

# Socialist Worker

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paper  
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fights for  
YOU

for workers control and international socialism

## Tinkers: new scapegoat for slums and high rents

From COLIN FALCONER  
BIRMINGHAM:-A vicious campaign waged against a handful of tinker families ended on Sunday when 100 police and 50 bailiffs evicted them from their

site at Balsall Heath. Council workmen moved in with bulldozers and dug a ditch round the site to prevent other travellers from camping there. The tinkers are now being hounded from city to

city. As soon as they left Birmingham they were told that they would not be allowed to camp in neighbouring areas.

A march to the site to protest at the tinkers' camp was led by Mr. Denis

Howell, Labour's Minister for "Sport", who is a Birmingham MP.

And on Monday, the Tory Party, which controls Birmingham council, held a celebration meeting in the local primary school that had been the centre of the

storm.

Some months ago the travellers moved with their caravans on to waste land in Balsall Heath, next to the primary school. The site had no running water or lavatories and the council refused to provide them.

Parents of 250 children boycotted the school. They claimed that the tinkers were a hazard to the children's health and morals and they demanded their eviction and even deportation. No issue has aroused greater local feeling since Enoch Powell's notorious race speech. Politicians of all shades jumped on the "anti-tinker" bandwagon.

The travellers are the scapegoats for the failure of Birmingham politicians to solve the problems of bad housing and racketeering landlords. The only alternative is expensive new council housing that the low-income families of Balsall Heath cannot afford.

One local resident said: "This must be one of the worst slums in Britain".

### FOLLOW

The tinkers asked no more than to be allowed to follow the road without persecution from local authority bailiffs and police (Birmingham police have made more than 100 arrests of tinkers from the Balsall Heath site).

The tinkers said: "Give us a site where we can't be harassed. And give us running water. We'll pay for all this, tidy up the site and divide the ground into plots for each family".

Most of the trouble between the travellers and the local people would have been avoided if the tinkers had been given these basic rights.

The Tory and Labour businessmen who govern the city, and their friends at Westminster, are busy raising council rents and squeezing wages (rents go up in Birmingham this month).

The people of Balsall Heath should not waste their time fighting the tinkers. Like the dockers who marched for Enoch Powell, they have confused the real enemies for friends.

## Barbed wire versus students

OFFICIALS at Hornsey College of Art in North London have erected barbed wire at all strategic points in the college and set up a network of searchlights in an attempt to prevent a further uprising by students when term starts on September 23.

Last May students seized control of the college for seven weeks as part of a campaign against the bureaucrats who run the educational system.

Before May, 900 art students worked in slum conditions in buildings spread around the Haringey area.

On May 28 the students took over the college and threw out the principal and his supporters. They successfully ran the college without them.

Now the authorities are attempting to delay the start of term and are reassessing the grants of all the students in an attempt to weed out "trouble-makers". Another battle seems certain and support is urgently needed.

# 10,000 MERSEY WORKERS IN LOCK-OUT BATTLE



Police waded into pickets at the Chemico site, but the building workers staged a defiant sit-down

### From ROSS HILL: Ellesmere Port, Wednesday

TEN THOUSAND Merseyside workers are on strike in support of the 1500 locked out by Chemico GB at the giant £25 million site at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.

Six hundred mechanical construction workers at the site rejected a productivity swindle foisted on them by the unholy alliance of employers, union officials and the government.

### SYMPATHY

The men refused to work the agreement and the firm sacked them. The other men on the site came out in sympathy and the firm locked them out as well.

Mass picketing was organised, and supplies were stopped from getting on to the site. The police tried to break up the picket, but were beaten by hundreds of workers who staged a sit-down and refused to budge.

Two thousand workers on the nearby Shell Oil Refinery stopped work for a day they heard of the police action. They also fear the introduction of a similar productivity deal. They know, like the Chemico men, that the long words "productivity", "interchangeability", and "flexibility" add up to just one short one: Dole. Stewards and men from the Chemico job toured big sites on Merseyside asking for support. If the disastrous deal at Chemico was forced through it would quickly spread like the plague to other sites.

A meeting of 93 stewards was led last Friday at Ellesmere Port. They represented nearly 10,000 men on a dozen big sites in the North West.

They called for a massive stoppage and a united demonstration in the centre of Liverpool this Friday.

The Chemico stewards have given building workers a powerful lead. It is vital that a Merseyside joint sites committee is formed with stewards from all the big sites. To continue to depend on union officials who have sold out so often would be a tragedy.

Union officials discussed the lock-out on Tuesday at the Department of Employment and Productivity.

Donations and resolutions of support should be sent to:

Bro. P. Herley, 66 Brook Drive, Great Sankey, Warrington, Lancs.

### 250 fight anti-union dock firm

FOR FIVE WEEKS 250 workers have been outside the gate waging a gallant struggle against a non-union firm.

When the contract to build the new dock at Liverpool started a year ago, the main firm, John Howards, Northern, Ltd. boasted that they had come to Merseyside to "fight trades unionism".

The site facilities were atrocious. It was only by persistent action that the

men got the firm to erect shelter from the winds that sweep off the Irish Sea.

And there were no toilets and no eating or drying facilities. There was no bonus, just the flat basic rate which gave labourers 6s 6d an hour.

It took the men just six months to make the site 100 per cent union organised, and to be recognised by the firm for negotiations.

The dispute was caused by the firm's bonus scheme, under which men could pour more concrete and get LESS bonus.

The men requested negotiations. The firm refused, and the men struck.

Two weeks later they were sent their cards, and 100 men employed by subcontractors came out in

sympathy.

Money is therefore urgently needed and should be sent to: Bro. T. Ratcliffe, 22 Parkside Lane, Croxteth, Liverpool 11.

### Bonus dispute

A DISPUTE over bonus at the big Cantrill Fam, Liverpool direct works site, has led to all the TGWU labourers being locked out.

The management have been using threats to close the direct works in order to cut the bonus rates.

### Tunnel men

MORE THAN 100 men have not yet got their jobs back after being locked out by Maples Ridgeway, the main contractors for the construction of the new Mersey Tunnel in Liverpool.

## 'Scroungers' - Mrs Hart is off target

by ALAN PURKISS

THE MILLIONAIRE press and Mrs. Judith Hart, Labour's Minister for Social Security, have been chattering indignantly about "scroungers" who refuse to work because they can get almost as much in social security by staying at home.

But we never hear anything about the really big operations that are going on all the time behind the scenes in the undemocratic, double-dealing system in which we live.

According to informed sources, big business was carrying out tax fiddles amounting to £100 millions annually, 20 years ago. Today the figure is probably

nearer £300 millions.

It's common knowledge in the Inland Revenue that it is impossible to check accurately the profit figures submitted by private businesses.

### ILLEGAL

Occasionally the mask of honesty and patriotism of the big employers slips. For example, it was shown that during the period of exchange control under the post-war Labour government, hundreds of millions of pounds had been illegally invested abroad, causing the balance of payments crisis that led to Labour's downfall in 1951.

The sharks that run our society know all the tricks. They do as they like, regard-

less of what the government lays down.

It's only the tiddlers who get caught. And it will go on like that until the banks are nationalised and industry is democratically controlled by the people that work in it.

What we should be getting worked up about is not that a few people prefer to draw benefit rather than do some menial job for a crust.

We should be asking why, in 1968, so many workers are paid so little as to make unemployment almost worthwhile.

Figures produced by the General and Municipal Workers Union show that a quarter of a million workers are earning less than £13 basic a week. At least 50,000 of these are employed

by the government or by local councils.

You can't pay the rent and keep a family decently on that sort of money. No wonder some people prefer to get by on the social security.

Until every worker in the country is legally guaranteed a minimum of £20 basic, a week and a month's paid holiday every year, Mrs. Hart and the rest of them should keep quiet about "scroungers on the state".

### I.S. Students conference

Friday September 27  
3pm-8pm  
Friends Meeting House,  
Euston Road,  
(opposite Euston station)

## 'The time of darkness is coming to Czechoslovakia...'

### LETTERS

The following letter was sent to a member of International Socialism by a young friend in Czechoslovakia. It is a personal letter, but we think it deserves a wider audience. It not only indicates the determination of the Czech people to fight for their freedom from Russian tyranny, but it effectively answers those in Britain who ask: "What's the point of demonstrations?" Names and addresses have been omitted for obvious reasons.

PLEASE ACCEPT our very heartiest greetings from the Russian colony of Czechoslovakia.

I am sorry for not answering you for so long but I was very busy and after August 21 (the date of the invasion) it was really impossible for me. You know the reasons why.

We are all in good health, but we're not satisfied with the occupation. I don't know what I can write. Maybe the censor on the border will read it, but believe me nobody can destroy the ideas of freedom, humanity and justice.

We all believe in Mr. Dubcek, leader of the Communist Party, but he can do nothing now. The time of darkness is coming to Czechoslovakia and we are all unhappy.

I've heard about the demonstration in front of the Russian embassy in London and that you were there. It was very nice. Many thanks to you.

We must fight for our freedom. Please help us—you're doing the right thing.

Say it to your friends—the truth will win! Always your Czechoslovak friend. JOSEF

### LOCKOUT

CONGRATULATIONS on the birth of Socialist Worker. May it have very few teething troubles.

Will you please lend your support to the men of the Shell Star site, Ince Marsh, near Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, who, thanks to Mrs. Barbara Castle, have been dismissed by Chemico Construction company because they will not accept an agreement which she drew up with the firm.

The site is being picketed by the men and I ask the wives and mothers of the workers to actively support their menfolk.

If Mrs. Castle is allowed to continue, we will be back to the 1930s as far as unemployment is concerned. The men will be degraded through lack of work and their minds as well as their bodies will deteriorate.

The women, who already have a tough job making ends meet with

ever increasing prices, will then have the impossible job of filling their tables without money.

It is not only the men's fight. It is our fight too and we must show our support of our men's action.—Mrs. LENA WILSON, Halewood, Liverpool.

### BOASTED?

CONGRATULATIONS on the new weekly Socialist Worker. It is an excellent paper. However, two points on your first issue.

1. If, as Chris Harman says, "the Russian rulers openly boasted of their intention to liquidate 20,000 'counter revolutionaries'", may I ask when? where? and on what date?

2. Did it ever dawn on Chris Arthur (the starving masses—they need guns, not the Pill) that the masses need both guns and the pill?—ANNE MURPHY, London N1.

### FODDER

I HOPE that Chris Arthur's article The Starving Masses does not mean that International Socialists give critical support to the Pope's party line on birth control.

Of course the capitalist system lies at the root of the problem of world hunger. But the problem is obviously made worse by a rapid and continuous increase in world population.

I don't know (nor, I imagine, does Chris Arthur) how many mouths a world socialist order would be able to feed, but the number can't be infinite. If life on this planet is to be tolerable, birth control would have to be an essential part of the programme of a world socialist order.

Let's not forget that socialists aim that man should have the greatest possible freedom to control the conditions of his own life. Surely the ability to control his own fertility must be an important part of such freedom?

But the Pope stands for a ruling class which treats working men and women as breeding machines to produce the cannon fodder for its armies, the proletariat for its factories, and the rank and file for its totalitarian church.

I simply don't see how this position is any more attractive than that of the Pope's imperialist critics who Chris Arthur rightly condemns. — RICHARD HYMAN, Coventry.

Letters for publication must reach the paper by first post Monday. Address them clearly to: The Editor, Socialist Worker, Paxton Works, Paxton Road, London N17.

# Czech workers' spring is crushed

THE HARD-CORE FACT IN RUSSIA'S INVASION of Czechoslovakia is that when the WORKERS moved the tanks rolled in.

For four years the Russians had quietly watched the economic reformers gathering strength. They had seen the Communist Party's Central Committee fall into line in January 1965, then the 13th Congress two-and-a-half years later. They did not mind. They knew that something had to be done to inject efficiency into the so-called communist countries, or the stagnation that had hit them from the early 1960s would never lift.

They could see too that the proposals were not dangerous in themselves. Ulbricht had nearly dismantled the old planning system, yet East Germany remained the tight stalinist parish it had always been. Rumania had switched its foreign trade so sharply westwards since the late 1950s that less than half is now conducted with the East. Yet nobody could complain of unorthodox softness towards workers under Ceausescu. Even Yugoslavia, heretic half-member of the bloc, had clearly not turned into a workers' paradise—otherwise why should half-a-million Yugoslavs work in West Germany?

The Russians could also see that the Czechoslovak reformers were promising nothing but austerity to their workers. Closures, which extinguished 35,000 jobs in 1964-65 were expected to cost another 60,000 by 1970 (R. Kostka, 'We Need Prospering Enterprises', Rude Pravo, 24 March 1966). One commentator even suggested that one in 10 enterprises would need to be shut (Božena Kubinova, Radio Prague, 6 May 1966). Sackings from functioning enterprises also were bound to soar as managers shifted to a profits system in which they controlled labour costs and little else.

Meanwhile, no arrangements were being made for paying, retraining and rehousing the unemployed; nobody was suggesting that wages should keep up with the fast-rising prices—on the contrary, a key element of the reform was to keep most wages pegged (V. Klaus & T. Jeseck, 'Fear of Inflation', Kultumi Tvorba, 15 December 1966); and state housing and welfare expenditure were being cut.

### Cool about the reforms

It was obvious that the Czechoslovak workers were cool about the reforms. So the Russians, for their part, were not bothered. Nothing but good could come from the Czechoslovak experiment, so long as it was done on the workers' backs.

But what if the workers moved? The example could be catching.

This is precisely what happened early this year. By then the reformists (and their Slovak allies) had fought the Novotny diehards to a draw.

Neither faction could dislodge the other without working-class support. Both toured the factories bidding for it, and the workers—after picking up a 10 per cent wage rise in the first quarter of the year, and promises



### by MICHAEL KIDRON

of more later—came down in favour of reform.

As the reformers put it in May, "The main thing is not only ensuring political freedom for all but literally also a larger hunk of bread."

They weren't altogether right. The main thing was the new feeling among workers that they could act together and win. A hunk of bread now; more later; perhaps even the freedom that rests on political and economic control.

Significantly, just before the tanks moved in, a revolutionary

left with a specifically working-class programme was forming in the universities and around the new magazine Informacni Materialy.

Then the Russians came. What now? Only one thing is really clear; the Czechoslovak workers' spring is over. It is germinating perhaps under the Russian ice-pack; but for the present it's over. If the Czechoslovak middle-class looks for arbitration again, it won't be from them, but from the Russians.

What of these Russians?

### ROSE BOLAND, shop steward at Ford's Dagenham

S.S. Having been encouraged by Jack Scamp's report, the Ford management still refuse to recognise you as skilled workers. Do you see the struggle for C grade (skilled) as a struggle against sex discrimination? R.B. I do, definitely.

To what extent are the women prepared to fight for the recognition of their skills? And will they go on strike to achieve equal pay?

I don't think the women will go out for the 100 per cent equal pay in the C grade just yet, if they could just get C grade. What we're concerned with is proving that we are skilled workers and the Ford management just won't recognise this.

When we go into the Ford Company, we have to pass a test on three machines. If we don't pass that test, then we don't get a job. So why shouldn't they recognise us as skilled workers?

### READY TO FIGHT

It's up to the girls to decide what to do, but last week they were really ready for another fight, but only for Grade C not for equal pay.

You see, you have to have the support of the girls at Halewood as well, which we did have for C grade. But mention equal pay to the women up there and they don't want to know. They've got a different way of life up there really, up there the man is the boss.

Not so much now with the younger generation but more with people my age.

The youngsters of today won't have it, they want to be on an equal basis. Personally I think if a woman does the same type of work as a man, she should be entitled to equal pay.

Barbara Castle herself gets equal pay.

for seven years. Why doesn't she just say to us "Right, the women are doing the same work as the men, let them have equal pay—the same as I get."

I think the nurses should get equal pay, the same as male nurses get. They do the same work, there's no difference. The nurses have to work so why aren't they entitled to equal pay?

Why do you think women are discriminated against?

I think they are discriminated against because the management employ them as cheap labour. They say a woman loses more time than a man, she has time off to have children—but myself, I can't see this because I think a woman works as regularly as a man.

During the June strike the Strike Committee seemed very active in leading the struggle. How did this come about and what was your relationship with the official union?

Our own union made the strike official directly we came out. Wherever our officials went, so our girls went. We just used to get the coaches out and say to the girls "any of you can go tomorrow"

## Socialist Worker

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Editor: Roger Protz Editorial Committee: Paul Foot, Richard Kuper, Peter Osborne. Business Manager: Jim Nichol.

## WHERE WE STAND

SOCIALIST WORKER IS THE paper of International Socialism, a movement of revolutionary socialists who believe that the present form of society, with its blatant inequalities, its periodic crises, wars and racialist hysteria must be replaced by one based on a planned economy under full workers' control; those who produce the wealth should own and control the means of production.

International Socialism is opposed to any incomes policy that seeks to restrict the wages of the workers in order to boost the profits of the employers. We unconditionally support all shop stewards and rank and file trade union members in their struggles for

better wages and conditions and oppose all reactionary laws that threaten the liberties of the labour movement. We support all strikes in defence of workers' interests with the demand of no victimisation of trade unionists. Redundancy should be opposed with the demand: five days work or five days pay. Shop stewards organisations should strengthen and extend their influence by linking up on an industrial and ultimately a national basis.

We are opposed to racial discrimination, a weapon used by the ruling class to divide the labour movement. Immigration control must be ended, ensuring the free movement of peoples regardless of

race and colour. Black and white workers must unite and form their own defence organisations to fight fascism and racialism. The labour movement must demand the immediate recall of British troops from abroad as the first step towards ending colonial exploitation.

The task of revolutionary socialists is to join workers in their struggles with socialist ideas that will link up the various sections of the labour movement and help create a force that will lead on to workers' power.

If you would like to join IS or would like further details of our activities, fill in the form below:

Please send further details of the meetings and activities of International Socialism to:

Name .....

Address .....

Send to Socialist Worker, Paxton Works Paxton Road, London N17

# ...ned by the Russian ice-pack



**'Why have you come?' Young Czechs climbed on to Russian tanks during the invasion to question the soldiers.**

They seem to be in two minds, not knowing whether to fragment the local middle-class and settle in as the only stable conservative force; or to strengthen and solidify them, and withdraw.

## Hard choice for Russians

Their encouragement of Husak and of Slovakian separatism points in the first direction; their talk of economic aid and

resiting their troops points in the second.

It is a hard choice. If they stay, they will be inviting the Czechoslovak workers on to the scene once more, this time as the most united and coherent representative of their country's nationalism. That could be suicidal.

If they go, they will have to pay heavily, by granting the hard-currency loan which Czechoslovakia's flagging industries need for re-equipment (and which most other East European countries also need and will

demand); or by jacking up their trade with Czechoslovakia (and Eastern Europe as a whole) even more, and so starving themselves and their partners of Western markets and products.

Or they might try to monopolise economic contact with the West for themselves while just sustaining an economically stagnant Czechoslovakia (and Eastern Europe) as a border economy.

That way too lies revolution, both social and national.

"Above all, five days have shown that however much a tank can destroy, it cannot create. And above all it cannot create the government that a people are determined to have. The day will surely come when there are more free thoughts than tanks"—Harold Wilson, 26 August 1963

"We should offer to put in the heaviest tanks we've got (into Cyprus) and ask other United Nations contingents to do the same. With the protection that armour provides we should then, after giving a short period of warning, go in and dismantle the strong points."—Harold Wilson, 4 May 1964

## Mandel expelled

The well-known Belgian Marxist writer Ernest Mandel was recently travelling through France on his way home from a holiday. While in Narbonne, he and his wife were awakened from their hotel bed at six o'clock in the morning, and told that Mandel had been forbidden to enter French territory since June 10. He had not previously been informed of this.

Police fear of this sinister figure was so great that, when he was given a meal while in detention, he was allowed only a spoon to eat it with. A knife, apparently, might have encouraged him to embark on armed struggle.

## ...talks about the women machinists' struggle for equal pay to Sabby Sagall

# ...ow what ...ying to do, ...to shake ...ut of him...'

nothing we could do in that way. We said "We'll give them a chance, we'll see what they're going to offer".

On the Monday, they came up with the 92 per cent and we accepted it pending the Court of Inquiry. Then again, Jack Scamp wasn't man enough to give a straight answer, was he? He just passed the buck to somebody else.

Do you think there was government pressure on the Court of Inquiry not to grant recognition of your skills?

I wouldn't say there was government pressure, but it may have had something to do with Fords. Let's face it, if the women had got C grade, which we are still fighting for, it would have broken Ford's wage structure. There are so many men fighting for upgrading that if Ford's gave it to us, they would have to give it right through the firm.

And the men know that if Ford's turn round to us and say "Right you've got C grade," well they're going to have a better chance to fight.

Do you also feel you are giving a lead to the millions of other underprivileged women?

Yes. Boots at Nottingham for instance—they started something last week. They're out for more pay. I think the Ford women have definitely shaken the women of the country.

From your experience with the government, do you feel the Labour Party is still the party of the working class?

I don't think the working class has got any party at all to stick up for it. Let's face it, the Labour government which we looked forward to, they've just let us down. They're just completely washed out as far as I'm concerned. I don't know what Wilson's trying to do, to tell you the truth. I'd like to get hold of him myself and shake the liver out of him if I could because, to me, he's just put the country in a hell of a mess. The country was in a mess but he's put it deeper in the hole. You take the ordinary housewife—when she goes shopping and sees the way prices have gone up. We can work for a living but

they've got to go to the same shops as we have to, so when are the prices going to stop rising?

They keep saying, "We'll have to freeze wages". It's all right for Barbara Castle, with her £7,000 a year? Well, let her take a cut.

Do you think the working class should vote Conservative in the next election or try and create a new alternative?

No, I don't think they should vote Conservative. I think they ought to try something different. I don't know who else. Let's have this lot out and try another lot. Perhaps the younger generation.

# 'Made in Britain' means death for the Biafrans

by RAYMOND CHALLINOR

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT tries to justify its sale of arms to Nigeria by saying that it provides a lever with which Britain can bring pressure to bear on the Nigerian Federal Government to moderate its policy. But so far it appears to have been highly unsuccessful in achieving this. The millions of starving people, whose food supplies are blockaded by British weapons, and the piles of corpses testify to what "Made in Britain" means to the Biafrans.

The Nigerian general Adekunle—"the Black Scorpion"—does not know the meaning of "moderation". It is about as sensible to supply him with arms in hope that he will be less brutal to the Biafrans as it would have been to have supplied Adolf Hitler with poison gas in the fond belief this might make him more tolerant towards the Jews.

If the British government was sincere, if it genuinely believed that by supplying weapons it could moderate the Nigerian government's policy, then it should be consistent and apply the principle universally.

Why does it not send tanks to the Red Army to moderate Russia's policy in Czechoslovakia?

## Lords' lobby supports Smith

IAN SMITH has survived economic sanctions and a threat from the fascist fringe of his party. And Rhodesia's "white power" leader has good friends and allies in Britain and the United States.

According to a valuable analysis made by Derek Bearn and published in London by the Movement for Colonial Freedom, there is a strong Rhodesia lobby of no fewer than 70 members of the House of Lords.

Their speeches leave no doubt what they are up to in defence of Mr. Smith's government. Their economic interests are also revealed in an analysis of the directorships held by 20 of them in companies concerned with Rhodesian investments and trade.

In the United States there are three organisations, not short of money, producing propaganda for Mr. Smith. The Friends of Rhodesia is one that has grown to 122 branches and claims 25,000 members.

Co-operating with it is the American-Southern Africa Council, which is in turn supported by the notorious John Birch Society of right-wingers, who make Nixon seem very moderate.

One of the southern senators who helped Nixon to the nomination is his friend Strom Thurmond who is also an advocate of "peace" with Rhodesia.

## DESIRE

And why isn't Britain sending much-needed arms to the National Liberation Front in Vietnam if this would make the NLF more moderate, more likely to accept the American terms?

British policy has been based on the desire to preserve the unity of Nigeria. Originally, that part of West Africa consisted of a number of tribes with little in common. They were forcibly brought together, the British colony of Nigeria was created, merely to serve colonial convenience.

Today Britain wishes to see unity preserved to make it more easy for British financial interests to exploit the region. For that reason, secessionist Biafra, with its oil fields, must be crushed.

So Harold Wilson becomes an accomplice to mass murder to defend the interests of capitalism in that part of West Africa. As Biafrans fall at the front, the British arms manufacturers' profits rise here at home.

## POSTERS FOR OCTOBER 27

Vietnam demonstration

6d each 50 for £1

from Ad-Ho Committee

120 Commercial Road London E1

# Join International Socialism for a real alternative to capitalism and stalinism

**ABERDEEN:** Janet Kennedy, 94 Bankhead Road, Bucksburn.

**ACTON:** John Deason, 148 Rusthall Avenue W4.

**BECKENHAM:** Mervyn Smith, 9 Alton Gardens, Copers Cope Road. 01-658 6552

**BIRMINGHAM:** Sue Harvey, 96a Church Lane, Handsworth, Birmingham 20. (021-554 6346)

**BRADFORD:** Bob Kornreich, Flat 1, 7 Oak Avenue, Bradford 8.

**CAMBRIDGE:** Mike Cowen, 11 Brookside, Cambridge.

**CAMDEN:** Chris Barker, 36 Gilden Road, NW5.

**CHERTSEY:** Chris Wickenden, Langmead, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey.

**COVENTRY:** Dave Edwards, 53 Palmerston Road, Earlsdon, Coventry

**CRAWLEY:** Deborah Ward, 2 Weddell Road, Tilgate, Crawley.

**CROYDON:** Jenny Woodhams, 26 Braemar Avenue, South Croydon.

**DURHAM:** Graham Atkinson, 1 Medway Avenue, Hebburn, Co. Durham.

**EAST LONDON:** John Metcalfe, 61 Wolsey Avenue, E17.

**EDINBURGH:** Jim Smith, 13 Union Street, Edinburgh 1.

**FULHAM:** Nicki Landau, 1a Phillimore Terrace, Allan Street, W8.

**FOLKESTONE:** Dave Cowell, c/o 18 Station Road, Folkestone, Kent.

**GLASGOW:** Ian Mooney, 4 Dalcross Passage, Glasgow W1.

**HARLOW:** ...

Parade, Hornchurch, Essex.

**HORNSEY:** Valerie Clark, 18 Dickinson Road, N8.

**HULL:** Norman O'Neill, 104 Park Grove, Hull.

**ILFORD:** Lionel Sims, 99 Belgrave Road, Ilford (01-SEV 6991)

**ISLINGTON:** Angel D. Phillips, 2 Chapel Mkt., Grant St. N1. 01-BRU1026

**Dalston:** Shoreditch: B. Huggill, 154 Downham Road, N1. Highbury: Roger Cox, Flat 1, 37 Queen's Drive, N4.

**KENTON:** Kevin Simms, 56 Salisbury Road, Harrow.

**KILBURN:** Sean Dunne, 18 Lithos Road, NW3.

**KINGSTON:** Roger Crossley, Flat 2, 6 The Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey.

**LAMBETH:** Andy Smith, Flat 6, 126 Streatham Hill, SW2.

**LEEDS:** Alan Bailey, 26 Bagby Road, Leeds 2.

**MANCHESTER:** Jack Sutton, 11a Rowan Avenue, Walley Range, Manchester 16.

**MERSEYSIDE:** Ross Hill, 11 Broad Square, Liverpool 11 (051-226 7074)

**MIDDLEBROUGH:** Barry Slater, 14 Briardene Avenue, Acklam.

**MERTON:** Malcolm Roe, 22 Elmhurst Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

**NEWCASTLE:** Dave Peers, 106 Holly Avenue, Newcastle on Tyne 2.

**NORTHAMPTON:** Bob Dean, 4 Alderley Close, Duston, Northampton.

**NORWICH:** Gerald Crompton, 220 College Road, Norwich NOR54F.

**NOTTINGHAM:** Roger Abrahamson, 1 Brunel Terrace, Derby Road.

**OXFORD:** Harry Goode, 24 Stockmore Road, Oxford.

**POTTERIES:** John Whitfield, 5 Grosvenor Road, Newcastle under Lyme.

**RICHMOND:** John Watson, 20 Sydney Road, Richmond, Surrey.

**RIPLEY & ILKESTON:** Clive Burnett, 75 Heage Road, Ripley, Derby.

**SELBY:** John Charlton, 12 Thatch Close, Selby, Yorkshire.

**SHEFFIELD:** Nick Howard, 15 Raven Road, Sheffield 7.

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Mel Doyle, 87 Empress Road, Itchin.

**STEVENAGE:** Michael Downing, 57 Trumper Road, Trots Hill.

**STOCKPORT:** Barry Biddulph, 10 Foliage Crescent, Brinnington.

**STOKE NEWINGTON:** Mike McGrath, 28 Manor Road, N16.

**SWANSEA:** Pete (Bianston), 33a Uplands Crescent, Swansea.

**TOTTENHAM:** Phil Hall, 1 Pelham Road, N15.

**WATFORD:** Paul Russell, 61 Carpenders Avenue, Carpenders Park.

**WIGAN:** Ray Challinor, 34 Whiteside Avenue, Hindley, Wigan, Lancs.

**WOLVERHAMPTON:** Dave Spillbury, 274 Penn Road, Wolverhampton.

**YORK:** Bob Locker, 22 Hobgate

FROM D.E. SPILSBURY

WOLVERHAMPTON:- A ghetto school for immigrant children has been rushed through in record time in the city that houses Tory MP Enoch Powell, who set the country ablaze earlier this year with his attack on the coloured community.

The 320-place Grove Junior School went from government approval to completion in five months. When the £100,000 project was announced in April, Wolverhampton's Director of Education, Mr. G.W.R. Lines, linked it with the influx of immigrants into the town.

## 'Economy' cuts behind rail deaths?

**Socialist Worker Reporter**  
LOCAL LEADERS of railway permanent way staff on the Southern Region believe that economy measures by the management and high productivity "mechanised maintenance" may have been responsible for the Hither Green rail disaster in which 48 people were killed in December, 1967. Mr. George Perkins, a Permanent Way Timekeeper at New Cross, only two miles from the scene of the crash, and a leading staff representative on the Southern Region Sectional Council told me, "We warned the management that it was dangerous not to have a daily inspection of the track, but they insisted on having inspections on only three days."

### AXED

The last inspection was held on Friday morning before the crash, which happened on Sunday afternoon. Under the old frequent inspections, axed by British Rail, the site would have been examined on two other occasions when the fault was likely to have been seen.

Confirmation of this point of view comes from the fact that immediately after the accident, track inspections were restarted on Sundays, and in some places they now take place six times a week.

The Ministry of Transport enquiry in the Hither Green crash implied responsibility fell on three men but this evidence seems to implicate BR policy, if not the Ministry of Transport itself.

### Gloom hits AEI plant

From DAVE FISHER  
MANCHESTER:- workers at the giant AEI factory at Trafford Park, expect mass redundancies as a result of the merger with GEC.

There is an air of "There's nothing we can do about it" and many expect work to be transferred to a large English Electric factory in the area.

One worker said, "It would be all right for us if we had shares in the place. It's all done for profit, not my class."

Another commented, "Arnold Weinstock (chairman of GEC) has not introduced himself to us. He's only interested in quick profits."

### Make sure you see Socialist Worker every week...

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I enclose £1/10s for a year/six months send me..... copies each week with an invoice (Delete where necessary) send to Socialist Worker, Paxton Works, Paxton Road, London N17.

And last week Mr. Lines went out of his way to say that the town is facing "special difficulties" because of its number of immigrant children. The school population, he said, had gone up by 2,000 in the past 12 months.

At the press opening, the headmaster, Mr. Ernest Rhoden, said that 90 per cent of the pupils will be immigrants. Among them are children from 17 different schools who have previously been ferried across the town in education committee coaches.

Although details were not given—other than that the pupils break down into 70 per cent Asian and 20 per cent West Indian—it is hard to believe that the 17 schools of origin of the children are within the catchment area of the new school.

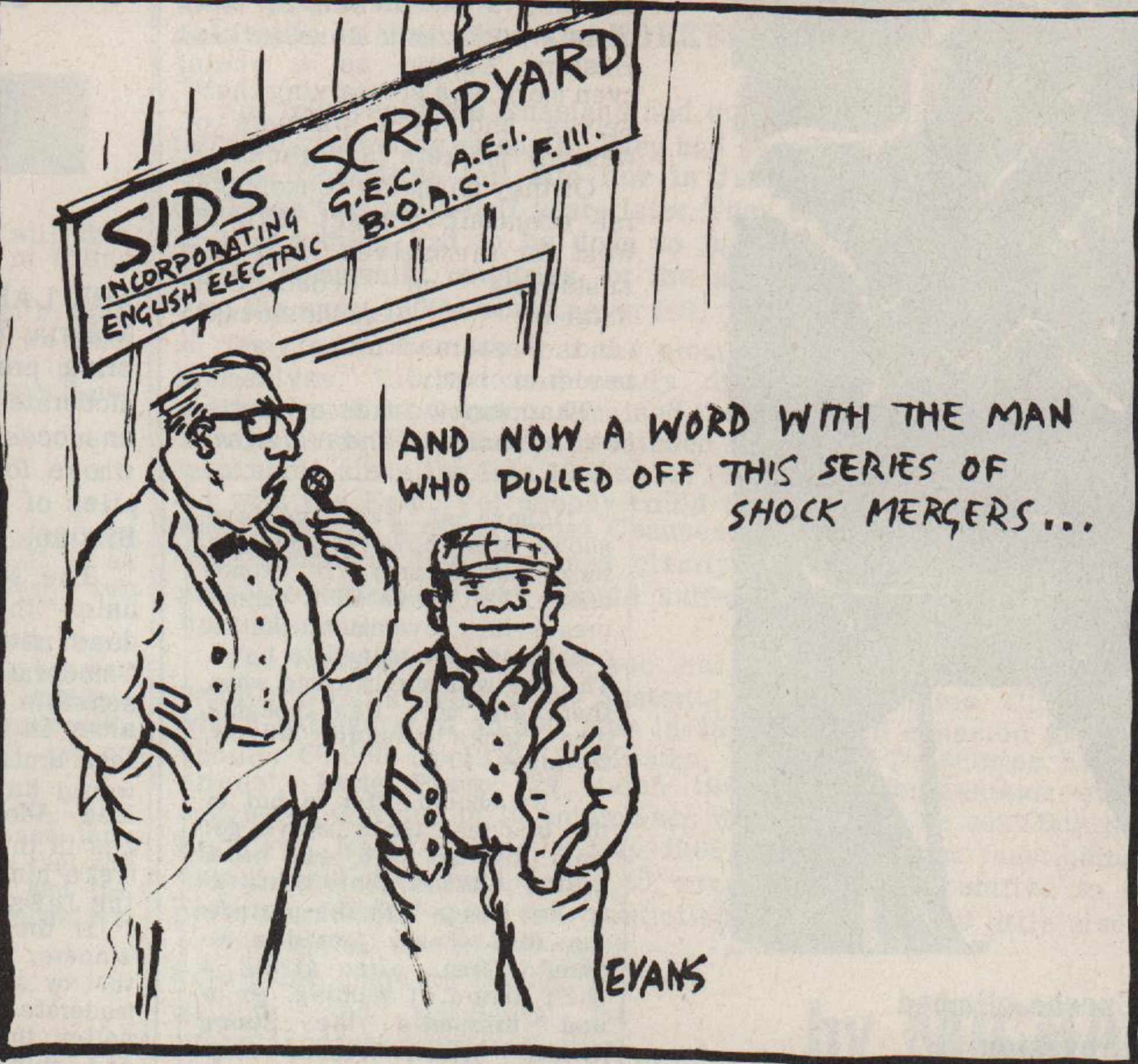
### 'Delighted'

In other words, children who have been transported to other schools throughout the town are being concentrated into one "school for blacks."

"The school has met the requirement at the present time," said Mr. Lines, "and we are delighted that it has been possible to mount and complete a project such as this in four and a half months. Normally we would not think of attempting to build such a school in that time. We usually think in terms of 18 months."

In other words, "shove it up quickly—it's only for blacks".

Although much has been made of the immediate immigrant problems, I have learned that the council's architects department has had the project in preparation for at least two years. As with other claims about immigrants, members of the local authority are using them as scapegoats for muddle, inefficiency, injustice and undemocratic mismanagement.



## Control not 'rights' the issue for tenants

by IAN MACDONALD

### STEWARDS BACK ENGINEERS STRIKE

LEEDS:- Engineering shop stewards voted unanimously last Thursday to support the national strike called for next month when they heard AEF president Hugh Scanlon outline the breakdown of talks with the employers. Scanlon described the employers' offer as "contemptuous". It amounted to two increases of 6s for skilled men with proportional rises for other grades.

### COUNTERED

The union was fighting for a basic rate of £20 a week for skilled men, but the employers had countered with £17 10s after three years with no change in the present basic rate of £12 17s for a skilled man.

He was reluctant to say that the Labour government was against the engineers, but during question time he finally admitted that Wilson, Castle and company were "as one" with the employers.

THREE REPORTS in the last week underline the fact that private tenants are still getting a raw deal.

The first report is a survey of private tenants in the London Borough of Islington, carried out by law students from the London School of Economics. They found that almost none of the tenants knew what their rights were under the 1965 Rent Act.

Many of them were paying excessively high rents, but they did not know they could go to the Rent Officer for a reduction.

The press and politicians have been braying that the solution is to tell people what their rights are. Of course tenants must be given such information, but that won't solve the problem.

After their rights had been described to them, only five of the tenants in the Islington survey went to the Rent Officer. The Islington Tenants' Association tells its members of their rights under the Rent Act, but it

makes no difference.

Knowing your rights doesn't get them enforced. Enforcement of the Rent Act depends on rent officers, town hall officials and magistrates. Tenants don't control them and tenants don't trust them.

### HARASS

This is even more true in the case of the second report—the survey by Shelter on harassment.

Under the Rent Act it is a crime to interfere with the peace and comfort of a tenant. The Shelter report makes it clear that in this area, the Rent Acts just do not work.

From our experience in Islington, we know that the only way to stop intimidation of tenants is to take action ourselves. And even then many tenants don't succeed, because the landlord still owns the house.

The third report is from the Fair Rent Association, the small landlords outfit. They are demanding that existing "controlled" rent should be increased immediately in accordance with the government's White Paper "Old Houses into New Homes"

### SUPPORT

They want a rent of 17s a week raised to £3 10s. At present there are 1½ million controlled tenants. One million would be affected.

The campaign has wide support in government and local authority circles. It is only fear of upsetting the Prices and Incomes applecart that prevents the government putting it into effect.

### Tenants meet

350 tenants on the Ancoats Estate in Manchester met to form a tenants association on Tuesday to fight the council's rent increases, due to come into effect next month.

### INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Autumn Conference

September 28 and 29 in London

For I.S. members only Full details from your branch secretary

### RANK & FILE

Journal for Progressive Teachers  
Out next week  
9d (1/2 post paid)  
from 87 Brooke Rd., London, N16.  
A must for all left-wing teachers...

### RANK & FILE

Readers' Meeting  
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1  
Friday Sept. 27 7.30 pm  
All welcome

### Solidarity

The rash of unofficial strikes in 1961, the decision for regional strikes passed at the special salaries conference last year, and the solidarity shown when the union subsequently fought its pathetic "dinner sanctions" battle, all show that teachers will back a fight for better conditions.

The Left was led, up to about 1961, by the Communist Party, which had a very strong teachers' faction. In its virile days it not only fought for better conditions but also fed the educational world with socialist ideas.

But with the disintegration of the party the heart

## YOUNG TEACHERS STEP UP FIGHT FOR MORE PAY

by CHANIE ROSENBERG

WAGES will be the key issue at the Young Teachers' Conference at Loughborough this week-end.

Young teachers, who start work at the age of 22, earn £800 a year rising after 14 years to £1500.

Rates in Britain are almost the lowest in Europe. Swedish teachers get more than double the British rate and in Finland, Germany, Denmark and Holland they get 1½ times as much.

In the last 50 years, teachers' salaries have risen less than in almost every other section of the

community. Managers, administrators and foremen's incomes rose by 100 per cent in this time, skilled and unskilled workers by a mere 20 per cent.

The National Union of Teachers with more than a quarter of a million members, is one of the most backward and conservative unions. The executive can be guaranteed to back-pedal on any militant action called for by the rank and file.

## RIGHTS

Socialist Worker Reporter

GLASGOW:- 600 men at the Goodyear Scottish tyre factory have been on strike now for three weeks.

The men, members of the Transport Workers Union, walked out over a quality control dispute over who should do "classification". After three days they went back when the management agreed to negotiate.

But they were greeted on return by a notice ignoring this promise and announcing that certain matters were non-negotiable — including the one in dispute.

Stewards insisted that any matter affecting the livelihood of the men must be negotiable and after four hours the men walked out again. The dispute is no longer about quality control but whether or not certain matters can be settled by union-management agreement or by arbitrary management decree.

### PROVOKE

The question of classification is of no great importance and it seems likely that it has been used to provoke a battle with the union as part of a general hardening of the management's attitude.

The militancy of the Goodyear workers has won them control over job organisation and earnings superior to the other Goodyear factory at Wolverhampton. The management seem determined to stop this. They may have chosen this time as the loss of production will have less effect because of lay-offs at the Linwood Rootes plant, one of their customers.

Full union backing is expected, but send donations or messages of support to T. Tierney, 64 McGregor Street, Clydebank.

## FACTORY LIKE PRISON SAY FOUNDRY MEN

MANCHESTER:- 250 foundry and aluminium workers have been on strike for a month at the engineering firm of L. Gardener & Co. Peel Green

The strike followed the two-day suspension of a foundry worker. The rest of the workers in the foundry told the management that they would strike and they were joined by men in the aluminium shop.

The management threatened the foundry workers with the sack, and they have since sent them their cards. The management have a tough record and one of the bosses is referred to as "The Fuhrer".

### Union ban

The management have been particularly hard on the foundry shop which has 100 per cent union membership. They will not allow the men's representative to carry out union business without asking permission and there was no consultation at all before the man was suspended.

One of the workers said, "It's like being in a concentration camp", and another employer referred to the factory as "the prison".

The strike has been made official by the foundries section of the AEF, and it is hoped that the national committee of the union's engineering section will call out their members who work at the factory. The foundry convenor summed up the attitude of the men when he said, "We will not tolerate suspensions."