

"Workers of All Lands Unite"

# SOCIALIST APPEAL



ORGAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY  
BRITISH SECTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

SUPPLEMENT MID - OCTOBER, 1945. TWOPENCE

# SUPPORT THE DOCKERS IN STRUGGLE FOR LIVING WAGE

## London Strike Leader Nails Capitalist Lies

THE 30,000 DOCKERS ON STRIKE IN MERSEYSIDE AND THE NORTH OF ENGLAND, HAVE BEEN JOINED BY 17,000 LONDON DOCKERS, STEVEDORES, AND P.L.A. MEN IN THE FIGHT FOR 25/- A DAY, AND A 40-HOUR WEEK. PRACTICALLY THE WHOLE OF THE DOCK INDUSTRY WILL BE PARALYSED BECAUSE THE SHIP OWNERS AND THE PORT AUTHORITIES REFUSE TO GRANT THE JUST DEMANDS OF THE MEN.

The capitalist press is conducting a campaign of lies and slander against the dockers, who are accused of "causing foods to perish" by holding up ships. This accusation, which is the central theme of the capitalist press, was given an excellent answer by Brother Tom Powell, popular leader of the London dockers, which was reported in the London "Star" on October 10th:

BY J. DEANE

"The men expressed resentment at the suggestion that their action will result in wastage of food. THERE IS NO REAL DANGER TO THE FOOD, Mr. Powell said. 'IT IS ALL IN REFRIGERATORS, AND PROVIDED THE SHIPS ARE BATTENED DOWN IT WILL KEEP FOR MONTHS.'"

This completely correct reply exposes the lies of the press, which is trying to destroy the sympathy of the public for the struggle of the dock workers.

Brother Powell nailed another lie that the strike had been caused by "agitators" and "irresponsible and subversive elements". He told the "Star" reporter:

"We deny most strongly that this is a Revolutionary Communist Party strike, or that we are striking because any political organisation has brought pressure to bear on us. The Communists may feel that they have an interest in this. I daresay you will find members of almost every party, including the Conservatives, in it. The strike is a purely spontaneous gesture, regardless of politics, to obtain a basic wage of 25s. a day and a 40 hour week."

The "Daily Mirror" of October 10th, printed a front page article headlined: "LONDON STRIKERS DUPED BY DICTATOR" in which it stated:

"The 'dictator' is a Mr. Powell. His assistant, Charles Martinson..."

In another front page article, this capitalist sheet stated:

"Powell, 37, a pale-faced, slightly bald man, is self appointed dictator, but an attempt to get a strike committee will be made today..."

This nonsense of the "Daily Mirror" was greeted with indignation by the London dockers, and its reporters will be met with a hot reception if they show their faces near the docks. Bro. Powell, is not only the most popular man on the docks, but one of the most energetic in the cause of his fellow workers. He has the full confidence of the men, and has been democratically elected as a leader of the strike committee.

### THE HISTORY OF THE STRIKE

The strike started when 2,000 Birkenhead dockers walked out in support of 60 prop men, who claimed 25 shillings a day on stacking pit props. The strike concerned a purely local issue. Then another local issue arose in the South End Liverpool Docks. 200 dockers, sent to work in Birkenhead, refused to work there and asked for their books to return to Liverpool. Simultaneously, 500 dockers were sacked. The South End dockers replied immediately by strike action on October 1st, bringing the total out to 4,500.

By ships, by docks, and then by groups of docks, the strike grew and extended, until on the following day, Tuesday, every Dock but Gladstone, was silent. The Dockers' strike was solid.

In Gladstone Dock, the Stalinist leader Burns and his misguided supporters, scabbed throughout Tuesday, until the dockers were brought out by the rank and file committee.

The spread of the strike throughout the whole of Merseyside, Hull, Manchester and Northern England, demonstrated that the dockers were only waiting for a lead. The demands for 25/- a day, with a 40 hour week, were national demands calling for national action.

In an attempt to smash the unity of the Dock workers, and prevent a further spreading of the strike, Donovan negotiated the 25/- a day for the 60 pit prop men originally concerned with the dispute. When he asked them to

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# MILLIONS OF GERMAN PEOPLE TO DIE THIS WINTER

"NO CHILD BORN IN GERMANY WILL SURVIVE THE COMING WINTER. ONLY 50 PER CENT. OF THE CHILDREN AGED LESS THAN THREE YEARS WILL SURVIVE."

That prophesy, reported in the "Daily Herald", was made by Hans Albrecht, a leading Berlin Quaker, was received in London from a Friends Ambulance Unit relief team, which has been working in Berlin and other areas of Germany since August.

In Poland, Czechoslovakia and Eastern Germany we are witnessing an oppression which can only be described as mass murder. Like the system of the Nazis, there is the same callous disregard for human life, the same indiscriminate and forcible transfer of whole populations without regard for loss of life or suffering; the familiar Nazi barbarism against the Jews is repeated in the humiliation of the German people by special distinguishing arm-bands; and above all famine which will reduce the people of Europe to the status of the Indians.

Out of 34 million in Bohemia, only 300,000 are allowed to remain. The property and possessions of those expelled, apart from meagre baggage, will be confiscated; what remains will be looted and robbed on the way.

Not to be outdone by the Nazis, concentration camps have been established in Poland and Czechoslovakia.

### CONDITIONS IN ALLIED CAMPS

In the "Daily Herald" of 9th October, there is a report on these camps by G. E. R. Gedye:

"... it was not a Belsen... it was a 'horror camp', although all the inmates agreed it was a 'good' camp compared with others they had been in."

### WEAK TO TEARS

They were crowded together in huts regardless of age and sex. They slept in double-tiered bunks, each containing a straw sack—as did the 'half-Jews' whom the Nazis held in the same camp during the war.

Their ages varied from 4 days to 80 years. Everyone looked starved. Men and women came to me with tears of weakness running down their cheeks.

"We have been here five months, nobody knows why, cannot something be done for us?" most of them said.

A kind hearted Czech guard told me: 'I have a baby of my own at home, cannot someone do something, at least about the horrors these children here suffer? Sometimes I feel I cannot stand it another day.'

One woman sat with a medicine bottle full of mother's milk—there is no other milk in the camp—trying to moisten the lips of something which she called her baby. Two months old it was smaller than a healthy new-born baby. It had a wizened, monkey-like face, dark brown skin stretched taut over the bones, arms like match-sticks—a starving baby.

Near her stood another mother holding a shrunken bundle of skin and bones, smaller than a normal two months old baby. I stared incredulously when she told me it was 14 months old.

In one bed a young blonde girl lay in pain, holding in her arms the infant to which she had given birth—without medical aid—24 hours previously, amid the hubbub of the surrounding crowd of men, women and children.

### STALINISM RESPONSIBLE

The catastrophe of all this is the responsibility of the Stalinist bureaucracy. Through their puppets, they have control of Poland and Czechoslovakia. The offer of work, bread and fraternal co-operation would have gained the enthusiastic support of the German people, particularly the working class in all these areas.

The only solution to the European problem is a break with nationalism and the co-operation of all peoples for a socialist united states of Europe. But Stalin will not take this road. Thus, the seeds are sown for a new outbreak of national and fratricidal hatreds which will give rise to new

reactionary movements and another war.

The traitors of the so-called "Communist" Party are cynically attempting to justify these horrible crimes. Ivor Montagu, in the "Daily Worker" of October 10th, writes approvingly of the expulsion of the Germans from Eastern Europe and Eastern Germany. A total of 25 million Germans is to be expelled from these areas, and expected to live in a Germany of which more than a third has been cut away—a Germany already ruined and starving. Justifying the crimes of Stalinism against these human beings, Montagu says:

"Even where these refugees come from—German areas in which their families lived for centuries, is it reasonable to expect the Poles, who have suffered so terribly, to spare them or share with them what food there is available in a land of hunger?"

"It would be nice, if, at given stages of times, one could shout 'Stop! All the past will be without effect. Henceforth shall reign only pity and brotherly love.' Then history would be more fit for Sunday Schools."

What has this in common with the ideals of communism and internationalism. This is the language of reaction. Ivor Montagu ends by saying:

"Let those who are advocating increased food supplies to Germany and appealing to the humanitarian feeling of the world and the instincts of generosity toward conquered enemies, please remember that the winter prospects of Holland, Yugoslavia, Poland and Western USSR are without doubt yet grimmer than those of Germany."

But the socialist answer to Montagu and his ilk, is that the oppression of one nation by another will not solve the problems of the masses of any country. Under a socialist system there will be food and plenty for all. The Marxists have always taught that there was plenty in this world to provide for the entire human race; that it was the fetters of the private ownership of the means of production that caused the starvation and privations. Stalinism, long having abandoned the revolutionary Marxist policy, resorts now to the worst forms of national oppression and chauvinism. The workers of Europe must fight against this bestial chauvinism; they must extend the hand of friendship to the German masses. The establishment of the United Socialist States of Europe will bring an end to the suffering and decay that is Europe today and will open a new era of peace and plenty for all.

# 90,000 BUILDING WORKERS MARCH

THE GREATEST DEMONSTRATION SEEN IN LONDON FOR SOME YEARS TOOK PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 8th, WHEN 90,000 BUILDING WORKERS MARCHED TO HYDE PARK.

Under banners inscribed with militant slogans and demands for Three Shillings an hour, building workers from every part of London formed themselves into neat columns, and led by their Strike Committee, marched from Hyde Park around the West End. Traffic had to be diverted for hours, and 5,000 police were on duty.

At the head of the demonstration was a coffin carried by four hefty building workers, upon which was painted: "He tried to live on £3 18s. a week."

Following this were banners: "Building Workers want 3/- an Hour" and "We Want a Living Wage." After marching through the West End the building workers held a series of monster meetings in Hyde Park.

### ANEURIN BEVAN REFUSES TO SEE MEN

A deputation of four, which had been sent to place the men's demands before Mr. Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, reported to a monster meeting that this "Socialist" Minister would not see them. Bros. Laughton and McLoary, leaders of the deputation, reported that they were given no less than three different excuses for Mr. Bevan's absence. The first excuse was that Mr. Bevan was ill and could not see the deputation. The deputation then asked to see his Private Secretary. After a delay and some opposition, the Private Secretary came along and informed them that Mr. Bevan had made an important appointment at 4 o'clock and was therefore away. (Note: Mr. Bevan was informed on Saturday that a deputation would see

him on Monday.) To this new excuse, the deputation replied that they would wait for him to return. The Private Secretary, eager to remove the deputation, then told them that Mr. Bevan would not be back that night. Thus a deputation representing 150,000 London building workers was treated in a manner usually associated with Toryism, by a so-called Socialist Minister—a "Left" one at that!

### 3/- AN HOUR DEMANDED

The discontent of the building workers with the wages and conditions imposed upon them by the employers and the Local Councils has been mounting steadily for the past year. As a result of the intense feeling and resolutions from the union branches, the leaders of the Building Trade Unions were forced to demand a wage increase. From Glasgow to London, building workers demanded 3/- an hour. But the Union leaders only asked for the "practical" (?) demand of 4d. an hour increase.

For six months negotiations have dragged along over this 4d. per hour claim. During this six summer months the low wages were disguised by the long hours of overtime. But now exposed by the reduction of hours from 54 to 44, suffering a reduction of 30/

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# HANDS OFF JAVA! Withdraw the Troops!

BY AJIT ROY

THE NEWS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY INTERVENING ON THE SIDE OF FRENCH AND DUTCH IMPERIALISM AGAINST THE NATIVE PEOPLES IN JAVA AND INDO-CHINA, HAS EVOKED A STORM OF INDIGNATION AMONG THE WORKING CLASS AND COLONIAL PEOPLES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

From India, Nehru has protested against the use of Indian troops to suppress a movement which the mass of the Indian people wholeheartedly support. In London, representatives from the subject races within the British Empire at a meeting in the Memorial Hall have proclaimed their full solidarity with the Indonesian masses in their struggle for freedom, and demanded the immediate withdrawal of British troops from these areas. The 30,000 Australian workers who are reported in the last issue of the "Socialist Appeal" struck work to stop the supply of arms and reinforcements to the Dutch author-



C. ("MAZO") MARTINSON

# HANDS OFF JAVA! Withdraw the Troops!

ities have demonstrated in no uncertain fashion on which side of the conflict their sympathies lie.

The nationalist movements in Indonesia have the support of the overwhelming mass of the native population. Almost the whole of Java is under the control of the nationalist forces. The people are determined that Dutch rule shall not be restored. In Indo-China, the nationalist movement is being led mainly by the working-class and socialist organisations, including the Trotskyists. For over a century, the native peoples in these areas have been the victims of a sys-

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# R.C.P. TO CONTEST BOOTLE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION

## CHARLIE MARTINSON CHOSEN

THE MERSEYSIDE DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY, HAS NOMINATED CHARLES MARTINSON AS ITS CANDIDATE FOR THE MERSEY WARD, BOOTLE, IN THE FORTHCOMING BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

Comrade Martinson, who has been widely attacked by the capitalist press, for his support of the dockers, has experienced to the full, the life of the Bootle workers in the bitter years of mass unemployment before the war.

Bootle workers will only too easily remember those days when the unemployment percentage on the docks rose to be amongst the highest in the country. Joining the N.U.W.M. in 1931, and the Communist Party in 1932, Comrade Martinson's great ability as an organiser was soon recognised by his election in 1933, as organiser of the Bootle N.U.W.M. Under his efficient, fighting leadership, the Bootle N.U.W.M. became one of the best organised in the country, and extracted many concessions from the local authorities for the unemployed. As Chief Marshal of the Lancashire Hunger Marchers, Comrade Martinson demonstrated his ability in the national struggles of the unemployed of that period.

Comrade Martinson joined the International Brigade in Spain in 1936 in the fight against Franco and Fascism, was taken prisoner and returned to Liverpool from one of Franco's jails at the end of 1938, being one of the last of the Liverpool contingent out of Spain.

It was in Spain that he first observed the degeneration of the C.P., and his experience at first hand of the policy of the Popular Front convinced him of the treachery of the policies of collaboration with the bosses, for which the C.P. is now notorious everywhere.

Comrade Martinson served in the Irish Guards from 1939 to 1942, when he was discharged for his political activities.

JAILED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BRITISH FASCISM

In 1935 Mazo was sentenced to 6 weeks' imprisonment as a result of a riot during a protest demonstration against William Joyce's activities in Bootle, organised by himself and his comrades.

MAKE MAZO THE DOCKERS' COUNCILLOR!

Most of Mazo's working life has been on the docks of Liverpool. A dock labourer from 1931 to 1939, he was refused a book on his discharge from the Army in 1942, by Pugh (local boss of the T. & G.W.U.) on account of his

militant past record. He has, however, continued not only to work on the docks as timber loader, gig boatman, etc., but is well-known for his activities on the dockers' behalf. Recently Charles Martinson will be remembered for his activity in bringing delegates from London to the Mersey, to give first hand information to the Liverpool men on the effort of the London dockers for 25/- per day national guaranteed minimum.

The dockers and transport workers of Bootle have the opportunity, not only of voting for a worker who has played a leading role in their struggles, but for a programme which is opposed to any concessions to capitalism in contrast to the Labour and Stalinist parties, and which rejects all forms of class collaboration. Comrade Martinson will stand on a fighting socialist programme—the programme of revolutionary communism.

BOOTLE WORKERS! VOTE FOR MARTINSON, THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST CANDIDATE.

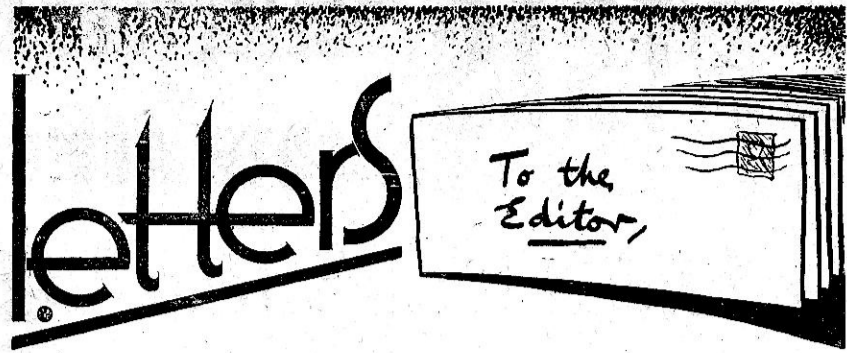
## STOP PRESS

PIERRE FRANK —

As a result of the intervention of Left Labour and I.L.P. M.P.s, the Home Secretary has suspended the deportation order against Pierre Frank, French Trotskyist.

## LEEDS

Five girls employed at Montague Burton's, the biggest clothing factory in Yorkshire, were sacked because the rest of the workers threatened to strike when they got to know that these girls were scabbing by conducting on the buses during the strike. They were supposedly off work "sick".



# From C.P. Rank and Filers

7, Sept., 1945.

Dear Comrade,

I must thank you for the papers, et., forwarded to me by your office. I can assure you of the close attention which I find they merit.

It is possible for me to look back on 6 years in the Y.C.L., and to 2 years in the CP—a period when, Comrade, the Trotskyists were viewed by myself and associates, as not only strange political animals, but definitely confused with the camp of reaction.

I say with emphasis, "confused", for after a long period of meandering resentment and anger due to the C.P. leadership, it has come to be obvious to many of the youthful revolutionaries of my old Y.C.L. days, that to continue to propagate for communism for the struggle that this belief implies, means to look for perspectives other than that which the C.P.G.B. holds out. Believe me, when I meet old comrades of the Y.C.L. and C.P. days, and my former comrades who fought in the International Brigade, the apathy, disgust and lack of interest in what they consider to be "revolutionary" (i.e. C.P.) activities is appalling. Yet this I want to say, and I say it for many others, men I know and they know me—revolutionary literature you publish is like a breath of fresh air. It was such words that I remember when I was 15, such matter that made me read more, made me more active, more sure of the sincerity of my cause. Today I am disgusted with the C.P., which I consider non-Marxist, and am impatient to seriously associate with genuine Marxian workers for the anti-capitalist fight.

The Fourth Internationalists claim the mantle of Lenin, call boldly for the overthrow of capitalism, proclaim the anti-capitalist fight. I have heard it all before—don't expect workers who have had a soaking in the Y.C.L., C.P., to jump into the R.C.P. But don't misunderstand, I am at one with you in the fight for communism.

It is useless standing in the political wilderness. I must also say, that your offer of the loan of Felix Morrow's "Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Spain" would be read with interest and will be returned in good order and treated with care.

I send my fraternal greetings,

J...

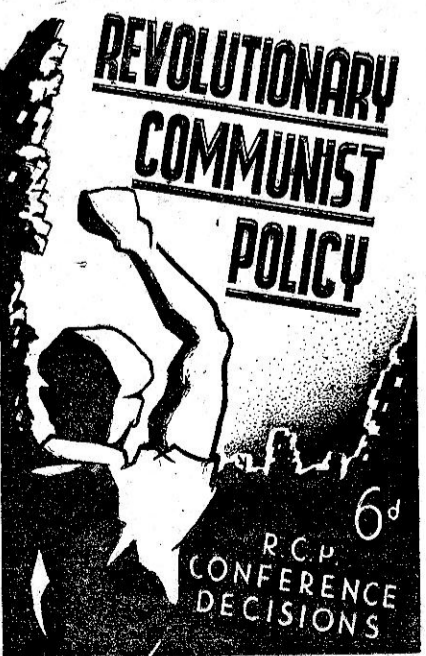
## From an Irish Communist

Reproduced here is a letter from a private of the British Army in Germany; written to one of our Belfast comrades. Until only a few weeks ago, he was one of the most active and devoted of the C.P. members in Belfast.

B.A.O.R.  
19.9.45.

Dear Shamus,

I have done a frightening amount of reading in the past week but the work that has impressed me most is Trotsky's booklet "Germany: The Key to the International Situation". The correctness of Trotsky's line in regard to Germany is unanny. The Stalinist betrayal of the German workers to the fascists has no parallel in history and the revolutionary situation that the Stalinists have sabotaged in various European countries. It seems incredible, Jimmy, that I once used to try and defend the actions of these renegades in the name of "tactics". This issue seems so clear-cut to me now that I can't see how any sincere militant worker in any part of the world can indulge



# The EXPANSION CAMPAIGN TARGETS SET FOR BRANCHES

The campaign is under way. Reports from Branches all over the country indicate a favourable reaction to our appeal for £500. While it is a little too early for "congratulations all round", nevertheless the feeling that success will crown our efforts permeates all the letters which have come in.

The first is from a group of comrades in the Forces:

"Many thanks for the circulars outlining the Expansion Campaign. The comrades here have set themselves a target of £25 to be attained during the three months of the Campaign Fund. With all good wishes for your success."

The appreciation of these comrades for the work which our Party is doing is underlined by the prompt manner in which they have already paid £6 towards their target, which is recorded in the list as from "Shandon".

From a member of the American Trotskyist Party, the Socialist Workers Party, we received a donation of £20 which goes to the credit of the quota for the Party centre. Such a measure of generosity is a powerful example of internationalism which is the hallmark of Trotskyism.

The Sheffield Branch has requested that another £5 be added to their quota which originally stood at £15. This is a one hundred percent working class branch. Good work comrades!

Letters have been received from Edinburgh, Cheltenham, Eastbourne, Southall, the North, West, and South-West London Branches contributing initial payments. Branches which have not paid in any money so far, please note.

Since the campaign was launched, a number of really splendid ideas for raising money for our Party have come to light. Our London engineering comrades are already busily preparing to utilise their skill to gain cash for the Fund, whilst from the Midlands comes the news of the utilisation of football coupons in this direction also.

In the Hendon Branch a very industrious comrade has started to produce useful Xmas gifts in her spare time, and the last London aggregate was the scene of a successful raffle by the West London Branch of a bound volume of the Fourth International.

We are pleased to note that plans for jumble sales, dances and socials are

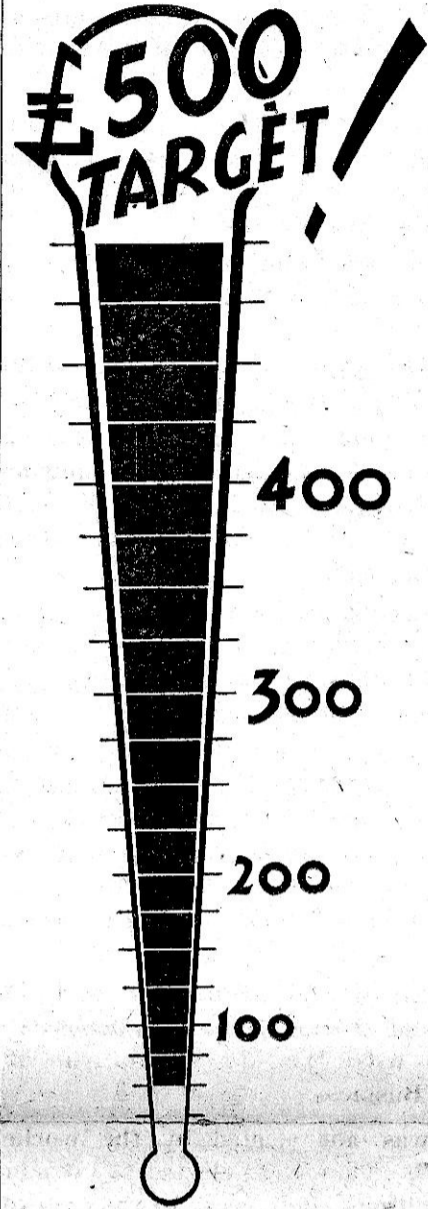
already under way, and hope that these will increase as the Xmas season approaches.

The eyes of the advanced workers in the Labour movement are turning in the direction of our Party. The success of our Fund will be an inspiring example of the seriousness with which the Trotskyists treat their programme and their Party.

S. Healy (Campaign Organiser).  
H. Atkinson (Treasurer).

## How the Campaign is Going

Branches	Target	Paid in	% age.
EASTBOURNE	£5	£3	60%
CENTRAL OFFICE	£50	£25	50%
EDINBURGH	£15	£5	33 1/3%
WEST LONDON	£30	£8 5s.	27%
CHELTEHAM	£1	5s.	25%
SHANDON	£25	£6	24%
SOUTHALL	£15	£2 13s.	17%
NORTH LONDON	£25	£2 9s.	10%
S.E. LONDON	£20	£2	10%
S.W. LONDON	£25	£2	8%
BIRMINGHAM	£20	—	—
GLASGOW & MOTHERWELL	£40	—	—
LEEDS	£8	—	—
LIVERPOOL	£30	—	—
NEWCASTLE	£30	—	—
NOTTINGHAM	£25	—	—
SHEFFIELD	£20	—	—
NEATH	£15	—	—
GWAUN-CAE-GURWEN	£8	—	—
CANNOCK	£7	—	—
MERTHYR and TREDEGAR	£7	—	—
NORWICH	£7	—	—
PLYMOUTH and CORNWALL	£2	—	—
NEWARK	£3	—	—
OXFORD	£5	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£486</b>	<b>£56 12s.</b>	<b>11 1/2%</b>



# TYNE STRIKE

BY H. BELL.

The employers' vicious policy of nibbling at the rights of the workers has caused a strike of workers employed in the fitting shop of the Shipbuilding Corporation, Walker-on-Tyne. The management, contrary to the provisions of the E.W.O., on and after September 3rd locked out all men at 7.45 a.m. for the whole day.

A mass meeting of the workers in the Yard was held immediately following the lock-out and unanimously condemned this arbitrary action of the management. As a result of this strong protest the management informed the men that they could start at 1 o'clock mid-day, by first seeking the permission of the foremen. This offer was rightly rejected; because such a procedure could only be calculated to victimise militant workers, who already were unpopular with the foremen.

Brother Tate, Shop Steward in the Fitting Department, approached the A.E.U. District Organiser asking for assistance to defend the rights of the workers. He was told by the District Organiser, that the strike must remain the responsibility of the rank and file strikers. The District Committee, pursuing the same policy as the Organiser, used every method possible to evade the Strike Committee. Only after persistent efforts had been made did the men finally succeed in stating their case and presenting their facts to the D.C.—only to be cross questioned and told to retire.

The Strike Committee realising the importance of the issue at stake has issued a Statement and an appeal for moral and financial support to the Works Convenors and Shop Stewards of all Tyneside Yards. Certain Convenors and Stewards are trying to break the back of the strike by withholding the facts and appeals for support from the men.

The rank and file Fitters are asking: whose side are the union officials on? They see that their struggle against the attacks of the employers is also a struggle against a union leadership which refuses to defend the elementary rights of the workers. The immediate call of the Strike Committee to all Shop Stewards and sincere trade unionists is: Call Shop Steward Meetings on This Question! Organise Shop Collections! Support the Strikers

The Strike Committee request that all monies should be sent to:

W. Alexander,  
126, Clydesdale Road,  
Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

# Leeds Transport Strike

BY HEATON LEE

The Leeds Transport strike which began on Tuesday, 25th September, collapsed like a pricked bubble as a result of a sell-out by the strike leadership after a magnificent 8 day stand by the rank and file, in face of sabotage by the permanent Trade Union officials of the T.G.W.U., a hostile and vicious press, and scores of blackleg trash that rushed to volunteer for the dirtiest job in the world.

At a Branch meeting of No. 9/12 Branch of the T.G.W.U., held on September 4th, a resolution was carried that the Union give 21 days' notice to the employees, that as from 25th September, drivers would suspend the practice of working as conductors if no driving was available for them.

On 25th September, 27 drivers were suspended for abiding by their Branch decision, and by 10 a.m. all vehicles had returned to their depots and the strike started.

There was tremendous sympathy amongst the workers in Leeds and the rest of Yorkshire for the strikers. West Riding and the B. & S. bus drivers and conductresses who met at a specially convened meeting on the Sunday before the strike collapsed, decided as a spontaneous gesture of solidarity with the striking Leeds transport workers, not to drive into Leeds beyond the city boundaries.

On the following night drivers and conductresses of the West Yorkshire Road Car Co. showed their solidarity by deciding that they would not allow passengers to board or alight in Leeds except at the Central Bus Station and at the respective boundaries of the different routes. Maintenance men in the bus council depots, members of the A.E.U. and the N.U.V.B. decided on the same night to come out on strike in sympathy with the drivers and conductresses.

The branch committee which claimed to be the leadership of the strike had capitulated to the bureaucrats of the T.G.W.U. The branch committee, who must accept joint responsibility for the sell-out, tabled the self-same motion which had been rejected almost unanimously at a previous mass meeting on the 27th September, without explaining to the rank and file what conditions had altered to make an about-face necessary. In fact they could not, because conditions had developed in the strikers favour, and there was every possibility of forcing the Council and the management to their knees.

Disoriented and without alternative leadership, after a three and a half hour battle against the union officials and the branch committee the workers voted 2 to 1 to return to work the

following day to allow negotiations to proceed. A deadline date of midnight of October 13th was fixed for the completion of negotiations. There is no doubt that the council will remedy some of the grievances. They have felt the hot blast of determined strike action. But the concessions that they will make will be niggardly compared with the gains that would have been made had the leaders remained true to their members.

There are certain lessons to be drawn from the strike, which was precipitated by the dictatorial attitude of the manager and the assistant manager, who had the backing of the entire Transport sub-committee including the Labour members of the committee, and the Leader of the Labour Group, on the City Council. Organised workers in Leeds must see to it that the candidates they nominate to represent them

on the City Council are militant Trade Unionists and Socialists pledged to wipe out this blot on Labour's record in Leeds.

The strike leadership failed the workers in many respects. No strike committee was elected and the branch leadership failed in its duty of keeping the rank and file informed of developments. It did not draw up, and arrange for the distribution of leaflets publicising their case. They failed to expose the methods and policy of the permanent officials of the Union, by carrying the struggle against them into every T.G.W.U. branch in the area. Except for two demonstrations they failed to face up to the problem of organising opposition to the blackleg menace. They should have immediately made an appeal to the organised Labour and Trade Union movement—T.U. branches, shop stewards committees, Labour Parties, Co-ops., and the Trades Council—to organise and support a thorough boycott of blackleg-operated vehicles. They turned down a splendid gesture of solidarity by the overhead linesmen to come out on strike in sympathy with their comrades on the fantastic grounds that overhead linesmen were in the same position as "safety men" in the pits.

Instead of making class appeals to the workers of Leeds and asking for a Trade Union inquiry into the grievances they called for a "public enquiry" without saying who should take the initiative in organising such an enquiry (presumably they expected the self-same Council who were backing up the manager, or perhaps some of the "impartial business men" or "professional men" who were blacklegging to sit on the commission). They dissipated the tremendous and precious enthusiasm and solidarity of 2,500 workers ready for a struggle against intolerable conditions. They spurned the magnificent solidarity shown by their brother drivers and conductresses of the West Riding, B. & S., and West Yorkshire Road Car Co. by capitulating to the bureaucrats of the T.G.W.U. and the reactionary management, without referring the matter to these workers at all.

The branch committee must share with the permanent officials, the full responsibility for smashing one of the most solid strikes ever to have taken place in Yorkshire. Amongst the one third of the workers who voted against a resumption of work there must be a new leadership, whose job it is to learn the lessons of the present defeat and to prepare for the inevitable showdown with the management and the Council, as well as with Healy and Fitzgerald.

# Sick Miners Demand Square Deal

BY JOHNNY JONES (CROWN)

Every Friday the roads that lead to the colliery offices in South Wales are literally covered with men on their way to draw the "compensation" due to them because of their disabilities. The vast majority are suffering from Pneumoconiosis or Silicosis. If this terrible scourge is not soon ended, places like Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen will soon become Towns of Partial Compensation men!

Since June 1943, when Pneumoconiosis was scheduled as an industrial disease, over 40 G.C.G. workmen have passed the Final Board. And this year alone over 200 have contracted this deadly disease. This appalling position is not much of an incentive to miners to work harder to produce the extra 8 million tons of coal.

All these men (except a few on Full Compensation) are in receipt of Partial Compensation, which is based on two-thirds of the pre-accident earnings after deducting £4 3s. 0d. as the "hypothetical" figure. This method of defining compensation for the castaways of the mining industry creates terrible injustices—especially for surface workers and day wage men working underground.

The maximum partial compensation legally due to these classes of workmen cannot exceed 4s. 8d. for a surface worker, and 11s. 4d. for the underground day wage man! But many of the unfortunate victims do not even get this meagre pittance! Because of loss of work (usually due to the illness) they have failed to earn the £4 10s. 0d. Porter maximum, and consequently there are great numbers of crippled miners who draw the princely sum of 3s. 8d. "compensation"!

BECAUSE OF THIS TREATMENT MANY SURFACE WORKMEN WHO FEEL THE GRIP OF THIS DREADED DISEASE, REFRAIN FROM GOING FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND CONTINUE WORKING, RATHER THAN TRY TO EXIST ON THE SCANDALOUS COMPENSATION WHICH THEY GET, IF CERTIFIED.

Surface workmen and underground day wage men are as necessary to the industry, as is the man working at the coal face. When they are injured they lose their earning power exactly the same as the higher paid pieceworker. But capitalism creates "classes" even in the ranks of injured workmen!

It is high time this injustice was ended. Jim Griffiths, the ex-miner who is now Minister of Social Insurance, must be made to immediately introduce a Bill which will give every injured workman the LEGAL RIGHT to Full Wages whilst he is injured, and until he recovers or finds suitable employment.

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**GWYN HALL**  
**NEATH**  
SUNDAY, 28th OCTOBER, 7 p.m.  
**JOCK HASTON**      **JOHN LAWRENCE**  
Wales Organiser R.C.P.  
**LABOUR IN POWER - WHAT NEXT?**  
**WILL DAVIES (International Brigade) IN THE CHAIR**  
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

**SOCIALIST APPEAL**  
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EDITORIAL

# Strikes and the Labour Government

A wave of strikes and protest movements is beginning to sweep over Britain. Dockers, building workers, engineers, railwaymen, transport workers and other sections of the working class are stirring into action.

This movement of protest is a reflection of the dissatisfaction of the workers at the wages and conditions imposed upon them by the employers during the war. It is the aftermath of the strain and privation suffered by the workers.

In the industrial field it is the same mood of hatred of capitalism, which was expressed in the political field by the victory of the Labour Party at the polls.

America, world citadel of capitalism, has been equally affected by an even greater wave of strikes against the capitalists and bankers, who have made a good thing out of the war and seek to place the burdens of the peace once again on the shoulders of the working class. A bitter struggle is inevitable. Neither the British, American, or workers of other countries will tolerate such an outcome of the imperialist war.

The Labour and Trade Union bureaucrats, and in particular the Stalinists are attempting to baffle the workers by claiming that strikes, demonstrations and other forms of mass protest can only "embarrass" the Labour Government and aid the capitalists in attacking it.

Just the contrary is the case. Mass pressure against the capitalists can only assist the Labour Government if the leaders are serious in desiring to take action against the big capitalists. Having taken such action, the movement of the workers would automatically cease. For only then will their legitimate demands be met.

Those in the Labour movement who genuinely want to clip the wings of the capitalists and Tories; who are desirous of making a fundamental break with the old system, can only welcome such pressure on Big Business.

The Labour Government was not elected by the workers to operate "business as usual". They were elected to introduce real improvements in the conditions and lives of the working class.

The pressure of the workers on the Labour Government acts as a counterweight to the pressure of the monopolies. And the speeches of the Labour leaders—Bevin, Attlee, Morrison, Cripps and the others—indicate that such pressure is vitally necessary to bring home to these leaders that the working class mean business; that they demand radical measures. If any more sacrifices are to be made, then let the employers make them!

The "Daily Mail", most rabid and pro-fascist organ of the press is beginning to campaign against the "Trotskyist agitators", "underground movements" as being responsible for these mass protests. Already it has been joined by the "Daily Telegraph" which refers to the work of "subversive elements". Thus, once again the age-old trick of the reaction is brought out; blaming the revolutionary socialists for what is caused by the ulcers of the rotting system of capitalism.

Workers do not go on strike for the fun of it. They do not go on strike as the result of "agitators" or "subversive movements". People who say this insult the intelligence of the working class. They take action only as a result of legitimate grievances. It is the capitalist system which causes strikes. If the Labour Government got a move on and rectified their grievances, such movements of protest would automatically cease. If the Labour Government really represented the interests of the workers, it would actively intervene on their behalf in all disputes.

The need for a genuine programme of radical action against capitalism is precisely shown by the restlessness of the workers and the power of the unofficial movements to mobilise hundreds of thousands of workers in the key industries.

Radical measures against the capitalists would evoke an instant response from the masses throughout Britain. Any attempts to sabotage the Labour Government by the capitalists and Tories would be met by the setting up of committees in every industry to support the Labour Government.

Action by the Government against the workers can only disillusion them. The capitalists will bide their time, and choose a suitable opportunity to overthrow the Labour Government.

We warn the workers that only mass pressure upon the Government can force through real measures in the interests of the working class. The Revolutionary Communist Party wholeheartedly and unequivocally supports every struggle of the workers against the capitalists. Such struggles are the proof that the workers mean business; are an indication that in any real action taken against the capitalists the Labour Government would have the masses solidly behind them. Their failure under such favourable circumstances to take real action, is a betrayal of the working class.

# PALESTINE CRISIS

# POLICE TERROR IN SOUTH AFRICA

Reports reaching this country clearly indicate that once more "disturbances" are about to break out in Palestine.

During the last two weeks, the leading London newspapers reported that on account of the very tense feelings prevailing now in Palestine, Field-Marshal Lord Gort, the High Commissioner for Palestine had to return hurriedly to his post.

Other information carried by the London papers was to the effect that British troops were sent to Palestine to reinforce the local garrison.

Right from the outset it must be made clear that the Palestinian problem is a three sided one and not two sided, as the British Government and newspapers would like us to believe. The question at issue is not that Arabs and Jews cannot live peacefully together and that British imperialism is out once more to play its "democratic" role in restoring peace to the "uncivilised" and quarrelsome Asiatic peoples. Nor is it a question of a few thousand more certificates that the Jews demand to allow the remnants of European Jewry to immigrate to Palestine, and to which the Arabs disagree.

Fundamentally, the causes of the present crisis lie much deeper and go a good few years back.

The position at present is as follows: the Zionist leaders maintain that the one million Jews who managed to survive the Nazi concentration camps and persecutions do not want to remain in Europe, but all want to immigrate to Palestine. And secondly, that Palestine must be turned into a Jewish state.

The Arab leaders, naturally enough, resist these demands, and threaten that unless the British Government adhere to the 1939 White Paper policy (which allows for only a limited Jewish immigration and which practically forbids the Zionists to buy land from the Arabs) they will declare a "Holy War".

BY D. TAMARY

And the third "party" British imperialism, pretends to please everybody, but in fact pleases itself.

Coming back to the Zionist demands, we must first make sure of the truth of their claims. It is needless to describe the horrors and suffering the Jewish people in Europe went through under the Nazi regime. But is there any truth in the claim that these survivors want to go to Palestine. The answer is no.

It is known from the most confidential informer (for obvious reasons it is impossible to disclose his name) that when the chairman of the Jewish agency Mr. Ben-Gurion, flew to Bulgaria with 10,000 certificates soon after the liberation of that country by the Red Army, he was unable to get more than 1,000 Jews to agree to immigrate to Palestine. Since that day the Zionists have encountered similar results in most of the countries in Europe. The Jews never really wanted to go there only because the gates of all other countries were closed to them.

There might be a number of young Zionist idealists who are being misled and still want to immigrate to Palestine, but it is a monstrous and deliberate lie on the part of the Zionist leaders when they say that they speak in the name of world Jewry. And their fantastic idea of turning Palestine into a Jewish state might lead to catastrophic results to Palestinian Jewry.

Ever since Zionist colonisation in Palestine started, the Arab masses tried to resist by one means or another, this invasion of their land. Every four or five years, the Arab masses, led or more correctly misled by the most reactionary elements amongst the Effendis (landowners) would rise against the unwelcome invaders, only to be betrayed again and again by the same leaders. The Arab landowners, like the feudalists in all other feudal or semi-feudal countries, are the strong-

est supporters of imperialism, and once the masses get involved in the struggle, these same "leaders" quickly bring the struggle to an end and come to terms with British imperialism.

But this is only a half of their betrayal. At the very same time when the men whom they rallied to the struggle, perish in battle... the so-called leaders make profitable business by selling their land to the Zionists. As a result of which hundreds more peasants are expelled from the land.

British imperialism is feeding the British people on propaganda and keeping them ignorant of the real facts at issue. They have been trying to create the impression that the Palestinian problem is just one big headache for them and that they are staying in Palestine only for humanitarian grounds (presumably to prevent Arabs and Jews fighting against each other), and that they get no material gain out of Palestine.

True, Palestine is not a second India which British imperialism can "milk". Palestine is a small and very poor country, but strategically it is of the greatest importance. With the naval base at Haifa and control of the great pipe-lines and oil refineries, British imperialism is able to control the Eastern Mediterranean. The tremendously large new military aerodromes built in Palestine during the war, make the control of the air routes to India and the Far East possible. And last, but by no means least, it is in a strategic position for the protection of the Suez Canal, which lies to the south of Palestine.

The Labour leaders, while still out of office, pledged to give full support to the Zionist cause and to the creation of the Jewish state in Palestine. Now that the Labour Party is in office they take over the role of up-keepers and preservers of the British empire and the custodians of the interests of the British capitalists in the colonies. In fact, both these policies are extremely reactionary.

The British policy in Palestine all along was to support and encourage each side alternately, thus making use once more of the foul policy of divide and rule. British imperialism is very much to be blamed for the bloodshed in Palestine for the last 28 years.

So far the Arab struggle for national liberation has failed, primarily because there was hardly an Arab working class to take part and eventually lead the struggle. During the war, this new factor was created, and the Arab proletariat came into existence. Although the Arab working class is still in its embryo there is no doubt that with the great anti-imperialist uprisings which are bound to take place in Egypt, Syria and Iraq, the Arab working class in Palestine will also come to the fore in their struggle for national independence.

The Jewish problem cannot be solved within the borders of Palestine. The only solution to the Jewish problem is to fight for equal and full democratic rights in Europe and the world. The workers must demand from Britain, America and the Dominions that they open the gates to those Jewish refugees who wish to emigrate from Europe.

In Palestine, the only way for the Jewish workers is to unite with the Arab workers and fight together for a Socialist independent Palestine with equal rights for the Jewish minority within a Federation of Arab Socialist Republics of the Middle East.



Reproduced from the American "Militant" (Trotskyist).

# Party Activities

BY M. LEE

**LEEDS:** The Yorkshire District Committee issued a Special Supplement on the Leeds Transport strike and 430 copies were sold on the streets. Comrade Heaton Lee stood at the main corner of the city and shouted for 4 hours. "Read all about the Black (leg) Plague in Leeds—and how to cure it." Several militant trade unionists approached him to say how pleased they were. The slogan was very effective. The local press commented on the activity of our comrades. The Yorkshire "Evening News", October 2nd, stated the following:

**"TROUBLE MAKERS COME TO LEEDS"**

All over the country the small existing groups of so-called revolutionary Communists (Trotskyists) have mobilised forces available to take advantage of the strike in Leeds to remind the workers of their existence and make political capital.

Leading propagandists are converging upon Leeds to reinforce the local group of Revolutionary Communists.

That is the information which responsible observers in London get from a number of sources. The revolutionary Communists, it appears want to take advantage of the passive attitude of the Communist Party to win new members for their own movement.

Their propaganda is aimed against the Labour Party, trade unions and the Communist Party.

Whenever the militants attack the trade union leaders, the reactionaries say this is an attack upon the trade unions to cover up the leaders. Despite the slander, militant trade unionists are beginning to see that we are the real defenders of the Trade Union movement in demanding that

the leaders carry out the wishes of the rank and file.

**BIRMINGHAM:** From Birmingham our comrades write: Comrade Jock Haston paid a very welcome visit to Birmingham on September 15th and 16th. He and Comrade Bill Hunter, the Midlands Organiser addressed a good meeting on Sunday morning in the Bull Ring. The meeting lasted 2½ hours. A good collection was taken and 50 "Socialist Appeals" were sold.

In the evening Comrade Haston spoke to an appreciative audience of about 40, on the subject of "Socialism or Atomic War." His answers to questions were excellent, in particular to a forces sympathiser of the S.P.G.B. The editor of the local Labour weekly "Town Crier" invited us to send a report of Jock Haston's meeting.

A further programme of lectures is to be arranged on the basis of the syllabus of the London District Committee.

**WALES:** The comrades write: "We are becoming very popular now—more than usual. There is really a profound discontent with the Labour Government. We get lots of workers coming into the shop and criticising them and agreeing with our line."

We sold right out of the last issue of the "Socialist Appeal". In the streets of Ammanford alone we sold 400 last Saturday—and it was raining all the time.

**LONDON:** The work of the London District Committee has been largely devoted to the recent industrial disputes—dock workers and building trade workers. Regular sales of our party literature are held at the docks and we have been well received.

At the mass demonstration of build-

Monday, 8th October, our comrades sold out of all literature they had—350 "Socialist Appeals". Ten times that number could have been sold had they been available.

Our building worker comrades participated in the demonstration.

(Continued from next Column)

it was refused. Later in the day this position was rectified, but relatives are still not permitted to see the accused.

So the story of Payneville Location is added to the long list of tyranny, oppression and violence, which is a list of the crimes and brutalities of the ruling class and their Capitalist system. The suppression of the right of the Africans to lodge any complaint, to make any demand is so complete that a question as slight as that of the home brewing of beer results in the death of five human beings. Are our rulers so unsure of their ability to sit on the dynamite of Workers' anger, that every manifestation of people's action must immediately be met by bullets and blood?

Payneville Location has been crushed. Other manifestations of dissatisfaction throughout the country, at Modderfontein, at Pretoria, have also been quelled. But the force of African mass discontent cannot be kept down for very long. The African workers will succeed when they unite against their oppression, and when they realise that their fight is not sectional, when they learn that their fight is national, and more than national it is the fight of the working class against capitalist injustice. In this fight, today and in the future, the Workers' International League pledges full support. We stand for full democratic rights for all, and the struggle against the system that made the crime of Payneville Location possible.

**Editor's Note.** The following item is reproduced from the paper "Socialist Action", South African Trotskyist paper. It gains topicality from the fact that the South African "democratic" Government refused to allow delegates from the Negro unions, to attend the World Trade Union Conference. This article gives a vivid picture of the virtual slavery of the African people and of the brutal police terror which is used to suppress them. The "locations" referred to, are ghettos set up miles away from the towns and where the natives are compelled by law to reside. They are usually completely insanitary hovels and placed in the most unhealthy areas. The humiliation, the repression and exploitation of the Negro people in South Africa is no better under the Union Jack than was the treatment of the Jews by the Nazi barbarians. In these incidents which the article describes can be seen the full horror of the present regime in South Africa.—

## POLICE TERROR IN SPRINGS! SIX AFRICANS KILLED BY L. SWART

Six people are dead in Springs, they have been murdered by the vicious and stupid power of the South African ruling class. Many are injured, including 20 policemen. They have been mutilated by the effects of Fascism, just as surely as if they had been living in Germany during the hey-day of Nazism. The immediate cause of the disturbance was over the question of home-brewing of beer. The real reason is the policy of attempting to keep eight million people in chains, of making out of their own country a concentration camp for them.

At Payneville Location the price charged in the Municipal Beer-halls is 8/1 for a four gallon tin of beer. For a long time now the women of Payneville have been objecting to this same at home for the sum of 1/6. And as they say that they can produce the yet if they attempt to save this 6/- or more they are immediately arrested under the Native Liquor Laws for having committed a crime. Another grievance that they have is that a favoured few receive the same beer from the Superintendent for 4/-. Nor are they satisfied with the concoction given them, which they allege has deteriorated in quality. Their simple demand then was for the legal right to brew beer for their menfolk at home, and to save money instead of allowing the Municipality to take away in such a large profit their meagre wages.

The women of Springs have sent their request to the Superintendent of the Location and to the Municipality of Springs. They have waited for a reply, but the high and mighty have not deigned to answer them. These women staged a boycott of the Location Beer-Hall which had been continuing for two weeks. On Sunday morning, the 22nd of July, the women picketed the entrance to the Hall, the only effective means that serious strikers have against government scabs. The Superintendent arrived and told them to move off. When they refused, it is alleged that he remarked that he knew very well that the Beer Halls would open soon. He knew that only too well for he then called the Police in.

The people of Payneville Location deny that the fight was started from their side, they deny the story that they first threw stones at the Police. Their side of the story is that the Police made a brutal attack on the women in order to clear them from the entrance door. It was then that the men came to the defence of their women and the general struggle took place.

The Africans were unarmed but the police saw fit to send for ammunition and fired indiscriminately into the crowd. Payneville Location has become another Marabastad. Would the Police dare fire on a crowd of Europeans, say for instance during the Women's Food Protests in Cape Town?

Many Mine workers employed in the Springs Area have reported that, unaware of the disturbance they entered the Location, where they were viciously set upon without any provocation on their part, by the arm of the law, the law of oppression and injustice.

The militant leaders of the Location have been rounded up and arrested, thus depriving the people of their vanguard. Well over 100 in all have been locked up. But the determination of the authorities to smash any sign of militancy is shown by the fact that the four elected members of the Advisory Board have been arrested, the four nominated members have not been touched. Of such is the country of Democracy.

When the arrested were brought before court on the Tuesday they were remanded without bail. They complained that since their arrest they had been given so little food that they were almost starving. Their request for food were answered by statements that what they would get was the sticks and stones that they had thrown. Permission was granted in Court for Payneville residents to bring the prisoners food. However when an attempt was made to bring the food,

(Continued in previous Column)



**"But don't you think we bombed Japan in a truly Christian manner?  
We were very careful not to hit the really IMPORTANT people."  
Reproduced from the American "Militant" (Trotskyist).**

# HERBIE BELL CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY

BY W. LANDLESS

The campaign of our comrades to have Comrade Herbie Bell elected in the forthcoming municipal elections is now well under way in the North-East.

Systematic canvassing of the area has begun. It already shows that we have a wide circle of unsuspected sympathisers who were attracted to the R.C.P. policy during the General Elections.

During that period our meetings at Wallsend were better attended than any run by the Labour Party. Comrade Bell has shown himself to be a popular workers' leader, respected and looked to for advice by workers in the area, who find themselves in conflict with the boss class.

In stating its case, the N.E. District of the R.C.P. has adopted the most sympathetic approach to the Labour Party workers, who reply to criticisms of the Labour Government by stating that "It's true they have done nothing yet but give them time."

Our comrades are able to point out that while the Labour leaders have "done nothing" for the workers they have done much for the boss class.

They have urged the miners to work harder and promised the coal-owners good compensation in the event of the nationalisation of the mines.

They have broken several strikes by the use of troops, thus assisting the capitalists and misusing the workers who were conscripted to "fight fascism."

They allowed members of the middle class to scab on the Leeds transport workers and drive transport, under conditions that ordinarily would bring the police department down to cart the drivers off to jail for endangering the life of the public.

These actions, our comrades point out, demonstrate that although the Labour leaders have only been in power a few months, they have been quite active. But not on the behalf of the workers, on behalf of the boss.

The positive statement of Comrade Bell's case, which is an elaboration of the 12 point programme of the R.C.P., and an explanation that all the local problems, whilst important in themselves, must nevertheless be fought for within the framework of our general programme, is receiving a good hearing.

Once the comrades get their loud-speaker apparatus into play, every voter in the district will hear the case of the R.C.P. put by leading comrades in the district including Comrade Bell himself.

The most class conscious workers in the Wallsend area will vote for Herbie Bell against his Labour and Capitalist opponents.

The new world which has emerged from the horrors of World War II, is in an even worse condition than the world of Versailles.

Yet the full horror of the position for International Socialists lies in the fact that the foremost of the plundering victors is the Stalinist regime.

No call for International Socialism issues from the Kremlin, but the familiar language of power politics. The Soviet bureaucracy comes to the Conference Table prepared to speak the same language as the capitalist-Imperialist Powers.

Thus, Molotov demands not the liberation of the small powers, but a Soviet sphere of influence in the Balkans, both to increase the economic revenues of the Soviet bureaucracy and, above all, as a strategic base against his "Allies".

Britain and America wish to undermine the stranglehold established by Russia in the Balkans, hence their concern for the establishment of "democracy" and "freedom" in these areas.

They show, of course, a complete lack of concern for "democracy" in India and the colonies.

None are really concerned for the rights of all peoples to determine their fate, without interference from the mighty Great Powers, now reduced to Three.

If Russia cynically demands that the fate of all Europe and Asia shall practically be determined by the Trinity of Powers, the bureaucracy is but carrying Power-politics to its real conclusion.

If Anglo-American Imperialism wishes to allow nominal "consultation" with the lesser two of the Big Five, that is because, as capitalist Powers their natural sympathies go to the capitalist Powers, who together with them, have a mutual hatred and antagonism for the workers' state despite its degeneracy.

The hypocrisy of the "Daily Herald" and the Labour leaders is almost unlimited. Bevin, at the Conference stood forth as the bold defender of British Imperialism and Imperialist interests.

Democracy like charity, begins at home. When democracy has been established in the areas under the control of British Imperialism, then will be the time when they can demand democracy in the areas under Russian control.

But the whole farce was shown by the position of America, which demanded full participation, together with Britain and Russia in control of the Balkans, while maintaining complete domination of their occupation forces over Japan.

The repulsive position has developed that the Stalinist bureaucrats, (faithfully echoed by their funkies in Britain, in the columns of the "Daily Worker" and in the propaganda of the "Communist" Parties throughout the world) complain that the treatment of Japan is not harsh enough!

Is it because the Americans have become more tender-hearted and liberal towards a defeated enemy? It was but yesterday that they referred to the Japanese people as half-baboons and "little yellow monkeys" against whom no measures were too harsh.

It is not a change of heart but the fact that they hope to convert Japan into a base for Asia in case of a conflict with the Soviet Union.

Every question which came up on the agenda was examined by the participants purely from the viewpoint of economic and strategic points of vantage for the economic struggle, spheres of influence and strategic positions for the next conflict.

Thus the next decade or two promises to hold even worse crises in store for the peoples than the armistice between the wars. Not peace, but only a new breathing space between wars has been created.

One thing and one thing only binds the Western Powers together with the Soviet bureaucracy: fear of the Revolution. But the clashes and contradictions prepare the way for a response from the workers of Europe and the world for the ideas of Lenin.

Genuine peace, genuine prosperity, genuine democracy can only be established by the overthrow of capitalism and the fraternal co-operation of the peoples in a Soviet Socialist United States of Europe and the World.

# Dockers Struggle

(Continued from page 1)

return to work, the pit prop men replied: "We wouldn't return for 35/- a day. We will only return when our national demands have been met fully."

The national strike has not flared up overnight. For years the Dock workers have been subjected to the vicious and arbitrary actions of the various Port authorities. In the interest of the "war for democracy" and "security" they were sweated and made records in turning round the ships.

But as soon as the war ended, the ship owners and port owners slashed the wages of the Dock workers. Not satisfied with the high rates of profit during the war, the owners are determined to maintain these profits in the peace.

For example, the Cunard Steamship Company, in the worst year of the war for shipping losses, made a profit of £312,127; the Cunard White Star, in the same period, increased its profits by £40,000 to £659,000, and paid half a million in dividends.

The July London Dockers' struggle was provoked by the capitalists, who wanted to reduce the wages of the Dock workers to a level lower than pre-war; to smash the Decasualisation Scheme and to render the Dockers' organisations harmless.

The Donovans, Barratts and Condons assisted the plans of the capitalists. These so-called "leaders" did everything they could to smash the unity of the Dock workers.

## DOCKERS HAVE LEARNED THE LESSON!

The Dockers have learned the lesson! At Liverpool, Hull and London, monster meetings of Dockers have passed votes of "no confidence" in their Trade Union "leaders".

When Barratt, a member of His Majesty's "Communist" Party, asked the London Dockers why they had passed a vote of "no confidence" in them, the Dockers told him: "Because you are no good!"

And this goes for all the officials who live well on the dockers' backs. Donovan accuses the Dockers of being "unconstitutional". Every rank and file Docker throughout the country works his salt, supports the national strike and the demands of the Liverpool and London Dockers.

Certainly the vast majority in Dockland. Yet a small minority of officials accuse the overwhelming majority of the rank and file members, who elected them to represent their interests, of "unconstitutional action!"

This small group of officials, who have consistently opposed every struggle of the Dock workers for better conditions, must be replaced by a militant Trade Union leadership.

The Trade Union officials must be subjected to the right of immediate recall, and paid the same wages as the dock workers themselves.

## LABOUR GOVERNMENT USES TROOPS TO SCAB

The introduction of troops by the Labour Government characterises it as a strike breaking Government. It will cost thousands upon thousands of pounds for the Government to pay the troops engaged in this work.

But such thousands, which will eventually run into millions, can be found very quickly to break the dockers' strike. More than this, the Labour Government can send out a network of officers, and all that is entailed in the movement of troops. But it will not issue one single order demanding that the shipping and port bosses grant the dockers' demands!

In half a day the Labour Government could force the

bosses to give the dockers their immediate demands. The troops, as in the case of July in London, have no heart for the job. They are under military discipline, otherwise they most certainly would refuse to scab on their fellow workers. These soldiers will not at all like the idea of being kept in the army to scab on their fellow workers.

The Labour Government refuses to speed up demobilisation because it wants to use the troops, not only for the policing of Europe and the installation of reactionary Governments, as in Java, but to scab on the British worker. The organised workers must condemn this policy of the Labour Government and demand that it take measures against the capitalists.

In one day the Labour Government could take the Docks Industry—which is so vital to the people as a whole—out of the hands of the ship-owners, confiscate their profits made out of the sweat of the dockers, seamen and all port workers, and give the dockers 25s. a day and a 40-hour week.

## NEXT STEPS FOR THE DOCKERS?

The dock workers have demonstrated wonderful solidarity and a clear understanding of the role of the union "leaders". The next step of the dockers is to thoroughly organise their struggle on national lines.

A rank and file National Conference must be called immediately. This conference could plan the collection of funds to give strike pay to the needy dockers, the organisation of public support; the issuance of a Bulletin, a most vital necessity when workers have to rely upon a national daily press which is trying to smash their struggles. These steps are necessary if the dockers' struggles are to be properly organised on a national scale.

Comrade Dockers: Close the ranks! Organise! A National Rank and File Conference immediately! For a Militant and Democratic Union Leadership! Solidarity with the Dockers!

# Big 5 Farce

So farcical were the proceedings at the Five Power Conference that the main protagonists did not reach agreement on a single major question. The real issues which motivated the policies of the Allied Powers have come to the surface. So irreconcilable were the aims and motives of the Big Powers, that they were compelled to admit complete failure.

The new world which has emerged from the horrors of World War II, is in an even worse condition than the world of Versailles.

Yet the full horror of the position for International Socialists lies in the fact that the foremost of the plundering victors is the Stalinist regime.

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They show, of course, a complete lack of concern for "democracy" in India and the colonies.

None are really concerned for the rights of all peoples to determine their fate, without interference from the mighty Great Powers, now reduced to Three.

If Russia cynically demands that the fate of all Europe and Asia shall practically be determined by the Trinity of Powers, the bureaucracy is but carrying Power-politics to its real conclusion.

If Anglo-American Imperialism wishes to allow nominal "consultation" with the lesser two of the Big Five, that is because, as capitalist Powers their natural sympathies go to the capitalist Powers, who together with them, have a mutual hatred and antagonism for the workers' state despite its degeneracy.

The hypocrisy of the "Daily Herald" and the Labour leaders is almost unlimited. Bevin, at the Conference stood forth as the bold defender of British Imperialism and Imperialist interests.

Democracy like charity, begins at home. When democracy has been established in the areas under the

control of British Imperialism, then will be the time when they can demand democracy in the areas under Russian control.

But the whole farce was shown by the position of America, which demanded full participation, together with Britain and Russia in control of the Balkans, while maintaining complete domination of their occupation forces over Japan.

The repulsive position has developed that the Stalinist bureaucrats, (faithfully echoed by their funkies in Britain, in the columns of the "Daily Worker" and in the propaganda of the "Communist" Parties throughout the world) complain that the treatment of Japan is not harsh enough!

Is it because the Americans have become more tender-hearted and liberal towards a defeated enemy? It was but yesterday that they referred to the Japanese people as half-baboons and "little yellow monkeys" against whom no measures were too harsh.

It is not a change of heart but the fact that they hope to convert Japan into a base for Asia in case of a conflict with the Soviet Union.

Every question which came up on the agenda was examined by the participants purely from the viewpoint of economic and strategic points of vantage for the economic struggle, spheres of influence and strategic positions for the next conflict.

Thus the next decade or two promises to hold even worse crises in store for the peoples than the armistice between the wars. Not peace, but only a new breathing space between wars has been created.

One thing and one thing only binds the Western Powers together with the Soviet bureaucracy: fear of the Revolution. But the clashes and contradictions prepare the way for a response from the workers of Europe and the world for the ideas of Lenin.

Genuine peace, genuine prosperity, genuine democracy can only be established by the overthrow of capitalism and the fraternal co-operation of the peoples in a Soviet Socialist United States of Europe and the World.

# Hands Off Java

(Continued from page 1)

tem of unbridled exploitation at the hands of a few monopoly-capitalists of Holland and France. The history of French and Dutch rule in this area is a history of successive colonial revolts, which were suppressed by brutal and ruthless methods.

Only last month, the Australian C.P. paper, "Tribune", reported that the Dutch emigre administration in Australia were reopening the notorious concentration camps at Tana Merah for the reception of new victims of Dutch misrule.

Situated in the midst of fever-infested swamps, this camp had been the grave of many communists and nationalists interned in the years before the last war. According to the "Tribune", the camp has already received its first consignment of 16 political prisoners who protested against the coolie labour conditions and demanded Australian rates of wages.

The reason why the British Government has intervened in the conflict is not difficult to see. They know that all over Asia-to-day, there is a deep urge for freedom. The conquered and exploited masses of Asia are looking forward to the day when they will be masters of their own destiny.

The desire for freedom which has urged the peoples in the Dutch and French empires into open revolts, is shared equally by the peoples in India, Ceylon, Burma, Malaya and all the British colonies. The ruling class in Britain is afraid lest the success of the Javanese and Indo-Chinese people might lead to similar uprisings within the British Empire itself.

The Prime Minister has attempted to throw dust in the eyes of the work-

ers by his aspersions against the nationalists. In his reply to a letter of protest from Fenner Brockway of the I.L.P., Aitlee declares:

"Not every movement that claims to be democratic can be accepted as such on its own statement".

If the Prime Minister cannot see any democracy in an entire nation trying to free itself from foreign rule, then one can only conclude that he is looking at the world through Tory spectacles. Winston Churchill used the same excuse in the House of Commons when he defended the use of British troops to suppress the workers and peasants of Greece. And, just as on the issue of Greece, so also on this issue it is necessary for the whole labour movement to take action.

The continuance of this policy of military intervention in the interest of imperialism will discredit not only the Labour Government, but the entire Labour movement in Britain in the eyes of all colonial peoples.

The struggle of the British working class for socialism cannot be separated from the struggle of the colonial peoples for freedom.

In Holland and France, the Trotskyist movement has taken the lead in calling upon the Dutch and French to stop the despatch of reinforcements to Java and Indo-China, and to rally to the support of the native population.

The working class in Britain must similarly demand an immediate end to imperialist intervention on the part of the Labour leaders. Demand the withdrawal of troops from Java and Indo-China in solidarity with the struggles of the native population.

# RCP and the Dockers

The yellow press has tried to make capital out of the assistance given the Dock workers in Liverpool and London by the Revolutionary Communist Party. By lies and misrepresentation, the capitalist press hopes not only to antagonise the public, as they did in the miners' struggles, but to frighten the Dockers away from politics.

The reactionary rag, the "Daily Mail" was first in the field. From a front page article printed on October 5th, the following extracts are taken:

**'TROUBLE MAKING TROTSKYISTS TO ATTEMPT TO EXTEND DOCK STRIKE'**

By "Daily Mail" Reporter. Trotskyists' belonging to an organisation which has attempted to interfere in strikes in London and Leeds during the last few weeks are now attempting to spread the Liverpool dock strike, where 18,000 men are idle.

They are trying to persuade dockers at other ports to join in the demand for an increase in the daily minimum rate of pay.

During the last week pamphlets have appeared in the docklands at Liverpool and Manchester, claiming that the 'Revolutionary Communist Party' is co-ordinating the efforts of the dockers to secure higher pay, and also denouncing the union leaders.

## 'VAGRANT BODY'

The Transport and General Workers Union, whose officials have been the chief targets for the attacks of the Trotskyites, believe that the organisation does not include one docker. 'It is a vagrant body of men', a union official told me yesterday, whose members go wherever there is a chance of creating trouble. Their propaganda is subtle but mischievous, and is entirely conducted by underground methods.

The Liverpool C.I.D. and port authorities are investigating the activities of this underground party. So far the strikers have repeatedly disclaimed any political motives.

A pamphlet found on a Manchester dock gate and addressed to the dockers of Liverpool congratulated them on having caused a complete stoppage of work on Merseyside.

'The Revolutionary Communist Party has become known for its support of the dockers' struggles for better wages and conditions', it stated. 'We believe that the recent stand of the London dockers in demanding 25 shillings a day would have gained the full support of the Merseyside men.'

## 'SELLING OUT'

'Accordingly, the Revolutionary Communist Party threw in its full support behind this demand. However, the Merseyside dockers were not fully prepared for this strike.' The pamphlet alleges that dockers throughout the country will be stimulated by the Liverpool men's demand, and appeals for support for the strike.

It urges the dockers to cut out their union officials, who are accused of 'selling out' the men, and concludes: 'Remove these people and support the Revolutionary Communist Party.'

The "Daily Mirror" soon picked up the theme. On October 10th, the "Mirror" stated of Charles Martinson "who calls himself a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Great Britain", that he "claimed to be speaking on behalf of the Liverpool Dockers."

The facts of the matter are, that on the morning of October 10th at a meeting held near Connaught Road, 2,000 Dockers attended. Brother Powell was speaking. Some distance away, in a cafe sat Comrade Martinson, who had no intention of speaking at the mass meeting. But the Dockers came over to the cafe and demanded that he speak. He told them bluntly that he had not been sent as a delegate from the Liverpool Strike Committee. He was there on behalf of his Party, the Revolutionary Communist Party, to find out the situation in London. That his organisation stood solidly behind the demand of the dockers for 25/- a day and a 40 hour week. His case was accepted with cheers and applause.

The Revolutionary Communist Party has indeed done everything to publicise the case of the dockers through the "Socialist Appeal" and every other means at its disposal, and to warn the dockers that theirs was a national struggle, which demanded a national rank and file link-up.

Our Party will continue to assist the workers in their struggles against the capitalist class. We do not apologise for assisting the Dock workers. We consider it the duty of any working class party to aid the workers in their struggles for a better standard of life.

To the extent that the Labour Party, and His Majesty's Communist Party do not actively aid the workers in their strike struggles, to that extent have they betrayed their class.

Every Trade Unionist knows that strikes are not caused by "agitators". This propaganda of the national capitalist press is an insult to the intelligence of the Dockers.

We do not agree with those Dockers who say "Politics have nothing to do with us." "Keep politics out." Politics and the economic struggle are inter-linked. They cannot be separated.

Donovan is a strike breaker because he has a certain political view Barratt and the Stalinists are strike breakers because they have a definite political view. Every strike is the product of the class struggle—the struggle of the working class against the capitalist class. Those who raise the hue and cry about "political interference", are precisely those who have a political interest in seeing the dockers defeated and smashed.

Has the "Daily Mail", "Daily Mirror", the "Daily Express" or any capitalist newspaper no interest in politics? The most backward worker would state that they definitely have their capitalist policies cause them to slander, misrepresent, and campaign against the working-class.

Many dockers have learned to fearlessly and openly associate themselves with whatever party is prepared to give them its support, assistance and advice. Many dockers have learned that the only party which will do this is the party which is based upon a genuine working-class programme. Actions speak louder than words. And actions prove that only our Party stands by the workers.

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# BUILDERS' MARCH

(Continued from page 1.)

in their wage packets, the building workers can see that the "Go Slow" policy of the Union officials will not obtain an increase anything like that necessary to meet the increased cost of living.

So great has been the condemnation of the policies of their Union "leaders" that banners were carried in the demonstration demanding that: "Coppock Must Go". The very mention of Coppock and other Union officials at the Hyde Park meetings called forth shouts of protest from the audience.

## MILITANT STEWARDS VICTIMISED BY T.U. OFFICIALS

A reflection of the opposition to the class-collaborationist and ultimately anti-union policies of the Union "leaders" has been in a leaflet which was published in Glasgow, and with minor alterations in London. This leaflet in measured terms exposed fully the true role of the Union officials: "A total absence of militancy, an apparent eagerness to appease the employers, and a tendency to compromise rather than challenge, has been the keynote of their policy. . . . Faced with such inept and impotent leadership the worker is driven either to negative cynicism or despair. . . . It is not suggested, of course, that trade unionism is a spent force, but we do submit that a radical and virile re-organisation is called for." Then the leaflet, written and signed by building workers, outlines the measures necessary to "inject real democracy into our organisations" and the need for militant job committees based upon a genuine working-class programme.

For signing their names to this leaflet three leading job stewards, including a member of the strike committee, Bro. Jock Milligan, have been charged by the District Committee of the Painters Union—which is under Stalinist control—with "acting against the interest of the Union."

To expose a reactionary class-collaborationist policy of the union officials and the Stalinists is to act against the interest of the Union! If so, then the officials should expel 158,000 good union members who have demanded that Coppock and his ilk should go!

Already some union branches have officially recorded their unanimous support of the views expressed in the above leaflet, and so given their answer to the Stalinists and Union bureaucrats.

## BUILDING WORKERS ARE DETERMINED

One thing stood out clearly at the demonstration and the subsequent meetings: the building workers are in a very determined mood. The feeling was definitely in favour of strike action. Indeed many thousands of building workers walked away from Hyde Park later in the evening disappointed and a little bitter with the Strike Committee's failure to call for strike action. On the Southgate building site 600 workers have remained out on strike. They are sending representatives to other building sites, and unless the 3/- an hour is given it seems that the strike will spread. The 158,000 building workers in London are only waiting the call of the Strike Committee.

The building workers must organise their struggle thoroughly. They can only rely upon their own independent strength, and see to it that their leading rank and file Committees remain in the lead, and do not tail behind events. Great unity has been demonstrated. It must be maintained by proper organisation.

Through their Union branches, Labour Parties, and Trades Councils the workers must demand that the Labour Government break with the capitalists and assist the workers to obtain their just demands. The disgusting actions of Mr. Bevan must end. These "Socialists" were placed in power to end the policies and methods of Toryism, not to pursue such policies.

# DALMUIR R.O.F. STRIKE

BY R. TEARSE

750 workers at the Royal Ordnance Factory, Dalmuir, which is under the direct control of the Labour Government, are on strike against a ruthless attack on their factory organisation.

When this factory was returned to R.O.F. management in November 1944, after having been managed for a period by Beardmore & Co., an immediate attack was begun on the workers' conditions. Prices were cut, workers sacked, and a campaign launched against the existing rights and practices of the Shop Stewards' organisation.

Caught up in the slip-stream of redundancy, against which no serious struggle was waged by the C.P. dominated factory committee (who refused to link up their struggle with that of other R.O.F.s) the workers became to a certain extent disoriented. But with the election of the Labour Government the bulk of the workers confidently looked forward to an end of this anti-working class policy in the State owned factories. Their hopes were not to be fulfilled, however, and resentment grew with a rapidly deteriorating situation.

Between August and September, the total personnel of the factory (including staff) was reduced from 1,500 to 900. Victimisation was rampant, selections being obviously made on the basis of Trade Union activity. Among 250 skilled workers declared redundant, were many active Trade Unionists, including fourteen Shop Stewards of whom four were ex-Convenors of the factory. Ewen the present Convenor, Bro. McKay, was only placed on the retained list, meantime, after representation by the A.E.U. District Organiser.

On Monday, October 1st, an A.E.U. member, Bro. Moore, was ejected from the factory by the civil police, the management claiming he had been dismissed as redundant and had therefore unlawfully entered the factory; this, despite the fact that no notification had been received from the N.S.O.

In the meantime, the Convenor and five leading stewards had been attending a Conference with Dumbarton County Council regarding alternative work for the factory. Upon their re-

turn, stewards and workers approached them to report this latest development.

During the conversation the superintendent and three senior managers attempted to disperse the group. This led to an alleged assault on the Sub-Convenor by the superintendent, the dismissal of the Sub-Convenor and the suspension of the Convenor.

A mass meeting was immediately called and unanimously the workers decided to withdraw their labour until the Convenor and Sub-Convenor were re-instated. On October 3rd the strike was unanimously endorsed by the Glasgow A.E.U. District Committee, which is also pressing the Executive Committee for a full enquiry.

The vicious policy of the Ministry of Supply was carried further when it was declared that no representative from Dalmuir would be allowed to attend a special meeting between the M.O.S. and representatives of all R.O.F.s on October 8th (to discuss the future of these factories) so long as the strike was on. However the M.O.S. was compelled to reverse this attitude—no doubt due to the strong stand taken by the workers. It has been authoritatively stated that at this meeting the Dalmuir representatives did not state a case for the Dalmuir workers, but remained silent throughout. The workers must investigate this and demand an accounting from their representatives.

After 10 days the strike continues and the determination of the workers to wage the fight has been strengthened by the fact that the management has now altered the suspension of the Convenor to dismissal. Circulars are being sent to factory committees and union branches asking that donations be sent to: Wm. Gilmore, 25 Radnor Street, Clydebank, Glasgow.

The whole working class movement will have nothing but disgust and hostility to this reactionary policy for which the Labour Government bears direct responsibility. A mighty voice must be raised throughout the Unions and other working class organisations, telling the Labour Government in no uncertain manner that this policy will not be tolerated.

**SOLIDARITY WITH THE DALMUIR STRIKERS!**