

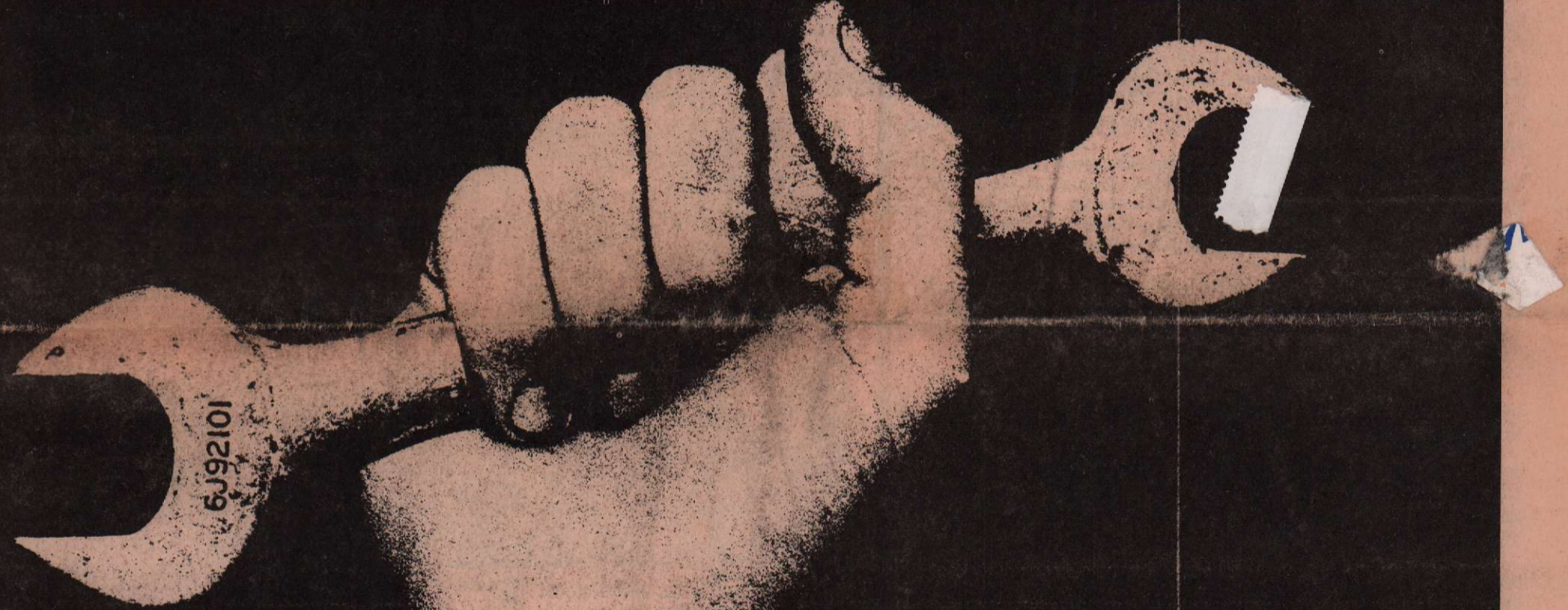
# Socialist\* Worker

FOR WORKERS' CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM 208 20 FEBRUARY 1971 2½p (6d)



International Socialists say

# KILL THE BILL



# KICK OUT THE TORIES!



# Socialist Worker

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## The way forward from 21 February

THIS WEEKEND will see the largest demonstration of organised workers in London for a generation. Tens of thousands will be marching in protest at the anti-union laws. Yet many of the official leaders of the unions will stress that the action taken is 'not political'.

The fact is, that we are faced with a co-ordinated attack by the government on many of the gains working people have been able to win over the last 25 years.

The Tories have a carefully thought-out strategy aimed at hitting us on several fronts simultaneously. The first prong of their attack is on the welfare services. By increasing the price of school meals, by pushing up health service charges, by doing away with school milk, the government hits at those sections of the working class least able to fight back — the sick and the young.

At the same time it is mounting a more bitterly fought onslaught on organised workers. It is trying to hold down living standards by forcing key sections of workers into submission, in order to set an example to others.

The council workers got a 15 per cent wage increase, the miners 12 per cent, the power workers just under 11 per cent. The government has been trying to make the postmen accept still less.

Thirdly, the government is intent on worsening working conditions. It hopes that workers who have difficulty getting a straight wage increase in order to keep up with rising prices will accept productivity deals instead. So the power workers may see their wage packets grow — but only if they work even harder and accept that many of their workmates are forced out of the industry.

The Tory Bill is part and parcel of these other measures. It aims to make the fight against them more difficult. The government believes that if the Bill becomes law, workers will be frightened to strike in defence of living standards and will more readily put up with worsening conditions and productivity deals.

All this makes nonsense of claims that the fight against the Bill and the fight to defend living standards are not political. The welfare state, working conditions, wages, the closed shop, are all under attack. The government has no compunction about launching a political offensive against the working class. What is needed is a unified, political fight back by organised workers.

The industrial strength of organised workers must be used to resist the government's attacks. The one-day strikes called for by the AUEW and other unions could be the beginning of such a fight back — although one-day strikes by themselves will not bring the struggle to a successful conclusion.

Rank and file workers in all industries have to be made aware of the significance of such action. Pressure has to be kept up on the union leaderships to make them support and extend such actions.

The building of delegate-based Councils of Action in each locality is essential to such tasks. Genuine representatives from as many sections of industry as possible should be brought together to campaign not just against the union laws but also in support of sections of workers picked on by the government.

The government's attacks can be warded off, but only if there is a unified response from organised workers. This will not come about without considerable effort from militants.

Above all, a revolutionary socialist organisation needs to be built that will explain to workers the character of their struggles, attempt to unify those struggles and relate them to the necessity of a new organisation of society in which the working class for the first time controls its own destiny.

## POWELL: NUMBERS GAME

ENOCH POWELL'S latest speech on immigration deserves to be treated with complete contempt by organised workers. At a time when tens of thousands of workers are learning that class solidarity is essential if they are to fight off attacks on their living conditions, Powell has deliberately tried to turn one section of workers against another.

Powell disagrees with the rest of the Conservative Party on the policies that big business needs to follow in order to solve its problems. He claims not to be against trade unions and to oppose the Common Market. But his own policies are just as 'reactionary and anti-working class as those of Heath.

Instead of anti-union laws he wants 'a limitation in the supply of money' — which actually means mass unemployment. His only complaint about the cuts in the welfare services is that they do not go far enough.

What in fact he is doing is putting forward policies that the ruling class reject at present, but may come to accept if their present attempts to push up profits fail. And he tries to put a popular complexion on these policies in order to confuse the lower middle class and many workers.

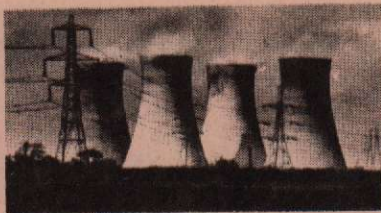
But he cannot create such confusion for any length of time unless he points to a phoney explanation of the frustrations and discontents which the mass of people feel. So he pretends there is an 'immigrant problem'.

Unfortunately, many people who reject Powellism argue against it by accepting this starting point. They speak as if there is a problem with immigrants but that it is not as serious as Powell claims. And so they argue over exactly how many immigrants there are in the country.

The real argument against Powell is quite different. It does not matter how many immigrants there are in this country. For immigrant workers are not responsible for the unemployment, the bad housing, the low wages and the miserable working conditions of all workers.

The responsibility rests with the British ruling class — the small minority that owns all the wealth and with successive governments that have held down wages, cut into the welfare services, and broken promises about house building.

When we have a socialist Britain in which the mass of workers make the decisions on how to solve these problems, we will welcome anybody from anywhere who wants to come to Britain and help our collective effort.



## Union leaders accept power report with dangerous productivity strings

# THREAT TO JOBS BY WILBERFORCE

by Wally Preston

Editor of Advance

EMPLOYMENT Minister Robert Carr says the Wilberforce report gives us a 10.9 per cent pay rise. Frank Chapple, Electricians' and Plumbers' Union secretary says it gives us 16½ per cent.

Others say it is less than 10 per cent, 15 per cent or even 20 per cent.

Carr says it is an excellent report and so do the union spokesmen on radio and television. Yet the Manchester Evening News headline last week said 'Only a crumb for the power workers'.

Who is telling the truth. What does the Wilberforce Report really say?

The last offer, before our work-to-rule, was £2 for everyone on the basic scale. Wilberforce does not raise this offer on the basic scale by one pre-decimal penny.

## HOLIDAYS

But the report does suggest some other additions to pay that we must look at carefully:

**Extra holidays:** The only real gain for us is the suggestion that we should get another three days' holiday a year, to bring us into line with staff employees. This is not much of a concession, as it will cost the Central Electricity Generating Board next to nothing.

**More for craftsmen and foremen:** The report suggests that skilled men, in Grades G and H, and foremen should be given an extra £35 a year — about 67½p (13s6d) a week. No one else will get this addition to the £2 rise.

Yet at the national delegate conference before the work-to-rule, all the rank and file delegates agreed we should all get the same rise. Wilberforce has ignored this.

The extra rise will lead to splits in our solid front. The aim of the whole operation is to set one union against another, one section against another.

If they can split us, it will be easier for them to bring in productivity schemes that will hurt us all.

The crucial part of the report from our point of view on the shop floor deals with 'lead-in payments'. These are intended as the sugar on the pill of productivity and redundancy.

At present, says the CEBG, about 20 per cent of all manual workers in our industry are covered by pay and productivity plans or 'incentive payment' schemes. Wilberforce wants to speed this up:

'We believe that there ought to be greater specific incentives to the workers themselves to accept the run-down in the labour force which is necessary before schemes can be introduced and bonuses earned' (my emphasis).

## STATEMENT

So they suggest that three payments should be offered to the 80 per cent of us who have resisted 'incentive' schemes up until now. They will offer us £1 in June, £1.50 (30s) in October and £2 in January 1972.

But you will only get the money if you vote in your station to accept pay and productivity schemes in principle. No worker will get this money until he has signed a personal statement that he accepts the 'incentive payment' scheme.

This money, depending on your point of view, is either blackmail or a bribe, to get you to accept incentive payment schemes.

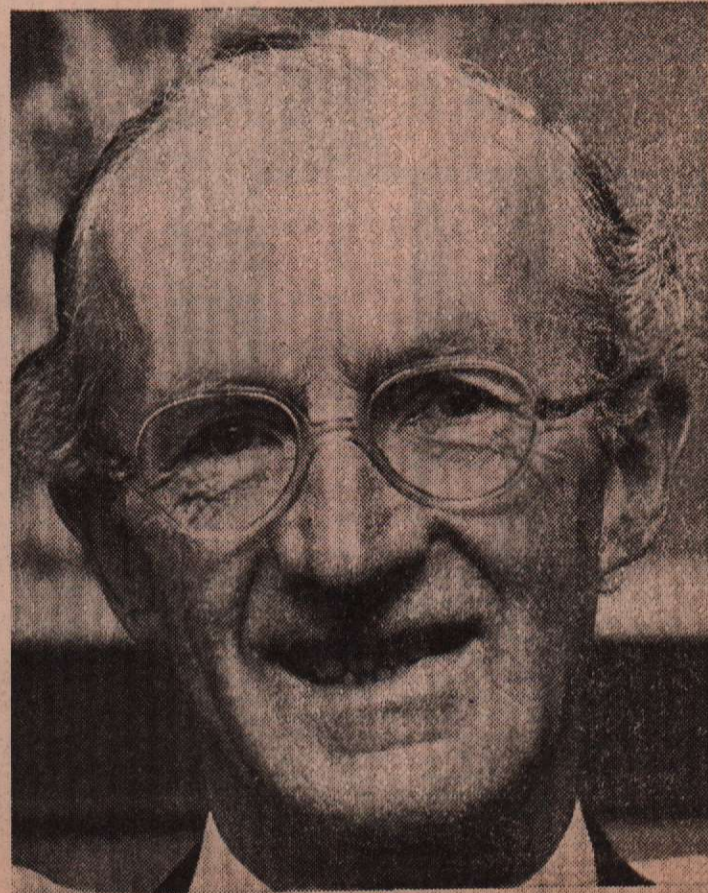
The report is very clear about what is wanted: a further run-down in the labour force. Between 1965-1970, the industry's labour force fell by 29,396 — and still they want more.

A 'run-down' in the labour force means higher unemployment for some and more sweat and toil for the few who remain.

Only if you take into account the loss of jobs they want can the pay rise come anywhere near the 15 per cent or any higher figure that has been mentioned.

In fact, the BBC quoted a government spokesman as saying that the total cost of the report's proposal will actually be 6 per cent. Some will get more pay, and the rest will go on the dole.

Productivity deals are an attack on us in the guise of 'efficiency'. Only by selling



Wilberforce and his Report: he calls for power workers to accept further run-down in their numbers

our mates down the road can we get more pay.

The original demand from the rank and file was for £10 and no strings. Our union leaders cut this down to a pay claim of £5.80 (£5 16s).

Later on, Frank Chapple said we would not accept 'less than 13 per cent', about £3. Now, it seems, they are prepared to accept £2.

Chapple and Jack Biggin, the chief union negotiator, claim the report 'provides the basis for a negotiated settlement'. Chapple talks about 16½ per cent without mentioning that to get the extra we have to sign a document accepting more loss of jobs.

This is disgusting. The union leaders, in their comfortable offices, may favour 'incentive payment' schemes but for us in the stations they spell more unemployment and more sweat.

## LETTER

SEAN TREACY'S article on Belfast (13 February) did nothing to help readers understand what is going on there. Most observers have decided that the fighting was begun by an offensive by the 'Provisional' wing of the IRA. Cathal Goulding, leader of the official IRA, shares this view — see his statement warning the Provisionals not to attack the British troops again (Guardian 9 February).

Treacy, however, states that the disturbances were 'deliberately provoked' by the Stormont government. He gives no evidence for his statement, but the beauty of a conspiracy theory is that one need not produce evidence.

Why should the Ulster government be struck with a death wish? Surely renewed fighting intensifies their difficulties? Having invoked a conspiracy to substitute for his inability to analyse the Belfast situation, Treacy then goes on to call for unity of Catholic and Protestant workers under a socialist leadership.

But where is this leadership to come from? The Provisionals, whom he depicts as the victims of Chichester-Clark's conspiracy, are open enemies of marxism (see the statement in the Irish Times 11 February) and of Protestant workers.

Socialist Worker is not compelled to publish articles on every situation. If we lack the information and the theoretical understanding to make a sensible contribution to a particular event it is quite legitimate to be silent. — JOHN SULLIVAN, London W9.



Copies of Advance, the rank and file power workers' paper are available, 5p post free, from 68 Fountains Road, Stretford, Lancs.



NEW MOVES TO HARASS AND INTIMIDATE IMMIGRANTS

# Tory 'aliens' Act is new move to split workers' unity

LAST WEEK it was widely reported that several Pakistanis had landed on a lonely beach at Sandwich in Kent. They were said to be 'illegal immigrants'. Such landing parties of tired, lonely immigrants were often in the news last year. The BBC produced a programme that exposed the 'black marketeering' of people on the continent and in Britain.

The immigrants are trying to come into the country to earn enough money to keep their families back home. They suffer tiring and harrowing journeys only to meet with degrading examination by the authorities. They are then shipped back like pieces of cargo to their own country.

Yet even those black people coming into Britain with the required visas and entry permits meet with disgusting behaviour. Treated like criminals and subjected to scrutiny and suspicion by hostile immigration officers or police, they are sometimes kept in special detention centres for several days or weeks.

Even more shocking is the fact that more than 1000 Ugandan and Kenyan Asians with British passports, citizens of this country, have been harassed and victimised by their own government. Refused entry to this country, most of them were batted about like shuttlecocks from country to country before being allowed into Britain on a visitors' permit.

In the Oxford dictionary, 'alien' is defined as something that does not belong, that is repugnant. Proposals are now being drawn up by the government ready for publication that would classify all immigrants who are not British citizens, whether they come from the Commonwealth or not, as 'Aliens'.

The new proposals would mean in effect that nobody who was classified as alien would have the automatic right to stay here, to visit or to work without certain conditions and restrictions.

## Police registration

An alien would only be allowed to stay in this country at the discretion of the Home Office and would only have his work permit renewed yearly, again at the discretion of the Home Office — a very discreet place, as Rudi Dutschke found.

An alien would have to register with the police at certain intervals so that the authorities would have a record of where each individual is and what he is doing. There is also a condition requiring that each person report for a medical examination.

These proposals, if made into a Bill and passed, would bring together the Aliens Restriction Act of 1914-19, and the Commonwealth Immigrants Acts of 1962-68 into one nasty piece of racist legislation.

An alien would be registered with the police and, on the slightest pretext, could be kicked out of the country.

The legislation might well be compared to the vicious pass laws in South Africa. The powers of the authorities would be greatly increased, and a considerable boost would be given to the racials in

## Report by GINNY WEST



A Kenyan Asian forced to 'shuttlecock' between Britain and Africa

this country.

There is a clause in the proposals dealing with 'citizens of the Irish Republic.' They will be in the same position as commonwealth citizens under the Bill — classified as aliens.

Although they will not be subject to immigration control, they will probably have to register with the police, and their position will be just as unstable as that of other aliens.

Obtaining British citizenship will be made more difficult by the Bill. This can only be granted after five years stay in this country — and after the work permit has been renewed every 12 months.

Only those with 'good character', which may be judged as the

authorities see fit, or those immigrants with sufficient knowledge of English, would be allowed to gain citizenship.

## Deter militancy

One certain effect of such legislation would be to deter newcomers to this country from joining unions, or showing any sign of militancy.

Mr Vishnu Sharma of the Joint Council on the Welfare of Immigrants, said that it was possible that in 10 years time a re-patri-



The racist Tories' sign for black immigrants to Britain

ation of black people programme could well be instituted.

Prophecy such as this could only come when racialism is on the increase. Then the 'send them back home where they came from' brigade would come into their own.

Mr Sharma said that in fact many black people would like to go back home, but they have to be sick or unemployed to get aid to return.

Other immigrants are attracted to this country only because their friends and relatives are already here. And why should these people be parted from their parents or their children?

Mr R N Patel, who now lives in Wembley, has not seen his family for six months. He and his family are all British citizens.

Working as a clerk on the railway, Mr Patel earns £20 a week. With this money he keeps his wife and five children, who live in India.

He could not get a job in India that would keep his family above the starvation level. Originally from Kenya, Mr Patel was granted British citizenship along with his family when he could not afford the money necessary to become a Kenyan citizen.

The move to India was only meant to be temporary, and the British High Commission there stated in writing that his family, including his eldest daughter

Kokila, 21, would be allowed into Britain.

Now, Kokila has been refused entry — and not wanting a young woman to be left alone in India away from her family, Mr Patel's wife and the other children have been forced to stay over there with her.

Almost in tears, Mr Patel explained the position he was in. His only recourse was to contact the JCWI to see if an appeal can be made.

There are many cases of distress even worse than Mr Patel's. Yet even those immigrants who manage to get into this country legally, and settle down with a job, face victimisation by racials like Enoch Powell.

## Slandorous

'Immigrants are filthy, they take away our jobs and our houses, they live like parasites on the Welfare State', are just some of the nonsensical and slanderous statements made by racials.

In this way, wealthy Tories like Powell divide the working class and turn their attention away from the real enemy, the capitalist system.

It is a fact that black people who come to Britain to work produce more wealth than they get in return. Just like any other worker, they are exploited, but doubly so because of their colour.

## On strike 9 months

PLYMOUTH:— 80 workers at the Fine Tubes engineering factory have been on strike since 15 June last year over a pay dispute in one of the most bitter and long-drawn out industrial battles ever known in the South West.

In spite of severe financial hardship the strikers are determined to hold out until they force the management to take them back. The strike began when eight months' negotiations for a substantial pay increase broke down at top level, with union officials and engineering employers registering a 'failure to agree'.

There was a unanimous vote for strike action at the factory that supplies precision tubes to the aircraft and nuclear power industries. The management deny there is a strike and say the men were all sacked.

Wage rates ranged from 4.1p (8s 2d) an hour to 43½p (8s 8d) before the strike. The small blackleg workforce now inside the factory has been given a 9 per cent

increase on these rates.

Both the Engineering and Transport Workers Unions declared the strike official from the start. Strike committee spokesman Pat O'Malley says the AUEW has been particularly effective in blacking supplies to Fine Tubes.

Pat O'Malley says that production at the factory is very low, probably less than 25 per cent of capacity. The management can only keep going because of financial backing from the American parent company, Superior Tubes of Norristown, Pennsylvania.

'Blacking is the only weapon we have,' says Pat O'Malley. 'If the Tory Bill had been law now and blacking was declared illegal, we would have been smashed months ago.'

Donations are urgently required. Send to: The Treasurer, 48 Stewart Road, Pennycomequick, Plymouth, Devon.

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# Throw a spanner in Tory

by **DUNCAN HALLAS**

Past President, Wandsworth Teachers' Association (NUT)

**THE OBJECT** of the Industrial Relations Bill is to weaken the unions and tilt the balance of strength against workers in the course of collective bargaining. Some of the Bill's provisions are aimed at tying the hands of the trade union leaders, but the main object of the operation is to make it difficult for militants to do their job without coming into sharp conflict with union officials.

In particular, the Tories and the government want to create a situation where union officials can say: 'Yes, we agree with you, it is a shocking state of affairs and we would like to do what you say. But unfortunately it is impossible because it is illegal.'

The main aims of the Bill are:

1. To confine the protection of the 1906 Trades Disputes Act to registered trade unions.
2. To create a category of unfair industrial practices.
3. To create a system of courts and penalties to punish people who indulge in 'unfair practices' that would limit the right to strike.
4. To make collective agreements legally enforceable and to make it possible for procedure agreements to be forced on the unions even though those unions are unanimously opposed to accepting such agreements.
5. To eliminate the closed shop but not to eliminate the situation where at Pilkingtons the GMWU claims to be the sole bargaining agent by agreement with the employers. By a tricky bit of sleight of hand, it is proposed on the one hand to outlaw the closed shop and on the other to create agency shop agreements or the possibility of agency shop agreements that will safeguard the position of people like the GMWU officials. Such agreements will be open only to registered trade unions.

## Provisions

The 1906 Trades Disputes Act prevented the employers from suing for damages because they lost money as the result of a trade dispute. It is obvious that practically any dispute will create a situation where the employers will or can claim to have lost money. The Bill removes this immunity.

The definition of a union in the Bill is simply an organisation of workers that is registered for the time being with the Registrar of Trade Unions. But there are provisions as to who can and cannot register.

One requirement for registration is that the body should be substantially autonomous, that it should be able to take decisions on a wide range of questions without reference to a higher body. The aim is to make district organisations and shop stewards' committees, combine committees and so on, by definition, not registered trade unions.

There is a scale of fines that can be imposed for 'unfair practices' by the National Industrial Relations Court and the scale is limited in accordance with union membership. A union with more than 100,000 members can be fined £100,000 a time for each separate offence.

The object is to compel unions to register. And once they have registered, they have put their head in a legal noose.

One of the most important 'unfair

practices' is the one relating to inducement to break a contract.

It is designed to protect the position of the full-time official who carries out the instructions of his executive. He cannot be proceeded against if he can show that he was acting on instructions from the body that is supposed to control him.

The remedy in that case is to haul the union through the courts for unfair industrial practices.

'Breach of contract' need not mean a strike. It could mean organising, procuring or financing any irregular industrial action short of a strike, which means a work-to-rule, go slow, working without enthusiasm, refusing to work overtime and so on.

## Paralyse

In this connection, not only the action, but the inducement and the arguments about the action become in themselves unfair industrial practice. If it were possible for the government or the employers to rigorously enforce these provisions they could paralyse virtually all activity.

What if unions don't pay fines? In the case of a registered organisation, it is fined a particular amount and if the responsible officials decline to pay they



The Ford strike: rank and file leaders and union officials could have been savagely fined if the Tory Bill was in force

# The aim: put workers' heads in a legal noose



DUNCAN HALLAS

can be imprisoned for contempt of court.

In the case of an unregistered organisation, they can proceed against each and every member.

Because the Bill creates the right to be a member or not to be a member of any trade union, it is an unfair industrial practice to take any action, whether strike or action short of a strike, to induce a person to join a trade union.

The system of enforcement will be made up of a set of industrial tribunals and above them a National Industrial Relations Court and the Commission on Industrial Relations.

The intention is to have representatives of the employers and trade union officials, if they can manage to get enough officials to staff the courts. This

is vital for the government because the creation of the illusion of 'fairness' is very important.

One important practical question is to commit unions to refuse to nominate members for the courts and panels.

The section of the Bill dealing with collective agreements provides that, unless an agreement specifies that it is not meant to be legally enforceable, then it shall be enforceable.

The only way to avoid legally binding agreements is to refuse to sign them. If a union is stuck with an agreement for a defined period, it is not possible to get out of it, except by permission of the employers.

If the union attempts to bring pressure on the employers it is committing an unfair industrial practice and is liable to the scale of fines.

The Bill seeks to ban pre-entry closed shops entirely, that is where you have to have a particular union card before getting the required job.

Consider the case where an organisation representing a fair proportion of the workforce is not registered, and another organisation representing a somewhat larger proportion is registered. In these circumstances, the registered organisation can push for a ballot, and if it is able to swing the vote, it is the only recognised union.

If the other organisation does att-

empt to negotiate it is, by definition, committing an unfair industrial practice.

The present Ford strike began unofficially. Under the Bill the unions would have to 'use their best endeavours' to get the men back to work because an agreement was broken by unofficial action which is an 'unfair industrial practice'.

Trade unionists must ensure that the line of the AUEW - refusal to register and refusal to co-operate - is carried at the TUC on 18 March.

## Resistance

It is going to be impossible to enforce the legislation if there is a large number of people who are willing to stick their necks out and defy the law. In particular, it is going to be impossible to operate it effectively if a significant number of trade unions do not register and stick out against the law.

The laws can be made inoperative if there is massive resistance. The fact that both the AUEW and the TGWU - even if only in words - have now adopted this position is an immense step forward and gives the prospect of a really successful fight against the legislation in the next few months.

# PETITION WON'T KILL BILL

**THE RESPONSE** of the General Council of the TUC to the most serious challenge to trade union rights in the last 40 years has been feeble.

All they have done since the Tories' Industrial Relations Bill was published has been to hold a meeting in the Albert Hall, circulate a petition and call for the mass demonstration on 21 February. They have also published a pamphlet and spent £75,000 with an advertising agency run by ex-Tory minister, Ernest Marples.

How inadequate these measures are can be seen if you compare them with how any group of workers fight for higher wages. No pay claim has ever been won by presenting the boss with a humble petition or by organising a rally on a Sunday.

Every trade unionist knows that

if you do nothing you get nothing. The TUC are not even trying to defeat the Bill.

Vic Feather has not only failed to organise militant and widespread industrial action against the Bill, but he has gone out of his way to attack those who have done so. 500,000 workers struck in protest against the government's measures on 8 December.

The leaders of the TUC condemned the strike and joined with Tory ministers and the millionaire press in urging workers not to take part. The TUC deliberately weakened this mass protest action.

The TUC are looking for a compromise with the government. Way back in November, Feather suggested that, if the government dropped the Bill, he and the TUC would agree to a voluntary incomes

policy to restrict wages.

Last week, James Milne, deputy chairman of the Scottish TUC, publicly admitted that compromise was the aim of such leaders. Speaking at a rally in Dundee he declared: 'If opposition to the Bill could be demonstrated in the cities of Britain and the trade union movement worked hand in glove with the parliamentary Labour Party, then we would be able to win some amendments to the Bill.'

## Bandwagon

And the General Council is in fact working with Harold Wilson - the man who started the anti-union bandwagon rolling - to table 'reasoned amendments' to the Bill.

The TUC's leaders' attitude is extremely important. The Tories had carefully considered the likely

response of the TUC long before they first published their proposals.

They have been confident of the TUC's wish to compromise. Although they knew that some objections would be raised, the Tories realised that militant action to defeat the Bill would never be taken willingly by the General Council.

The government came to such a conclusion by simply looking at the facts.

The majority of strikes are unofficial and not supported by the trade unions. For years the TUC has been trying to cut down on shop floor militancy.

They accepted incomes policy in 1965 and wage freeze in 1966. They refused to oppose seriously the Prices and Incomes Act, although this contained fines of up to £500 for any union that tried to strike for a

wage increase delayed by the PIB.

In 1969 the Labour government published its own version of anti-trade union legislation known as 'In Place of Strife'. When this was withdrawn, the TUC agreed to try and stop strikes themselves.

They even changed their rules in order to have the power to expel any union that did not obey a TUC directive to call off a strike.

The TUC does not like some of the Tory proposals. But it does share a common aim with the Tories of trying to curb shop-floor militancy.

It is because of this contradiction that Vic Feather has consistently refused to organise or support the sort of action necessary if we are to stop the anti-union Bill becoming law.

**John Setters**



# anti-union works

## 'The Scabs' Charter would take power from shop floor'

An interview with STAN STARKEY, PTA shop steward at Ford Halewood

IT HAS BEEN SAID that the government intervened before the Ford dispute to persuade management to offer only 8 per cent. What do you think about this?

In the second half of last year the press indicated that the government was keeping a 'watching brief' on future pay claims and these included Ford and Chrysler. We know that government officials met Ford directors before negotiations took place and it is quite certain that they insisted on influencing the size of the offer.

What do you think about the current political offensive by the Tory government?

It's my belief that Ford workers are significantly more aware of the political situation this time and its implications. We have the Pilkington struggle still fresh in our minds - this was a local issue which affected us deeply. Since then of course there have been the council workers, the miners, the power workers and, currently, the Post Office workers - these issues have helped people to appreciate the government's general offensive and the line they wish to pursue. Their line appears, more and more obviously, to reduce the norm for increases to an 'acceptable' 8 per cent or lower.

As happened last year, Ford has come up in the middle of the offensive. The government no doubt feel that a victory over Ford workers would really give them a free hand. Ford workers have - and are not avoiding - an added responsibility to all workers to see this claim through successfully - and we will!

As a shop steward, how do you think the proposed Tory industrial legislation will affect you, your work and the men in your shop?

This Bill is a really grim piece of work. If it gets through it would certainly reduce the effectiveness of the shop-floor organisation at Halewood. It would tie us down to contracts like the Ford Blue Book, which

is an iniquitous document. We should no longer be able to act on immediate, burning issues where we know what is wrong and how it can be remedied. What little flexibility we now have would be wrested from us.

To talk on the one hand of democracy and then relate it to the secret ballot is something I find totally unacceptable. It is my belief that democracy is based on informed opinion and it is quite unnecessary to introduce the need to express that opinion behind the ballot box. This kind of action could only be necessary in conditions where someone is interested in making it simple for a certain kind of voter to express an opinion that is in line with company thinking.

### Must be ignored

I am thinking of the situation that the Bill envisages with regard to non-union labour who would be allowed to vote alongside trade unionists - further comment is probably unnecessary because this Bill has already been called the 'Scabs Charter'. It should be clearly understood that, as trade unionists, we must have no part in accepting this legislation - it should be completely ignored.

Only leaders of the weaker unions could see any advantage in the Bill, but a clearer line is being pushed by people like Hugh Scanlon and Jack Jones, ie Non-participation. Obviously union leaders are now taking this line because of the indications from the shop floor. This is probably why the TUC is now moving. Whether this will lead to out-and-out action against the Bill is another question.

Personally I think the TUC have been far too reticent about this issue. Perhaps they don't want to get involved but shop-floor strength is now forcing their hand.

## Rank and file strength



The Wilberforce Inquiry: 'Prosecution would not have helped'

## must have official backing

THE GOVERNMENT'S attempt to make the anti-union Bill law can still be defeated. But only if it is made clear that the mere passage through parliament of the law will not be the end of the struggle against it.

The organised trade union movement has to announce now that it will not accept the law as binding.

If the main unions refused to accept the constraints imposed by the law, the Tories would face a terrible dilemma. They would not want to face the massive conflict with organised workers that would follow any attempt to imprison trade union leaders.

How powerless the law is against unified and well organised workers was shown in the recent power workers' work-to-rule. According to the Wilberforce Report, this involved breaches of the 1919 Electricity Act.

But 'the management formed the judgment in the circumstances prevailing that this situation would not have been helped by prosecution under the Act.' The government and employers have to face a similar situation every time they try to use the new law.

The AUEW and the TGWU have called upon trade unions not to register

under the law and to boycott the various bodies set up to administer it.

This is an important step in the right direction. But it does not yet go far enough.

95 per cent of strikes in this country are unofficial. The Tories hope that the union members who organise such actions will be frightened of the law and not stick their necks out.

The government knows it cannot take on major union leaders, but it thinks it can hit at isolated shop stewards.

### The bedrock

Rank and file organisation is the bedrock on which the rest of the trade union movement stands. It can only be protected if union leaders make it clear that they take full legal responsibility for the actions of their members.

All strikes have to be made official. The law will then collide with the massive strength of the large unions and not hurt isolated individuals.

The law will make the blacking of goods and the respecting of picket lines illegal.

What this means is simple. When pickets try to stop lorries entering a factory, the individual drivers will be

told that if they turn back, they will be breaking the law and may face large fines. Usually they will be frightened by the prospect and reluctantly obey.

In such ways the law will make it almost impossible to run strikes in small, previously unorganised factories where the management are willing to introduce scabs.

The famous strike at Roberts-Arundel and the present strike at Fine Tubes in Plymouth are two examples of strikes that depended on the solidarity shown by delivery drivers. The new law would have meant immediate victory for the employers in both cases.

But if the Transport Workers' Union were to order their members to respect picket lines then the law would have to take on not isolated drivers but the full power of that union. And if the union leaders defied the law, the government would be put on the spot. Would they dare to jail Jack Jones?

The law will make it illegal to collect money in support of 'unfair' strikes. The aim is to intimidate individual collectors in particular work places.

The union leaders must once more take responsibility for such actions themselves by ordering their members to take such collections.

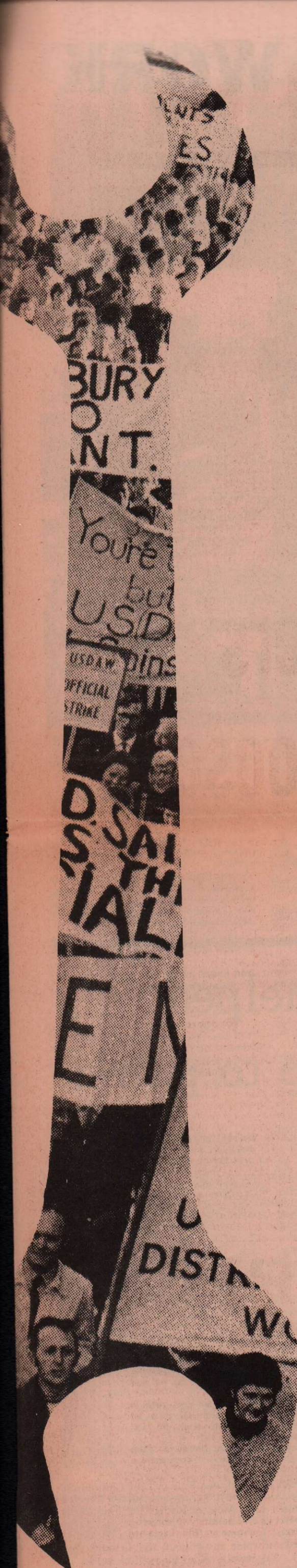
The law can be smashed. But only if

the major unions refuse to accept the law and use their whole strength in defence of the pursuit of decent wages and working conditions and of 100 per cent trade unionism by the rank and file.

That is why it is essential that every trade union leadership is forced to:

1. Refuse to register.
2. Refuse to accept state-imposed secret ballots or cooling-off periods.
3. Refuse to have anything to do with the tribunals and courts set up under the Act.
4. Make all strikes official.
5. Make it official policy to black goods and respect picket lines in defiance of the law.
6. Continue to fight officially for 100 per cent trade unionism and against a state-policed agency shop.

Make sure your workmates see Socialist Worker every week - It is vital reading in the fight against the Bill. Contact the Business Manager for details of special bulk order rates.





# OVERTIME AND SHIFT WORK ARE INCREASING AS 'PROD' DEALS BITE

by AUDREY KINCAID

MACHINES 'demand' shift workers, employers 'need' profits and workers can happily adapt to anything: this statement summarises the spirit of the recently published report of the Prices and Incomes Board on 'Hours of work, Overtime and Shift working'.

It is a government report written with the bosses' interests clearly in mind but it contains information of interest to workers. Two major points emerge — that overtime and shift working of abnormal hours are increasing.

A section on international comparisons shows that Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden all have laws that regulate the number of working hours that employers can extract from men. The laws may be evaded, but they exist.

In Britain there is no such legal protection for men — it exists only in respect of women, young people and children. But even this limited protection is breaking down as more and more employers are granted 'exemption' orders allowing them to employ women and youngsters on night shifts.

## Myth exploded

In 1965 these exemption orders covered only 5,489 women and under 18 year olds. By 1969 16,147 were permitted to work night shifts. According to the PIB report, legal restrictions on the hours of work of young women and young persons are 'inhibiting' to employers.

The myth about the lazy British workman is exploded unwittingly in the report which shows that actual working hours for men are longer in Britain than in almost every other European country.

41 per cent of male manual workers in Britain are entitled to less than 10 days holidays with pay. In France, one gain of the 1968 general strike was the legal entitlement of every French worker to four weeks' holiday a year.

Holidays are 'less generous' in this country says the PIB report — as if holidays were acts of charity on the part of the employers.

'Things are getting better,' is the claim of the wealthy class. But in terms of hours of work things are getting worse. In Britain the average actual working week is 1 1/4 hours longer for manual workers than it was 25 years ago.

The present average week is 47.5 hours, only 12 minutes shorter than it was in the 1930s. Today almost 10 per cent of working men in manual jobs have a 60 hour week or longer.

Where overtime is concerned, 'workers exercise a choice' and 'the majority of workers seem content with the present level of overtime', the report says. In a flurry of charts, tables and diagrams, the report tries to hide the obvious fact that overtime is worked because workers need the extra money.

80 per cent of manual workers in the 30-39 year age group (that is, mainly men with children) work overtime and more than a third of this group work more than 10 hours overtime a week.

From the employers' point of view, it is often cheaper and more profitable to get more work out of workers than to increase administrative costs, pay insurance and sometimes SET on employing extra workers. Why else does the ridiculous situation exist where industries with high unemployment levels also have high overtime levels?

In a survey in May 1970, mining and quarrying was one of the industries with the highest overtime rates. In the same survey, overtime was compulsory in 76.5 per cent of firms in the construction industry, an industry with notoriously high unemployment and injury levels.

Rather sadly, the PIB report observes: 'Partly for social reasons but ultimately because they need rest and sleep there are limits to the hours which individuals are prepared to work'. There are few limits, however, to the risks in terms of accidents from fatigue that employers are prepared to take, for example, in road transport where 10 per cent of drivers work on average more than a 70 hour week.

The PIB report examines in detail the increase in shift working of abnormal hours. Since 1954 shift working has doubled in manufacturing industry. In certain industries such as engineering, electrical goods, shipbuilding, marine engineering and vehicles, shift working has more than doubled.

Why the increase? Not to provide round-the-clock community service of necessities; but to protect profits. As the report states:

'The upward trend in shift work in the UK is partly explained by the gradual

trend to larger markets, standardisation and longer runs, all of which make high capital intensity more profitable and therefore the full use of capital equipment more profitable.' In other words, expensive machines, to be profitable, must be kept going continuously and in the words of the report 'demand shift workers'.

The report explains that shift working can be made acceptable to workers by being presented as part of a package or productivity deal. Often the deal looks good and seems to imply shorter hours on shifts with more pay.

Workers often go on overtime to maintain living standards as these deals start to bite. The hours of overtime worked by shift workers on average are no less than those worked by day workers. In fact 15 per cent of shift workers average a working week of 56 hours as compared with 14 per cent of day workers on the 56 hour week.

As with overtime, so with shift working. The PIB report tries to prove with the usual questionnaires, tables and 'experts' that shift workers are contented, leisured citizens.

## Shift-work damaging

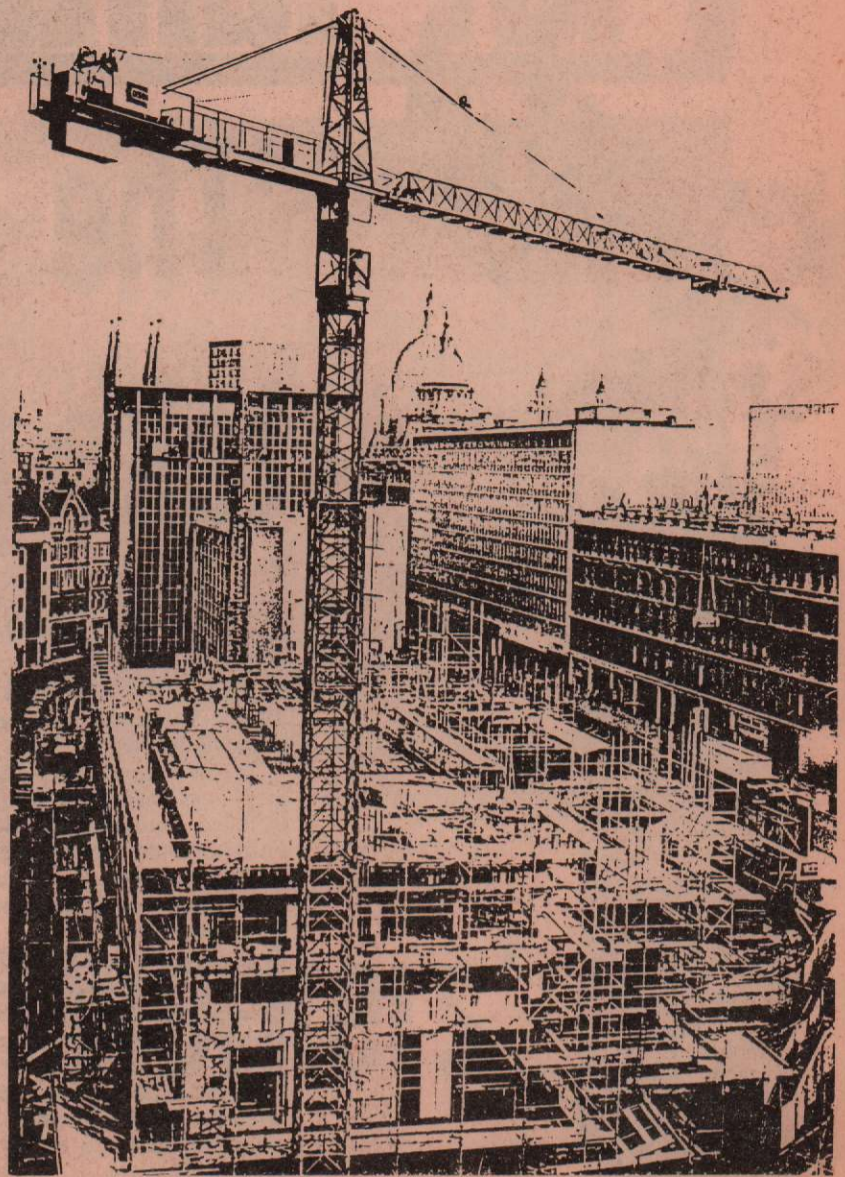
90 per cent of shift workers, when asked to list the advantages of shift work, replied 'None except pay'. This was too simple an explanation for the PIB.

An attempt is made in the report to discredit the findings of research workers and the answers of workers about the ill effects of shift working on health, social and family life.

Surveys have shown that associated with night work and rotating shifts are nervous disorders, gastro-intestinal disorders, cardio-vascular disease, lack of sleep and loss of appetite.

Medical research has shown that the alternating day and night shift system and the three shift system (2-10, 10-6, 6-2) are most damaging. These systems are the most convenient and profitable ones for the employers and are the systems most in use.

All studies of the effect of shift work-



Construction industry: high overtime — and high death rates

ing agree that the weekly rotating shift system is particularly bad for workers' well being because the body is under stress through attempting to adjust to different sleeping rhythms. Yet the PIB report shows that 'the majority of shift systems in Great Britain have rotating periods of between four and eight days'.

This complete lack of concern for workers' health, family life, social life and general well being is a typical aspect of a drive for productivity to hold on to profits, irrespective of expense in human terms.

Productivity bargaining is an attempt to extract, in the long term, more work for

less pay. Shift working disrupts shop floor organisation.

The PIB report contains no direct recommendation for the reduction of working hours or halting the trend towards more shift working. On the contrary, the report states: 'The most important thing is to secure the more efficient use of resources and not reduce the total man hours available.'

'Efficient use of resources' means more exploitation of labour. For socialists, machines are the resources to be used by men. For employers and the PIB, men are merely fodder for insatiable machines.

## THE MEANING OF MARXISM

A weekly column by Duncan Hallas



## Stalin's zig-zags helped Hitler and Franco to power

MARXISM is not a theory that can exist off from the workers' movement. It is based on the unity of theory and practice. There can only be a marxist movement when there is a significant body of working class militants conscious of their real position in society and active in the class struggle.

This is why the fate of the Communist International is so important. Virtually all the best elements in the movement came into the CI. A whole layer of advanced workers, especially in Europe, joined it.

They were the living force that carried the marxist tradition. The gradual conversion of the CI from a revolutionary international into an instrument of Russian foreign policy destroyed this layer and paralysed the revolutionary movement for decades.

It is impossible to follow the decline of the CI in detail. Three examples, each from a different phase of the evolution, are enough to illustrate it.

**Germany 1930.** The great depression was undermining the parliamentary capitalist republic. Unemployment reached six million. The Nazi Party was growing by leaps and bounds. At the election in 1930 Hitler got nearly 6 1/2 million votes.

They were the votes of the middle classes, the rural population and some unorganised workers. The organised workers held fast for the traditional workers' parties. Six million odd votes went to the social democrats and over 4 1/2 million to the communists.

The growing menace of fascism was obvious. So was the need for the working class move-

ment to unite and smash it. Unfortunately the leadership of the International, by this time completely subservient to Stalin, thought otherwise. Following his victory over the remaining opposition in the Russian Communist Party in 1928-29, Stalin swung the CI round to a policy of insane ultra-leftism.

The centre-piece of this 'Third Period' policy was the theory of 'social fascism'. The social democratic party — and by extension the unions it controlled — were described as 'fascist' organisations. According to Stalin himself, 'Fascism is the military organisation of the bourgeoisie which leans upon the social democracy for active support. The social democracy, objectively speaking, is the moderate wing of fascism'.

### 'Not afraid'

So there could be no question of using the discontent of the social democratic rank and file to force the party to join a united front against fascism. Nor was the victory of Hitler itself to be feared. 'We are not afraid of the fascist gentlemen,' said the communist leader Remmele in the Reichstag. 'They will shoot their bolt quicker than any other government.'

In 1932 Hitler's vote rose to nearly 14 million. Still the main enemy for the CP was the social democracy. In January 1933 Hitler became Chancellor of Germany. Even then the CP clung to its absurd line. 'The talk about the German Communists being defeated and politically dead,' said the official CI journal in April, 'is the gossip of philistines, of idiotic and ignorant people.'

By this time most of the party's activists were in concentration camps or in hiding! But times were changing. The rulers of the Kremlin began to understand that Hitler's victory was in fact a decisive turning point.

The CI, accordingly, was swung over to the far right. Alliances were sought not only with the 'social-fascists' of yesterday but with liberal and conservative 'anti-fascist' parties. The 'popular front' was the order of the day. Revolution was definitely out.

**Spain 1936.** A coalition of liberal, moderate conservative, social democratic and communist parties won a general election. The army, supported by the extreme right, revolted. On 17 June General Franco announced his mission to 'save the nation'. On 19 June working class risings, led mainly by anarchists and left socialists, broke out in the cities.

In Barcelona, in Madrid, in many other towns, the army was defeated and workers' militias took control. Within a week it was clear that there were only two real forces in Spain, the troops loyal to Franco and the organised workers.

In these circumstances the Spanish CP, following the line of the CI, set out to create a coalition government with the representatives of the 'liberal' capitalists! The last thing Moscow wanted in 1936 was a revolution that would upset the governments of France and Britain.

Under pressure from Russia, the Spanish republican government was pushed further and further to the right. The left wing social democrats were pushed out as being too radi-

cal. The anarchists and independent left wingers were persecuted.

Stalin did not want a pro-Hitler Spain and so arms and volunteers were sent to the republican government but on conditions that strengthened the conservatives. Eventually the 'loyal republican' Colonel Casado — last war minister of the republic — organised a coup, threw out the CP and opened negotiations with Franco.

**Moscow 1943.** To please his US and British allies, Stalin formally disbanded the Communist International. The carve-up of Europe between East and West was being planned. Part of the deal was the assurance that the western CPs would loyally support the re-establishment of capitalist parliamentary regimes.

### Entered government

They did. In many countries they entered coalition governments of 'national unity'. In France, where the CP and Socialist Party together got more than 50 per cent of the votes in 1945, the party insisted that de Gaulle remain head of the government and that the Gaullist conservatives enter the coalition! It was a far cry from 1919.

The militants who followed the Communist parties were for the most part sincere, devoted people. They were misled by the myth of the 'Soviet Fatherland'. Stalinism paralysed the marxist movement for a long time. Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland, and, in a different way, Yugoslavia and China, have begun its break-up as a system of ideology. Out of that break-up the movement will be reborn.



NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN!



## Striking view of society's fringes

AT LONG last, after Warner Brothers had delayed its release for well over 12 months, *Performance* has reached the cinema screen (The Warner, Leicester Square). Violent, obscure and full of ambiguous symbolism and imagery, the film is an attempt to portray English society in 1971 from one unusual angle.

The two protagonists of the film, Turner (Mick Jagger) and Chas (James Fox) are a former pop star and a hoodlum on the run from his former mates. Both had been highly successful, yet had always lived distinctively on the fringes of society.

The analogies are obvious: Chas' character shows striking resemblances to the men who formed the Kray and Richardson gangs. He 'enjoys his work' too much and this eventually causes the rift with his superiors.

### Provocative

Turner owes a lot to the Beatles, although at times it is hard to decipher whether in fact Jagger is actually acting or simply living out his own life style.

Much of the film is both striking and provocative. The world of the professional gangster is shown accurately and fairly sensitively. The violence is present but it is tightly controlled and no attempt is made to indulge in excesses of blood and mangled bodies.

Equally, the life of the failed pop star is built up both meticulously and credibly. The elaborate, over-ornate decorations, the mini-plantation of hallucinogenic drugs, the fashionable presence of not one but two girls in Turner's bed, meaningless conversations — all of this is present, suffused with a weary boredom about the whole problem of having to exist.

### Dropped

Yet, in the final analysis, the film must be said to fail. It fails because it does not know what it wants to say and where it wants to go.

Time and time again, one senses that a point is about to be developed and then it is dropped swiftly and abruptly. At times, the director seems to be equating the two worlds of gangster and pop star but as soon as this becomes anywhere near explicit, he drops it like a hot potato and drowns it in the flood of colourful but largely unconnected images.

This is a pity, because *Performance* has tremendous potential. Visually extremely provoking, it is a film that threatens and promises a lot but finally disappoints.

As with Fellini, the director seems to have allowed his personal whims to dominate.

But it is a stimulating and disturbing piece of work and for that reason alone is well worth seeing.

### Martin Tomkinson

During the postal strike, short reports may be phoned to Socialist Worker on 01-739 1878. If that line is busy try 739 2639.



A rehearsal scene from Unity Theatre's production of *Captain Swing* at the Penny Gaff, the story of the 19th century uprising of agricultural workers. The play opened on Friday.

## COTTONS COLUMN

GREAT HILARITY in left-wing circles this week at the muddled ignorance and nonsense issuing forth from the Parish of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe with St Ann, London office of The Times.

Lord Thomson's revamped top people's paper is taking a look at 'the revolutionaries'. The aim is to dismiss socialist organisations as small, inept, without influence and with policies totally unconnected with the real world — which could suffice as a reasonable description of The Times itself these days.

The articles are written by reporters with little enthusiasm for the task and even less knowledge of the subject. Most of the facts are culled from the witchhunting pamphlets of the far-right and are several years out of date.

Socialist Worker is described as a monthly paper (we know it's a good read, but it can't take that long) and the International Socialists are called an 'entrist' organisation in the Labour Party, an assertion that will bring some concern to both Transport House and IS members.

The writers go to some lengths to prove the relevance and maturity of the Communist Party compared to other left organisations but even this effort is shot through with hilarious contradictions:

'Unlike the splinter groups, it [the Communist Party] does not bombinate in a vacuum — it has a plan to achieve power through constitutional means. This is to advance step by step through domination of the unions, to domination of the Labour Party, to domination of the government. The plan may be hopeless but it is at least logical and takes account of political realities in Britain.'

End of paragraph, start of new sentence: 'Politically, the party is in



The Queen: royal salute

decline . . .

The writers also assert ludicrously that there are 23 warring Trotskyist groups in Britain. This information might be of use to insomniacs. To update Irving Berlin:

'If you're worried and you can't sleep,  
Just count the Trot groups instead of sheep,  
And you'll fall asleep counting your blessings.'

*IN the Northern Ireland police state, strenuous efforts are being made to push the 'Ulster 71' exhibition, designed to prove that the region flows with golden opportunities for businessmen as well as Catholic workers' blood.*

*The Stormont government has put out the word to Westminster that it would like The Queen, as defender of the Protestant faith, to royally open the show later this year. Westminster is understandably cool on the idea and the word from the Belfast ghetto is that if Queenie comes 'She'll get the biggest 21 gun salute she's ever had.'*

### Seeing the point

HOLDING THE COUNTRY TO RANSOM: the changeover to decimal money this week has given

some interesting examples of who really hijacks the people.

The old tanner was kept in circulation in order to ease the transition and to stop an immediate rounding-up of its equivalent, 2½p, to 3p. No objections were raised until the banks closed down last week for the big switchover.

Then came the word that the banks would refuse to handle six-pences, a piece of blackmail that will quickly kill the coin and lead to further price increases.

The absurd ½p coin is likely to get the same treatment and all prices including ½p will be rounded up to the next penny. As prices rise, workers will quite rightly slap in wage demands and will be condemned by the bankers and financiers.

If the new system is driving you dotty, just remember that everybody that was consulted — business, commerce, even the government — wanted the basic unit to be 10s made up of 100 pennies. But the Bank of England alone screamed, cajoled and threatened in defence of that absurd fetish, the pound.

The Bank won and we are now lumbered with a system that is not decimal at all, will give the green light to profiteers and sharks to push up prices and profits and eats away still more at workers' living standards.

*THIS WEEK's Economist has a two page colour advert for the Lockheed TriStar, with a picture of a crowd of rich yobos tucking into their grub in the comfort of their mocked-up cabin. 'By the end of 1971, drools the ad, 'the Rolls-Royce powered TriStar will be ready for your first flight.' Oh yeah? Hasn't anybody told Lockheed that the TriStar is known in the industry as 'the biggest glider in the world'?*



IN SPITE OF the pleas of poverty from both television channels and the increased handouts they have received this week from the government (that is, from you and me), the BBC and the commercial companies have enormous resources at their disposal.

When an important crisis like Rolls-Royce occurs it should be possible to mount a major operation, to employ several dozen reporters and researchers to dig deep and present a well-documented analysis of the situation. Goodness knows, if Socialist Worker with its almost non-existent resources can present a coherent report, we should expect perfection from the BBC, which is financed directly by the viewers, and ITV, financed indirectly by adding the cost of advertising to the companies' products.

But last week's *This Week Special* was a dismal effort. There was no economic or political background to the R-R crash or the repercussions within the Tory rank and file.

### Petered out

After a quick trip around a Derby housing estate and the problems facing redundant workers, the programme petered out with the woes of small-businessmen who will be bankrupted by the ending of their lucrative R-R contracts. Most dismal of all was the Derby works convenor whose considered opinion was that everyone, workers included, was responsible for the collapse.

There was no coverage of the far more militant response from R-R workers in Glasgow and Bristol. It was a shoddy programme and only too typical of the way the telly bosses abuse their captive audiences.

THE ITV documentary on lesbianism last week, called *The Important Thing is Love*, broke new ground with women speaking to the camera about their 'problem'. In the past homosexuals have usually appeared masked, in total darkness or with their backs to the viewer.

And yet at the end I felt that the programme had scarcely scratched the surface. I am not suggesting, as some reviewers have, that we should have been told how lesbians achieve sexual fulfilment: I am concerned at the basic assumption that homosexuality of any variety is 'odd' or 'different' or just the result of unfortunate family relationships.

### Condemns

The programme failed completely to point out that modern society condemns homosexuality because the early capitalist class laid great stress on the joys of child-rearing in order to ensure a growing workforce and, with the aid of the church, vilified men and women who partook of sex for mere enjoyment.

I would expect not just socialists but even liberal progressives who make programmes such as *The Important Thing is Love* to rigorously pursue the attitude that people who deviate from the 'sexual norm' in no way threaten the structure of society and that all of us should be encouraged to seek the maximum pleasure from human relationships free from the prying economic eye of the state or parsimonious humbugs in dog collars.

Various experts paraded their lacklustre views, but the most telling point was made by a taxi driver. 'Lesbians? They don't like making love with men, do they?' he said. He paused, then added: 'but neither do I.'

David East



# Socialist Worker

## Police arrest pickets

SW Reporter

**BIRMINGHAM:-** Seven pickets were arrested, four of them Lucas shop stewards, by police last Friday at Auto Tools in Aston.

The strike started five weeks ago when the company refused to recognise the AUEW.

The police charged the pickets with obstruction. When one worker from the factory ran to a phone to contact the local union office he was dragged away and charged with 'disorderly conduct'.

The police arrested the pickets after telling them that they would only allow four pickets on the factory's gates and that this had been agreed with the local district union secretary, Norman Cartwright.

Cartwright's role has been disgraceful throughout the dispute. At meetings of the 16 remaining strikers he has said that the strike should end and that no 'blacking' of products could be arranged because it would be illegal.

### Cross picket line

He is a leading right winger in the Birmingham area with a non-militant background. When workers at British Leylands Transmissions factory struck on 1 May 1969 in protest at In Place of Strife he turned up on the picket line with a loud speaker and urged workers to cross it.

A campaign to help the Auto Tool strikers has been launched and collections are being held. A mass picket was arranged for yesterday (Friday) and many factories have pledged their support.

The illegal arrest of the seven pickets is obviously a result of the Tories' offensive against the unions. The police, who have already interfered with postal workers' picket lines, are being encouraged to try and clamp down on the right to picket.

## NOTICES

IS POSTMEN'S meeting 8pm 21 February at 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

TEACH IN by Bolton Liaison Committee on Industrial Relations Bill, Spinners Hall, Bolton, Saturday 20 February 10-4pm. Speakers include Colin Barker (IS).

RANK AND FILE annual conference Saturday 20 February 10-5pm, Friends House, Euston Road, WC1. All IS teachers must attend.

W. LONDON IS students' meeting: Tony Cliff on 'The Gathering Storm' in the Blue Common Room (union block) Ealing Technical College, 6.30pm Monday 22 February.

DURHAM Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions inaugural meeting Tuesday 23 February 8pm at Town Hall. ACTT film Unfair and speaker Malcolm Reid DATA.

WANDSWORTH IS public meeting at Spotted Dog, 72 Garrett Lane near Wandsworth Town Hall, 8pm Thursday 25 February. Roger Protz on the Millionaire Press.

BERNADETTE DEVLIN speaking on 'Building a Council of Action to defend trade union rights.' March 12th, 8pm St Peter's Hall, Kohat Road, Wimbledon.

## Support grows for AUEW call

TWO MORE unions have decided to follow the AUEW's decision to hold strikes against the Industrial Relations Bill. They are the 120,000 Boilermakers' Society and the Sheet Metal Workers' Union with 85,000 members.

The Boilermakers have not named their days for strike action but they are expected to be the same as the AUEW's: 1 March and 18 March.

In contrast with these magnificent decisions, the TUC has continued to reject serious action against the Bill.

On Monday the TUC leaders refused:

To call for industrial action against the Bill.

To insist that all trade unions should refuse to register if the Bill becomes law.

To make it a condition of membership of the TUC that unions do not cooperate with the Tory laws.

The failure of the TUC to organise a real fight against the Bill can only play into the hands of the government and give them increased confidence to push ahead with their savage proposals.

The policy adopted by Monday's

TUC meeting suggested that each separate trade union should refuse to register under the new laws, should defend 100 per cent trade unionism, refuse to sign legally binding contracts and have nothing to do with the CIR.

These suggestions are totally inadequate. Not one of them is concerned with preventing the Bill from becoming law and in no way do they threaten to make the legislation unworkable for the simple reason that they are not binding on the whole trade union movement.

# INDUSTRIAL ALLIANCE MUST BACK POST STRIKERS

by DAVE PERCIVAL, UPW

AS THE POSTAL WORKERS' strike enters its fifth week, the aim of the Post Office management becomes clearer: they want to prolong the dispute in a bid to weaken the union and force the strikers to accept a pay increase below last year's rise in the cost of living. The management is backed to the hilt by the Tory government.

In spite of growing hardship, the 230,000 workers are showing tremendous spirit and determination. They are insisting on the right to a better standard of living and an end to the weekly struggle to make ends meet.

Monday's talks broke down when the Post Office offered an extra 1 per cent but wanted the UPW to

agree to a series of productivity strings including work study and other measurement schemes. Acceptance of these strings would mean heavy redundancies and a sharp decline in the standard of the postal services.

The union leaders' attitude is potentially dangerous. In Tuesday's strike bulletin they said: 'While we are prepared to be flexible in negotiation the figure of 9 per cent would need to be increased to at least 13 per cent before it could be considered as the basis of a settlement.'

This is a retreat from the original claim for a 15 per cent increase and no strike can be won by running away. Instead of worrying about 'flexibility' and appearing 'reasonable', the UPW leadership should step up the fight to win a decent wage for its members.

### DEFEATED

In 1958, London busmen were involved in a similar strike. It lasted several weeks while the Tory government, then as now, was carrying out a policy of holding down wages.

The strike was eventually defeated because the union leaders refused to spread the strike and call out other sections of the TGWU.

History must not be allowed to repeat itself now. The only way the strike can be won is by the UPW leaders demanding an industrial alliance of all trade unions with members in the public sector.

Unions like the Post Office Engineers and the Railwaymen should take action NOW to close down the telephone service and stop all parcel services. An industrial alliance could defeat the government's low pay policy.

If this is not done, there is a grave danger of the postal workers' strike being defeated and other unions being picked off one by one.

This must not be allowed to happen. Solidarity action in the form of collections, demonstrations and increased blacking of work normally done by postal workers should be organised until victory is achieved.



Post strikers: other public sector unions must help them win

## Poly students say: Kick out Smith's stooge

SW Reporter

STUDENTS in three polytechnics in London are taking militant action against the authorities.

The appointment of Professor Terence Miller as director of the new Polytechnic of North London (a merger of North-Western Poly and Northern Poly) will be stopped by an occupation on Tuesday if the governors do not call a general assembly of all students and staff to reconsider the appointment.

Miller, who succeeded Dr Walter Adams of LSE as principal of University College of Rhodesia, has attended a recent meeting of students and staff.

He told students that he betrayed three African library staff found with revolutionary literature because he suspected the case to be a frame-up by the Smith regime designed to test his reliability.

### Solidarity request

It is clear to socialists that the presence of Miller was instrumental in maintaining the racist regime while lending it credibility in the eyes of the western world.

If Miller had been serious in his opposition he would have aligned himself with the revolutionary organisations that are in a state of war with the illegal regime.

Students organisations throughout the country are asked to support the occupation by solidarity resolutions.

Students are coming under new attacks from the college authorities, local councils and the Tory government. This was shown by an hysterical Daily Telegraph editorial calling for a crackdown on militant students.

The fate of students is tied to that of workers. Any change in the balance of class forces in the favour of the Tories finds reflections in the attitude of the authorities to students.

## NO CRACKS AT FORD

by Colin Beadle, Dagenham Body Plant, TGWU

THE FORD STRIKE remains solid. The three week old shutdown shows no sign of crumbling and the worried management are calling for fresh talks without increasing its derisory £2 offer.

The strike is the biggest and most united stand ever taken by Ford workers who rightly resent being bottom of the car workers' wages league in a company with the highest profits.

Last week workers in the Engine and Foundry plants at Dagenham voted unanimously to stay out and not meet again for two weeks.

On Tuesday, management published another instalment of 'the continuing story of Ford workers on £50 a week'. These press advertisements, each costing £3,500 a time, are meant to convince the 'public' that Ford are resisting parity and offering a measly £2 because they can't afford any more.

As the dispute continues, so Ford's facts become more and more dubious. It is claimed, for example, that the convenors took the law into their own hands by calling for a total strike and that strike forced the unions to break off negotiations.

The truth is much simpler. At Halewood

Dagenham and Swansea - the three main plants - all the workers walked out when they heard the £2 offer. They didn't need calling out.

The union's case for parity was dismissed by labour boss Bob Ramsey with a few glib phrases. All the points put down for discussion by the unions on issues like holiday pay and women's equal pay were similarly dismissed.

Ramsey's contempt for the unions' case was plain. The only thing Ford understands is force. Every Ford worker knows this and every Ford worker is out.

### Pickets injured

TWO PICKETS, one at Dagenham and one at Dunton, have been injured by strike-breaking lorries. The picket at Dunton had his hip broken by a truck driven by a Ford supervisor. At Dagenham, a picket was knocked down by a coal lorry driven straight at the picket line.

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**LONDON REGION IS Aggregate Meeting**  
All members MUST attend special meeting this Saturday, 20 February, 2.30-5pm.

Public Hall, Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill, NW3 (opposite Belsize Park tube, Northern Line - buses 187, 268). Subject: Our Present Political Tasks. Admittance to IS members only.

### IS ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTIONS

To ensure adequate time for discussion the Conference Arrangements Committee has been forced by the postal dispute to alter the deadline for motions to 12 noon, 27 February. Motions on any topic may be submitted up until that time and all motions will then be circulated for amendment, the deadline for amendments being 15 March. Finished agendas will be circulated as soon as possible after that date. All branch secretaries must contact the national secretary (01-739.1878) as soon as possible.