-time working is like and they have seen their families suffer on the dole. They know

the employers and their agents, and they know how to run the ports. These are the main reasons why we favour workers' control on the docks.

**Our answer to Devlin is nationalization, without compensation, except in needy cases, under workers' control.**

Devlin's reply to the policy of the Socialist Labour League consists of a series of red herrings. He sets out in his report to prove that there was some kind of conspiracy behind the growth of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers ('Blue Union') in the northern ports during 1954 and 1955.

There was nothing of the sort. Long years of rule by Arthur Deakin of the Transport and General Workers' Union had convinced portworkers that this union could not be changed without a great struggle involving all of the workers employed in the industry.

The NAS&D is the oldest-

established trade union on the docks. By exercising their right to join the union of their choice the dockers did no more than stand by the democratic traditions of their industry.

They did not form a 'new union'. They joined a union that had been established on the docks long before the T&GWU.

### Solidarity

By joining the NAS&D they were in fact waging a struggle for the democratisation of the T&GWU because they were revealing to everybody the impossibility of trade union democracy within this union. During all this time the utmost solidarity existed between members of the T&GWU and the NAS&D.

The Communist Party at the time (1954) led by Vic Marney, the late Ted Dickens and Jack Dash, opposed, along with Arthur Deakin and Tiffin, who replaced him as general secretary, recruitment into the



# BARBICAN BUILDERS RETURN

## GLASGOW

### BUSMEN BAN NIGHT SHIFTS

**B**US crews at the Ibrox and Langside depots of Glasgow Corporation Transport Department have banned working after 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

The immediate cause of the ban is the number of assaults and disturbances on corporation buses. Last year there were 67 injuries to bus crews from assaults.

But behind the seemingly unhappy relations between bus workers and some sections of the transport users lie other factors.

On many routes services are difficult to run due to lack of staff. A few weeks ago one bus depot threatened strike action in protest against the lack of relief crews to man the buses.

#### OFF THE ROAD

The general manager of Glasgow City Transport Department has stated that on some Saturdays as many as 400 buses out of 1,200 are off the road due to lack of staff.

In addition, bus crews report long hours of overtime due to the fact that there is no one to relieve them at the end of the shift.

In a situation, where queues get longer and longer as people wait for a bus which is full when it arrives, and bus crews are tired from long and irregular hours of duty—frustration mounts and tempers become frayed—arguments and violence result.

The majority of bus workers are completely opposed to ex-

#### Schedules strike 100 per cent solid

**T**HE second one-day protest strike at Hanwell London Transport Garage staged last Saturday against the new schedules, was again 100 per cent strong.

A meeting was to be held on Thursday this week to discuss future action.

Leatherhead garage also staged a one-day strike on Saturday against the schedules.

cessive overtime, but many are forced to work some overtime to make ends meet.

Glasgow bus workers should receive the full support of all other sections of workers in a fight to improve the onerous conditions under which they work.

While the ban on Friday and Saturday night services may cause some inconvenience and appear to be over an issue likely to increase the conflict between bus workers and passengers, it has far deeper implications for both bus workers and workers who travel by bus.

What the bus crews want above all is 40-hour week with rates of pay sufficient to maintain their families in decent conditions and rostered free week-ends so that they can enjoy their leisure time.

#### REGULAR

Transport users want regular and frequent services and an end to the ever-growing increases in fares.

This means fighting against the Tory and right-wing Labour measures to restrict spending on essential public services.

It means local authorities must be relieved of the burden of heavy interest payments on loans secured to buy public transport vehicles. The provisions of cheap oil for transport and the abolition of profits made by the motor vehicle industry in supplying buses to local authorities must be made.

This can only be achieved by fighting for policies of nationalization of the oil and motor industries, of the finance corporations and all public transport. It means the planned organisation and running of transport by elected committees of transport workers.

## Must fight for 100 per cent site

By A NEWSLETTER REPORTER

**M**OST of the 380 building workers on Turriff's Barbican site in the City of London returned to work on Thursday. Three weeks earlier they had been sacked for striking against the employment of non-union labour.

At a time when the Labour government is proposing to legislate against the trade unions this is a significant step forward for the rank and file, but it must be carried concretely to its logical conclusion of 100 per cent unionism on this and other sites.

The settlement to the strike was announced on Monday after talks between the employers and the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives.

The men had been on strike for at least two weeks before their unions, the Transport and General Workers' Union, Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, and the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers recognised their struggle.

The settlement allows all the men employed on September 21 to return, and for all those new workers who are taken on (to replace those who found other jobs after the sacking) to become union members.

A document drawn up by Turriff's, which was signed by many taken on after the 380 were sacked, was withdrawn at the talks. This document ensured that men would not take part in any unofficial action, go-slow or work-to-rule.

#### Stood firm

West Indian, Asian and Irish workers have stood firm on the picket lines during this strike, despite scuffles with the police and non-union labour taken on by Turriff's, and attacks from the press.

Many of them have been insisting throughout the dispute: 'We want a 100 per cent site.'

One worker told our reporter on Monday that the site was about 95 per cent unionised. 'But we need the other 5 per cent if we are going to go back stronger,' he added.

At the same time 'leaders' of the strike, supporters of the Communist Party, were waving this question aside.

At a meeting on Monday evening, the day the dispute was settled, these 'leaders' refused to answer the question about 100 per cent unionism at least five times. One questioner was told: 'Leave that till we get back,' and the meeting was abruptly brought to a close.

The best way to continue this fight is by ensuring that every builder becomes a member of his union to fight against all building employers for better wages and conditions, by demanding the nationalization of the industry under workers' control, and against all those who attempt to weaken this struggle.

### Removal of works committee secretary

From BOB SHAW, Our Scottish Correspondent

## Threat to Linwood militants

**T**HE Paisley District Committee of the Amalgamated Engineering Union is to investigate the action of the management of Rootes, Linwood, in moving the secretary of the works committee to another part of the factory.

He is now no longer able to function as a shop steward. At the Linwood factory many shop stewards are demanding that the management's action be contested.

They point out that removal of the works committee secretary means that the management could be free to victimise any militant who opposes the kind of trade union and management collaboration which Rootes are advocating.

Hugh Hunter, the ex-secretary, is a member of the AEU and was a

## BRISTOL

## Dockers reject timber-rate offer

### O'Leary gets the cold shoulder

Newsletter Correspondent

**A**NY illusions national docks officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, Tim O'Leary, may have had about getting the Bristol dockers to go back to work without a proper settlement were abruptly shattered at a meeting on Monday this week.

Both during the meeting and afterwards Bristol dockers angrily shouted at O'Leary that they wanted to stay out.

#### PERSUASION

Held in the Colston Hall, Bristol, the meeting lasted one hour and during that time O'Leary tried to persuade the dockers to go back to work the following morning, whilst the union promised to resume talks 24 hours afterwards on the timber rates.

O'Leary, however, was unable to promise to the meeting that the 'Gloucester City', the ship involved in the dispute, would be included in the talks because, he said, another agreement had already been reached concerning that particular ship.

It was after this statement that the men decided to remain out on strike.

When asked if he had any objection to the Minister of Labour intervening in the dispute O'Leary said 'I have none.'

The line-up of forces is quite clear. The officials of the Transport and General Workers' Union are most eager to get the men back to work.

#### ANSWER

O'Leary himself said that he thought the vote in Colston Hall went in favour of a return to work.

Bristol dockers, however, have given a definite answer to O'Leary and the other officials of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

They must now call on support from other sections of dock workers such as those in the northern ports, who have already condemned the Devlin Report on modernisation of the docks as an attack on the dockers, and called for the nationalization of the industry.

#### COMMITTEES

Included in the management's proposals, is the setting up of productivity committees and the payment of bonus on the basis of saving in labour costs.

In an attempt to organise a protest within the factory some shop stewards and militants from Rootes and Pressed Steel factories attended a meeting called by the supporters of the 'Labour Worker' 10 days ago.

The speaker was Tony Cliff who proceeded to try to head off any attempt to fight against the right-wing trade union leaders.



## Industrial Newsletter

### ON Friday, October 8, with the dock strike entering its 12th day, union officials made their second attempt at urging the strikers to return to work.

The proposal to return to work on Monday, October 11 was rejected by the strikers. Only a very small number did vote for the union officials' proposal.

One official told the dockers that negotiations over unloading of packaged timber (the cause of the present dispute) would begin as soon as a return to work took place.

But, he said, the strikers had to return on the basis of the interim piecework rate agreed by the Local Joint Council for cargo on the 'Gloucester City'.

The men have flatly rejected this interim rate for the ship. They claim that it is inadequate.

#### NEGOTIATIONS

Dockers are also insisting on immediate negotiations on the whole question of pay and manning scales for unloading timber.

Continuously, since the strike started, the press has directed a stream of insults and threats at the 1,500 strikers.

Adverts in the local paper have appeared denouncing the strikers. And statements have claimed that some dockers can earn as much as £4 a day.

What the papers do not report, however, is how often a docker is ever given a chance in a week to earn that much money a day.

Opposition has not come only from the employers and the press. The Transport and General Workers' Union representative is reported to have said the strike was 'putting the whip in the hands of our opponents to bring legislation against us. In fact our government might have to do it.'

#### LEGISLATION

The day before this statement was made, a report in the local papers said that proposed legislation to implement the suggestions of the Devlin Report is to be laid before Parliament next month.

This information was given by Ray Gunter, Minister of Labour, not at a meeting of dockers, but to the annual

conference of the Institute of Personnel Management at Harrogate.

It was also announced that Tim O'Leary, national docks officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, was to address a meeting of dockers on Monday.

#### INDICATION

This is an indication of how seriously the employers are taking this dispute.

They obviously see it as a preliminary trial of strength to test the dockers at Bristol and Avonmouth for the coming struggles over the implementation of the Devlin Report.

The concessions which the employers are being asked to make are marginal, but what is at stake is not just the question of pay but the whole future of the dockers in the ports.

The port employers are anxious not to lose out to the Bristol dockers, who have shown a tremendous amount of strength in this struggle.

## LONDON AIRPORT

### Ministry workers seek equal pay

Newsletter Correspondent

**C**HALLENGING the Trades Union Congress' early warning system, 21 Ministry of Aviation shop stewards at London Airport decided to ask for official union support for any strike action they may take over pay.

In opposing the government plan, whereby all wage claims are to be reported under the 'early warning system' before talks begin between management and the workers, the stewards have put in a claim for parity for Ministry of Aviation workers.

## Defiant car workers boycott mini-shift

By Sylvia Pick

**A**NGRY car workers boycotted last Friday night's mini-shift at the British Motor Corporation factories in Birmingham. At Longbridge and Tractor and Transmissions, plants were virtually deserted.

This was their defiant rejection of the move by shop stewards at Longbridge to sacrifice the victory, won in the mini-shift dispute, in return for the management's ending of short-time working introduced in BMC factories last Monday week.

Workers are asking what lay behind this sudden announcement of short-time working for an unspecified number of weeks.

After one week of short-time working, the management announced that it was possible to end it if stewards would 'co-operate' by recommending that the mini-shift be worked.

Was it, in fact, a tactic used to reverse the Friday shift victory and induce the co-operation of shop stewards' committees?

#### BACKING

They already had the backing of union officials, who throughout the struggle had insisted that their members abide by the terms of the 'package deal' covering night-shift working.

There was no move from this official attitude until the revolt against Friday-night working was so widespread that the unions were forced to admit that they could no longer contain the situation.

National discussions on the question of Friday night shifts were due to take place this week. Are the engineering employers seeking to influence the outcome of these talks by suggesting that short-time working might be the consequence of cancelling the mini-shift?

#### 'DONE A DEAL'

Intense resentment was felt by Longbridge workers, who believed that their shop stewards had 'done a deal' with the management and thrown away the fruits of their long struggle against Friday night working.

They may well ask what kind of leadership this is at a time when the employing class is stepping up its attempts to discipline the workers and force them to accept a lower living standards and tougher working conditions.

The working class are now feeling the results of the cowardly capitulation of trade union and Labour Party leaderships before the capitalist class.

After such glaring evidence that official leaders of the labour movement intend to show no fight in defence of workers' interests, every employer in the country feels his position strengthened.

These attacks can be defeated by the militancy and solidarity of the working class. But first they must throw out the weak and treacherous leaderships who collaborate with the enemy class and sell out their own.

## STEELMEN STRIKE OVER FITTER

By Newsletter Reporter

**I**N protest against what they call the 'archaic disciplinary methods' implemented by the Steel Company of Wales, 1,300 maintenance workers withdrew their labour on Tuesday this week.

The decision was taken at a mass meeting of 1,000 members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union at Port Talbot.

The men, who are employed at the Abbey Works of the Steel Company of Wales, are taking the action of refusing to work until Saturday in sympathy with a suspended fitter.

#### Suspended

The fitter was suspended for seven days after it was alleged that he had been 'negligent'.

Last Thursday 51 fitters started an unofficial strike in sympathy.

All the men say they will not return to the Abbey Works until Saturday which is the same day that the suspended fitter resumes work.

Behind this strike is a challenge to the employers by the steel workers of Wales on the question of attacks on workers by the management. In staging a protest walk-out the AEU men have shown they will not be divided.

### OVERTIME BAN AT ROLLS ROYCE

**E**IGHT thousand engineering workers and 1,200 clerical workers at the six Rolls Royce factories in Scotland have imposed a ban on overtime working.

The clerical workers claim that overtime rates in England are higher than those paid at the Scottish factories and are demanding parity.

The engineers are demanding an improvement in a recent 5s. and 13s. 4d. wage offer.

#### LEARN A LOT

When the Young Socialists demanded a year ago that the Wilson leadership take over the government and operate a socialist policy and announced their determination to fight for such policies themselves, the supporters of the 'Labour Worker' in Glasgow aided the right-wing Labour Party officials to expel and hound the Young Socialist members.

The car workers at Linwood can learn a lot from the struggles of the Young Socialists against the employers, the right wing and their 'left' aides.

In Ford at Dagenham last year, Cliff said, it was not a question of the car workers being sold out, it was the car workers themselves, they were just not organised.

It was, he said, no good attacking the leaders since it was not they but workers who came out with the racist slogans at Smethwick (a car workers' town).

Cliff, of course, only created confusion by not in fact explaining that it was a Labour government which opened the door to the racials.

From this committee there has been no official statement about Hugh Hunter's position and attempts to get the convenor to call a meeting to discuss the case have failed.

Tony Cliff is worth mentioning only because he succeeded in temporarily confusing militant car workers and heading off a fight with the right-wing trade union officials. His message was that it is useless to build a

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