

Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

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WHO ARE THEY TRYING TO KID..

by Lionel Sims

IF YOU TELL LIES — then tell a big one. That's the logic behind this latest piece of electioneering.

We're one big happy family, says sugar daddy Jenkins.

Well, he's supposed to be an economist. Let's see what he makes of these figures.

In 1964, when he and his buddies came to power, the average wage for male workers was £18 2s 2d. By October last year the same workers were getting, on average, £24 16s 5d.

Only one problem. All of that one-third increase — for which we are supposed to be grateful — has been wiped away by price increases.

On top of that, if you take into account the effect of social service benefits, the level of real taxation (including indirect taxes such as purchase tax) has risen by a sixth, from 31 per cent to 36 per cent since 1964.

Worse off

Over one-third of your income now goes straight to the government. No wonder Jenkins is smiling.

Wages have decreased in purchasing power and those who are unemployed or receiving low wages are now worse off.

You can see it again from the way mortgage rates have increased from 6½ per cent in 1964 to 8½ per cent in 1969. Because of this nearly 4 million adults now have the privilege, bestowed on them by the Labour government, of no longer being able to buy a house.

Married Couples					
	Wives earning	Wives not earning	Single males	Single women	Total
At 1964					
Mortgage rates	3.9	3.8	0.7	0.4	8.6
At 1967					
Mortgage rates	2.6	1.8	0.3	0.2	4.9

At 1964
Mortgage rates 3.9 3.8 0.7 0.4 8.6

At 1967
Mortgage rates 2.6 1.8 0.3 0.2 4.9

Labour aren't even making up for it by building council houses. 1968 was the bumper year. 425,000 houses were built.

But in 1969 the figure dropped to 378,000 and for the foreseeable future will fall to around 300,000 a year. The 20,000 homeless, 1.8 million slum dwellers and 3 million who live in grossly inadequate housing aren't smiling.

Real friends

Why is Jenkins? Because his real friends are not in the photograph. They are back in the boardrooms and having expense account lunches at the Savoy. They were probably joined by Roy as soon as the picture was taken.

If you lump together the profits of all the private and public companies and all the landowners and moneylenders, put all the money-grubbers in one basket, in 1964 they got £9,665 millions. In 1969 they got £12,199 millions.

Some profit!
Some smile!

TRADE UNION DAY SCHOOL
Tony Cliff on Productivity Deals
Trade union sponsored meeting
'Lamb with Two Necks'
Shude Hill, Manchester
Sunday 31 May, 11 - 5



Hasn't he got a gnome to go to?

Someone should tell him we're on picket duty

Can't stay long, chaps - I'm due back at Madame Tussaud's at 3 o'clock

Roy Jenkins says "Together we've made Britain strong again. And we're making sure the benefits are shared by everyone."

AS MORE TROOPS GO TO ULSTER SOCIALISTS MUST STEP UP SOLIDARITY ACTION IN BRITAIN

Ireland: the repression grows

THE DESPATCH of 750 marines to reinforce the 7000 British troops already in Northern Ireland shows the seriousness with which the Labour government views the declining political situation. This latest move takes place against the background of a general election, renewed street fighting between Catholic workers, Paisleyites and British troops and the political crisis in the south.

The outcome of the election is almost certain to strengthen the hand of Paisley and his supporters. The Tory Unionists fear that they may lose half their Westminster seats to the extreme right wing.

The anti-Unionists have a chance of winning four seats. But the Nationalist Green Tory Party and its allies are doing their best to ensure that socialists are not elected.

They are almost certain to oppose Eamonn McCann in Derry and may also put up a candidate against Bernadette Devlin in Mid-Ulster.

The position is further complicated by the fact that the Northern Ireland Labour Party is almost certain to refuse to endorse the candidature of McCann.

The People's Democracy, McCann and Devlin will be emphasising the urgency for socialists throughout Ireland to regroup and put forward working class policies to unite Protestant and Catholic workers. In particular they will be aiming their propaganda at left wing republicans and militants in the northern and southern Labour Parties.

The crisis in Dublin following the sacking of a group of Fianna Fail ministers around Blaney and Haughey for alleged involvement in gun running has produced its own crisis within Labour's ranks.

Grasping at the split in Fianna Fail, the Labour leaders have refused to condemn the role of the Lynch government, which is the mainstay of British big business's rule in the 26 counties. And they have refused to back the right of northern workers to defend themselves.

WEAKENED

Instead the party leadership, spearheaded by such 'new left' figures as Conor Cruise O'Brien, are stampeding the party towards preparing for a coalition with the other southern opposition party Fine Gael with talk of 'uniting the moderate centre against fascism'.

This party is, if anything, more reactionary (and certainly even more pro-imperialist) than Fianna Fail. It contains the descendants of the pre-war fascist 'blue shirts'.

However, some of Labour's extreme right old guard (who include open anti-semite like the Labour Mayor of Limerick) would be quite at home in such a coalition.

In manoeuvring for a coalition, the Labour leaders are almost cer-

by
**Sean
Treacy**

tainly leading their party to disaster. Labour's previous coalition experiences were followed by electoral collapse and years in the wilderness.

It is not surprising that many left wing socialists and trade unionists in the Labour Party are resigning and supporting the call for an all-Ireland socialist regroupment.

There is also some discontent in the ranks of the republican movement. A recent split in its ranks led to the traditional right wing entering an unspoken alliance with the sacked Fianna Fail ministers.

But many socialist militants in Sinn Fein feel that sections of the leadership of their movement want to reduce socialist policies to a mere reformist programme for parliamentary elections. There is also worry that the measures to help northern workers defend themselves will be left to the extreme right.

There is no doubt that the extreme right wing has gained authority as a result of the ministerial sackings. It is by no means clear that the amount of aid they have sent to the north is significant.

What is clear is that any 'aid' has gone into reliably right wing hands behind the barricades.

It is for this reason that People's Democracy said in a statement last week: 'We do not share in the chorus of horror and indignation at Blaney's gun running antics. Our criticism of Neil Blaney is not that he can run guns, but that he ran them for the wrong people - for the enemies of the people in fact.'

The PD statement went on: 'The events of the past two years have scared the 26 county establishment out of their wits. They saw the comfortable compromise they had reached with British imperialism in 1922 again being challenged in the north.'

'Even worse they saw that Catholic workers were increasingly



British troops have been told to get tough

rejecting the AOH (right wing) Nationalism of the McAteer/Currie variety while the Protestant workers were confusedly realising that they had been neglected and betrayed for 50 years by the Unionist Party.

There was enough here to touch off a revolution in the south as well as put the creation of a Workers and small Farmers Republic really on the agenda. At all costs it had to be stopped. And what better way than by channelling the alarming new forces in the north into the safe traditional mould of sectarianism?

STAMPEDING

The revelations about gun running have also weakened the position of northern prime minister Chichester Clark. Both Paisley and the semi-official Unionist right wing have stiffened their resistance to even the 'reforms' promised last year and are agitating for the B-Specials to be reformed.

For the moment the electoral successes of the extreme right means that the armed right wing are prepared to bide their time.

But in the next few months there

will be a series of sectarian Orange demonstrations which could spark off fighting on a considerable scale. For this reason the British forces have been strengthened and given 'get tough' orders.

The 'snatch' squads have been ordered to break up anything which resembles an unauthorised assembly in the streets.

In this situation, socialists are doing all they can to ensure that the confrontation in the north is not between Catholics and Protestants, but with the forces of British big business.

At the same time, PD has

launched a campaign around the questions of unemployment and other social issues which affect both Catholic and Protestant workers. And they have been active in assisting strikers fighting the cheap labour employers who abound throughout Ireland.

The authorities are aware that the main danger to their rule comes from the left. However much they deplore the speeches of Blaney and Haughey, the fact remains that these men and their representatives are still free while left wing republicans lie in jails in Ireland and Britain.

Both north and south of the border the repression is growing. In the north the new 'get tough' orders have gone out to the occupying forces.

In the 26 counties the Gardai (the southern version of the RUC) have smashed into housing demonstrators occupying an empty building with a violence which sickened all observers. Striking cement workers have been attacked and a number of leading republicans have been arrested.

The duty of socialists in Britain at this time is clear. We must use the election to show both Irish and British workers here that British big business is responsible for the situation in Ireland.

The Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign which is supported by the International Socialists and is working with militant republicans, will see to it that Labour candidates are left in no doubt about the demands of the Irish people.

In particular, Labour candidates will be asked to state clearly that they support:

1. The immediate and unconditional release of all Irish civil rights and republican prisoners.
2. The withdrawal of imperialism and its army from Ireland.

British socialists must express their solidarity with their Irish comrades on every front. This includes demonstrations against British companies responsible for redundancies in Northern Ireland and British property groups responsible for slum homes and rent racketeering.

As Irish socialists move into a critical phase of the struggle against British big business and its Irish allies, they must be supported by a mass development of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign in Britain.

Release Frank Keane

FRANK KEANE, an Irish socialist republican, is in Brixton jail awaiting extradition proceedings. He is charged with killing a policeman named Fallon during a bank robbery, said to be the work of militant republicans, which took place in Dublin six weeks ago.

Keane says it is a frame up, organised by the notorious special political police arm of Dublin Castle, to 'nail' a fighter against Irish capitalism and British imperialism.

Within hours of the robbery the police issued the names and addresses of seven men from whom they wanted 'help' with their inquiries. All seven are militant socialist republicans.

No warrants were issued, thereby showing that the police, to say the least, didn't have any clear evidence. Indeed they could hardly have had time to even begin the investigation.

However, they did have a list of names of people they wanted to 'get'. Amongst those named was Sean Morrissey, who had been an editor of the Irish Trotskyist magazine Workers' Republic. Another was Joe Dillon, whose past experience of the Irish political police sheds a flood of light on the current case and the normal methods of the Irish police.

In 1966 Dillon was framed by the Special Detective Unit (political police) of Dublin Castle for robbery and given a five year sentence. A left wing member of the IRA moving towards marxism, he was a natural target for the special police.

Before his arrest he had been offered bribes by the Special Branch to inform on the IRA. When he refused, he was told that 'the Branch' would 'get him'. And they did.

He was arrested for an attempted robbery that had taken place six months earlier. In an identification parade none of the witnesses identified Dillon. Nevertheless a year later he was tried and given five years.

An international campaign was organised to demand Dillon's release. Eventually the sentence was reduced to three years.

The same people who framed him then are attempting it again, now for murder - which in Ireland still carries the death penalty for killing a policeman.

In order to extradite Frank Keane, they will have to present a large part of their 'evidence' to the Old Street Magistrates Court.

They are not above fabricating such 'evidence'. It is part of the everyday work of the Irish political police.

With the present political crisis in the 'Republic', the government desperately needs scapegoats - and they need to annihilate groups and individuals who want to combine a militant non-sectarian social policy with aggressive anti-imperialism.

Keane was victimised in the past. When he was 'named' by the police, he wrote a letter to the Irish Times. He denied knowledge of the killing, but refused to help the police.

He explained that he had been harried and persecuted in the past for his politics. The police had previously attempted to frame him on a robbery charge and for attempting to burn down a Fianna Fail headquarters.

He was jailed and ill-treated on the robbery charge and finally just released.

Socialists in Britain have a duty to aid Frank Keane. Help keep Frank out of the hands of the brutal Irish police. We must let the Dublin government know that it has the labour movement to reckon with, not only in Ireland but here as well.

Trade union, IS, Labour Party, Young Socialist, Communist Party and YCL branches, and all revolutionary socialists and republicans, must send messages and resolutions in support of Keane and the other political prisoners, to the Irish Embassy, Mount Street, London W1. Pickets outside the Irish Embassy will be organised.

Contact: London - 01-426 5492; Manchester - 061-445 8864. Frank Keane Defence Committee.

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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 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

**WHERE
WE
STAND**

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.

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the paper.

Re-visiting Labour's 'socialist' past by Richard Kuper

Part One

SUPPORTERS of the Labour Party often argue that, whatever its present faults, the party does have a socialist past.

But in practice the Labour Party has never acted in a socialist manner. In spite of the left-wing language and resolutions of many of its constituency parties and affiliated trade unions, Labour in power has always acted in an anti-working class way.

In the elections of December 1923 the Tories won only 259 seats, the Liberals 159, Labour 191. Ramsay MacDonald was invited to form a minority Labour government.

The reason for this was put clearly by the Liberal Asquith, who explained that a Labour government 'with its claws cut' was the best insurance against a fighting Labour government.

'The experiment,' he said, 'could hardly be made under safer conditions.' And he added, 'we still sleep more or less comfortably in our beds. Capital steadily pursues its old routine of continuous and on the whole prosperous investment.'

MacDonald, who only a year before had said that the party had to get an absolute majority before a Labour government would stand a ghost of a chance, now jumped at the chance of office. 'To have shirked responsibility would have been cowardly,' he wrote.

Another Labour leader, J R Clynes, made it clear, before the new government was formed, that 'Labour will not be influenced, should it be trusted with the power of government, by any other consideration other than that of national well-being.'

The Cabinet remained apart and uncontrolled, despite the checks which the parliamentary party had on it in theory.

The only significant achievement came from the one consistent socialist member, John Wheatley, the intellectual leader of the Independent Labour Party members elected from Clydeside in 1922. His Housing Act was a major measure of social reform and paved the way for a large increase in council house building in later years.

The attitude of the Labour leaders to the working class is best shown in its approach to strikes. Speaking afterwards about the railway strike which had been in progress when the government was formed the Minister of Labour, Tom Shaw, said in the Commons: 'The House was told that we had no sympathy with this unofficial strike and that all the resources of the government would be used to prevent the four essential services—light, water, food and power—from being stopped.'

During the London tramwaymen's strike in March 1924, the government used the hated Emergency Powers Act. And in a debate on industrial disputes later, J R Clynes summed up the record, claiming proudly that the Labour government had 'played the part of a National government and not a class government.'

Chancellor Philip Snowden's Budget was one after the Liberals' heart. It did nothing about the biggest working class problem of all—unemployment—but went as far as to abolish the special tax on corporation profits, which, Snowden wrote, was 'never a popular tax'. With whom he didn't say.

Labour's election pledge to renegotiate the Versailles Treaty if there was to be peace in Europe was quietly abandoned. The post-war treaty had imposed crippling reparations on Germany.

In India the Bengal Ordinances allowed detention without trial, troops were used against strikers and Indian Communists were jailed for four years for 'conspiracy to deprive the King-Emperor of sovereignty.'

'Not fit to govern'

Recognition of Russia, expected to be one of the first acts of the new government, was delayed and then only grudgingly conceded. It was on the issue of the Anglo-Soviet trade treaty, and the 'Campbell Case' (a decision to prosecute the Weekly Worker's editor J R Campbell for inciting troops to mutiny with a 'don't shoot on workers' appeal, which MacDonald then called off) which led the Liberals to withdraw their support from the government.

MacDonald, under increasing radical pressure from sections of the labour movement, decided to resign. As he told Beatrice Webb, he was sick of it all and didn't want a majority at the next election as the Labour Party was not fit to govern! In the election that followed, despite a large increase in votes, Labour lost 42 seats, the Liberals were virtually annihilated and the Tories returned to office with an enormous, bloated majority.

The effect of Labour's policies in its first few months in office—its consistent refusal to put a class line and to implement policies in the interests of the working class at home and abroad—helped to prepare the way for the humiliating and disastrous defeat of the labour movement in the General Strike of 1926 and in its aftermath of Tory reaction.

In 1929 Labour again came to office. This time as the largest single party in the Commons with 287 seats. But it still did not have an absolute majority over the Tories with 260 and the Liberals with 60 seats.

MacDonald was well satisfied. Before election day he had been living in terror lest Labour got a clear majority, for he feared that he would be at the mercy of those left-wing Labour supporters whom he

described as 'some of our easey-oozey asses'.

So once again the excuse of being a minority government could be used to justify all kinds of failures to carry out party policy and election pledges. But we cannot just blame MacDonald.

The left in the party was disorganised and trapped in the parliamentary machine. When at the end of 1929 the Clyde MPs tried to follow a critical line in the Commons, 66 fellow MPs, also members of the 'left'-wing ILP, attacked them and declared unswerving loyalty to MacDonald.

The crucial issue was unemployment. Despite pledges to deal with it, nothing substantial was done.

By the autumn of 1929 cases of refusing to pay unemployment benefit by insurance officers were up to 308,000—almost 50 per cent up on the figures for the same period in 1928. The new Minister of Labour refused to meet a deputation of unemployed representatives. When they broke into the Ministry, a large body of police threw them out.

Many local authorities, especially in mining areas, had accumulated large debts from the payment of relief. They applied to have the debts cancelled, for they could not hope to recover them from the near destitute under-employed workers. They were refused and were threatened with prosecution.

After the Wall Street crash in America in October 1929, unemployment soared. By the end of December 1930 it had passed the 2.3 million mark.

The government's only response, at this late stage, was to set up a Royal Commission.

Already in July 1929 a general lockout had occurred in the spinning industry. The Labour government appointed a board of arbitration headed by Mr Justice Swift, who had jailed 12 Communists in 1925. The board announced a 6¼ per cent wage cut.

And later in 1931 it was only the mass solidarity of the weavers, against their employers, the government and their own union officials, which prevented a change from the traditional four-loom per weaver to six or even to eight looms.

Other groups of workers—engineers, agricultural workers, dyers, potters and others—all facing demands for wage cuts, found the government totally against them.



Miners waiting to vote in 1929 for a party which plunged millions of workers further into poverty

Labour 'with its claws cut' still savaged the workers



MACDONALD: Feared the 'easey-oozey asses'

But the political issue which caused most hatred was the Labour government's refusal to repeal that cynical measure of class legislation, the Trades Dispute Act of 1927 forced upon the trade union movement after the defeat of the General Strike.

The economic crisis dominated all else. As it deepened so did the government's conviction that it must do nothing to antagonise the Tories or Liberals. Solutions had therefore to be sought at the expense of the working class.

In June 1931, on the basis of an interim report of the Royal Commission, an 'Anomalies Bill' was introduced. It so tightened the regulations that large classes of people, especially married women, were totally deprived of benefit. Despite widespread left opposition, the Bill was passed with Liberal and Tory support.

Pressure was now mounting on the government to cut its expenditure—the traditional big business response to economic crisis.

Finally in August 1931 proposals were laid before the Cabinet. The two largest items were to cut unemployment benefit by £48.5 million and teachers' pay by £11.4 million. The Cabinet agreed in principle to massive cuts.

It soon became clear, however, that large numbers of the Parliamentary Labour Party would not go this far. Even more important, the TUC General Council came out in total opposition to all the proposed economy cuts.

But cuts there were going to be. The ruling class was adamant.

The question was how to impose them. As Herbert Samuel, one of the Liberal leaders, made clear to King George on 23 August 1931, 'in view of the fact that the necessary economies would prove unpalatable to the working classes, it would be to the general interest if they could be imposed by a Labour government. But if this weren't possible, then a National government, with members from all three parties, was necessary.'

And Samuel went on, 'It would be preferable that Mr MacDonald should remain Prime Minister in such a National government.'

Mild reaction to betrayal

So it was that the second Labour government came to its grisly end, capitulating to the demands of the foreign bankers and their conditions for obtaining credit. MacDonald, who had headed the Parliamentary Labour Party since 1922 (when he had been enthusiastically supported by the Clydesiders) took Snowden with him and headed a new National government of Tories and Liberals.

Although the TUC General Council, the Labour Party executive and the consultative committee of the Parliamentary Party immediately denounced the new government as a 'government acting without authority from the people', reactions to it among those who had chosen to stay behind in the Parliamentary Labour Party were astonishingly mild in the face of this enormous betrayal.

Arthur Henderson, elected leader to replace MacDonald, said at the first meeting of the new parliament that 'whether the withdrawal of our colleagues be long or short, whether it is temporary or permanent, it is a direct loss to the labour movement.'

On 10 September 1931, Snowden introduced his emergency Budget, raising direct taxes by £51.5 million, indirect taxes by £24 million, cutting

unemployment benefit by an average of 10 per cent, and teachers pay by 15 per cent with a number of other lesser cuts.

So the implications of the entire policy pursued by the Labour government were finally put into effect by the old Labour Ministers in their new role as National Ministers.

The meaning of the 'national interest' had become crystal clear. It was simply the interest of the ruling class in maintaining its power and its profits.

Offered no alternative

The bitter indignation of the many sincere socialists among the Labour backbenchers was really out of place. They had offered no real class alternative and had walked blindly with their leaders towards disaster.

They could stop at the brink. But the working class was thrown into the abyss.

Many people who accept that the record of the first two Labour governments was a disgraceful one have tended, then and now, to pardon it on the grounds that as minority governments they had no choice. This quite simply misses the point.

For if the only possibility was to implement anti-working class legislation and policies, Labour should quite clearly have refused to take office on these terms.

What they could have done, had they been any kind of socialist party, was to introduce genuine measures of reform on behalf of the working class. The Tories and Liberals would have voted them down and overthrown the Labour government, but it would have clearly shown that it was the agents of big business who were opposed to working class reforms.

It could have given a tremendous impetus to building the socialist movement. Instead the Labour governments decided to do the capitalists' dirty work for them.

This, rather than MacDonald's personal sell-out, is the measure of how far the betrayal of the 1920s and early 30s went. It led to there being only a rump Parliamentary Labour Party right until 1945.

But then, according to the same apologists, Labour came into its own. With a large majority, and a tremendous mandate for change, Labour's reformism triumphed in 1945 abolishing the major evils of capitalism by laying the foundations of planning and the welfare state.

We shall examine this myth next week.

**Wage cuts, dole cuts
— everything cut...
except profits**

Struggle against apartheid must go on

by Sam Mhlongo

THE CAMPAIGNS mounted against the South African cricket tour have sharpened the contradictions among a large and significant section of the British public.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for people to take a middle-of-the-road position and claim to be horrified by what is going on in South Africa but at the same time condemn those who signify their horror by demonstrating against whites-only teams from South Africa.

Those who claim that the opponents of South Africa are bringing politics into sport are quite right. But this is a direct response to the way the South African government has treated prospective tours of South Africa by other countries, by insisting that visiting teams have no right to select their players on merit only — for example, the D'Oliveira affair and more recently the Arthur Ashe case in tennis.

The right wing in Britain has added a new factor in an attempt to help its white fellowtravellers from South Africa. It now cries out 'Law and Order'. Law and order for whom, we might ask?

We must not allow ourselves to be tricked by such emotive phrases which are simply a coded way of

saying that racialism is respectable not only in South Africa but in Britain as well.

Any demonstration against white South Africans overseas is greeted with jubilation in South Africa by the blacks and their morale is momentarily raised. But I must point out that none of us has any illusions about our emancipation.

The demonstrations, however, do hurt the whites in South Africa. Everywhere in the world they are now being hounded by the new dark nations of Africa and Asia. Their only remaining sporting links are with Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

Driving a wedge

The campaigns by the South African Non Racial Olympic Committee, Afro-Asian countries and the Stop the 70 Tour group are driving wedges in the white granite wall of South Africa. We have seen recently, unexpectedly, South African cricketers, tennis stars and golfers, working feverishly to counsel their government to grant Arthur Ashe a visa to go to South Africa.

Economically and socially, due to rapid industrialisation and an accelerated growth rate, South Africa has more or less completed the capitalist democratic revolution but only so far as the white workers and the ruling class are concerned. The whites have universal fran-



D'OLIVEIRA
Cannot play in South Africa

chise. The white working class has the right to organise itself in trade unions, it has freedom of movement, it has the right to strike and bargain for wage increases.

To the 16,000,000 blacks, however, these democratic rights merely sound like the vague music of the remote future.

It is illegal for black workers to strike or to form a trade union. They are completely at the mercy of their white overlords, who decide when to increase their wages. An increase in the black worker's wage is only dictated by the necessity to maintain his cheap labouring power.

Internationally, the pressure on

South Africa must be maintained and expanded. British workers can play a role too in the struggle for elementary democratic rights for their black counterparts in South Africa.

It is a well known fact that British companies have subsidiaries in South Africa. While the demonstrators march against visiting white South African teams, the workers here should inscribe on their banners a wage increase demand for their black brothers in South Africa.

They should put this demand alongside their own each time they strike for higher wages and other rights.

In the sporting arena, the pressures must be maintained until black and white South Africans can play not only for the same international South African team, but for the same teams at home as well.

Suzman's 'sanity'

Some people in this country have been misled into believing that the Progressive Party of Mrs Helen Suzman represents sanity in South Africa. Let me shock you by citing an example that would prove to you that 99 per cent of the black population would still remain without the vote if we should assume the impossible — that the Progressive Party would take power one day.

The party stands for a property qualification in the case of the vote

for the blacks. Helen Suzman, like the Tories, would like to see the whites-only teams from South Africa continue to play their games.

South African marxists are convinced of the big business nature of many of the campaigns against South Africa. The world would like to see the extension of all the democratic rights to the people of South Africa, regardless of race.

This would allow the unfettered development of big business which is being held back by apartheid legislation. It is true that if apartheid were abolished, South Africa would not be faced with its present serious labour shortage.

Big business would be free to train large numbers of the unemployed blacks for jobs which had been reserved previously for whites. This type of revolution would therefore unquestionably confer certain advantages on the oppressed and exploited black majority.

For the first time the blacks would have the right to organise themselves in political parties and fight for their rights to improve their social and material conditions.

But this would not undermine the rule of big business.

The expropriation of private property owners and the creation of socialism would require the continuance of the revolution by the party of the workers. Hence our battle cry as South African marxists should be — 'Revolution in Permanence'.

On the track at Ford: if

you don't go off sick, you go off in a box

by a Ford worker

IMAGINE bending down to tie up your shoe lace. It's a simple job. But imagine doing it once a minute, 450 times during the period of a work shift.

Couple this with other movements such as shuffling along besides the assembly track, and you have some idea of what it is like to be a line worker.

A lineworker works on or directly feeds a car assembly track. We suffer from terrible working conditions: poor air conditioning, extremes of heat and cold, appalling noise levels, factory dust and fumes.

These problems have to be dealt with by modern, sophisticated stewardship and militancy. This means that the steward must have an understanding of the technical aspects of health hazards within the factory.

It seems to me there exists a kind of 'line work neurosis': it reflects itself in a feeling best described as being a fly under a jamjar.

I have seen an operator, a man with long service who had been on lines for years, break down in tears, saying: 'I can't stand this job any longer.' Probably he had a little extra stress that day — perhaps a minor domestic upset.

I've seen ordinary lads suddenly become stubborn as far as the job was concerned, suddenly refusing to do something they have done for years. Or they develop a need to use the urinal frequently, probably as a result of the sub-conscious urges to get off the line.

Fatigue caused by repetitive work is so great that any activity other than telly or the armchair requires a terrible struggle. This is hinted at by researchers but we line workers know it from experience: after a day of dull, brain-deadening repetition, we can, if we are not careful, turn into cabbages.

This is especially so if the job we do lends itself to social isolation — if we work alone in a booth, our colleagues are just that little bit too far away and the noise a little too high to make conversat-

All you see is an endless stream of cars stretching relentlessly in front of you

ion a practical or natural activity. And the thought of this, our lot, being repeated indefinitely is really more than bears thinking about.

Repetition work, in addition, causes peculiar afflictions. Workers using portable weld guns grow a lump on their thumb knuckles, come on one foot, an ache in one leg or round one side of their ribs, not to mention such things as tennis elbow. These are the result of constantly dragging one foot or bending one way because you are working on one side of the track for long periods.

Very few workers remain fit enough to work on a line until retiring age. If they don't go off the line with some disability, they go off in a box!

THREATENED

No one wants to work on a production line. Bench workers or sub-assembly workers are often threatened that they will be 'put on the line' if they don't improve their output and finish their quota earlier.

Who wants to work in a situation where, if you want to go to the lavatory, you have to ask, 'Please may I leave the room' (or words to that effect) and suffer a further erosion of personal dignity?

The relief system currently employed on Ford assembly lines was considered an abomination at the latter end of the industrial revolution, in the cotton mills and weaving sheds of 19th century Lancashire and Yorkshire.

When the pace of the work is fast, the worker has no time to think or to rest. The relief system is a way of keeping the worker from thinking or resting.

repeated in the second half of the shift.

This relief time is called personal allowance and is supposedly for a man's personal needs — adjusting dress, cleaning glasses, visiting the wash-room, etc. Ford of Britain currently considers 18 minutes a day (excluding the 10 minute tea break) as sufficient. Relief time for them is a managerial right not subject to negotiation. (Personal allowance in America is subject to union negotiations and the last United Auto Workers' contract I saw quoted 36 minutes.)

This generous portioning of time is arrived at by a pseudo-scientific con-trick called work study. This prostitution of science is carried out by an idiot who walks around with a stop-watch and guessing-stick (slide-rule to you), and says: 'That job is all right, the fatigue and effort occasioned by climbing those steps is adequately compensated for and recuperated from, by that part of the job performed on the platform.'

I'd love to make him do his calculations kneeling on his desk, and when he complained, assure him in a superior tone that it was an 'ergonomically viable situation', or some such crap.

The line worker suffers further from the speed-up which is the result of automation. And as automation gets more sophisticated behind, so he is forced to speed up his workpace and his flexibility and job interest disappear.

'Flexibility' to us means the opportunity to move up and down the line and means that workers can defy the boss. As we have realised in the past, this causes a breakdown of traditional skills, giving the worker an increasingly diminishing work-cycle containing fewer and fewer elements.

Interest in the job is reduced and anxiety is increased. The line worker becomes a robot, an extension of the machine. If you're a line worker, you at least get a bit of a human feel.

Line workers get none of the benefits of automation which we were promised in the 50s. On the

contrary, with its increasing efficiency, repetition work becomes less interesting and more fatiguing, both mentally and physically. The line worker is forced to work harder and harder, and all he sees is an endless stream of cars stretching relentlessly in front of him.

The line worker is the poorest paid car worker. He has very little overtime to cushion him from the reality of low wages.

Take-home pay on day shift is good if it is more than £18 a week. The line worker has to fight in order to guard what precious little humanity is left to him.

PROBLEMS

In addition to the problems of repetition work, there is the problem of shift work. This creates terrible problems for a worker's home life which cannot be solved while the capitalist system lasts.

With shift work, it is that much more difficult to pursue any sporting, cultural, educational or civic activity as you are working in a world geared to people who work in offices during the day.

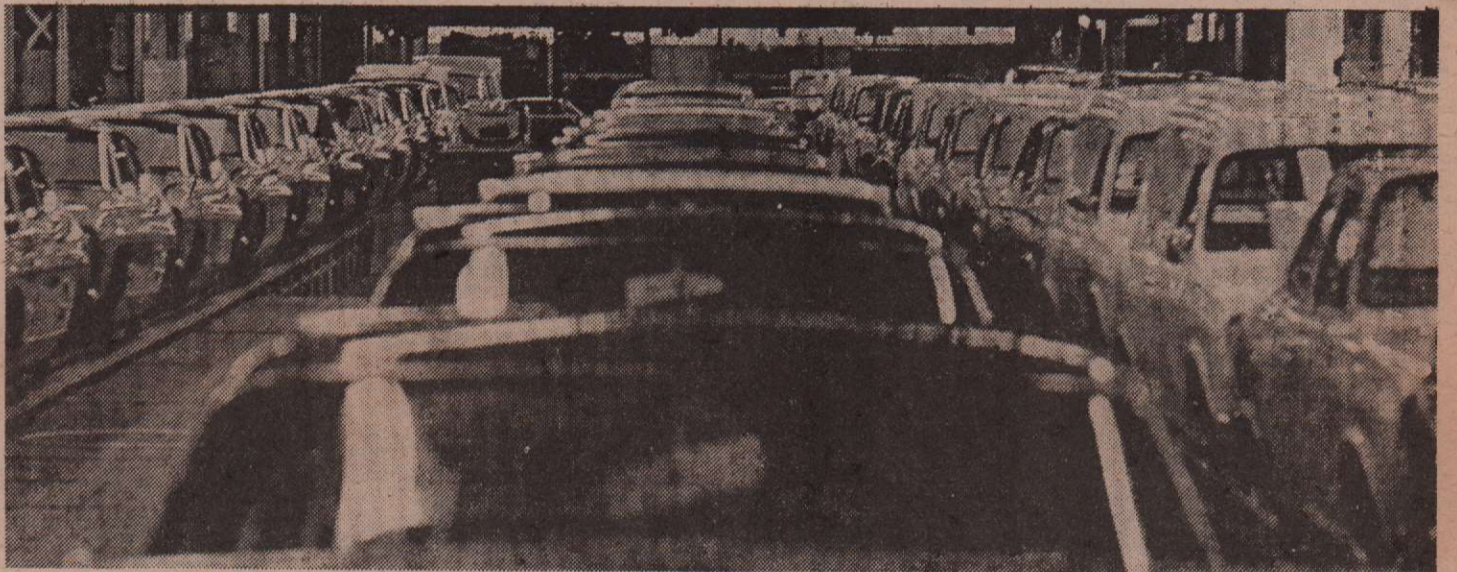
Six months of every year of your life spent on night work, with the same killing pace as during the day (no crazy kipping down as some people imagine!) the same production quota, the same line speed.

What of the Catholic worker using the rhythm method of contraception? For most of the year, until the summer holidays change the pattern, nearly all the 'safe' periods will be spent on nights.

And likewise for the couple trying desperately for a child: all the most fertile periods could be spent on night shift. It's amusing and good for a snigger, maybe, but think about it, and it isn't so funny.

The researcher might well come up with some interesting facts about apparent impotence among shift workers.

Still, with all this machinery taking the place of workers, the capitalist class does not need so many workers to reproduce. The bosses just need to pay us sufficient to keep us alive, sheltered and healthy enough to do line work.



International Socialism 43

Life under Labour:
Dave Peers and Jim Kincaid

35 6d post paid 15s for a year

HOW THE TORY PRESS TWISTS AND LIES

The true confessions

LAST WEEK I went to St Helens and was allowed to speak to a mass meeting of Pilkington strikers about support for them from railwaymen. I had been asked by a member of the strike committee to appeal to railwaymen in the paper Railway Underground - which I edit - to black glass from Belgium, brought in to help break the strike.

The 5 May issue of Railway Underground contained an appeal for NUR members to black the foreign glass.

As I explained to the St Helens meeting, I had had to leave my job as a goods guard the previous week because the management had discovered that I had started the paper.

This is where the press lies started. The Daily Express alleged that I told the meeting I was still a railwayman.

A caption to a picture of the strikers voting suggested that they would have returned to work if I hadn't spoken.

Similar fights

I told the meeting that many railwaymen supported them, realising that their struggle was the struggle of the Pilkington workers, too - for union democracy against Lord Cooper and Sir Sidney Greene. Both groups of shift workers faced similar fights for good basic rates and better conditions.

Lastly, I said that whether or not all their demands were met, St Helens would never be the same place again. Jokingly, I suggested that if Lord Pilkington tried to open future garden fetes he should get a couple of rotten tomatoes.

This was exaggerated to suggest that I meant this sort of action was important in order to win the strike.

When I finished speaking I stepped down to applause and handed out leaflets, which were snapped up eagerly. The leaflets dealt with the stories of 'outside interference' in the strike and said that 99 per cent of such interference came from the firm.

No one seemed worried that the leaflets were published by the International Socialists - except for the press, which

of 'Red Ross'

'Pelt the boss' says Red Ross

Express Staff Reporter

STRIKE leaders at Pilkington yesterday welcomed the support of a man who called himself a delegate from the National Union of Railwaymen.

HE TOLD a meeting of 3,000 glass strikers that he was urging his work-mates to "black" glass being imported from Belgium.

HE SUGGESTED that it would be a good idea if they pelted the boss, Lord Pilkington, with rotten tomatoes.

THEN HE moved among his 3,000 listeners distributing leaflets of encouragement.

It was not until some time later - after the meeting had voted to continue the six-week unofficial strike at St. Helens - that the "N.U.R. delegate" admitted he had been there under false pretences.

TROTSKY He is 25-year-old Ross Hill, who has a B.A. Honours degree from Manchester



ROSS HILL

GRADUATE WHO POSED AS N.U.R. DELEGATE ADMITS: THAT'S NOT TRUE

The lie machine in action: the Express story of 21 May which gave a totally false report of Ross Hill's speech

University I became a £1,430-a-year town planner in Liverpool Corporation. I was there for 11 months, then I had

pestered me with cameras as I gave out the leaflets. There was a big picture of me in the Express giving the photographer the two-fingered salute.

I was then foolish enough to grant an interview to the press. I had nothing to hide but I should have sensed that what the reporters wanted was a 'reds under the beds' story.

The Daily Express story was headed 'Confession of a Trotskyite'. What I was guilty of, apart from stupidity in talking to these professional fact-twisters, I shall never know.

Russian repression

In the London edition of the Express, the story was headed: 'Pelt the boss, says Red Ross'.

The paper asked me if I was a 'Trotskyite' and if I had been to Russia. I replied that much of what Trotsky had written was

right - for example, about the growing together of the unions, the employers and the state, as could be seen at St Helens.

I added that I had been to Russia but regarded the repression of the working class there to be worse than in this country.

This came out in the Express as 'I am a great believer in a lot of what Trotsky said for he was so right and I have been to Russia too' (!).

So be warned! The press, with its smarmy, friendly reporters, is out to twist and distort what socialists and trade unionists say.

The best advice is: never talk to reporters unless you can vet the story before it goes to press. Otherwise, NO COMMENT!

ROSS HILL

LETTERS

Pilkington: the union dilemma

I AM SORRY that a socialist paper such as yours, in a very interesting article on the Pilkington strike (23 May), does not put forward a more positive contribution to the dilemma in which the strike committee finds itself.

It is really not good enough to imply that the workers at Pilkington's should all now apply to join the TGWU instead of the now totally discredited GMWU. There is no fundamental difference between either organisation and left posturings by some of its leaders does not alter the bureaucratic nature of the TGWU.

Both unions are examples of 'general' unions and as such are structurally unsound.

There is no short cut for the Pilkington workers. Their splendid fight should be an inspiration to every worker in the land.

They have learnt the first lesson, namely that it is vital for

the workers to have control over their plant bargaining machinery. The next step is to forge a trade union organisation which is immediately under the control of the members, which understands the nature of the industry and which does not have a multiplicity of other unions all busy trying to undercut one another.

The arguments for industrial unions, that is, one union for each industry, should form part of our argument for workers' control - not because industrial unionism is an answer in itself but because it creates the sort of structure in which workers' control can be applied.

We can all learn a great deal from Pilkington, not least the fact that the strike committee has refused to be led up the garden path by our old friend Vic Feather. Trade unionists summoned to await his pleasure should ask him what

sort of union organisation he allows his own staff and why he has refused in the past to negotiate with them or meet their shop stewards. They might get some surprising answers. - NIGEL WALBY, Cardiff.

NHS enquiry needed

I AM GLAD to see that the nurses in Newcastle won some ground against the bureaucracy (16 May). We got our 20 per cent increase and are grateful for it, even if we do know it was given in the great pre-election build-up.

What is needed now is a full scale inquiry into the finance and operation of the whole health service, which has been dramatically downgraded in the last few years, despite the pleas of the people who see this happening.

I am concerned especially with the mental hospitals. We have made great strides forward in the treatment of mental disease at a world level. Yet despite the increasing need for treatment and overcrowding, not one mental hospital has been built in England

in the last 60 years.

The ones that do exist (the one where I work was built in 1849), are grim prisons of frustration and fire hazards.

The mental hospitals are mainly dependent, on the female side, on working wives for their staff yet we are treated like irresponsible children by the sister/matron-bureaucracy.

Morale is low, scandal high and organisation nil. I have persuaded some to attend the union meetings but the changes needed can only come from pressure by the public on the administration.

Organise worker opinion now. Remember 1 in 10 will enter a mental hospital for treatment some time in their lives. - SRN, RMN, Essex (name and address supplied).

Cottons Column.

A SELECTED list of building contractors is being invited to tender for a new home for Basil de Ferranti at Spencer Park, Wands-worth, London.

The scheme provides for a four storey building with basement and is reported to be 'very modern', with a fair amount of glass and marble work'. It will of course include a swimming pool.

Cost is estimated to be in the region of £200,000.

Mr de Ferranti is a director of Ferranti, the firm that sees to our national defence so well that not merely do £200,000 houses flow from the war effort, but the company can fiddle £4½ million extra profits from a £13 million contract. Ferranti did this in 1964 with its Bloodhound project.

Ferranti are expected to start work on a new guided missile project. Possible names include 'Bloodsucker'.

play cricket. It was when Vorster's government banned d'Oliveira in 1967 that the ballyhoo about playing racialists at cricket blew up.

It would seem that d'Oliveira had every reason to hate Vorster's South Africa, and certainly you'd have thought he'd be the last person in the world to support the All-Whites' tour.

But no. D'Oliveira has said throughout the summer that he thought 'it essential to keep some contact open if we were to have any influence on apartheid.' No Monday Club member could have expressed it better.

In South Africa, the government runs a number of propaganda rags for the black population - designed to point out all the benefits of being dominated by whites and by big business.

But because of apartheid laws and because of the terrible education the government forces on the blacks, no black journalists work on these papers. So Vorster attempts to get famous blacks living abroad to write columns.

So far the only exiled South African to be bought off like this is your friend and mine Basil d'Oliveira. His column is syndicated throughout the country.

Could just be that this has some-thing to do with Basil's support for the tour.

ANTHONY GREENWOOD is no longer Labour's Minister of Housing. He won't be an MP beyond the general election.

A new job as chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corporation has come his way. He said last week that he was sorry to be leaving Rosendale (whose MP he is) and the House of Commons.

But in view of his 'long-standing love of the Commonwealth' he could not refuse this chance 'to fight world poverty'.

Anthony Greenwood will be paid £10,500 a year to fight the good fight.

Suffer little children...

NICE EXAMPLE of 'Christian' love and charity from the Rev. Stanley Owen, rector of Elmdon with Bickenhill in Warwickshire. Said God's representative to the assembled flock on Sunday: 'A normal couple should be licensed to have two children. Those considered inferior should be restricted to one and the exceptional couple allowed perhaps three or four.'

And the Rev. Stan added that unlicensed pregnancies would result in state abortions and those who refused to co-operate would be forced to starve.

The reason for w... this dreadful, anthill-type society is quite simple: 'If we are to stay in the rat race we must breed our own geniuses to match those of the United States and Russia.'

You won't catch Our Stan overturning any moneylenders' tables in the temples.

He said his sermon was greeted with 'appreciative grins' by his parishioners. But perhaps they were trying not to vomit.

Dolly drops

ONE of the most puzzling things about the cancelled white South African cricket tour, has been the reaction of Basil d'Oliveira.

D'Oliveira is a Cape Coloured and for that crime he has been forced out of his native country to

Getting it out of his system

ONE OF THE chief preoccupations of the bosses is stopping workers spending too much time in the lavatory.

At Lorilleux and Bolton, a small printing ink factory in Tottenham, North London, Bert, the general foreman, delighted in disturbing absent employees while they were having a smoke or a read.

One victim used to be harried remorselessly by Bert.

Rushing to the toilet bay, he would either disturb the lad, or, if in a really sadistic mood, time his period on the throne.

One day he decided to time the man. Establishing that his quarry was in session by a locked door and a pair of visible rubber boots, he took out his watch.

Minutes went by. One hour passed. Bert was into his second fidgety hour, working himself into a fury. All that unproductive time!

Lunchbreak arrived and a curious audience formed round the fuming Bert.

Bert battered down the door - to find a pair of empty boots. His victim had smuggled them in, lined them up, locked the door and climbed over into the next cubicle.

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

R-R subsidiary locks out car body men for a month

by Stan Bishop

PRODUCTION workers at Mulliner Park Ward Ltd. in Willesden, North London — a subsidiary of Rolls Royce — have been locked out for a month by the management.

The dispute began last September when the workers, who belong to 10 unions and make coachbuilt bodies for Rolls Royce and Bentley, applied for percentage increases in piecework prices, which had not

changed for four years.

In spite of numerous meetings with the management, no increases were given. At a mass meeting early last month the workers agreed to work to the allowed hours on the jobs.

This action brought production almost to a standstill. After two weeks, the management removed clockcards and switched off the power on 29 April.

Since then it has made no moves

to negotiate. But a member of the lockout committee told me that the workers were united in their attempts to win this struggle.

So far only the Sheetmetal Workers Union is giving financial support to their 80 members. Financial help is needed urgently.

Donations to: J R Baldwin, 8 Leghorn Road, Harlesden, London NW10. Cheques should be made payable to Willesden Workers' Appeal Fund.

Wall St. — storms ahead

by John Palmer

THE FINANCIAL SLUMP on Wall Street poses a deadly threat to the 'phoney election' in this country.

The growing reality that the US economy may be entering an economic recession faces both Labour and Tory leaders with the problem of how they are going to deal with its consequences here.

By the autumn the British economy may be suffering a backlash from both growing unemployment and the continuing price inflation on the other side of the Atlantic.

Developments in Wall Street in recent weeks may not mean a straightforward economic slump. In a sense that would be less dangerous politically for the Nixon administration and the whole economic system than the combination of recession and inflation which has emerged.

Inflation

The vast US arms programme and the deeper involvement of American big business in Indo-China is feeding ever-increasing inflation into the system. The arms economy is turning more and more from a stabilising factor to a de-stabilising influence within the American capitalist system.

The sheer size of American big business today makes it almost impossible for government measures which are aimed to restrain prices.

And the American workers, spearheaded by the black militants in the ghettos and the rank and file groups in the unions, are not prepared to tolerate any cut in their standard of living.

The US ruling class is worried about its enormous balance of payments deficit. It fears that unless the deficit is corrected, the dollar will come under renewed attack in the world money markets.

Pressure

Therefore Nixon's objective is to cut imports by reducing the level of economic activity. He is also under great pressure to impose import controls, although these would deal a deadly blow to the exports of Britain and to America's other trading competitors.

But behind Wall Street's panic are other non-economic factors. Most important of these is the evidence that opposition to the Indo-China war and its social consequences at home is spreading from the black ghettos and the universities into the factories and the labour movement.

Any deterioration in the American economy — either through accelerated inflation or a trade recession — will rebound on the British economy and immediately on sterling.

Wilson and Heath know that as soon as the election is over, they will have to confront working people in this country once again with demands for still bigger sacrifices.

It looks like being a stormy and challenging autumn.

POLICE ARREST DEVON STRIKE LEADER

SW Reporter

OTTERY ST MARY, DEVON:— Strike leader Cyril Wilson was arrested by police on Tuesday while he was on picket duty outside the Ottemill Switchgear factory, scene of a month-old dispute over better wages.

Mr Wilson was deliberately pushed by police into a motor cyclist who was attempting to break the picket line. Then the police took him away and charged him with action 'liable to cause a breach of the peace'.

The strikers had mounted a strong picket at the factory on Tuesday following sudden developments in the strike at the end of last week.

A mass meeting of the 300 strikers last week gave their unions the go-ahead for informal talks with the company and the employers' federation — provided the company withdrew its threat to sack the men.

The men are demanding a 4s 4½ an hour across the board increase for skilled workers to bring their rates up to the national average of £24 a week. They have refused any productivity 'concessions' and also want 100 per cent trade union membership in the factory.

The company turned down the offer for talks and then sent the strikers letters of dismissal. Their cards were sent to the local social security office.

INDIVIDUALS

The letter, from personnel manager Mr Seltham, said: 'In the event of your wishing to seek re-employment with the company, we are prepared to consider the matter on an individual basis.

'Details of the conditions upon which re-engagement may be offered will be forwarded to you.'

Senior shop steward Pat Reene commented: 'The management are trying to get out of paying redundancy payments to men who have worked here for up to 20 years.'

The letter is also designed to split the strikers' solidarity, take the men back in ones and twos and weed out the strike leaders.

Last Saturday the Ottemill strike committee held a social to raise money for their hardship fund. Representatives from the Newton Abbot Centrax strike committee, who won a major victory earlier this year, spoke to the strikers. The social was also supported by students from Exeter university.

The strike has not been declared official by the strikers' unions. The majority belong to the General and Municipal Workers and feeling is running high against the union's attitude.

Donations and support to: P Coward, 83 Slade Close, Ottery St Mary, Nr Exeter, Devon.



Strike leaders Gerry Caughey (left) and John Potter with Vic Feather

Pilks workers still determined to leave GMWU

THE Pilkington struggle is far from finished. After talks in London last week with TUC general secretary Vic Feather, the rank and file strike committee from St Helens said they had failed to agree on union representation in the glass factories.

The 9000 men returned to work last week, marching behind their strike leaders. Most workers seem determined to leave the General and Municipal Workers Union.

There has been talk of forming a new glassworkers association and the strike committee has applied to the Registrar of Friendly Societies for details.

After the TUC talks, the strike committee said it had achieved two of its aims — pledges that 27 victimised workers at Pontypool would be reinstated and that there would be no victimisations in St Helens.

But the committee objected to the appointment of GMWU nominees to panels set up to consider a new wage structure and negotiating procedures.

The committee said that all the

union spokesmen were appointed by national GMWU officer David Basnett without reference to the workers.

It is clear that maximum shop floor unity and strength will be needed to fight Pilkingtons. The management is determined to get tough with the workers.

At the Triplex works, talks over redundancies and shift-work cuts broke down on Tuesday. Strike leader Gerry Caughey said: 'It was an absolute waste of time. We got nothing.'

Pilkingtons have cancelled this year's annual carnival and old folks' 'treat' in St Helens.

Union rights strike

FORTY TWO machine shop workers and inspectors — all members of the Engineering Union — have been on strike for 10 weeks at S Davall and Sons, in Perivale, Middlesex. The firm makes precision instrument controls for aircraft. The dispute is over union recognition and a disputed bonus scheme.

Wire men keep up prod fight

EDINBURGH:— The unofficial strike of 750 workers at the United Wire Works goes into its fourth week with almost 100 per cent solidarity. Only four men are blacklegging.

This proves the total falseness of the management's claim that the whole thing was engineered by a small group of men.

At the mass meetings I attended all the issues have been openly discussed and collectively decided. At one, a representative of the blacklegs was allowed to state his case. He was argued with and in the end told plainly that if he and his colleagues remained at work, breaking the unity of the strike, they could not expect to be tolerated in the factory when the men finally did return to work.

Their demands are:

1. Withdrawal of the contractual clause in a productivity agreement.
2. A substantial pay increase
3. Re-instatement of all victimised officials.
4. Dismissal of the four blacklegs.
5. Make the strike official.

Donations and messages of solidarity should be sent to: Peter King, 18 Muirhouse Green, Edinburgh.

Appeal to Scanlon

WIGAN:— 500 workers at Walmsley's works, which produces machinery for wood pulp, have been on strike for a month. The firm attempted to push a productivity deal on the workers.

When this failed, the bosses cancelled the men's bonus retrospectively, which many of the men consider to be in breach of the law.

400 of the strikers are members of the Engineering Union. They have written to AEF president Hugh Scanlon requesting that he make the strike official, pay them strike pay and send top negotiators to Wigan.

In their letter, the strikers say they are alarmed at the similarity locally of the AEF and the GMWU in neighbouring St Helens. They reminded Mr Scanlon of speeches he had made at Workers' Control conferences in which he stressed that the strength of a union is in its rank and file.

Donations to: E Pennington, 29 Withnall House, School Lane, Wigan, Lancs.

NOTICES

FRED KIRSCH from Kent State University, Ohio — eye witness to massacre, plus Vietnamese speaker. Saturday 30 May 6pm, Trafalgar Sq. followed by march. Organised by VSC.

COMING SOON: London IS meeting. John Palmer and Paul Foot: after the election, a strategy for revolutionary socialists. Conway Hall, 12 June, 7.30pm.

AIR/VILLA holiday in Yugoslavia. IS comrade or left-winger required to join party of four IS comrades renting a villa at Split 26 July to 9 August 1970. Cost of flight plus rent £50. Enquiries to Nigel Wade 5a Palmerston Rd, London N22. 888 4165.

REVOLUTIONARY left newspaper being set up in East Kent area. Would appreciate news items, articles. Contributions to R Crossley, c/o 98 Lindon Cresc,

Folkestone.

THE SPOKESMAN. Founded by Bertrand Russell. No 4, June. Contents inc: Sihanouk on Lon Nol's atrocities, Kolko on Vietnam, Topham on Docks and Dunlops, Rowbotham on Women's Liberation, Brecht on Worker Actors, Mandel on Trotsky Play and a recently discovered document by Trotsky. News and Reviews. Available from BRPF Publications 45 Gamble St. Nottingham, 4s 3d post free.

THE ALTERNATIVE ELECTION — anarcho-syndicalist. Illustrated poster 4s post free, 7 copies for a guinea from Syndicalist Workers Federation c/o 18 Scoresdale, 13 Beulah Hill, London SE19

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by Chris Russell

DERRY:— Leaders of the Northern Ireland Labour Party have taken steps to head off the growing militancy of its left wing.

The party executive has refused to sanction the nomination of Eamonn McCann for the Derry constituency in the general election. McCann was nominated by the local Derry party.

He will now stand as a 'socialist candidate' with the support of his local party and Young Socialists.

McCann was elected to the NILP executive only two weeks ago. The right wing see him as a threat to

their ambition to join a 'liberal' coalition in Northern Ireland along with the Nationalist 'Green Tories' and anti-Unionist farmers and businessmen.

In an effort to capture the anti-Unionist feeling among the Catholic community and at the same time seize the initiative from the socialists and left republicans, local 'gombeen' capitalists and Green Tories are raising the slogan of 'pan-Catholic unity'.

Rejected

At their conference on Sunday, People's Democracy rejected any idea of working with these elements. PD made it clear that it stands for a

32-county workers' republic and thinks it essential in the long term to agitate among Protestants as well as Catholic workers for the overthrow of British imperialism.

In opposition to the 'pan-Catholic' unity manoeuvres, PD proposed the 'maximum unity of socialist and working class groups for political and industrial action.'

The aims of such a regroupment are to plan and organise united action on issues affecting the working class: housing, unemployment, support for strikes and opposition to anti-union laws.

The Repression Grows — see page 2