

Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

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Urgent appeal to all readers

by the editor

SOCIALIST WORKER's fighting fund - vital to the development of the paper - hangs in the balance.

Our original appeal was for £5000. Then we were offered a once-in-a-lifetime chance of an ultra-modern web-offset printing press.

With the money we had raised, we had more than enough for a deposit on the machine.

But seven leading finance companies refused to handle hire purchase on the new press.

Members of the International Socialists and supporters of the paper responded magnificently to post and telephone appeals. We were able to double the deposit. We had cast-iron securities to guarantee the rest of the money.

Victimisation

Still the finance companies said no. There is no doubt that this is a clear case of political victimisation.

What ordinary capitalist firm would raise two-thirds of the cost of new machinery, back the other third with securities - and still be turned down by the mighty finance companies?

We have to pay cash for the machine by 2 September. That means raising a further £5000 by then. If we fail, the next customer in the queue will buy the machine and the opportunity will have gone for several years.

The new press would mean a regular eight-page paper, printed in two colours. Because of the speed of the machine, Socialist Worker would be printed in a few hours, releasing valuable printing time for books and pamphlets.

Impact

It means that the International Socialists could make a much greater impact on the growing struggle of the labour movement.

Will you help us? We have only three days to raise the money.

Rush whatever you can - but as much as you can - to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Please don't let us down.

FIGHT TO HELP THE JOBLESS

by CHRIS DAVISON

THE GOVERNMENT and its Treasury advisers, the university professors and Fleet Street commentators, have one thing in common: none of them has the slightest idea of how to solve Britain's present economic difficulties.

They are faced with rocketing prices - 8 per cent in a year - steadily growing unemployment - more than 600,000 - and economic stagnation - growth is down to below 1 per cent a year.

These are not new problems, but today the government faces all of them at the same time. Whichever one they try to cure, they risk making the others worse. In other words, they are between the devil and the deep blue sea.

As socialists, it is not our job to come up with futile 'solutions' or, like the TUC, call pathetically for 'economic growth'. The problems of the British economy, like the economies of all developed capitalist countries, arise from the profit-seeking, competitive jungle that is the very nature of the private enterprise system.

PIN THE BLAME

The millionaire press will try to pin the blame for the present crisis on the working man and try to make him feel guilty about the present wage claims that allow him to keep up with the cost of living.

We must have none of this hypocrisy. The working man, if he is lucky, is sweating on Ford's production line for £30 a week. If he is less fortunate, he is trying desperately to stop his kids going hungry on £12 a week dole money.

The guilty men, the financiers, shareholders and other associated layabouts now taking extended holidays in the sun, must be exposed.

It is their crazy system that puts 600,000 out of work while millions go short of basic essentials - a decent home, good food, clothes, schooling, even the occasional holiday.

More building workers are out of work today than at any time since the 1930s, yet slums, homelessness and overcrowding remain the workers' lot. Can anything more clearly demonstrate the utter bankruptcy of our present capitalist society?

DESTROY MORE JOBS

Amid this chaos, a cry goes up from the employers, backed by labour and trade union leaders, for 'higher' productivity. Those in work are called upon to work even harder and so destroy more jobs.

Even at this moment deals are going through in the docks and in the printing and chemical industries.

In each of these industries, the result is likely to be the end of labour recruitment. If the demand is for increased production, then let the bosses take on extra workers from the dole queues.

We should tell our trade union leaders that they must stop getting easy pay rises with productivity deals that come at our expense in terms of harder work, conditions and rising unemployment.

Whichever way the employers' government tries to solve the economic problems - whether it be wage freeze, devaluation, bashing the unions or forcing through productivity, we can be sure of one thing: it is the workers who are going to suffer.

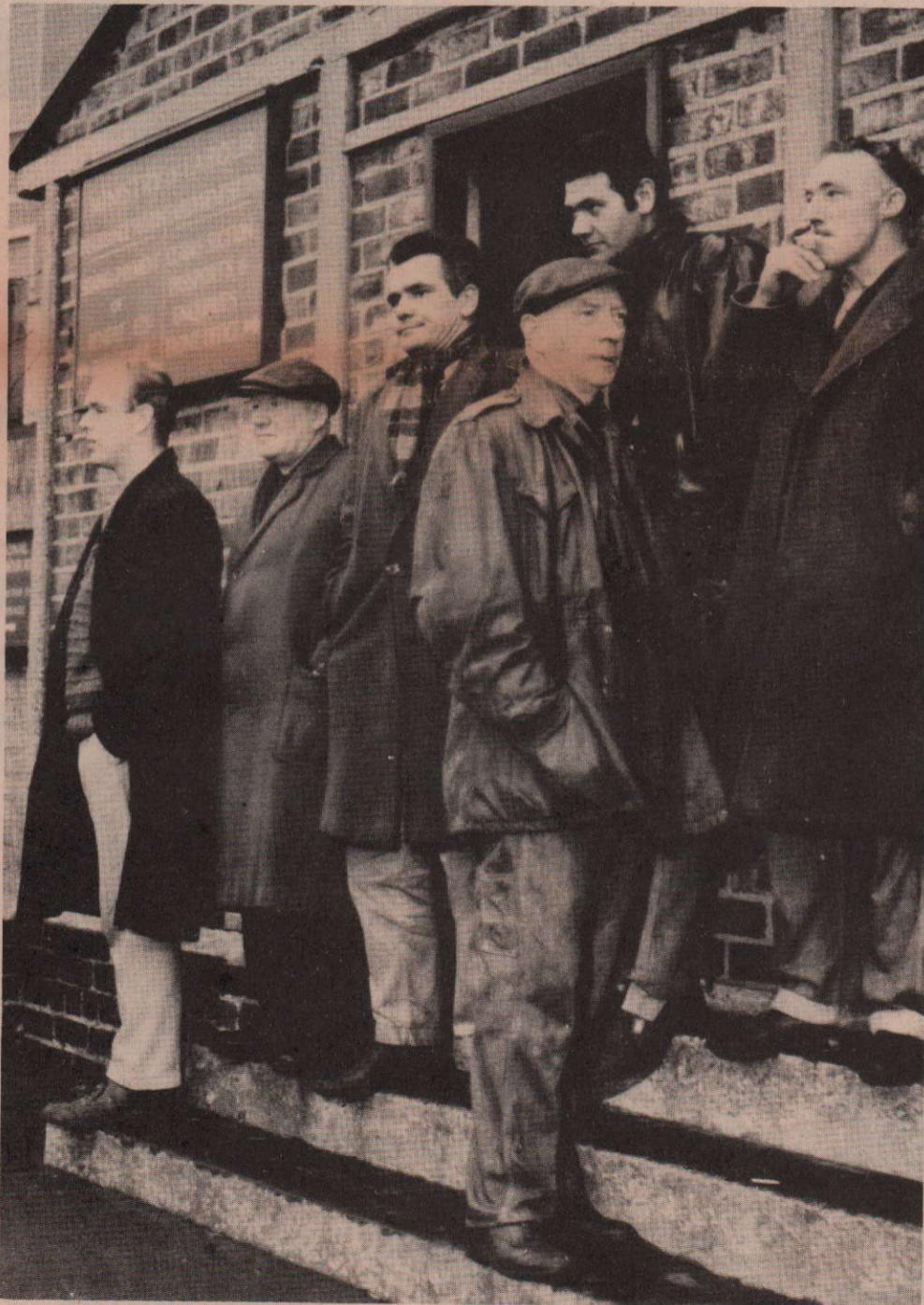
If we are to fight back, we have to put forward policies that can unite us. We must link up the fight against unemployment with the cause of the growing army of lower paid workers.

We must aim at strengthening and developing the links between the workers at rank and file level. And above all, we must put an end to all productivity bargaining.

For a £25 a week minimum wage for those in work and those without it.

For an end to the lunacy of productivity deals.

For the strengthening and growth of democratic rank and file committees.



Men without work - the most savage indictment of capitalist society. Slums need pulling down, houses and schools need to be built - but more than 600,000 people are jobless. And all the time, union leaders are signing dangerous productivity deals that REDUCE the size of the workforce.

Pilkington-Russian link up

WHILE Pilkington glassworkers in St Helens fight for elementary trade union rights, the monopoly's bosses have concluded a lucrative deal with the Russians.

A new plant at Bor, 200 miles east of Moscow, started operations this week. It will produce about 50m square feet of high quality float glass a year.

The factory was designed and

built for the Russian government by Pilkington. Technicians from both countries collaborated for two years.

'Socialist' Russia has recently broken a coal strike in fascist Spain and a cement strike in Ireland. Now it is collaborating with Pilkington.

The St Helens strikers should immediately contact the Russian trade unions and ask them to refuse to work the Bor plant until Pilking-

ton give full trade union rights in their British factories.

Seamen to black glass from Pilkington - see page 6

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS
Public meeting

Trotsky and Trotskyism

Speaker: DUNCAN HALLAS

Friday 28 August, 7.30pm

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square WC1
Tube: Holborn

THE VICIOUS SENTENCING OF THE IVESTON 'MUTINEERS'
SPOTLIGHTS THE LACK OF LIBERTY IN THE SERVICES

SOLDIERS MUST HAVE UNION RIGHTS

THE MEN of the armed forces have to do the most unsavoury jobs to protect the capitalist system. But what rights do these men have?

A short answer to that question is — none. This was made clear in the vicious sentencing of the Iveston 'mutineers' last week (the officers, of course, got off scot free).

The lack of democratic rights in the armed forces is shown clearly in a new pamphlet published by the National Council for Civil Liberties called 'Civil Liberties and Service Recruiting' (7s 6d, NCCL, 152 Camden High Street, London NW1).

The NCCL started their 'reluctant serviceman' campaign in 1966. Since then they have intervened on behalf of 250 young servicemen who want to leave the forces but are refused permission to do so.

NCCL general secretary Tony Smythe says of his campaign: 'In four years with the NCCL I have not dealt with an issue which has produced such a terrible harvest of human misery, desertion, suicide, self-inflicted injury, delinquency, broken homes and the depths of despair.'

Perhaps one of the worst crimes the pamphlet exposes is the present policy of recruiting teenagers and holding onto them for as long as possible.

Every year, 35,000 men join the armed forces. From that number, 12,000 are under the age of 18 and many of them have just left school.

Hard to get out

They sign up for nine to 12 years from the age of 18. Their 'contracts' cannot be broken.

But they have not entered into a real contract as such because service engagements 'between those in the military service of the crown and the crown are voluntary only on the part of the crown and give no occasion for an action in respect of any alleged contract'.

The reluctant serviceman hasn't much chance of getting out. One serviceman wrote to the NCCL: 'My wife's mental health was deteriorating as a result of my absences.'

'As I could not buy myself out due to the time restriction, I took the only step that was open — which was to desert and save up money for a discharge. I decided to take a job in civilian life with the object of saving up enough money to purchase my discharge.'

'Eventually I was arrested and my great plan for freedom had failed.'

His wife wrote: 'I have hardly eaten or slept...and I am afraid of what I might do since I can't go on

An ex-sailor who fought for years to leave the service describes life in uniform

like this any longer. We have a boy two-years old and a baby girl of four months and if my husband is not home soon they are going to be nervous wrecks.

'I don't seem to be able to stop myself shouting, this is why I'm afraid that I might do something silly because if I don't I am afraid our children will have to be put in a home.'

The Ministry of Defence decided: 'Very careful enquiries have been made into this case but the evidence does not show that Driver...s presence in Tunstall with his wife is essential.'

How did the present situation come about? With conscription about to end in the late 1950s, the Tory government had the task of finding new recruits.

In 1957 the Grigg Committee was set up 'to examine the factors bearing upon the willingness of men and women to serve in the armed forces'.

The committee's answer was to rely heavily on the recruitment of boys. The position now as a result of that policy is the following proportion of boy recruits for each service: army, 30 per cent; navy 68 per cent; air force, 20 per cent.

Press gang methods

The methods used to recruit can only be described as a sophisticated form of the press gang. With misleading recruiting propaganda, young workers in depressed areas who can not find jobs are encouraged to join the services by schools and employment officers.

The serviceman hasn't much chance of buying himself out. The Ministry says: 'The Navy department is empowered under Section 2 (2) of the Naval Enlistment Act 1884 to detain a man in the Royal Navy for

the full term of service for which he may have entered.

'Although men are from time to time allowed to purchase their discharge, subject to the needs of the service, this is a privilege and not a constitutional right of the man.' Similar provisions exist for the army and air force.

And, as Frank Allaun MP pointed out in a recent letter to The Observer: 'Even where they have the opportunity to buy themselves out at the age of 23, the sum, often £200, is utterly beyond the means of young servicemen or of most working class families.'

The silent majority

What about the compassionate Labour politicians? The last Labour government's army minister, Gerry Reynolds, admitted: 'The system is morally indefensible...but it would be impossible to run a disciplined service any other way.'

With the forces short of recruits, the military authorities certainly face a dilemma. They once claimed that reluctant servicemen were only a small minority.

But when they were asked why, if that was the case, they did not let the 'minority' out, they replied that nearly everyone would leave!

Perhaps the greatest advance would be made if the Transport and General Workers Union succeeded in their attempts to unionise the forces. The system certainly is indefensible. And the fact that the majority of men in the forces remain there against their will makes a farce of that system.

What is not funny is that the system is still functioning and in doing so misleads thousands of young workers and their families into years of misery.

THE PROFESSIONALS

...at strike-breaking, independence-busting

Cpl Fred Tode proudly wears the white feather of the Royal Bomberiers. He gets £31 a week (less £10 barrack room damages) and has been seconded to the Race Relations Board for special field work in Aden and Anguilla.

Sapper Bert 'Goosey' Gander has webbed feet and was just right for the army's frogmen team. A former unemployed sewage worker, he now earns £26 a week. He was on stand-by for special duties during the docks strike.



All trade unionists and socialists must support the TGWU in their campaign for union rights for servicemen. Recruiting campaigns in schools and universities must be countered with anti-recruiting meet-

ings. And one point must be stressed in such a campaign — that not until we end the oppression and exploitation of capitalism will working people have anything worth defending.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM...

MAN'S WORLDLY GOODS: the story of the wealth of nations, by Leo Huberman (Monthly Review Press 32s).

HUBERMAN's famous book deals with a complicated subject in a way that the average person can understand without consulting a dictionary at frequent intervals.

The purpose of the book is an attempt to explain history by economic theory and economic theory by history. I cannot think of a better introduction to the subject.

The problem for most socialists is that though the class struggle is obvious to us it is not always so easy to explain to others.

Huberman has no such problems. On page 3 we read, 'Feudal society consisted of three classes, the prayers, the fighters and the workers, with the men who worked providing for both the church class and the military class'.

HOME TRUTHS

Whoever thought that price fixing was a new idea should read of the craft guilds in the Middle Ages. As expected, the church comes in for a few home truths. In England in the Middle Ages it was the largest landowner of all, owning roughly one third of all land, plus a massive amount of gold and silver.

Usury — lending money at interest — was a sin, according to the church. Town governments and later state governments even passed laws against it. But the doctrine cramped the style of the new merchant class and it was accordingly modified by both governments and the church.

Columbus did not go to sea in a tiny wooden ship for the fun of it, but because the Venetians had established such a monopoly over the land routes to the riches of India that the merchants of the rest of

Europe were determined to find a sea route to India and cut out the Venetians.

In the 16th and 17th centuries beggars formed a class of their own. In Paris in the 1630s they accounted for a quarter of the population.

The main causes of this were the enclosure of common land and increases in prices and rents while wages fell behind. All these facts are set out with numerous quotations from people and proclamations of the time.

Class struggle did not start with the industrial revolution and history is not neutral — this is the message which comes over loud and clear.

My favourite story concerns the escapades of John Hawkins who was knighted for slave trading. Queen Elizabeth I (known to businessmen of the time as good Queen Bess and for good reason) was so anxious to break into such a profitable line of business that she loaned Hawkins a ship for slave trading. The name of the ship was Jesus.

The chapters on the French Revolution and Marx's economic theories are very well written. Most books of this type are aimed at a fairly well informed audience and certain things are taken for granted. Huberman makes no such assumptions and here is the value to someone not used to marxist literature.

My main criticism of the book is that Huberman has a mental blockage, where Russia is concerned. Chapter 21 is entitled 'Russia has a Plan'. If this had been written during the euphoria of the early 1920s, it might be excusable, but actually it was written in 1936.

By this time of course the Moscow Trials had already started and it was obvious to any objective socialist that the revolution of 1917 had degenerated. It is a pity that the book is marred in this way and was not brought up to date for the new edition.

TERRY WARD

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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 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

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.

Russian jackboots have crushed Czechs

TWO YEARS AGO Russian troops crossed into Czechoslovakia and Russian paratroops seized the country's main airports. The invasion was made without warning and without even the semblance of an excuse.

When students and young workers built barricades from buses and trams to try to stop the progress of the tanks into Prague, they were fired on, with a number of casualties.

It seemed at first that the militarily successful invasion was going to fail politically. All the Czech people seemed to be united behind the government of Dubcek and Svoboda.

The Russians were unable to find open collaborators to run the country for them in the first days after the invasion. Instead, they were forced to permit Dubcek and his colleagues to remain in apparent control.

But the price Dubcek had to pay was to agree to carry through himself the measures demanded by the invaders.

The Russians went into Czechoslovakia for two reasons.

First, and most important, because they were frightened of the new atmosphere of mass political debate and involvement. Whole sections of the population were beginning to discuss how to run their own lives. Such a debate might spread beyond Czechoslovakia, into Russia itself.

Second, the Russians thought Dubcek would weaken their dominance over the Czech economy.

Dubcek promised the Russians that he would put a stop to both these developments. He began by imposing an increasing censorship on papers, publications, radio and TV.

He tried to justify this to the population on the grounds that if he did not do it the Russians would intervene still more viciously.

Just as Dubcek tried to justify himself to the Russians by pointing to the strength of Czech feeling, he tried to justify himself to the Czechs by pointing to the strength of the Russian troops.

Involved

This balancing act could not last for long. The supports on which Dubcek was resting were moving in opposite directions.

The mass of Czech people, particularly the workers and students, had no official organisations but they became more and more involved in actions against the invaders. The high points were:

- Towards the end of 1968 when factories all over the country sent messages of support to students taking part in a sit-in strike in their university.

- At the time of Jan Palach's death early last year.

- On the occasion of an ice-hockey match last April when the Czechs beat the Russians.

- And finally with the massive demonstrations on the first anniversary of the invasion dispersed by tear gas, rubber truncheons and even bullets.

Mass factory meetings were becoming openly hostile to the

—but the problems remain...

by **CHRIS HARMAN**
Editor of *International Socialism*



HUSAK, DUBCEK . . . one down, two to go?

invasion. As trade union officials, formerly associated with the Dubcek group lined up with invaders, the centre of agitation moved towards the rank and file, where it took on a new meaning.

The real opposition and alternative to the Russian presence was shown in January last year. The

Skoda engineering factories in Pilsen organised a 'Council of Workers Councils', covering 200 factories from all over Czechoslovakia.

Many of the bureaucrats who had been identified with Dubcek's demands for reforms, especially economic reforms, began to see the Russ-

fine is paid

The paper's appeal is:

'To draw progressive world opinion to the outrages of a nazi state in being unless checked by some mass organ of the progressive and socialist forces.

'To try and raise money to pay this fine and, if possible, to establish a commercial printing press that could build up a left and progressive mass education network.'

To get round the ban on collecting money in Nigeria, cash will have to be raised outside the country. We appeal to our readers to raise this matter urgently in their workplaces and union branches and send cash to: Tunji Osabu, 192 Stoke Newington High Street, London N16.

Protests should be sent to: Nigerian High Commissioner, 36 Chapel Street, London SW1.



August 1968: the tanks roll into Prague. But the problems still remain and are now affecting Russia, too

ian presence as the only protection against the masses below. They co-operated increasingly with the occupying forces to step up repression and to remove from power the politicians most inclined towards reforms.

So Dubcek, Cernik and Svoboda united with the Russians to replace Smrkovsky. Then Cernik and Svoboda helped put Husak in Dubcek's place. Finally Cernik was pushed out.

Imprisoned

The people paid dearly for the new 'law and order' imposed on them. Hundreds, if not thousands have been dismissed from their jobs. Dozens have been imprisoned. And everywhere living standards have been cut.

Industry is treated by the Kremlin as though it belonged to them. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, 'Unobtrusively...the Czech economy is now being integrated with the USSR to become more and more an industrial complex for the processing of Soviet raw

materials.'

But this cannot deal with the problems which the Czech rulers tried to tackle and which led to the events of two years ago.

The economy continues to stagnate. Workers continue to refuse to devote their energy and initiative to raising productivity. There are continuing shortages, particularly of coal and electricity.

One of the excuses for the invasion was that Czechoslovakia was in danger of falling under 'West German influence'. Yet under Husak trade with West Germany rose 45 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

The Russian rulers invaded Czechoslovakia to put a stop to a ferment threatening their control throughout Eastern Europe. They have been able to stop that ferment by repression, but not to destroy the forces that gave rise to it.

The signs are that the kind of economic problems that produced the Czechoslovak events of 1968 are at work in Russia itself. The bell which tolled in Prague could still sound the death knell of Brezhnev, Kosygin and all they stand for.

Appeal to save Nigerian paper from bosses' attack

REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISTS in Nigeria have issued an appeal to the labour movement in Europe to take urgent action to stop the closure of an important left-wing paper.

The attack on the paper, the *Nigerian Socialist*, is part of the growing repression by the employing class since the end of the war with the breakaway state of Biafra. Socialists, progressives and supporters of Biafra are all being hounded by the government and its backers.

The *Nigerian Socialist* was founded in 1966 and was formerly the official paper of the Nigerian Labour Party until the party was banned during the war. The paper had a circulation of 10,000 copies each fortnight and was distributed to all parts of the country

Last year the paper ran a series of articles on the Nigerian employing class, detailing their grip on the country's economy and their links with foreign big business interests. One powerful employer, a millionaire docks contractor, sued the paper for libel, claiming £10,000 damages. He was awarded £2000.

When the decision was announced, dockers staged a strike in support of the paper. Many of them are employed by the paper's prosecutor.

The libel action was a clear move to drive the *Nigerian Socialist* out of business. It has not been able to appear since the court action.

All attempts to collect money from individual supporters and at factory gates have been stopped by the Public Collection Ordinance. The paper's editor faces jail unless the

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AGRICULTURE

THE DOCKS

Feudal blackmail that holds back fight for higher wages

For a number of years Joan Maynard has been a leading personality in the trade union and labour movement of the North Riding of Yorkshire. As organiser for the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers she has campaigned relentlessly against the 'tied cottage' system where a worker loses his home if he leaves his job, and related abuses. Joan is a member of the Labour Party and the Institute for Workers' Control and is currently Vice-President of the union. She is interviewed by John Charlton.



WHAT are the main problems for farm workers in the 1970s?

The greatest problems are wages and the tied cottage system, one of the few remaining hangovers from feudal times in modern society.

On the wage front, the basic rate is very poor and the take home pay about £7 per week below the average for industry. Wages and the tied cottage are closely linked. The tied cottage gives the farmer a strong hold over his employee and acts as a deterrent to seeking work elsewhere.

Is the farmer's hold over the worker still as strong as ever?

In many instances it is still tremendous, particularly where the tied cottage is involved. He can't get off work during the day time, evening as well during the summer. He can't speak his mind without fear, nor exercise his right to stand for local election.

In a recent case of nasty victimisation involving a house, the local magistrate said in court: 'It might be a hard thing for you to accept, but land is more important than people'.

In another case, a district housing inspector told me that a local councillor (a farmer-Tory) was reluctant to let one of his workers have a council house as he was afraid he would leave the land and go to work in a local factory. The land owners certainly see the tied cottage system as central to their maintenance of control in agriculture.

Militancy deterred

What are the main problems of trade union organisation?

Again, the tied cottage is important. The threat of no roof over the head deters militancy.

Most farm workers work in small, isolated units. It is not easy to get time off for union work and it is very unpopular with employers, with whom the worker usually has a special relationship, quite different from that in industry.

In addition the farm worker feels a special loyalty to the land. For example, even the most loyal trade unionist would see his loyalty stretched in some circumstances, say a demonstration fixed for a weekend in September which fell on a fine Saturday following a couple of weeks of rain.

Have any attempts been made to introduce productivity bargaining in agriculture?

Nothing comparable with developments in industry, but negotiations are at present taking place for a grading scheme. The present basic rate is £13 3s for a 43-hour week.

If the grading is accepted, the majority of labourers will be on that basic, skilled craftsmen 10 per cent

above, herdsmen 20 per cent above and farm managers 30 per cent above.

I am personally opposed to this system on a number of counts: the employer has the right to nominate to the grades and the proficiency testing system is to be run by the Young Farmers Clubs.

I am fundamentally opposed to men being graded rather than jobs. And the plus rates are not to be carried over into overtime.

It is also important to note that total wages vary considerably from area to area. Workers in North Yorkshire adjacent to ICI (Wilton and Billingham) have a much stronger bargaining position than those up on the moors.

We are seeing a tremendous upsurge of militancy in the factories at present. Are there any signs of this unrest spreading to the land?

Indeed there is. There is a much greater demand, especially among younger workers, for strike action. This is certainly possible.

A national strike would be difficult to sustain but if we choose the right issue, the right area and the time of the year when farmers are most vulnerable, there is no doubt we could be successful.

What would you propose as a new deal for farm workers?

First and foremost the abolition of the tied cottage system. Then we must bring agricultural wages up to those of industrial workers.

We certainly will not be able to do this through the Agricultural Wages Board. When it was instituted it was a great step forward from county by county negotiations, when there was a surfeit of workers on the land.

Now however men are leaving the land at a rate of 22,000 per year. Skilled workers are even in short supply. We've got to take advantage of this favourable position and centrally negotiated wages, apart from the basic, can be an impediment to advance.

A start could be made by forcing the big farmers locally to pay increased rates. But it is also important to put pressure on the small

farmer to pay decent rates for the job. If he can't, he deserves to go out of business.

The tactic should be to build up the organisation in a district and then go and demand a district rate when we have the organised strength to win. You only get what you are strong enough to get in the society we live in.

The farm workers have got a just case all right but that doesn't get you anywhere, except the order of the boot. In order to strengthen the organisation we must involve the membership increasingly in the battle for higher wages and better conditions.

What is your attitude to the Common Market where it affects the lives of farm workers?

It will affect farm workers mainly through increased food prices in a low paid industry, and this of course will be the same for all lower paid workers. The removal of the existing system of financial support for agriculture would cause instability and insecurity, and in the long term would be bad for farm workers.

I object on political grounds as well, for I believe the Common Market is designed to further the interests of the cartels, and this can only be to the detriment of ordinary people.

Feeling of equality

What are the prospects for building a radical socialist movement in rural areas?

Very good indeed. There are many principled socialists in the countryside. In many ways it's the only reason for being there. There is little likelihood of kudos from political office in local government.

Also I feel that country people are not so contaminated by capitalist values. They are less mercenary. They have a very strong feeling for equality.

For example, many oppose the new wages structure because they favour a higher rate for all. It has aroused a lot of basically socialist opposition. It is seen as a bosses' charter.

Do you think the Labour Party has a future as a socialist party?

The trouble with the Labour Party is that its marxist wing got hived off years ago. There are too many non-socialists and careerists. If the marxists' industrial influence could also be brought to bear on the political field I am sure that this would have a dynamic effect on working class politics.

None of us feel that it is necessary to build a new socialist party. We should be able to do this.

FIGHT DEVLIN -OR BE REDUCED TO A SKELETON

TERRY BARRETT'S grim warning for port militants

THE FIRST official docks strike since 1926 ended in total collapse. There are many reasons for this.

Before 1967 the only workers who were represented by shop stewards in the docks were those permanently employed. It became necessary for the men under National Dock Labour Board control, the pool men, (who were given work when required), to elect their own unofficial shop stewards who formed liaison committees. There was the London Port Workers Liaison Committee, with similar groups in the various ports.

But it was always difficult to get unity as a percentage of the work force were permanent men.

The permanent Port of London Authority men wouldn't join in a strike to support the pool men—even their shop stewards advised them not to—because they were usually regularly employed. They saw no solidarity with the pool men, who were only employed when there was a surplus of work.

As there was no national shop stewards' organisation, the liaison committees were an ad-hoc arrangement. The men were elected at the dock gates, subject to recall.

In some instances, particularly in the port of Liverpool, in order to get seats on the modernisation committee, the committee members decided to become union-recognised stewards. They believed it would give them more say in the application of the Devlin scheme.



O'LEARY: dockers must ignore his pleas

FORCE UNION

Most members of that committee resigned from the Communist Party in order to 'go official' as there were bans and proscriptions in operation at the time in the Transport Workers Union which prevented Communists from holding office.

Devlin Stage One came into operation in September 1967. Many members of the liaison committees thought it might be wiser to 'go official' through shop stewards committees, the London docks group committee and a national docks group committee and force the union to take official action.

As a result, most members of the Liaison committees became shop stewards after a long struggle to abolish bans and proscription.

When the TGWU finally removed the ban, prominent members of the Royal Group Liaison Committee—Buck Baker, Ernie Rice, Bernie Steer and others—became stewards. With members of the various other dock committees, they attempted to force a militant policy through official channels.

The idea behind going official was to force the basic wage to be high enough so that piecework, which is related to the basic pay, is something equivalent to Stage Two of Devlin.

It has always been a practice in the docks industry that when there is an increase on the day work earnings, there is a percentage increase on the piecework rates. During the recent strike, many port employers claimed this would increase wages by 50 per cent. This is nonsense.

NO CHANGES

Wages related to the day work piecework rates would have increased by about 8 per cent. If they had increased by that amount and as there have been massive reductions in the labour force, there might have been adequate employment for the remaining dockers.

Under such conditions the labour force would not have been reduced any further. The dockers would not have to accept changes in work practices such as shift work, complete mobility of labour and what is known among dockers as the 'scabbing replacement clause'.

This is part of Stage Two which says that any man or gang in dispute will be immediately sent home without an enquiry and possible suspension in the future, or dismissal, and not be replaced by another man or gang.

Devlin recommendations.

Even though union officials had said that a one vote majority would be democratic and Stage Two would be rejected, the 448 majority was claimed by the same officials, by The Port—the docks newspaper—and by the national press as being very narrow and unrepresentative and not really democratic. A further ballot was organised.

During the course of planning the second ballot, men in the Surrey Docks were told that the docks would be closed within six months. They were in fear for their jobs. They were constantly told by union officials and The Port that if Stage Two was accepted every man would be absorbed.

This has since proved to be a lie. Before Stage One came in men at Tilbury on the John Cockerell Line had accepted shift work, mobility and a package deal. Only a few months ago, the John Cockerell Line left Tilbury for more lucrative havens.

LUCRATIVE

This should prove to dockers and other workers, that even if they accept shift work, mobility and all the other demands put forward by the employers, if the bosses find it more lucrative to move their business they will do so.

It is possible that militants in the docks, with one or two exceptions, will take several years to realise that if they continue to go along the official line without taking rank and file unofficial action they will lose every strike. Stage Two will be a foregone conclusion, their labour force will be reduced beyond their wildest imaginings and the employers will have exactly what they want.

As an example, look at the peninsula at Tilbury. This consists of six berths which under conventional manning would have employed some 3000 men. But under container manning they employ some 300. The men have agreed to operate three-shift, 24-hour, seven day working.

The writing is on the wall. Militants must no longer be bamboozled by the stuff trotted out by Jack Jones and Tim O'Leary.

The docks are in serious danger of losing their traditional militancy. Unless the workers act immediately and ignore the pleas of O'Leary and Jones, and in every case that is detrimental to their working con-

Don't miss it How to fight the Tories

By PAULINE

SOFTENING UP WORKERS FOR ANTI-UNION LAWS?

TORY THREATS

by Valerie Clark

IF YOU read some of the wildly exaggerated stories in the press during recent strikes you might believe that, due to the over-generosity of the Welfare State, people are not much worse off when they're on strike than at work.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Whatever happens, the rent has to be paid, food bought and nearly every working class family has some HP debts to keep up on carpets, furniture or the like.

Without the usual pay packet coming in a striker's family is almost always in severe financial difficulties. Few workers have earned enough to have much in the way of savings to fall back on.

So if the strike is unofficial (and 95 per cent start as unofficial) the family depends on National Assistance, now called Supplementary Benefits.

The striker is not entitled to claim for himself. The financial aid is for his dependents, varying between £1 8s for children under five to £2 4s for children of 15. As family allowances are deducted from benefit, the actual amount paid per child is not much.

He is allowed up to £3 17s for his wife if she is not employed plus a contribution towards the rent. If his wife is working it may be considered that her wages, although low, are sufficient to keep the family, and in that case no benefit will be paid.

RELUCTANT

Of course, in theory the Supplementary Benefit officials have discretionary powers to meet the full rent or pay out more money in cases of hardship. But as they are notoriously reluctant to pay out 'hardship money' to the most needy—families of the blind, disabled, unmarried mothers and others in real difficulty—there doesn't seem much chance of them being sympathetic to strikers' families.

An incident during the original Pilkington glassworks strike illustrated this. The union granted the men £12 hardship allowance. This was in fact two weeks allowances at £6 a week and as such would hardly have affected the wives' supplementary benefit.

But the Ministry's officials noticed that the union had unfortunately paid the money out in one lump sum. They therefore decided to count it as one week's hardship money and duly cut the wives' benefit by £12 that week, leaving many of them with almost nothing to live on.

Any gifts from friends or relatives, after the first £1, are also supposed to be reported to the officials, who then deduct the equivalent from that week's benefit.

INADEQUATE

But what about an official strike. Isn't that a bit different? Not really.

A quick series of telephone calls to a number of unions clearly showed that strike pay alone would be totally inadequate to meet family living expenses.

The General and Municipal pay approximately £6 a week but most unions pay much less than this. For example, the TGWU pay £2 10s, the NUR £3, NUVB and USDAW pay £3 10s. Some also pay a small additional amount for wives and dependent children, but most do not.

The poor old National Union of Mineworkers has an official strike pay of £1 a week plus 10s for a wife and 5s for every child under 16. They told me this would be reviewed at their next conference, although the union hasn't had an

TO CUT STRIKE PAY



Moves to stop strike pay must be firmly resisted

OFFICIAL strike since 1926.

But it has to be remembered that there is no point in unions paying much more in strike pay. This means only a further deduction in the social security money so the striker and his family would be no better off.

The social security system was supposedly designed to provide those in need with a reasonable standard of living. This ideal has not been achieved.

PROTECTION

The standard of living possible on Supplementary Benefit is a subsistence one. The money is just about enough to pay the rent and feed the family on a bad, cheap diet (ie fill them up with bread and potatoes, but very little meat or fruit).

This provision is intended not only for men unable to get a job through sickness, disability or high unemployment. Just as important, it is intended for their children and other dependents.

And those dependents have as much right to protection from eviction and semi-starvation when the breadwinner is on strike.

The ruling class would love to do away with financial assistance to the families of men on strike. They know very well that one of the things most likely to break a striker's morale is to see the rest of the family suffer.

They remember the good old days when they could literally starve out strikers, particularly if they weren't even receiving strike pay.

The first time the Tories are allowed to stop payments to strikers' families, they will present it as a fair way to deal with so-called 'troublemakers'. Many ordinary working people will feel the action is justified.

But don't be fooled. What the Tories would really be bringing back would be a subtle way of intimidating every worker with children, of putting the threat of family poverty into the back of his mind at any meeting discussing strike action.

Any move to stop benefit to strikers' families, or to harass them in any way, must be firmly resisted. It would not be an attack just on the men who happened to be on strike at the time, but yet another way of undermining the basic right to strike.

Welfare provisions were never given voluntarily out of the ruling class's tender feelings for the workers. Financial provisions have been won over the years through the continual demands of the labour movement. They must not be denied to members of that movement when they are at their most militant.

It would also be the thin end of the wedge. The Scrooge-like employers have always thought the working class gets too much encouragement to be idle. The Tories have promised to cut down on money paid to shirkers and layabouts.

FIGHT BACK

So if your family hasn't the right to get money when you're on strike, why should they get anything if you're 'stupid enough' to get injured in dangerous machinery, or 'too lazy' to find a job (despite the highest unemployment rate since the war).

The trade union movement must fight back against any attempt to cut back on social security payments. Otherwise look out, friends, we'll soon be on our way back to the Poor Law and the workhouse.

Cottons Column..

NEIL WATES, managing director of Wates, the giant building firm, blasted off in the Sunday papers against the South African regime. Condemning the government's racist brutality, Wates declared that business investment in South Africa is collaboration with apartheid.

Wates has got some campaigning to do — not least in his own industry. Marchwiel, the holding company for the McAlpine Construction outfit, has a joint venture with the South African General Mining Co. The £50m contract to do opencast work for the massive Hendrina power station in Natal (plant and management supplied from Britain) is for a 50 year period.

Trafalgar House, the big property firm, bought itself a nice little piece of South Africa when it bought Cementation, the civil engineers, which has 19 per cent of all its interests there. Cementation raised the capital to buy its British competitor Cleveland Bridge by offering 20 per cent of the ordinary shares of one of its subsidiaries on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

George Wimpey has a regional office in South Africa and a joint venture with a South African house-builder. H and R Johnson Richards Tiles has a 62 per cent share of the market there through a South African subsidiary.

Wates stressed the similarities between the present South African regime and the Nazis. Business links span the years, as well as political ones.

The day after Hitler marched into Czechoslovakia, an agreement was signed in London between agents of the Federation of British Industries and the Nazi Reichsgruppe Industrie to replace 'destructive competition' by constructive co-operation.

The FBI is now part of the Confederation of British Industry. An organisation called the United Kingdom-South Africa Trade Association today operates from the same address as the CBI.

NORTHERN IRELAND and British construction firms should take in some plum work this year, what with some slight increases in state spending to plug the rotten fabric of Ulster slumland.

John Laing will start work in October on a £1.2m contract in the Shankill Road, Belfast, for some tower blocks.

But chief priority in the five year development and reform programme is prison building. More motorways will be built too. Of dubious value, they do at least make for faster troop movements.

Pass the word along

ONE WAY TO beat the fares increase. Passengers on East Kent buses in Folkestone are being encouraged by the local IS branch to pay the old fare and fill in their names and addresses as 'unpaid fares' on form EK219. Most conductors can't be bothered to produce the forms and tell the passengers to forget it.

But some do go through the procedure. It happened to John Harrison, a former employee of East Kent, now unemployed. He offered 9d for a shilling fare and gave his name

and address to the clippie.

A short while later he received a letter from Mr Bodger, East Kent's traffic manager, demanding the 3d. John sent it, together with a letter questioning the wisdom of using a 4d letter to collect a 3d debt.

Next time he's going to ask for a receipt. . .

WRITERS of newspaper bill posters seem to live in a strange half-world of double-meanings and elbow nudging. Examples this week: 'VATICAN TO PROBE NUNS' and 'POLICE TO PROBE ALL-FEMALE WEDDING'.

Most intriguing of all last week was 'DAVID FROST TO MARRY RIDDLE'. Not Jimmy Riddle? Careful, Frosty, or you'll have the fuzz bursting in on your nuptials, too.

why not try Gettysburg?

AMERICAN blacks are expected to fight for 'their' country in Vietnam but a grateful nation is not so keen to bury the m when they die in battle.

The body of a dead black GI, Pondexter Williams, has been refused burial at a cemetery in Fort Pierce, Florida because of a 'whites only' clause in the contracts of other plot owners.

A lawsuit has been filed to force the cemetery to bury the body. Meanwhile, the dead man's mother has declared that her son's body will stay in the funeral parlour — for ever, if necessary.

He who pays the piper...

DR DAVID LOMAX of Manchester University said last week that though the working class was Britain's biggest pool of talent by sheer weight of numbers, only a tiny fraction of working class children turn up in universities. Maybe Dr Lomax will get around to asking why.

One person who's beaten him to the answer is nine year old Sarah Richards of Swansea. She won a scholarship as an oboe player to Chetham's Hospital School in Manchester, one of the best music schools in the country.

Dad, a clerical worker with three other children, couldn't manage the fees this year, despite the wages explosion. They're only £741 a session.

So he applied to the Swansea Education Committee for a grant. It was refused last week on the grounds that there might be a flood of other applications if Sarah was assisted.

It's hell in there!

OFFICIALS of a white-collar union turned up recently for negotiations at the London head office of a large firm. Arriving at 11am, they were plied with coffee and then whisked off to lunch.

Three hours later, after much nosh, wine and brandy, they returned to the office for afternoon tea and an hour's talks. At 4pm, talks were adjourned for the day.

The employer's negotiator commented: 'By Christ, that was a hard day's slog.' He meant it, too.

YOU CAN TALK!

NORMALLY I enjoy Cottons Column enormously. Along with many readers the first part of the paper I turn to is this lively, muck-raking collection of notes.

How disappointing, though, to see last week's item on printing errors in the Morning Star. We can't claim that our record is so marvellous — I still recall with delight our headline 'DEFEAT FOR ALL IF SEAMEN THE LOSE' in 1966, for instance.

Let us by all means criticise the Communist Party for its decaying politics, but, please, no more counter-productive sectarianism. - COLIN BARKER, Manchester 16.

FRANK KEANE

IN VIEW of some confusion about the letter from Liam Daltun of the

Frank Keane Defence Committee last week, the editorial board of Socialist Worker would like to point out that it in no way endorses the allegations made in the letter.

A heartening feature of the defence of Frank Keane has been the widespread support from socialists and republicans, including leaders of the official Irish republican movement.

The case that Frank Keane is a victim of political victimisation was strengthened by the affidavit submitted to the court by Cathal Goulding, chief of staff of the Irish Republican Army.

We are confident that all sections of the republican movement and socialists will maintain their campaign to win the unconditional release of Frank Keane.

Join the International Socialists

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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

Chrysler car workers fight track speed up

LINWOOD:- The men who assemble Chrysler cars in Scotland decided on Tuesday that they had had enough. 600 strong, the Car Assembly Block men voted to strike until Chrysler agrees that the speed of the track in the CAB will be only 46 cars an hour. Chrysler want to raise the speed

by Steve Jefferys

of the track from 46 to 50 cars an hour. They used a Measured Day Work deal of 1968 which allows them to re-time any job to set new standards for the operators. Jobs which previously took 50 seconds to complete suddenly drop-

ped to 30 seconds. This was the common pattern of the re-timing. The men reluctantly agreed to accept these standards but only at the old speed of 46 cars an hour. They refused to let Chrysler take away the 24 men 'proved surplus to requirements'.

The crunch came last Friday when the company told them the track speed was going up whether they liked it or not.

Tuesday's meeting was supposed to discuss a 'peace formula'. But, bolstered by the fact that only 10 days' production could be guaranteed before the GKN-Sankey strike closed Linwood, the company offered nothing.

Rough ride

Once the men understood, their convenors had a rough ride. They wanted the CAB workers to go to a mass meeting of all Linwood workers and to return to work if they did not get their support.

But the convenors could not get their resolution moved or seconded. The men pointed out that the speed of the line only affected the track workers. A resolution was passed unanimously: 'No more speed up for the duration of the prod deal'.

Saying 'better late than never', the Linwood workers have begun the struggle against Chrysler's first big MDW deal.

CAR WORKERS MUST DEMAND FULL PAY GUARANTEE

SW Reporter

THE GKN-SANKEY dispute, which has led to thousands of car workers throughout Britain being laid off, raises the issue of guaranteed wages for all workers in the industry.

The strikers must be defended by all trade unionists. The 5000 workers in the small Shropshire market town of Wellington are locked in a vital struggle against productivity bargaining.

They are not responsible for the chaos and muddle of an industry run for profit by the giant combines.

The only real solution to the present situation, where a strike in one small components firm can close down hundreds of factories, is the nationalisation under workers' control of the entire motor industry.

CAMPAIGN

Car workers should launch an immediate campaign for a guaranteed weekly or daily wage. This would ensure that when future disputes arise, car workers will not suffer any loss of wages because of lay-offs.

The Wellington strike is 100 per cent solid after three weeks.

When the last pay agreement ran out at the end of July, the management offered a new productivity deal which included demands for flexibility, mobility and job evaluation. The workers countered this by demanding a straight 4s 3d an hour increase without any productivity 'strings'.

'BUMPKINS'

'They think we're country bumpkins out here,' one member of the strike committee said on Tuesday. The management has learnt otherwise.

The firm produces wheels and chassis parts for most sectors of the motor industry. Leyland buses and lorries and Massey Ferguson tractors are affected by the dispute as well as car factories.

Donations and messages to: GKN-Sankey Strike Committee, c/o AEF offices, Carlton Chambers, Queen St, Wellington, Shropshire. Tel: Wellington 3015.

Sackings deadlock at Ottermill

OTTERY ST MARY:- There is deadlock at the Ottermill Switchgear factory in Devon. The men returned to work last week after 15 weeks on strike but trouble immediately flared up again over the management's demands for redundancies.

The workers are clocking in to the factory but are not working while negotiations continue. Strike committee chairman Jim Moore told a mass meeting on Monday: 'Unless there are no redundancies, we stay solid.'

NOTICES

IRISH PROTEST rally against police repression of Irish militants in London. Co-Op Hall, Seven Sisters Rd N7. (close to Finsbury Park tube) 7.30pm 3 September. Spkrs invited: Norman Atkinson MP, Michael O'Halloran MP, Bowes Egan, Tariq Ali, IMG, John Palmer, IS, Eamonn McCann, Derry Labour Party, Vincent McDowell, CRA. Chairman: Gery Lawless, ICRSC. Organised by ICRSC.

DEMONSTRATION against fare increases and deterioration of transport service outside London. Transport divisional Office, Seven Sisters Rd, N4. (Manor House tube) Friday 28 Aug 6pm.

SWANSEA IS: Nigel Walby on industrial unionism - Red Cow pub, 7.30pm Friday 4 Sept.

FOLKESTONE IS: How to Fight the Tories: Paul Foot IS, John Sainsbury, ex-Labour candidate, Harbour Ward, Guildhall Hotel, 7.30pm, 9 September.

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Stewards under attack by EETU

PLUMBERS and electricians at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders and the Grangemouth petro-chemical site are planning action in support of three stewards charged by the executive of their union for allegedly organising a demonstration in July against the Joint Industry Board, which grades workers.

The sparks and plumbers say the demonstration was a reflection of rank and file feeling. If the stewards did help in organising the demonstration, they were acting on the instructions of the workers who elected them. They are determined that the stewards will not be used as scapegoats.

A well-known militant electrician also faces discipline. It is alleged that he attended the demo and other unspecified 'unofficial' meetings.

It seems he is being singled out for discipline as he is a likely left-wing candidate in the forthcoming elections for the electrical section of the union. The executive no doubt hope that the charge will take him out of the running and leave the worried sitting member to be returned virtually unopposed.

All this is an indication of a further round of repressive measures to be taken against EETU/PTU militants. No member who speaks out against unpopular agreements can

feel safe.

The men on the jobs and sites concerned have pledged their support for their stewards in what may be a prolonged and bitter battle. But if the fight is carried out on the call for democracy in the union and control by the membership it will be worth waging.

LIVERPOOL:- 6000 workers marched on Monday in a magnificent display of solidarity with victimised building workers.

Backed by Liverpool Trades Council, workers from all the leading industries on Merseyside came out on strike for the day to show their support for 45 arrested pickets from the Stanlow, Burmah Oil and Carrington sites at Ellesmere Port.

The men were arrested four weeks ago while they were on picket duty. Police launched a savage attack on them, dragging them off to jail and holding them for several hours.

The men were due to appear in

SEAMEN TO BLACK PILKINGTON GLASS

SW Reporter

LIVERPOOL SEAMEN voted on Tuesday to black any ships carrying glass from the St Helens factories of Pilkington Brothers.

The decision followed an appeal from members of the Glassworkers and General Workers Union, which has attempted to lead a breakaway from the General and Municipal Workers. 600 workers were sacked when they struck over the firm's refusal to give the new union negotiating rights.

GGWU spokesman Brian Woodward told Socialist Worker on Tuesday that members of the seamen's union would leaflet the Merseyside area to make certain that Pilkington's glass was completely boycotted. The NUS decision will be relayed to other ports.

Mr Woodward said that building sites on Merseyside were also refusing to touch Pilkington's glass. Liverpool Trades Council has issued an appeal for full support for the victimised workers.

NO DOLE

GGWU members were visiting British Leyland car plants on Wednesday to seek their backing.

Brian Woodward said: '250 men are still out of work—they can't get work anywhere in St Helens. And they can't get dole money as they're involved in an 'industrial dispute'.'

He urged all trade unionists to send donations to help the men and to step up the campaign to black glass.

Whatever the tactical advisability of forming a new union instead of leading a fight inside the GMWU, trade unionists must defend the Pilkington strikers' elementary right to join the union of their choice.

Donations and messages to: GGWU, 10 Greenfield Rd, St Helens, Lancs. Tel: St Helens 25925.

Mersey workers march to back arrested pickets

SW Reporter

court on Thursday and Friday of this week.

The Pilkington glass strikers were on Monday's march, along with electricians, draughtsmen, engineers and miners. As many as 60 building sites in the area stopped work for the day.

At a mass meeting on the Pier Head, Pilkington strike leader John Potter was loudly cheered when he declared: 'We must resist the employers and the government—and even

attacks from our own union leaders. We are fighting the same enemy and we will win only by standing together.'

The Tolpuddle Group
—don't miss an important feature on the militant South West next week

Wildcat bosses behind metal strike

by Les Pick

SWANSEA:- 250 maintenance men at the Alcoa aluminium works voted last Friday to continue their strike in support of eight storeroom workers.

The dispute—now in its third week—results from a management refusal to honour an agreement of 1964 giving mates 80 per cent of craftsmen's rates.

The support for the eight men by AEF and ETU members has brought the factory to standstill. But any accusation of 'wildcat action' should be directed at the management. For the past nine months normal channels of procedure have been pursued without success and it is management who have broken the agreement.

Stewards are highly critical of the haste with which the company has laid off 700 production workers over the past few days.

The men who are out know that management is willing to bury any agreement which looks like shooting holes through the programme of productivity deals currently underway at the factory.

The AEF executive was meeting on Tuesday to decide whether to back their members who are out in sympathy. Stewards had high hopes of uni on support.

Support grows for sacked convenor

COVENTRY:- Dave Edwards, sacked TGWU convenor at Arden Products in Kenilworth, said on Wednesday that factories throughout the Midlands were blacking the firm.

Arden workers have been on strike for three weeks to demand his reinstatement. The firm produces essential components for the car industry, Gestetner office equipment and the Ministry of Defence.

The two main unions, TGWU and AEF, have applied to make the strike official. Dave Edwards told Socialist Worker: 'Lorries are not delivering and nothing is getting in or out of the place. Everyone is out, apart from staff workers.'

Money is urgently needed. Send to: Dave Edwards, 53 Palmerston Road, Coventry.