

# Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM 222 29 MAY 1971 2½p

## What really happened in Notting Hill...



## Police hound young blacks

A BLAZE of press publicity has followed the clash on Monday night between police and young black people at a club in London's Notting Hill—publicity that has played up alleged injuries to six policemen and ignored the real reason for the fighting.

Behind the clash lies the systematic harassment of black people in the area by the police force. A Socialist Worker photographer—whose camera was smashed by the police shortly after he took the picture showing a crowd outside the Metro Club—was a witness to what took place.

A scrap between two black youngsters outside the club brought the police to the spot who said that an offensive weapon was being used. Nobody else noticed one, but the immediate reaction of the rest of the club members was to refuse to allow the two to be arrested. They took them inside

### SW Reporter

the club and barricaded the doors.

Next on the scene were members of the Special Patrol, a 'trouble-shooting' police squad with extra heavy truncheons who cruise around in big Dormobiles. They attempted to force their way into the club.

At 1am, crowds came out of the club and two black youths, said by the police to be the two involved in the earlier fight, were arrested. When the crowd protested, the police waded in to them with indiscriminate brutality, driving them back into a narrow street where they set about club members with their truncheons.

Twelve people were arrested and were detained for 48 hours before appearing in court on Wednesday morning. Normally,

arrested people appear in court the morning after their arrest.

Spokesmen for the black community in Notting Hill have said that Monday night's incident was part of the police's campaign to bully and dominate the area. The Metro Club is considered 'black property' by the members and the police were determined to assert their authority.

The press have given prominence to the alleged injuries to policemen, including vague talk about stabbing. It is understood that one officer, suffering from 'severe bruising of the arm', is likely to make a full recovery.

Unlike one black youth who was knocked down by a police van and had two legs broken. Another had his arm wrenched from its socket and a third sustained a broken jaw.

## OFFICIAL - PRICES OUTSTRIP WAGES 2-1

THE NEED for a massive campaign for big wage increases has been underlined by official figures that show prices rising twice as fast as workers' incomes. Consumer prices rose by more than 2 per cent between March and April this year. Up to April, wage rates rose by 2.3 per cent and prices 5 per cent.

The situation has been made worse for working class families by increased charges for school meals, medical prescriptions, dental care, insurance contributions, rents and rates and electricity. Allied with the ever-soaring prices in the shops, workers' incomes have slumped by 3 per cent this year.

Most workers are worse off than a year ago. These appalling figures indicate the success of the Tory-employer offensive to drive down wages and conditions in order to boost the profits of the tiny minority that owns and controls industry.

Even worse, it shows that millions of working people are being deliberately and cynically driven into real poverty by the alliance of government and big business.

### Direct result

But the figures also prove the lie that wage increases are responsible for rising prices. Most of the big increases that have bitten into wages this year are a direct result of government policy and extra charges imposed by the public sector.

The situation calls for immediate and militant action. In order to just keep their heads above water, workers need annual wage increases of at least 20 per cent. Only unions that slap in substantial wage claims in the 30-40 per cent range will really benefit their members.

The time has come to jettison the bunk about the 'national interest'. That interest is the property of the profiteers prepared to see children suffering from malnutrition and old people left to rot.

### Industrial action

The interests of working people, the people who produce all the wealth, lie in collective action to beat back the Tories and the bosses. This means a sustained campaign within the trade union movement for industrial action to achieve big wage increases and an end to productivity bargaining that lengthens the dole queues.

This week Blastfurnacemen have lodged a claim for 35 per cent, backed by the threat of strike action

## Tory policies bring threat of poverty

next Tuesday. Vehicle Builders want a 37 per cent increase on minimum rates, electricity supply workers want a 'big' increase and building workers will demand a 100 per cent increase to give them a basic wage of £35 a week.

*They will be denounced as 'wreckers' and 'highwaymen' by the millionaire press, but in reality these are modest demands. Only claims of this kind can help workers to beat back the government-inspired inflation.*

## Shoot to kill Ulster order

THE savagery of British troops in Northern Ireland will be escalated with the announcement on Tuesday by Prime Minister Brian Faulkner that soldiers will be given 'greater freedom' to shoot at suspects. The statement follows last week's incidents in which troops attacked demonstrators in Belfast with such brutality that even Jack Lynch, the South's Tory Prime Minister, was forced to complain.

International Socialists  
London Region Day School  
Saturday 5 June

2-4.30pm: Work of revolutionaries in the unions  
Speaker Roger Rosewell  
5-7pm: Imperialism and the Third World  
Speaker Tony Cliff

Followed by social, including films and plays. New Merlins Cave, Margery Street, WC1. Admission 15p.

New threat to union rights: page 4



# Socialist Worker

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## It's not our Europe they're arguing over

HEATH tells us we're in the Market. We're wanted. It's gonna be great. There are still one or two unpleasant details to be sorted out. Not, mind you the steep rise in food prices predicted by the pundits. That is happening now. Nor the increase in workers' taxes as a result of harmonising with Europe. That too is happening now. Nor even the amount we'll have to pay into the common European funds. The British workers will be conned into paying that.

What worries Heath is 'New Zealand butter', code name for the lower middle-class Tory ranks who are terrified at the thought of losing even more power to the big corporation men within the party (and whose 'kith and kin' happen to produce it).

Also worrying is 'Commonwealth sugar', code for the old, Imperial plantation and trading businesses which haven't yet shifted fully into new products and new markets.

Neither are unimportant. But neither must be allowed to queer Heath's pitch. The big moment has come. German business has just bashed into its French partners by floating the Mark. Now is the time for Heath to press his advantage—to gang up with French capital, still not recovered from the mass strikes of 1968, against the giant of Europe. If he fudges it, Germany will leave few pickings.

It's a crude view of an historic mission, but not quite as crude as the opposition to it. Speaking on the Common Market last weekend, Labour's Peter Shore hit what must be the jackpot of cynical hypocrisy and undiluted racialism. On the one hand, he said, entry would sever Britain's 'many ties with the vast Asian Commonwealth' (what price a Labour Party campaign to get work-vouchers for the 3½ million refugees fleeing Commonwealth Pakistan for Commonwealth India, or even to get some aid to them where they are?)

On the other hand, and a very different hand it turns out to be, Europe ignores the fact that there are as many Europeans outside the European continent as in the Common Market itself, and ... they all speak English'. Smith, or the white South Africans speak English, man, not like those Frogs or Jannies.

If that's English, we need a new language. And if that's their message, to have us choose between building British business out of French workers' muscles or building British business out of Commonwealth workers' muscles, they had better come again. Ours is not their Europe. There's the little matter of who runs it—workers or capital—between us.

## INFLATION FANTASIES

WHEN BARBER and his razor boys say that inflation comes from wage rises, they have a point. But they don't leave it at that. They go on to say that inflation always comes from wage rises, that it must come from wage rises, and so pass on from arguable fact to purest fantasy.

The facts are that prices in the shops rose twice as fast as wages last month and that at least half of all workers are worse off than 12 months ago in spite of hefty wage increases.

The Tories don't sit around waiting for the facts they distort. They make them. They have decided to get rid of housing subsidies almost everywhere outside London over the next two years. Average council house rents will go up by two-thirds over the next three years, or by £1.50 a week at present prices.

They have, as is better known, decreed higher insurance payments, higher health bills, higher transport charges, higher food bills. These are also prices. They are rising faster than most others, yet only the wildest fantasist would say they had any direct link with wage claims.

Another set of facts suggests what to do about it. In the 11 months to April this year, there have been 46 major wage settlements. Eleven of these started off as claims for increases of 30 per cent or more, 19 started as claims for 15 per cent or less. The high claims averaged a settlement of 17½ per cent, the low ones 10 per cent.

The message is clear enough. Aim high or the Tories will price us into taking a cut in real wages. Aim high, for inflation is now world wide and prices will go up whether we push them or not.

In the last few months we haven't pushed them nearly hard enough. They have risen nonetheless, and faster than before. The Tories have taken advantage of price rises everywhere else and gone for a unilateral declaration of inflation. We may not be able to stop them. But we can make it very unprofitable.

## COOPER WINS THE DAY

THE 'campaign' by the TUC to stop unions from registering when the Industrial Relations Bill becomes law ground to a halt this week. It never had much steam behind it in the first place. The special congress in March decided to merely 'advise' unions to refuse to register.

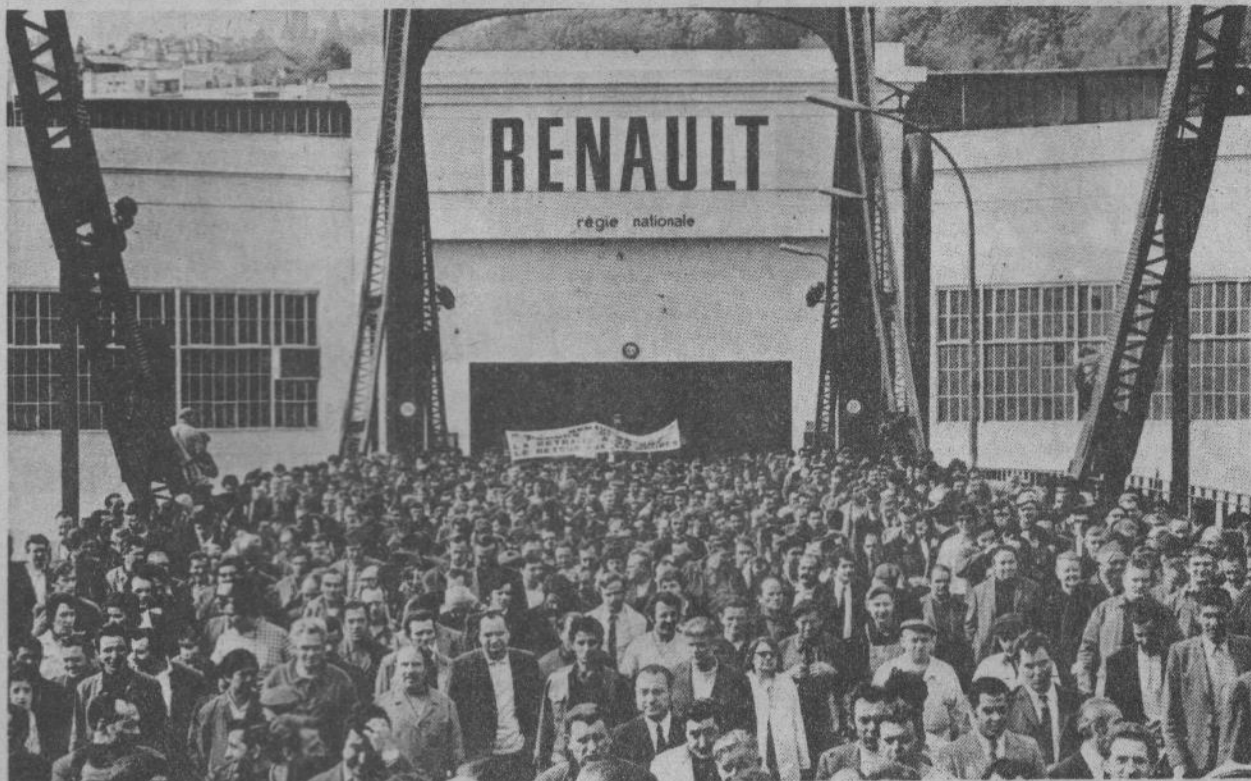
This weak and flabby attitude immediately left the door open to those union leaders anxious to collaborate with the government and who see the laws as a useful weapon for dealing with shop floor militants. Lord Cooper of the General and Municipal and Walter Anderson of the Local Government Officers have flouted openly the Croydon decisions by saying they will recommend their unions to register.

On Monday the TUC General Purposes Committee decided to recommend that all unions should write to the Registrar of Trade Unions cancelling their entry on the new register on the day when the Bill becomes law. The gesture is no more than a joke. The TUC leaders know that Cooper, Anderson and their like will thumb their noses at the recommendation.

Once again, the responsibility falls on the rank and file to mount a real fight against the law. Every effort should be made by trade union members to force their organisations against registration. In particular, members of the Transport Workers' union and the Engineering Workers' Union must fight to kick their leaders off the fence and commit the two biggest unions to outright defiance of the government's measures.

## Revolutionaries set pace in French car dispute

# MOVE TO SETTLE



Renault workers at the Billancourt plant at a mass meeting last week

# RENAULT STRIKE

AN AGREEMENT between unions and management at Renault seems to have brought to a close the most important strike in France since the events of May 1968. But the repercussions of the strike among the French working class will continue for some time yet.

The struggle began a month ago when a small section of workers producing transmissions belts at the components factory at Le Mans went on strike. The management then began making preparations for laying off workers at the other Renault plants.

## Sympathy

Militants in the other factories felt that workers should resist this attempt at a lockout by declaring a strike and occupying the factories. They found substantial sympathy for their suggestions among other workers, who remembered the success of such tactics in squeezing concessions out of management in 1968.

The most important union, however, opposed this demand. In France, unlike Britain, there are three different union federations. The biggest, the CGT, led by Communist Party members, has traditionally been the union to which most militant workers have belonged.

But its leaders accept the view that socialism can be achieved 'peacefully' by collaborating with 'left wing' politicians who accept the present organisation of society. At the same time they use threats and even physical violence against revolutionary militants who try to be active in the union.

When the lockout notices were

## SW Reporter

posted, the CGT's Communist leaders made it clear that they opposed any attempts at unlimited strike action or an occupation of the factories. At the giant Billancourt plant, for instance, when the issue was raised at a mass meeting on 6 May, they took a leaf out of Robert Carr's book and demanded a secret ballot.

But the workers shouted down the CGT speakers, and later voted for an occupation.

During the occupation the CGT set out to demoralise the workers. It opposed attempts to prevent managers and foremen from entering the occupied factories.

Its officials tried to stop workers who were occupying the factories from discussing the political implications of their action and from reading left wing papers. Nowhere did the CGT take any initiative in favour of spreading the stoppage to unaffected Renault plants.

The union seemed bent on proving its respectability to the Establishment politicians it wants an alliance with.

But the movement did spread and stopped the most important factories. Workers in France want to fight, even if leaders who claim to be 'revolutionaries' and 'Communists' refuse to take the lead.

Much of the credit for the successes of the struggle must lie with the initiative taken by revolutionary socialist militants in the factories. Usually the attitude of CGT leaders has forced them to work in other, normally less militant unions, and to try to turn the local factory groups into militant centres.

Their successes in doing so, and in getting a following among ordinary workers, proved very important.

At the Billancourt works much of the initiative for the struggle came

from revolutionaries, particularly from supporters of the paper Lutte Ouvrière (Workers' Struggle), in the key sections 77, 12 and 74.

Here the workers elected democratic strike committees, which the unions had opposed. They were able to create a mood in the factory that led to the shouting down of a CGT boss in Renault, Sylvain, when he tried to get workers to accept a poor compromise last week.

The most recent compromise has been accepted by another secret ballot organised by the unions at the Le Mans plant. It provides for considerable advances for semi-skilled workers throughout Renault. But it does not deal with the particular problems of the section that started the initial strike, and it is not yet clear whether they are going to accept it.

## Simmering

Many workers are dissatisfied with the settlement for another reason. They feel that once the strike movement was underway the management could have been forced to give in on a number of other issues which have been simmering at Renault for some time.

But such workers are learning the lessons of the strike. In 1968 the CGT and the Communist Party refused to start the strike movement. But once it was under way they ran to the front of it to keep it under their control, and they spread it to factories previously not involved.

This time they have done their best to prevent a struggle that started unofficially from spreading at all. It is clear that the real militants in the French factories are the revolutionary socialists who have been expelled from the Communist-led union, not the leaders of that union, despite their left wing phrases.

# Radioactive waste used by US building industry

TO MOST PEOPLE Doomwatch is the name of a TV programme, something that contains a little of the truth but is nevertheless exaggerated. But reports this week from Denver, Colorado, indicate that the real life situation is much worse than any dramatist might suggest.

Radioactive waste from uranium ore processing mills is turning up in building materials, the stuff used to build houses, hospitals and schools.

This is happening in at least three areas of Western Colorado. It is thought that it might be going on in seven other states, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Texas, South Dakota and Washington.

Already 2700 buildings in Colorado alone are known to have been constructed

with materials containing uranium 'mill tailings'.

At one time this delightful stuff was given away free to builders who used it to give a smooth, compact and extraordinarily cheap base for concrete.

## Causes cancer

The 'mill tailings' produce a gas called Radon which cannot be seen or smelled. This gas seeps through concrete and enters the air human beings breathe. It is known—at the very least—to cause cancer.

So far nobody has been moved out of the houses known to have been built with the material, although one family in Grand

Junction, Colorado, was told 'to stay out of the living room'.

This deadly situation has only been discovered by the unshakeable efforts of a Colorado Department of Health official who accidentally found it was used in construction and who knew that uranium miners in the Colorado River Plateau were prone to die rather young due to contact with Radon.

Use of the material has not been banned. Indefatigable researchers will probably just be left to continue their indefatigable research.

Laurie Flynn



# FIGHT TO SAVE STEEL TOWN

## 10,000 march to stop sackings at plant that makes £1m profit a year

by PETER INGHAM

Socialist Worker Steel Industry Correspondent

'DOWN IN THE SOUTH, HEATH GOES YACHTING, HERE IN THE NORTH, WE ARE LEFT ROTTING!' These were the words on a banner carried when nearly 10,000 steel workers and their families marched through the single main street of Irlam last Friday in protest against the proposal of the British Steel Corporation to close the town's steelworks.

Since the closure of the big Co-op soap works three years ago and since the redundancies at the gas works, Irlam has become totally dependent on the general steel and wire works, which employ nearly 4500 men. The town lies half way between Manchester and Warrington, both areas where redundancies in recent years have already created serious unemployment.

The local bus services have been re-organised and high fares and infrequent services will make it very hard for the workers of Irlam to seek work in an area where rationalisation creates new job shortages each month.

The march, a cheerful and good-natured affair, blocked the main road for miles on either side of the town. It ended with a rally at the Irlam park, where the local chairman of the unions pledged general support from the Manchester District.

The principal speaker was Fred Lee, MP for the division, who expressed amazement at the reasons given by the management for the impending closure. The works make £1m. a year profit, he said, and a large force of skilled steelworkers is a priceless asset whose worth cannot be measured in pounds and shillings.

Did Mr Lee ever speak in this stirring way when he was a minister in the Labour government, whose policies made tens of thousands of workers redundant by putting pounds sterling before the interests of men, women and children?

He went on, however, to refer to the private steel trading consortium of Schwartz and Co. which is proposing to buy a controlling interest in the

works. 'If Schwartz can do it, why can't BSC make a go of it?' he asked.

He also stated that he and the union leaders would try to hold Lord Melchett, Chairman of BSC, to his statement that he would consider any constructive alternative proposals from the unions as a means of keeping the works open.

### Private diplomacy

Jack Sweeney of the Engineering Union, the chairman of the Action Committee which appointed itself to organise the march, said on this point that his committee would be conducting diplomacy in private from now on. Although there would be more marches, they could not conduct all of the campaign in public in working out the technical proposals to put before Melchett and his Tory overlord, John Davies.

Irlam workers are entitled to ask whether this is the best way to mount a campaign. It leaves open the possibility of a hidden deal, similar to a productivity deal, which might reduce manning and earnings, in order to extend the life of the plant a few months or years.



Marching in Irlam: a simple demand to put men before profits

## REQUIEM FOR A STEEL TOWN

No more will the steel be running lads,  
No more the furnace roar,  
The water will be dripping lads,  
Behind the furnace door.

### Chorus

And who will give the reason lads,  
And who will tell us why,  
They're throwing us aside me lads,  
And they're going to let Irlam die

New Irlam's built on steel me lads,  
And blood, and sweat and tears,  
It's served the country well me lads,  
For over fifty years.

The pride of steelmen's in our blood,  
And steel is in our soul,  
But soon our pride will vanish lads,  
When we are on the dole.

The children in your homes me lads,  
Are fed and clothed by steel,  
But sons won't follow you me lads,  
How does that make you feel?

Lord Melchett hear our words today,  
And listen to our plea,  
We're not machines or numbers, no  
We're People, can't you see!

Tom Edwards

Would the employees and their families turn out faithfully on marches with such a possibility in view? Those marchers I spoke to hotly denied that they would accept this.

At a meeting in the evening called by the Manchester Council of Action for Defence of the Trade Unions, speeches in support of the Irlam

workers campaign were made by steel workers from Teeside and the Rotherham area.

A proposal to call a mass meeting in Irlam to set up a properly elected Action Committee, which would be required to report back on all the details of the negotiations to the workers concerned, was accepted

without opposition by a group of Irlam employees.

This was seen as a step towards co-ordinating the rank and file in the steel industry on a national basis, to fight the wave of sackings announced throughout the industry. Such a move is urgent as the main union leaders concerned (BISAKTA) seem to have accepted redundancy as an inevitable part of a steel worker's life.

### First round

To these men the interests of the management in having control of a profitable industry take priority over the interests of their own members in gaining job security.

The fight against the Irlam steel works closure will require support from all steel workers. It could well become the first round in a campaign to restore to steel workers control over their own unions as a step to gaining socialist control over the steel industry.

With the world's poor desperately needing steel, a change in priorities that puts men before profits is vital.

## 'A pint, please — and could I see your union card...?'

WHEN SOCIALISTS and trade unionists call in a pub, it's usually for a bit of peace and quiet. They think that the class struggle has stopped outside the door.

But a Leeds convenor has been invading the alcoholic refuges of the working man and has shown that exploitation exists behind every door. He has been highlighting the rockbottom pay of the bar staff at your local.

The man concerned is Martin Croker, General and Municipal Workers' convenor at Moorehouse's factory in Leeds (part of the giant Cadbury-Schweppes group). Bro Croker has been acting as an unofficial GMWU organiser in his spare time.

The obstacles faced by any union trying to organise the pubs are tremendous. The wages in the Licensed Residential Establishments Wages Council are a ridiculous £8.65 (yes, that isn't a misprint). In the February TUC figures of minimum basic rates for a 40 hour week, the pubs were last in 128 sectors of British industry.

These wages are just over half the basic recommended by the TUC—£16.50.

The General and Municipal's man behind the bar, Martin Croker, has

by Vince Hall

had plenty of experience in the field. He worked for British Transport Hotels for 10 years where the Railwaymen's Union organised the workers. The trouble was, said Martin, that the union covered wages levels from £150 per week down to a lowly £10.

After leaving BTH, Martin went to Moorehouse's, a well known sweat shop in Leeds, where he helped to get to the nearly 100 per cent membership of today. While doing GMWU work, he got in touch with pub workers who asked him to try to help them.

### Both feet

He decided to jump in with both feet, knowing that other unions had failed before. The first attempt to unionise six months ago failed disastrously when a large proportion of the 30 members enrolled were sacked.

The second attempt is now in full swing and looks like succeeding. Membership is approaching the 200 mark and some of the blokes are determined to win or bust.

Liaison with Transport Workers Union members on the delivery wagons is helping the situation with

a few hints of slow deliveries being dropped in certain publican's ears.

Apparently determined draymen have helped the TGWU unionise some of the pubs in the Newcastle area, enrolling members for their own union. Many managers are still acting like 19th century bosses. One man stole 200 union cards and burnt them. The union is going to make sure he pays retribution in full.

One way readers of Socialist Worker can help is by making a few discreet enquiries in your local. But remember that a landlord can scratch you from his pub without giving any reason!

One important factor is whether staff have a contract of employment. If they haven't, check how many have been sacked recently. Conditions come high on the list of priorities of the union.

Does your gorgeous barmaid have a statutory break or get a meal during working hours or does that tired smile come from not getting a recognised day off or any work at double time?

So if you want to be as big a man as the beer ads crack you up to be, get in there and show your solidarity, brothers and sisters, as well as empty glasses.

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# New Tory threat to grab benefits of workers on strike

WORKERS IN BRITAIN had to fight long and hard to achieve even the limited protection from insecurity that is built into the welfare state. A number of these gains come under attack in a new Tory Bill now going through parliament.

The Bill will reduce the money which men on strike can get from supplementary benefit. But in addition it abolishes all payments of national insurance benefit for the first three days of unemployment, sickness or industrial injury.

At present these benefits are not paid for the first three days if the total period off work lasts less than two weeks. But money for the first three days is paid retrospectively as soon as a person has been off work for more than two weeks. It is this last rule which the Tories are now to abolish. In future no one is going to get any sickness, unemployment or industrial injury benefit for the first three days no matter how long the period off work. This cut in benefit will deprive workers of a total of £24 million a year.

The Labour Party do not seem greatly concerned. Only six Labour Party MPs bothered to turn up when the Bill was debated in the

# of workers on strike

First of two articles by JIM KINCAID

Commons on 26 April. The Tory Minister responsible, Sir Keith Joseph, had little difficulty in sandbagging the scattered protests coming from the deserted Opposition benches. Joseph simply pointed out—correctly—that many of the items in his Bill had in fact

been proposed by the last Labour Cabinet.

In recent months, the Tory press, and the Daily Telegraph in particular, has been running an hysterical campaign against what it calls the misuse of public funds to subsidise strikes.

Yet the truth is that in Britain the social security rights of workers in industrial disputes are exceptionally limited. Unemployment benefit is under no circumstances paid to workers on strike.

In addition, a worker who is laid off because of somebody else's strike can only get unemployment benefit if he can prove that he is not 'participating in or financing or directly interested in the trade dispute'. This was the wording in Labour's 1946 National Insurance Act.

It is a very broad and inclusive definition. In effect this Act gave the green light to Her Majesty's Judges to indulge their class prejudices at the expense of trade unionists. Over the years the courts have been cheerfully depriving wide categories of laid-off workers of any right to unemployment benefit.

## Lose right

No matter what your job, if you belong to the same union as any group of workers on strike at your place of work, you are held to be 'financing' the strike. If you are sacked from a job, and within the next 12 days your previous workmates go on strike, then you lose your right to unemployment benefit.

*In one classic case, there was a demarcation dispute between platers and shipwrights, and during a stoppage the platers' helpers were laid off. The helpers were held to be 'directly interested' because they worked as a team with the platers. Therefore the helpers had no right to unemployment benefit.*

*The trade unions took this case twice to the Court of Appeal in 1964, and twice were turned down. The Appeal Judges expressed regret, but said that the wording of the 1946 Act left them with no alternative but to rule against the unions.*

It is however possible for a worker on strike to get money from the means-tested part of social security — Supplementary Benefit. A man on strike (or laid off because of a strike) can get no money for his own needs, only for the needs of his family. Thus almost always a single person on strike will be sent away without a penny

## Squeeze money

But the Social Security people do have the rights to give money to a single striker, if he can prove that he is in urgent need. This takes some doing, as the Ministry generally fight such claims to the death.

But if you are persistent and know the right arguments to use, it is possible for single people to squeeze some money out of them. (For advice and leaflets on how to fight such claims, strike committees should contact the Birmingham Claimants' Union who have a



lot of experience—phone them at 021-772-8499).

Ever since 1900, it has been a rule that means tested assistance can be obtained for the wife and children of a worker on strike. What this means at present is that they will pay the rent, give you £4.15 a week for your wife, and between £1.50 and £2.40 for each child depending on age. (These sums include family allowances.)

In effect the striking worker is made dependent on his wife and children. Family income is well below the poverty line, but families are not completely allowed to starve. The state can maintain a pretence of neutrality in industrial disputes.

Not too neutral of course. For example it is the case that workers who are locked out are treated by social security according to the exact same rules as if they were on strike or laid off because of a strike.

What has upset the Tories is that at present a worker on strike is allowed £4.35 a week from strike pay, tax refunds, odd-jobbing etc. without any deduction from the supplementary benefit he can claim in respect of his wife and children. Only above £4.35 is there a 100 per cent deduction—that is, if a worker on strike had income of £5.35 a week, then £1 would be knocked off the supplementary benefit.

The new Tory Bill reduces this £4.35 a week to only £1. Any income a striker has above £1 a week will mean a corresponding reduction in supplementary benefit. The effect is to cut the total family income of workers on strike by £3.35 a week.

*As it will affect individual families, this is a big cut. Yet at national level the sums involved are*

trivial. In 90 supplementa is because 9 less than tw cases the wo employers fo at work wil the official disqualify th assistance.

For strik two weeks, the workers getting suppl their families is a very lo

## Fob

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## WHAT WE STAND FOR

THE International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations.

We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism.

Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world and owe no allegiances except to themselves and the economic system they maintain.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multi-national firms.

The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A single socialist state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international independent of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organisations through-



out the world.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist theory with the day-to-day struggles of working people and therefore support all genuine demands that tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight: For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials.

Against secret negotiations. We believe that all settlements should be agreed or rejected by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.

Against anti-trade union laws and any curbs on the right to strike, whether the strikes are 'official' or 'unofficial'.

Against productivity deals and job evaluation and for militant trade union unity and joint shop stewards' committees both in the plant and on a combine basis.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

For a minimum wage of at least £25 a week.

Against unemployment, redundancy and lay offs. We support the

demand: Five days' work or five days' pay.

For all workers in struggle. We seek to build militant groups within industry.

Against racialism and police victimisation of black workers.

Against immigration restrictions. For the right of coloured people and all oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Against secret diplomacy.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally give support to and solidarity with all genuine national liberation movements.

For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation and under workers' control.

We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers' party in Britain and to this end support the unity of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers' power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing of men's power over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly worth fighting for.

It is no use just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it.' If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.

## THERE ARE 15 BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

**SCOTLAND**  
Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Fife/  
Glasgow N/Glasgow S/Stirling

**NORTH EAST**  
Durham/Newcastle upon Tyne/  
Teesside (Middlesbrough and Redcar)

**NORTH**  
Barnsley/Bradford/Derby/Doncaster/  
Grimsby/Huddersfield/Hull/Leeds  
York/Selby/Sheffield

**NORTH WEST**  
Lancaster/Manchester/Oldham  
Bolton/Merseyside/St Helens/Wigan

Potteries  
**MIDLANDS**  
Birmingham/Coventry/Leamington/  
Leicester/Oxford/Nottingham/  
Northampton/Redditch/Telford

**WALES and SOUTH WEST**  
Bath/Bristol/Cardiff/Exeter/  
Gloucester/Mid-Devon/Plymouth/  
Swansea

**SOUTH**  
Ashford/Brighton/Canterbury/  
Crawley/Folkestone/Guildford/  
Portsmouth/Southampton

**EAST**  
Basildon/Cambridge/Harlow/Ipswich/  
Lowestoft/Norwich/Colchester

**GREATER LONDON and HOME COUNTIES**  
Acton/Bletchley/Camden/Chertsey/  
Croydon/Dagenham/Enfield/Erith/  
Fulham/Greenford/Havering/Harrow/  
Hemel Hempstead/Hornsey/Ilford/  
Kilburn/Kingston/Lambeth/  
Lewisham/Merton/Newham/Notting  
Hill/Reading/Richmond/Stoke  
Newington/Slough/South Ealing/  
Tottenham/Walthamstow/  
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Scheme wou



# GRIM FARCE OF 'JUSTICE' IN N. IRELAND

NORTHERN IRELAND's Ombudsman Mr Justice Curran, appointed to investigate citizen's complaints against authority, has reported after 18 months in office that in only two out of 41 cases accepted for investigation could he establish evidence of religious or sectarian discrimination. Yet thousands of people burned census forms in protest against the selective operation of the law. Lawyers have met to co-ordinate opposition to discrimination in the judicial system.

On 2 May in Belfast more than 2000 people marched in protest against selective arrests. The Civil Rights Association is compiling a dossier of cases of discriminatory judgment against Catholics and republicans. A motion from the left-wing Peoples' Democracy movement to the CRA calling for the resignation of Justice Curran was passed at a conference on 9 May.

Discrimination is still an issue, and a reality, in Northern Ireland. Take Curran's recent judgment on the case of George Millar, for instance.

Millar was charged with possessing three revolvers and 560 rounds of ammunition which were found in his car. Witnesses said that they had seen three men in 'IRA-type combat jackets' get out of Millar's car.

Millar gave evidence that his car had been stolen and maintained that the firearms had been planted. Curran asked him his religion and on hearing that he was a Protestant, dismissed the case, saying that he was unlikely to be 'associating with these IRA types'.

It is, of course, extremely unlikely that members of the IRA would move around a Protestant district wearing identifiable clothes.

An example of legal discrimination most often cited in the past few weeks is that of the man sentenced to one year's imprisonment for shouting 'Up the IRA'. For hours a crowd that had been taking part in an Orange march shouted anti-Catholic and pro-Ulster Volunteer Force slogans at the people in Belfast's Unity Flats.

They had been left to their provocations by the police. When one slogan was shouted in response, six policemen grabbed the man.

He was taken to a police station three minutes' walk from his parents' home, but they were not informed until 24 hours after his arrest, and after he had been convicted.

## Dragged

These cases have been well publicised. In the vast majority of cases, evidence and judgment are quite summary, and many are convicted without having the chance to get legal defence.

15-year olds and 16-year olds are dragged before the courts often within 12 hours of arrest, and if the police insist that disorderly behaviour, for instance, is in any way connected to political events—even to riots on the same night but in a different part of the city—they too are liable for a minimum six months' imprisonment.

Under the 'Minimum Sentences' (Criminal Justice) Act the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the military police dictate the pace in the courts. If the police see domestic trouble as being politically significant the participants can be imprisoned for six months.

Frank Gogarty was imprisoned for the political act of shouting 'Stop kicking me, you British bastards'—which is precisely what they were doing.

If a connection with political events or organisations is incriminating, any supposed connection with the IRA is doubly so. Official definitions of 'law and order' rest on the assumption that the IRA is the only organisation that threatens 'security'.

Although the Special Powers Act was amended in 1966 to include the Ulster Volunteer Force among the proscribed organisations, Prime Minister Brian Faulkner could still say on 4 May that 'I am not a member of the IRA'.



British troops battering demonstrators in Belfast last week



Ombudsman: can't see Orange

Inspector General it was the IRA and it wasn't.

When UVF leader John McKeague's mother was killed in an explosion three weeks ago, the police were quick to announce that they 'did not attach any sectarian significance' to the incident. Meaning two things: they know of the activities of Protestant armed organisations, and they know that the Unionist establishment has little interest in encouraging sectarian strife at this stage.

Sometimes they have felt confident enough to quell it. But now they are too insecure to permit it.

## Interest

The contradictions of the Unionist system are showing themselves again. On the one hand, the top levels of police and judiciary are committed anti-Catholics and Orangemen. (All of the High Court judges have also been members of a Unionist government or Unionist MPs.)

On the other hand, Faulkner's government has to appear a reforming, non-sectarian government. But while his government cannot afford the re-creation of the conditions of two years ago, it does have an interest in promoting splits in republican and socialist ranks.

Issues of religious discrimination can help them in this. Socialist republicans will not play the 'count the Catholics' game. They not only oppose the unequal distribution of sentences, but seek to oppose the whole repressive judicial and state apparatus.

The events of the past two years have demonstrated that no amount of pressure can make a Unionist government realise even a minimum programme of civil rights. And the struggle for civil rights is part of the struggle for socialism.

BRIAN TRENCH



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only achieved this was no strike pay, refunds were not Post Office tax selves on strike. at tax refunds can nding cut in social

security entitlement is a neat little bit of discrimination against strikers. Under the supplementary benefit rules you can have up to £325 in savings without any cut in benefit. You get a tax refund when you stop work because you are immediately in the position of having overpaid tax in your previous period at work.

Normally an overpayment of tax is regarded by the authorities as a form of savings. Thus a person who is unemployed can get a tax refund without any loss of supplementary benefit. In his case, the refund is regarded as savings.

But as soon as a man is on strike, then any tax refund is treated as income, and under the new legislation will lead to a loss of supplementary benefit as soon as the refund goes over £1 a week. There is only one way of avoiding the trap, and that is to strike in April, at the start of the tax year, before you have paid enough tax to qualify for a refund.

Normally after a long strike, workers will have to wait for one or two weeks before the first pay packet comes along. Generally workers obtain a sub from their employers to tide them over. However in 1969, after a strike on Liverpool docks, the workers involved realised the advantages of claiming supplementary benefit rather than taking a sub.

Unlike the sub, the supplementary benefit is not taxed and does not come out of the wage packet. The dockers told the employers to keep their sub, and went instead to the social security office.

Since then the word has got around. In 1968 the amount paid out in social security after strikes ended was £80,000. Last year the government found itself coughing up £900,000. This is a trivial sum—

in the current year, supplementary benefit will pay out about £600 million in benefits.

But the thought that workers were pulling a fast one has caused deep annoyance among the employing class. For the past two years, the Confederation of British Industry, the employers' trade union, has been bombarding the government with irritated memoranda on the subject.

The government has obliged. Their new Social Security Bill says that any supplementary benefit paid to families of strikers in the week or two after a strike will be reclaimed from the employer.

And the employer is being given the power to dock the money out of the wage packet. Probably all this will cost as much in paper-work as the saving in supplementary benefit. But what matters to the government is that they are preserving intact the principle that when the Tories are in power, the working class gets off with nothing.

## Weaken fight

These cuts in supplementary benefit certainly mean more hardship for men on strike—and for their families. The Social Security Bill is designed to weaken the ability of workers to fight back in industrial struggle.

What the government have done is to line up the social security system more effectively than before on the side of the employers and against workers. It is another ominous step in the Tories' long-term campaign to deploy the power of the state against the right to strike.

A further article next week will discuss some provisions of the Social Security Bill designed to strengthen the disciplinary powers that employers exercise against individual workers.

rob workers of £24m



## Bradford left unites to fight threat from the racialists

THE DEEPENING CRISIS facing the employing class and their party in government was dramatically reflected in Bradford's municipal election results. Failing to control prices, the party of big business now finds its electoral support among the shopkeepers, small businessmen and petty officials being thrown behind not only Labour but also behind backwoodsmen and fascists: the Powellites, Monday Clubbers and nazis like the National Front.

As Bradford's Tory leader put it, on hearing that Labour had won 15 out of 19 contested seats, 12 of them gains from Tory: 'It would be wrong of me to suggest anything other than that the results as far as we were concerned are disastrous. There are reasons, some of which are outside our control. One is the intervention of the Yorkshire Campaign Against Immigration'.

Four of Labour's gains were due to this, he claimed. It is this fact which stands out above all.

The YCAI, less than a year old, claiming a membership of more than 1,000 in Bradford alone, captured 10 per cent of the votes cast. Most came from the traditional Tory social base but included many confused and disillusioned workers.

Helped by the local Telegraph and Argus, the Yorkshire Post and Yorkshire Television, YCAI became the centre of publicity in an otherwise unnewsworthy election run-up.

The group's manifesto was widely distributed. It contained the now familiar myths about drugs, rate burdens and birth rates but its main thrust was designed to win support from the owner occupier, those on fixed incomes and those insecure in their jobs. For example:

**PROPERTY:** House values drop when immigrants move into an area—No compensation for those Bradfordians living in these areas.

**YOUR JOB:** Unemployment could be nil if a million immigrants returned home who are now doing the jobs of over 814,000 unemployed.

### Hold to ransom

It is particularly ironic that the argument about property values should come up in Bradford. Recently a Pakistani estate agent revealed to a Parliamentary Select Committee that two English finance companies in the city had bought up more than 1,000 houses and sold them, usually to black workers, on a system called 'discount mortgage'.

A house bought for £500 is offered for sale at £850 plus £50 cash. The £350 profit would be added to by interest on repayments at rates of 10 per cent.

The financiers using racialist arguments, panic whites into selling cheaply. Then, by holding black workers to ransom, are able to operate because the building societies refuse to lend on property within the city's ring road.

In their jobs, too, white and black experience the effects of the ruling classes' policies. For years unemployment has been below the national average. Now it has reached between 5½ and 6 per cent and is rising as textile employers introduce productivity deals and 'rationalise' their interests.

### Class politics

From an industry-wide total of 144,000 workers in 1968, the National Economic Development Council recommended slashing off 23,000 men and women by 1975.

Importantly YCAI makes no mention of these and other anti-worker developments. No mention of the building report pointing to 40,000 houses of unfit or short life that's 40 per cent of the housing stock, all pre-dating 1900.

Silence too on the Tory council's decision to cease council house building entirely. Not surprising really, since Merrick, the campaign's founder and chairman was a Tory councillor at the time the report was issued.

The immediate threat of 13 YCAI candidates in a local election was taken up by some sections of the Labour Party and in the trade union movement. Isolated and lacking political weight, however, they were unable to meet the racialist hysteria in the only way possible: head on, with class politics.

A United Front was set in motion by the International Socialists, along with the Indian Workers' Association (GB), Afro-West Indian Society,

by Neil Patterson

Student Socialist Societies, Independent Labour Party, Young Communist League and Communist Party.

In mass leafletting round the houses, at factories, in election meetings at Trades Council rallies and the left-wing press, United Front spokesmen exposed the YCAI for what it is—a vicious anti-working class coalition of reactionaries in the Powellite wing of the local Tories, the Monday Club and the Nazi National Front.

Given the chance, these forces will weaken the ability of workers to fight back on the issues of social welfare cuts, redundancies and productivity deals. The Industrial Relations Bill and Aliens Bill are part of the package deal served up by the Tories and designed to weaken organisations in the Labour Movement.

These racialist and fascist groups have to be fought all along the line by the only class able to smash through their lies. The United Front will continue to pose the socialist alternative and work to defeat the anti-working class politics of the YCAI and its allies in the National Front and the Tory Party.

## ENGINEERING EMPLOYERS KEEP WATCH ON UNION FUNDS

# DATA READY FOR BATTLE WITH BOSSES

by SW Reporter

THE Technical and Supervisory section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (formerly DATA) took steps at this year's annual conference to meet the threat of an all-out offensive by the employers.

The conference met shortly after the union had rejected derisory national wage offers from the employers in engineering and shipbuilding. The breakdown has prepared the ground for serious confrontations.

General Secretary George Doughty said he had proof that the employers were monitoring the finances and activities of the union in preparation for an attack. The conference was dominated by the need to have the union in fighting trim.

### Stronger than ever

In recent years the union has been involved in a number of major disputes. The shipbuilding lockout of 1967 and the Rolls-Royce lockout last year were the biggest. On every occasion the organisation has emerged stronger than ever.

But the employers never stop looking for ways of punishing the most successful 'guerrilla' fighters on the trade union scene and strains in the union's finances have given them fresh hope.

Although dispute benefit paid out



Doughty: we're being watched

has risen from £193,000 in 1969 to £448,000 in 1970, it is the recent burden of unemployment pay, costing the union almost £9,000 a week, that has started to restrict the funds available for strikes and wage campaigns.

The conference was determined that there should be no let up in its industrial policies and decided on three measures to keep the union fighting on the broadest possible front.

An unemployment levy on the entire membership will substantially prevent funds being drained off and a small increase in subscriptions coupled with a drop in strike benefit from 80 per cent of net pay to 60 per cent should see a continuation of cam-

paigns without any loss in militancy.

A hefty executive report on union organisation was approved. Eight new divisions, bringing the total up to 26, will be set up during the year. An increase of nearly 20,000 members in 1970 had caused the present structure to creak.

Extra organisers are needed not just to cope with existing membership but to put organisers where potential membership exists. There are some 250,000 technical workers in industry and the union is determined to organise them.

### General strike

On the question of anti-trade union legislation, whether it be incomes policy or the Bill, the union has been consistent in its opposition. This year's conference reaffirmed this position.

In the same week that Lord Cooper made clear his policy of retreat, conference carried overwhelmingly a motion instructing the executive to use its political and industrial strength against the Bill and to call for general strike action at the Trades Union Congress in September.

The union will also press through the TUC, the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and the AUEW for a general policy of de-registration. The union executive was instructed, if the AUEW national committee so decides, to de-register when the Industrial Relations Bill becomes law.

# IDEAS IN SOCIETY

by  
DUNCAN  
HALLAS

## The arrival of classes ... and class ideas

THE BIGGEST difference between animals and men is the practically unlimited ability of men to learn. The other side of this coin is the necessity for men to do so. A new born baby knows nothing. It can't talk, it can't even focus its eyes. It has to learn.

This is not true to the same extent of other animals. For example, the female rat, when she gives birth to a litter, exhibits a clear-cut behaviour pattern. She licks the new-born clean, bites off the umbilical cord, eats the after-birth, builds a nest out of any available debris, retrieves the young, places them in the nest one by one and then crouches over them.

Now these complicated actions have not been learned. Experiments have shown that a female rat, isolated from other rats from birth and artificially inseminated, goes through exactly the same performance after giving birth to a litter. The behaviour is instinctive. It is programmed in to the brain of every female rat and inherited from generation to generation. It is part of 'rat nature'.

There is no corresponding 'human nature' because, with one possible exception (the reaction of babies when startled), human beings have no instincts.

Most people find this hard to accept but it is scientifically well established. What are popularly regarded as instincts in humans—fear of spiders and snakes for example—are actually learned, not inherited. This too has been established by careful experiments.

This is why human behaviour is, in fact, infinitely variable. Of course we have drives to satisfy certain basic needs—for food, for sleep, for sex and so on—but the ways in which they are satisfied depends not on inherited patterns of behaviour but on learned ones.

Learning can only take place in a society, an organised group of people. This is obvious if we think of our basic tool—speech. A human being completely isolated from birth will never learn to speak. How could he? Learning to talk means learning to put together certain sound patterns with certain meanings. Which sound patterns depend entirely on the society you grow up in. We don't learn to speak 'in general', we learn to speak in English, Urdu, Japanese and so on.

So too with every other kind of learning and behaviour. We are 'made' by society. But societies are made up of men and women and societies change. What is called 'human nature', that is the

sort of basic behaviour we expect from people, changes as societies change. What causes these changes?

Obviously men and women cause them. There is no director of the universe sitting somewhere in outer space and controlling the course of events. Men and women are made by society but they also make society. But they don't make it in any way they choose—only certain options are open in any particular case—and they don't, for the most part, make it consciously.

As Engels put it 'the determining factor in history is, in the last resort, the production and reproduction of immediate life ... of food, clothing, shelter and the tools requisite therefore ... (and) the propagation of the species.' What people do, collectively, about satisfying these basic needs is what makes society and also what changes it.

### Change at snail's pace

Change in the past has been the reaction to pressure. On the one hand pressure from 'outside'—from changes in the environment and from other societies and on the other hand pressure from 'inside'—from conflicts between groups in the same society.

The further back you go the slower the rate of change. For by far the greater part of the time men more or less like ourselves have existed, change has proceeded at a snail's pace. For 99 per cent of human history the only sort of societies that existed were based on hunting and food collecting, without agriculture or anything we would recognise as industry.

These societies have left no written records—writing was unnecessary to them—but we can get some idea of what they were like from the stone tools and other objects they made and from the pure hunting societies that survived until modern times.

They were made up, by our standards, of very few people. It takes a lot of territory to support pure hunters all the year round. They were extremely conservative. Ideas were adhered to and transmitted through countless generations; the modification [in the shape of hand axes] traced in a sequence like that studied at Olduvai were spread over periods tens of thousands of years long.

So far as we can reconstruct their ideas, they were dominated by magic and kinship. They had, judging by their 'modern' representatives, some sort of division of labour between the sexes but no social classes, no full-time kings or chiefs, no full-time magicians or priests, no full-time specialists of any kind.

This is the key to their conservatism. Until the methods of supporting life had developed to the point where some members of society could be fed and clothed without themselves hunting, only very limited progress could be made.

The change came when some fairly advanced hunting peoples were faced with changes in climate that made the old way of life more and more difficult. It happened in Western Asia, 'and there eastward in Eden', in the centuries perhaps about 10,000 BC, the 'Neolithic Revolution' took place; first, perhaps, the herding of the horned beasts, leading to full domestication, and then arising out of concern for fodder, the search for and care of the 'noble grasses', the basis of western agriculture. Thereafter, though the children of Adam might ask, in the sweat of their brow, what sin they had committed that they should have to work so hard, the new way of life spread rapidly.

Along with the invention of agriculture, went an explosion of new ideas. Pottery, religion, brickmaking, law, the wheel and the wheeled cart, a whole host of new techniques and new concepts were 'suddenly' discovered. Human nature, conservative and uninventive for hundreds of thousands of years, was transformed. Rapid change became the order of the day.





## A deep depression over Arizona...

CRIMINALS and the violence they use have always been favourite subjects for American film makers. Most films of this type have dealt with the Mafia and the war of attrition fought between the gangs for control of Chicago and New York.

They have rapidly become banal and stereotyped, depending for their appeal upon a more and more savage, gratuitous violence.

Then a few years ago came Bonnie and Clyde to attack and break down these stereotypes. Roger Corman's *Bloody Mama* (Cinecenta, X) is cast in the same mould. The subject is again rural America in the pre-war Depression and the gangsters that such a time produced.

This time it is the Arizona Barker gang and the film is a fairly serious attempt to understand the relationships between Ma Barker and her four sons.

### Banal dialogue

But it is here that *Bloody Mama* is at its weakest. In place of any kind of sensitive analysis in depth, Corman has chosen to rely on the crudest psychology: Ma is basically a moralistic mum who loves her sons too much, Hermann is a fully fledged madman, Arthur a glue-sniffing drug addict, Fred a homosexual and Lloyd a shy, repressed alcoholic.

These characteristics dominate the relationships within the family, ensuring what must rate as some of the most banal dialogue ever heard in the history of the screen.

And this is unfortunate, because there is much to be praised in *Bloody Mama*. The private problems of the Barkers are sharply drawn against the wider backdrop of mass unemployment, poverty and the Depression.

### American myth

The complex, impersonal violence of a system that produces such tragedies as the Depression is contrasted with and matched by the spasmodic, uncontrollable aggression of the gang. Best of all, Ma is shown to have most of the qualities that middle-class America enshrined in the myth of the great, pure, all-American mother.

But these elements do not create sufficient unity for the film. The twisted and intermingled set of private causes and public reasons that combine to create gangsters cannot be explained in this way.

It is in this overall shallowness of treatment that *Bloody Mama* fails and not in its treatment of violence, as many reviewers have suggested. Violence, whether private or social, is never independent of society itself and both Corman's crude psychology and his critics' denunciation of the bloodshed in *Bloody Mama* seem equally inappropriate and unconvincing.

**Martin Tomkinson**

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Neville Smith and Billy Dean, two of the strike leaders in *The Rank and File*

# COTTONS COLUMN

AN INTERESTING little tale recently issued from the realm of those purveyors of truth and enlightenment, Border Television. For many months staff and technicians had been complaining about petty pilfering in the locker rooms and elsewhere. Politely, they asked management to do something about it. Nothing was done and losses continued.

But when two glasses of brandy went missing from the boardroom bottle, action was swift and successful. A secretary had been appointed to keep a record on the decline of the bottle's contents. She spotted that someone other than the directors had taken a free nip and the police were called.

The whole staff were fingerprinted over three days and the appalling criminal pinpointed. He was brought to court and an inspector—no less—prosecuted him.

We understand that the police will not be doing any similar checks on false expense account claims at Border Television. After all they do have the boardroom brandy to look after.

*CAPITALISM gets its priorities right: it was revealed last week that £5.5 million was spent last year on the immigration and alien service, which has 1666 employees. In 1965 the expenditure was £2.5 million with 774 employees. The Urban Aid Programme, that helps areas of special social need, is receiving £4.4 million this year. Vast expenditure and a growing bureaucracy geared to hounding and ferreting out black immigrants is far more important than tackling the slums and other glaring problems that afflict millions of people.*

### House party

THE new Labour council in the



WALKER: stable boy

London Borough of Waltham Forest have put an immediate ban on their Tory predecessors' policy of selling off council houses. Excellent. But will the Labour men take action against three of their councillors who have just bought their own council houses and deprived three families on the waiting list of somewhere to live?

### Home from home

THE CONTINUING SAGA of Peter Walker's new home. New readers start here: puckish, likeable Environment Minister Peter 'everyone should have a tolerable place to live in' Walker has lived up to his dictum by buying a £100,000 house. Martin Court, near Droitwich in Worcestershire. Among other notable features the vast farm has a medieval whipping post in the grounds.

But even rich and powerful Tory Ministers have to go through the normal channels of democracy. Walker wants to convert part of the house into bedrooms, bathrooms and playrooms for visiting Ministry officials. He has applied for planning

permission to the local council who are said to be favourably inclined to his appeal. The appropriate planning committee is made up of a greengrocer, a retired civil servant and a housewife.

But why bother to change the house? The area up for redesign is a stables. Just the thing for visiting Tories. Change the nosebags from time to time and they'll feel thoroughly at home.

*ASSUMING you can hardly wait to fly the Atlantic in the Concorde or in a plane powered by the Rolls-Royce RB211 engine, you might like to know that the latest estimated cost of Droopy, to be shared by France and Britain, is £885 million while the additional development cost of the RB211, over and above the £47 million already invested by the government, will be £100 million. The taxpayers will also have to bear the excess of the production costs of the first engines over the price of £50 million that Lockheed agreed to pay. The excess is thought to be about £80 millions. Book your seats now ...*

### Frontal assault

IF you have pondered over the declining standards of the Daily Mirror wondered why it had dropped or drastically reduced many of the more thoughtful and analytical features introduced in recent years, and returned to girly pix and sensation, ponder no more. Circulation figures for 1970 show that the Mirror's sales dropped by some 700,000 copies while Rupert 'first with the nudes' Murdoch's Sun put on circulation—by 700,000 copies.

Future developments of both papers don't bare thinking about.



ONE reviewer said of last Thursday's BBC1 play *The Rank and File* that he couldn't believe such things went on in British industry. I sympathise with him. When real life breaks through the warm, familiar day dreams prescribed by the telly tycoons and advertising moguls, it is a rude shock.

But this was real, all right. This was the real face of British industry, the truth behind the glib phrases of the commentators, the threadbare clichés about 'wildcat' strikes and their damage to the 'national interest'. Jim Allen wrote and Kenneth Loach directed a play that recorded what actually happened in one strike and for 75 rare and brilliant minutes a group of workers were allowed to put their case, their hopes instead of being hectored and bullied by belligerent reporters.

### Transformed

It was more than a 'play'. Allen and Loach briefly transformed the medium, giving us a glimpse of what television could be if turned from a dream box remote from most people's experience into a dynamic weapon for expression and change.

The strike was last year's explosive dispute at Pilkington's glass works in St Helens. Using a deliberate documentary style, the play expressed the anger and frustration of the workers at their atrocious pay and conditions and the bland inability of their union officials to improve the situation.

The workers decided to act themselves. A mass meeting voted for strike action, kicked out the union officials and put the direction of the strike in the hands of their own elected 'rank and file' committee. Petitions and demonstrations were organised, there were clashes with police and black-legs, a campaign of lies and distortion by press and television and attempts by the union to break the strike by reaching a shabby deal with the management.

### Atmosphere

Linking each developing episode were the discussions at the headquarters of the rank and file committee. I paid a brief visit to the real strike last year and I was staggered by the way the play captured so accurately the atmosphere of the committee.

Instead of the cardboard caricature of 'reds' and 'subversives' dreamed up by the bosses' press, here were working men struggling to master a complex situation, thrashing out the direction of a strike and the future and livelihoods of the workers they represented. Here was a vital clash between the reformist pattern laid down for the strikers—lobbying Labour MPs, calling in the TUC—and the need to go beyond that pattern and enlist the support and action of other sections of the rank and file of the unions.

### Illusions

Because Loach and Allen did not set out to glorify the workers, their mistakes were not glossed over. The committee did have illusions in the TUC. They sought their help, only to be betrayed and sent back to work to face harassment, victimisation and crude financial penalties.

Of course, there were weaknesses, noticeably the thin crowd scenes that did not capture the atmosphere of real mass meetings and an unconvincing postscript about the Industrial Relations Bill. But they cannot detract from what was a stunning achievement: writing, acting, direction combined to allow the Silenced Majority to find its voice. It is the shape of things to come.

**David East**



# Socialist Worker

## R-R strike backs Fine Tubes

SW Reporter

BRISTOL: Storekeepers at Rolls-Royce's Patchway works refused last Friday to handle components for the Concorde Olympus engine manufactured by the Plymouth firm of Fine Tubes. Workers at Fine Tubes have been on strike for 50 weeks for union recognition and have appealed with country-wide success for factories to black parts produced by scab labour.

The management threatened to sack the storekeepers but a meeting of their stewards on Monday voted to continue the ban on Fine Tube's components. And a mass meeting on Tuesday said that if one worker was sacked the whole plant would go home.

### Solidarity

The stand by the storekeepers, members of the Transport Workers' Union is an example of trade union solidarity from a section in Rolls-Royce that is at the lower end of the wages' table.

The Department of Employment sent conciliation officers to Bristol on Tuesday in a bid to settle the dispute. It is instructive that this is the first time the Department has intervened in the Fine Tubes strike, in spite of frequent appeals to them to do so.

When workers demand basic union rights, the Department turns its back and leaves them to fight for a year. When workers strike in their support and threaten Rolls-Royce profits, the Department is quick to act.

## 'Nazi tactics' by Hull bosses

by SW Reporter

HULL: 800 Transport Union workers at Armstrong Patents, the world's leading producer of car shock absorbers, voted last week to end their 10-day strike for a £7.50 increase.

The management used 'Nuremberg Rally' tactics to get the workers back. Loudspeakers calling for a return to work deafened strikers at their mass meeting.

The disruption was stopped only when Engineering Union members walked off their jobs in disgust. One worker said: 'It was more like Nazi Germany than Hull.'

The bosses also threatened mass redundancies, even though profits are at an all-time record. And a misleading report in the local paper implied falsely that shop stewards had called for a return to work.

The task now, after this setback, is to build solidarity among all Armstrong workers in preparation for the next round in the struggle.

## Aircraft men out for a month over sackings

TWENTY-ONE workers at Lancefield Aircraft Components in Queen's Park, West London, have been on strike for a month following the sacking of two workers, one Sheet Metal Workers' Union shop steward. Management has refused to negotiate with union officials. Donations should be sent to: F. Muggleton, 20 Russell Road, Northolt, Middlesex.

## NOTICES

MANCHESTER: Demonstration against Aliens Bill, Saturday 5 June, 1.30pm Alexandra Park Gates, Alexandra Road South, Moss Side.

MANCHESTER IS public meeting: 'What is inflation?' Speaker Duncan Hallas, 8pm, Thursday 3 June, The Wheatheaf, High St, Manchester.

CAMDEN IS requires information, pamphlets, etc, regarding London Transport Underground organisation, unions, management, finance etc. Contact David Yaffe, 78 Parkhill Road, NW3, 267 3894.

BRIGHTON IS: Roger Rosewell on democracy in the unions. Wednesday 2 June, 7.30pm, Labour Club, Lewes Road.

BERNADETTE DEVLIN MP and Roger Rosewell speak at a Fight the Tories public mtg, Thursday 10 June, Connaught Hall, Blackett St, Newcastle upon Tyne, 7.30pm.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS public meeting on Crisis in Southern Asia. Tuesday 8 June, 7.45pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. Speakers: Nigel Harris, Mirze Chagtai, Chris Harman plus speakers from Bangla Desh and Ceylon.

SWANSEA IS: Tony Cliff, author of The Employers' Offensive, on The Struggle in Industry. Thursday 10 June, 7.30pm, Working Men's Club, Alexandra Road.

PICKET in support of Basque prisoners on hunger strike: St Martins in the Fields, 24 hours a day, French embassy, afternoon and evening, 58 Knightsbridge, SW1.

# BIG RUSH TO REGISTER BY KEY RIGHT WING UNIONS

by Roger Rosewell  
SW Industrial Reporter

THE RUSH has started. More and more unions have announced that they intend to register with the government when the Industrial Relations Bill becomes law.

At Croydon on 18 March a special meeting of the TUC decided to recommend that the unions should not register. This policy was attacked and condemned by militants at the time as totally inadequate. They warned that many unions would ignore it and that there would be an ever-growing number that would co-operate fully with the Tories.

The events of the last few weeks have not only sabotaged the TUC's policy but also proved how right those militants were. The National Union of Bank Employees have decided not just to register but also to withdraw from the whole campaign against the Bill.

Other unions are following in NUBE's footsteps. Writing in the latest issue of his union's journal, Frank Lynch, general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, states that his union has every intention of registering.

He says: 'As a trade union we have always accepted the principle of registration. We have found that registration in the past has been advantageous. Are we to assume without any evidence whatever that registration will be worsened because it is now embodied in a new Act which has within it objectionable features?'

### DEFEATED MOVE

The National Association of Local Government Officers and the National Union of Teachers have also made it plain that they will register.

The executive of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers defeated a move at their union conference that would have committed USDAW against registration. The leaders did this for the obvious reason that they want to register but did not want to announce it at the conference.

The leaders of the Electrical Trades Union are also suspected of wanting to register.

The General and Municipal Workers' Union general secretary, Lord Cooper, has also announced that he is in favour of registration. Cooper, chairman of the TUC special meeting at Croydon, has publicly stated that his union should register on two recent occasions and there is little doubt that the GMWU will obey his orders.

### AFFECT EVERY WORKER

The TUC is opposed to registration. In its pamphlet against the government's anti-union legislation it said: 'Registration under this Bill would affect every worker as well as every union. To get a state license to do its job, a union would have to have rules which do not conflict with the 'principles' of the Bill.' These principles include:

1. No closed shops.
2. No unofficial strikes.
3. No blacking of goods.
4. No sympathy strikes.
5. Secret ballots before strikes when ordered by the government.

The mass retreat by unions from the Croydon decisions will lead inevitably to more and more co-operation with the Bill and an increase in the employer-led attack on trade union militancy. All of this is encouraged by the unions that want to and will register.

THE Foundryworkers' section of the Engineering Union decided at their conference on Tuesday to press for a substantial wage increase later in the year. Delegates representing 69,000 workers instructed their executive to put in the claim when the current three-year package deal expires.

The conference also told the leadership to fight for a 35-hour working week without loss of pay and to oppose firmly any government attempt at wage restraint.

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## EMPLOYERS CALL FOR NEW WAGE FREEZE

by SW Reporter

A CALL for a new incomes policy has come from the boss of the Confederation of British Industry, the employers' 'trade union'. Writing in the first issue of the CBI's new magazine, CBI News, Mr Campbell Adamson, the Director General, says that if the level of wage settlements could be driven down then the unions would probably be forced to accept an incomes policy.

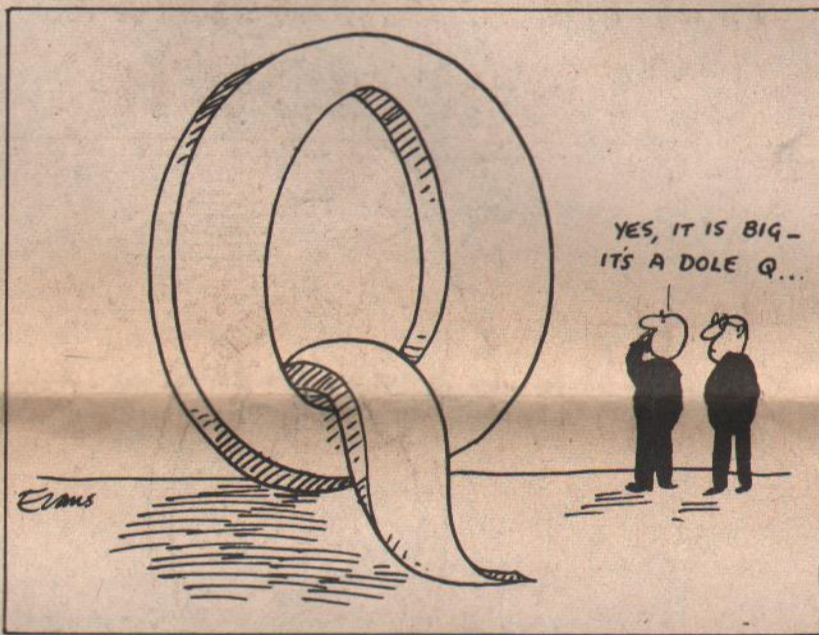
He adds: 'If the dangers are better understood and if the level of settlements shows a distinct fall, the time will be closer when the two sides of industry can sit down together and see whether there is any chance of agreement on a longer-term policy for incomes.'

### Next chairman

Adamson makes no excuse in his article for wanting to hold down wages. He admits that this must be done because 'with the profits position as serious as it is ... we cannot take the short term, easy way out.'

In another article in the magazine, Mr Len Neal, who is widely tipped as the next chairman of the Commission on Industrial Relations, explained both why the Tories' Industrial Relations Bill was crucial to the employers' attack on wages and why he has emerged as the firm favourite for the well-paid job held until recently by George Woodcock.

Neal declares openly that the right to strike 'has been used with a freedom that overtakes licence' and that the Bill will change the relationships in industry.



## BLACK-POLICE MERSEY TALKS DODGE ISSUE

by Steve Emms

LIVERPOOL 8 is the area that contains the majority of the black population of Merseyside. It is one of the worst slums in the country.

Unemployment is high, especially among the black and half-cast youngsters. The police have always intimidated the population and recently this has grown to almost intolerable limits.

In late April, a police inspector acting as a liaison officer went to a meeting at Stanley House, a local community centre. The meeting was to discuss the victimisation of black kids in the area.

A few days later, 11 young blacks were arrested in the centre of Liverpool. Most of them had been at the meeting.

In spite of this, a meeting last Sunday, organised jointly by the Merseyside Caribbean Council and the Liverpool police went ahead. For the police, this was an excellent public relations stunt, with their hand picked 'friendly bobbies'.

Yet time and time again, black people of all age groups would get up and describe police harassment, wrongful arrest and drug planting. One old man of 60 told how 13 policemen had smashed into his home, set dogs on him and put him in bed for two months.

### Case dismissed

After two years of complaints to the police, his case was dismissed by a private court, from which both he and his witnesses were barred.

There is no doubt that the police gleaned files of information from the meeting, which will be used against blacks in the future.

As people pointed out at the meeting,

only the organisation of black people into defence groups to protect what little they have will do anything to stem the brutal attacks of the racist police. At the same time, it is up to all socialists to continually expose attacks like these on black people.

## Call for defence groups against race attacks

A national conference on the rights of black people, held at London's Alexandra Palace last weekend, attracted more than 500 people, mainly blacks but including some white socialists.

The aim of the conference was to prepare black people to fight back against the current racist offensive, spearheaded by the Tory Immigration Bill and the speeches of Enoch Powell. An exhibition of photographs at the conference showed black victims of bomb assaults and attacks by racists and fascists.

Speakers stressed that the fight against racism involved a fight against capitalism and in the current situation defence groups were imperative. The conference agreed to issue a call for the setting-up of defence groups and delegates offered to train black people in self defence.

Other speakers said that the Industrial Relations Bill was allied closely with the Immigration Bill and both were part and parcel of a general offensive by the Tories against workers in Britain, particularly black workers.

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