Tory murder
IRISH AND BRITISH WORKERS STRIKE IN PROTEST
see pages 4-5
The Bosses Know The Score

Ever larger sections of the labour movement know that the miners' struggle is decisive, as far as the working class is concerned. But let's not forget that the Tories are as keen to smash it as we in the labour movement are to defend it and aid it to win.

The Tories need a miners' defeat as desperately as we need a miners' victory.

A confidential document produced by the Confederation of British Industries states:

1) That the cost of the strike to the forefront of the trade unions' struggle at this critical time must be borne, particularly if the Industrial Relations Act is to have any effect in keeping up the rate of exploitation.

2) That the CBI's price restraint (beat you hadn't noticed that, brothers and sisters!) will be lifted in about October, allowing prices to rise by 10% so they want us weak so that they'll get the full benefits of their scheme.

We don't believe in a conspiracy theory of history, but the bosses class sometimes makes us wonder.

At the very least they know which side they are on and they mobilise their resources.

The tragedy is that the 'official' TUC - haven't a clue which side they are on, with the result that those in front line, in this case the miners, are left to fight on their own.

Dockers paper calls for solidarity

We reprint an extract from a special broadsheet put out by THE HOOK, rank and file portworkers' paper.

OVER A QUARTER OF A MILLION miners are out on the first official strike since 1926. In 1926 the whole labour movement came out, in a general strike, in solidarity with the miners. The difference then was that there was a union movement. That is the issue now. With the cost of living rising the way it is, the Coal Board's offer of £2.35 amounts to a cut in wages. The £2 works out at a 7% increase in the wages of the TUC - haven't a clue which side they are on, with the result that those in the front line, in this case the miners, are left to fight on their own.

It is therefore in the interests of every worker in the country that the miners win.

It is essential for the whole working class to have a policy of smashing the standard of living of the mass of people in this country is defeated.

The government and the employers see the miners' strike as a test case - so must it be for us.

The miners will not win if they are isolated. At the beginning of last year the miners defeated the pit closures, but because the men didn't fight hard - they stayed out for 10 weeks without strike pay.

They were defeated since there was no solidarity action from the other unions, who only made tosken donations to the strike fund, the miners are in the same position. They are receiving no strike pay. If they are to win then all trade unions must organise in their support. If not then it will not be just the miners who are defeated.

On the docks this means that all coal and fuel oil for power stations must be blacked. The TUC has said only black-out the ordinary movement of coal. This is a cowardly retreat.

If any coal movements at all are allowed the strike will not begin to bite for another month.

NERO fiddled - so they say - while Rome burned. Nero was mad - stark, raving mad. Vic Feather and the TUC have so much excuse for the criminal indifference (at best) with which they placidly watch the dogged, magnificent battle of the miners - and do nothing whatsoever to help.

The miners' strike is a confrontation with the Government and their wage policy, and therefore every worker has a clear stake, a clear bread and butter stake, in seeing that the miners and not the Tories come off best.

The miners have given a lead - and are now isolated and in danger of being slowly starved into submission. There is mass public sympathy - and a minimum of effective solidarity action.

For the other unions it is business as usual: keep your heads down boys, avoid straight scabbing, but go on with your routine work even when that work is helping to break the miners' strike - that's their line. So to the transport Union and the power workers' Union.

Have witheld the active support for the miners which could hit home hard at the NCB and the Government and would face the Government with the choice of either abandoning its 7% ceiling on wage-claims or else taking on the whole strength of organised labour.

SCABS Scabbing - downright and blatant - is the only word for the cowardly decision of the EPTU leaders not to link up the power workers' pay claim with that of the miners in a joint strike. It is scabbing on the miners and scabbing on the power workers. Such a combined strike would smash the 7% norm for days - and would also strike at the Industrial Relations Act: how would the Government, at this stage, enforce its laws, if miners and power workers decided to defy them?

It is only a year since the Press and TV whitewashed the power workers into surrendering to the Government: it can happen again, particularly if the miners are down in defeat. But the EPTU leaders are short-sighted men.

The miserable C Chipp, a bureaucratic bully boy within the ETU, even tried to ingratiate himself by thinking out loud about the possibility of waiting for the miners' strike to end before beginning an overtime ban.

The reactionary gang which runs the EPTU like a military dictatorship, having been put in control by a High Court judge in an attempt to 'defend democracy', make a profession and a good living by scabbing and strike-breaking, usually against the unfortunate members of their own Union.

T.U.C.

The refusal of the TUC to give active support to the miners only escapes the stigma of strike breaking because that term is usually applied to those who cross picket lines. But there is more than one way to scab on a strike.

The scrab driver who breaks a picket line is an open and visible enemy. We can see which hide he is on. The TUC leaders parade about as leaders of labour. Yet they do immensely more damage than any group of
scab drivers. They could end the strike in a miners' victory in 3 days flat - if they would only exert themselves. In refusing to use strike funds to buy in food the miners' strike as effective as possible, the TUC's attitude is nothing short of strike-breaking.

'LEFTS'

Worst of all is the refusal of active support by the trade union leaders, Jones and Scanlon. It is the worst because they are left. Because many workers look to them for a lead. Because the responsibility is theirs to mobilise, organise and lead the labour movement in the fight against the biggest bosses' offensive against working class wages and conditions for more than 30 years, an offensive backed up by all the power of the Tory Government and the state machine.

All of them talk against the Tory pay policy - and all of them refuse the miners' strike, which is militantly challenging that pay policy and the Government.

They act as if they themselves were so much as its end - almost on any terms.

They are acting like men desperately trying to pretend they are in an entirely different situation from that facing the working class today.

But the Tories are attacking the workers, Unemployment is galloping, Reactionary anti-unions are spreading - and on the South, the threat of the reality of the situation facing the class today.

SOLIDARITY

It is also out of touch with the feelings of growing numbers of workers. The massive popular support for the miners stands in stark and accusing contrast to the inactivity of the official unions. The Labour and trade union leaders have taken solidarity on the airwaves, in Hugely, Staffordshire, the National Union of Miners has issued a document which includes pickets by miners' wives, has had a big effect. Publicity has been given to clashes between scabs and pickets, particularly NBC clerks, but not to the support for the nine strikers among NBC clerks in place of work.

But not enough rank and file solidarity has been given. Not in the places where it would be most effective.

So the miners fight on alone. And they fight with everything they have. The report from every area is - 100% solid support for the strike. Among which the attitude of the miners, the tendency for the miners to work as a tight-knit unit, and the determination to resist the strike, are most important.

The TUC's attitude is a direct appeal to the miners to give in, to accept the pay offer, and to work. The miners are fighting for a better life for themselves and their children, and they are not going to accept anything less.


danger

The danger to the miners now is that they are becoming isolated. The miners are fighting a brave and stubborn fight, but they are not being supported by the trade union leaders, who are more interested in the miners' strike than in the miners' struggle.

The miners are fighting a war against the Government and the TUC, and they are winning. But they need the support of the trade union leaders to win.

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days

these days, it is no longer a leftist cliche to talk about student/worker solidarity. We must not forget that students, like trade unionists, are at present involved in defending their own organisations.

Essex, students and miners are learning the lessons of struggle together.

Students and miners are learning the lessons of struggle together.

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HELP THE STRIKE!

Workers must demand that the TUC should insist on all its members to stop all movement of coal (not just 'abnormal' movement). Dockers and transport workers must stand solid.

The NUM should call on power workers to refuse to move coal stocks inside power stations, and all closed areas of coal should be blacked.

And there must be no sell-out on productivity: No pickets in closed areas! If the NCB wants to use the strike or 'safety' as an excuse to close pits down and throw men onto the streets or onto the scrap heap, their response must be that it is their responsibility and their fault. It was their responsibility to end the strike quickly by paying out a decent wage, and it was their responsibility to provide work for the men at those pits.

RANK & FILE MOVEMENT

The urgent lesson of the strike must be understood: that the Labour and trade union leaders will not lead a real fight; that picketing on its own is too weak a weapon to organise and link up with the miners in the different industries and to plan class action, an activity stressed response to the strike is needed.

The TUC is not taking this seriously. They are not willing to discuss the miners' demands and the miners' strike, the whole class struggle.

RANK & FILE MOVEMENT

The bosses were obviously in a bit of a flap about all this. Local Tory MP Mr. John Stokes called on the Home Secretary to stop the 'act of near revolution by the miners and a large number of supporters.'

Even the bosses' private army got confused. In a TV controversy on Thursday night between a high-ranking police officer and Yorkshire delegate to the NUM, Stirling, the representative of the boys in blue was cornered into admitting that the police would not 'infringe the law if they worked to the miners' strike'.

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FULL SUPPORT FOR THE
IRISH
REPUBLICAN
ARMY!

The 13 dead men shot down in cold blood on January 30th, in Derry City will have as powerful a posthumous effect on Irish politics as did the 16 dead men killed in cold blood after the 1916 Rising.

Already the upsurge of the people of the whole of Ireland has reached a level not seen since 1920/21.

Already the final layers of indifference in the people of the 26 Counties 'Republic' have been penetrated by the shock and horror of the mass murder in Derry.

Strikes and demonstrations have mushroomed all over the 32 Counties of Ireland, and even in London, involving both British and Irish workers.

Peaceful men attending a 'legal' meeting were picked off like toy figures in a shooting gallery. Many were shot in the back. Even the wounded, and those who tried to tend to them, were shot at - some died going to the aid of the wounded.

Eye witness reports all contradict the Army version that they were returning fire, and so do the circumstances. Even those few who say they remember hearing gunfire other than that of the Army, say it was 10 minutes or so later that the Paras probed, without any provocation, loosed their bullets at the Civil Rights meeting.

One of the Pairollette leaders the Rev. James McClelland, speaking before the march, said: "We were approached by the Government and given assurance that the Civil Rights march will be halted - by force if necessary." That promise was kept - with a vengeance.

The war against the IRA requires the support of the Protestant section of the population - and that is dependent on the Army being seen to control the Republican population.

That is the plain truth about the massacre; this latest bloody attack against the harried and terrorised but still unbeaten Catholic people of Britain's Northern Ireland puppet back yard State.

The Civil Rights demonstration was seen as the 'peaceful' wing of the general Republican mobilisation. The butchering of the demonstrators in the measure of the despotic panic of both Army and Government in face of the strength of the Republican movement.

The extreme violence used on peaceful demonstrators against the newly-opened internment camp at Magilligan a week previously was only a prelude. Somewhere along the line between Magilligan and Derry the death sentence, on a lottery basis, was imposed for breaches of the ban on demonstrations.

That must have been a political decision. Any Army indiscriminate or excess of zeal occurred within the confines of Government policy.

The Government is responsible. Heath and his Cabinet are war criminals in Northern Ireland, as they are.

“Mr. Tony Martin, a ship rigger from the natives he now live in Derry, said soldiers had fired on him and a group of about 15 others who had gone to look for a wounded woman near Abbey Park. "We saw four wounded people lying at the end of a patch of waste ground," he said.

"We put our hands in the air to show we were unarmed and waved our handskerchiefs and tried to walk as far as we could walk. The people were lying down. Then a soldier opened up with a machingun. One man was shot in the leg, and another had a leg broken in two places. He died of the shock of the bullet." The Guardian

FATHER DALEY, a Derry parish priest, describes how he saw three people who had been shot down in Rossville Street: "Two of them have been killed, a young boy. I saw his father try to get to him but he was shot down, too. The father is still in hospital, injured.

"It was impossible to stop out. They were lying behind the barricade. I could only get to about 10 yards towards them but I administered the last rites from there. When the paratroopers arrived - about 10 or 20 of them - and they pushed about 10 of us against the wall. We couldn't move one way or another. Bullets were ricocheting near us."

"The paratroopers pulled us away pretty roughly into a courtyard. There was a paratrooper beside me. People were fleeing away but he aimed at least eight shots indiscriminately at them. I grabbed him and shouted, 'For God's sake stop!' But he shrugged me off." Father Daley went on: "What really frightened me was that some of the troops seemed to enjoy it - I heard men laughing and making crude jokes as I saw people falling. God Almighty - it's only really getting home to me." The Guardian

Joe Docherty of Derry describes how Barney McGuigan died: "The paratroopers came down the streets and soldiers. This brought them into contact with the people who had taken flight. In the high flats. I saw a soldier taking aim at Barney McGuigan who was walking over to shelter. He fired and Barney fell. I came out and went over to Barney. He was lying in a pool of blood with his right eye and face shot away." Morning Star
The Armed Resistance of the Catholic population in the North to the forces of British imperialism has overshadowed the struggles in Ireland in the rest of the country. But this does not mean these struggles are not taking place. The government here has been in continuous crisis for over 50 years.

The governing party, Fine Gael, is threatened with a split right down the middle. This came into the open in 1970 with the trial of former Finance Minister Charlie Haughey. Fine Gael is trying to shore up its support among the Catholic population. The Church is being used to strengthen this. But Fine Gael and the Church are not enough to save Fine Gael from thesplit.

The existence and activity of an armed opposition on the form of the IRA and its offshoots is seen as a grave threat by the government. If he had the political strength, Jack Lynch would not hesitate to open the Cairoimphic camps, which could then be used for the silencing of all dissidents including the Church’s. The government in the balance of forces, and a new political line, up, will be responding to these threats.

If the situation in the north was the only line that Lynch had to contend with, he would probably survive. But this is combined with an economic crisis which grows increasingly worse. The government is growing steadily, swelled by the drying up of employment in Britain and the loss of some of its main economic objectives. The spring of last year the government announced that it was withdrawing the dos from single men. The ensuing uproar forced him to back down and declare it a “mistake”, but that threat caused more Flanagan Pato to disent open from its party’s policies than the whole of the Northern crisis so far. That was but the beginning. 

Throughout 1971 the boom brought about by the influx of foreign investment in the affluent British market continued. One by one factories closed down, the redundant workers find it impossible to get new jobs to emigrate. Young people leaving school found themselves faced with unemployment and, as they had not been insured, the meagre unemployment benefit was denied to them. 

This situation, of nearly 80,000 insured unemployed, has forced even the treacherous Irish Labour Party to protest. An emergency debate, however, resolving nothing, and only resulted in a few pious promises.

COMMON MARKET
But Flanagan Pato are pinning their hopes on a solution in the Common Market. They are promising an economic boom resulting from increased farm prices. The economy of the big farmers will boom all right, but the small farms will go to the wall. Not only that, but Irish industry, which is weak and vulnerable, will not be able to withstand the winds of competition in the EEC.

The promise of employment in Germany or nowhere is too small to the workers threatened with large scale redundancies. This picture of gloces for the ruling class is matched, however, by one of hope for socialists. The working class has shown its determination not to take the attacks on jobs and living standards lying down. Even the Labour Party MPs are forced to make anti-EEC noises, and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions has girded its opposition to it.

The union leaders did a deal last year with the government over what was in effect a wage freeze, but this is now being challenged at rank and file level by the membership.
The Dock Labour Scheme was set up by Act of Parliament in 1947, when the docks were still worked by casual labour. It sought to give the dockers some security by controlling who could work on the docks. Only dockers registered under the scheme could work on the docks, and only registered dockers could work in the docks.

The Dock Labour Board employs all dockers and dock workers, and sets the terms and conditions of employment. The Board consists of five registered dockers, five registered dockyard masters, and five representatives of the trade unions. The Board controls the terms and conditions of employment, including pay and working hours, and has the power to ban or suspend any docker from work for misconduct.

In the dockyards, dockers are employed on a term of employment of two years, after which they are given the opportunity to become registered dockers. Registered dockers are employed on a term of employment of five years, after which they are given the opportunity to become dockyard masters.

The Dock Labour Scheme was set up to provide a stable workforce for the docks, and it has been very successful. The docks have been able to maintain a high level of production, and there have been few problems with strikes and industrial disputes.

NORMAN WRIGHT

The National Ports Board Storeards Committee which seemed such a big step forward 18 months ago has been allowed to lie dormant, mainly because the Communist Party Docks faction who hold it, want to avoid antagonising the TGWU officials and Jack Jones.

However, last month the National Ports Board Storeards Committee was hastily reconvened to meet the London employers' challenge, after it had not met for over a year.

The one-day strike of January 26th, is a start. But it isn't followed up seriously, the threat of a really effective national organisation is not created and placed on a working footing with a DOCKERS STRATEG, to meet the employers' STRATEGY, then very little will come of it.

If the employers persist with their plans for putting the London men on the unattached register, and at the moment no other conclusion is possible, then a national dock strike is the only weapon that will deter them.

The Liverpool employers have made clear their intentions, the Liverpool employers have said that they expect a 'surplus' of 400 men this year. But 300 dockworkers are 'surplus to requirements', and the dock has sweated to 6.

In Manchester and Southport there are as yet only rumour flying about, but clearly the employers are united on a policy of using surplus labour as the first step to making a direct attack on the Dock Labour Scheme.

The worst weakness of the dockworkers is the way they have allowed themselves to become divided into two camps, one from the other. The Dockers branch has, as was its job, chopped up the dockers - each Port has a different agreement which expires at different times. But there intervenes the variable rates of pay and different reviews.

The result has been a total lack of co-operation at the shop stewards level. So that when a clearly national issue, such as defending the Dock Labour Scheme, were concerned there is no machinery to lead the fight.

Joe Wright
NORMAN WRIGH TE is a member of the National Ports Shop Stewards Committee, the TGWU National Delegate for Preston, and a member of the 1969 Preston Strike Committee. He was interviewed on January 24th by Steve Cobishhely.

S.C. — Recently, in Preston, there was a dispute between the NDLB and some local container employers over whether container men should be registered, and the decision went against the NDLB. How do you view the situation?

N.W. — It was a set-back for registered dockers, but in the long run it was a bigger set-back for the unregistered men, unless they unite with the registered dockers. This is for the simple reason that the unregistered men would not come under the National Dock Labour Scheme, and therefore have no security of employment, as the employers have full right of hiring and firing.

The NDLB have decided not to appeal against the decision, and it would have been foolish for Preston to take direct action on their own. But now with the National Shop Stewards Committee taking action it is hoped that it will help Preston.

S.C. — Could you explain why dockers want to keep the National Dock Labour Scheme? What would the employers like to do with it?

N.W. — Under the NDL Swokers have 50% control of registered work- ers, and employers would like it scrapped for the one reason that it takes the sore right of hiring and firing out of the employers’ hands.

S.C. — Under the NDLB the employers have 50% control of registered work- ers, and employers would like it scrapped for the one reason that it takes the sore right of hiring and firing out of the employers’ hands.

 Norwich — Preston was the first port to use container on a large scale. Since then it has built up taking both London and the larger ports. Now containerisation is expanding at a fast rate, e.g., in London in 1970 it increased by 104%. What do you think part of the dockers. Do you think dockers will be increasing in containerisation?

N.W. — At the rate it is going now, the dockers will be as extinct as the buffaloes, unless action is taken along the lines of the demands of the NPSSC.

S.C. — How was Preston affected by the first phase of Devlin?

N.W. — The effect of acceptance of Devlin Phase I was that it helped to cause the 10% strike in 1969.

The main effects were: 1) a cutting down in manning scales; 2) to make pieceworkers and weekly workers put in overtime, while pieceworkers had to work more piecework to make the £16 guarantee; 3) it meant that men were returned to the pool more often on a days-to-basis; 4) Liverpool and London went on strike in 1967 and got rid of rates of Devlin I. But in Preston no action was taken then, and 90% of the employers implemented Devlin as planned.

One good result that came out of Devlin through the 1969 Preston strike, was that members of the strike committee became the shop stewards committee, the branch committee, the local joint committee, the NDLB representatives, the appeals for the NDLB representatives, and one became the National Lay Delegate. This is probably unique in the docks.

NATIONALISATION

S.C. — Is nationalisation the solution to the dockers’ problems?

N.W. — Not as under the Labour Government; they wanted to nationalise only the ports, their policy was to nationalise ports doing 5 million tons a year and over. Therefore it would not have been 100% nationalisation.

It is hoped by dockers that nationalisation will put an end to the employers playing port to port, and dockers to dockers.

S.C. — In London the Port of London Authority announced that they would return 2,000 men to the unattached register, and the scissors has happened in full. All the employers want to scrap the voluntary redundancy scheme. Why has this happened, and what sort of action can be taken?

N.W. — This is happening for the simple reason that containerisation, particularly and pre-surfing of the port is increasing output by 400-500%, and many men have been dismissed. In London the employers are moving out of the enclosed ports to new container berths, which need fewer men and more time to unload containers, and it is the registered dockers who are being returned to the unattached register.

The reason they want to finish the voluntary severance scheme is that they can claim under the tax at a faster rate than the employers anticipated. But this I don’t agree with, because the McKinnon Report in 1967 already stated that it would be possible to reduce the present force by 80% in the next decade, during which 90% of carriers, or future cargoes, would be containerised.

The 9 DEMANDS of the NPSSC are the way to fight these attacks.

S.C. — On Wednesday 26th January there will be a 24-hour strike and a march in London by dockers and miners for their pay claims, in unison with the Fisher-Bendix workers as a demonstration against unemployment and the Tory policies. Will you back this? How do you think it will affect the country as a whole? Will there be a fight against unemployment and all that goes with it?

N.W. — It is the first round of the fight to come, and it will be set by every trade unionist in the country who does not fight for the same demands at the same time.

There is only one way to win — through workers’ unity. If one industry takes on the Government, and it is carried at the time it will be a fight, it will be a massacre.

S.C. — What do you think of the present state of the NPSSC, now that a number of demands have been brought forward? Especially now that the NPSSC has got to the point after a period of quiet following the first few meetings more than a year ago?

N.W. — It has come alive because of the 2,000 men at London being re- attached to the unattached register. It is hoped that the NPSSC can get the backing of the National Lay Delegates. If this is not possible, the NPSSC will have to take unofficial action on their own. The NPSSC is more prepared to take action than the National Lay Delegates, and it is also hoped that at the same time the NPSSC will be recognised officially, by the unions and the employers.

Action is taken quicker by dockers in response to the NPSSC than to the Lay Delegates. That is because the NPSSC was formed because the official side of the Union was not doing enough for the dockers quick enough.

(There are 9 demands of the NPSSC)

Include

No redundancies
For all Ports, including the new inland container ports, to be in the NDLB.
An agreement at 80
A 30-hour week and longer holidays.
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The Jews In History

myth and reality

In 1944 Abram Leon was murdered in the gas chambers of Auschwitz. But unlike most of the millions who died there too, he understood the force that destroyed him, and he devoted himself, up to his arrest a few months before, to the fight against it.

A leading Belgian Trotskyist, Leon had directed his party's socialist propaganda work amongst the working-class conscript soldiers of the occupying German army, helped organise networks of underground factory committees, the metal plants of Liege and travelled secretly to the U.S. to establish the international links of the revolutionaries' movement.

These actions were not only of those a Socialist internationalist, but of a Jew who understood that decaying capitalism fast no place in it for the Jews whom it had excluded from their traditional class position as feudal middlemen; who understood that god and in their national destiny, and the myth that their problem could be solved and their destiny realised by a return to 'their' land.

Leon argued that the Jews were a "people-class", historically and culturally distinct people, bound by a dedicated and coherent tradition. They were mainly involved in trade, beginning in the ancient world, and together their land straddled the crosspoints of the trade routes between the core of the ancient civilisations. It was not the Roman soldiers, but their own jobs as traders which scattered them through the ancient world the mass settlement of Jews outside Palestine had already become a fact before the fall of Jerusalem. It was not the dispersal but because of the collapse of its traditional class position that accompanied it, that they survived as a people.

And now, in the modern world, it was not economic, physical or national minority, but an unpeopled, increasingly beleaguered and therefore powerless CLASS that they faced anti-Semitism.

It was, according to Leon, a consequence of capitalism, not by the establishment of a Christian, or a Jewish, or an Israeli empire - it was by the survival and freedom of 18 Million Jews around the world could be assured.

Diaspora

Centuries before the Romans destroyed the Temple more than three quarters of the Jews lived outside Palestine scattered around the ancient world.

With the decline of Roman society, the eclipse of towns and the shrinking of trade and their reparation values, ruled by local landowners, the Jews remained as more or less the only traders and, after the decline of Islam, their land straddled the crosspoints of the trade routes. It was the Roman soldiers, but their own jobs as traders which scattered them through the ancient world the mass settlement of Jews outside Palestine had already become a fact before the fall of Jerusalem. It was not the dispersal but because of the collapse of its traditional class position that accompanied it, that they survived as a people.

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Money-Lending

As money economy spread, cities grew and trade developed as part of normal life, the Jews were evicted from commerce and left with money-lending alone. As various sources of money lended the hostility in the money-lender held in check by the need of him, broke bonds when this need disappeared. From the 12th century, the 14th century Jews were hounded and burned, accused of tricking the poor and murdering the others. In 1990 example hundreds of Jews besieged in York, Jordan, burnt their bodies after the crusaders knotty outside.

East Europe

In country after country Jews were evicted and driven out, most taking refuge in eastern Europe and Russia, where a more backward society still had a place for them - in-between Germany, or of the Jewish warrior tribes of Asia.

It is probable, ironically, that there are more people descended from the Jews of Bar Cochba's time in the Arab refugee camps than amongst the 'exiled' Jews of Israel.

They started to diversify their economic activities to become involved in production, to enter into workshops, not factories, as craftsmen. They took up small-scale production, that the future goods that some had always practised for their own communities. But their new economy has been known. The murder of industrialisation drove them out of this refuge, just as it had opened craftsmen such as handloom weavers everywhere else.

Everywhere it developed capitalism ruined both feudal middlemen and artisans. In the west it eventually found new jobs for these displaced people. But it developed in the East only after it began to rot and become parasitic in the West. Western capitalism is one and the same time both intensified and stifled the development of the East, so that it was unable to reabsorb those ruined by the disruption of the old order. The collapse of the Jews - and also their weakness, now led to an explosion of the traditional hatred for the Jews often, as in Russia, organised by governments, Christian Churches and other police forces. Artists, intellectuals and many workers remembered how their peasant fathers cheated and squeezed out of the money-lender and handloom's agent. Their followed pursuits, persecution and witch trials on the model of the Middle Ages - as, for example, the Boyliss trial in Russia in 1911. A second wave migratory wave reversed the movement of the 19th and 18th centuries.

The Jews and Capitalism

Unlike feudalism, capitalism has no special place for the people-class. Early capitalism finds them an obstacle. Established capitalism diversifies its economic tasks and assimilates them. In the countries of the West, before the mass migrations from Eastern Europe, many those who remained or had returned earlier were well on the road to assimilation, emancipation was high, conversion common.

The new wave of migration to the West was soon followed by the post-World War II crises of capitalism, bringing mass unemployment, ruined small middle classes and a decaying society. Having set the Jews in metropolis capitalism could not now find room for them. Seeking to the new bourgeois and craftsmen jobs to which they were accustomed, they found themselves facing the competition and hallowed of similar elements, the previous Jewish being ruined.

Fascism directed popular hatred of capitalism
and ten in face of social collapse onto the traditional ‘money men’, vulnerable precisely because they were, as a people, no longer major money- or leading capitalists.

**FASCISM**

The septic stream of anti-Semitism which had always coexisted with the preoccupation of cranks, misfits and those who saw visions of the ‘who-killed-Christ’ variety - previously articulated in a fashion which erected to defend the victims of society by deflating the wrath of their victims against a scapegoat. It is not just one of those in a long line of 'neglect'. He now became the cause of all the catastrophes which capitalism was inflicting on the mass of the people.

Thus it was not Capitalism as such which was radicalized and redefined with the title section of it: “Jewish Capitalism”, which also, if not in evidence, in its other guise as “Jewish Bolshevism”, was the all-absorbed force behind the Workers’ Parties and the Labour Unions which were forming the core and a growing political viability of the analogous strike of the anti-Semitic political violence, the Workers’ and anti-Semitic and nationalist protests and the Socialist and Communist parties who could see no way out of their own world, founded a new world.

In Europe, mass armies of ruined small shopkeepers, clerks, workers and demoralized unemployed were organized by the fascists against British Imperialism domination of Palestine, and had thereby resulted being blackened as the “anti- national Fascist conspiracy” - and first and foremost of that to be of it in the World War I and then in World War II, with despair and despair, many of the fascists and lineage once thought they were living in an era of peace, but in reality, in their problem, in that they were only the deluded soldier-squires, controlled from a safe distance, of the real causes of their misery: the real - rather than the apocalyptic - capitalist class.

And the Jews, having figured in history for centuries as a People-Class associated above all with the military and special role left aside as a scapegoat for the easiest of money, of trade, of production and of the lives of the Jews: the Jewish capitalists, Socialists and trade union militants of the working class - including the German working class - were dropping all the extermination camps of the fascist society trapped in a blind panic, as if they had never expressed it, “historically the success of racist means that only capital has managed to channel the anti- fascist campaigns into a form that contaminates capitalism and which no longer exists except in a vestigial state.”

**ZIONISM**

In this situation Zionism, beginning as a simple movement at the end of the last century, wanted to escape from the now-redundant people-class position and from crisis-tormented capitalism, to simple physical removal to Palestine. It remained a minority outlook amongst Jews until the Nazi Holocaust. Its predominance throughout the Jewish world today has been produced by the revolutionary victory of the International working class which was pre-occupied with anti-fascism, anti-Stalinism and anti-political organisations (and, incidentally, to a minor degree, by the Zionist diversion from the class struggle).

Living in Nazi Europe and fighting for the socialist revolution, Abe Leon dismissed Zionism as a utopian and contradictory diversion from the real struggle which would liberate humanity, including the Jews. He did not live to see a nationalist state of American Imperialism and its partner in repres- sion of the Arabs to escape from backwardness and from the capitalist exploitation which keeps them backward.

Constance Lever

On January 21st, 1972 Liam Dalton died in London. He was one of a small group of people who have striven to make the political campaign against British Imperialism domination of Palestine, and had therefore been blackened as the “anti- imperialist Fascist conspiracy” - and first and foremost of that to be of it in the World War I and then in World War II, with despair and despair, many of the fascists and lineage once thought they were living in an era of peace, but in reality, in their problem, in that they were only the deluded soldier-squires, controlled from a safe distance, of the real causes of their misery: the real - rather than the apocalyptic - capitalist class.

The sentiments expressed here say more about Liam Dalton than anything else. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Nan and his son Owen.

The encrusted bureaucracies of the world working class movement have done their best to isolate Vietnam and its sturdy fighters. The privileged caste of the ‘socialist’ states are more concerned with preserving their status and getting better swimming pools, their own aid from the Vietnamese and administering the coup de grace to Imperialism. We need not speak at all of the Wilsons, Gunners, Njerbores, Paynters, Corshies, Dandies, Collins, Coy and Pat, etc., etc. Wilson turns the wheels of Johnson’s battered war-chalet like an obedient and well-trained car. He monitors on a trip round the planet the accompaniment of polite clapping from priests, preachers, and pacificists. Instead of class struggle to be the task of modern capitalist and imperialist they are the prayerful “prises de position” of the Bishop of Rome.

They do their poor best, all of them, to obfuscate the reality. They will not, aided by the workers believe that there can be a polite transition to socialism: “Excuse us, please, your excellencies, no government, Money, blood, prostrated forms to the Socialist future”. Thus they disarm the working class with the idea that talk of peace will end war. As a result of capitalism and wars the system that generates conflict is smashed.

The Vietnamese are in the final line. Around the world other forces are mumbling. In Iran, the radicalization of the working class grows also, in response to this crisis of capitalism. The electoral ‘revolt’ is only the latest expression on the occasion of the demographic reflection of this radicalization. For our part we must ensure that this growing awareness on the part of the Iranian proletariat is grounded in an irredentist, irredentist, irredentist movement of the “other”, the “other” who is not united again by the bankrupt petit-bourgeois “defenders of the Nation.”
The Secret Army of the British ruling class recently hit the news when two of its soldiers were killed in Oman fighting against a revolutionary guerrilla force, and it was revealed that the British Royal Air Force had been operating there secretly. It is widely believed by Irish Republicans that the S.A.S, is responsible for many incidents in Northern Ireland.

"Eric Travers" is an AUEW militant who served 9 years in the British Army, the last few years as an engineer attached to the Special Air Service. Here he talks to WORKERS' FIGHT reporter Jim Weba about the role of the S.A.S.

J.W. - Can you tell us what the SAS is?
E.T. - The SAS operate as a secret commando force, either backing up the Regular Army or acting as freelance Marauders. It is made up of people we would normally call the regular Army, who then go through special schools of physical and mental tests before being finally selected for special training.
J.W. - What is the nature of this special training?
E.T. - It is a combination of self-defence - efficient killing. They also learn about explosives and various techniques to sabotage or blow up complicated installations, if necessary.
J.W. - What does they "tour of duty" depart for that would be typical of someone from the normal regular soldier?
E.T. - Well, the missions they carry out are sometimes kept secret from everyone, and after the knowledge of the government of the country in which the missions are taking place, especially if the British Army is not officially supposed to be there.
They do the cloak and dagger work, including sabotage and assassination, which the British Government often finds necessary but can't do openly. Some of the SAS work is in the Far East where they are sometimes loaned out to another army, often they are training a local puppet army to take over.
J.W. - I believe the SAS has its own special political command. Is that right?
E.T. - Yes, Somebody coming into the SAS with a definite rank from the regular Army, say corporal, loses this rank and comes under the SAS's own chain of command, gaining rank within the SAS to get promoted. They don't have regimental and battalions like the regulars. The SAS work in very small combat groups. They will help out the regular army officers, but they still remain under the SAS command.

J.W. - What do you see as the role of the SAS?
E.T. - It takes over when the normal political and Imperialim don't work; for instance, when a puppet regime breaks down, or the British Army is a phoney pawns, can't intervene, or when the popular movement against British imperialism is so strong that they prop up British imperialism.
J.W. - Can you give some examples of where the SAS has been used?
E.T. - In the Yemen and in the Radfan area they were used extensively to find out what the guerrillas were doing, as they were also used in Malaya. In the Middle East at the moment they are being used to train local troops to fight against revolutionary forces there. I believe some missions are at present being led by the SAS, in spite of, or because of, the fact that the British soldiers are alleged to be killers on loan, sharpening up British interests there.

IRELAND
J.W. - Coming nearer home, in British imperialism's own war in Ireland, how are the SAS being used?
E.T. - There is growing evidence about SAS activities in Ireland. You want to know what they are doing there?
They were used to infiltrate IRA's ranks. The particular individual's role would be of Irish origin to be credible. As well as obtaining information about the activities of the IRA, the SAS would be causing explosions and organizing killings which would then be attributed to the IRA. We have already disclosed this and they have denied it.

As for concrete evidence of their presence, there recently two priests published an account of their experiences by two priests now on record in Armagh Prison (where one of the priests is Chaplain). Francis Maguire, of Belfast, described an encounter with an SAS man at Cindurrow Park barracks. "They made him stand against the wall and take off his jumper, which they used as a hood over his head. During interrogation, they punched him in the stomach and kicked him in the testicles. At one stage the SAS man pressed the prisoner’s eyeball and said: 'I have to ask you something. Do you think I couldn’t punch your eye out? I could punch your eye out and I enjoy hurting people.' Later, they punched and kicked the prisoner for a long time."
J.W. - Why is there so little known about the SAS?
E.T. - Obviously, much of the strength of any secret force lies in the secrecy of its existence, the general public knows little or no nothing of the SAS don’t go on parade, show their battle honours.

If the SAS drop a clanger, get caught or killed, they are either not acknowledged to be connected with the Army in any way, or else they are dubbed as regular soldiers who just happened to wander over "the border" by accident.

J.W. - What connection does the SAS have with the general Secret Service apparatus?
E.T. - It is part of it, but it's obviously difficult to pinpoint the exact chain of command. It's only once in a while that the SAS ever find their way into the papers, when they're difficult to do a cover-up job, like in Oman now. Even then it's not broadcast very widely.

J.W. - But in all the man in the street get to hear too much about SAS activities might undermine his faith in the so-called British democratic tradition. Because what the reports of the SAS reveal is that the British ruling class will use any means to maintain its wealth and power. When it comes down to it, the Marquis of Queensbury rules of "honour" and "Genova Convention" warfare, are not for them. We can expect that they'll attempt to use the SAS and other "unofficial" thugs if the British workers decide to put the buses on the block.

Of course, it's only when we've actually succeeded in doing that, that the Labour movement will be able to understand all the facts about the secret, underground apparatus for thugs and terror, and understand how secret rules have developed over their years of home and colonial rule.

LONDON WORKERS' FIGHT FORUM on "Eroskslyam in Britain" Speaker: Sean Melganna at the General Pilton pub, Caledonian Road, near Kings Cross On Sunday February 13th, at 7:30 p.m. 

seasaged in York, side rather than simply the crusader knights.

The experiment with "peaceful revolution" in Chile continues, despite the new standards for Allende's Popular Front, and growing economic difficulties. It has been a barren year for Allende, plagued essentially with the Chilean bourgeoisie, the U.S., the Brazilian Trotskyist leader, and in fact, an excerpt from an interview published in Intercontinental Press.

Q. - The government of Allende is now called to the road to socialism in the past and the interests of Chile. What do you think about this new phase? Do you believe his government representative?
H.B. - Allende rose to power as the result of an election. But, as we all know, this election could have been thrown out by the legislature. In order to win the congress he needed support outside his own grouping. Concretely, this meant from the Christian Democrats. But in order to get this backing, the government had to make promises that he would preserve inviolate the main features of the bourgeois system - the judiciary and the police - that he would not be replaced in power, that he could not be replaced. By the secret, underground apparatus, for thugs and terror, and understand how secret rules have developed over their years of home and colonial rule.

"PREFER THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM TO BE SAVED EVEN IF HIS REGIME FALLS."

The Facts About British's Freelance Marauders

HILE:
Parliamentary
Road
Allende

Allende committed himself to respect the bourgeois system as a whole.
The Fight Against Redundancies

G.E.C.

There's no section of the economy that has not had to take its bit in pushing the unemployment figure beyond the million mark. The GEC employer who really stands out in this field is Arnold Weinstock, multi-millionaire and emperor of the General Electric Company. Since the GEC - AEE - EEE merger in 1967/68, the workforce has been cut from 265,000 to below 225,000. Meanwhile profit per employee went up from £16 in 1969/70 to £489 in 1970/71. The GEC complex in Stafford has suffered a huge share of these cuts. Over the last three years, the total number of workers has gone down from 11,000 to around 7,000. This loss of jobs has taken place mainly through redeployment and "natural wastage" with no direct redundancies, and the unions have mounted very little resistance.

Programme of Action

But now, at last, GEC workers are calling a halt to this carnage. On January 12th the GEC bosses announced that they proposed to make 453 workers redundant between now and September. The proposals include both manual and staff workers, though no detailed breakdown has been given. A meeting of the Stafford Engineering Joint Committee on January 15th resolved to "resist physically and with every means at its disposal any proposed redundancies by the GEC Stafford."

Urlya Nook

The Tory Government recently shocked local workers when it decided its intention to make North Yorkshire's unemployment situation even worse than it is now. On January 15th, the Ministry of Defence announced its decision to close the Urlya Nook Naval Spare Parts Distribution Centre at Eaglescliffe, and another Naval depot in Wiltshire.

The Urlya Nook depot is the largest of its kind in Europe, and employs 1,000 workers whose jobs are now in danger. Stores are due to be transferred to a new depot being built in Worcester; this will be run "separately", and the minimum staff and high productivity, and is not expected to create many new jobs for Worcester workers.

The War Industry, like other industries - whether controlled by the Tory State or by "free enterprise" - big businesses, is being squeezed. The by-product is more efficient, more economical, more profitable.

The success of the overtime ban and the work-sharing depend mainly on the sections not immediately threatened with redundancies, the sections where there is plenty of work - principally the Generator Mach 1 Division.

There has been a tendency for these sections to adopt a complacent "It's nothing to do with us" attitude. Hence the 15 votes against the programme of action.

But every time the GEC bosses get away with one lot of redundancies they put themselves in a stronger position to get the next lot toughly hold back from a united stand against the current redundancy proposals should think of the future.

Nationalise Solidarity

This need to contend a narrow, short-sighted view on the part of some sections of GEC at Stafford is only partly to meet the need for nationwide unity in the fight against Weinstock's strategy.

The Stafford committee are organizing for a national GEC lobby of Parliament. This lobby could be a springboard for a revitalisation of the national combine joint shop stewards committee, around a programme of:

- A national ban on overtime
- No productivity bargaining
- As a result, more workers for the same production.
- No redundancies
- No loss of jobs through natural wastage or voluntary redundancies.

Martin Thomas
Hospital workers oppose NUPE prod dealing policy

"WE WON'T BE FORBIDDEN OFF with coppers" said Alan Fisher, NUPE's General Secretary, at last year's National Conference. His words, but that's all they were.

By any standards the recent pay dispute between hospital staff, porters, domestics, etc., was bad. People were basically in basic pay of between £2.12 and £4.14 for overnight shifts accepted for men while women received 50c per shift of the men's increase.

Better terms agreed in the past were 3 weeks holiday for all after 12 months service, a five day, immediate talk on a minimum earnings guarantee and a commitment on lead in payments for workers not receiving bonus of productivity payments.

The last item in the deal is a particularly disturbing one. Many NUPE members are worried about the Union's policy of pressuring for the introduction of productivity agreements when we have such a catastrophically high level of unemployment in the country. They fear that whilst bonus schemes will give higher earnings they can lead to fewer workers being employed, with a consequent loss of job opportunities.

The leadership of NUPE uses every opportunity to counter this view which at first glance looks perfectly reasonable — "...that wherever a bonus scheme comes into use we must insist that any savings that are made should be used in increased or improved service so that jobs are not lost." But let's face it, the bosses are not mugs. Whatever the complicated details of a bonus scheme, and whatever Alan Fisher may say, if the NHS employers can get away with a smaller wage then they will not hesitate to do so.

The lead in payment should be rejected by any group of workers to whom it is offered. It is nothing but a form of blackmail. It will only be offered to "full-time workers" to whom it is certain to apply inexcusable bonus schemes or productivity agreements but who have not been affected by such schemes and almost certainly on the understanding that if they reject a bonus scheme they also lose the lead in payment. In the present situation we should demand that any deal with productivity schemes, we should certainly not be encouraged by the employers to introduce them.

If NUPE and the rest of the NHS unions are really determined to win better pay and conditions for their members — and to join in the fight against unemployment — they should sit down and talk about the "opportunities to present themselves", and get on with the job.

Jack Sutton
(Secretary, South Manchester Hospital branch NUPE).

N.B. Women domestic staff employed in the Manchester Royal Infirmary recently rejected by 157 votes to 34 the idea of a work-study-based bonus scheme. The South Manchester Hospital branch of NUPE in view of the present unemployment situation has banned the introduction of any productivity schemes.

1-5.

Kraft workers win strike over sacking

AFTER 11 WEEKS OF STRUGGLE, 150 maintenance workers at the Kraft Foods plant, Kirkby, have won reinstatement for a man dismissed in November. In blatant breach of an agreement.

The AUEW district committee immediately endorsed the action of the 150 in stopping work. But it took three ballots by a dozen men, and one for 51 militants travelling to London, to secure recognition for the dispute out of Hugh Scoular's so-called "left wing" National Executive!

The maintenance men's convenor Eric Blundell pointed out how disastrous this delay was, since the plant is manned chiefly by 1500 USDAW members who were threatened with lay-off and a cut in the numbers employed, unless they scabbed along with the supervision. So it wasn't until the second Tuesday in January, when Scoular finally gave grudging recognition to the Kraft maintenance men's strike, that the USDAW workers gave out its full support of their AUEW brothers.

Within two weeks, the struggle ended with a victory for the workers.

Fresh from this experience, and recognising the importance of solidarity, workers from Kraft and the massive Trades Council demonstration in Liverpool last Wednesday and are giving every encouragement to the Fisher Bendix occupation.

Naomi Wimborne

Stockport AUEW is all set to follow the Union's 33.000 Manchester members in bannning overtime, in an effort to combat rising unemployment.

And on January 25th, 5000 workers from Churnet Valley marched through Altrincham in protest against the threat of closure. A few weeks later they had given Robert Carr a rough ride when he visited the factory.

Churchills on the march

AS HULL Dockers LAUNCH ONE DAY STRIKE -

N.P.S.S.C. HOLDS BACK FROM ACTION

At least 25,000 dockers struck on January 26th. But this hasn't stopped the employers' plans for choking more and more dockers on the 'unattached' Scrapheap. A great deal more than a token action will be needed for that - the bosses have too much at stake to give in so easily.

The London Dock Labour Board has approved plans by the Port's employers to return 123 men to the unattached, and in Hull 274 dockers are due to be declared unattached.

The hull men have already held the first series of one-day weekly strikes in protest.

London dockers plan a one-day strike when the appeal of the 123 is being heard, many dockers are bitter at this disappointment that the National Ports Shop Stewards Committee meeting on January 29th did not declare or plan firm and decisive action against this most serious of all illegal dockers in years. Many particularly this London dockers wanted a national strike and a full confrontation on the redundancies issue.

If we don't prepare such a campaign this week, it's possible we may see massive redundancies in the ports before we are very much older.

Harold Young
Manchester Port Workers' Cîte