

Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

171 16 MAY 1970 4d



5000 march against Nixon's war

THE HEAD of the International Socialists' 1000 strong contingent leaving Trafalgar Square on last Saturday's protest march against the war in Cambodia. The march was organised by the British Council for Peace in Vietnam.

There was a sharp distinction between

the organisers and the militant marchers. The BCPV speakers urged a 'peaceful' march and asked supporters to take flowers to lay on Roosevelt's statue in Grosvenor Square. At the American Embassy, the police split the leaders from the rest of the march and then provoked a punch-up with the militants.

NIXON'S DESERT

THE TOWN OF SNOUL is lost under the holocaust. 4000 corpses, most of them probably innocent Cambodians, have all been dutifully classified as 'enemy troops'.

And countless nameless Cambodian villages are lost accidentally in shell holes. The American desert in Vietnam has begun to eat into the paddy fields of Cambodia.

The two invasions of Cambodia a week ago have now been extended to seven or eight separate invasion points. The 10,000 US and South Vietnamese troops have grown to something over 55,000.

The order - 'hit anything which moves' - ensures that few will remain to complain.

'Blow town away'

Rumour governs the tanks and the artillery. In the case of Snoul, it was rumour that the 'Vietcong' were there which prompted the order to 'blow the town away'. After destroying it, the rumour can be checked.

But the sudden explosion of the anti-war movement in America has

by
Nigel Harris

forced some verbal concessions. American troops will leave in 'five or six weeks' or by 1 July and will not invade Cambodia beyond a 19 mile limit.

In military terms, the two concessions are obviously absurd. If the 'massive concentrations of enemy troops' are 20 miles from the border on 2 July, Nixon cannot and will not withdraw his forces.

Nor has he said South Vietnamese troops will withdraw and they will need US air support. There are 'no US troops' in Laos officially, but it does not prevent a major US-backed war taking place there.

Nor has the 19-mile limit prevented the launching of a flotilla of 100 vessels from South Vietnam up the Mekong River to Phnom Penh. A third or a quarter of these vessels are US manned, but they are supposed to be carrying 'medical and food' supplies to the Cambodian capital, and therefore are not subject to the 19-mile limit.

The overall invasion makes no more military-political sense than it

did when it was launched. If it was to ward off possible attacks while US troops evacuated the South, the operation will have to be repeated every three to six months.

Despite wild claims and energetic efforts to manufacture 'major enemy bases', little of note appears to have been discovered in the invasion.

If the NLF were there, they have long since gone beyond the 19-mile limit.

The US information services have tried to fill the gap with scares - Phnom Penh is falling, Laos is besieged. But the credibility gap grows and grows.

Giving up pretence

In Phnom Penh itself, the new Cambodian government is slowly but surely giving up all pretence to be independent. So worried is it about the incursions of the National Liberation Front and 'North Vietnamese' that it has been hinting more and more directly that it would welcome the intervention of Cambodia's historic enemies, the South Vietnamese.

Already members of the Cambodian minority in South Vietnam who are fighting with the South Vietnamese army have been seconded to the defence of Phnom Penh, complete with all their US equipment.

The flotilla has arrived and in Saigon the generals are considering an invasion to secure the main Cambodian port of Sihanoukville.

All that is needed is a Thai intervention from the north west for Cambodia to disappear much as Poland did in 1939. The Lon Nol government has relinquished all claim to being neutralist and nationalist. In opening the door to US troops it has guaranteed its own destruction, whatever else happens.

PAUL FOOT
reports from
America next week.
Don't miss it

Press lies and union bribes at St Helen's

BY THE EDITOR

HOW THE BOSSES, the millionaire press and right-wing, strike-breaking union officials tremble when workers take action over filthy working conditions and appalling wages.

All the big guns of the big business system have been trained this week on the Pilkington workers of St Helen's, Lancashire, in a desperate, frenzied and hysterical attempt to get them back to work.

The press, including the oh-so-respectable Times, screeches about Red plots, Maoist badges, Trotskyist subversives.

The leaders of the General and Municipal Workers' Union have refused all along to recognise the strike. Yet on Monday, in one of the most disgusting pieces of blackmail and bribery seen for some time in the labour movement, the union offered the strikers £12 each if they returned to work.

The offer was rejected with contempt by the strikers.

The Pilkington strike is the latest and greatest mass revolt by low-paid workers. Kicked around, abused, forced to work in steam and heat for long hours and poverty-line wages, the glass workers have finally said 'enough'.

Their demands: £10 a week more to bring their pay up to £24 a week (and if you think that's a lot, just deduct £10 from £24 and think of what they were earning before the strike) and a 40-hour week.

They are modest demands. But they are too much for the press, the mouthpiece of big business.

NO TRUTH

The 'free' press does not tell the truth about the strike. Reporters and television teams swarm into St Helen's.

Strike leaders are questioned about their political allegiances, IS members are watched and mythical supporters of Chairman Mao are said to be flooding the town with little red books.

As one seasoned militant told Socialist Worker on Tuesday: 'There are as many Mao badges in St Helen's as there are badges saying 'I love Lord Cooper'. Lord Cooper is the man with five directorships who also finds time to be secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

And from all the feverish press activity in St Helen's, no real picture of the strike emerges. This is the real picture:

St Helen's is a company town, owned lock, stock and barrel by the Pilkington brothers. It has some of the worst slum housing in Britain.

The glass factories that domin-

Big rise in Pilkington profits

ate the town are owned by five of the wealthiest men in Britain. Between them they own 87 per cent of the company's shares.

D Phelps has £30m worth of shares and owns 29 per cent of the company.

Sir Harry Pilkington has £24m worth of shares and owns 24 per cent of the company.

A Pilkington has £15m worth of shares and owns 14 per cent of the company.

Lord Cozens-Hardy has £13m worth of shares and owns 14 per cent of the company.

L H Pilkington has £6½m worth of shares and owns 7 per cent of the company.

Last year, Pilkington's profits leapt from £13m to £20m - that is by a cool 50 per cent. So when Sir Harry Pilkington says the firm can't afford the pay rise, he's talking out of his noble posterior.

Witch-hunted by the press, scabbed on by their union, the Pilkington workers are fighting a magnificent battle. They deserve to win. They must win.

Solidarity action by other workers is the best way to bring Pilkington's to its knees.

BLACK GLASS

Glass is being flown into Britain from the continent to major car firms. All car workers should take immediate action to black this glass.

And Jack Jones of the Transport Workers Union should make a public declaration that he will accept into membership all the ex-G&M workers at Pilkington's.

The Pilkington strikers face desperate financial hardship, with no strike pay from their union (or ex-union - most of the strikers have torn up their G&M cards).

We call upon our readers to dig deep and rush money to the strike committee address: John Potter, 63 Parbold Avenue, Blackbrook, St Helen's, Lancs.

Free Irish civil rights prisoners!

Speakers will include

BERNADETTE DEVLIN, MP

MAIRIN DE BURCA, Sinn Fein

JOHN PALMER, ICRSC

Friday 15 May 8pm

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square WC1



Snoul, after America's peace mission had left

Ohio murder: Nixon's policies lead to violence...

'WHEN DISSENT turns to violence, it invites tragedy.' These hypocritical words were mouthed by President Nixon at the news of the deaths of the four students murdered by the National Guard at Kent, Ohio, last week.

Let us be quite clear just whose violence he was referring to. It was Nixon who again escalated the Vietnam war by his recent authorisation of an invasion of Cambodia, once again without reference to 200 million Americans who have quite clearly shown what their attitude to this rotten war is.

Nixon has happily donned the mantle passed on from his predecessors, Kennedy and Johnson. He has taken no notice of the wishes of the people and he did not refer to those bastions of 'democracy' Congress or the Senate.

When the people react with stone-throwing frustration, the only means they have of expressing their dissatisfaction, they are met with CS gas and bullets.

How far Nixon will go in suppressing the movement is yet to be seen. But his statement, as quoted, is incorrect.

It is not dissent that invites tragedy, but Nixon who invites violence.

His statement was not an expression of sorrow at the death of four people but a veiled threat, directed at all who may actively oppose his vicious policies in Indo-China. - R MANKTELOW, New Malden, Surrey.

Your money

THE Greater London Council's £10 million incinerator plant at Angel Road, Edmonton, is being built with the help of tax-payers' money.

On this job, where redundancies will occur in the near future, the

management saw fit to employ sub-contractors without union tickets. After investigation by shop stewards, with the co-operation of union officials, one contractor was asked for proof that he was a genuine contractor.

When he failed to produce this within a given time, we demanded his immediate removal from the site. The management had no alternative but to accept the works' committee decision.

There is discontent on the site and workers have demanded that all sub-contractors report to the works' steward before starting on the contract. It's the workers' tax and labour that help to build the plant and we must have a say in running it.

We have asked time after time for a site safety officer. The GLC have refused, saying that each contractor is responsible for his own safety.

There was a fatal accident on this site last October but still there is no site safety officer. The works committee forced the management after the accident to employ a state registered nurse, provide an ambulance and give rescue training twice a week.

So far so good. But without a site safety officer the job will



An American student being beaten on a protest march last week

* YOUR LETTERS

never be 100 per cent safe. - BUILDING WORKER (name and address supplied).

Kidnapping

IAN BIRCHALL (16 April) discussed the execution by Guatemalan guerrillas of the German ambassador, Count von Spreti.

The kidnapping of diplomats in Latin America is a well tried tactic and has paid considerable dividends.

This form of action has released many leading revolutionaries from prison, and it has demonstrated that the CIA puppet governments of Latin America are more concerned with the life of one imperialist diplomat than with the effect of the release of revolutionary militants.

It is on this basis that the tactic is continuing. It releases revolutionaries from prison and is used as

propaganda to show the true nature of the government to whole sections of the workers and peasants.

What does Socialist Worker have to say about this? While the tactic was working effectively it refused to condemn it.

As soon as a little bloodshed was necessary, however, it publishes an article by a leading member of the International Socialists condemning the guerrillas as murderers.

More important than this, it makes the accusation that the action of the guerrillas clouds the issue of imperialism in Guatemala. The article accuses the heroic guerrillas of the two greatest crimes possible for a Latin American revolutionary: of killing for the sake of killing and of clouding the issues they have to explain.

The article confuses terrorism with the inevitable deaths that occur in revolutionary struggle. It sympathises with one dead European who represented for many Guatemalans the person who stole their land

Czech show trials on way?

MAY WE APPEAL through your columns to socialists who have opposed the suppression of democratisation in Czechoslovakia?

For many months we have been receiving reports of anticipated political trials in Prague.

The jailing of the Czech journalist Oto Filip confirms our fear that these trials are in preparation.

Last year Bertrand Russell repeatedly warned the left of show trials, and appealed for international action to expose them.

We are therefore asking the left to stand ready for the opening of major trials and to support their victims by making known the true nature of their 'crimes'. - KEN COATES and CHRIS FARLEY, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, Nottingham.

and imprisons and tortures their leaders. - STEVEN HARGREAVES, Birmingham 12.

MR HARGREAVES should consult his optician without delay. Ian Birchall said NONE of the things alleged above. He expressed no sympathy with the dead diplomat, exposed the role of US big business, attacked the viciously anti-working class puppet government and had this to say of the main revolutionary organisation, the FAR: 'Revolutionaries... understand that only armed struggle can solve the problems... the FAR have frequently used kidnapping to raise funds and get prisoners released. For them 'terrorism' is not an empty gesture but part of a struggle to mobilise the people.' - EDITOR.

On the march again - back to square one?

by Dave Widgery

HERE WE GO again: Trafalgar Square at Vietnam protest time with the stone lions, the pavement painters and the fountains surrounded by sunny left wing flesh.

On last Saturday's Cambodia demonstration the Square was pack-

ed with the people we haven't seen since the big Vietnam demonstrations of 1968, with urgently made banners, with suppressed excitement which covered over deep anger at the Pentagon's war machine, now utterly disinterested in anything but its own crazy logic.

The march was through commercial streets packed four deep with shoppers, visitors and tourists, people lining the road and intently reading the leaflets of the marchers. They were impressed, if bewildered, by the energy of the demonstration.

The revolutionary left was on the road again and Oxford Street appeared to have blossomed out into red flags and red slogans.

But on the platform, politics which would have been soft three years ago. The veterans of the Communist Party's peace movement and its social democratic satellites were back in charge after three years of eclipse by the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign.

THE GAP

And the gap between the speakers' diplomatic and parliamentary plans and the marchers, proud to carry the flag of the National Liberation Front, was wider than ever. Vanessa Redgrave graced us and 40 cameramen with her presence and, in all honesty and shame, demonstrators were offered flowers to carry in mourning to Roosevelt's statue as they left the Square!

The CP members on the platform demonstrated yet again how the attempt to stay 'respectable' had led them to reject class politics. That Gordon McLennan should be saying that Michael Stewart had 'put the nation to shame' showed just how well the CP has forgotten the ABC of marxism.

The International Socialists were banned from the platform, still apparently being punished for saying naughty things about Ho Chi Min.

Not that fuzzi bashing is any answer to soft, soggy politics.

But we must stress that the 'violence' of Grosvenor Square scarcely deserves the same word as that experienced by the Vietnamese day after day for the last 18 years. That violence from the back of my head...

like proportions, from the utter destruction of the American army in the invasion of Cambodia, cannot begin to be compared with Grosvenor Square.

We have to see also how perfectly the mass media of mis-information work to cool off the intolerable facts of the invasion. Not just the straightforward lies that the policemen tell in court, or the press tells about the 'score' at Grosvenor Square. But the way the digestive system of the TV and press somehow manage and manipulate the news so that one ends up, if you don't look out, in some holiday camp of the mind where Simon Dee or Robin Day (the real Prime Minister of Britain) has finally convinced you that it's all so shocking there's absolutely nothing you can do.

The TV pictures can't, yet, find a way to block out the clenched fist salutes and growing socialist nature of the movement in America. But it does its best to tell you that it's all a nice obedient CND-like get-together.

The straightforward murders of the leaders of the Black Panther Party and the jailing of others, the death toll of working class soldiers (for it's still the rich who get into college and out of the call-up), the violence of recent rank and file run strikes - all these are forgotten when four Ivy Leaguers get shot by mistake.

The revolutionaries here know what to say: the urgent task and our best aid to the National Liberation Front is to build the revolutionary workers' movement in Britain.

THE NEED

What matters is the constant work in the localities, the factory bulletins and the market meetings, the early mornings and the late nights. But it's hard to convince angry people that we need to write a leaflet and turn a duplicator handle more than we need experts in small arms and sabotage.

Grosvenor Square is almost a symbol of our situation. The left walks into the same ambush again and again and with the forces at its disposal it cannot offer a way out or even keep alive mass movements.

The end of the march, no less than the start, is finally an indictment of the situation of an... (text cut off)

Socialist Worker

6 Cottons Gardens London E2 8DN

Tel: 01-739 1878 (editorial) 2639 (business)

WHERE WE STAND

CAPITALISM has nothing to offer mankind but exploitation, crises and war. The ruling classes of the world - a tiny minority - subordinate the needs of the vast majority to the blind accumulation of capital in the interests of competitive survival.

Imperialism condemns two-thirds of mankind to famine and calls forth movements of national liberation which shake the system and expose its essential barbarism. The constant and mounting preparations for war and the development of weapons of mass destruction place the survival of humanity itself in the balance.

The increasing intensity of international competition between ever-larger units drives the ruling classes to new attacks on workers' living standards and conditions of work, to anti-trade union and anti-strike laws. All of these show capitalism in deepening crises from which it can only hope to escape at the cost of the working class and by the destruction of all its independent organisations.

The only alternative is workers' power - the democratic collective control of the working class over industry and society through a state of workers' councils and workers' control of

production.

Only thus can the transition be ensured to a communist society in which the unprecedented productive forces thrown up by capitalism can be used to assure an economy of abundance. Only the working class, itself the product of capitalism, has the ability to transform society in this way, and has shown its ability to do so in a series of revolutionary struggles unprecedented in the history of all previous exploited classes.

The working class gains the experience necessary to revolutionise society by constant

struggle against the ruling class through the mass organisations thrown up in the course of that struggle.

To overcome the unevenness with which this experience is gained, to draw and preserve the lessons of past struggles and transmit them for the future, to fight against the pressure of bourgeois ideas in the working class, and to bond the fragmentary struggles against capitalism into a conscious and coherent offensive, a revolutionary Marxist party of socialist militants is required, embracing the vanguard of the working class.

The struggle to build such a party is only part of the wider struggle to create a World Revolutionary Socialist International, independent of all oppressors and exploiters of the working class, whether bureaucratic or bourgeois. International Socialists therefore fight for:

Opposition to all ruling-class policies and organisations. Workers' control over production and a workers' state.

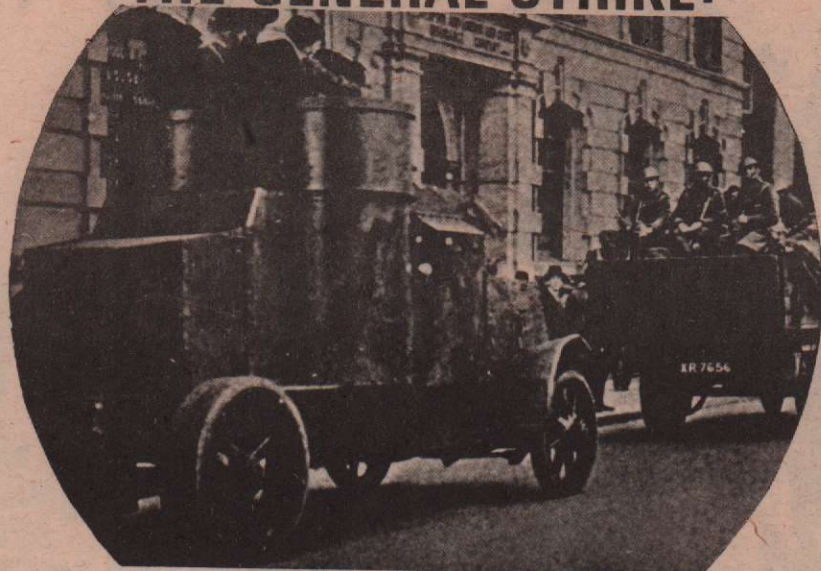
Opposition to imperialism and support for all movements of national liberation.

Uncompromising opposition to all forms of racialism and to all migration controls.

Nine days that shook the bosses

by Richard Kirkwood

THE GENERAL STRIKE:



MAY 1926

Part Two: Surrender

IN SPITE OF the TUC's hesitation, the response of the organised working class to the call for a national strike was instant and massive.

Julian Symons notes that the response was greater than normal for 'one industry' strikes on bread and butter issues. But the TUC confined itself to calling out its 'first line' — transport, printing, building, iron, steel and chemicals and electric power.

The most notable successes were in transport, where the effect was seen in the almost total absence of buses, trains and lorries. The miners, of course, had been locked out since 1 May.

At the local level, Trades Councils and Councils of Action started the job of co-ordinating activity. TUC headquarters were flooded with messages from towns and villages announcing the formation of strike committees.

Far from attempting to raise the strike nationally to the level of the most militant, the TUC seems to have used its centralised powers to keep it at the level of the most confused and inactive.

In practice the local committees made up their own minds. The slogan 'All power to the General Council' rebounded on its authors in precisely the way the Minority Movement had warned in its first resolution: in the absence of an organised rank and file, the General Council proved more rather than less reactionary.

While confusion reigned in the labour movement, the government moved into action. Within a few days, docks and power stations were managing a skeleton service with troops and volunteers.

Thousands of idle members of the ruling class, notably bored students, found themselves doing useful work as volunteers. They could knock off work whenever they wanted and return home to their five-course dinners and old wine.

They were generally incompetent and served mainly to show just how difficult and essential is the labour of the 'average workers'.

Key areas

On a more serious note, troops and police were drafted in to key areas and war ships took up position in the Thames, Humber and Tyne. Thousands of 'special constables', including many people from the far right of politics, were issued with truncheons or makeshift batons in case of 'trouble'.

The much heralded Organisation for the Maintenance of Supplies was unable to move many supplies without support and protection from the state authorities. In spite of shows of force, arrests and the volunteers, the transport system, especially the railways, proved impossible to operate without the workers.

In many areas, strike committees held control in fact if not in name. In town after town the middle class had to request permits from the Trades Councils or similar bodies to move goods. In Newcastle the commissioner, Sir Kingsley Wood, at one stage offered joint control over the movement to the strike committee. It refused.

It was in the north-east that some of the most militant action took place. Trains manned by scab labour often had to run the gauntlet of angry miners strategically placed on pit-heaps. It was here, too, that there were a number of arrests of key workers' leaders.

Similar things were happening in other areas. Few scab buses could leave London garages without police protection against angry crowds. Many were effectively stopped.



14 May: the first tram leaves New Cross depot after the strike — still under police escort

At Uxbridge Road, every bus attempting to leave was stopped by pickets and a key part removed, labelled and later returned.

ALL THIS gives the lie to the picture of happy foot-balling strikers so eagerly portrayed by the official press. What is true is that militant actions were rarely encouraged by the TUC and no attempt was made to spread their example.

The lack of preparation meant that bans on food supplies hit workers' families most.

In contrast to the strong, reactionary British Gazette (edited by Winston Churchill) and the pro-government BBC, the TUC's own daily paper the British Worker was mild and conciliatory, again serving to dampen rather than to raise morale.

What of the revolutionaries? The best description is the Communist Party's after the strike.

Party members 'worked loyally' but there is no sign that they did more. Of course they were often the backbone of local committees but they made no attempt to lead the movement in a political direction.

Without an organised left, the strike would have been an even worse failure. But there was no attempt to make it a success.

When the betrayal came the militants were as unprepared as anyone else.

As for the TUC 'lefts' — Purcell, Swales and Hicks — there is no evidence that at any time they took a different line from the rest of the General Council. Certainly they said nothing about the final betrayal.

Although the Communist Party commented that 'Purcell's thoughts... must have been bitter', the thoughts are nowhere recorded.

The numbers on strike grew rather than declined. On 11 May the 'second line', including engineers, was called out.

Although a few services were running, the general picture right to the end was one of massive solidarity.

Yet on 12 May the TUC capitulated. Jimmy Thomas, searching des-

perately for a way out, announced that solidarity was breaking down. But here are the figures for loco engineers in his own industry, the railways.

Railway	Total staff	Men available	
		May 5	May 12
GWR	6,206	79	104
LMS	14,671	93	273
LNER	11,500	94	127
Southern	7,044	?	238

The real reason for the rush to negotiate was revealed by Thomas when he spoke of the danger of 'extremists'. The General Council was terrified of its militant rank and file and hurried to negotiate.

Surrender

The terms were a total surrender. Despite some honeyed words about reorganisation and 'reasonable limits', they meant wage cuts for the miners.

The miners refused. But the TUC went ahead. On 13 May it called off the strike.

The result was bitterness and confusion. Some areas refused to believe the news, others just refused to distribute or obey it.

When other employers made it clear that, like the coal owners, they would use their chance to attack wages and conditions, the result was immediate. 100,000 more men were out on strike the day after it was called off.

The TUC managed only slowly to get the workers back. It eventually succeeded only after some of the worst employers' threats were withdrawn. In some cases, at least, the men were got back on the basis of totally false 'no victimisation' promises.

The aftermath was a disaster for the movement. Trade union membership slumped by more than half a million and hundreds of militants found themselves on the streets, often to remain there as the depression advanced.

The Tory Trades Disputes Act of 1927 crowned the government's victory by banning 'sympathy' strikes and abolishing contracting-out from the Labour Party political fund in the unions.

How could this happen? How could more than three million strikers in key industries, with the tremendous militancy shown in the localities, be defeated?

Of course there is one simple answer: the movement was 'sold out'. Thomas had been in secret talks from the first days and with most of the right wing was happy to see the strike end.

What is more important is to understand how it could be sold out. Part of the reason was the reliance on the TUC 'lefts'.

The Communist Party has never really discussed how far the 'loyalty' to the TUC and reliance on Messrs Purcell, Swales and Hicks left militants unprepared for the total failure of these 'left-wingers' and their share in the betrayal.

The members of the Communist Party and the Minority Movement gained during and after the strike might, but for this 'loyalty', have formed the basis for a challenge to the General Council during the strike.

A REVOLUTIONARY organisation with more understanding and confidence would have worked from the beginning to prepare for the betrayal. Of course the Communist Party was not large and had not embedded itself deeply enough in the working class to achieve this task.

But there is no evidence that the MM worked as an organised national force.

E H Brown reported later to the Communist Party that 'our factory groups were weak and did not function properly during the General Strike'. The Party believed that 'the General Council would not dare to betray such a magnificent fight', said a writer in Labour Monthly in 1927.

This confidence in the unorganised pressure of workers on the TUC left revolutionaries unprepared.

The movement as a whole was hampered by a failure to understand the situation. All of them, from the General Council to the Communist Party saw the fight as defensive. They failed to realise that, with the combined attack of employers and government, the only means of defence was revolutionary workers' power.

Defeat or revolution was the stark alternative of the 1920s. The government saw it this way and revolutionaries were the main target for arrests.

But no-one, except Trotsky who was already in the wilderness, put the case for a preparation for workers' power.

So in the end it was defeat. But could it have been revolution? On the left, the General Strike is the great chance missed.

A Communist Party freed from dependence on the Anglo-Russian Trade Union Committee and its fake lefts might have built a militant force that would have swept away the TUC leaders.

The response of the working class could have been channelled towards workers' power. It should have been tried.

Revolution is not predictable and betrayal can be fought. But it is equally true that the Communist Party at its best was weak and the Minority Movement was not ready for this test of strength.

A comparison with 1919 shows, too, that the working class, like its leaders, was on the defensive in 1926.

Dole threat

There were none of the organised challenges to state power that occurred just after the First World War. The threat of the dole already loomed and was not countered by the optimism of the earlier period.

The ruling class retained a remarkable self-confidence. No section of it showed a willingness to capitulate or even make concessions.

Although the tasks were revolutionary tasks, it would be over simple to talk of 'a revolution that failed'.

What of its significance today? The lessons of the strike are many.

Above all we can see the need for an organised, class-conscious and politically sensitive revolutionary party, deeply rooted in the working class and able to use its political analysis to guide and organise the militants.

We can see the dangers of reliance on the verbal 'leftism' of trade union leaders who show reluctance to involve themselves in rank and file militancy. (Swales and Hicks were Engineering Union leaders — an interesting coincidence with today.)

In the failure of the revolutionaries and the problems they faced in their limited actions, we can see the need for long-term strategy, organisation, preparation.

But above all, we can see the falseness of the theory of the 'apathetic' British worker. The greatest lesson we can learn comes through despite betrayal from the TUC and the inadequacy of revolutionary leadership.

The magnificent solidarity of the working class, the spirit of the miners who fought on for six months alone after the betrayal, show us the heights to which the working class movement can rise.

It is out of defeats like this that we can build a movement where these qualities will be used for the betterment of all mankind.

Magnificent solidarity of workers



Zionism has turned the Jews in Israel from an oppressed and persecuted minority into an oppressive and persecuting majority: here an Israeli soldier kicks open the door of an Arab home during a search for guerrillas in the occupied Gaza strip.

'Peaceful' Israeli leaders refuse to talk about ... peace

DR NAHUM GOLDMAN, President of the World Jewish Congress, informed Mrs Golda Meir, the Israeli Prime Minister, recently that a meeting could be arranged for him with Colonel Nasser, the Egyptian President. 'The discussions,' said Dr Goldman, 'would be informal, and by no means binding on the Israeli government.'

The only thing required was an official or semi-official government acknowledgment of the meeting. The Israeli government met to discuss the issue, and decided to reject the proposal altogether, forbidding Dr Goldman to go to Cairo.

There have been a number of such initiatives in the past 15 years, which were invariably torpedoed by Israeli government circles. The Goldman affair has once again exposed the hypocrisy of the Israeli government's claims that it wants a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict.

It has proved over the years that peace is only of secondary interest compared to the need to preserve Jewish exclusiveness in Israel.

A month ago a few hundred demonstrators protested in Jerusalem against the government's refusal to allow Dr Goldman to visit President Nasser.

They shouted 'Goldman to Cairo, Golda to an old people's home!'

They were met by General R Zeevi, Israeli Deputy Chief of Staff, who remarked, 'Sometimes I begin to doubt your Jewishness.'

Last week, some 80 Jewish secondary school pupils from Jerusalem, about to be drafted into the army, signed a letter to the Prime Minister saying that in the light of the Goldman affair and the government's failure to seize 'an opportunity for negotiation, they were doubtful that they would be able to fulfil all that might be required of them in the army.'

Colonel M Bar-On, a leading member of the World Zionist Executive, suggested last week that the noise created by the Goldman affair should be allowed to die down, in order 'to avoid unnecessary discussions on the nature and history of Zionism.' Zionism is the reactionary movement which says Jews are a separate race and should live in their own one-race state.

'HEROIC'

The Israeli Jewish population in the past has been completely dominated by Zionist ideology. The indoctrination starts early on — through nursery rhymes, or through the nationalistic phrases acquired by new immigrants.

It is constantly developed by presenting the stages in the colonisation of Palestine as 'heroic chapters in the saga of the Jewish people.'

The fact that the Jewish state could only be created at the expense of the Palestinian Arabs, the majority of whom were displaced by Zionist colonisation, was

by RAMI HEILBRONN
Israeli Revolutionary Action Committee Abroad



Golda Meir: 'to an old people's home'

buried beneath the myth of the 'historic right of the Jews to Palestine.'

The ruling Zionist establishment have traditionally harped on this myth so as to constantly arouse nationalist feelings among the Jewish population. They succeeded, in addition, in maintaining Jewish fears of being 'annihilated' by the Arabs.

INJUSTICE

The Zionist rulers, were, of course, aided in this by the racist propaganda and activities of the reactionary Arab regimes. But they consistently whipped up nationalism and fear in order to cover up the fundamental injustice committed against the Palestinian Arabs.

Using such methods, the Zionist leaders could rely on the support of a united and easily aroused population. They could squeeze more out of the workers and call for more and more 'holy sacrifices and united fronts.'

This also explains why the comrades of Matzpen, the Israeli Socialist Organisation, have been so effectively isolated in Israeli society and particularly among the workers.

It is in the light of this background that the developments of the Goldman affair must be seen.

One point must immediately be emphasised: President Nasser's readiness to come to some terms with the Israeli

government and with Zionism as a whole would be inevitably at a high cost to the Palestinian Arabs.

Any compromise with Zionism can only weaken the struggle for a free Palestine where Jewish and Arab workers can live together.

The impact of the affair inside Israeli Jewish society is crucial. Since 1967, the re-emergence of the Palestinian Arabs as an independent political and military factor has shattered the illusions and complacency of large sections of the population.

They simply could not understand the government's refusal to allow Dr Goldman to go to Cairo. 'After all,' they asked, 'what the hell did all the government officials and spokesmen mean all these years when they said 'We are willing to meet any Arab leader, any time, and at any place'?''

The previous naive acceptance of every official government statement is slowly giving way to a questioning of the whole Zionist ideology.

ATTACKS

Following the Goldman affair, there have been violent attacks on Israeli socialists. 'It is all because of these Matzpen traitors, who scorn our sincere efforts for peace and poison the minds of our youth,' is the government attitude.

The liberal and young people in Israel currently challenging the government are not for the most part conscious socialists. But it is inevitable that they will become increasingly radical in the future.

Genuine Israeli socialists, as opposed to the phoney 'lefts' within the Zionist movement, are insisting on the need for far-reaching discussion on 'the nature and history of Zionism'.

They are trying to show how Zionism has turned the Jews in Israel from an oppressed and persecuted minority into an oppressive and persecuting majority.

They are trying to warn the Israeli Jewish masses of the terrible dangers that lie ahead if they continue along the traditional pro-imperialist path of Zionism.

And they are trying to build a solution which, to be thorough-going, must be anti-Zionist, socialist and internationalist.

Nurses defeat prices fiddle

by Tony Wild

DIRECT ACTION by nurses at Newcastle upon Tyne's General Hospital has paid off.

A recent agreement said that nurses should receive a pay increase from 1 April. But Newcastle nurses found that the prices of meals went up by pennies and tuppences.

And those resident in the Nurses' Home suddenly had their lodging fees raised by 10 per cent. One unfortunate girl had the price of her room in the Home raised from £4 10s a month to £9.

On top of this, student nurses living in flats lost their £48 a year meals allowance. They are now forced to eat in the nurses' canteen.

These attacks on their living standards brought other grievances to the surface. They became conscious of a lowering of the standard of food.

They found there was less choice in the canteen. They objected to having to pay for the whole of a meal, regardless of the fact that they only wanted part of it.

Large meeting

They work up to the fact that they were weighed down by petty restrictions in the canteen.

A large meeting of nurses agreed to impose a half-day boycott on use of the canteen. This was completely successful: not one nurse went against the decision of the meeting.

Publicity in the local press, which drew a blunt 'no comment' from the matron, obviously helped in resolving the dispute. There is nothing that petty bureaucrats fear more than publicity.

The nurses found an immediate lifting of all the petty restrictions. The food was served hotter at the very first meal after the boycott was lifted.

Both the temperature and the standard of the food have remained higher in the days since the end of the boycott.

United action paid off. But the lowering of the meal prices and lodging fees can only be won by national action by all nurses.

Newcastle nurses could get no change from their immediate rulers because the decision was made far above their heads.

Only by militant action can the nursing profession ease the burden on it. Nurses are among the most exploited of all workers.

They must learn that their exploiters will never willingly improve their conditions. They will have to fight every inch of the way.

In Newcastle, one inch has been won. Those nurses who know what happened should learn lessons from even this small victory.

The lesson that militancy pays will take the nursing profession many miles along the way to justice.

Don't just sit there fuming...

...write us a letter. Socialist Worker likes to hear from its readers. Letters — not more than 250 words — must arrive first post Monday

SIT-DOWN AT EMBASSY

ISRAELI citizens staged a sit-down and hunger strike in front of the Israeli Embassy in London last Sunday and Monday. Monday was Israel's 'independence' day.

Members of the Israeli Revolutionary Action Committee Abroad, they said they were acting in solidarity with the hunger strike of detainees in Damoun prison in Israel led by a lawyer, Sabri Jiryis, and a poet, Fawzi Al-Asmar. Both men are critics of the Israeli government and are held without charges.

Hundreds of other Arab Israeli citizens are detained without trial or charges.

A spokesman for ISRACA said the London protest was aimed at alerting public opinion to the growing repression of the Zionist regime in Israel and in its illegally occupied territories.

NO STRIKE IN FLEET STREET — BUT THREAT TO JOBS REMAINS



Mirror boss Cudlipp: more productivity

by Ross Pritchard (NGA)

THE THREATENED STRIKE at the Daily Mirror last week by members of the National Graphical Association was called off and the press barons dropped their plans to shut down Fleet Street.

But the issues behind the Mirror dispute have not been settled.

For the second time in eight months, a working party under the chairmanship of TUC secretary Vic Feather has been set up to look at the claim of the 120 Mirror machine minders for a 48s a week increase.

The working party is again composed of NGA officials and the Mirror bosses. Their last recommendation was not accepted by the minders and the NGA national council — made up of working printers — later supported the Mirror men's stand.

The Mirror bosses have made it clear that they are willing to pay the increase as long as certain productivity clauses are inserted in the agreement.

But the workers state that when the Mirror says productivity it really means redundancy.

After the last productivity agreement in April 1968, the NGA members at the Mirror told the management they would not accept any further reduction in staff. Their national council gave them full backing at the time.

The bosses are committed to putting into operation the recommendations of the Economist Intelligence Unit's survey on Fleet Street produced in 1966. This recommended a 22 per cent cut in production staff on national newspapers.

And at the Mirror, the survey called for a 25 per cent cut which, it



SOGAT and NGA members on the march on May Day 1969

estimated, would result in a saving of £750,000 for the bosses.

The EIU survey has been the guiding light for the bosses in all the productivity deals and comprehensive schemes negotiated recently in the printing industry.

The leaders of both the main unions in the industry — the NGA and the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades — seem incapable of mounting any joint defence of job security.

JOBS SOLD

The SOGAT division one machine assistants at the Mirror say that any further reduction in staff for them can only mean a reduction in the crew on the printing presses. Previous jobs sold in the 'prod' deals were those of relief men and other mainly casual workers.

Richard Briginshaw, general secretary of SOGAT division one, went to great lengths to dissociate his members from the Mirror dispute. He insisted that SOGAT had no quarrel with the Newspaper Publishers' Association.

There is a complete lack of a united, fighting police against productivity dealing among the leaders of the printing unions and it is not surprising therefore that workers use arguments such as 'skill' and 'responsibility' to gain differential increases.

But it is clear to many NGA and SOGAT members that shop floor unity is essential. If the union leaders cannot provide that unity, then the rank and file will have to do it themselves.

If this is not done, the biggest differential in the trade will be between those in a job and those out of work.

Cottons Column

STRANGE that in its valiant attempts to show how trade unionists and strikers are undermining the greatness of Britain, the millionaire press has overlooked the attempts by fanatics to disrupt the lives of workers in a small factory in Weymouth.

The employers at Telerection — a subsidiary of the giant Thorne Electrical Group — called their workers together, told those holding union cards to stand on one side and those without cards on the other.

The 94 union members were then told they were being made redundant — but if they would drop all this union nonsense they would be taken back the following Monday.

The logic behind this move is not hard to guess: Telerection was paying its mainly women workers only £9 10s a week, while the minimum agreed by the union for the industry is £11 10s.

The response to this union-breaking threat was a walk-out strike by all 200 workers, backed by blacking action by fellow workers in firms supplying Telerection. Their action was made official by the Transport Workers Union.

And the outcome? Recognition of the union, increased concessions in merit payments and an immediate rise of £2 a week in basic rates. Perhaps that has something to do with why this little story has received no publicity in Fleet Street.

Frigidaire which is just too big for himself and his wife. It is gleaming and white and only £80. Give him a ring at Gateshead 694893.

This is the number of the Labour Mayor of Gateshead W Colligan, who appeared on the programme a few weeks ago and claimed to have all the people of Gateshead behind him as he shot for his deep freeze.

Gateshead readers should give His Worship a ring and find out what reward they can expect for guiding his aim.

Get down on your knees

THE productivity fever is spreading. The latest industry to fall for it is the Church of England.

The Archbishop of York, Dr Donald Coggan, has hired a top management consultant firm to make a 'time and motion study' of church administration in his diocese.

We have it on the authority of someone very high up in the Church that among the new conditions will be: an increased quota of converts for all vicars, an end to bread-and-wine breaks and, most dastardly of all, abolition of bonus payments for Sunday work.

THE BISHOP of Gloucester has dreamed up the perfect way to stop this summer's tour by the all-white South African cricket team. In his monthly diocesan letter, His Holiness calls on all Christians to go to church on the day of the matches — and pray for rain.

You'd better watch it

MEMO to Timex's advertising agency which tells us how tough their tickers are.

On Saturday's Cambodia demo, an IS marcher lost his time-piece in the Grosvenor Square aggro. Next day, the watchless Trotskyite took himself off to West End Central nick (or the Bricklayers' Arms to the initiated) and reported his loss.

Accompanied by heavy-handed jests about 'we'd better take your prints while you're here', the c-c-constables produced the lost piece of property.

One small snag: the watch isn't working. Apparently you can drop a Timex from a tall building or strap it to a speedboat's propeller and it ticks merrily on. But a copper's boot is more than it can stand.

Most important fight

IN 1964 a small band of American socialists made their way to Cuba. While they were there they had a chat with Che Guevara.

In the United States, they said, the revolutionaries' lot was a far from happy one. They were damned by the very people they wanted to help set free. The ruling class was firmly in command.

Guevara cut them short: 'I envy you,' he declared, to their astonishment.

'You North Americans are very lucky. You are fighting the most important fight of all. You live in the heart of the beast.'

Idle cranes as docks bosses dream of profits

by Laurie Flynn

BRITAIN'S PRESS worked itself into a sweat recently over London dockers refusing to work containers on terms dictated by their employers.

Dockworkers were 'standing against technological change' according to The Times and The Guardian and 'doing the dirty on the old motherland' in the Mirror-Express-Sketch version.

Similar stories are doubtless told in Belgium, Holland and Germany. Along the 400 miles of coast from Dunkirk to Hamburg there are 28 container cranes lying idle or in occasional use.

They cost £300,000 each and £17,000 each a year to maintain.

This is chaos

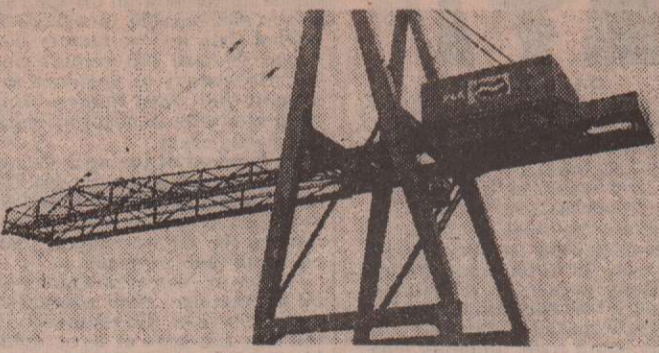
Around the cranes on the empty acres of quayside stand dozens of fork-lift trucks, container vans and £30,000-each straddle carriers. None of them are used.

In the last four years the nine competing ports have sunk £60 million in getting ready for containers.

These 28 cranes could be handling six million containers a year. But not one of them is operating at the break-even point of 40 thousand containers a year.

This is chaos by any standard. But it's not the dockers that are standing in the way of progress.

Most cargo shippers appear to be standing in the way of the progress of a few of their fellow



Workless crane: symbol of the profit-hungry society

businessmen whose only interest in containers was the fat profits they dreamed of. The cargo shippers are either unwilling or unable to convert to containers.

One docker reckoned that if dockers had charge of the ports about 90 per cent of cargo could be containerised.

Under the present set-up only 11 per cent of cargo is being handled by containers or is being converted. The union decision to work containers at Tilbury means still more cranes will lie idle at Antwerp, where work is being transferred from.

Ordinary people are becoming more and more convinced that, regardless of what the press says, they are not standing in the way of technical progress. What they see is a tiny crew of profit-takers doing the dirty on the rest of society. And making a right mess of it too.

Perhaps a change of government could 'sweep the dead wood out of the boardrooms'?

Sorry. Orders already placed will ensure that the number of idle cranes will more than double in the next five years.

Faced by such waste, chaos, inefficiency and crude profiteering, does a struggle for workers' power seem just an impossible dream?

Foundry men chime in

CALIFORNIA's grape pickers have been striking for five years for union recognition, a humble basic wage and a ban on chemicals which cause their death and disfigurement. Only recently did they draw the first moderate concessions from the fruit dictators.

They sent one of their organisers over to Britain to urge dockworkers not to handle Californian grapes. Their call for solidarity was taken up.

While here, some foundry workers decided to cast a special bell to honour their magnificent struggle. These workers were from the White-chapel Bell Foundry, the same foundry that struck the original Liberty Bell.

Big shot, or something...

NEWCASTLE's Evening Chronicle had the following advert in the 'Articles for Sale' column last week: 'Golden Shot Winner has a Deep Freeze Model CFPK 125 by

Join the International Socialists

There are branches in the following areas

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen; Clydebank; Dundee; Edinburgh; Glasgow; East Kilbride.

NORTH EAST

Durham; Newcastle upon Tyne; Teesside (Middlesbrough and Redcar)

NORTH

Barnsley; Bradford; Derby; Doncaster; Hull; Leeds; York; Selby; Sheffield.

NORTH WEST

Lancaster; Manchester; Merseyside; Preston; St. Helens; Stockport; Wigan.

MIDLANDS

Birmingham; Coventry; Northampton; Leicester; Oxford; Potteries.

WALES and SOUTH WEST

Bath; Bristol; Cardiff; Exeter; Swansea

SOUTH

Ashford; Brighton; Crawley; Folkestone; Portsmouth; Southampton.

EAST

Cambridge; Grays and Tilbury; Harlow; Ipswich; Lowestoft; Norwich; North-east Essex.

GREATER LONDON and HOME COUNTIES

Acton; Angel; Camden; Chertsey; Croydon; Dagenham; Deptford; East London; Enfield; Erith; Fulham; Greenford; Hampstead; Harrow; Hemel Hempstead; Hornsey; Ilford; Kilburn; Kingston; Lambeth; Merton; Reading; Richmond; Stoke Newington; Tottenham; Walthamstow; Wandsworth; Watford; Victoria (SW1).



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

Name _____

Address _____

Send to IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Socialist Worker

Striking printers abandoned by union

SW Reporter

WHO does a trade union belong to, the members, the officials or management? That is the issue in an unofficial dispute in Manchester.

Jim Warburton, in Division A of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades and Father of the Chapel at J E Barnes, Herald Works, was sacked last week. The management claimed he was asleep on the night-shift the previous week.

Mr Warburton denied the charge and offered to bring witnesses. But the management were not interested in witnesses or the truth. They wanted Jim out.

Within five minutes of this grossly unjust sacking, the SOGAT chapel voted unanimously to strike.

The workers stood outside the factory on Wednesday hoping for at least a message from the union.

All they heard — at second hand — was that the union branch would not support them.

The chapel delegates from Herald Works attended their branch meeting to put their case. But they were told that by a branch committee decision they were no longer recognised and could not attend.

That night every member on strike received a letter from his full-time branch secretary, Mr Sheridan, instructing him to return to work. The letter said that if he did not do so, the management would have the right to sack him.

It further stated: 'The branch is in complete ignorance' as to why the workers have struck and that Jim Warburton and the rest of the chapel committee had had their credentials withdrawn.

REFUSED HEARING

There are several things to note about these letters:

First, the branch officials had been contacted and informed about the sacking two days before Mr Sheridan's letter.

Second, the branch committee clearly had no intention of ending its state of ignorance since the delegates were refused a hearing.

Thirdly, at least three members of the branch committee and the chairman were not present at the branch committee when this decision was taken. The union rules require a branch committee to have eight of its 12 members plus the chairman present.

Fourth, under rule, chapel officials should be charged before the branch committee if they do anything wrong. No charges have been preferred.

Next day all the members of the chapel committee received their cards through the post. They heard that Mr Sheridan had contacted the National Graphical Association and told them there would be no objection if NGA members were to run the machines without SOGAT members.

NGA members have refused to touch the SOGAT work and the AEF and ETU, have blacked all machines.

Messages of support and donations to: G Dykes, 65 Castleway, Salford 6.

SACKED IRISH MINISTERS ARE NOT FRIENDS OF LEFT

by Sean Treacy

REVELATIONS about the involvement of Fianna Fail ministers in gun running to Northern Ireland may well herald the beginning of the end of the Dublin Green Tory government. Although Prime Minister Jack Lynch has for the moment papered over all the cracks it is clear that there is much rank and file Fianna Fail support for the dismissed Blaney-Haughey group.

It is only a matter of time before they make a bid for the leadership of the party.

In the eyes of many people in the 26 counties, the Lynch government stands condemned not only as a reactionary Tory regime but also as one that has been prepared to abandon all Republican pretence in carrying out British big business' interests.

The Dublin regime has not only taken measures to prevent northern workers from being able to defend themselves but it has also provided information to the British authorities to help convict Republican militants.

While socialists and left republicans stand clearly for the right of self-defence of northern workers, they have no illusions about the role of the Blaney group. Blaney and co stand on the extreme right wing of Fianna Fail.

They represent the worst type of capitalist interest in Ireland. Blaney is on record as condemning the spineless Dublin Labour Party as 'run by Castro-loving, Mao-praising reds'.

Viewed with alarm

For some time now Blaney and company have viewed with alarm the growth of revolutionary socialist and marxist ideas in the ranks of Catholic workers and civil rights militants.

This has been mirrored in growing disillusion with the 'green Tory' Catholic bigot groups like the Six County Nationalist Party which has close links with Blaney. In order to contain the development of the left and to re-establish their faded 'republican' credentials among southern workers — who have been appalled by the role of the Dublin government—Blaney and co decided on a policy of arming the northern Catholic right wing.

The Blaney group has contributed to the recent splitting of Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Army. The Blaney men now work closely with the right wing 'provisionals' and recently had a conference with them in a hotel in County Donegal.

Arms and training facilities in the south have been made available to the provisionals on condition that they 'completely dissociated from the reds in the republican movement'.

It is important for socialists in the republican movement in particular to be clear about the actions of the dissident Fianna Fail right wingers.

They want to have the arms and the means of dealing with the left. They are also anxious to turn the struggle in the north into a communal one — between Catholics and Protestants — rather than between



BLANEY



HAUGHEY

the working class and both puppet governments of British big business, Stormont and Dublin.

The first reactions from the left indicated that the aims of the Blaney game had been tumbled.

Eamonn McCann in Derry said if Blaney came in to force his society on the Derry workers at the point of a bayonet a 'second front' would have to open in the Bogside.

In the south trade unionist Tom Geraghty told the conference of the Workers Union of Ireland that 'leaders like Blaney and Haughey are the last hope of all those bourgeois who want to perpetuate the border and keep the workers divided'.

The main platform of the Blaney group will be to exploit the legitimate fears of the small farmers and lower middle class at the closer links with Britain in the Common Market — advocated by Lynch — on the one hand, and the growing challenge of the organised workers on the other.

In the short term the Blaney group may find itself in opposition to Britain. In the long term the working class and socialist movement must take the leadership of the anti-imperialist movement if the grip of big business is to be defeated and the Irish Workers' Republic is to be built.

G&M blacklegs on strike for union rights

DURHAM:- Craft workers at Gascol, the gas board's sole contractor for North Sea gas conversion work in the area, are on strike for union recognition.

Members of the Engineering, Electricians and Heating and Domestic Engineering unions, they have been attempting for some time to get management to agree to negotiate with them.

The bosses have refused on the grounds that they signed an agreement two years ago with the General and Municipal Workers Union, giving it sole negotiating rights for all Gascol workers.

The craft unions refused to accept this agreement. They banned overtime. A number of them were sacked and the rest walked out on strike.

G & M members are blacklegging by staying at work.

With just three weeks' training, G & M men are attempting to make gas conversions in homes and factories. Their work is unsupervised and is in breach of existing industrial agreements.

There have been four gas explosions at one house in Chester-le-Street since conversion.

Local International Socialists have issued hundreds of leaflets explaining the background to the strike and asking householders and factory workers to refuse to allow G & M blacklegs to convert their gas appliances.

Donations to: Gascol Strike Committee, British Legion Club, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham.

FOOD STRIKERS DEMAND CLOSED SHOP: OUT 6 WEEKS

ABERDEEN:- 630 process workers, mainly women, at the Peterhead Crosse and Blackwell factory are in the sixth week of an official strike to win management recognition of a closed shop for the factory floor.

On 28 April 300 workers made the 35 mile journey to Aberdeen to support their Shop Workers' Union shop stewards in negotiations with the management.

A hundred of the workers returned to Aberdeen to attend a May Day rally, where, joined by workers and socialist students, they marched through the streets singing and chanting their demands.

Later at Aberdeen Trades Council a Peterhead shop steward presented his case. He received a promise that Lawsons of Dyce would black all sausage products for the C & B factory and a pledge from an NUR member that he would attempt to black the transport of factory goods.

Refused to handle

Goods have been returned to Peterhead when USDAW members at C & B depots refused to handle them.

In an area of high unemployment in the North-East of Scotland C & B was able to pick and choose its labour. USDAW membership in the factory remained low, and shop stewards were unable to negotiate special rates for dirty jobs such as sweeping round the machines — which gave many new workers lacerated hands.

Wage rates at Peterhead were £3 less than at other C & B factories. All attempts by shop stewards to

negotiate wage increases were thwarted by the management sticking to the Joint Industrial Council annual pay awards.

The JIC is made up of five management and three union representatives. In the last 12 years it has increased wages by a princely £3.

Wages for a basic 40 hour week at the factory stand at the pitifully low rate of £11 14s for men and £8 13s for women. A man putting in a 70 hour week can in some cases expect no more than £17 10s.

Workers flocked to join the union when the management tried to introduce 'differential' (divide and rule) job rates for process work. The workers are now demanding an equal rise all round and are fighting for a closed shop to achieve real bargaining strength.

Pilkington

See page one

WEDNESDAY's mass meeting at Pilkington's voted overwhelmingly to stay out on strike. The meeting condemned the press witch-hunt and ridiculed stories about 'outside agitators' running the strike.

Strike committee member John Potter said the press should take a look at the political credentials of Professor John C Wood, chosen by Barbara Castle to head a court of inquiry into the dispute. Professor Wood is a member of the Tory Bow Group and has helped draw up its industrial policy.

NOTICES

JIM KINCAID on the welfare state. Hornsey Town Hall, Crouch End Broadway, NS, this Friday 15 May, 7.30 pm.

MARXIST STUDIES — spring issue. Workers' Control and Marxists, John Walters. Self-Management in High Schools, Nicolas Baby. The Law of Value and Self-Management in the Workers' States, Ernest Germain. Factory Councils, Gramsci. Book reviews, etc; 3s 4d pp BMS Publications, 16a Holmdale Road, London NW8.

NEWCASTLE IS public meeting. Tony Cliff on Lenin, Sun 17 May, 8pm, Bridge Hotel.

CAMDEN IS public meeting Mon 18 May, 8pm Tony Cliff on productivity deals and how to fight them. Foresters Hall, near Kentish Town tube and ABC cinema, Highgate Rd, NW5.

WEST INDIAN Students Union, public meeting, Sun 17 May, 8pm, West Indian Students Centre, 1 Collingham Gdns, SW5. Tube: Gloucester Rd, Earls Court. Spkr: Lloyd Best, theoretician and activist in the people's movement in Trinidad on 'The struggle in Trinidad'.

GUILDFORD School of Art: March in support of blacklisted students, Thurs. 21 May, 4.30 pm. University of Surrey, Guildford.

EAST ANGLIAN branch of People's Democracy (N Ireland): papers to sell and funds needed. Contact: Sean Halpenny, 79 Christchurch St, Ipswich, Suffolk.

FOUR DAY MARCH, Oxford, High Wycombe, Uxbridge, London, 22-25 May: Release all political prisoners in S Africa, stop the racist cricket tour, no more British investments in Vorster's police state. Public meeting, Shepherd's Bush, 7.15pm, 24 May. Rally Trafalgar Sq, 2pm, 25 May. Spkrs include Mike Cooley, vice-president DATA, Terry Barrett, TGWU. Org: Ruskin College Kitson Ctce, Oxford 61319.

Published by the International Socialists 6 Cottons Gdns London E2. Printed by SW (Litho) Printers Ltd. (TU all departments) Registered with the Post Office. Annual subscription £2 10s.

Evicted tenants fight on for their council flat

SOUTH LONDON tenants Norman and Elsie Whitmee led a deputation to the headquarters of the Greater London Council on Tuesday to ask the council to reconsider their case for a GLC flat with a garden.

Last week, police and bailiffs used considerable violence when they evicted the Whitmees from the GLC flat in Abbey Wood. The Whitmees had barricaded themselves in and 120 other tenants and supporters formed a cordon to stop the

police. Three arrests were made. The GLC decided to oust the family when Mr Whitmee gave up his job as caretaker to the block of flats. He had taken the job and its low salary in order to have a home with a garden for his mentally-handicapped daughter.

Health will suffer

The Whitmees have stressed that their daughter's health will

suffer if she does not have a garden to play in. The GLC housing bureaucrats ignored their pleas and went ahead with the eviction.

But the feeling which their heartless action has caused in the area has forced them to think again. After Tuesday's deputation, a GLC spokesman said their medical officer would see the child and the council would reconsider their attitude when they receive his report.