



SPY'S CONFESSION REVEALS THE -

BLOODY ARM OF THE LAW

When the corpse of Kenneth Joseph Lennon was 'discovered' in a Surrey lane last Saturday, the defenders of 'law and order' joyfully took up a witch-hunt against the IRA, with Jill Knight baying at the head of the pack.

Now the publication of Lennon's statement exposes their sickening hypocrisy. His revelations about the methods used by the Special Branch back up the claims previously made by the Littlejohn brothers almost to the letter.

For the guardians of legality the law is simply a device. A weapon to be used against the political enemies of the state, but broken at will whenever it suits the lawmen themselves.

On one point there must be urgent action by the Labour movement. Patrick O'Brien, Phil Sheridan, Jerry Mealy and Sean Campbell are in prison as a result of Lennon's activities.

He was approached by Dwyer of the Special Branch at a time of great personal difficulty (a typical SB trick), and persuaded to infiltrate Sinn Fein. He convinced four others that something more than political action was needed, and was encouraged by Ron Wickens, his SB contact, to participate in setting up a robbery.

When Campbell, Sheridan and Mealy had been given ten years for conspiracy to rob, he was encouraged to trap O'Brien into photographing Winson Green Prison, for which O'Brien got three years.

His next target was to have been Brendan Magill the organiser of Sinn Fein and one of the most important political leaders of the Irish community in Britain.

Two years ago the revelation that a group of people in East London had been trapped into receiving guns by a Special Branch informer, led to their acquittal. A similar principle must be applied to these four men.

The bourgeois press has stared stonily past this point. This is despite the acres of sensational coverage they have given to Lennon's statement. The *Guardian* editorial even says that the NCCL 'has gone too far'!

The way in which the Special Branch traps victims into committing crimes is particularly ominous, given the recent news of their involvement in a trade union struggle at Strachans, in Southampton.

The NCCL must be commended for publishing the statement. But its call for a parliamentary enquiry does not meet the situation. It would only lead to the case being caught in the entrails of the bourgeois legal machine. It is the Labour movement which has the sharpest interest in bringing the facts out, and it is the Labour movement which must undertake a full and public investigation into this scandal.

See p. 2 for story of Special Branch activities at Strachans' Engineering.



Kenneth Littlejohn: Lennon's confession from the grave backs up many of Littlejohn's accusations. It also shows that the dirty tricks uncovered by Littlejohn are not confined to the security service or overseas operations, but are carried out by the police in this country. The Labour movement has a direct interest in finding out just how much dirt lies behind the Littlejohn and Lennon revelations.

TUC polices 'social contract'

The TUC's decision to intervene into the NALGO London weighting allowance struggle - on the side of the Government - is a clear announcement that they intend to police their side of the 'social contract' with determination and vigour.

Indeed, they can now be expected to intervene far more forcefully against wage struggles than they have ever been prepared to do in the past in defence of working class interests.

The guidelines laid down by the TUC to direct future wage claims show just how low these sell-out artists have gone.

They openly accept Labour's decision to continue to operate the hated Tory Phase 3 laws. They advise unions to keep claims 'broadly in line with the patterns that have been operating' (i.e. Phase 3) and 'remind' affiliates that Employment Secretary Michael Foot will only use his powers to lift the pay laws under exceptional circumstances.

What has the TUC got so far in exchange for its treachery? A budget whose main effect will be to push up prices and unemployment, and which actually increases the tax burden on many sections of the working class (including some of the poorest).

Labour's promises to keep prices down are just so much empty talk. The Government has no sooner finished pouring hundreds of millions of pounds into the coffers of the big baking companies, threatening another 1p increase in the price of a loaf.

The TUC's arguments on these questions are totally stupid. On the one hand, they argue that workers must give up the hope of winning regular improvements in their living standards because of the seriousness of the economic crisis. At the same time, they would have us believe that the Labour Government can solve the burning problems of this crisis with ease.

In actual fact, the TUC's policy will not even be able to meet its stated aim of 'keeping up with the cost of living'. The social contract - a massive attack on working class living standards.

Trade union militants must reject the absurd logic of the TUC. But they must go further - they must reject the logic of the whole capitalist system. Workers must refuse to accept any responsibility for the economic ills brought on by capitalism.

That means, on the two most important fronts, refusing to accept redundancies and refusing to allow inflation to whittle away at living standards.

The demands for 'Work or Full Pay', 'Nationalisation without compensation and under workers' management of all firms declaring redundancies' and 'A sliding scale of wages and social security benefits to protect working class incomes against inflation' must echo through the trade union conferences this year.

The fight to win these demands must go along with outright rejection of any form of incomes policy under capitalism, and a united wages offensive to win every single wage claim in full.

To follow the road of the TUC is to follow the Judas-goat to the slaughter.

CLAY CROSS LEADER BACKS CHILE DEMO

The May 5 Ad Hoc Committee has received the following message from former Clay Cross councillor David Skinner.

'I send my full support and wish every success for your demonstration on 5 May. I myself will unfortunately be away on that day, but other people from Clay Cross will try to get there.

'The demonstrations have just got to continue. Thousands of people are being murdered and tortured in Chile, yet by agreeing to send these warships the Labour Cabinet is treating it as if it were simply a page in the history books.

'It makes me sick when I think of the emotional scenes at the Labour Party conference, with Wilson sending off an emergency telegram and all that. There's too much lip-service being paid. This Government has already shown itself to be at the beck and call of the capitalist press, constantly flouting conference decisions, the basis on which the rank-and-file worked to put it into office.

'I would urge that the TUC should organise a one-day national strike of the entire working class movement in protest at the decision of the Labour Government to send these warships. After all, you've only got to read the *Times* newspaper to see that the armed forces would be put on the alert here if there was any attempt to carry out real working class policies. What happened in Chile last year could very well happen here in such a situation.

'As far as I'm concerned, all the trade unions should be there on 5 May - by rights, it should make the great anti-Industrial Relations Bill march of February 1971 look like nothing at all. Certainly Chile will be right at the forefront of the issues at the special conference we of Clay Cross Labour Party are convening for all constituency Labour Parties on 8 June in Central Hall, Westminster.'

British Leyland victimise leading shop steward DEFEND ALAN THORNETT!

The BLMC management has withdrawn recognition from Alan Thornett, deputy senior steward at the Cowley plant. This follows the defeat of the strike of Marina assembly workers against the management's breach of the industrial engineering agreement, restricting the operations of time and motion study experts.

Thornett, chairman of the Joint Shop Stewards Committee and of the TGWU 5/55 branch, has been instructed to return to his former job as a driver.

WARNING

Before the mass meeting of Marina workers that ended the strike, *The Organiser*, the IMG factory bulletin, warned of victimisations if the company was allowed to get away with breaking the agreement: 'Many of us have disagreements with this or that aspect of the unions and the trade union leadership on the plant, but everyone must realise that without effective organisation on the shop-floor we are defenceless. That is the real choice Symonds [Plant Director] is giving us: are we to have a right to an effective trade union or not?'

With the victimisation of Alan Thornett, BLMC has decided to take advantage of the demoralisation resulting from the defeat. It is trying to destroy the shop stewards organisation in the assembly plant at Cowley which has proved the chief obstacle to their plans for speed-up.

Red Weekly has been very critical of the leadership given by Alan Thornett and the Workers Revolutionary Party in the assembly plant, and last week we sharply criticised Thornett's role in the Marina strike.

We stand by those views. But despite our differences we will fight for the unconditional defence of Thornett against this blatant victimisation.

What is at stake is whether the employers can be allowed to decide who is to represent the workers. If BLMC gets away with this victimisation then they will have set a precedent for

disposing of any steward or militant who stands in the way of their plans.

PHONEY CHARGES

The reasons given for the victimisation—though a flimsy pretext—show clearly the principles involved.

The management claims Thornett held unconstitutional meetings in the trim shop. In fact, it was the management who first called in Thornett to deal with the dispute in that shop. The women sewing machinists had staged a sit-in against the company's attempt to increase work-effort by 140 per cent.

Later he attended meetings in that shop at the request of the women. This sit-in forced the management to retreat on their proposed increases and agree to negotiate.

The company also objected to an article written by Thornett in the TGWU 5/55 branch magazine. This called for action over BLMC's breach of the industrial engineering agreement in the Marina assembly plant.

This is a blatant attempt by the management to censor a trade union magazine. The shop stewards, the union branch and the district officials later endorsed Thornett's 'personal view.'

BLMC insists that Thornett failed in his duty to persuade members in his own department—internal transport—to return to work and put their grievances in the disputes procedure.

This is the most serious charge. Before the end of the Marina strike, the drivers in transport had voted to strike. The company had broken an eight-year-old agreement. This kept all drivers at work if any production was taking place. As some drivers were nearly always needed this agreement has protected drivers against most lay-offs.

The drivers' strike is unpopular with the rest of the work force. Since their own strike ended they have been laid off without pay. The company is trying to exploit the fact that Thornett is the leading steward in the transport department.

Lies have been spread that Thornett invented the lay-off agreement to prolong the dispute after the rebuff of the senior stewards by the Marina assembly workers. But Thornett had taken no part in the drivers' decision to strike.

He was involved in the Marina dispute at that time. Nor did he speak at the subsequent drivers' meetings that voted to

carry on the strike. He refuses to accept that it was his job to persuade the men to return to work. He points out that the company had broken procedure. They had laid off 20 drivers without pay!

Thornett is being attacked by BLMC for doing his job as a trade union representative. He is guilty of protecting agreements on behalf of the members and keeping them informed of developments in their disputes. The struggle to reverse this victimisation is going to be hard and bitter. Most of the workers in the plant are alienated from the union leadership. The undemocratic and manipulative practices of the WRP members, who, in the past have controlled the T&GWU, have contributed to a series of defeats.

This has given ammunition to several organised right-wing groups in the factory. The right wing welcomes the firm's action. They will try to cooperate with the management to organise scab labour against those who take action in defence of Thornett.

CONFIDENCE MOTION

On Tuesday, the drivers supported a motion of confidence in Thornett. They then sent a delegation to demand that he be recognised as their steward. When this was refused they voted to continue their strike and meet again on Friday. The entire assembly plant and sections of the neighbouring body plant are closed indefinitely. By an overwhelming vote the assembly plant stewards voted to back Thornett.

The strike in Thornett's defence must be immediately made official. The full weight of the T&GWU and the AUEW must be thrown behind this strike. This would show those workers who are unwilling to defend Thornett that more than the fate of one individual leader is at stake.

For a paltry series of meagre reforms the TUC leaders have promised to ensure 'industrial peace.' By adhering to the 'social contract' Jones and Scanlon are unlikely to show much enthusiasm for taking on BLMC.

Unlike their trade union counterparts, the management has no such inhibitions about 'industrial peace.' Like the NIRC judges, they fully intend to keep up their war against the trade unions.

Jeff King

Workers reject official scabbing on Jepson

Two strands of the ruling class offensive came together at Monday's meeting of the Oxford TGWU 5/55 Branch (Morris Motors).

The main item on the agenda was a report of British Leyland's attack on the trade union movement in the assembly plant (see this page). But before this report, victimised TGWU convenor Jean Jepson spoke of her struggle at Armstrong Patents, Hull, and the manoeuvres of local union bureaucrats to sabotage her fight.

Jean was answering an invitation passed at the previous branch meeting, which had decided to impose an immediate black on Armstrong's products in the service & CKD Divisions; to call on the general executive council of the TGWU to make the strike official; and to send £25 to the strike fund.

The branch secretary, Tony Bradley, was adamant that the issue was a matter of principle: 'It's quite clear that this convenor was sacked for carrying out a national instruction. It wouldn't matter if she was the only person outside the gate.

She is entitled to the full protection of the union.'

It was reported that, within an hour of turning a lorry carrying Armstrong products away from CKD division, a member of the union's regional hierarchy contacted the leading steward and asked him to lift the black. Letters were received by the senior stewards (via the Oxford district official), again asking them to lift the black. The branch committee replied, restating the branch's position on the black, and emphasising the matter of principle involved.

'In the final analysis, was Jean Jepson victimised? The Hull regional committee agreed she was. Was she sacked for carrying out a trade union function? If she was, the TGWU has no alternative but to support her position. Otherwise, the union would be guilty of prostituting trade union principles.'

Jean Jepson was warmly received when she thanked the 5/55 branch for its support, and called for the extension of the blacking throughout the whole motor industry.

Special Branch pop up at Strachan's

Special Branch has had a bad week. The day after Lennon was found shot, details of Special Branch activities at Strachan's Engineering suddenly came to light.

The management admitted that it has been passing on information about the sit-in at the factory—now in its sixth week—to detectives who told them that Strachan's, along with three other factories in the Southampton area, was a 'political target'.

Special Branch's special interest in the plant began last August, when a detective disguised as a commercial traveller visited the shopfloor to identify leading militants. The firm's chief accountant has since been acting as a 'contact man'.

BREAKING THE UNIONS

The occupation committee is convinced that one of the main reasons for the closure of the factory was to break the trade union organisation in the plant, and the Strachan's management is evidently not alone in this desire.

Unfortunately for the management, the men did not follow its advice and 'go gracefully' when they were given 90 minutes notice of the loss of their jobs.

This failure to convert the Strachan's workers to a proper understanding of the employers' laws of supply and demand has forced it to try other methods to end the sit-in.

The attempt to buy off certain members of the occupation committee failed. They then threw the financial carrot to the rest of the workers who were sitting in, but this was unanimously rejected at two mass meetings.

The men have repeated that they are demanding jobs and not financial backhanders which will not solve their long-term problems. In the

face of this determined response, the management has turned to the law courts and was granted an injunction in record time.

This orders the occupiers to leave the premises immediately. But the lads inside the factory have treated the law of the land with just the same contempt as the laws of commercial profitability.

Although the management has received instant satisfaction from the courts, the occupation committee has found that class solidarity is in rather short supply in their approaches to the Labour Government.

NO BENN

At a meeting to discuss social security grievances, they were told by Michael Meacher MP that the employers had the right to sack them. Everyone is still waiting for the proposed intervention of Tony Benn. But Benn perhaps feels that someone who is involved in carving up the jobs of aircraft workers cannot become the champion of the unemployed, as he did at UCS in 1971.

The support the workers are receiving is coming from trade unionists. Ford drivers have maintained their effective blacking of the van bodies manufactured at Strachan's under contract. Southampton dockers have given a pledge that any attempt by the police or hired thugs to break up the occupation will be met by an immediate stoppage and strengthening of the numbers inside the plant.

This sort of support must be extended throughout the local labour movement.

The workers and their families urgently need money. Collections and resolutions of support should be sent to P. Hann, Treasurer, Strachan's Joint Occupation Committee, c/o T&GWU, 67-75 London Road, Southampton.



Mass meeting during strike—at stake is whether employers can be allowed to decide who will represent workers

TUC tries to make NALGO back down on claim

Although Geoffrey Drain, general secretary of the National And Local Government Officers association, has said that the union's London weighting claim is not covered by the social contract, NALGO's national executive will meet today to 'reconsider its position'. This follows approaches from the TUC recommending that the union calls off its industrial action.

Last week, Drain addressed a mass meeting of NALGO members and applauded the action and militancy which has so far been shown in the campaign for a £400 increase in the London weighting.

But activity remains fragmented and localised. Small groups of local government workers are carrying the campaign, while others are not being brought in at all.

The failure to set up an all-London Campaign Committee, and the reliance on opportunist branch bureaucrats, have left NALGO Action, the 'rank-and-file' grouping, very weak organisationally.

However, strike committees have been established in a number of branches and some are being set up in those branches who are taking strike action this week. These committees should call for and attempt to build an all-London Strike Committee, which could unite with other struggles such as those breaking out in the NUT and the AUEW.

Local initiatives have been taken to unite struggles. Wandsworth Trades Council, for example, has set up an action committee and is calling a conference on the crisis in London.

Such links should be forged now, not only to forward the London

weighting struggle but as preparation for NALGO's national claim for a 20 per cent increase and to form an alliance with the other groups of workers coming into struggle with the pay laws and the social contract.

BORIS DEAN

RALLY TO COUNTER ANTI-ABORTIONISTS

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children—the largest anti-abortion group in Britain—will 'mourn' the seven years since the passing of the Abortion Act with a rally in Hyde Park on Sunday, April 28. This will be followed by a silent march to Downing Street.

SPUC hopes to attract over 30,000 supporters, surging to Westminster with 'Abortion kills' placards. This reactionary organisation is con-

cerned to preserve the sanctity of the family, with women kept firmly in their place as child bearers and rearers of the next generation of wage labourers.

Opposition to SPUC is mounting. Women's groups, including the National Union of Students Women's Action Committee, are organising a counter Rally Against Reaction, which starts from Speakers Corner at noon.

The urgency of countering SPUC activities is underlined by the fact that this organisation is already placing its members on the Community Health Councils set up under the NHS re-organisation, thus further attempting to limit the restricted opportunities for women to obtain an abortion.

Rally Against Reaction, information and posters from: S. Spilling, 54 Pinner Road, Harrow, Middlesex. Phone 01-863 2294 or 863 6089.

With several important conferences in defence of the Shrewsbury 6 coming - in East Kent, Bolton and Colchester - Ray Alexander looks at

The way forward for the Shrewsbury movement

For the average trade unionist the past month of Labour rule has brought little of real value. But for six trade union militants the change of shift at Downing Street has not made a jot of difference—the six Shrewsbury pickets, who remain locked in prison even though Labour now holds the keys.

The Labour Government has made it clear that it has no intention of freeing the Shrewsbury 6. It may be prepared to make certain concessions in the letter of the law, but it is adamant in insisting that the law *must be upheld*, no matter what disastrous consequences it may have for workers' organisation and struggles.

Such a policy will wipe out whatever gains may be contained in Labour's amendments to the picketing law. Time and again the courts have shown that they have more than one set of chains ready for the workers' movement. A change in the law on picketing *without* the pardoning of the Shrewsbury 6 is a cruel joke—a joke that will not be at the expense of the Shrewsbury militants alone, but at the expense of every trade

unionist in the country.

Despite the fact that Labour is now in Government, it remains as true as ever that the only way to free the Shrewsbury 6 and smash the attack on the right to picket is through a massive mobilisation on the scale of that which set the Pentonville 5 free.

Such a prospect may seem dim at a time when the movement in defence of the Shrewsbury 6 has been led into one blind alley after another by the Communist Party and its supporters. But there is one group of workers who have emerged from the fight against Phase 3 and the Tory Government with sufficient self-confidence, evidence of their fighting strength, and prestige throughout the trade union movement to turn the tide on this crucial question. This group, of course, is the miners.

MINERS' INTERESTS

It is in the direct interest of the miners themselves to take up the fight to free the Shrewsbury 6. As recent experience has shown, only determined struggle can win real gains for the miners.

No matter who is in Government, the pressure to squeeze



Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)

South Wales miners on 20 March Shrewsbury demo understood it was in their direct interest to take up this fight

more production out of the pits at lower cost will continue, and soaring prices will continue to eat away at the concessions won on the wages front.

Even the present 'honeymoon' relation between the NUM and the Government over the future of the coal industry is likely to come to an abrupt end when oil starts to flow from the North Sea field in the next few years.

The miners will have to go into struggle more than once over the next few years. And what will be the crucial weapons in these struggles? Just as in the recent past, the flying picket and massive solidarity

from the rest of the workers' movement.

A massive, vigorous campaign to free the Shrewsbury 6 would create a spirit of fighting unity throughout the entire movement. With one blow the right to picket could be secured from State attacks, and the foundations for working class unity and solidarity immensely strengthened.

The task which now faces us is to *rebuild the Shrewsbury movement*. This can only be accomplished on the basis of breaking with the Communist Party's dead-end perspective of pressuring the trade union and Labour

Party bureaucrats.

The Shrewsbury movement must adopt a clear perspective of *mass industrial action to force the Labour Government to free the 6*. It must pledge itself to work towards indefinite strike action by major sections of the trade union movement. All the necessary preliminary mobilising work—leaflets, meetings, rallies, demonstrations, protest strikes—must be directed to this end.

Only on this basis can the freedom of the Shrewsbury 6 be won and the cause of the trade union movement carried forward.

RAY ALEXANDER

IRELAND: after Easter - a hot spring

Easter 1974 will be followed by a hot spring. That was the message given to thousands of Republicans at Easter commemorations in Ireland and Britain.

The annual Easter statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement promised that the IRA would: '... sustain relentless pressure until the London Government commits itself to a planned and orderly withdrawal of its forces from Ireland.'

Before the next major Republican commemoration—the march to Wolfe Tone's grave at Bodenstown, in June—the Sunningdale Agreement may well have been smashed by the combined weight of the IRA military offensive, and the political crisis in Ireland and Britain.

65 OUT—55 BACK IN

At the London commemoration, the main speaker, Marie Moore from Belfast Sinn Fein, slammed Merlyn Rees's promise to phase out internment. She told over a thousand supporters that such promises had been made before, but of the 65 men released from Long Kesh at Xmas, 55 were now being held again.

Most British newspapers reported that the Belfast commemoration had been turned into a 'fiasco' by the arrest of the main speaker.

In fact the British Army was left wiping egg off its face when it had to admit that John Joe McGirl, the speaker, was not a 'leading Provisional Army Council member', and was not on the British Army wanted list.

Time is running short for Merlyn Rees. The Sunningdale Agreement will have to be formally ratified soon—the word is that the Government favours June. But a yawning gap has

opened between the Faulkner Unionists and the other signatories.

POLITICAL SUICIDE

In the present situation, with a clear rejection of Sunningdale by Unionists voters, and an intensified IRA military campaign, it would be political suicide for Faulkner to accept the Council of Ireland. On the other hand the SDLP and the Southern Government cannot accept a deal which does not include the Council.

Only a dramatic military defeat for the IRA would improve Faulkner's chances. But here the latest British Government moves are a pathetic admission of impotence.

The proposed civilian force to take over city-centre security checks will be difficult to establish, and in any case would only release two hundred troops for other work. The flower pots placed in Royal Avenue may keep out car bombs, but they cannot stop the planting of incendiary devices.

Given the new sophistication of these devices, their effect could be almost the same. On the weekend of 30-31 March incendiaries gutted three department stores and six shops in Bangor, causing damage to the tune of £6 million.

Rees may use the old Whitelaw trick of delaying a decision on Sunningdale as long as possible, and the only alternative to June for another conference is the autumn—after the 'marching season' of July and August.

But long before the autumn the tide of history, which is pushing Britain towards a withdrawal, may well have drowned any last hopes that Britain can defeat the IRA in the North of Ireland.

BOB PURDIE

NEW POLICE ATTACKS ON ESSEX PICKETS

The struggle at Essex University continues and the link-up between the police and the University administration has become clearer than ever.

The question of whether the campus workers will allow themselves to be used against the students still hangs in the balance, but support from the working class movement outside has remained firm, despite a red-baiting attack by the local press.

The witch-hunt was launched on the pretext that Colchester Trades Council has been 'infiltrated' by 'extremists', and ought to 'resign'. The basis for this is that Ronnie Munck (one of the two IMG militants expelled from the University), is an ASTMS delegate to, and on the Executive Committee of, the Trades Council.

The Council has issued a statement defending Ronnie, and refusing to bend before this attack. They have also decided to support the regional delegate conference to be held in Colchester on Saturday 11 May on 'Picketing and the Law'.

Meanwhile police action against pickets goes on.

On Friday 5 April, the police were used to escort some vans containing computer equipment and food through the picket lines. These were mostly vans owned by the University, and driven by scab campus workers and administrative staff.

On Monday 8 April and Thursday 11 April police again escorted goods through the picket lines. The police have been turning up at the same time as large consignments of goods. This proves the collusion between the State and the administration against the students.

Another angle of attack by the

University authorities has been via the campus workers. The workers have been told that there is a possibility of redundancies as a result of the students' actions.

In response to this the students called a meeting with the workers.

They explained that the threat to jobs on the campus was a result of the cuts in educational expenditure introduced by the last Government and carried on by Labour, and proposed a joint struggle against the victimisation of students and redundancies on campus.

The struggle at Essex is weakening, due to the falling number of students involved in the picket line. Recent police actions are part of an attempt by the administration to break the picket before the start of the new term.

The Broad-Left dominated Executive of the Essex Students

Union has not been involved in the day-to-day work of picketing and maintaining the occupied bases. They have continually sought ways of avoiding a head-on clash

It is all the more urgent, then, that the full weight of the student movement is mobilised behind the Essex struggle.

There is to be a mass picket at the University on 24 April. But an even more important date will be 29 April, when the trials of the arrested pickets begin. A mass rally in support of the Essex struggle outside the Colchester Court is being discussed for that day.

Already Wandsworth Trades Council has pledged to back such an action. There must be maximum effort to get other sections of the labour movement involved, as well as a massive mobilisation of students.

IMG Rally - Sat. 4 May - Conway Hall



In the face of mounting attacks on students struggling to defend their living standards, many activists are looking for political solutions which the NUS leadership is failing to provide.

The IMG is organising a Rally next month with the aim of bringing together student militants from all parts of the country to exchange experiences and discuss more generally the contribution students have and can make to the struggle for socialism.

Leading representatives of the student movement from France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and Chile will be speaking. Workshops will deal with the anti-imperialist, anti-racist, and anti-repression struggles.

For further details, tickets, or material produced for the Rally, contact: IMG Student Commission, 97 Caledonian Road, London N1.

Women workers at Lenthier's perfume factory last week staged the first successful equal pay strike ever to occur in London. After three weeks of negotiations with management to reduce the £7 differential between the wages of women workers and the male minimum, the women walked out. Joyce Partridge, shop steward, told *Red Weekly*, "We've never taken equal pay seriously before, but with the cost of living soaring, we had no other choice."

Strikes like this among women workers will be the rule and not the exception in the coming months of the spring and summer. If workers don't wake up to this fact, the entire working class movement will suffer a serious setback.

The Working Women's Charter, discussed at a London Trades Council meeting last month, provides a basis for launching a campaign now which could ensure that struggles of women workers are not mere flashes in the pan, but become instructive experiences which will bear fruit for the battles to be fought in the autumn.

WEAK LINK

Tens of thousands of women came out on the streets to demonstrate in the summer of 1969 for equality of pay at work, forcing the last Labour Government to quickly frame and pass an Act to head off this rising tide of militancy. Employers were given six years to raise women's rates—or find ways to avoid their legal obligations. But even under the Tories' pay laws, some concessions were made for 'orderly progress' towards equal pay.

Now with inflation biting deeply



Women workers on strike last week at the Lenthier perfume factory in Tottenham, North London. They succeeded in halving the difference between their rates and the men's.

into every worker's pay packet, women find that their earnings are on average still only half of those of men. And the trade union leadership—busily attempting to work out their 'social contract' with the Labour Government—are least likely to respond to the interests of the weaker sections of their memberships, such as black and women workers.

Moreover, women workers are a weak link in the bureaucracy's chain—they have never been integrated into trade union structures to the same extent as men, and once women launch a struggle they often show little regard for the desperate manoeuvres adopted by the bureaucrats attempting to 'keep things under control'.

On the other hand, the domestic commitments of women workers mean that the decision to launch a struggle is only taken as a last resort, if at all.

The introduction of the Equal Pay Act in 1970 took the steam out of the campaign launched by the National Joint Action Campaign Committee for Women's Equal Rights (NJACCWER), a national body formed after the famous strike by women upholsterers at Ford. Now that the time is drawing near for the full implementation of the Act, this demand will once again be an important focus of struggles in the future months. But will the Act alone meet the expectations of women fighting for equal pay?

1970 ACT

The Act states that women shall receive equal pay under two conditions. First, where they are doing the same or broadly similar jobs as men. Second, where their jobs are different, but have been rated as equivalent to a man's under a job evaluation

scheme.

In fact, large numbers of women—notably shop, laundry and office workers—stand to gain nothing under the Act simply because there are often no men with whom any comparison can be made. For these workers, the job is to fight low pay.

In certain cases where women did stand to gain from such comparisons employers have successfully 're-arranged' jobs in such a way that the Act will no longer have any effect. In the Potteries, for example, women are being systematically excluded from jobs that they have always done, even though they have acquired skills which the new male workers cannot possibly have.

The real danger in relying on job evaluation schemes to achieve equal pay is that—as every militant knows—under the cover of 'scientific studies' the workers suffer. Job evaluation schemes go hand in hand with productivity deals, redundancies, speed-ups, etc. And even in cases where the trade unions do have some control, women—such as those in APEX who staged a walk-out at the BOAC Air Terminal in London last year—find themselves fighting against both the male trade unionists and the employers who persistently underrate women's skills.

One of the most positive points in the Act is one which states that where men and women work together, women will not receive less than the lowest male rate. This means separate pay scales for men and women—as existing in most industries—will be combined and women's grades will no longer exist.

Even this clause can be got round, however, as is illustrated by the agreements reached by USDAW. Shop assistants have had their rates equated with a male rate which had been static for a long period. And in the case of the Retail Co-op, the male rate had been specially reduced for the introduction of equal pay.

GRADING

And there is nothing to ensure that women don't end lumped together at the bottom of the men's scale.

In the engineering industry, for example, there are presently five unofficial grades: skilled, semi-skilled, unskilled, women and youth. Most of the women in the industry are doing jobs which are semi-skilled.

Under the terms of the Act and under many union agreements there is little to prevent employers from classifying women's jobs in the lowest paid grade of the scale—even after the women's grade as such is abolished. The lack of training and apprenticeships for women has prevented them getting skilled jobs throughout the industry and will relegate the vast majority to the 'semi-skilled' grade.

The Act not only covers pay, but also certain terms and conditions of employment—including overtime

rates, holidays, sick pay, bonuses, etc. But pension rates are not included.

Women are not to be prevented from getting equal pay because of protective legislation—prohibiting night work, for instance—or because of maternity leave and earlier retirement. However, the Tory Government's proposals for so-called 'equal opportunities' aimed to wipe out the gains women have made in this respect by removing those sections of the Factory Acts which limit the number of hours women may work and which impose restrictions on where they may work.

At the TUC's conference in March, the delegates unanimously rejected the plan. It was correctly recognised that while the labour movement is not yet in a position to fight for the abolition of all night work, and all work in dangerous conditions, it is vital that whatever gains have been made, should be kept.

Even under the existing legislation, employers can receive permission from the Department of Employment to lift the Factory Act restrictions. Women workers at the Typhoo tea factory in Birmingham are presently operating an overtime ban and a policy of non-cooperation to resist the employers' attempt to introduce a double-day shift. If their employers are successful, the women will be forced to work from 6 am to 2 pm, and from 2 pm to 10 pm—an hour longer than the Factory Acts allow.

LABOUR GOVERNMENT

In the Queen's speech, the Labour Government promised legislation later this year to deal with discrimination against women. How much reliance can be placed on this Government may be judged by its policy on the discriminatory laws affecting women married to foreign nationals. Home Secretary Roy Jenkins has decided not to make any changes in the law, a decision he admitted involved 'an element of sexual discrimination'. Presumably this is more respectable than racism, the reason behind this decision!

In any case, if the Labour Government was really concerned to end discrimination against women, what better place to start even now than by ordering women's rates to be raised to 90% of men's. The Tories shelved this order which the Equal Pay Act states *could* have been made any time after 31 December, 1973. Even better, Labour could decide to immediately pass and implement a new Act—one plugging all the loop holes and taking away the 21 months employers still have to find ways to escape the Act.

However, with the Labour Government already acting as a guard dog for major Tory anti-working class laws (their refusal to shelve Phase 3, pay back the NIRC fines, or remove the surcharge placed on the Clay Cross councillors) women



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EQUA

Leonora Lloyd a

workers can expect little from Labour in their fight for equality. It is up to the working class to mount an offensive on this front.

But what has the Labour movement been doing during the past four years to ensure that at least the meagre gains allowed under the Act were achieved in full? Almost nothing. While employers organisations have been energetically instructing their members to prepare for the Act by making sure men and women

Governmental circles in France, both in the UDR (the late President Pompidou's party) itself and in the other Government parties, know that the political situation in France can change sharply following the death of Pompidou. There is clearly a division, a fragmentation, of the right in the face of the Communist Party-Socialist Party-Left Radical alliance in the 'Union of the Left'.

In this situation the candidate of the Union of the Left, Mitterrand, has a very good chance of winning the election—perhaps even on the first ballot.

UNSOLVED PROBLEMS

None of the problems which have come to the fore in France since the March 1973 legislative elections have been resolved. Last April the National Assembly discussed a draft law on abortion but had to put it to one side because of divisions within the Government's majority on the question. Then the 'Fontanet Plan' for the 'reform' of secondary education led to demonstrations of school students, just as the Debre law on

military service had the year before. Other problems (pollution, the speed limit, etc) also led to discontent.

The middle class layers, small shopkeepers and peasants, whom the Government had tried to please, remained dissatisfied. There was also dissatisfaction and malaise in the army and the police. Not a day has gone by without demonstration on one subject or another.

As far as the economy is concerned, everyone knows that the perspective is sombre. Inflation is well under way. Unemployment is not yet a mass threat, but serious pockets of it are forming in certain towns, industries and firms. This, together with the shock created by the 'petrol crisis', means that the population is nervous and no-one in Governmental or employers' circles will make any predictions about the level of employment in the autumn.

The Government says that it has a programme of measures which it will put forward to stop rising prices, or at least prevent them rising more rapidly than in neighbouring countries. But in reality the Government is operating on a day-to-day basis.

It has tried to buy petrol at a cheap price, but it has had no success in this field. In order to try to maintain and expand exports, which at present play an important role in the French economy, the Government has been forced into all

FRANCE HEADS FOR

"If Mitterrand is elected the situation will take a new turn for the whole of France"

sorts of deals to attempt to find markets, in particular for manufactured goods and armaments, but the results have been mediocre. It has floated the franc, leading to a devaluation in practice which will be made official later in the year.

On the question of wages it has attempted to define its policy as not increasing the standard of living, but preventing it from falling. In practice, however, incomes are already falling behind price increases. This situation is only going to get worse.

WORKERS' RESISTANCE

The resistance of the workers to the attacks on their standard of living has been considerable. The list of strikes grows longer each day. One of the most important strikes is that of the bank workers. This started in a nationalised bank, Credit Lyonnais, six weeks ago, but

it has now spread to over a hundred thousand workers throughout the country. The bank employees are mainly young workers, and the strike is very militant. There are frequent demonstrations of tens of thousands of strikers in Paris.

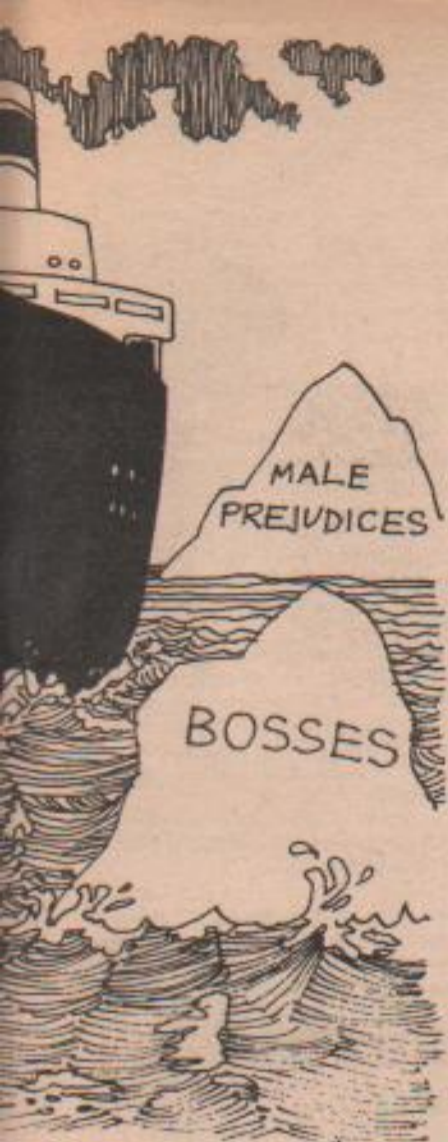
As well as the obvious combativity of the struggle, a growing politicisation is also visible. This has undoubtedly been one of the fruits of the movement around Lip [the watch factory occupied by workers threatened with redundancy]. A striking example was shown recently on television. A firm of printers had been closed down by a court-order for its liquidation. The workers took over the factory and resumed production in order to pay their wages. When asked by a journalist if they had been inspired by Lip they replied that this was what had made them think. The Lip movement has led to workers understanding that it is possible to

go further than in strikes in the past, and that it is necessary to look for more effective demands and methods of struggle.

Another characteristic which shows the increased consciousness of the workers is the spread of strike committees directly elected by all the workers. These are not put forward in opposition to the unions, but neither do they submit to strict control by the trade union apparatus.

TRADITIONAL ORGANISATION

What are the traditional organisations of the working class doing in this situation? The Communist Party (CP) and the Socialist Party (SP) declare their solidarity with the workers in struggle—the could hardly do otherwise—but they are above all preoccupied with updating their Common Programme. This had been written before the petrol crisis and was premised



TING URSE OR PAY

Dodie Weppler

are doing different, 'unlike' jobs, the TUC has put out one little booklet! This agitational masterpiece places the emphasis on women pursuing equal pay as *individuals*, by going to their shop steward, their employer, and the industrial tribunals! The record of the unions in waging struggles for equal pay is little better. The AUEW, representing just under 200,000 women workers, has put forward a demand for equal pay for the past four years. In each case it

has been the first demand abandoned at the negotiating table.

With little leadership from the trade unions, it is understandable if women workers are less than eager to push for equal pay and feel that this demand would only weaken their position at work. In other words, that only by receiving lower wages than men can they be assured of holding down their jobs.

This fear is not unjustified. As early as June 1971, when the Equal Pay Act had hardly begun to bite, the *Times* reported: 'Official returns were indicating that 20,000 manufacturing jobs for women had vanished. The six monthly figures showed a total loss of almost 100,000 women's jobs, a far higher pro-rata loss than the men's... gradual replacement by men or machinery is only one way for employers to avoid costs and difficulties of implementing equal pay.'

Now we are in a period where large scale redundancies and unemployment are immediately on the agenda for both women and men workers. As things stand, women workers are in a weaker position to resist this attack on their jobs, but by launching struggles for equal pay, women could gain experience and confidence in confronting employers. Such experience would be of great value in future redundancy struggles.

It is vital that women are not made scapegoats for capitalism's inability to provide jobs for all, nor for the Government's failure to solve this problem. The way to ensure that women are in a position to safeguard their jobs is not to wait until the threat of redundancies actually emerges full-blown, but to go on the offensive now to fight for job equality.

More than half of all married women work, and they make up over two-thirds of all women workers. The budgets of a majority of working class families are therefore dependent on the contributions made by women. Any threat to women's jobs is an attack on the living standards of the *entire working class*.

UNION MEMBERS

While women still represent the largest section of non-unionised workers, in recent times they have been joining unions at twice the rate of men. In NUPE, for example, the number of women members increased by an astonishing 86% between 1969 and 1972. In part, this level of recruitment is a result of the fact that women have increasingly been drawn into struggles simply to defend their living standards. It also shows that male trade unionists are beginning to recognise that women represent an unguarded flank.

In the bitter ten-weeks strike at Salford Electrical Instruments, part of the GEC combine, one of the women clerical workers remarked that she was appalled that GEC was not even prepared to pay the

meagre amount allowed for equal pay under Phase 2. Like the vast majority of the 150 women who struck, she had joined APEX only a few months before, although she had worked for the firm for 35 years. 'We're disgusted,' she said, 'I am amazed we have put up with this for so long. We'll never put up with it again.'

For any struggle in the coming months to be successful, the trade unions will have to depart from their past ways and attitudes. And the hold of backward ideology on the working class extends to the socialist organisations as well. At the recent national Rank and File Conference, called by the International Socialists, a motion for more specific commitment to (among other things) abortion and contraception was defeated by 'more than two to one'. It was argued that it was necessary to 'concentrate on the minimal demands which could unite the maximum number of rank and file trade unionists'. A report of this appeared, without comment, in *Socialist Worker*.

Without these kinds of demands, the struggles of women workers will be held back. This is because of women's dual role in society—both as custodian of the home and family, and as worker. Their domestic role makes them more vulnerable in the labour market. If a child falls ill, it is the mother who takes time off work. Because her income is less than her husband's, a woman feels obliged to 'make it up' by doing most of the work in the home.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Any campaign is doomed to failure if it assumes that in capitalist society women are competing on equal terms with men, and all that is needed is legislation to force employers to recognise this fact. Women are not equal as long as they are expected to shoulder as individuals the main responsibilities for child rearing (ie ensuring that the capitalists have future workers) and for seeing that the present generation of workers is sent off to work each day with full bellies and in a reasonable state of health.

If women workers are to play their full part in the struggles that lie ahead, at least three things are absolutely essential. First, the attitudes of fellow trade unionists must be changed. Time and again men discourage women from going to union meetings, ignore them when they are there, and make it impossible for them to take an equal part in struggles—by doing such things as asking them to go home to look after the family during occupations.

Far from fighting for facilities such as nurseries to ensure that women can work and struggle on equal terms, the trade union movement has not even done much to enable women to take a full part in

union affairs. How many unions organise creche facilities at union conferences, for example?

Second, women's demands must be taken up in a determined way throughout the labour movement. This is the importance of the recent Working Women's Charter drawn up by the now defunct London Trades Council, which includes demands for free abortion and contraception on demand, and paid maternity leave. It recognises that demands relating only to economic issues are not enough to tackle the problem. This makes an advance over the charter drawn up by NJACCWER, which only covered equal opportunity; education and participation in 'public life'.

Far from a struggle around these demands being a diversion from 'more important' struggles, they are part and parcel of ensuring that struggles on these key issues are not defeated. And even in raising these demands, male trade unionists will be forced to consider their backward attitudes and ideas with regard to women.

For example, in North Kensington women are fighting for council laundry facilities, complete with creche and snack bar. The old public baths are due to be pulled down and the council had no intention of replacing the existing laundry (much cheaper than laundrettes) until the women mounted their campaign.

This type of struggle which, if won,

would help to minimise the isolation of women coping in the home, should be fully supported by the labour movement—in addition to struggles launched on the factory floor.

WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

Third, it cannot be ignored that many women workers themselves fail to see the importance of fighting for equal pay. The London Trades Council set a valuable precedent in opening their meeting where the Working Women's Charter was to be discussed to 'any group or individual interested in the condition of women workers. This open invitation provided an opportunity for women from the women's liberation movement to discuss with other workers who have had little to do with the movement.

The demands in the Working Women's Charter recognise that a woman's role in the workforce is tied closely to her role in the family. It is precisely on this latter point that the women's liberation movement has so much to contribute. During the past four years, the movement has gained valuable experience—both practically and theoretically—on the oppression of women in the family.

As the economic crisis deepens, the necessity for unity within the working class will become ever more urgent. If women are left to fend for themselves during the summer months, the hope of a strong unity in the autumn wage battles will be seriously damaged.

Campaign for Working Women's Charter

The urgent task is to ensure that the aims of the Working Women's Charter are taken up as widely as possible within the labour movement, inviting active participation of all those who are prepared to support its demands.

The first step has been taken in London, where a campaign on the Charter is to be launched at a public meeting to be held on Saturday, 20 April, at 11 am in London University Union, Malet Street, WC1. This already has the backing of a large number of those who attended the London Trades Council meeting at which the Charter was presented. In every area—in trades councils, at union branches, and at places of work—a discussion should be opened up on the Charter. Local conferences should be organised to bring together everyone willing to organise a campaign around the demands of the Charter.

Haringey Trades Council is one of the first to take the initiative in calling a conference on working women, to be held next month. Its adoption of the Charter, together with a programme for on-going activities, would be an important step forward.

Committees set up from such conferences would have the crucial task of providing support for equal pay, equal opportunity, or redundancy struggles women are involved in—including forming a flying squad of pickets ready to reinforce the picket lines. They could also help publicise and win support for strikes outside their area, so that experiences gained in other localities are built upon.

HUGE SOCIAL CRISIS

turn, with consequences not only for France but Western Europe"

on continuing economic growth, an assumption which now appears more and more problematical. The CP and the SP leave the workers' struggles to the trade unions, which they declare have their 'own domain'. They say that they do not seek to unify the struggles into ones for political objectives.

As for the trade unions, the CFDT (the second biggest union federation in France) is not tied to the politics of the SP in exactly the same way that the CGT (the biggest union federation in France) is tied to the politics of the CP. In many struggles the CFDT appears to the left of the CGT.

This is shown most clearly in the present negotiations concerning senior technicians. This is led by the CGT together with the CGC (Confederation Generale des Cadres—organisations of lower managers and senior technicians

etc). This latter organisation is led by Malterre—an old supporter of 'Algerie Francaise' (continued French rule over Algeria), and is notable for its very fierce struggle to maintain pay differentials. The CGT has more or less openly supported this latter policy on the grounds that it is necessary to avoid repelling the middle class by any moves to reduce differentials. It is only against its will that the CGT puts forward the demands of equal salary rises for all, while within the CFDT the egalitarian trends are stronger—including amongst the maintenance workers and technicians they are recruiting.

DIFFERENCES

Common actions between the CGT and the CFDT have been maintained, but at the same time differences have emerged between them. Without examining in

detail the trends which have emerged, one can state clearly:

* The CGT shows hostility to any movement over which it does not have firm control. On the other hand it is prepared to push forward, even strongly, struggles where it has complete control. (This can be seen, for example, in the strike at Rateau in a Paris suburb where electrical workers have occupied the factory and are continuing production. The CP wants to use this as a counter-example of its own leadership to the example of Lip.)

* The CGT is now opposing all sectional strikes within factories—strikes which it has more than once organised in the past. Thus for example in the mines in Lorraine it has opposed a strike by coal processors which was met by a lock out. The CGT did this because it was scared of the generalisation of the strike

throughout the industry.

* The CGT is very hostile to all movements which lead to the creation of strike committees and other organs of broad workers' democracy. The CFDT, on the other hand, appears prepared to adjust to them, although, of course, the CFDT's position is not a revolutionary one.

The point of view of the CGT was put clearly by one of its secretaries, Berteloot, in a recent interview in the *Nouvel Observateur*:

'We are entering into a period of mounting social struggles: in such a situation the attitude of the CFDT seems to us very dangerous... What was accepted in the past cannot be tolerated now... The comrades of the CFDT prefer to support minority movements in which elements from outside the trade unions or even from outside the firms are frequently involved... The CFDT involves itself in disorganised agitation with spontaneist elements, encourages initiatives without seeing if they have any chance of success, and then says to the CGT "if you had supported us we would have won". It is not a serious way to go about things.

The more difficult conditions of struggle against the Government and the employers that the present situation creates are only a pretext for the leaders of the CGT. The actions of the CFDT, which does not have a clear political

project of the same type as the CGT-CP, cut across the plans of the CGT leaders because they want, at all costs, to avoid coming to power on the crest of mass struggle of the May 1968 type. That perspective would be too favourable for the 'ultra-left'. The CP-CGT wants an entirely different type of victory—a normal electoral one.

Now that the electoral campaign leading to the elections of 5 and 19 May is under way, it is clear that the trade unions and the traditional workers' parties will use the excuse of 'not frightening the electors' to put the brake on all the struggles and demonstrations.

If Mitterrand is elected the situation will take a new turn, with consequences not only for France but for the whole of Western Europe. If the right wins, the mass movement will not find itself paralysed any more than it was after the right won a majority in the legislative elections of last March. Whatever the variant, the combativity and politicisation of the masses in France—in the face of which the more agitated fascist and reactionary currents are regrouping—is leading more or less rapidly towards an enormous social crisis. The revolutionary vanguard, in the first place the Trotskyists, have, in the course of the Presidential campaign, to prepare both the masses and themselves for this crisis.

PIERRE FRANK



'THE EXORCIST'

CINEMA OF REACTION

William Peter Blatty, the author and producer of 'The Exorcist', is a former top dog in the psychological warfare department of the United States Air Force.

His orthodox Catholic background, which was a powerful element in the making of the film, also seems to have stood him in good stead in his previous job. It is likely that his talents were employed in the 'flight to freedom' operation which the Americans launched in Vietnam in 1955, designed to convince Catholic peasants in the North to flee southwards from the 'Communist terror'. 'The Exorcist' is the latest instalment in Blatty's unending fight against Communism.

Blatty and his friends have done badly in the battle for the 'hearts and minds' of American youth. They hope to turn the tide by redirecting attention away from society and towards the individual. On this plane the more repugnant features of life under capitalism can be swept under the rug, and the world's problems presented as a struggle between the fundamental forces of 'good' (motherhood, the family, religion, middle class life styles) and 'bad' (sexual 'perversions', lack of religious faith, strange asiatic places).

The reactionary politics of this film spill forth from the screen in a jarring series of images centring around the

Review

possession of a young girl by the devil, and the 'struggle' to free her from this 'evil'.

The clash of the horrific, mutilated child and her middle class background is only resolved by taking the more ridiculous hocus pocus of Catholicism and elevating it to the level of the ultra serious. The mumbo jumbo of 'Exorcism' is the only force that can restore everything to its 'normal' state. Crushed in an epic struggle between the uncontrollable forces of darkness and their only antidote—the equally mystic forces of 'good'—the middle class family can only throw in its lot with the rituals of 'good' and ride the whirlwind.

ON THE RETREAT

Blatty and his friends are already on the retreat. The only effective war cries against communism which they can find are drawn from the rag-bag of mystic, irrational nonsense. Jesus freaks, the 'festival of light', defence of the 'unborn child', and Moral Rearmament have become the last line of defence for capitalist 'civilisation'. The devil is now no longer in the dusty lands of the east (where the first part of the film opens),

but is here in our very own backyard.

It is interesting to note that despite the violence and (by the usual standards of a gaggle of bishops) 'offensive' nature of much of the film, many sections of the Catholic hierarchy have given it a friendly reception. This is due to more than the simple fact that it will boost church membership. Despite its silliness, the film makes an impact. And its underlying framework, which is accepted by most religious quacks, fits in with the reactionary 'activists' who are currently emerging from all corners of the Church.

The 'Exorcism' of Blatty and his ilk is not a difficult task. Like cheap, horror-film vampires they have to take flight at the first cold light of day. Even the briefest examination of the horrors unleashed by US imperialism in Vietnam, or of the effects of twenty years labour in a coal mine, should be enough to put paid to their mystic rubbish. This world—the world created by a capitalist system which seeks support in turn from the Church which trained Blatty and the military who employed him—stands condemned out of its own mouth.

That is why revolutionaries can take their stand on the highest levels attained by human knowledge, while capitalism has to crawl on its belly back to the 18th century to dig up rotting ideas to justify its existence.



CHILE

Uniting the Resistance

Dear Comrades,

I thoroughly agree with your article on 'Chile—Uniting the Resistance', but I have one point to raise.

You mention 'the leadership of the proletariat of the towns and countryside'. I would like to question if there are any agricultural proletarians in Chile now. (I will say I think the term peasants is worse and meant often to be misleading.)

As I understand it, the one thing the wretched Allende Government did successfully was to carry out the bourgeois land reform flunked by the previous Christian Democrat 'Alliance for Progress' government.

If this is so, and the fascists have not dared unleash a counter-revolution in the countryside, then I would question that there are any agricultural proletarians in Chile or any 'peasants', but there are farmers owning their own land, and therefore the leadership of the Revolution should depend on the urban industrial proletariat alone.

L.F. Holley, Bath.

Dear Comrades,

Your centre-page spread on Chile (*Red Weekly*, 5 April 1974) is utterly wrong—a diversion, not a Marxist analysis—and must be rejected outright by the working class in Britain and elsewhere.

To say that the defeat of Allende's Government was not a defeat for the working class, has also to be rejected. Because the overthrow of Allende and the killing of thousands of workers and peasants by the army, when millions of workers were imprisoned and tortured by the junta, was a defeat for the Chilean working class.

As Marxists, you should know that unity is the highest point of the Socialist Revolution.

In other words, not until the Socialist Revolution has been achieved can one speak of unity.

You also say in the centre-page spread on Chile that a united structure is being established which would comprise the various different parties of Popular Unity and MIR.

To say that this step was correct and totally justified is wrong, it capitulates to Popular Fronts, Christian Democrats, and bourgeois parties.

Again you miss the point, just cannot bring yourselves to it.

The only way the Chilean working class can take power is through the building of a Revolutionary Party to overthrow the military junta by armed force.

Unity is a great word, but means nothing when you live in a world where there is conflict of two opposites or two classes.

William Graham, Norwich.

REPLY:

As for comrade Graham, what can one say?

After 2,500 words in which we carefully outlined how 'any attempt to establish a common front with the other workers' organisations must be preceded

by an insistence on the working class character of such a front' (emphasis in original), he simply asserts that we advocate a policy which 'capitulates to Popular Fronts, Christian Democrats, and bourgeois parties'!

One can only conclude from this, and his talk about unity depending on the achievement of the Socialist Revolution, that comrade Graham is opposed to any form of united action with other workers' organisations—however limited, or however temporary. After all, it's just a diversion from the task of 'building a Revolutionary Party to overthrow the military junta by armed force'.

But, hold on one moment. Just how are we going to build such a party (of which, naturally, we're in favour)? Just how are we going to win over to our side the masses of workers who belong to, support, or are under the ideological influence of other working class organisations (such as the Communist and Socialist parties in Chile)?

Well it's quite simple, really—by working with them, pushing their organisations into united actions, and showing in practice, through struggle, that our politics offer a way forward while those of the other organisations lead only to a dead end.

Because if one is really serious about building a revolutionary party (and the Fourth International is, in Chile as elsewhere), then one must also be serious about one's politics. That means being prepared to put them to the test in struggle, measuring them up against those of the other organisations and inviting comparisons as to their ability to take the working class forward in struggle.

It is only the sectarian who fights shy of such a comparison, who has so little confidence in his own politics that he sees only 'capitulation' as the result of contact with other organisations, and therefore rejects united action in favour of building a party which is merely a shell for his own bankruptcy.

On his subsidiary point, comrade Graham is of course entirely correct—the overthrow of Popular Unity by the military obviously did mark a defeat for the working class. The assertion apparently contrary to this appears in the French translation of a statement originally issued in Spanish by the MIR, which we regrettably copied in turn.

In fact, the intention of the statement would seem to be merely to emphasise that the reversal suffered by reformism was much greater than that suffered by the working class movement as a whole. It was quoted in order to explain that while the coup certainly was a shattering blow for reformism, one should not discount the possibility of its revival, given the deep historical roots of reformist policies in the workers' movement in Chile.

Comrade Holley is, of course, correct to point out that the Allende Government implemented to the full the agrarian reform law passed by the previous Christian Democratic administration.

However this law of necessity reflected its origins. It provided for the expropriation of land in excess of a certain area owned by a single individual or husband and wife. This area was fixed as the equivalent of 80 'basic' hectares—ie the equivalent of 80 hectares (200 acres) of the best irrigated land in the vicinity of the capital city.

When we realise that the largest single group in the countryside—making up 35% of the rural population and some 70% of all landowners—were small holders with less than 5 'basic' hectares, then the limitations of the reform are obvious.

In some areas of the country, and on some types of land the actual equivalent landholding permitted could be 20 or 30 times the 'basic' figure.

Moreover many big landowners were able to exploit a loophole in the law and register parts of their land holdings in the names of other members of their family, while continuing to work them as a single farming operation.

Mid-way through the Allende reform, there were more than 300,000 landless labourers—either permanent or casual—in the Chilean countryside. Many of the more than 250,000 small holders also had to seek casual employment to bring their incomes up to subsistence level.

Meanwhile, less than 60,000 rural families had benefited from the implementation of the agrarian reform under both Frei and Allende. The carrying through of the reform to its limits was, on the most optimistic calculations, expected to no more than double this figure. Thus the main bulk of the rural proletariat remained untouched by the agrarian reform.

A more daring and radical agrarian reform might have been able to tackle this problem more effectively. But ultimately the only solution to the problems of the Chilean countryside lay in the rapid development of industry to draw off the surplus labour from the rural economy.

What's On

CHILE AD HOC COMMITTEE:

Planning meeting for 5 May demonstration, Wednesday 24 April at 8 pm in Earl Russell pub, opp Camden Town Hall, Euston Road, NW1. Supported by IMG and IS and open to all organisations and individuals supporting the demo.

LONDON RED FORUM:

Tuesday 23 April—Tariq Ali on 'Internationalism and the Fourth International', 8 pm in General Picton pub, Caledonian Road, N1, 15 mins Kings X tube.

BENGALI FRIENDS in Europe and elsewhere, for Bengali books and *Lalal* (Fourth International paper), contact: Bengali, Mullvadén, Box 3274, 10365 Stockholm, Sweden.

LIVERPOOL RED BOOKS: Revolutionary literature—Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Eastern Europe, Third World, Ireland, Women's Liberation, 81a Renshaw Street, Liverpool. Tues-Fri: 12.30-3. Sat: 11-3.

FREE IRELAND FORUMS: Friday 19 April—'The Provisionals—Have They Contributed to the Struggle for National Liberation and Socialism in Ireland?'. Friday 26 April—'Who Owns Ireland?' 8 pm in the General Picton pub, Caledonian Road 15 mins Kings X tube.

ANTI-FASCIST COMMITTEE in Liverpool wishes to contact sympathetic individuals and other groups engaged in anti-fascist activity. Please contact us at: Liverpool Anti-Fascist Committee, c/o Transport House, 39 Islington, Liverpool 3. All donations to the above address.

KINGSTON TRADES COUNCIL:

Shrewsbury 24 meeting, Friday 19 April, speakers—Steve Lynch (GMWU), Alan Tattam (UCATT). Starts 8 pm in Surbiton Assembly Rooms (5 mins from Surbiton station).

WORKING WOMEN'S CHARTER:

Meeting for all interested in campaigning around this, Saturday 20 April at 11 am in University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1.

RED LADDER perform their play on women's oppression for the first time in London on Monday 22 April at 7 pm in the LSE Old Theatre, Houghton Street, WC2. Organised by London ad hoc committee against SPUC.

SOCIAL in aid of the Prisoners' Wives Union, Saturday 20 April at 8 pm in Nightingale Hotel, 349 High Road, Wood Green.

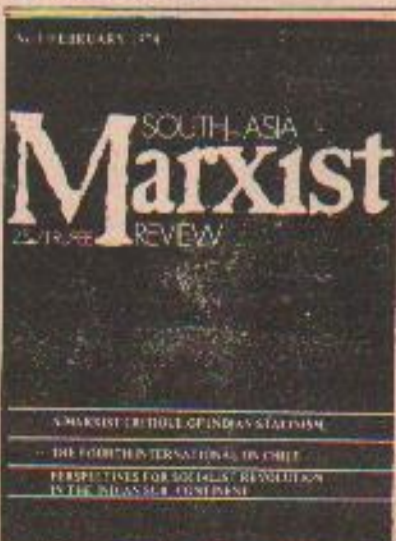
JUMBLE SALE in aid of Red Weekly Fund Drive, Saturday 20 April at 2.30 pm in Whittington Park Community Hall, Yerbury Road, N19. Admission 2p.

NOTTINGHAM RED CIRCLES: Wide-ranging series of discussions based on the politics of the Fourth International. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month at 8 pm in the Lion Hotel, Clumber Street.

BILLERICAY RED CIRCLE: 'What is socialism—how do we achieve it?' Wednesday 24 April, 8 pm, at 39 Kennel Lane, Billericay.

KILBURN RED CIRCLES: Brondesbury Pub, Chichester Road (off Kilburn High Road). Every second Wednesday, starting 24 April—first one on Chile.

ART AND SOCIETY: Meeting to discuss the position of the visual artist in society, with speakers from the IMG, IS, and CP. Tuesday 23 April, 7.30 pm at the ICA, Nash House, 12 Carlton House Terrace, SW1. Admission 10p.



Available from: **RED BOOKS**,
97 Caledonian Road, London N.1.

The irresistible fall of Golda Meir

The resignation of Golda Meir, and the probability of fresh elections in Israel, highlights the crisis of a society which has become increasingly demoralised since the war last October.

It is also a disappointment both for Henry Kissinger and President Sadat of Egypt, who require a period of political stability in Israel if there is to be a disengagement agreement on the Golan Heights and further progress at the Geneva talks.

HAMMER BLOW

The significance of the 'Yom Kippur' war was not simply that it shattered the myth of Israeli invincibility, and modified the local balance of forces in favour of the Arab ruling groups. Just as important was its impact on the traditional values and assumptions which had guided Israeli thinking and behaviour for 25 years.

The near-unanimity of Israeli society was shattered by this hammer blow, and enormous tensions have been opened up which threaten to topple the sandcastle that is the Jewish State.

RECRIMINATIONS

The resignation of the Government was preceded by the publication of an official report on the conduct of the war, which called for the resignation of the Chief of Staff ('We will break their bones' David Elazar) and several other senior officers. This specifically exempted members of the Government from criticism, but recriminations still continued against Golda Meir and her Defence Minister, Moshe Dayan.

Most criticism centred on the Government's decision not to launch a pre-emptive attack on the Arab armies.

The Government claims that, although it knew the attack was coming, it made a 'political' decision not to attack first so that Israel could not be accused of aggression. But this explanation is completely at odds with one of the fundamental tenets of Israeli strategy—attack is the best form of defence—and the deep-rooted 'activist' bias in Israeli thinking.

A more likely explanation is that the supposedly infallible Israeli intelligence apparatus simply failed to understand what the Arabs were planning. This is not surprising, given the basic premises of that apparatus and Zionism's racialist contempt for the Arabs. After all, it was generally believed that the Arabs wouldn't dare attack, and that if they did they would be easily smashed.

RIGHTWARD SWING

The resulting shock of the war gave a powerful impetus to the rightward swing within Israeli society. Some concessions will of course have to be made in response to the changed priorities of the United States, but the 'hard line' approach has been strengthened, and the rightist Likud bloc can be expected to make further gains in the next elections.

However, such progress on the part of the clerical-chauvinist wing of Zionism is more an expression of uncertainty, distrust of the traditionally dominant forces within Israeli society (the Zionist Labour bureaucracy), and the disintegration of old

allegiances, than of political confidence in Likud's demagoguery.

The popularity of the 'old guard' of Zionist bureaucrats and apparatchniks is thus now at its lowest ebb. Israel's new heroes are the rightist generals—particularly Arik Sharon, who led the Israeli attack on the West Bank of the Suez Canal.

Sharon is a plain talker, and his populist attacks on 'the Establishment' have met a ready response from large sections of the population who fear a US-imposed 'sell-out' to the Arabs. He would like to steer Israel away from exclusive dependence on US imperialism by giving more emphasis to the development of Israel's own armaments industry.



Defence Minister Moshe Dayan, who is known to favour a 'Government of National Unity' including the rightist Likud bloc. When 'doves' demanded his resignation, he in turn proposed that the entire Government resign.

WARRING FACTIONS

In this situation, the coalition

which Meir had so painstakingly cobbled together over a period of more than two months after the last elections rapidly split once more into warring factions and rival cliques.

The Labour Party 'doves' demanded Dayan's resignation, while he in turn proposed that the entire Government resign (Dayan advocates a 'Government of National Unity' which would include the rightist Likud bloc). Dayan's supporters within the Labour Party threatened to vote against the Government if he was made a scapegoat for collective failings.

This political circus was accompanied by a swelling tide of protest from the press and public. Captain Motti Askenazi, who began a one-man campaign for Dayan's resignation two months ago, and later extended it to include Meir as well, was recently able to draw 5,000 people to a protest rally.

Furthermore, the economic effects of the war (forced loans and rising prices) have severely cut living standards and provoked a sharp rise in working class discontent. The oriental-Jewish Black Panthers have also reappeared on the political scene.

GOLAN HEIGHTS

In the midst of this drama, Israeli and Syrian forces continue to battle it out on the Golan Heights. The mood of the Syrian population, enthused by the outcome of the October war, and highly critical of the ceasefire, explains the continual skirmishing on the Syrian-Israeli border. This burst of military activity will, Syrian President Assad

hopes, be enough to allow him to settle with apparent honour.

The Syrians will expect an Israeli commitment to withdraw from the Golan Heights as the price for calling off their mini-war of attrition. But the Israelis will almost certainly refuse to give up this area (which they have extensively colonised since 1967). Golda Meir recently referred to it as an 'indivisible' part of Israel, while the Likud will jump on the latest Syrian offensive to condemn any proposals for an Israeli withdrawal as suicidal folly.

The chances of a Syrian-Israeli agreement therefore seem rather slender. If the Israeli Right makes major gains in the coming elections, the best-laid plans of mice and men (not to mention imperialist diplomats) may well go wrong.

If Syria were to become embroiled in another full-scale war, Sadat would have little choice but to join in, lest he would be exposed to charges of treachery which would upset his regime's new-found stability. His Foreign Minister's warning on Monday that in such a situation Egypt 'would not stand aside' was intended to drive the point home to US imperialism and persuade it to restrain its Israeli allies.

Certainly any new outbreak of fighting would put paid at once to the disengagement agreement and the plan to re-open the Suez Canal. It looks as if Dr Kissinger's 'peace in our time' plans, designed to stabilise imperialist domination in the Arab East, may well land in the dustbin of history before the year is out.

ALAN ADLER

PFLP raid counter-productive

Prospects for a settlement between Israel and the Arab regimes were further weakened last Thursday by the raid carried out by the Popular Front for the

Liberation of Palestine (General Command) on the Israeli township of Kiryat Shmoneh, in which 16 Israeli civilians lost their lives.

The raid was undoubtedly designed precisely with the aim of forestalling any such settlement, and, more specifically, to prevent the Palestine Liberation Organisation from taking part in the Geneva talks.

The response of the Israeli regime was predictable. Not for the first time, Dayan ordered mammoth reprisals against southern Lebanon leading to the destruction of 80 houses in 16 villages. He

further warned that unless the Lebanese Government took steps to curb the 'fedayin', the whole of southern Lebanon would be turned into an uninhabitable ghost area.

In Israel, the affect of the PFLP (GC) operation has been to intensify the disarray symbolised by the resignation of Golda Meir. There is widespread feeling that the Lebanese have not been sufficiently punished for Kiryat Shmoneh, and the only beneficiary of the affair is likely to be the Likud bloc, with its stale diet of religious mysticism and frenzied chauvinism.

All those opposed to the diplomatic farce in Geneva, the sole purpose of which is to consolidate the rotten, reactionary status quo in the Arab East, cannot fail to understand the frustrations which lead Palestinian militants to commit acts of despair such as this.

However, none of this makes the PFLP (GC)'s nationalist-terrorist orientation worthy of support. Indeed, such statements about Israeli Jews as 'you face a choice: either to go or to die'—included in leaflets distributed during the raid—are unambiguously racist, and should be condemned as such by all

supporters of the Palestinian struggle.

Any such strategy, which fails to distinguish between the Zionist State and the Israeli-Jewish people, can only serve to bolster chauvinism in both the Arab countries and Israel. It can thus only set back the chances of building a revolutionary alliance based on the working people of the entire area, which by dismantling the Zionist State structure can alone open the way to a just and equitable solution not only of the Palestinian problem, but also of the many other problems of the Arab East.

Kurds take up arms against Iraqi regime

Kurdish nationalists are now once more locked in conflict with the Government of Iraq, after the collapse of a four-year-old armed truce between the two sides.

The 2½ million Kurds, who make up a quarter of the population of Iraq, have been engaged in an independence struggle for decades. But in March 1970 they agreed to end hostilities after a firm promise from the Iraqi Government that their national rights would be recognised 'within the framework of the Iraqi Republic'.

It was not long, however, before the honeymoon showed signs of coming to an end. The extent of Kurdish sovereignty was to be decided under the terms of the agreement by means of an ethnic census. Soon Kurdish leader General Barzani was accusing the Government in Baghdad of attempting to influence this by promoting an 'Arabisation' programme in the (mainly Kurdish) Kirkuk region, which contains some of Iraq's most important oilfields.

AUTONOMY DECREE

On 11 March this year, the Iraqi Government—an alliance of the Ba'ath Party and the Iraqi Communist Party—issued an autonomy decree, which the Kurdish nationalists were given fifteen days to accept.

This decree falls far short of Kurdish demands. Although it finally introduces the principle of bi-lingualism, and grants the Kurds a certain amount of administrative and legislative autonomy, it leaves all



Barzani—leads Kurds in armed revolt

real decision-making powers in the hands of the Baghdad Government.

Thus it is the prerogative of the latter to appoint the leader of the 'autonomous' Kurdish Government, and to dismiss him as well. Moreover, the central Government insists on maintaining exclusive control of Kurdistan's oilfields.

Barzani's response was rightly to reject these fake autonomy proposals, along with the Government's ultimatum, and to summon his followers to arms.

The Iraqi regime is heavily armed by the Soviet Union, and can be assured of the continued political support of the Iraqi Communist Party. In recent years the Iraqi State has leaned on the Soviet Union in order to extract concessions from American imperialism. The CP, grateful for small mercies, has in turn provided it with a useful left cover.

Thus the Communist Party backs the military repression of the Kurds in the name of 'anti-imperialist national unity', and so strengthens the hold of reactionary Arab nationalism on the Iraqi masses. Indeed, by hitching itself to the bandwagon of the Ba'ath, the CP is only paving the way for its own destruction (this is precisely the pattern of what happened in Sudan in 1971, or indeed what happened in Iraq itself after the fall of Kassem in 1963).

To counter this unholy alliance, the Kurdish nationalists are mistakenly wooing the United States. Barzani has even gone so far as to promise the Americans oil concessions in exchange for military aid (which could be channelled through Iran).

SELF-DETERMINATION

Nevertheless, this cannot be used as a justification for remaining neutral in this conflict. What is at stake is the right of the oppressed Kurdish people to self-determination, and defence of the old Marxist idea that 'a nation which oppresses another can never itself be free'.

This will be a particularly vital test for the small but important forces of the Arab Left. In October 1969, the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PDFLP) declared its support for the Kurdish liberation movement, and recognised it as a distinct component of the revolutionary movement in the Arab East.

Since those heady days the PDFLP has undergone a marked opportunist degeneration, even going so far as to issue a joint statement with the Iraqi Ba'ath! But by fighting against the stream, by

challenging the ideology of Arab nationalism (the ideology of the local ruling classes), the Arab Left will be creating new opportunities for itself, and putting itself in a better position to breach the wall of classless 'holy unity' so painstakingly created by Sadat of Egypt and Assad of Syria.

FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF IRAQI TROOPS FROM KURDISTAN!

END ALL SOVIET MILITARY AID TO IRAQ!

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE KURDISH PEOPLE!

ALAN ADLER

International Marxist Group

(British section of the Fourth International)

97 Caledonian Rd., London N.1.



I would like more information about the IMG and its activities

NAME

ADDRESS

Appeal for Grigorenko Day

Soviet and Czech dissidents, together with the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, have launched a new campaign against repression in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

In a statement issued last week, they call for 'world-wide participation by socialists, communists, democratic and humanitarian organisations and individuals in three days of protests about the repression of civil liberties in socialist countries.'

The first of these we propose to designate Grigorenko Day, which will be fixed on 7 May 1974, the anniversary of the imprisonment of Major General Grigorenko [who has been incarcerated in a mental hospital since 1969]. On that day we would urge a world-wide initiative of protests, meetings and petitions in solidarity with Major General Grigorenko and all the other victims of politically motivated incarceration in mental hospitals and prisons.

On the second day, 27 November 1974, which is the anniversary of the arrest of [Czech dissidents] Sabata and Muller, and on the third day, 29 March 1975, which is the anniversary of the imprisonment of [Soviet dissident] Vladimir Bukovsky, we propose similar endeavours.

The appeal is signed by Pavel Litvinov (on behalf of the Soviet Initiative Group for Human Rights); Ken Coates and Chris Farley (on behalf of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation); Jiri Pelikan (for the collective of *Listy*, the journal of the Czechoslovakian Socialist Opposition); and Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov.

The IMG will be taking part in the activity on Grigorenko Day, and in the evening will be sponsoring a public meeting in the Small Hall at Conway Hall, in Red Lion Square.

NATIONAL FRONT THUGS ATTACK MARTYRS' MARCH

The Manchester Martyrs' March held on Monday was viciously attacked by a demonstration led by Union Jack-waving members of the National Front, supported by some local residents.

About three hundred fascists and irate local citizens, whipped up by anti-Irish hysteria from the NF, attempted to stop the march as it proceeded through Moston. The march is an annual event, held to commemorate the hanging of three Irishmen in 1867 for killing a guard while attempting to release Fenian prisoners.

The graves of the martyrs had earlier been daubed, and most of the bourgeois press described the assault as a spontaneous outburst by the people of Moston.

But while the counter-demonstration did gain support from local residents, the National Front had done much preparatory work, and shipped in supporters and thugs from other areas.

'IRISH OUT'

The counter-demonstration's chants of 'NF' and 'Irish Out' were led by the Front, and NF agitators approached groups of bystanders, urging them to attack the march.

Unfortunately, the Martyrs' March was poorly attended, with only about

150 turning out. These were mainly members of Sinn Fein, independent Republicans, and the IMG. The low attendance, and the fact that the NF was able to gain support in this working class area of Manchester, should be a salutary lesson to the Manchester left.

For the first time in the area, the fascists have been able to intimidate an anti-imperialist demonstration and get away with it. This is because the left failed to turn out for the march, and because they have failed to take up the question of Ireland inside the labour movement.

Sinn Fein has announced that it will organise a mammoth rally in Manchester, in defence of their right to demonstrate, and it is essential that this is supported by all sections of the labour movement.

Hopefully, the forthcoming conference on racism to be held at the Renold Theatre in Manchester on 18 May will take the appropriate steps to ensure that no working class or anti-imperialist organisation or event can be attacked by the fascists in future.

The conference is being supported by sections of the labour movement in Manchester. Details from Manchester Anti-Fascist Committee, c/o 27 Thatch Leach, Chadderton, Oldham, Lancs.

BOB CLEAVER



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HEFFER SHOWS NEED FOR CHILE DEMO

It is not yet clear whether Mr. Eric Heffer, the Minister of State for Industry, will be just subjected to a stern rebuke or whether Mr. Wilson will sack him for breaching the 'time-honoured principle of collective responsibility.'

Whatever the final outcome the fact is that the Labour Government's open and blatant disregard of Labour Party policy on the question of supplying arms to the gangster regime in Chile has been dramatically highlighted. For this Eric Heffer deserves our congratulations.

LESSONS OF VIETNAM

Heffer, in his speech to his Liverpool constituents, hoped that the Labour Government would learn the lessons of Vietnam, and warned that Chile could develop into a similar issue. What he meant was not that the struggle of the Vietnamese would be repeated in Chile, but that the extra-parliamentary opposition which was built around the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign in this country and which created a powerful political force on the left flank of the Labour government of 1964-70, might begin to gain ground again.

Eric Heffer is obviously aware of the fact that many militants in the Labour Party in Liverpool are supporting and mobilising for the 5 May demo on Chile. The significance of this, the first national mobilisation against the Labour govern-

ment, is not lost on him. The convenor of the May 5 Chile Ad Hoc Committee has already cabled Heffer asking him to support the mobilisation and to speak at it, since its main focus is to demand that Labour breaks all links with the junta and sticks to its pre-election promises. Eric Heffer's response is being eagerly awaited and will help us to assess how serious he is on the question of developing solidarity with the Chilean victims of repression.

As the struggle waged by the IMG at the Chile Solidarity Campaign's Conference to press for a demo on 5 May is being vindicated with every passing day, the Communist Party is behaving like the proverbial ostrich. The response of the *Morning Star* to Heffer's speech is: 'a flood of resolutions should pour into Downing St. with the demand: "No arms for the junta".' This has been parroted by the CP-controlled executive of the Chile Solidarity Campaign.

Now, we are not opposed to bombarding Downing Street with resolutions. But this is not enough. Moreover it has the effect of channelling protest exclusively via Parliament. The CP took a similar attitude to the Vietnam solidarity movement, only to be pulled into it at a later stage by the massive support this movement built up. It seems that they, too, have not learnt the lessons of Vietnam. It is ironic, to say the least, that the *Morning Star* can devote pages of photo-

graphs in an attempt to show us that CND is not dead, but has failed to mention the May 5th demonstration.

AD HOC COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the May 5 Ad Hoc Committee for Chile was attended by over 50 people representing trade union branches, trades councils, NUSS, students unions and the IMG, IS, Workers Fight, Revolutionary Communist Group, Association of Communist Workers. Many branches of the Chile Solidarity Campaign (CSC) were represented.

In Newcastle the CSC voted to support the demo as did its Greenwich branch. The local CSC's conference in Liverpool on 22 April will probably decide to support the demonstration as well.

Meetings to mobilise for the demonstration will be held in the following towns: Brighton (25 April); Thames Polytechnic (24 April); Preston (25 April); Portsmouth (25 April); Newcastle and Nottingham (30 April); Liverpool and Coventry (2 May); London (3 May).

If you want to help with the mobilisation or simply want more information on meetings, posters, stickers, leaflets please write to: Chile, 97 Caledonian Road, London, N.1.

There will be a picket of Downing Street next Monday at 6 pm.

The Chile Ad Hoc Committee meets every Wednesday at 8 pm in the Earl Russell pub, Kings Cross.

Firth Derihon moves into battle

The pay dispute at River Don Stampings in Sheffield is over. The AUEW District Committee, as we described in the last issue of *Red Weekly*, did its best to sabotage and isolate the workers who had put in a claim well in excess of Phase 3.

The strike committee made strenuous efforts to escalate the struggle by linking up with Firth Derihon - a neighbouring plant in the same combine.

Unfortunately, as a result of fierce pressure from the District Committee, the workers at River Don were persuaded to return to work on the management's

paltry offer of £3. Now, only a week later, Firth Derihon itself is in dispute. On Wednesday there was a sit-in strike in pursuit of a domestic claim, and a lockout is expected.

In the next few weeks, given the likelihood of an early sell-out over the national claim, many factories will be forced into local struggles.

Determined action now by the workers at Firth Derihon and a campaign in the local factories can win the necessary support from militants in the industry who are themselves faced with the need to struggle independently of the national leadership and its faithful allies on the District Committee.

Hands off left press!

The gentlemen of the press, as Judge Alan King-Hamilton describes them, are extremely circumspect in their reporting of the Janie Jones 'bribery' trial.

They have dutifully followed the learned judge's ruling that Mr Y and Mr Z, the key witnesses, were to be enshrouded in a cloak of anonymity. Even when barristers, or the witnesses themselves, accidentally let a name slip, the 'gentlemen of the press never took advantage of it'.

Paul Foot was less circumspect, naming the worthy witnesses in last week's *Socialist Worker*. King-Hamilton has decided that publicly pinning the names of these individuals to the unpleasant sexual practices they imposed on young women constitutes contempt. He has therefore referred the case to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Less contemptuous, as Foot pointed out in his article, is the usual practice of blazoning the names of witnesses who do not happen to be members of the ruling class across the pages of the national press.

King-Hamilton is in no doubt about the source of his authority. 'A judge,' he said, 'has an inherent right to control proceedings in his court.' How such control is exercised is well known to any member of the working class who has ever

stood in the dock. If the DPP decides to prosecute Foot and *Socialist Worker*, their cause must be taken up by the entire labour movement. Any attack on the left press by the State has to be resisted.

Attempts to impose 'legal' sanctions on the contents of the left press must be treated in precisely the same manner as police harassment of those who sell these papers - with contempt and active resistance.

Mandel tour

ERNEST MANDEL, leading spokesman for the Fourth International and Marxist theoretician, is touring Britain next week. He will be speaking on 'Europe in Revolt'.

The following meetings have been arranged:
GLASGOW, Monday 22 April, McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall St at 7.30 pm (Due to a late alteration, the speaker here will not be Mandel but leading French militant Pierre Rousset)

LEEDS, Tuesday 23 April, Bakery Hall, off Tribute, Leeds Polytechnic, at 7.30 pm.

MANCHESTER, Wednesday 24 April, Small Hall, UMIST Students Union, at 7.30 pm.

BIRMINGHAM, Thursday 25 April, Digbeth Civic Hall at 7.30 pm.

LONDON, Friday 26 April - Enfield College, 1 pm; LSE Old Theatre, 7.30 pm.

OXFORD, Saturday 27 April, Ruskin College, at 2 pm - teach-in together with Bob Sutcliffe on 'Revolution and Repression'.

We don't want to be respectable

The stiff-necked refusal of the British press to draw the implications of the Lennon statement is a testimony to its 'respectability.' Had Watergate happened over here it would scarcely have been allowed to ruffle the pin-striped placidity of the Nixons and Agnew's of Whitehall.

That is why papers like *Red Weekly* are necessary. And that is why we need to expand and improve our paper. Help us to become less respectable. Send a donation to our fund drive NOW!

Send to Red Weekly Fund Drive, 97 Caledonian Rd., London, N.1.