

Socialist Worker

for workers control and international socialism

Engineers stand firm!

A MASSIVE CAMPAIGN is under way to discredit the engineers and stampede them into calling off their strike.

The millionaire press, the Labour government and right-wing trade union leaders are all singing the same old hackneyed dirge about the strike 'harming the national interest'.

For all of them the national interest is identified with the right of the employers to make more profits at the expense of the engineering workers. There is not one word of criticism from the press, from Wilson or from the leaders of unions such as the ETU and the Municipal Workers.

Yet the engineering bosses are solely to blame for the present situation. They have been negotiating for more than a year on the claim made by the Amalgamated Union of Engineers and Foundryworkers.

Their final offer was an insult, made more insulting by the announcement of record profits for the industry for the first quarter of the year.

UNITED

Behind this gang of arrogant profiteers stands the Labour government with its incomes policy. Wilson and company are united with the enemies of the working class, united in their effort to hold down wages so that profits can increase.

The AEF are also opposed by the leaders of smaller unions with workers in the engineering industry. The ETU and the NUGMW have balloted overwhelmingly against supporting the strike.

Leaders of these smaller unions have suddenly been converted to a form of 'democracy' that has long been advocated by the employers.

Such ballots have nothing to do with democracy. They allow time for passions to cool, issues to be blunted and for great pressure to be brought on workers by the mass media of the ruling class. They also give a say to workers in unorganised sectors of industry who have little knowledge of the cause of the dispute.

BARRAGE

The rank and file of the AEF and the Transport Workers must stand firm against the barrage of lies and denigration from the right. They must demand that the strike should go ahead as planned on October 21, even if other smaller unions scab.

And they should tell their union officials that this is the rank and file's fight. They must control the strike, set up their own grass-roots organisations to spread it and plan day-to-day activities. Above all, they should be consulted about any fresh negotiations and any decision to call off the strike.

To leaders like Hugh Scanlon, who regularly supports conferences on workers' control, they should say: 'Workers' control is not some vague, utopian concept of the future. It is something we want NOW. If you believe in it, prove it by letting the rank and file control the national strike'.

Statement by IS engineers — see back page

'This is not a riot. It is an uprising. It is an elemental outburst of rage by a class that has been denied jobs, homes and human rights by a regime that is as near fascism as makes no difference...'

IRISH POLICE BLUDGEON MARCHERS IN SEIGE CITY

EAMONN McCANN Londonderry, Monday

LONDONDERRY is a city under seige.

Riot police patrol the fringes of the Catholic ghetto area in armoured cars. Barricades have been erected and Molotov cocktails, bricks and other improvised weapons are being used by the people.

Police are making sporadic sorties into the area. At 3 am this morning an armoured car smashed a barricade on the Lecky Road and established their first foothold in the city.

BRUTAL

This is the third day of violence in Derry. On Saturday police stopped a peaceful civil rights march with unbelievable brutality.

Men were beaten in the testicles. Water cannons drove demonstrators from the area, back into the police lines.

In Duke Street, two double lines of police with drawn batons boxed in a thousand people and started a systematic and sickening bludgeoning.

An 18-years-old reporter, Martin Cowley, vainly displaying his press credentials, was repeatedly beaten to the ground by District Inspector Ross McGimpsey and left lying in a bloody mess.

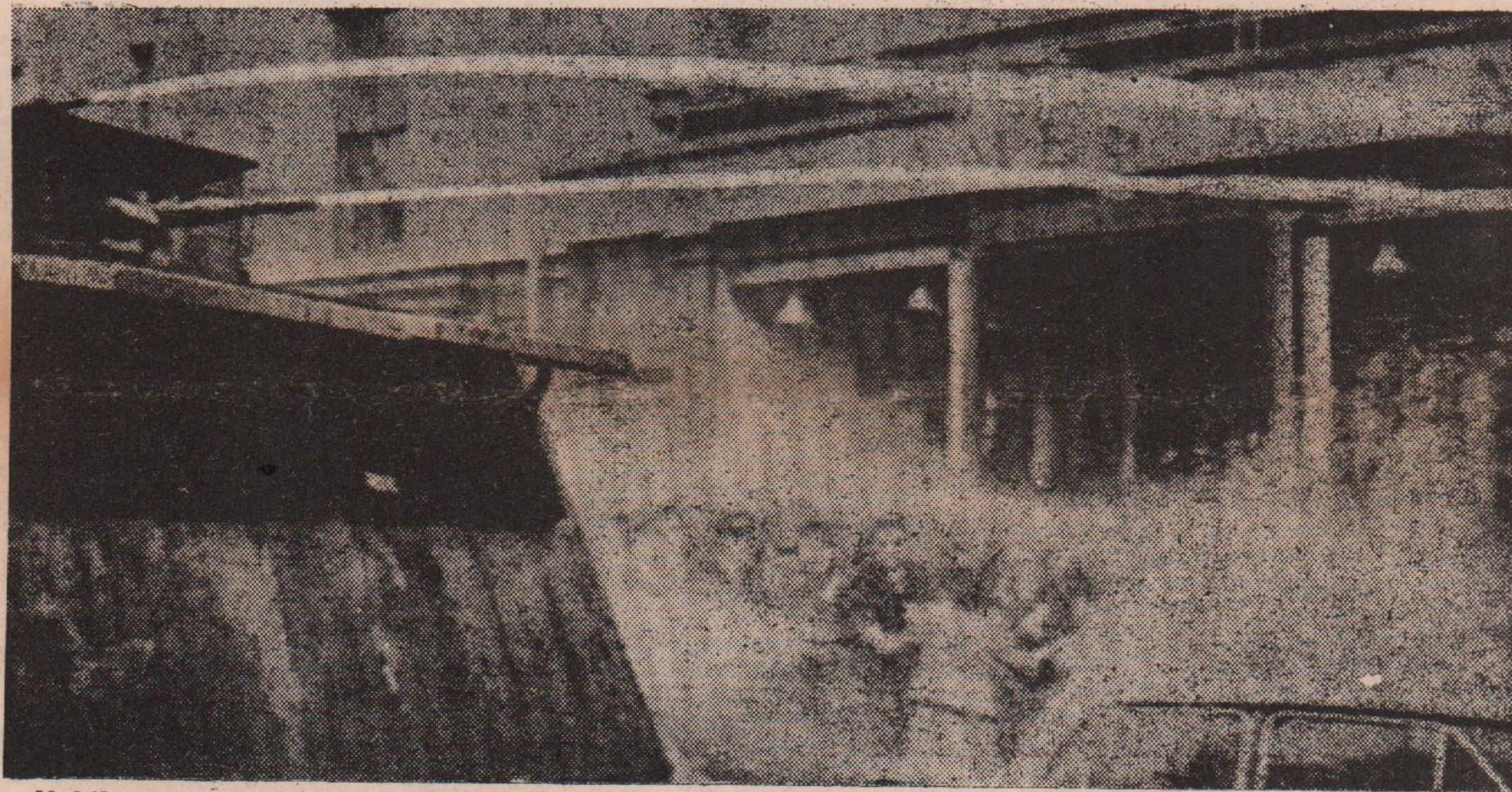
One middle-aged man was seized by two policemen and flung over a wall. He was found there later by Labour Party officials. His leg was broken.

Fighting spread to the centre of the city during the evening as police beat the people back into the Catholic ghetto. Houses were turned into casualty centres as the injured were carried from the barricades.

This is not a riot. It is an uprising.

It is an elemental outburst of rage by a class that has been denied jobs, homes and fundamental human rights by a regime that is as near fascism as makes no difference.

Derry has a male unemployment rate of 21 per cent. It is only maintained at that level by massive emigration.



Mobile water cannons indiscriminately hosed demonstrators and passers-by.

The City Corporation, controlled by the Unionist Party because of a gerrymandered electoral system which permits 33 per cent of the voters to elect 60 per cent of the councillors, has built 15 houses in three years.

It has allocated them to its Protestant supporters while Catholic working-class families (who are the majority in Londonderry) live in conditions which would turn the stomach of an Islington slum-dweller.

RICH

A unique voting system in municipal elections gives the rich extra votes according to the rateable value of their property.

Sir Basil McFarlane, for example, has 26 votes in a municipal election. I am a 28-years-old worker. I have none.

The Northern Ireland Special Powers Act gives the police the right to arrest without warrant and intern without trial.

In Derry some of the restrictions on the Catholic population are so petty as to be incredible. For example Catholic bands are allowed to march down Abercorn Road, but not, under any

circumstances, to march up it.

A small example, but it illustrates the arbitrary and arrogant nature of the restrictions placed on the majority by a clique of anti-democratic gangsters.

Such discrimination inevitably produced a sectarian consciousness among the Catholic working class. They saw the state as being biased against them as Catholics and they were easy meat for nationalist demagogues. Militancy for many years meant an hysterical consciousness of the religious divide.

The beginning of a new phase was marked by the formation of the Derry Housing Action Committee in February. It is a self-appointed body comprising Republicans, left-wing members of the Labour Party and a number of unattached radicals.

It began a campaign of civil disobedience. It disrupted corporation meetings and organised rent strikes.

In June it blocked a main bus route for 48 hours with the caravan home of a family of four. Landlords' homes were picketed, official ceremonies broken up.

By August some 20 members had been in court

for various offences. A news-sheet, Reality, was published and displayed an admirable disregard for the law as it detailed the activities of Rachman-type landlords and the inactivities of nationalist politicians.

UNITED

The local Labour Party joined with the Action Committee in an informal united front on the housing issue. The Derry Republican Club (an illegal organisation) came into the open and proclaimed its existence with banners at housing demonstrations.

The result was a decisive realignment in which, for the first time in Derry, a militant, if ill-defined, political campaign got off the ground without arousing any sectarian feeling.

The most vital and significant fact about the present situation—ignored, of course by the Tory press—is that there has been no Catholic-Protestant confrontation.

It is this that frightens the Unionist authorities. They—and their Green Tory counterparts in the Nationalist Party—have always been content to see workers tearing each other to pieces

in the streets at the order of neo-Nazi clerics.

The politicians are happy in the knowledge that worker-against-worker warfare shored up the two-toned Tory state by obscuring the class basis of religious discrimination.

The Protestant working class is passive at the moment. Since the police have sealed off the Catholic area it has been impossible to get through to appeal to them.

But Labour Party and Young Socialist speakers at the barricades denounced attempts by fringe hooligan elements to use 'get the Protestants' as a slogan.

Arrested twice

Eamonn McCann was arrested on Saturday and charged with incitement to breach of the peace. He was released and immediately went to the barricades.

He was re-arrested at 3 pm and charged with defiance of a restriction order and released on £50 bail. He will appear in court on October 21.

The Minister of Commerce has spoken ominously of 'making an example' of those arrested and militants fear heavy jail sentences.

RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY IN N. IRELAND.

Sunday, October 20
Trafalgar Square 4 pm
Speakers will include
Eamonn McCann and
Gerry Fitt MP

As Wilson meets the racist Smith, don't miss an important article next week on Labour's record in southern Africa. Plus 'Where are the Tories going?'

WHEN YOU SPENT £2000 SO THE QUEEN COULD SPEND A PENNY

From a special correspondent
A MAJOR PART of Britain's cultural heritage is hoarded in a mog-infested building off London's Tottenham Court Road—the British Museum.

Imperialists tend to be greedy and it is rumoured that the museum is unable to display more than 5 per cent of its stock at any one time, a stock made up of the plunder of those who stole and cheated treasure from all the ancient civilisations in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In common with the rest of the establishment in Britain, the British Museum shows little sign of having developed since the middle years of the last century.

Although you and I supply the large sums of money to run the Museum, the government has no direct control. Control is vested in a board of self-perpetuating trustees, many of whom are senile and none of whom are socialists.

IGNORANT

The thoughtless and ignorant nature of this crew was demonstrated earlier this year when they made full use of their influence in an attempt to gain approval to build a new library opposite the present one.

This would have made more than 1000 people homeless and it was one of the wiser decisions of the Wilson government to throw the proposal out.

In his rage Lord Radcliffe, then chairman of the trustees, had the nerve to publish a pamphlet attacking the government. It was sold on the Museum bookstall. You and I paid the bill.

Finally, a patriotic assurance that our taxes are put to some good use. A few years ago the Queen paid a visit to the Museum.

In preparation for the joyous event, one of the saloons in the Manuscripts department was transformed into a regal privy. The walls were covered in velvet and thrones fit to bear the name were installed.

Unfortunately neither the Queen nor any of her handmaidens felt it necessary to unload themselves in such splendour. The following day this touching reminder of Regency romanticism was torn down, unused. The cost, more than £2000.

The Spanish underground prepares for 'Red' October

'A general strike

will spread like an oil slick...'



Spanish workers—a great heritage of struggle against fascism. Picture flashback shows workers militia in Spanish Civil War.

SPAIN, LIKE THE REST of Europe, is waiting for the 'Red' October.

The Franco government, preparing to meet the rising tide of protest, is following the example of de Gaulle, in France who after the May revolution, spoke of workers' participation in industry at the same time as he brought in more repressive measures.

A cabinet meeting last month decided to legalise all student organisations. This step—on paper at least—is a drastic constitutional change, for until now all associations were banned and severely repressed in Spain.

Fascist measures

But the same meeting, under the pretext of combatting Basque terrorism, resurrected a decree of 1960 which includes many old fascist measures of the 1940s.

Under this decree everything is illegal. Its penalties are nothing less than long-term or life imprisonment.

It bans all meetings, associations, conspiracies and 'unions' (excluding, I assume, the matrimonial one) that are against the 'integrity' of the regime and its authorities. From now on, all political activities and all matters affecting basic civil rights will be dealt with by the military authorities using summary trials.

Franco wants to freeze the 'hot' October by terror.

But laws and terror are unlikely to deter the workers. In spite of the

from A. ACHALANDABASO

new repressive decree, a general assembly of underground workers' organisations (commissions) met last month.

They came from Catalonia, the Basque country, Galicia, Asturias, Andalusia, the East Coast, Aragon and the Central provinces.

They made plans for a general strike which would land a crippling blow to the regime. Crippling, but perhaps not mortal; the future is hard to predict and we have Amer-

ican bases in Spain ... requires a lot of sustained work, principally in two directions: the creation in each firm of one commission, representative and militant, capable of mobilising all workers, even the more backward ones.'

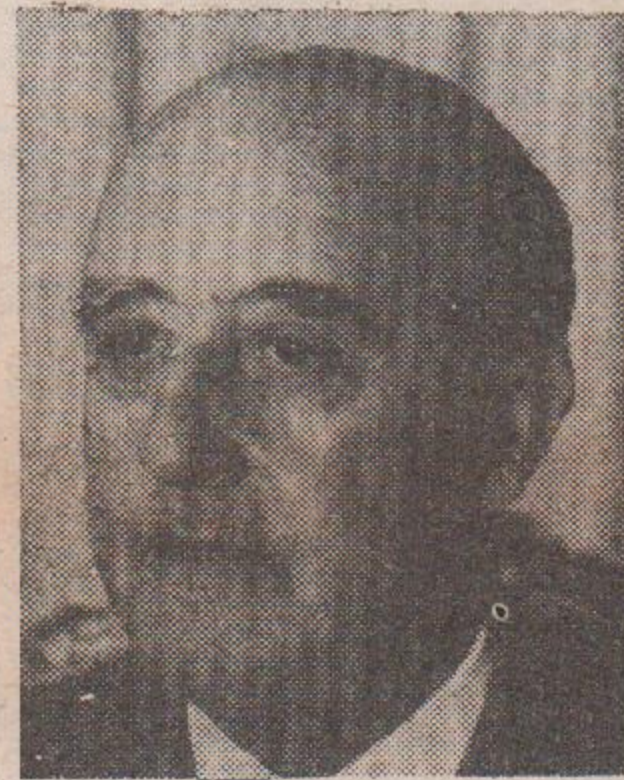
The workers' commissions are now reorganising along these lines: as factory committees including the most representative workers regardless of their political organisations.

The Catalan workers' commission called a week of demonstrations between September 4 and 11. In Tarrasa, an industrial town near Barcelona which has a long, militant tradition, the civil guard shot at several thousand textile workers.

Nationalist flavour

In Barcelona itself, a demonstration on September 11 had a nationalist flavour. It recalled the area's freedom and autonomy, which was lost when the Bourbons came to the Spanish throne in the early 18th century.

But the demonstration was



FRANCO
Terror tactics

ican bases in Spain ...

The assembly declared: 'Our weapon is the general strike. But our experience of mass action has taught us that it is very difficult to start a general strike on a previously fixed date.

'We see the general strike as the generalisation of a series of partial struggles which may start in one factory, industry or locality and spread like an oil slick throughout the country. We know this

reinforced by the participation of workers. It was a unified show of strength which emphasised to what extent the fight for democracy is gaining a popular base.

It is this unity among the rank and file that has determined the move towards political unity among the various workers' organisations.

For example, the five main Catalan parties issued a joint statement of solidarity with the Basque people that condemned the government's repression against them.

The five parties include the Catalan Communist Party, which maintains a degree of independence from the Spanish CP. In spite of the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia (condemned by both CPs) and the political turmoil that it caused, the unity of the Catalan parties has not been broken and the CP has not lost militant members.

This unity does not exist in the universities, where marxist students are sharply divided. But there is contact between workers' commissions and free students' unions.

The government move to give more paper freedom to students while using greater repression against the workers is designed to destroy this unity.

Together, workers and students will answer back this month.

'Home rule' is not the answer to Basque's problems

LETTERS

CHRIS GRAY and Gery Lawless take you to task (Letters, September 28) for criticising the Basque nationalists (ETA). They see the leaders of the terrorist wing of ETA as latter day James Connollys.

True, one section of the ETA has declared itself in favour of the socialist revolution. But it is difficult nowadays to find a nationalist movement that does not.

Before socialists decide whether a movement is worthy of their support, they should examine its social composition and the content of its actions.

The social base of Basque nationalism is in the rural petty bourgeoisie, particularly the village priests, although it does find support among workers in the larger towns, many of them immigrants from other parts of Spain, do not speak Basque and are disinterested in nationalism.

Basque nationalism is nourished, not only by the genuine oppression which the Basques suffer and also by the general discontent with the present Spanish government, but is also rooted in the narrow chauvinism and provincial snobbery which makes many people regard the immigrants from other parts of Spain in the same way as Enoch Powell does coloured immigrants here.

True, a Maoist faction on the left of the ETA calls for the unity of native Basque and immigrant workers, but the attempt to unite the proletarian struggle with an essentially reactionary movement is just as silly as the similar antics in Wales and Scotland.

The Basque country was never a colony in the marxist sense. On the contrary, it is the most prosperous area in Spain and an integral part of Spanish capitalism.

Even if we were to join comrades Gray and Lawless in their attempt to find an exploited colony in Spain, the Basque country would be the last place to look.—P.LIZARRALDE, London W9.

GERY LAWLESS and Chris Gray have taken exception to my report Home Rule Threat to Franco. I certainly intended no aspersions on the Basque language and culture; but I still take leave to doubt whether an organisation like the ETA, basing itself primarily on the demand for total separation from Spain and upon a Basque linguistic tradition, can provide effective leadership within a region dominated by a working class in huge industrial centres which have sucked labour from non-Basque areas for several decades.

As a pro-ETA writer in a recent issue of Black Dwarf admits, 'Basques', defined in national terms, may well be in a minority in these provinces. Whatever degree of autonomy may be exercised by the Basque country in the territory at present known as Spain, total separation is not calculated to further any sense of solidarity with workers and peasants in other regions.

None of these observations is intended to contradict the right to self-determination possessed by every people: or to imply anything more than unconditional encouragement for the anti-Franco activities of the ETA. However, in seeking a way out from what they justly term 'the Spanish prison-house of nations', these comrades seem to run the risk (if I may paraphrase your famous English proverb) of putting all their Basques into one exit. YOUR CORRESPONDENT

Socialist Worker

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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

IRISH TORIES ATTEMPT BALLOT FIDDLE TO CRUSH THE LEFT

Police savagery in Northern Ireland does not make the South, by comparison, a haven of democracy. GERY LAWLESS, editor of Irish Militant, describes moves by the Southern ruling class to strip workers and unions of their rights

ON OCTOBER 16 voters in the southern part of Ireland will go to the polls to vote in a referendum.

They are being asked by the government party, Fianna Fail, to agree to abolish election by proportional representation and replace it with the English 'first past the post' system.

Fianna Fail has been in power for 31 out of the last 36 years. Their last attempt to abolish PR was rejected by the people in 1959. Why should they now seek another referendum? The answer is simple.

Fianna Fail, in the interests of the Irish bosses, is introducing a set of vicious anti-trade union laws. They are well aware that when such laws come into force they will produce a swing to the Left among workers.

They want to abolish PR to offset this challenge.

The Irish ruling class, with its weak economy tied openly and brutally to Britain, knows that if Britain enters the Common Market, then Ireland must follow. It needs to build up its industry to survive the ruthless competition from Europe.

Push up wages

A massive propaganda drive was launched to win foreign investment. It worked for a while and unemployment fell in some areas and in certain skilled trades.

But under such conditions the workers, after years of depression, found themselves in a seller's market for labour and were able to push up their wages, often substantially.

Faced with this new-found confidence, Prime Minister Sean Lemass launched himself into a series of india-rubber contortions in an attempt to discipline the workers.

He used force but not sufficiently. He granted concessions but not enough of them. Workers could neither be coerced nor induced into acting in the so-called 'National Interest'.

From 1961-1965 there was a gradual increase in the number of man-hours lost through industrial action. By 1964/65 Ireland headed the International Labour Organisation's table for man-hours lost per thousand workers. Alongside this trend there was a gradual weakening of management domination.

This could not go on. The workers had to be disciplined.

Up to October 1965, despite differences in the Cabinet, Lemass' strategy was to mark time and wait until Wilson had created the atmosphere and conditions for a showdown with labour in Britain. In other words, he wanted Wilson to do the dirty work first.

While hiding his time he granted concessions, in some cases substantial concessions, to the working class, through the official union leaderships, such as the 12½ per cent all-round wage increase in 1964.

He knew that as long as the official union bureaucracies could win concessions for the workers they would be able to contain the situation, at least as far as national wage agreements were concerned.

Lemass and his successor Jack



Workers on the march for trade union rights in Ireland. The flag on the left is the Starry Plough Lenin called 'the first Red Army in Europe'.

Lynch were well aware, that an outright show-down with labour would further discourage foreign investors, and that, as can be seen from the experience of other working classes, workers, if beaten down on the industrial front, tend to turn towards politics—hence the swing to Labour in recent years. Fianna Fail want to abolish PR, and hammer the Labour Party before forcing the show-down with the workers.

In April 1967 came confirmation, in the form of the minutes of the Working Party of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions in its meeting with the Department of Labour, of Fianna Fail's success in getting agreement with the union bosses.

Basically the plan called for the formation of union 'groups' in given industries. The proposed 'groups', with a government-granted monopoly of negotiating rights, would concentrate effective power in the hands of a tightly-knit bureaucratic apparatus.

'Central'—presumably government—control of balloting, and state pensions for union officials made redundant, would tie this apparatus even more firmly to the state machine. The suggested banning of 'unofficial' pickets and the creation of conditions which would virtually rule out the formation of new unions would nullify any attempt to by-pass the official leadership and leave rank and file militants to the mercy of the state.

Smash the system

When these laws are put into full force the struggle for higher wages and better conditions will become a struggle against the state, with a consequent politicisation of the working class.

This will drive workers to vote Labour. Hence the need for Premier Lynch, egged on by strong-man—and future Premier (when Lynch gets the knife in the back)—Charlie Haughey, to smash the present system of election by proportional representation and replace it with the 'English' system.

At the last election Fianna Fail had 71 seats, the other right wing party Fine Gael 47 and Labour 22. There were four others.

Political scientists at Trinity College, Dublin estimate that if PR is abolished Fianna Fail, without necessarily gaining an extra vote, would get 97 seats, Fine Gael 37 and Labour would be reduced to seven.

In the face of this threat, the Irish Left has formed a united front, the like of which has not been seen for many years. Social democrats, Trotskyists, orthodox Communist Party members and even the leadership of the Irish Congress

of Trade Unions, have joined the campaign to defend PR.

But there are microscopic elements who have learned nothing from the German events of the 1930s. 'What the hell does it matter which way we vote?' they say. 'It's immaterial what method is used to elect the executive of the bourgeoisie.'

This is precisely what the Irish bosses want: step aside, let Fianna Fail wrap Ireland up in the way 'most advantageous to the City of London. This is neither marxism nor common sense.

Utter rout

If PR is retained, Fianna Fail will be forced to introduce its anti-trade union laws in a situation which could lead to its utter rout. This would create a major parliamentary crisis, putting Southern Irish politics once more back on to the streets.

Whatever its other weaknesses, the Irish working class has a very good record in situations like this.

A special issue of Irish Militant on the PR ballot swindle was printed in London on September 20 and posted the following day to distributors in 14 centres in Ireland. Editor Gery Lawless said this week that to date only four packages had reached their destination.

Join the International Socialists

ABERDEEN: Janet Kennedy, 94 Bankhead Road, Bucksburn.
ACTON: John Deason, 148 Rushall 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, 25 Pitt Street, (Leith) Edinburgh 6.
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.
HAVERING: Dave Rugg, 8a Elm

Breaking all records — the play that puts the miners' case

by TONY CORCORAN

NOW IN ITS SECOND run at the Newcastle Playhouse, Close the Coalhouse Door—a play which tells the history of the miners of Durham and Northumberland—is breaking all records for any play in the North.

On October 9 it moves to the Nottingham Playhouse and then probably to the Royal Court theatre in London. It is due to be televised in the BBC Wednesday Play series in the autumn. Don't miss it!

This is the play with everything—humour and song, drama and pathos, and satirical barbs which go straight to the heart of the hypocrisy of the miners' last exploiters—the Labour government.

'REAL SOIL'

Sid Chaplin, novelist and expitman who wrote the original story, sums it up like this:

'The real difference between this play and so many others produced these days is that 'Close the Coalhouse Door' was not prefabricated but grew out of the real soil and strata of the history it celebrates. The true authors (Alan Plater and Alex Glasgow) knew it in their bones and the marrow of their bones and they tell just what they felt.'

Here is one of Alex Glasgow's fine songs. It is sung in the play by Jackie, the Union man (Alan Browning).

THE SOCIALIST ABC

When that I was and a little tiny boy
 Me daddy said to me
 'The time has come me bonny,
 bonny bairn
 To learn your ABC.'

Now daddy was a Lodge Chairman
 In the coalfield of the Tyne
 And that ABC was different
 From the Enid Blyton kind.
 He sang:

A is Alienation that made me the man that I am
 and B's for the boss who's a bastard a bourgeois who don't give a damn
 C is for Capitalism, the boss's reactionary creed
 and D's for dictatorship, laddie, but the best proletarian breed.
 E is for exploitation that the workers have suffered so long.
 and F is for old Ludwig Feuerbach the first one to see it was wrong.
 G is for all Gerrymanders like Lord



Colin Douglas and Kevin Stoney in a scene from the play

Muck and Sir Whatsisname and H is the Hell that they'll go to when the workers have kindled the flame.
 I's for Imperialism and America's kind is the worst
 and J is for sweet Jingoism that the Tories all think of first.
 K is for good old Keir Hardie who fought out the working class fight and L is for Vladimir Lenin who showed him the left was all right
 M is of course for Karl Marx the daddy and mammy of 'em all and N is for Nationalisation—without it we'd crumble and fall
 O is for Over-production that capitalist economy brings
 and P is for all private property—the greatest of all of the sins
 Q is for Quid pro quo that we'll deal out so well and so soon when R for Revolution is shouted and the Red Flag becomes the top tune
 S is for Stalinism that gave us all such a bad name
 and T is for Trotsky the hero who had to take all of the blame
 U's for the union of workers, the Union will stand to the end
 and V is for Vodka, yes Vodka, the von drink that don't bring the bends
 W is all willing workers, and that's where the memory fades
 for X, Y and Z, me dear daddy said, will be written on the street barricades

But now that I'm not a little tiny boy
 Me daddy says to me
 'Please try to forget the things I said
 Especially the ABC.'
 For Daddy's no longer a Union man
 And he's had to change his plea
 His alphabet is different now
 Since they made him a Labour MP.
 Copyright Alex Glasgow 1968

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

London Region Meeting

Saturday October 19
 Details from branch secretaries.

Parade, Hornchurch, Essex.
HORNSEY: Valerie Clark, 18 Dickinson Road, N8.
HULL: Paul Gerhardt, 52 Freehold Street, 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. Hugill, 154 Downham Road, N1. Highbury: Martin Tomkinson, 4 Martineau Road, N5.
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, Wallej Range, Manchester 16.
MERSEYSIDE: Ross Hill, 11 Broad Square, Liverpool 11 (051-226 7074)
MERTON: Malcolm Roe, 22 Elmhurst Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.
MIDDLESBROUGH: Hilary Cave, 133 Borough Road, Middlesbrough, York.
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.
RIPLY & ULKESTON: Clive Burnett, 75 Heage Road, Ripley, Derbys.
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 Branston, 33a Uplands Crescent, Swansea.
TOTTENHAM: Phil Hall, 374 High Street, N17.
TOWER HAMLETS: George Webster, 30 Leferve Road, E3.
WATFORD: Paul Russell, 61 Carpenders Avenue, Carpenders Park.
WIGAN: Ray Challinor, 34 Whiteside Avenue, Hindley, Wigan, Lancs.
WOLVERHAMPTON: Dave Spillsbury, 274 Penn Road, Wolverhampton.
YORK: Bob Looker, 22 Hobgate

Engineers: demand control of strike

ON OCTOBER 21 we will down tools at the beginning of a national official strike to fight the engineering employers and the government's incomes policy.

We must start to organise the strike immediately and demand that we take control of the strike ourselves instead of relying passively on union officials.

Strike committees should be elected in every area at mass meetings held before the strike begins. They should cover groups of factories so that workers who are well organised and strong can help their weaker brothers and prevent victimisation. Some strike committees might even cover whole areas and trading estates.

Some engineers are already talking about a 'sell-out' if the strike is called off, but there could be a worse sell-out if the AEF succumbs to talk of 'endangering the national interest' and agrees to a productivity deal with the

A statement by the engineering group of the International Socialists

bosses and government instead of a straight 'no strings' increase.

A small pay increase can be wrapped around with all sorts of fancy agreements which mean harder work, worse conditions and a smaller work force.

Although union leaders like Scanlon of the AEF and Cousins of the TGWU oppose the incomes policy, they have never condemned the idea of productivity deals.

DEMAND

It is up to the rank and file engineering workers to make it clear now—before the strike—that they will not accept a productivity deal. What they demand is a straight increase of £2 now—no strings, no deals.

Hugh Scanlon—the new president of the AEF has yet to win his spurs in a major industrial dispute. It

is not yet enough for his members: to rely on him just because the millionaire press calls him a 'left wing militant'.

We must tell him now that we support him to the hilt if he fights for a straight increase. If he accepts a productivity deal, then he is no better than the right-wing members of his executive.

The strike is a class battle. We must throw back into the faces of the employers and the government the idea of 'co-operation in the national interest'.

The true national interest is the interest of the workers who after all make up the majority of the nation. Their national interest is not the interest of the employers and the government who are allied to them to maximise profits at the expense of the workers in order to reinvest in new methods of exploitation to ensure the survival of capitalism.

This strike is about far more than just money. Any wage gain can only be temporary, for it will soon be gobbled up by rising prices and rents, but a flexibility agreement, a redundancy agreement, a loss of conditions are permanent. This is the area of the real fight, and this will be the area of any real sell-out.

ELECT

The strike opens up greater perspectives than just a struggle for a £20 a week minimum for skilled men, three weeks' holiday and equal pay for women.

We must elect our own rank and file strike committees to organise the strike and to have a decisive voice in any negotiations.

There must be mass meetings in all areas before and throughout the strike so that all workers in the AEF and other unions understand

the issues and receive up to date information.

It is crucial that the rank and file control the strike. We do not leave negotiations in our own shop of factory to the union officials. It is even more vital that in a major official strike we should rely on ourselves.

If we can demonstrate that we can control the strike in one factory, there is no reason why we should not stay in control once the strike is over and then extend that control in co-operation with other workers, to the whole of society.

OUR DEMANDS FOR THE STRIKE! £2 NOW—NO STRINGS, NO DEALS. FULL CONTROL OF THE STRIKE BY RANK AND FILE COMMITTEES IN EVERY AREA. NO RETURN TO WORK WITHOUT FULL CONSULTATION WITH THE MEMBERS.

This statement is available as a leaflet. 12s 6d a thousand from Socialist Worker

LORRY DRIVERS HALT THREE CITIES

Socialist Worker Reporter

HULL:— In a sharp and self-confident strike, lorry drivers from both the Transport Workers Union and United Road Transport Union have formed an ad hoc committee, the Wedge Committee, to fight for a £16 basic wage for a 40 hour week.

More than 1000 drivers intercepted a police-escorted fish convoy taking the catch from Hull last week, a step that rapidly escalated the strike and immobilised most of the operators from the town.

Within three days the number on strike increased from 1000 to 2000.

The police have openly acted as the bosses' allies. They have protected scab convoys, patrolled main roads in and out of the town and kept a 24-hour watch on pickets.

The TGWU has had the men's basic claim on its desk for over a year during which time it has been shuffled about and somewhat mauled by the Prices and Incomes Board and the industry's wages council. Drivers here are scornful of the inevitable demand for a 'productivity' plank in any wage bargain.

The employers in Hull are split. The small hauliers are virtually united in their willingness to pay up while the larger fleet-owners want to hold out.

The Wedge Committee is likely to win the £5 a week increase on the minimum and victimisation of militants should not be a problem.

But employers have long memories and, come harder times, more prominent members of the committee will need protection.

The Transport Bill, like the Devlin report on the docks, is a clue to the start of a radical transformation of the road haulage industry. It is important that rank and file ginger groups like the Wedge Committee should be set up to represent drivers in both unions.

'SPY IN CAB' SPARKS STRIKE

MANCHESTER:— Several hundred tanker drivers are on strike in protest against the introduction of Tachographs into their cabs. Many garages in the area are shutting down through lack of petrol and others are severely rationing supplies.

The Tachograph is a clock which measures the details of all journeys, including lengths of stops and speed. Drivers call it the 'spy in the cab'.

Most of the men on strike belong to the United Roadhaulage Association and others to the TGWU. Although both unions oppose the Tachograph, the strike, which is in its third week, is still unofficial.

500 OUT ON TEESSIDE

STOCKTON:— 500 drivers in the rank and file Teesside Drivers Action Group voted at a mass meeting on Wednesday to continue their strike against the introduction of Tachographs.

The strike has not been recognised by the men's union, the TGWU. The Action Group was set up a year ago, with money supplied by the employers as part of the Tory campaign against the government's Transport Bill.

But that 'unity' has now been destroyed. The drivers say the Tachographs would enforce a nine-hour day for a six-day week, which would severely cut their wages.

Stewards link up to fight GEC

Socialist Worker reporter

SHOP STEWARDS in the giant GEC-AEI-English Electric monopoly plan to form one committee to represent 250,000 workers. They will oppose factory closures and redundancies likely to arise from the £900m merger of the two companies.

The stewards will meet in Rugby next Saturday (October 19) to hammer out a joint policy for all the factories in the vast new complex. The decision was taken at separate meetings last weekend.

Mersey sites back locked out builders

From MIKE TALBOT

MERSEYSIDE:— At a mass meeting last Friday in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, shop stewards from 12 large construction sites, representing 10,000 workers, voted unanimously for an all-out stoppage throughout sites in the North West, if employers turned down the workers' demands.

The meeting was called to support the workers at Chemico's Shellstar site. 1,000 construction workers were locked out four weeks ago when they refused to work a productivity-cum-flexibility swindle which the government thrust on the bosses.

In response to the unholy alliance of employers, union officials and the government, rank-and-file organisations are springing up all over the area. Workers realise that only a united shop stewards' movement can fight for them.

The Chemico stewards have given Merseyside building workers a powerful lead. But the fight cannot stop here. Every effort must now be made to link up rank-and-file movements throughout Britain in defence of workers' interests.

The chairman of the GEC-AEI combined shop stewards' association, Norman Leuty, said this week that the stewards, who spoke for every group factory in the country, were in a militant mood and strongly opposed to the merger.

Mr. Leuty added: 'The average working man doesn't care who he works for. But with his job he must have some security and all the workers in the combine are insecure.'

Alarm

The meetings of the shop stewards' groups were unofficial. Both management and union officials, quietly clocking up the numbers to be thrown out of work in GEC-EE, must have heard with some alarm that 250,000 workers are now organised into one militant rank and file body, prepared to fight them all the way.

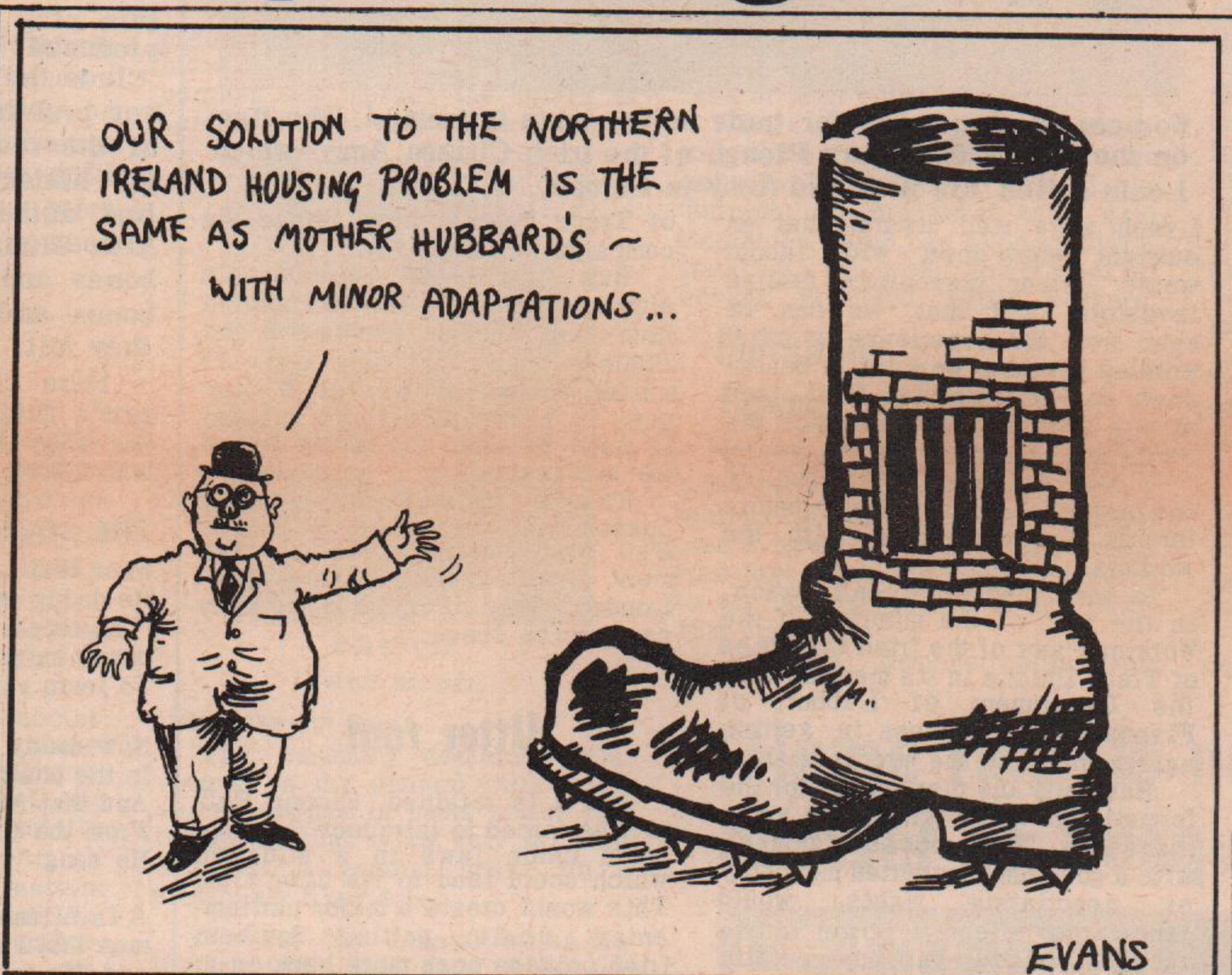
The management are already attempting to weed out militants. Sidney Powell, chairman of the AEI Woolwich shop stewards, said this week there had been deliberate attempts to single out redundant shop stewards and not offer them jobs in other parts of the combine.

Victory at Osram

GATESHEAD:— 500 strikers at Osram's electrical works returned to work on Monday when the management backed down and reinstated convenor Norman Bramwell.

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Tory council rocked by tenants' rent battle

By SEAN DUNNE

LONDON TENANTS are still solidly fighting the rent increases imposed by the Tory-controlled Greater London Council.

Reports this week from estates organised with the aid of the GLC Tenants' Action Committee show widespread support for the policy of paying the old rent without the arrears that came into operation on October 1.

The campaign is putting pressure on the council's weakest link—the rent collectors. Each week they have to open special envelopes given to them by elected representatives of the tenants and work out the arrears.

Fed up

In Poplar and Limehouse, rent collectors had to work three hours overtime to enter the arrears in triplicate when they returned to the rent office. They are so fed up that they are threatening to strike unless their £16 a week wage is improved.

It is not just central London estates that are refusing to pay the increases. The strength of the Action Committee has spread as

far as Mottingham in Kent, where 60 per cent of the tenants are refusing to pay. Top of the league at present is the giant Trowbridge estate at Hackney Wick where the campaign has 90 per cent backing from the tenants.

The rent collector has given in his notice. The tenants were paying him in pennies and sixpences and by the end of the day he was walking in a decidedly lopsided manner.

FOUNDRY STRIKE IN SEVENTH WEEK

From DAVE FISHER

ECCLES (Lancs):— The strike of 250 men and women in the foundry shops at the engineering company of L. Cordener and Co. is now seven weeks' old.

The strike started in the iron foundry, the part of the factory where there is 100 per cent union membership, and has since spread to the aluminium foundry. All the men on strike, members of the AEF, have since been sacked.

The attitude of the management hardened towards the union at the beginning of the year when a new shop steward was elected.

The strike was caused by the suspension of a worker

for alleged faulty workmanship, but all the evidence points to the strike being provoked by the management in an effort to smash the union.

The management has made every effort to split the workers. They have sent their representative out to get individual workers to go for a drink with the personnel manager.

Two of the men have fallen for the management's tricks and have returned to work.

The attitude of the majority of the men is: This is a strike for human dignity. We will only return to work if all the men, including the shop steward are given their jobs back.

For All Militant Building Construction Workers

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