

# Socialist Worker

## for workers control and international socialism

### The reason why...

THE LABOUR government's onslaught on the working class is growing in intensity. Hardly a week goes by without a further arrogant intrusion into the right of the unions to negotiate wage increases free from government intervention.

Last week the building workers' miserly 3½d an hour increase was thrown out. This week, bakery workers get similar treatment. Candlestick makers had better watch out.

It may seem strange that Wilson and company are prepared to go to any lengths to stave off strikes involving seamen, dockers and engineers while they harshly reject the builders and bakers modest claims.

But the reason is not hard to find. Seamen, dockers and engineers are concerned with the export market and every effort must be made to avoid strikes that will damage 'our' trade with wily foreigners.

### NO DEMAND

Builders and bakers fall into a different category. There is not much demand for British-built, guaranteed-to-collapse dwellings abroad; neither are the French, Germans or Italians falling over themselves to consume the products of Messrs. Rank, Hovis and McDougall.

Nothing could more clearly expose the rotten hypocrisy of this shabby, anti-working-class government. When the engineers threaten a strike, Wilson pulls out all the stops to prevent it—not because he believes in the engineers' cause but because strike action will hurt exports, profits and his friends, the ruling class.

But who cares about a handful of builders and bakers? Spit in their eye. If they go on strike, the only people to be hurt will be other workers.

So a few more council flats will remain unfinished, a few more schools stay overcrowded. Who cares? Not the Labour government.

The government has already made its attitude to school children perfectly clear this year. They are not productive. They don't produce profit, therefore provisions for them will have to be savagely cut so that more hand-outs and investment grants can be given to industrialists.

### PEGGED

For the first time since the war, school building grants have not gone up this year. They have been pegged at £129 millions—the same as last year's figure.

With devaluation, that really adds up to a slashing cut in school building. Now we have the miserable decision to abolish free school meals for the fourth child of a family.

Engineers, building workers, bakers, teachers and pupils might well ask: What has anything this government does got to do with socialism?

Nothing. The answer to all join together to help build a real socialist movement. And one of its first tasks must be to settle accounts with the Wilson gang who have made socialism a dirty word.

Engineers: see back page

## Government moves to knock 1d off building workers' frozen rise '£17 a week OR WE STRIKE' SITES MUST TELL CASTLE

By FRANK CAMPBELL

(Amalgamated Society of Painters and Decorators)

THE DECISION TO FREEZE the building workers' pay increase has brought home to thousands employed in the construction and civil engineering industries the idiocy of trade unionists expecting the Labour government to carry out anything but anti-trade union policies.

A negotiated increase of 3½d an hour for craftsmen and 3d for labourers has been quashed by the government. Building union leaders like Lowthian, Weaver and Smith rejected on Wednesday a government offer of 2½d and 2d an hour—but their records shows they are unlikely to lead a fight for the full amount.

Without exception, the top craft trade union leaders in the building industry have formed the core of Labour government loyalists in the trade union movement.

Their opposition to Wilson and his policies has never gone beyond a slightly disgruntled cough or a furrowed brow at Labour Party and TUC conferences.

### Ivy Bridge lockout — back page

But the union brass come a long way behind the bankers in importance where the government is concerned. It was the International Monetary Fund—the famous gnomes who frequently bale out British capitalism with vast loans—who told Barbara Castle to veto the 'inflationary' wage increase for one of the worst paid sectors of the working class.

And the main concern of the union leaders is that the frozen increase will lead to unofficial strike action on the sites up and down the country. It is almost certain that any action building workers take will have to be unofficial, for the union leaders have never been anxious to lead a real struggle against the government or the employers.

They have willingly aided in the introduction of new building methods which, under capitalism, must have the effect of creating unemployment.

### to back page

### Bakers turn to feel the lash

NOW IT IS the turn of bakery workers to feel the cold blast of the government's wage freeze.

An increase of 15s a week for Scottish bakery workers was turned down this week by Barbara Castle's Department of Misery and Despair.

And it seems certain that a separate but similar increase for English bakery employers will also get the thumbs down from the government.

The 15s a week increase for 15,000 Scottish bakery workers came at the end of months of bargaining between employers and unions. The rise was due to come into operation next February.

The main cause of anger in government circles (where the main criteria for any increase is 'will it screw more profit out of the workers?') was that the rise made no provisions for increased productivity.

And the government is also frightened by the thought that bread is a sensitive factor in the cost of living index. A wage increase for bakery workers would almost certainly be passed on to the consumers through higher prices—which in turn might trigger off more wage demands from other sections of workers.

The huge combines that control the bread industry are fighting with the unions against the government veto. The bosses have not been won to the workers' cause.

They are remembering the disastrous slump in sales the last time there was a strike in the industry.

### Equal pay strike

250 women workers at the North London engineering factory of CAV-Lucas have vowed to stage a token one-day stoppage on December 2 to back their unions' claim for equal pay.



Housewives at County Hall on Monday

## Make our flats safe say tenants

TWO COACHLOADS of angry tenants invaded the headquarters of the Greater London Council on Monday. They demanded immediate action to make their 'high-rise' flats safe from a Ronan Point type of disaster.

The tenants came from the Ocean Estate in Stepney, East London. They live in three 10-storey blocks built two years ago, similar in design to Ronan Point which collapsed, killing five, after a gas explosion last May.

Workers who live on the estate left their jobs to join women and children at County Hall where they threatened a day-long sit-in unless the Tory boss of the GLC, Horace Cutler, saw spokesmen from their tenants' association.

Cutler, the man who engineered the steep rent rises for GLC tenants, spoke to the TA leaders and promised an immediate top-level investigation into the safety of the flats. He told the protesting tenants that he was perturbed by the government's report on

Ronan Point—published last week—and agreed that 'urgent action' was necessary.

On Sunday the tenants on Ocean Estate asked council workmen to stop work. They had been sent by the GLC to take out gas appliances and install electric storage heaters.

Ten gangs of fitters were using drills on the concrete walls when the tenants asked them to leave.

Mr. Norman Roffey, a member of the tenants' association said: 'We have been led up the garden path by the GLC'. He added that the council had told them that only a gas explosion could cause a disaster but in fact a variety of causes could lead to a collapse.

### Protest march

The GLC Tenants Action Committee is organising a protest demonstration against rent increases to County Hall on Tuesday, November 19. Market porters from Smithfield, Covent Garden and Spitalfields will stage a supporting march.

## ETU CHOPS MILITANT MORPHEW

FRED MORPHEW, a left-wing militant in the Electrical Trades Union was expelled from the union on Tuesday.

The decision was made by the right-wing clique under president Les Cannon and is further evidence of their growing fear of opposition to union policies.

Fred Morphey ran second to Cannon in the ETU presidential election earlier this year.

One of the main charges against Mr. Morphey was that he was involved in meetings of electricians which were opposed to the Joint Industry Board for the electrical contracting industry.

The JIB is one of the clearest expressions of government attitude to the trade union movement. Set up by union chiefs and employers in consultation with the Prices and Incomes Board, it amounts to a small police state for one section of the movement.

### Graded

Within the JIB, electricians are graded and re-graded at the whim of bosses and union brass. They can be refused permission to switch jobs—a sure way of keeping tabs on militants.

The JIB plans to create a pool of unemployed electricians from which it can draw labour for any part of the country.

There has been mounting opposition to the JIB and other aspects of ETU policy. Cannon and company hope to smash this opposition by throwing out militants like Morphey.

The rank and file of the ETU can call a halt to the authoritarian plans of the executive by demanding Morphey's immediate reinstatement.

## IS calls for May Day campaign

A CALL for a massive demonstration next May Day came from the November meeting of the executive of the International Socialists.

Members voted to discuss with other socialist organisations the possibility of setting up an ad hoc committee to run and organ-

ise the campaign for the demonstration.

The executive felt that the campaign should take the form of a sustained drive throughout the winter and spring against government policies of wage freeze, incomes policy and planned unemployment, linked with the immediate demand for

equal pay for women workers.

The campaign would culminate in a march and rally in London on May 1st. May Day, the historic day of the international labour movement, falls next year on a Thursday and it was hoped that a successful demonstration would be marked by workers from many sections

of industry and commerce stopping work as a gesture of defiance to government policies.

The IS executive decided to press for the setting up of an ad hoc committee but if this should prove impossible then IS itself would continue with the campaign.



LETTERS

Unfair to the pacifists?

YOU ACCUSE the 'soggy pacifists' around Peace News and Tribune of wanting 'peace at any price' in Vietnam (Editorial, November 9). As far as the former paper is concerned, I believe this to be a distortion of its views.

Peace News calls for a withdrawal of all US forces as the first step to end the Vietnam war—is this 'peace at any price?' Is this basically any different from your own call, in the aims of Socialist Worker, for 'immediate recall of British troops from abroad as a first step towards ending colonial exploitation?'

'Peace at any price' presumably means accepting one of the highly publicised 'peace offers' made over the years by LBJ, i.e. surrender. I know of no Peace News editorial calling for this.

Peace News does not, of course, try to whitewash the NLF, and it calls for negotiations after the US has taken the decision to withdraw. But do you yourselves believe that the NLF is above criticism? And do you not think that at some stage in the war some kind of negotiations are inevitable?—TREVOR GARROD, Trinity College, Oxford.

Treacherous

ALTHOUGH basically agreeing with the line of the editorial in last week's paper, I feel you should have pointed out the treacherous role of Stalinism.

It should be pointed out that Russia has welcomed the phoney 'peace' talks. This is definitely an attempt to sell out the interests of the Vietnamese people so they can continue the policy of peaceful co-existence.

This is of course in line with the Russian government's betrayal of the Russian Revolution and all it stood for since the mid 20's. Also the likelihood of a sell-out by the North Vietnamese government under Ho Chi Minh is also relevant. Of course they have been fighting imperialism for the last 20 years but we must not forget their Stalinist heritage such as the murdering of Trotskyists in 1945-46.

To sum up, we fully support the NLF and North Vietnam as long as they fight to defeat American imperialism. But it is our duty to also criticise them so as to clarify our own political position. And when you speak about the soggy pacifists, include the Morning Star.—BARRY MILLS, East London IS.

NEWS OF THE WORLD

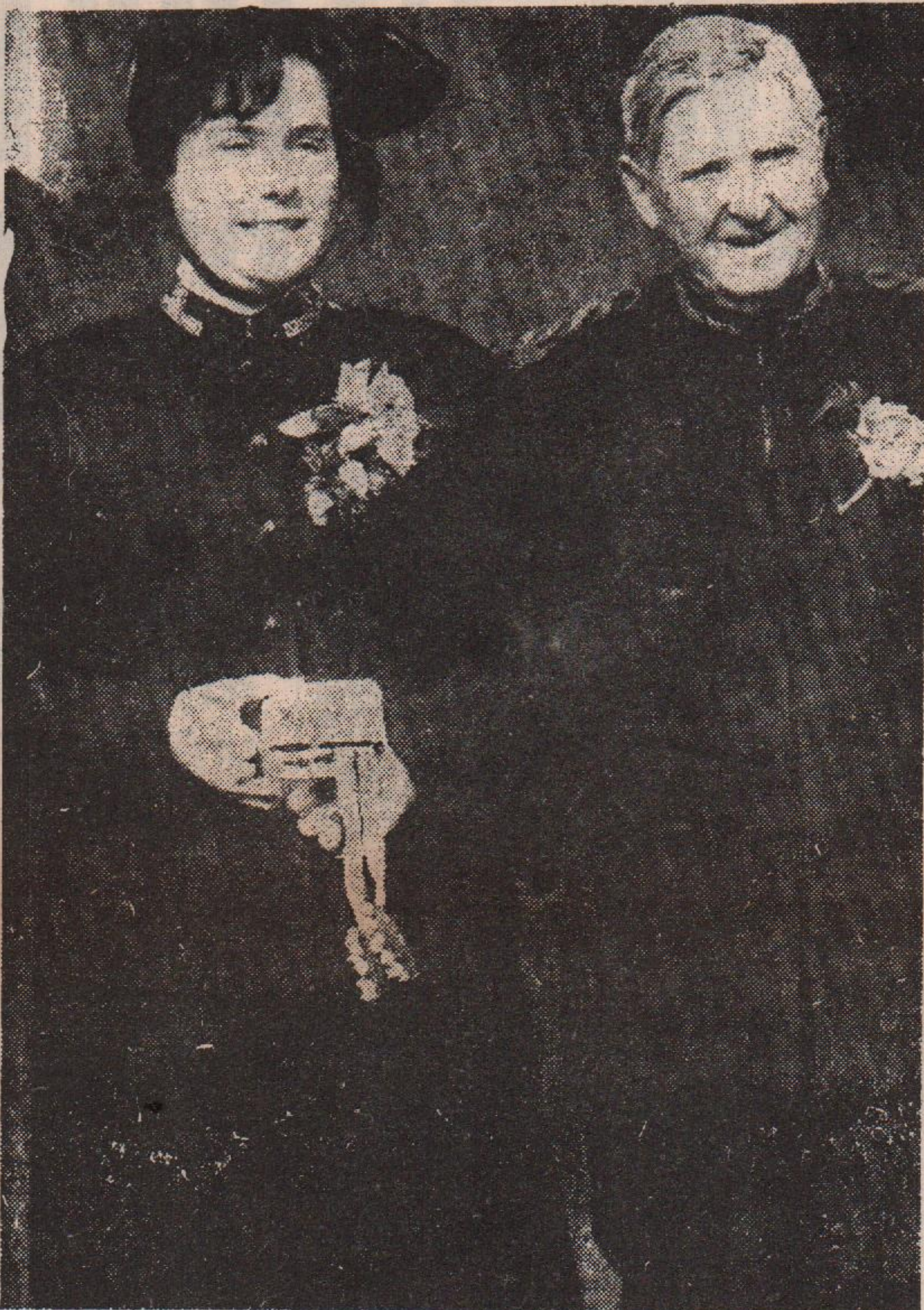
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1968

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GREAT TAKE-OVER PLOT

EXCLUSIVE

REPORTER PAUL FOOT BECOMES AN 'INTERESTED SHAREHOLDER' TO CRACK NEWS OF THE WORLD REVOLUTION...



THIS AMAZING PICTURE was taken by our sleuth. It shows two sinister, black-uniformed members of the notorious Gnome International who are in London to help direct the News of the World Revolution.

Nude nun chased by unfrocked vicar—page 5

Two days ago, I set out to discover the faceless ones who threaten the British Press. I skulked for hours in the shady bars of Basle and Threadneedle Street, posing all the while as an 'interested shareholder', anxious to do business.

Ten minutes in the City of London was enough for me to uncover the first, grim threads of the NEWS OF THE WORLD REVOLUTION, which threatens the calm of British society.

I CAN NOW REVEAL . . .

This Revolution is not just a myth or a pipe-dream concocted by harmless entrepreneurs. It is an extremist-indoctrinated FACT.

The men behind the plot are not out for fun or a few bob (as many shareholders are) but are high-powered fanatics, interested only in achieving financial power through the devious mechanism of the stock market.

RUBBISH

The story starts in a plush hotel in Geneva where Mr. Derek Jackson meets Mr. Robert Maxwell, Labour MP for Buckingham. Mr. Jackson owns 25 per cent of the voting shares in the News of the World. And for all the world, this looked to the observer like a harmless meeting between two jovial businessmen.

The facts, as I discovered from behind my dark-glasses, is different. Despite his sweet-sounding name, Robert Maxwell is no Britisher.

He was born in Czechoslovakia, and, since his arrival in this country, he has committed himself ruthlessly to build up a huge publishing Empire.

His meeting with the gullible Jackson marks his first big bid for the News of the World.

Maxwell, oozing bonhomie, and continuing to use his false name, bamboozled Jackson into selling out his holding. The stage was set for his dramatic bid, which shook the world.

Working closely with his friend Mr. Kenneth Keith, executive director of the merchant bank, Hill Samuel, Maxwell launched his 35/- bid on a surprised and frightened stock market.

GIBBERISH

But he had not bargained for another gang of power-maniacs, lurking under the umbrella of the Carr family, owners of NOW. Maxwell's bid gave them a chance to launch a counter-offensive.

The story then switches to another foreign country—this time Australia, where Press King Robin Murdoch of News Ltd. picked up his morning paper over breakfast of bacon and eggs and jumped almost immediately to the telephone. In a flash, he had fixed up a partner-

Ten days that shook News of the World

ship with the sinister Carrs to fight Maxwell on his own ground.

In a moment another party was on the scene—Mr. Jocelyn Hambro, who, for all his respectable connections, still bears a name, which, to say the least of it, is not noticeably British.

The Carrs and Hambro worked out an ingenious scheme. They met me in a back-street lounge near the Mansion House after I had rung Hambro with the false information that I owned a million voting shares in the News of the World.

'You see,' one of the Carrs muttered to me, after I had disguised myself in a pinstripe suit and bowler, 'we plan to buy out the big shareholders at a massive price in secret, while we tell all the little shareholders to sit tight and wait. Then we can spring a fast one on Koch (the City underworld always refer to Maxwell by his proper name) at the minimum possible price.'

NONSENSE

In hundreds of similar meetings all over the City, Hambro's men worked similar shady deals. Before long, they had a majority of voting shares and the wily Czech had been stymied.

A revolution planned in Switzerland had been thwarted by a similar effort from Sydney.

For the moment an uneasy peace hangs over the presses. The two factions lie deadlocked by their own fanatical conspiracies.

Yet the decent citizens of Britain, the folk who depend on their News of the World with their Sunday breakfasts, have no cause for complacency.

As long as Koch-Maxwell, Carr, Murdoch, Jackson, Hambro, Keith and their ilk are on the loose, no one can sleep easy in their beds.

As one of the Hambro henchmen told me:

'We will strike again.'

NEXT SUNDAY: I witness astonishing scenes on the floor of the Stock Exchange.

From Rugby star to Blushing Bride —new miracle operation (page 11)

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

JUST REPRINTED...

A Revolutionary Socialist Manifesto

an open letter to the party written in a Polish prison

by Jacek Kuron and Karol Modzelewski

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# What makes Merseyside so militant?

Almost any day you look in your paper you'll see them—strikes on Merseyside.

Seamen, dockers, engineers, busmen, tenants, lorry drivers, building workers, dustmen are just a few sections of the Merseyside labour movement that have been locked in struggle with bosses and government in recent times.

Why is Merseyside—that vast, sprawling area of docks, industry, and tenements in Liverpool and Birkenhead—so militant?

The papers will tell you that either Merseyside has more 'troublemakers' per square mile than Wales has sheep, or that it is the Mersey 'spirit' of not taking things lying down.

But these impressions don't get anywhere near the real answer. Merseyside is militant and has many strikes because it has a host of problems and the workers

are more prepared, politically and organisationally, to face up to them than in other parts of Britain.

Merseyside has always had high unemployment. For a long time industry centred around the docks and little new industry moved in, in spite of its being a redevelopment area.

## Cheap labour

Then Fords came.

The Halewood plant opened because of government pressure and because the firm saw an opportunity of using cheap labour compared to the Dagenham plant. Wage rates are lower here than for most car workers in the country.

But as far as Merseyside is concerned they are high. Through high unemployment and the lack of modern industry, the arrival of Fords caused a minor revolution.

Few workers stay in Fords for more than a year. The pace is simply too hot.

## by MARTIN BARKER

And the regular turnover of workers means that the other industries find their rates being compared to Fords. Then the workers strike.

The dockers struck for a £17 basic rate last year. In a magnificently solid strike, they paralysed large sections of industry.

The busmen, lorry drivers, dustmen and meat porters all demanded the 'dockers' £17 one after the other.

Fords, meanwhile, had hardly any trouble at all, because of the high turnover of labour and because Fords set the standard that others want to achieve. The only major strike at Fords recently was the women machinists' dispute.

But although Mersey workers are militant their strikes settle little. The dockers won a big increase in pay, but they have to fight off

continual management attempts at rationalisation—new methods, fewer men—at their expense.

The busmen went back with an improvement on their basic rate only to find overtime cut to a minimum. The corporation said they were short of drivers but refused to take on qualified men. Buses were deliberately kept off the roads.

The lorry drivers went back to work to allow negotiations to take place—and one firm quickly sacked half its labour force.

Meanwhile 90,000 council tenants got wind of a rent rise and with the help of the Merseyside International Socialists they organised massive tenants' associations and a rent strike. Even though only a few tenants went on strike, the council was humbled and made major concessions.

Then construction workers at Chemico's Shellstar site at Ellesmere Port refused to work a disastrous productivity deal that would have made a third of the labour force redundant. They were all sacked.

A joint-sites committee quickly mobilised 10 major sites for collections for the men. 2000 Merseyside building workers marched through Liverpool demanding their reinstatement and then threatened an all-out stoppage.

Merseyside did in a fortnight what the London Barbican workers fought so gallantly for a year to achieve—complete solidarity of all the building sites in one large area. So great was this solidarity that another site at Warrington gasworks was encouraged to reject a similar agreement that had previously been accepted.

But again little was solved. Shortly after they had won a complete return to work on the old agreement, the Shellstar stewards accepted a similar productivity agreement in the teeth of bitter opposition from many of the men.

All this militancy and so little won? In terms of money and conditions, yes, very little.

But militancy can give you much more than this. Through their struggles, Merseyside workers are probably more aware of the role of the union leaders and officials than anyone else.

They are more aware of which

side the government and the state are on. For example during the Chemico strike, social security officials told the men's wives that if they could not manage on strike pay they should stop feeding their husbands!

Gains from strikes can't just be measured in pounds, shillings and tea breaks.

For example, it has long been thought that after a rents battle, tenants' associations die away into social clubs. Not so Liverpool. Speke TA alone can still turn out hundreds for a meeting.

Another example: women workers at English Electric, where redundancies are likely because of the merger with GEC, are keen to have a fight for equal pay with men.

Yet another example: the joint-sites committee set up during the Shellstar strike is still in existence and links up workers throughout the area.

## Future battles

Why write all this about Merseyside? Because the militant workers on the edge of this smelly river have a lot to teach us.

They teach us that militancy does pay off. Not in money which is quickly whittled away by prices and rent rises, but it prepares us for the future battles.

Merseyside workers are learning that fighting through traditional organisations leads to defeat. Even fighting through unofficial shop stewards can lead to defeat because they are isolated.

But fighting in unison with other workers, creating new types of fighting organisations—tenants associations, joint-sites committees, equal pay for women campaigns—not only help you to win but help teach you what you are up against.

Workers fighting shoulder to shoulder, depending on one another, quickly learn their common interest.

The capitalist papers will continue to tell us why Merseyside workers are militant. But we will know better than they.

Marxist analysis can explain why they are militant and what we have to learn from their experiences.

That is the reason for writing about Merseyside.

# After the horse race, US Left must swing to workers

NEW YORK:—The most expensive horse race in history is over. The leading three contestants alone admit to having spent over £50 million in the contest. The television, airplane and balloon industries made a mint.

But the election of Richard Nixon will make no noticeable change in US policy. The old problems remain of racialism, inflation, unemployment, urban decay, war in Vietnam

Nixon will apply the same 'solutions' which Johnson used—repression spiced with social rhetoric.

While it may be said that the dullness of the elections show that 'nothing has changed' in America, it shows rather the inability of the ruling class to find solutions to the problems it has created.

A year ago, Senator McCarthy announced he would run for the presidency. He wished to contain the growing unrest in America, particularly against the war, within the Democratic Party, where it would remain powerless.

The answer of the Democratic Party to the massive support he had obtained was police raids on his headquarters, repression on the convention floor and brutality in the streets. The old machine was not even willing to hide behind a new face.

With the nomination of Humphrey, millions strained agonisingly to find the differences between him and Nixon. While Nixon did succeed in identifying himself with the generally reactionary direction of the country, it still seemed as though the people never really made up their mind. The even split seemed to say that people had simply walked into the booth and pulled the first lever their hand came across.

George Wallace became, tragically, the 'protest' candidate. While his support had a huge racialist content, the other parties, particularly the Republicans, made no bones about their view of Black unrest.

Wallace, the representative of the anti-working class South, got mass support from workers. His reactionary anti-labour attitude could not stem rank-and-file support because the labour bureaucracy fights against militant struggles for workers needs and rights and supports the Democrats, who pursue reactionary anti-working-class solutions to the problems of the country.

Wallace, the reactionary, called his American Independent Party the 'real representative of

## from JOEL STEIN

the American (read white) working man. He appealed to workers' disgust with Democrats and labour bureaucrats; attacked the tax-free foundations, giant corporations and banks, and government bureaucrats.

In return he received immense working-class support and a large working-class vote, from 5 to 20 per cent in industrial union strongholds in the mid-West and East and up to 30 per cent in the border states of the South. This, though less than expected, is a significant indication of the American workers' disgust with the old parties.

In the Wallace form, this protest can be only a means for repressing the aspirations of the workers who voted for him. But these workers largely conceived that vote as a protest. In the next four years, the left will have a tremendous opportunity, if it wishes to try, to build a political movement really capable of addressing itself to the needs of workers.

## Common needs

This job is of course much harder than Wallace's. Wallace's empty demagoguery, his racialism, his call on workers to rely on him, is much more 'politically acceptable' in the US than the demand that workers rely on themselves, that black and white fight together for their common needs.

The racialist content of the Wallace vote cannot be discounted either. The attempt to build a movement in which workers participate actively and control is much harder than the attempt to win passive support for a hard core of thugs and reactionaries, the Wallace base.

Unfortunately, the possibilities stand revealed more clearly in the Wallace movement than in anything the Left has done. What is needed now is a mass political movement which can actively defend the interests of US workers fighting for their real needs, on the job, in the community, against the corporations and state and union bureaucracy. A movement which can form links with rank-and-file worker organisations.

Wallace has also shown in a reactionary way, that electoral action can be an effective way of reaching workers

The small Left parties concentrated entirely upon the anti-war issue and the Black movements. Rather than dealing with these questions concretely, insofar as they directly harm the needs and lives of white workers, they were dealt with abstractly.

But the real possibilities for building a political movement of workers remains. Wallace has nothing to offer but more of the same old policies in more reactionary ways.

Unless the Left turns actively, politically, towards the working class, Wallace will grow in popularity by default as workers and radicals are increasingly polarised. Only through political and social struggle can black-white links be forged. Indeed, this understanding is beginning to grow in large sections of the student, anti-war and Black movements.

# Join the International Socialists

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  
 BOLTON: F. Canavan, 11 Sutton Road, Sutton Estate, Deane, Bolton.  
 BIRMINGHAM: Godfrey Webster, 128 Yardley Wood Rd., B'ham 13.  
 BRADFORD: Bob Kornreich, Flat 1, 7 Oak Avenue, Bradford 8.  
 BRIGHTON: Micky Adams, Flat 4, 85 St. Aubyns, Hove.  
 CAMBRIDGE: Peter Smith, 65 Glisson Road.  
 CAMDEN: Chris Barker, 36 Gilden Road, NWS.  
 CHERTSEY: Nick Humphrey, 83 New Haw Road, Addlestone, Surrey  
 COLCHESTER: Ian Noble, 12 Coach Road, Arleford, Colchester (Wivenhoe 272)  
 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 Merway Avenue, Hebburn, Co. Durham.  
 EAST LONDON: John Metcalfe, 61 Wolsey Avenue, E17  
 EDINBURGH: Jim Smith, 25 Pitt Street, (Leith) Edinburgh 6.  
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 HAVERING: Dave Rugg, 8a Elm Parade, Hornchurch, Essex.  
 HORNSEY: Valerie Clark, 18 Dickinson Road, N8.  
 HULL: Paul Gerhardt, 52 Freehold Street, Hull.  
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 KENTON: Kevin Simms, 56 Salsbury Road, Harrow.  
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 STOKE NEWINGTON: Mike McGrath, 28 Manor Road, N16.  
 SWANSEA: Peie Branston, 33a Uplands Crescent, Swansea.  
 TOTTENHAM: Laurie Flynn, 374 High Road, 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 Spilsbury, 274 Penn Road, Wolverhampton.  
 YORK: Bob Looker, 22 Hobgate



# Pressure mounts for AEF strike

By SOCIALIST WORKER REPORTER

THE ENGINEERING STRIKE, postponed on October 18, could still take place. Slowly the truth is dawning on an incredulous Department of Employment and Productivity and a frightened Engineering Employers' Federation.

All the attempts of Fleet Street's labour correspondents to 'play down' the crisis, to spread an atmosphere of calm and satisfaction among the workers and to assure the middle classes that some sort of agreement would be produced from the October 18 package have come to nothing.

## Clyde vote to strike

From PETER BAIN

GLASGOW:- 4,500 members of the Boilermakers Society employed by Upper Clyde Shipbuilders voted on Tuesday to strike.

Since July there have been more than 20 strikes at UCS, involving every section of the 14,000-strong workforce, as the employers try to enforce new working conditions.

The boilermakers demanded a higher wage than any other skilled manual worker in the yards, and negotiations have been going on with the management since June. In October, agreement was reached on basic rates of up to 13/5d an hour plus an incentive bonus scheme and it was agreed to try out a pilot scheme at Connell's yard.

But when the pilot scheme was implemented, the management's interpretation of the agreement was to pay basic rates of up to 11/9d an hour plus the bonus scheme, which would have effectively meant a drop of 1/6d to 2s an hour in the men's present wages. The workers banned overtime, and gave notice of their intention to strike on November 19 in protest against the management's dishonesty and back-tracking.

UCS and the unions have now agreed in principle to the proposals in the 'workers' charter' in which wage increases and employment guarantees are given in exchange for a stringent tightening of control over the workers, including interchangeability, flexibility, measured-day-work and strict adherence to 'procedure'.

## MEETINGS

**LONDON REGION IS:** Tony Cliff on British revolutionary Left since the war Saturday November 23, 3pm. Africa Centre, King Street WC2 (tube: Leicester Sq.) 2s 6d

**ISLINGTON IS:** Jim Higgins (POEU) on Productivity Bargaining—challenge to the wage packet. Islington Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road N7 8pm Monday November 18 (tube: Finsbury Park)

**RANK AND FILE TEACHER meeting:** Salaries—future policy and present action. Friday November 22, 7.30. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1.

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM N.W. Regional Conference** November 16/17. Meeting Room 2, Manchester University Union, Oxford Road, Manchester 13. Saturday and Sunday 2 pm.

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All over the country groups of engineers and their representatives have voted against the productivity strings agreed to by the union negotiators.

These included job evaluation, measured day work, flexibility and transferability of labour.

They amount to a powerful body-blow at workers' organisations where they are most powerful—on the shop floor.

The employers now realise that the real threat to their profit margins comes not from union officials, nor from national negotiations but from 'wage drift'—that is the steady increases in piecework earnings won by shop-floor militancy.

## Aid bosses' plans

That is the movement which the employers wish to stop, and, despite the considerable gains won by the union from the threat of a strike, the productivity concessions aid the employers' plans.

Shop stewards at British-Leyland (representing 190,000 workers) rank and file delegates to the Transport Union's engineering committee (representing 250,000 workers) mass meetings at factories like Albions in Scotland and Morganite in London have voted unequivocally against productivity 'strings'.

They want the money offered without strings, and they are prepared to strike for it.

## More noise needed

The strike was postponed to sound out 'local opinion'. The local opinion already declared is unanimously against the productivity concessions.

But more noise will have to be made before the AEF National Committee meets on November 22 if the chicken-hearted Carronites on that committee are not to vote down the strike.

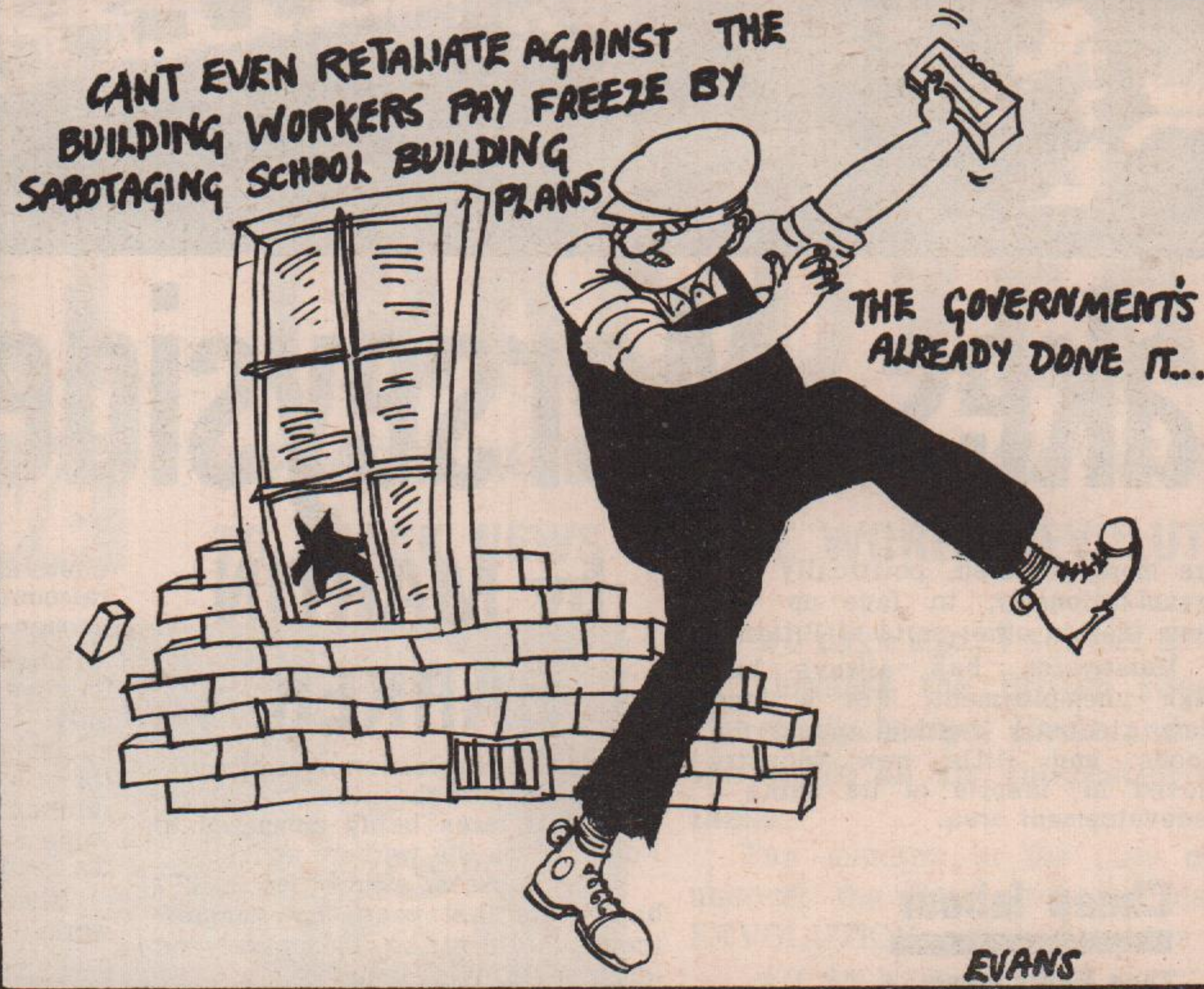
Each AEF member has a duty to make his voice heard in the next eight crucial days. Remember: Job evaluation means work study—on the bosses' standards.

Measured day work means you wait three times longer to earn half as much as normal piecework earnings.

Demand that your National Committee member speak to mass meetings at factories.

Send him telegrams protesting about his concessions. Phone him up.

Persuade him by force of argument and numbers to change his mind and fight for the increases without strings.



## Militant's court battle is victory for the Left

By Socialist Worker Reporter

ON WEDNESDAY, November 6, the entire socialist movement gained a victory in number 4 court of the Old Bailey in London.

Tom Hillier, an engineer, had been charged with offences arising out of the May 26 demonstration in solidarity with French workers and students. The prosecution claimed that he had incited people to violence against the police, had asked people to lift paving stones and pull up trees and implied that there was an intention to burn down the French Embassy. The indictment consisted of four charges:

1. Incitement to riot
2. Threatening words likely to lead to a breach of the peace
3. Assaulting a police officer in the execution of his duty
4. Inciting others to assault a police officer

The jury, after five days of evidence acquitted him unanimously of charges 1, 3 and 4 and found him guilty of using threatening words (11-1). He received a nine months suspended sentence over three years.

Throughout the trial Tom Hillier strongly denied committing the offences. He had appeared four times at Marlborough Street Magistrates Court prior to committal. At his last appearance at Marlborough Street on August 22 he had a statement read out by his defence counsel which said:

'It is my considered opin-

ion that the charges against me arise out of a political decision by the authorities and are supported by fabricated and distorted evidence, the purpose being to stifle all forms of radical protest and demonstration.'

An ITN newsreel was shown during the trial by the defence which showed Hillier with a loudhailer telling marchers to disperse because they were outnumbered.

## Failed to see

The police witnesses had denied that such a speech had been made. They claimed to have observed Hillier's activities very closely yet they had completely failed to see or hear the speech or the TV camera man and his equipment.

So strong did the police case appear, that after the first day's hearings, Hillier's solicitor and Alistair Troop, his defence counsel, advised him to plead guilty. He refused and maintained that the fight should continue.

On Monday he offered a return deal in which he would consider pleading guilty to assault providing all the other charges were dropped. Troop declined this offer.

Several witnesses were called for the defence and they testified that Hillier had not incited people to

violence but had attempted to get the demonstrators to assemble together and march out of Lowndes Square (by the French Embassy) and hold a meeting at Speakers Corner.

One witness, Ron Bailey who described himself as an anarchist, admitted that he had intended to occupy the embassy. He said that Tom Hillier was one of the 'old guard pacifists' and was attempting to ruin the fun.

Under cross examination Tom Hillier was asked why he thought the police were accusing him of things he hadn't said or done. 'They are all gravely mistaken or are deliberately lying' he replied. In spite of the judge's vicious summing up speed, the jury thought so too.

Had Hillier been found guilty and imprisoned, the entire Left would have been faced by a situation which would have posed tremendous problems in their attitude towards demonstration.

The authorities had everything on their side in this case. Even the timing was crucial—the trial started four days after the October 27 Vietnam demonstration which the press and authorities had expected to be a violent one.

The result of the trial was a victory for the Left and a defeat for the state.

Tom and Mary Hillier would like to thank all the comrades who gave them encouragement and support.

## SITES MUST SAY: £17 OR WE STRIKE

from page one

Since 1964, the labour force in the building industry has shrunk by 7½ per cent. New building methods also account for the rise in the accident and death rates for the industry.

The benefits of Wilson's technological revolution, which the union leaders embrace, are increased chances of the dole queue and the graveyard.

Always claiming to be misunderstood and misrepresented, the building union brass have stated that wage freeze was what they stood for. They were in favour of a Prices and Incomes policy that would benefit the lower-paid worker.

And now wage freeze and incomes policy are at work in their industry. What has happened to lower-paid building workers?

At every round of pay negotiations, the differential

between craftsmen and labourers has widened. The labourers get left behind every time in spite of all the egalitarian talk from the men at the top of the unions.

There is a danger that many building workers will think the 3½d was an agreed wage rise for the industry and that if we get it, we will have won.

Not so. The 3½d is an agreed interim payment, nothing more.

The policy of the unions, as circulated to branches, is £17 11s 8d for craftsmen and £15 for labourers now and without any productivity strings.

It is likely that if the 3½d had been paid it would have constituted the rise for the first year of a three-year package deal—although union conferences have rejected any more three-year tie-ups.

The productivity strings

would have been attached later when the money was in the pay packet. The unions and employers were no doubt gambling on the fact that the men would have accepted the strings, rather than give up the increase.

This tactic was used in Shell Star strike on Merseyside. The fierce opposition to such a deal on Merseyside may well find an echo throughout the country.

Mass meetings of building workers at site, branch and federation level must demand:

All-out industrial action against the freeze.

Full official support for all building workers engaged in fighting the freeze.

Payment in full now of £17 11s 8d for craftsmen and £15 for labourers.

No strings—no productivity deals and no three-year tie-ups, whatever the PIB says.

## Walk-out stops £5m Ivy Bridge site

Socialist Worker Reporter

TURRIFFS, main contractors at the £5 million Ivy Bridge development at Isleworth, Middlesex, have brought work on the site to a standstill.

More than 400 workers are now locked out of the development, which will eventually provide council homes for 1100 families.

Trouble started when Turrieffs switched from a site negotiated bonus rate to one approved by the Prices and Incomes Board, which amounts to little more than 2d an hour. When workers staged a go-slow, 70 of them were locked out.

Turrieffs' determination for a show-down with trade-union organisation overrides any consideration for homeless families. One of the bosses' main complaints has been that, thanks to a reasonable bonus system, construction work has been going ahead too quickly.

## STORM

Turrieffs' action is sure to arouse a storm of protest in an area where homes for working-class families are in desperately short supply.

The contractors originally told Hounslow Council that the first dwelling would be finished two weeks ago.

The bosses have wasted no time in stopping work on the site. At the beginning of last week they sacked a further 100 workers, bringing the total outside the gates to 170.

With the threat of further sackings, the remaining workers walked out to join their mates outside the gates.

The stage is now set for one of the biggest management-union confrontations since the Barbican dispute in London last year. Workers on Turrieffs' Barbican site have declared their solidarity with the Ivy Bridge men.

## CONTRACT

Militants on the site who warned that the bosses were planning a show-down, now feel that Turrieffs is aiming to keep the site closed until June next year when a new contract is signed with the council. Then Turrieffs will be able to pick and choose the workers to employ.

A national disputes commission, made up of union chiefs and employers, is now considering the issue. But a watered-down formula of taking back workers on the bosses' terms is all that can be expected from this body.

Ivy Bridge shows what 'productivity' really means. When workers were prepared to work faster—on their own terms—the bosses fought them viciously.

What government spokesmen and bosses mean by productivity is more production on the bosses' terms—which means making a lot more profit.

## ADVERTISEMENT

BULLETIN of Marxist Studies No. 2 Includes—The Donovan Report on Trade Unions, Tony Topham. Marxism and Parliamentary Democracy, Chris Arthur, Trotsky reprint, The Timetable of Revolution. Also, Czechoslovakia, France, Student Revolt at Columbia. 1s 10d. p.p. from BMS, 4 Norwood House, Peakes Road, RUGELEY, Staffs.

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