

Workers' fight

5p

No.35 3rd November - 16th November

STOP THE TORY ROBBERS DEFEND AUEW

THE ANGER OF THE labour movement at the £75,000 fine on the AUEW has already thrown the Tory government into something of a panic.

"Normal processes" have been speeded up by weeks to get the Commission on Industrial Relations' report on the Con-Mech dispute out before November 5th, in the hope of damping down the huge protest strike planned for that day. The report is reliably expected to recommend that Con-Mech should recognise the AUEW in the factory - thus belatedly vindicating the struggle of the Con-Mech workers for union recognition.

But will the fine be paid back in belated recognition that the Union had the right and the duty to fully support its members in dispute?

Not a chance!

For the Tory NIRC, the AUEW has committed the unpardonable crime of being the last union to continue refusing to recognise the NIRC. The penalty for that this time has been £75,000, and there may yet be damages as well.

NIRC President Sir John Donaldson in fact made a point of stressing that he was taking into full account the Union's record of thwarting the NIRC. Next time, then, the fine could be bigger still.

This fine is a punishment for

the AUEW's entire record of opposition to the Industrial Relations Act and the National Industrial Relations Court.

The numbers on strike on November 5th will show that vast numbers of workers are well aware of this truth and have made up their minds to put some punch into the AUEW's stand for the principle of trade union independence.

There will be a solid engineering stoppage involving the T&GWU as well as the AUEW. Fleet street will be shut down by the engineers. Liverpool Corporation builders will be out. So will 65,000 Yorkshire miners. And thousands upon thousands of others.

GENERAL STRIKE

EVERY worker in Britain should be out on November 5th. Even a one-day general strike would shake the Tories and force them to draw in their horns yet again. What frightened the Tories and forced them to virtually shelve the penal clauses of the Industrial Relations Act for so long? The mass strike wave that greeted the attempt to jail 5 dockers in July 1972. That's what did it.

A similar response, only bigger this time - even for a day -

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Above: scabbing troops in action

APPALLING CONDITIONS BEHIND GLASGOW STRIKE

WHEN A STRIKE-BREAKING soldier was injured while fighting a fire in a derelict tenement, the Glasgow papers gave it headline treatment. In fact the soldier was taken to hospital and released the same day.

What the papers forgot to mention was that earlier on in the year seven firemen were killed when the floor of a burning factory collapsed. What they forgot to say was that the dangers which the troops are now getting their first taste of are everyday experiences for firemen.

Glasgow is a tinderbox city. Most of the buildings are four-

storey high tenements with no fire escapes and only one exit, so when a fire starts it is usually fatal. Over the past three years 100 people have been killed by fires.

So for Glasgow you would think that a fire brigade is a vital service. You would think that firemen would be valued and paid accordingly. But the Labour-controlled Glasgow Corporation doesn't think so.

After five years training and examinations a fireman gets £26.76 for a basic 40 hour week, 8 hours overtime is virtually compulsory and this brings the pay up to £30 per week.

For this sum a fireman must be permanently on call; he must be prepared to spend a day being alternately soaking wet and scorched, and he may well lose his life.

The Glasgow firemen demanded £5 a week more, and were offered between £2 and £2.60. The Glasgow Corporation said that was all they could give under Phase II.

Previously the Corporation had been prepared to defy the Tory Housing Finance Act - but now they wouldn't dare move a finger against the Tory Phase II.

The firemen didn't go on strike just like that. They start-

ed their campaign with a ban on overtime, for they, more than anyone else, knew the risks that were involved. As James Flockhart, one of the strike committee leaders, said - "If you're starting a war you don't start with H-bombs".

The strike was started only as a last resort. No sooner had the firemen gone on strike than the troops moved in. Like something out of a war film, a column of camouflaged jeeps, with motor cycle outriders, drove down Gt. Western Road and towards the city centre. These troops, who now stand between a match or a firework and disaster, are totally inadequate for the task.

The firemen have been betrayed by their union, which has disbanded the Glasgow area committee which supported the strike. They have been deserted by the leaderships of other Scottish areas who refused to support them at the Fire Brigades Union annual conference in London.

But they have been supported by rank-and-file firemen throughout the country, who have banned all but emergency work in solidarity.

And moreover they are being

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WATERGATE AND WAR

EACH ÉPISODE IN THE Watergate affair challenges belief and has the smell of fiction. But it isn't fiction. It is dirty capitalist politics with the lid off.

It was for real, too, when last week Nixon ordered all US forces throughout the world on preliminary nuclear alert - the furthest we've been down the road to a world war of atomic destruction since Kennedy's Cuba crisis of 1962.

Such is Nixon's credibility gap that the immediate conclusion drawn, around the world and in the US, was that this was yet another move in the desperate struggle to stay in office.

Be it or not, the alert itself shows once again the sprinkling of capitalist politicians hold the fate of humanity in their hands. And why after the scandal of President Richard M. Nixon hesitate to

take risks with it - this mass murderer who rained death and destruction on the people of Indochina for so long?

Yet if Nixon is deposed, it will not be for Vietnam, nor for his nuclear tricks, but for petty burglary. Such are the priorities of imperialism!

Nixon is certainly a crook, and known to be deeply paranoid. That such a man - or any man, for that matter - might order nuclear war is only possible within a mad system capable of totally destroying itself and humanity with it. The episode underlines once again the fact that shouldn't be obscured by the present shaky Washington-Moscow detente: UNTIL THE WORKING CLASS OVERTHROWS AND DISARMS IMPERIALISM THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR WILL HANG PERMANENTLY OVER OUR HEADS.

Workers Fight

PALESTINIANS ARE STILL THE LOSERS

DESPITE HARD fighting and initial successes, the Arab armies have suffered defeat in the fourth Arab-Israeli war. The Arab leaders bungled and failed to prosecute the war seriously. Having got across the Suez Canal they then dallied until the Israelis, free from real pressure on the Sinai front, had defeated the Syrian armies in the North and could turn South with full force against Egypt.

The Egyptian leaders conducted the war as if they were content simply to make a limited political point, and not really as if they believed they could defeat Israel. It was all reminiscent of the prelude to the 1967 June war when the Egyptian army moved into Sinai as a manoeuvre but was totally unready for real war.

As in every Arab-Israeli clash so far, the Israelis benefited from ruthlessness, efficiency and the fact that their army is streamlined and fights in earnest, all its members consciously determined to play their part in the fight to ensure that their privileged status in the area should survive. By contrast the Arab armies are stifled and hindered by the dictatorial but effete ruling classes of Egypt and Syria. They reflect the indecision and lack of drive of the Arab rulers, and on another level suffer from lack of coordination and centralisation — itself a product of the fact that the Arab bourgeoisie has failed even to unite the Arab nation.

Racist

The only force on the Arab side with the necessary revolutionary drive was the Palestinian guerilla movement. But this movement had already been decimated by Butcher Hussein of Jordan, and anyway had never been able to determine policy or control the military situation on the Arab side.

But the inadequacy of the Arab rulers does not and cannot justify or exonerate the oppressor racist state of Israel. Nor does it change the perspective. If we have to record the fact that the Arab states have failed yet again to settle accounts against the Israeli oppressor of the Arab people, that does not make the Israeli working class any more capable of doing so.

That class remains completely chauvinist and racist in its attitudes to the Arabs. So long as the Zionist state exists, the Israeli working class will continue to subordinate its struggle within Israel to the needs of the white settler Zionist state. The dark-skinned oriental Jews (50% of Israel's population), though they are subject to scandalous racial/social discrimination and have many grievances, are more eager to be let in on the full privileges of the Zionist state than to join in the struggle of the other oppressed people, the Arabs (with whom they have more in common culturally).

The key to progress still lies with the most oppressed people of the area — the Arab masses, and specifically the Arab working class. The demands of the Palestinians for a secular multiracial state in Palestine remains the only feasible solution for the area. To allow or talk of allowing separate national self-determination for Israel is to go back to square one.

In practice this would mean allowing Zionism to continue — armed, organised and institutionalised — maybe with its borders pushed back. As long as the Israelis have a separate state, that state will inevitably be Zionist, that is, will continue to lean on imperialism, to oppress the Arab people, to promote the immigration of Jews from all corners of the world at the expense of the Palestinians, and to fight for the expansion (or initially the regaining) of its territory. The Israeli 'nation' is inseparable from the policy and programme of Zionism and its relationship to the Arabs. To allow for its 'rights' is to deny the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination, and they are the people most deprived of it, and the only people for whom this demand has any revolutionary significance. Zionism would also continue to retard the consciousness of the Israeli working class.

Error

Though the Arab bourgeois states themselves, like all such states, oppress the masses and are repeatedly unable to settle with Zionism, they deserve the support of socialists in Britain to the extent that they do fight. Marxists take sides even in struggles for partial goals, and despite the inadequacy or reactionary character of the leaders and ruling classes in control of the struggle of oppressed peoples.

Whatever will finally be known to have passed between Russia and America before the ceasefire, at the time of writing it appears as if the 'Big Two' are making efforts to get a settlement in the Middle East based on a return to the pre-1967 boundaries, and that Israel is coming under intense US pressure. But it would be a mistake of the greatest proportions to look to or trust the two Superpowers to solve the problem. Any settlement is sure to be at the expense of the Palestinians. These two self-appointed 'world policemen', despite the differences in their social systems, are allied in a vain quest to achieve a world 'order' within which the Russian Stalinist bureaucracy and US imperialism can co-exist and flourish and unite against revolutionary movements throughout the world. They can perhaps promote a deal between the Israeli and Arab capitalists. They can offer nothing at all to the oppressed Arab masses, least of all the Palestinians.

CHILE

GENERAL'S BLOODY TERROR HASN'T KILLED RESISTANCE

AFTER A MONTH of almost total black out in the British press, it has at last become possible to piece together the events which followed the military seizure of power in Chile and the situation as it is now.

Sporadic reports have appeared in the foreign press and a number of socialists fleeing from the repression have given interviews to left wing papers. From these sources a general picture emerges.

It appears that the resistance is continuing and indeed has increased over the past few weeks. The Italian paper 'La Stampa' contains an interview with an unidentified leader of the Chilean CP who is quoted as saying "the Chilean left organisations still have large quantities of arms and a common struggle is being prepared for the overthrow of the military regime".

According to the interview the Chilean CP was expecting the coup and was practising "delaying tactics". The defeat was blamed on the "maximalist position" of the left wing guerilla organisation, the MIR! Since the CP was calling the army "the workers' ally" right up to the day of the coup, bravo statements about them now leading a struggle look a bit sick.



Two of Chile's new rulers

ACTION ON CHILE

LIVERPOOL

Demonstration from Islington Square — November 3rd, 11.30 am

LONDON

Demonstration from Marble Arch November 4th, 1.30 pm

GLASGOW

Meeting McLellan Galleries, November 4th, 2.00 pm

However the comuniques of the generals themselves show that the regime has not crushed all resistance. On October 23rd, Le Monde reports that the minister of the interior, Bonilla, admitted that guerilla activity against the regime was still going on. On the next day the generals announced the destruction of resistance organisation in Valparaiso, even though they had been stating for a month that there was no resistance anywhere.

The resistance is probably unco-ordinated but significant nonetheless. It is undoubtedly true that there are large numbers of arms still hidden around the shantytown suburbs of Santiago. Indeed one refugee, who was interviewed in the American Trotskyist paper 'The Militant' reports that in some of the shanty towns there were more guns than people to fire them. It is highly unlikely that the junta managed to capture all of these.

The interview in 'The Militant' gives a graphic account of the events of the day of the coup and the weeks that followed. The military made their first move in the early morning of September 11th, a normal working day. When the news reached the factories delegates were sent to the local leaderships of the Socialist and Communist parties, to find out what was going on and what to do.

Defence

The word came back to stay in the factories and fight, although those who wanted to could return home. Since only the best organised and most militant factories had guns, the result was that those who stayed behind were trapped. The anonymous refugee tells how the workers elected defence committees and armed themselves with petrol bombs. But petrol bombs were little use against the armour and artillery which was brought in by the military.

Those factories which did have guns put up a hard fight which in some cases lasted all day, but in those factories which did resist most of the workers were killed. One factory surrendered when they saw that they were surrounded by armour and were then executed on the spot. In another, the Sumar textile factory, the whole workforce died fighting.

The strongest resistance came from the shanty towns where there were large supplies of arms. For a long time after the coup the military would not go into these areas except in large convoys. Full scale battles were fought with the army relying on machine guns fired from helicopters and despite the overwhelming firepower of the military many soldiers were killed.

In one shanty town, La Legua police vans were stopped by puncturing their tyres with nails and the reporter reckons that 160 cops were killed.

But despite the heroism of these acts, the overall resistance to the coup was unco-ordinated and without leadership. Such leadership as there was (the decision to fight in the factories) led to the disastrous massacre of the vanguard of the industrial workers.

Nor can the defeat just be put down to a lack of arms. There were arms, but guns alone do not make for a working class army. Such an army requires leadership, training and discipline of the type that only come by uniting around a revolutionary programme and a revolutionary party.

The programme of the Socialist and Communist parties added up to coexistence with the bourgeois state machine — a state machine which was always firmly in the hands of the ruling class and their military agents. Given this coexistence military preparation by the working class was ruled out and indeed actively prevented.

Massacre

If one thing is clear from these sparse reports, it is that the defeat suffered by the working class is every bit as disastrous as was first feared. The terror which followed the defeats in the factories and the shanty towns was on a scale not experienced since the massacre of millions of Communists in Indonesia in 1965. As in Indonesia the terror has the same aim of physically eliminating the leadership of the workers.

An American professor of physics, James Ritter, reports in the 'The Militant' how he was arrested and imprisoned in the national stadium, which held an estimated 7000 prisoners.

Soldiers fired automatic weapons right into crowds of defenceless prisoners and at other times prisoners were forced to run round in circles while the troops shot them down, one by one. Ritter reports that in his section of 650 prisoners, 600 were Chilean workers still in their work clothes — they had been arrested straight from the shift.

Trap

Moreover the current repression in Chile threatens, not only the vanguard of the Chilean working class, but that of the whole of Latin America. Under Allende's government, Chile had become a refuge for socialists and revolutionaries on the run from all over Latin America.

When the generals seized power it turned into a death trap. A witch hunt was run against "foreign agitators" and just to be a foreigner was sufficient cause for being rounded up. Leaflets were distributed from door to door with the message "Chileans do not be afraid to expose the foreigners in your midst".

According to the Secretary General of the MIR, one thousand and people have been executed since the coup. Others give much higher figures. And still the bloodbath continues.

The only hope of staying alive for those still in the Junta's jails is that enough international pressure can be put upon the generals. A massive campaign of solidarity with the victims of the coup must be the immediate priority for all socialists.

Andrew Roberts

BIGGLES GOES TO ISRAEL

'MY SHAME' by MAX HASTINGS was on the London Evening News placards, and many people, remembering the disgusting kith & kin mongering this writer came up with after a visit to Rhodesia in August, must have thought "You said it mate."

In two articles reeking of imp-

erial arrogance he had regaled his readers with the views of "handsome, hardworking young (white) farmers" who were "carving out a livelihood" in the bush and "raising their children" — and their cattle — and wouldn't be shifted by a "bunch of Chinese trained terrorists" who

"can't shoot straight". But, while this "nation of 250,000 whites" bravely faces up to the "communist insurgents", the folks back home aren't giving them the support they should. "Does the West really want to see White Africa go under?"

If there is such an animal as a journalist who seeks out and evaluates the facts of a case, Max Hastings isn't one of them. His chosen method is to transmit prejudice. So last week, "newly returned from Israel", he was busy reporting yet another struggle of "civilised" kith and kin for "survival".

There he was among people who displayed "all the qualities for which we look in our civilisation" — university dons, students or scientists to a man — defending themselves against the "genocidal ambitions" of "primitive savages", "an enemy of whom there could be no doubt that, armed with an atomic weapon, would hurl it like a hysterical child."

Not a hint did he think to give of what the war was actually about. "Four times now, the Israelis have achieved the military

miracle". Why? Because the Arabs are "the most destabilising factor in the world politics of the 1970s." Just that.

There was no mention (though he used up quite a bit of paper) of the Israeli state being set up by outside settlers on land brutally annexed and robbed from a peaceable people driven out by violence, threats and murder. No mention of the annexation in 1967 of yet more land, and the subjugation of its people by a military occupation force. Of the ruthless bombing of refugee camps or of the murder in Beirut of Palestinian political leaders by Israeli commandoes earlier this year.

No mention either of the shooting down of an unarmed passenger airliner that strayed over land they'd stolen from Egypt.

But then, who wants to know such petty details of "the qualities for which we look in our civilisation..."

In the best boys' comic-book tradition Hastings has the Syrian "savages" alternately torturing their prisoners and "grovelling for mercy" when taken themselves. Meanwhile down in Sinai, Israeli soldiers sit in the starlight (no starlight for the other side: that would be too romantic an image, wouldn't it?) discussing "the Chinese Exhibition at the Royal Academy".

It would perhaps complicate this pretty picture to tell of the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin whose every inhabitant, man woman and infant, was massacred by Zionist forces in 1948 — no doubt in the interval between discourses on Greek Classical drama...

Nor would it be convenient to tell the true story of the unfortunate Egyptian soldiers who fell into the hands of the Israeli Army in June 1967, who were



forced at gunpoint to take off their boots and walk back barefoot across the burning sand. Some died, others had to have their feet amputated, so terrible were their injuries.

No. It's far more effective to retail the image of "amused pity" expressed by the civilisers in face of the inexplicable fears of their prisoners.

Below: Arab POW. Israeli leaders declared they wanted to "eliminate" the Arab armies.



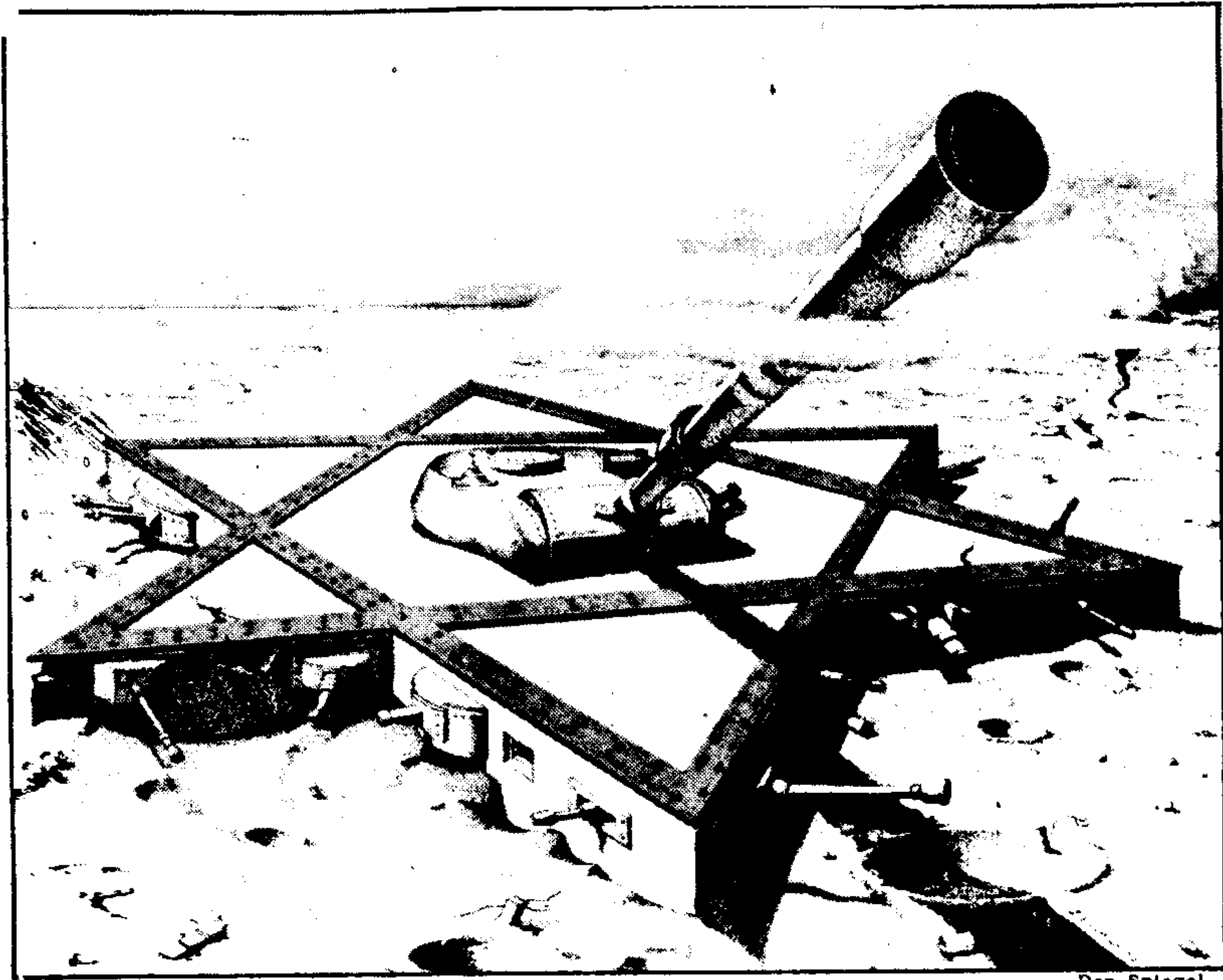
But it wasn't his own crudelies and distortions which had shamed Max Hastings.

Nor his line-up with the land-robbers of the Middle East and Rhodesia, the civilisers of Deir Yassin and Wiryamu (where white Afrika played football with black babies' heads).

He felt ashamed, he said, because "for once I longed to take up arms."

And so, no doubt, did a good few of his readers. At least, this one did.

Spilki



Der Spiegel

Liaison Committee stifled in Communist Party straitjacket

HEATH'S TORY Government is one of the most unpopular governments in decades. And yet, top trade union bureaucrats publicly express alarm that Heath might call a general election if opposition to Government policy is too vigorous, or if the miners strike again.

In this period of ruling class offensive against the standards of the working class, cowering trade union officials have so far allowed the Tories to win limited victories at our expense.

Even when the TUC feels compelled by the pressure of the rank and file to reject Phase 3, they still can't find it in themselves to make a clean break with the Tories. Even less are they able to nerve themselves for a fight against the Government.

Links

Never was there a more glaring need for a national rank and file movement to link up the militants in the different industries who day in, day out organise and lead the rank and file trade union struggle. If such a body had been in existence over the recent period, a body able to win the confidence of militant workers and forge links across the industries in struggle, then none of the defeats of the last year would have occurred.

Tory pay policy would have been beaten in every round and probably this reactionary govern-

ment would have been driven from office before now.

But it hasn't existed, and the recent rally of the nearest thing to it which has been in existence, the Communist Party sponsored Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions (LCDTU) proves yet again that that body is miles away from filling the vacant role — despite being supported by some of the best militants in the British labour movement.

Only 500 militants attended, many less than at previous conferences. But after the bureaucratic running of the previous conference (including stewards manhandling dissidents) this was no surprise. International Socialism, the biggest participant apart from the CP in earlier conferences, effectively boycotted this one.

Attendance was down on last time — but the line of the platform was the same. Just like last time, the main theme of the platform was that the Committee should not oppose itself to the official movement. Translated into practical trade union politics that means, should not oppose the trade union officials.

The LCDTU has wasted away from its previous strength precisely because it is tied to this CP policy, which demands support for the so-called left trade

union leaders like Jones and Scanlon, even when they drag their feet — and even when they sell out.

But one of the fundamental facts of industrial life is that there is a hard clash of interest between the full time officials and the militant rank and file. The officials form a distinct and privileged social grouping within the trade unions, which tries to act not as the leadership of the workers in their struggles, but as a broker between the bosses and their state on one side and the working class on the other.

Split?

Habitually, as a way of life, it betrays the interests of the rank and file. In the final analysis even the best union officials do it, no matter how 'left' they talk or may once have been.

What follows from this is the need for a rank and file permanent organisation within the unions to fight the official machine, a national link-up of the unofficial bodies and committees which honeycomb British industrial life and which in fact already lead most struggles that occur.

This does not mean break-away unions which split the movement, but a regular body to organise and galvanise the rank and file and prevent the union officials from sabotaging the struggle.

The LCDTU has in fact been



Delegates at Liaison Committee Conference on October 20th

the embryo of such a body, basing itself on rank and file militants. But its Communist Party leadership (which keeps a tight rein, refusing non-platform resolutions or the setting up of local branches) refuses to recognise the reality of the situation and clings to a policy of supporting left trade union leaders, trying to 'win friends and influence people' at the top of the trade union movement.

To enforce such a limitation on a body of rank and file militants like the LCDTU it has been necessary to half strangle the Liaison Committee itself by rigid bureaucratic control from on top, stifling discussion, limiting activity to set-piece conferences, preventing resolutions being moved, and choking the very life out of what could have been a tremendous movement and a great force for coordinating militant action.

The relative decline of the

LCDTU is the result of the CP policy of preventing it from being clear fish or definite fowl.

It is far too early to write off the LCDTU, because it has the staying power of the CP, or its hard core of militants has. Yet it is one of the tragedies of contemporary working class life that a movement of such promise should have taken on the limbo-existence of the Liaison Committee today, at a time when the labour movement is so desperately in need of leadership.

Build

It is one more thing that the working class has to thank the middle-of-the-road politicians of the misnamed "Communist Party" for. It is one more reason why we must build a real communist movement in Britain again.

CONDEMNED! BLACK KIDS AT SCHOOL



Above: third generation Liverpoolians, but still oppressed by an alien society

Parliamentary Select Committee on Immigration and Race Relations: Report on Education, September 1973

SINCE PARLIAMENTARY Select Committee reports are rarely written with any intention that they should be implemented, they can prove useful. By studying them it's sometimes possible to learn the facts. However, the report on Immigration and Education doesn't even have this redeeming feature.

The document starts by defining its terms, namely to inquire into education and immigrant children. The Committee isn't happy with the term 'immigrant', since it recognises that the majority of the 'immigrant' children were in fact born in this country.

But, having made this startling discovery, they then proceed to ignore its significance for the rest of the report.

What the Committee have really reported on is education and black children, but they couldn't bring themselves to use the word 'black'. If they had done so, then they would have been forced to recognise that the 'problem' is not that of immigration, but rather of racialism and discrimination.

Not all black people are immigrants and not all immigrants are black. Any immigrant child, regardless of the colour of his skin, may face difficulties of language or dialect, difficulties of a different religion or of unfamiliar culture and traditions. Black immigrants and their families have these difficulties too.

But a far more serious barrier, which confronts every black child, is the persistent belief that black people are inferior.

The Select Committee devotes most of its Report to recommendations for the special teaching of English, for the training of teachers to carry this out, for a more international approach in the teaching of such subjects as history, and in the choice of school text books.

DEAD LETTER

Now, no-one who is not an out-and-out reactionary could argue with such proposals. Indeed we would prefer that they were put into practice rather than remaining the dead letter that they are at the moment.

But even if they were fully put into practice they would only scratch the surface of the real issue.

For all black families the number one question must be the concentration of their children at the bottom of the educational ladder. This is highlighted by the disproportionate number of black kids in Educationally Subnormal (ESN) schools. To this

issue the Report devotes 3 pages out of 80, under the heading "localised difficulties", and comes to the conclusion "If the disproportion of West Indian children in ESN schools continues the DES (Dept. of Education & Science) should institute a special inquiry into the reasons for it."

We might as well suggest that if Select Committees continue to waste ink and paper in this fashion, a Select Committee should be set up to find out the reasons why.

The figures for black children in ESN schools, particularly in London, are scandalous. According to the official DES statistics the proportion of 'immigrant' children in ESN schools in London is twice that for ordinary schools. But as the Select Committee point out, the DES figures are false.

For the DES an 'immigrant' child is one who was born overseas or whose parents have been living in Britain for less than ten years. This formula only accounts for a minority of black children and it was that part of the report which criticised the DES statistics (significantly the only part of the Report that was in any way critical) which was seized upon by the press with such headlines as 'Powell was right'.

SUBNORMAL

In fact the false statistics of the DES only serve to hide the gross discrimination against black kids in school. In London the proportions of black kids in ESN schools is well over twice that given by the DES for 'immigrant' children.

Moreover, the ESN situation is only the tip of the iceberg. In absolute terms there are not very many children in ESN schools and many areas don't have ESN schools at all. But discrimination pervades the whole education system.

In normal schools there is a heavy concentration of black kids in the lower streams and those schools with a high proportion of black children are always worst provided for.

There are numerous mechanisms whereby black kids are sorted out to the bottom of the education system. In the case of ESN schools the most notorious of these is the IQ test.

In the terminology of the educational psychologist, to be ESN means to have an IQ between 55 and 75, and it is this IQ test which is the ultimate factor in deciding which kids go

to ESN schools.

But both the questions asked in IQ tests and the manner in which these questions are asked are blatantly biased against working class children as a whole and black kids in particular. The IQ test evaluates what a child with a middle class experience could be expected to learn for his or her daily life and basic education.

But for a black child with a vastly different experience of life it is next to meaningless.

For example one question which has been classed as a test of intelligence is as follows: "If a boy smaller than you comes up and hits you, do you hit him back?"

The 'correct' answer is supposed to be "no" — an answer which will seem to be daft as hell if you've been brought up in a rough area where fighting back is a necessity.

AUTHORITY

But the unfairness of the test isn't confined to questions like this which are clearly a test of middle class values. Even such 'neutral' exercises such as being able to mentally play with geometric shapes are dependent on the type of toys a child has grown up with.

And apart from the questions, the test situation itself acts against black children. These tests are nerve-racking experiences for any child, but for the black child they reproduce a relationship which he knows well enough from his whole life experience.

The educational psychologist who conducts the test is invariably white and in relation to the child who is being tested he sits in a position of authority — just as the white foreman bosses over the child's father, just as the white teacher is in charge of the child himself.

In this situation the black child knows that he has his 'place'. He knows that what is expected of him is not excellence but subservience and he delivers below his best. That the test situation militates against the best performance of the black child has been demonstrated quite conclusively by testing the same children twice, once with a black psychologist conducting the test and then with a white one.

The results show that black children did consistently better when the test was carried out by the black psychologist.

What is expected of a child also plays a part in the classroom. A famous experiment conducted in America demonstrates the extent to which a child's performance in school depends not upon the child but upon the attitude of the teacher.

Two educationalists carried

out IQ tests on a school and then divided the children into two groups. They told the teachers that one group had done well in the test and were brighter than the others, even though in reality the division into groups had been completely random.

When the educationists returned at the end of the school year, they tested all the children again and found that now the first group were in fact "brighter" than the others, scoring on average 12 points better than the rest of the school.

Teachers are predominantly white, and they are no more free from racial prejudice than the rest of the population. If they think that black children are inferior, then this affects drastically the performance of black children in school.

Education is a product of society and it serves society. In a class society it serves class interests and nowhere are the divisions between working class and middle class, and between black and white, more sharply reflected than in school.

Thus in Britain, where black people form the most oppressed layer of the working class, it is their children who are at the bottom of the class in school.

At school, black kids are trained for their station in life. They expect little from education and little is expected from them.

As long as education is an unequal competitive struggle for a position in later life, black people have a right to demand that the particular discrimination that they suffer is done away with.

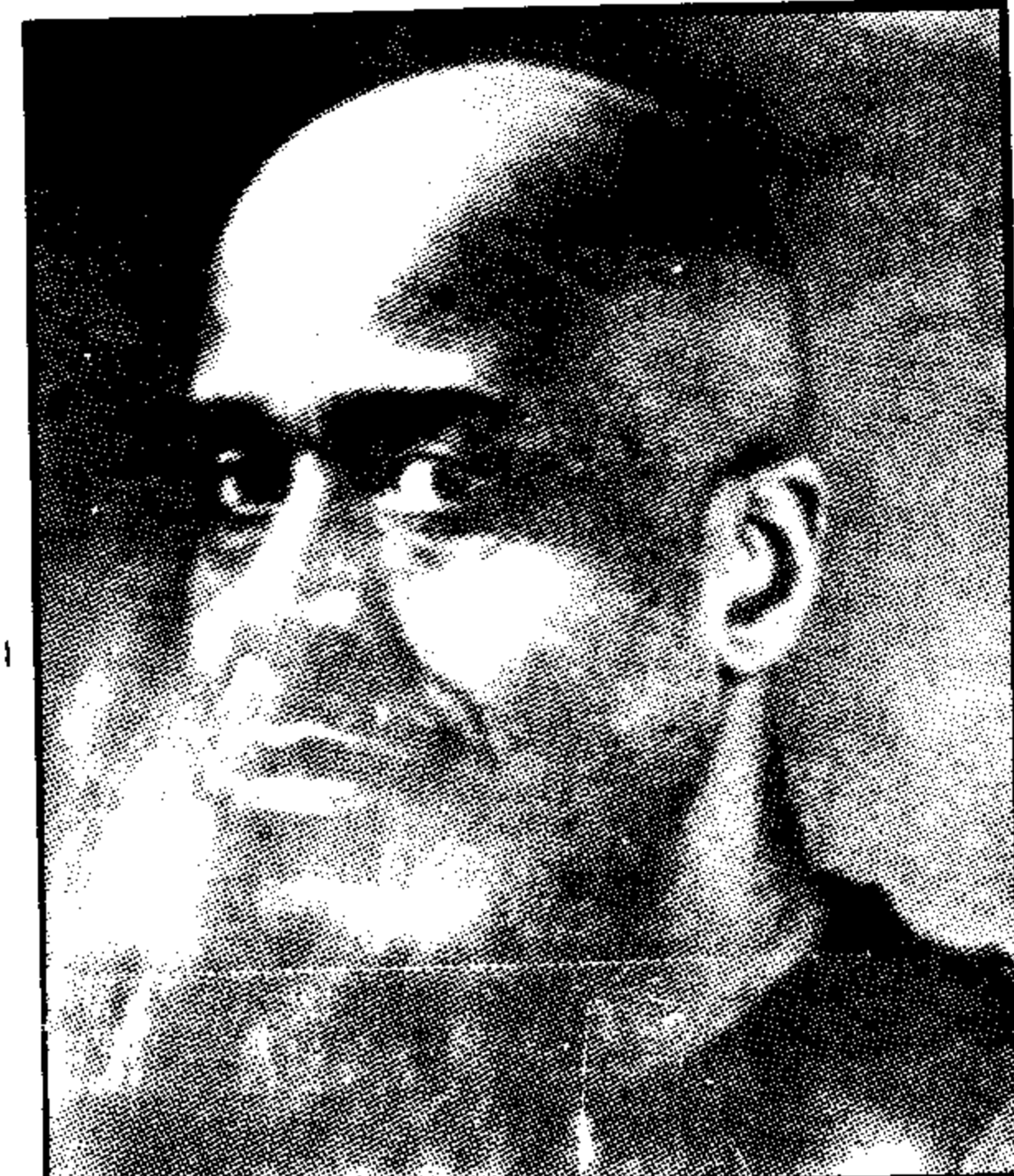
EQUAL

With this in mind black organisations are demanding that if black children are to be IQ tested then it should be done by black psychologists. That there should be special training of black teachers. That the history of the Caribbean, Asia and Africa should have an equal footing with British history.

In some areas black organisations have set up their own schools to implement this themselves. In such actions lies the possibility of redressing the balance against black children which is built into society. Despite their small scale they are worth a hundred Select Committee reports.

PAUL ITIZE

Free Martin Sostre



A BLACK political activist in America, Martin Sostre, has already served 6 years of a 41 year jail sentence, despite the fact that more than 2½ years ago the key witness against him confessed that he'd lied and helped the police to frame Sostre, in return for being let off on a burglary charge.

Sostre had run an Afro-Asian bookshop in Buffalo, New York, selling African art, revolutionary books and jazz records. The shop became a political centre for the black community, and during the 3-day rebellion of Buffalo's black community in 1967 it provided a refuge for those fleeing police bullets and tear gas.

The police decided to 'get' Sostre and, failing to convict him on arson and riot charges, used the perjured testimony of one Arto Williams to convict Sostre for selling narcotics.

On May 30th 1971, Williams admitted in Court that he had helped to frame Sostre and that the charge was phoney. But all demands for a re-trial or withdrawal of the charges have so far been ignored.

Moreover, Sostre has been repeatedly harassed in jail. In November 1972 he was put in solitary confinement after he attempted to form a prison labour union and organise a strike in one of the prison workshops. The September issue of Race Today also reports that "Sostre has lost his privileges for his refusal to submit to rectal searches. He has also been beaten, forced to walk naked across the prison yard in sub-zero temperatures, and is now threatened with drug therapy, electric shock treatment and possible psycho-surgery in a psychiatric unit."

A world-wide movement spread support for Angela Davis. We must fight NOW to save this militant who has already suffered so much and is now in grave danger of being permanently damaged. Send letters demanding his release to Judge John Curtin, U.S. Court House, Buffalo N.Y. 14202, USA; and to Auburn Prison, State Street, Auburn N.Y. 13921, demanding an end to the harassment, degradation and solitary confinement of Martin Sostre.

WORKERS' PARTICIPATION

CLOTH CAP DIRECTORS TO RAKE IN THE PROFITS

by John Rand



Mass meetings, real decisions — not the sort of participation the bosses' quacks have in mind

THERE HAS BEEN a great deal of talk lately on the subject of "workers' participation". A multitude of newspaper articles and television programmes have appeared, all of them devoted to the 'case' for involving workers in the running of the plants and factories.

There is even a Bill before Parliament, brought by the Liberal MP Jonathan Steele, for making such worker involvement compulsory.

On top of this, industrial managers up and down the country are attending courses on such subjects as "Job Enrichment", "Motivation" and "Men and their Work".

None of this apparent bonanza of goodwill has come about as a result of initiatives from workers themselves, nor is it due to the efforts of such tame though well-meaning organisations as the "Institute for Workers Control".

Rather, the initiative has come from the employers and their industrial psychologists, and has been echoed by the Labour and Trade Union bureaucrats.

These gentlemen give as the reason for their sudden interest in 'Workers' Participation' a concern for the welfare of workers and the effects of boredom and frustration, which are part and parcel of modern capitalist industry. But bearing in mind the past attitudes of such people to workers' welfare, no one would be unjustified or unduly paranoid in smelling a rat; especially when the advocates of 'workers participation' themselves give increased productivity and 'good industrial relations' among their main selling points.

PROFITS

To grasp the real motives of the 'workers participation' lobby we will have to look at what is closest to their hearts — their profit margins.

The cut and thrust of capitalist competition is continually driving employers to find ways of increasing productivity, and to achieve this end they have two basic methods.

Firstly there are genuine increases in productivity such as the introduction of new techniques and inventions, the modernisation of plant and machin-

ery. It is the pressure of competition which constantly forces capitalists to revolutionise the means of production and in doing this, using the labour of the working people, they lay the material basis on which the working class will eventually build socialism.

Secondly the capitalists are always striving to increase the intensity of labour — to get more out of a worker for the given time that he is under their discipline. In fact, by far the greater part of such agreements as productivity deals are concerned with increasing the productivity of labour through increasing the intensity of labour.

'Workers participation' is nothing but a more subtle step along this well trodden road. In their attempts to increase the intensity of labour the employers have either used the 'carrot' or the 'stick' — that is, either incentives or fear of unemployment.

With the strengthening of trade union organisation, particularly at rank and file level, the stick has become more difficult to wield, and government help has often been required.

HOSTILE

Incentive schemes also have their drawbacks for the employers. The greater efficiency, obtained by bonus schemes and the like, will often fall off after a while. No matter how great the reward is, workers will eventually demand an increase in basic rates, so that effectively the extra pay can be got without the sweat.

Nor do such schemes alleviate the class struggle on the shop floor. Indeed, they are themselves very often the cause of strikes.

It is for this dilemma that the industrial psychologists offer a solution. After elaborate research they have come up with a number of theories, and despite differences amongst themselves most of them have decided that a worker's performance is dependent on his attitude to the job.

If workers regard their work solely as the selling of their labour in order to maintain an existence, then their attitude toward the job — and their employers — will be grudging and hostile. Workers will give as little of themselves as possible

and will demand as much as they can get.

Now this may seem to be exactly the business sense so much admired in a system of 'free enterprise', but, not surprisingly, the employer takes a different view.

He thinks, because he has bought the ability of a worker to labour for, say, eight hours a day, that he has in fact bought the worker himself! According to his mythology, the employer does not make a simple business deal when he employs someone: rather, he expects love and co-operation as well!

But even from the worker's point of view his labour is not simply a business contract. Most workers are after all involved in producing articles or services which will eventually be bought by other workers. Yet to satisfy the needs of those who consume the products of his labour is neither the direct concern of the worker nor of his employer.

So although from one point of view a person's labour is useful work which will satisfy someone else's needs, from the point of view of the worker it is first and foremost a business transaction.

This division and antagonism between labour as something to be bought and sold and labour as

useful work is inevitable under the wage labour system.

But work was not always a matter of wage labour. Before capitalism was the dominant system of production, the medieval serf or peasant would work directly to satisfy his own needs or those of his master.

As the means of production became increasingly concentrated in the hands of the capitalists so the peasant was forced off the land and into the factories — and wage labour.

Thus all the old relationships between man and his master and between the labourer and his work were reduced to a mere cash relationship. Over a hundred years ago, Karl Marx explained how it was the separation of the means of production and the producers which was at the root of the hostility between man and his work.

Marx called this alienation.

And now, one hundred years later, modern capitalists employ learned professors to investigate why it is that working men regard their work as a necessary task, to be performed solely in order to earn a living.

For a Marxist the alienation of man from his work can only be overcome by the abolition of the wage labour system, and the

ownership of the means of production by the producers themselves.

But, of course, neither the employers nor their tame psychologists, nor the labour bureaucrats, have any intention of using this remedy.

Their concern is a sham. Their pious mouthings about 'workers participation' is no more than trickery, which seeks to convince workers that by entering joint management-worker councils they can further the interests of the working class without conflicting with those of the employer.

BLIND ALLEY

Joint management-worker committees don't for one minute change the nature of the class relations between a worker and his employer. But in spite of this, there is a real danger that the propaganda about 'workers participation' will create illusions which will weaken and disarm the working class.

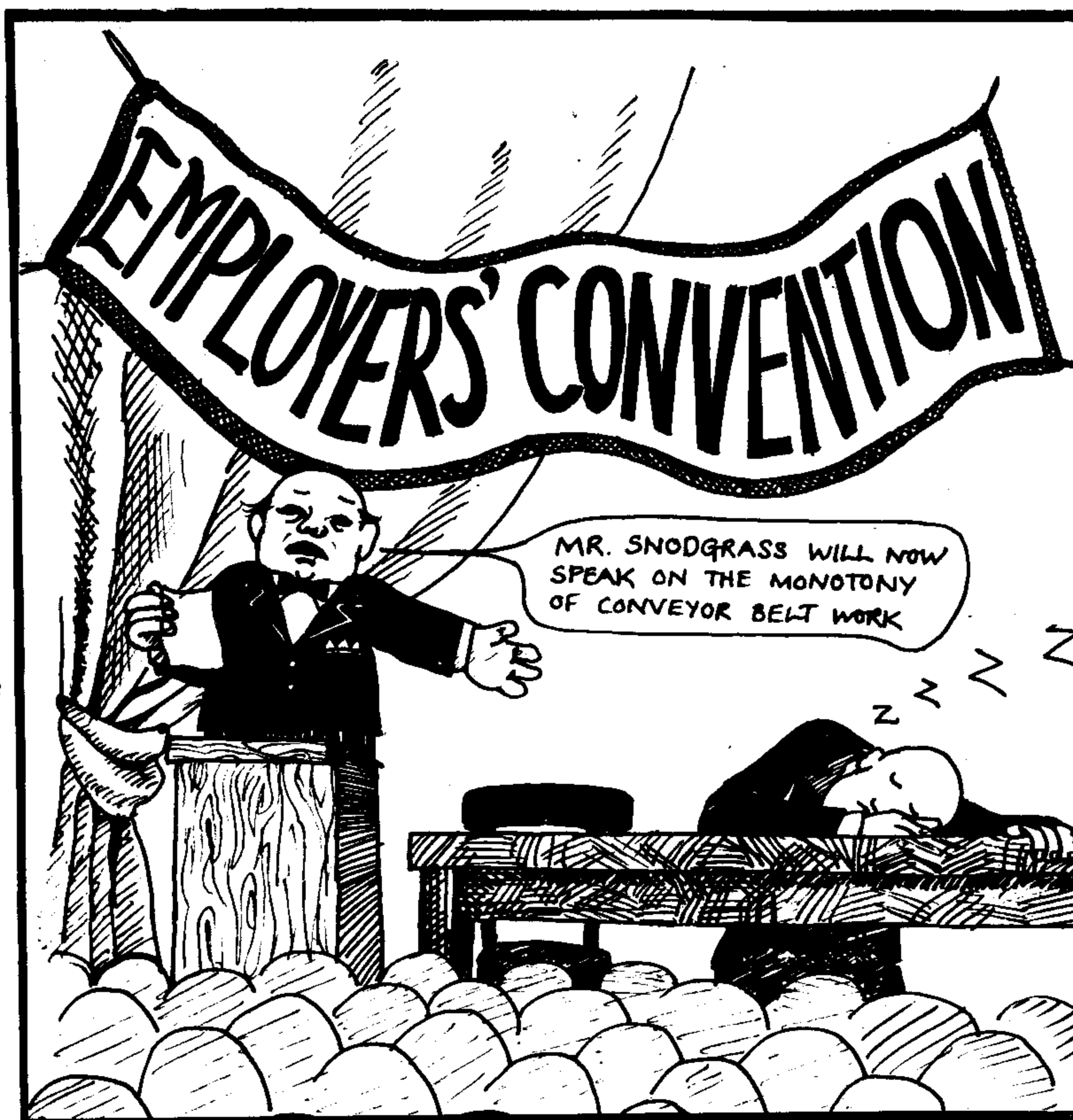
By agreeing to participate in such blind alleys, trade unionists could well be turned away from independent trade union organisation which is the only true strength of the working class in the day to day struggle on the factory floor.

Every "worker director", every shop steward who attends joint management/trade union courses, begins to separate himself from the strength of the rank and file, weakening himself and those he represents.

Only by refusing to cooperate in such fake 'decision making' ventures and by struggling to build working class organisations completely independent of the employers, can the interests of the working class be advanced.

The strength and potential ability of the working class is undoubted. The productive capacity of the working class is held back only by the fetters of capitalist economics. But while the material basis for socialism already exists, the working class has yet to reach the necessary level of independence and political consciousness.

To provide this consciousness should be the aim of those who wish to lead the working class — not the propping up of the employers and their system.



Shrewsbury trial makes

ALL picketing a conspiracy

THE TRIAL of 6 North Wales building workers, the first six of the Shrewsbury 24, is now in its 5th week in Shrewsbury. The six are charged with conspiracy to intimidate workers to abstain from work, unlawful assembly, and fighting and causing an affray.

That the main aim of the trial is to strengthen the law against picketing by establishing a legal precedent which narrows down our legal rights, was made clear in the build-up to the trial and in the charges themselves. It is now being brought out clearly day after day in Shrewsbury.

The Government has showed its determination to win and its sharp awareness of the class issues involved in this anti-trade union trial. After failing to get convictions for intimidation and affray against 8 of the 24 at Mold Crown Court last July, it brought in, on the first day of the Shrewsbury trial, a new ruling on jury selection. Now it is no longer obligatory that people's occupations be published in jury lists.

So the 24 can rely even less than previously on getting cleared by a working class jury.

'LIMIT'

The evidence being presented to the jury in court shows clearly who should be in the dock for conspiracy — the prosecution.

It is out to prove that the pickets went 'far, far over' the limit of picketing as laid down by law. That is, picketing by one or two people to timidly 'communicate information' — picketing as defined by the Industrial Relations Act.

They are alleged to have used violence against scabs and to have intimidated and terrified others.

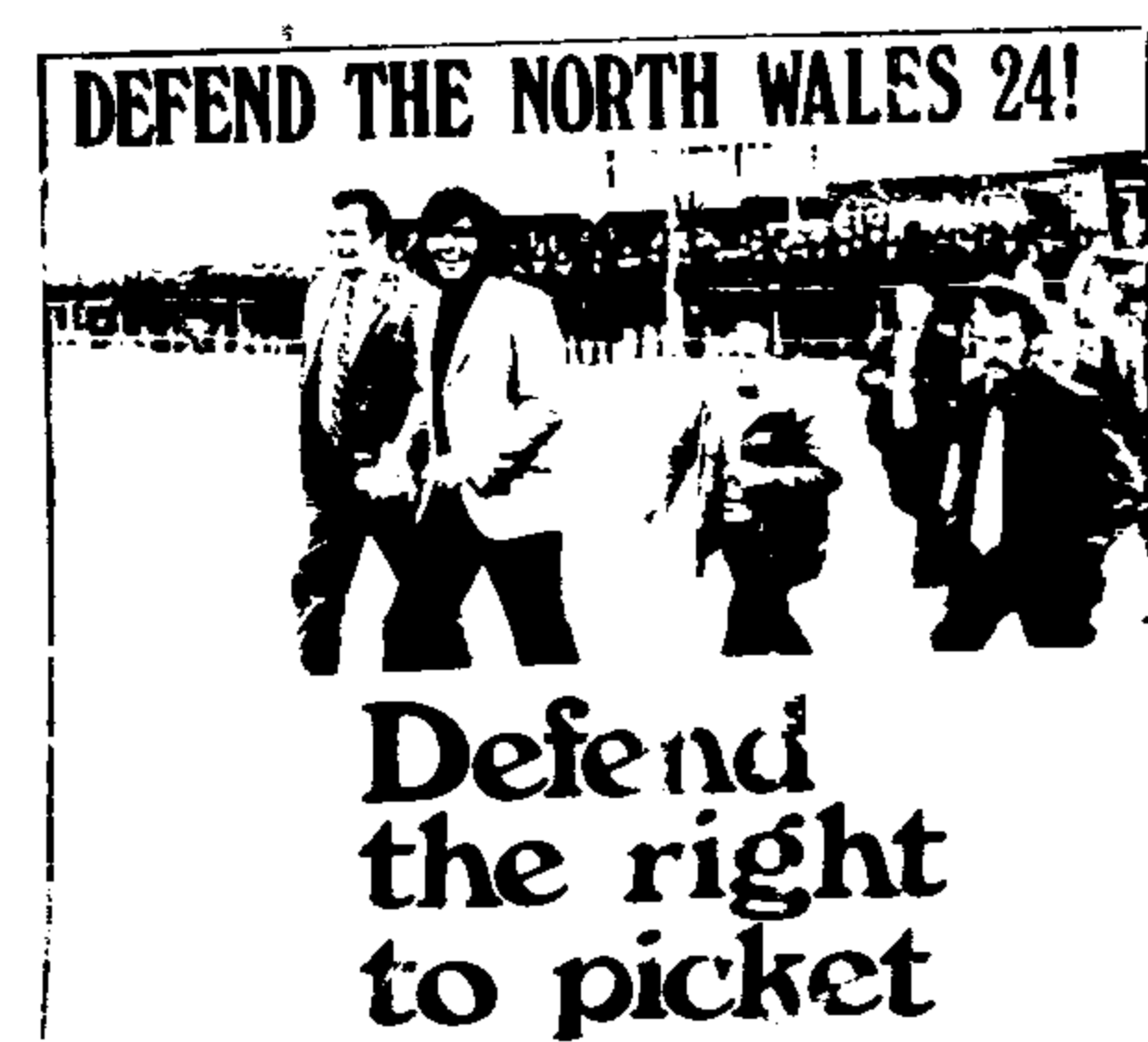
While, as we see it, striking workers have every right to use force against scabs and to try to put the fear of God in them, the trial in Shrewsbury has so far revealed that in fact the charges are a pure and simple attempt at a frame-up.

The prosecution is claiming that during the building workers' strike, there was a pattern of violence 'in accordance with a common agreement.' "These men had a common purpose, an agreement between them. It is not necessary for the prosecution to prove that they sat down and worked it out. There was a common accord to stop work on sites by intimidation."

What the prosecution wants to establish is that successful picketing can be outlawed by automatically being defined as intimidation.

NORMAL

It is quite clear from the evidence so far that the 6 so-called conspirators — and many others — were carrying out normal militant picketing action. Even the prosecution witnesses, including a site agent and 'lump' building workers, have shown up as lies the prosecution's claims that



the pickets put over their case by physical intimidation. For example, photographs produced in Court show a meeting at the Brookside site, Telford, held to explain the case for striking.

The police were present at all the sites, and escorted the men between the sites. Why did they not take action at the time? That also has been made clear by the prosecution's case, which has been reduced to resting on elaborate proof that strong words were used — such as 'scab' and 'You bastards'.

LUMP

Now, this is not normally the sort of thing that leads to arrests being made. But, as the aim of the trial is to set a precedent for the enforcement of the letter of the law (in this case the Industrial Relations Act), there's a good reason for the prosecution to make what they can of the 'strong words' evidence.

Against constant opposition from Judge Mais, Defence Counsel John Platts-Mills has insisted on bringing in evidence about the Lump, showing the dangers of the sites, the fact that lumpers are giving evidence biased against the strikers, and the illegality of both working conditions and tax evasion.

On sites like these, according to the evidence of the trial, it was the pickets themselves who faced violence and intimidation, from the people operating and protecting the Lump labour system. On the Kingswood site the pickets were faced with a shotgun — yet the police did not even note its owner's name.

In the face of the massive and determined ruling class effort in Shrewsbury to make working class militancy and solidarity a conspiracy and a crime, it is crucial that the defence campaign is still further intensified and its aims made absolutely clear.

It is a recognition of the force of the campaign so far that UCATT has now belatedly given some financial backing to its members who were tried in Mold

last July, and has set up an official fund for the dependents of those on trial now. We must demand that the union goes beyond this token to mobilise its own members and demand TUC support.

But we cannot rely on the bureaucrats, least of all on these who have throughout shown the utmost hostility to the defendants. Rank and file trade unionists must continue to get speakers from the Defence Committee, to organise meetings, collections and levies at work, and in their home areas.

The aim of intensifying the campaign must be to keep up activity outside the Court in Shrewsbury — and, above all, to get pledges of strike action if anyone of the 24 is found guilty

Cynthia Baldry



Banners at Shrewsbury on October 3rd at the start of the trial of the 24 building workers

Northampton frame-up falls flat

by Dave Green

ON THURSDAY 25th October, Joe Gallagher, an active trade unionist and Republican sympathiser, had charges against him of "demanding money with menaces" withdrawn.

Joe had been accused of sending a letter, demanding money for the IRA, to a Northampton publican.

These charges formed the spearhead of a police and Special Branch campaign to intimidate local republican activists and drive a wedge in between them and their supporters.

Initially, Joe was kept in jail for 8 days and then remanded for 5 months, at monthly intervals, on £500 bail, on condition that he stayed out of Northampton (he lives in Bletchley). The 5 months were used by the police to intimidate republican supporters; with house raids and they also spread rumours and slanders about Joe's involvement in politics.

Without a doubt this was a political attack. A defence committee was set up and, as well as defending Joe, it also took up the struggle for which he was jailed. There were regular pickets at the Courthouse, and reports to the public with leafletting and public meetings.

One of the things that the Defence Committee publicised was the obstructive behaviour of the police at the last three hearings, when they repeatedly refused entry to the public gallery at the court. At one hearing, when Joe's Solicitor failed to arrive, the only people in Court were the Police, the Prosecution, the Magistrates — and Joe and his wife!

When it came to the final hearing last week, the Prosecution

admitted that the police had made "widespread and protracted inquiries in connection with his activities", and, though Prosecuting Counsel falsely alleged that Joe had confessed knowledge of the letter, he had to end up with the admission that "Despite these inquiries there is no evidence of prior knowledge of this letter... no evidence that he was its author, and no evidence of acts on his part intended to further the blackmail contained in it."

The Northampton Defence Committee stressed in its statement on Joe's release that "similar attacks on Irish Republicans, Trade Union activists etc. have been taking place all over the country against those who organise against the Tory attacks on working people. We see this (Joe's release) as a victory for our campaign against political trials, which will give hope to other defence committees."

finger Prints

IF three political activists had been caught, one with a loaded shotgun, setting fire to an army recruiting caravan with molotov cocktails, there'd be all hell to pay.

Witchhunting headlines and a long period in jail "on remand" would be followed by a maximum security show trial, with heavy prison sentences handed down by a judge who would brand the defendants as dangerous monsters.

But three men who did just that last July at Havant were fined £100 at Winchester Crown Court and given suspended sentences. One of the three also asked for the theft of two dummy anti-tank missiles from Longmoor Camp to be taken into consideration.

Defence Counsel stressed that "it was an act of premeditated vandalism", and the Judge "was satisfied there was no political motive behind the ~~inc~~ incident."

SOME CASES against the Police of racist bullying are difficult to prove. But in the case of Satnam Kane they didn't seem to have a leg to stand on.

For, after several hours at Ealing Police station, Mr. Kane ended up confessing to a non-existent crime. He admitted stealing £50 from his employers. But before the hearing against him started, the money was found. Nobody had stolen it — there had simply been an accounting error.

Mr. Kane says he was slapped three times in the face and threatened that if he did not confess, his family would also be in trouble.

Now, an internal police inquiry has found that "there really is no evidence" that any of this happened.

The Minister of State at the Home Office, Mr. Mark Carlisle, has written to the man's MP to say that "The Commissioner of Police finds himself in some difficulty in understanding how Mr. Kane came to make a statement of admission of guilt when no money had been stolen.

"It is easy to jump to the conclusion that pressure must have been applied to Mr. Kane. But... there is, on the other hand, good reason to reject this supposition. The true explanation must, I fear, remain a matter for conjecture."

CRIME CAN PAY. For example, breaking the law against racial discrimination can be a profitable business.

Take the case of Frederick Kilpatrick, a hotelier who sold beer at 20p a pint for whites, and 30p for Indians. Kilpatrick was brought up before the County Court under the Race Relations Act. Now, for the Race Relations Board to take offenders before the courts is a very rare thing indeed, and this case is believed to be the first over discrimination by overcharging.

The judge was therefore in a position to set a precedent, and he promptly proceeded to do so by charging the Defendant £5.86 damages and costs. In other words, the difference between 58.6 white pints and the same number of black pints...

Can Gormley sell Phase 3 to the miners?

by Tom Ramsey

THE MINERS ARE now shaping up for what may be the next big round between labour and capital in Britain. They may again be the vanguard of the working class.

Their record and achievements in struggle since 1970 have been a danger to the Tories and an inspiration to workers. The miners have won back the banner they carried in the years before their terrible defeat in 1926.

Their present claim is for £35 for surface workers (many of them ex-underground workers of many years service, forced by dust-disease and accidents to work on top and taking a cut in wages in transit); £40 for underground workers; and a minimum of £45 for coal-face workers.

Bargain

The NCB has offered them a package amounting to between 11% and 13½%, or about £2.50 to £3, of which night shift face workers would gain the most (possibly £6.80).

This has been rejected, and already miners are operating an overtime ban in support of the claim.

This is a clear warning from the militants to the Tories: there is rough weather ahead.

Yet in the current warming up, many workers are looking with justified suspicion at their leaders. Gormley, who treacherously played with the call for a general strike last March at the special TUC (and then refused even to support the token strike action on May Day) has already tried to dampen militancy with the threat that if the miners strike again the Tories may be "provoked" into calling — and maybe winning — a general election.

Gormley thinks the best thing for the miners is not to take on the Tories, but to bargain and make productivity concessions to get more money. He knows

that the negotiations which the NUM has conducted with the NCB over a period of months regarding a possible productivity deal do in fact fit in quite well with Tory plans under Phase 3 for encouraging productivity dealing. The union has already this year dropped last year's decision to fight for a 30 hour week.

On prod. deals, the Annual Report of the NUM's National Exec. Committee to the Mineworkers Conference earlier this year said: "the NUM will continue to press for the conclusion of an acceptable productivity scheme in the hope that Phase 3 of the Government's policy for controlling inflation will offer an opportunity for its introduction".

This deal was prepared by a sub-committee of the NUM E.C. It is in the sordid tradition (which has already cost miners so much) of full cooperation with the NCB to increase mechanisation, lower manning scales and increase shiftworking. This is the same policy which allowed miners' standards to slip down, despite massive increases in the productivity of their labour and a massive loss of jobs, and



Miners carry a workmate from Markham Colliery, where 18 died and 11 were gravely injured on Monday July 30th when the cage of No.3 shaft fell as its braking system failed. The recent inquiry found that, though there had apparently been 14 'fail safe' devices, a rod at the centre of the system, and on which the whole safety mechanism depended, had broken. It turned out that the rod had been under bending pressure twice what it was designed to take, was 56% fatigued, and had been cracked for two years. Any thorough regular inspection would have detected this.

The rod had not in fact been inspected. Other tests were probably invalidated as they were carried out at the wrong amperage — no written instructions existed as to testing brake-holding. Various necessary weekly and daily greasing jobs had been ignored, and the mandatory annual inspection of the overwind safety device had been 'overlooked' — but inspection after the crash revealed that it was so defective that it didn't work at all at one end. Finally, the inquiry was told that as long ago as 1952 an NCB report had recommended that the type of brake in use at Markham No.3 shaft should be scrapped.

The Markham men were among 78 miners who have died in the pits in the last year. Between March and July of this year, 30 men died. Meanwhile, Gormley and Ezra work out productivity deals that will ensure more and more deaths and injuries.

which prepared the explosion of angry action in 1972.

Among its consequences so far have been the closure of "uneconomical" pits (often in areas with no other work available), the transfer of men from pit to pit, and speed-up on the job with its inevitable consequences — an increase in the rate of accidents and the incidence of damaged lungs.

Phase 3 does fit in well with NUM-NCB cooperation. No doubt, past experience since the war in the mines was a major part of the thinking of the smart alics who drafted the Phase 3 trap for the working class.

The clauses allowing wage increases for flexibility, unsocial hours, shiftworking etc will help boost payments above the basic rate of 7% and allow the

NUM leaders to present a plausible policy for miners to live through the present raging inflation by manoeuvring and making productivity concessions — rather than a policy of going for a straight increase on the basic rate, without strings.

It must be emphasised that these are serious weapons to help the union leaders defuse the drive for militant action.

But they may not work. Because miners, more than any other workers, have already been down that long and bitter road and know it offers only a 'fool's solution'. And the inspiring lesson of the power of militant action in 1972 is bound to be a big factor influencing the minds of miners in favour of a stand-up fight for a straight increase.

Resist

Early this year only 37% of the miners voted for strike action over Stage 2. With a minimum of 55% needed to make strike action constitutional, the militants are going to have their work cut out, especially in face of the crawling policy of the NUM leaders, backed up by the provisions of Phase 3.

The interests of the miners in face of the murderous price rises are the same as those of every other section of the working class — resist all interference with the unions, fight for straight increases and DISMANTLE PHASE 3.

Today a strike conducted with the same vigour as in 1972 would gain even more support than that strike gained from other workers. It could force the government out of office.

When Gormley accuses the militants of trying to provoke anti-Tory strike action 'without regard for the interests of the miners' then the short answer to him is that it is in the deepest interests of the miners, as of all other workers in Britain, to scuttle this filthy government.

Anyway, victorious action is the only way the miners will gain their full claim — without strings.

n.U.T. tells teachers — 'Muddle through'

LONDON IS AT present at least 376 teachers short. 27 schools have gone onto part time education, affecting 7000 pupils.

Where there is not part time education, non-existent teachers are covered for by other staff in the time allotted for them to do lesson preparation and marking, or else kids are herded into the school dining hall and just kept quiet.

STRAIN

Because it worsens conditions in the schools still further, the staff shortage is already aggravating the conditions that gave rise to it. The strain of the job, in London particularly, is such that it is common for schools to have a 50% turnover of staff each year. One school in Newham had a complete turnover of staff in 18 months.

Class rooms are crowded, equipment and books are often

scarce, teaching often has to go on in cloak rooms, stock rooms, corridors or unheated huts.

And yet young teachers (and the majority of teachers in London are young) start on as little as £27 a week before deductions.

Back in 1971, the Government agreed in principle to a substantial increase in the special allowance paid to London teachers, and it was generally expected that this sum would be at least £100; possibly up to £200 or £300. When the time came for hard cash — the offer was just £15!

Thousands of teachers were indignant. But all the National Union of Teachers leadership did was to organise protest marches. The struggle petered out.

But the feeling of many teachers now is expressed by the headline of the latest issue of the left wing teachers' paper RANK & FILE: London Allowance — £500 — NOTHING LESS WILL DO. Rank & File is also

campaigning for a minimum starting salary of £1800.

More immediate action is also being taken. The education authorities, left to themselves, are not very urgently concerned about the teacher shortages. After all, they must be saving about half a million pounds a year through not having to pay salaries to non-existent teachers!

As for the quality of education for the children affected, no capitalist government has ever been or will ever be concerned about that, beyond the minimum necessary to get a docile and moderately literate and numerate workforce.

MUDDLE

Where militant teachers have refused to muddle through and cover up the shortages, though, the authority has been forced to act. Abbey Wood School, for example, refused point-blank, from the beginning of term, to cover for non-existent teachers. Children were simply sent home.

Within three weeks the four vacancies were filled! The Abbey Wood staff did not ask for official union approval. And if they had asked, they would still be waiting. The minority NAS (National Association of Schoolmasters) has taken a relatively firm stand, but the NUT leadership has dragged its feet.

Their circular on the staff shortages says — first, gain the support of two-thirds of the union members in the school for non-

covering (not standing in for non-existent teachers); then, approach the Head and discuss rearranging the timetable; then, contact the Union.

And when you've done all that, the Union will say — keep the situation under review; wait to see if things get better; if they get worse, then (maybe, perhaps) in due course the Union might give its approval for some action.

In the meantime, muddle through...

HOW official statistics can be used to obscure an issue was shown when Margaret Thatcher faced an awkward question in a recent television phone-in programme.

Asked what she was doing about the shortage of London teachers, she coolly replied that "the ratio of teachers to pupils in London is the best we've ever had."

The questioner, not convinced that London kids had never had it so good, persisted, asking how she explained the contradiction between that statistic and the fact that thousands of children were being sent home for lack of teachers. But Thatcher only repeated the first answer, as if it could magically produce all the teachers she needed like rabbits out of a statistician's hat.

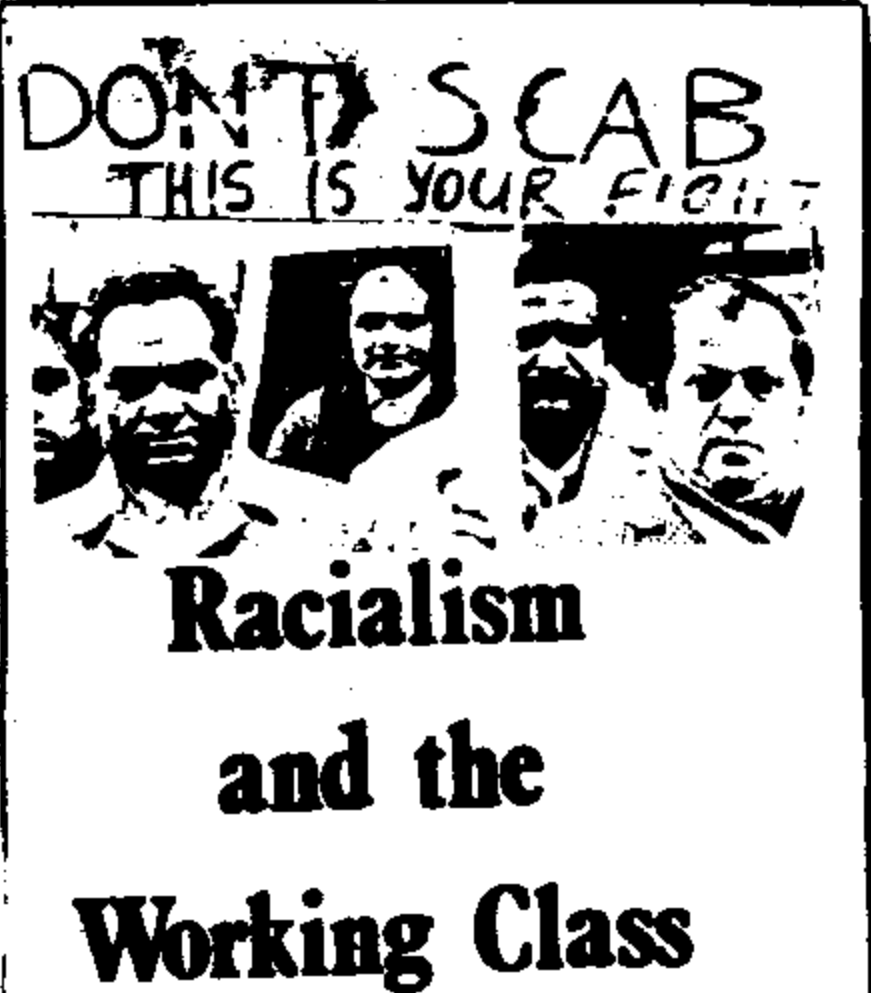
So, here's how it's done: when the 'ratio' statistics are compiled, every teacher is thrown in, even if they are part-time and just do half a day each week, and even if they just deal in the 'extras' — a small remedial class, or the coaching of a single child at a time in a musical instrument. It all averages out, you see, to 'solve' the problem.

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Published by WORKERS' FIGHT
98 Gifford st, London N1.
Printed by voluntary labour.

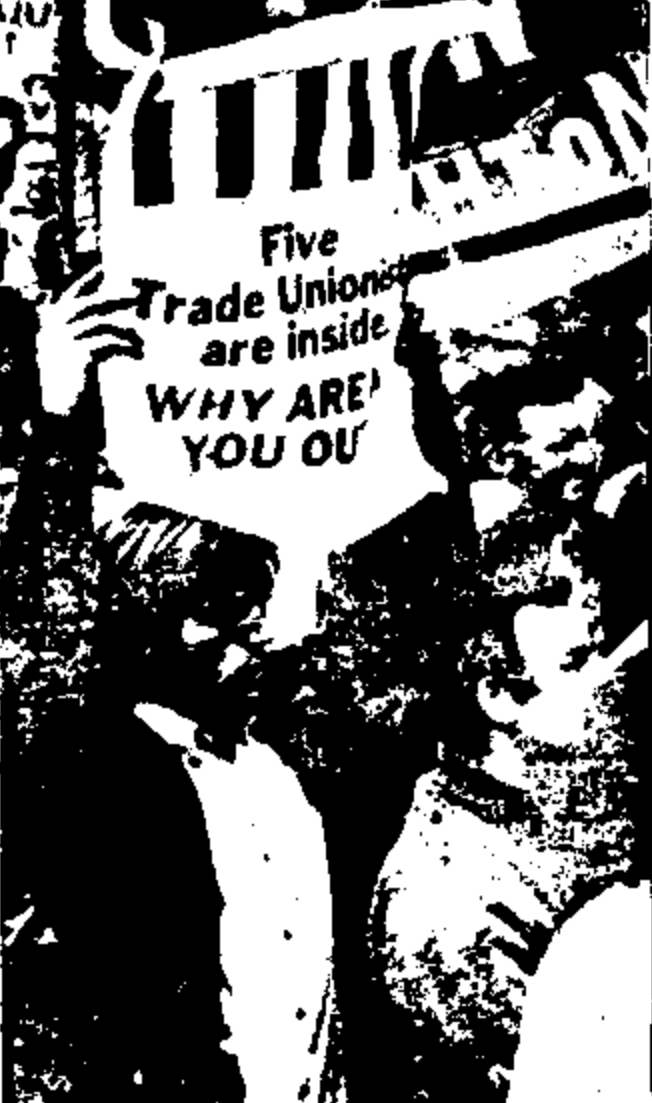
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The Industrial Relations Act and the fight for a GENERAL STRIKE



Winchester Trial Court Room circus, no real evidence

WITH THE TRIAL of the Belfast 10 probably coming to an end before this paper is printed, and the probability that they will all receive very savage sentences which, to quote Peter Rawlinson, "will deter future groups coming from Ireland to bomb in British cities", we should consider the lengths to which the British establishment will go to frame any group it has determined to see convicted.

Since the Belfast 10 were picked up at Heathrow Airport,

Clay Cross

Rent Robber moves in

THE RENT REBELS OF Clay Cross are still defying the Tory Government's so-called 'Fair Rent' Act. That is the news from this small Derbyshire mining village as the Housing Commissioner comes up for his 3rd week of 'service'

Having tried various attempts at bullying and cajoling the Councillors, who alone in the country never co-operated in implementing the Housing Finance Act, the Tories finally admitted defeat and are now attempting to bypass them by means of the Housing Commissioner.

This gentleman, a Mr. Patrick Hillington by name, is a retired civil servant reputed to be living on a pension of £5,000 a year! If the councillors and people of Clay Cross have their way he will very soon be a retired Housing Commissioner — or at least a redundant one.

Council officials have been instructed by the councillors not to assist Mr. Hillington in his attempted robbery, and at present he is reported to be trying to work from his office in Henley-on-Thames — having been refused either an office or telephone by the Council.

This government Robbing Hood is now as effectively blacked as some of the containers in last year's docks dispute, and as far as Clay Cross is concerned he will stay that way.

the police have flagrantly denied any sort of civil rights to them. When at Ealing police station they were denied access to solicitors, relatives, or friends.

The police also physically assaulted Dolores Price and Hugh Feeney. They kept the two Price sisters without clothes for four days, and the photographs of them which a police officer took at that time were being hawked around Fleet Street by a police officer when the trial started.

For the identity parade, all the ten were given clothes so completely different from the rest of the line-up that the women refused to wear them. The men all had shoes without laces, which is always a sign to police officers to pick them out of the line, as most poop

After they were moved to Brixton they were kept for 23 hours a day locked up. Relatives and friends coming from Ireland were refused visits. Billy Armstrong and Gerard Kelly were put on bread and water diets for trivial things, and when this was queried with the Home Office it was stated that "Remand Prisoners have no rights, only privileges which we can take away". Which they frequently did.

When the trial finally started at Winchester, it was only too obvious to anyone who was present on the first day that the reason why Winchester was chosen was that the prosecution could handpick a very middle class jury. As the day wore on it was made apparent by the number of soldiers in the public gallery that this was indeed a garrison town. In fact one officer stopped one of the relatives during the trial and said "don't you remember me? I raided your house many times!" Which he had!

The police made sure that none of the families would be able to get lodgings in the area by going to all the hotels and guest houses warning landlords and landlords of bombers and their families.

We then come to the evidence against the ten — the only real evidence that the police had was that they all happened to be at Heathrow Airport on that day and they were going to Ireland as indeed many others were. They were picked up because they came from Belfast. The only way the police could get them was to plant several items on them, and then frame the trial around the planted objects.

Jay Cloth

Thus two days after they had the Price sisters in custody they planted a pink jay cloth, ripped in half. One part of the jay cloth was supposed to be around a timing device which was connected to one of the bombs which did not go off, and the other part of the jay cloth turned up with her possessions.

A bag mysteriously appeared. The police claimed that it belonged to Hugh Feeney. The clothes inside this bag were a pair of workman's boots and a couple of workman's shirts, and also green shield stamps which the police claimed were bought from petrol stations on the M.1, thus connecting him to one of the cars involved in the bombing.

The fact is that the shoes and the shirts would not have fitted him, and that no-one ever signed that the bag was the property of anyone.

Great play was made by the prosecution on the backgrounds of the Price sisters and the other defendants. They asked about their father's connection

with the Republican movement — I wonder whether the judge would have been so forthcoming about his own family's connections with the Tory party.

The trial took on the air of a circus, with Justice Sebag-Shaw's good lady coming to look at the 'bombers', and one afternoon even a party from the local Women's Institute came to gawp.

Within a few weeks the publicity over the trial will die down, and the 10 may have joined the growing army of Irish people in prison in England for causes relating to the struggle in Northern Ireland. Just as Vietnam corrupted the body politic of America, so Ireland is gradually eroding civil liberties in this country.

At one time, if a police officer had beaten up a defenceless prisoner, let alone a young girl, they would have done their best to lie their way out of it. Not so at Winchester.

Chief Inspector Moule practically bragged about nine police officers being used to get the finger prints of Dolores Price, and a doctor testified to the beating she had got from the police.

The methods that the police and the army have learnt in Northern Ireland will be used here, unless we protest promptly and effectively. We must support the right of any group to do whatever it finds effective to force Britain to withdraw from Northern Ireland. Only when Ireland is free will the British working class itself be freed.

MAUREEN MAGUIRE
Secretary,
Belfast 10 Defence Committee

Triumph Meriden

'Take Over - or go under'

THE WORKERS AT the Coventry Norton Villiers Triumph plant now face the biggest challenge to their continued fight to keep their jobs.

The men occupied the plant two weeks ago in reply to dismissal notices from the Director, Dennis Poore.

As part of a manoeuvre to prise open the workers' grip on 2,500 motor bikes (worth over £1m) Poore promised to keep the plant open until next July. But the workers were not conned, although Leslie Huckfield (local Labour MP), in pursuit of his dream of a workers' co-operative, nearly succeeded in getting the bikes released into Poore's hands.

Now Poore has given 10 days' notice of the factory being closed down for good, and all the workers have been sent redundancy notices (which they have sent back).

Poore's tactic of splitting up and demoralising the work force by a long period of "negotiations over the workers' co-operative" has failed. The Triumph workers are not intimidated, and plan to fight on.

As part of their fight to survive and beat the speculator Poore and his sidekick the Coventry Telegraph, the wives of strikers have been very active in getting solidarity and in replying to the muck and filth coming from the Telegraph. On the day after the immediate closure was announced they demonstrated outside the management offices.

Triumph Meriden workers now face a choice: either give way, let Poore have the bikes and take the one-way ticket to the dole; OR, fight back, keep hold of the factory, let no bikes out, and make Triumph Meriden the LIP of Britain — a centre to organise resistance to the employers' attacks.

Triumph workers will have to be wary of Government inquiries; one look at the Chrysler Electricians' inquiry should provide ample warning. As for Huckfield's attempts to pay Poore for the factory and the bikes made by workers, "take the factory, it's yours; you have been robbed for years", said Fisher of ASTMS. Triumph Meriden workers must follow this advice — or go under.

Tom Ramsey

From p.1

AUEW

will force them to strike it again

A full general strike — now as at any time in the last 18 months — could easily smash the Act entirely. It would make sure that after another period of lying doggo, the I.R. Act will never again be used to cover other raids on trade union funds.

The Tories must not be allowed to beat a tactical retreat this time. November 5th must be the start of a new and more powerful campaign of direct action to smash the I.R. Act, and its spawn the NIRC.

It will cease to be a threat only when it is no longer on the statute books.

Unfortunately it must be said that the line of the AUEW — indirectly encouraging locally planned action, without openly calling for it — is not enough in this situation.

The Executive of the AUEW should have boldly called all its members out on national strike action — and called for the whole labour movement to support it by general strike action.

That's the appropriate reply to this outrageous attempt to bankrupt a trade union for defending its members.

The AUEW leaders have behaved as people who will be contented with another retreat by the NIRC — not as people determined to settle its hash here and now.

Hugh Scanlon's strategy for finally solving the problem is in fact to wait for a Labour Government to come riding to the rescue. But helpless dependence on the next Labour government, coupled with refusal to use our full industrial strength here and now, is a recipe to encourage the Tories to persevere. It may also prepare the way for a new version of 'In Place of Strife' from a future Labour government. We should have no illusions on that score.

If the AUEW's official response to the fines has been weak, that of the TUC has been scandalously complacent. But in July 1972 it was direct rank and file action, without waiting for a call from the top, that stopped the Tories' game.

This time we have only rank and file self reliance too.

Right now, every workplace — factories, steel works, docks, hospitals, pits, transport — should call mass meetings and decide to strike on November 5th.

Decide to send flying pickets to get other workplaces out.

Send resolutions to the AUEW and the TUC demanding a General Strike to smash the Industrial Relations Act.

From p.1

Fire Strike

supported by those who stand to lose most — the working people of Glasgow who live in the tenements. For, if this strike is won, then it isn't only a matter of the firemen getting what they have rightly demanded.

It is also a matter of making Glasgow a safer place to live in. Throughout 1972 just four men were recruited to the fire brigade in Glasgow. A recruitment campaign costing £3000 has resulted in about the same number this year. No-one is prepared to put up with the dangers, discomforts, and burns.

The fire service is now 200 men short and every year more leave. Fighting the fires means more and more overtime and inevitably more and more risks. The balance can only be redressed by victory for the firemen — the alternative is an even greater toll of hideous deaths and maimings.

AMANDA WRIGHT.

CHRYSLER INQUIRY BACKS THE BOSSES

Professor Archie Campbell has finished his Inquiry into the electricians' dispute at Chrysler. In short, he backs the bosses.

He recommends that the electricians be paid £190 backdated to July 1st, and that a lump sum payment be made as well. He also said that they should get staff status. More importantly, Campbell demanded on behalf of the bosses that the electricians return to work.

BOLTON

Sit in for Parity

WORKERS at Hick Hargreaves engaged a sit-in on Bolton 20th 29th October over the management's refusal to pay wages until a two-week old work to rule had ended.

Mr Brian Barnes, works convenor, told me that the work-to-rule began after the management had gone back on their word to review a four-year-old pay claim calling for parity within each pay bracket (skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled). At the moment nine different rates operate

In February, negotiations to get conditions for electricians similar to those obtained by tool room workers were interrupted by Phase II, but the Company promised to give the ETU members £250 and staff status.

In July, discussions broke down. Chrysler went back on their word and pushed the electricians into strike action.

Chapple made the strike official — it cost him little, brought him some militant image,

and embarrassed Scanlon and Jones.

Scanlon and Jones took fright and "strongly advised" the production men to go back. The fruits of the 'principled' activities of Jones and Scanlon is that the organisation of both Stoke and Ryton Chrysler plants are near to ineffectiveness.

Over 1,000 men and militants have left the plants, with stewards tearing up credentials and union cards.

Chrysler is acting as the heavy man for the other employers in the industry. The capital they have committed to Britain is low compared to Fords or BLMC. They can retreat, if defeated, to plants in Spain and France where they have Fascist 'unions'. If they succeed, a general assault on rank-and-file organisation can follow.

To counter-attack, militants need to rebuild the organisation, bearing the lessons of this struggle in mind. To rebuild in such a way that the workers are prepared against both bosses and treacherous union leaders, right and 'left'. The experience of Chrysler proves again the need for a strong cross-union, cross-industry, militant rank-and-file organisation.

STEPHEN CORBISHLEY.

VIV NICHOLLS.