STOP THIS RACE HATE MARCH!

On SATURDAY MARCH 18th., the fascists are planning to march through the centre of Oldham.

The organisers of the march who call themselves Tru-Aim (Trade Unionists Against Immigration), have been attempting to muster national support for the march, and although they probably will not get workers from Oldham to march, they are hoping for coachloads from Yorkshire and London.

TRU-AIM is a fascist front organisation geared towards spreading racialism among workers. In their leaflets they talk about the one million unemployed being a result of immigration and they call for compulsory repatriation.

They do not mention the millions out of work in the North. In 1965 the only leader of the ‘World Union of Nazis’ (membership of which is required by the ‘spiritual leadership of Adolph Hitler’), Mosley’s Union Movement; the ‘Powell for Prime Minister’ group; and the Immigration Control Association.

Up to now Tru-Aim has not shown its face in the North West. It is not difficult to see why they have chosen to begin their campaign in Oldham - a town with a declining textile industry and a large Bengali and Pakistani community. The fascists have not had much influence in the Manchester area and clearly they see this as a foot in the door.

However, they may be in for a disappointment. The last time the fascists tried to establish themselves in Oldham was in 1965, when their demonstration was driven off the streets.

Since then they have confined themselves to painting slogans on walls. But a lot has happened since 1965. A series of racist Immigration Acts helped Emo Powell onto the scene, and in his wake all the rubbish that has fostered undergound and out of sight is re-gaining confidence.

And this makes it all the more important that they are driven from the streets again.

In Manchester and Oldham an Anti-Fascist Coordinating Committee has been formed to organise a counter demonstration.

The beating that the fascists took in 1965 meant that for seven years they have not dared to show their faces.

If the demonstration on March 18th. can be prevented from taking place, then we can hope it will be at least another 7 years before they start spreading their filth again.
Smash the Act

The new stage of the I.R.A. (not the I.R.A.'s, which strikes at the Tory state, but the Industrial Relations Act, with which the Tory state is attempting to strike at the British labour movement) which came into force in February, makes illegal those tactics which won the miners' strike. Blamming of tainted goods, sympathetic strikes, the closed shop — all are now illegal.

The problem for the Government is going to be making the illegality mean something. The problem for the labour movement is to ensure that its own power and strength are fully exerted so as first to treat the Tory piggies and their legislation with the contemptuous disregard they and it deserve — and then to crack down on them had it they attempt to invoke their laws and their state against those who defy them. Had that strength been deployed the legislation would never have reached the statute books, and the Tory hatchwrenmen would have been driven from office long ago.

Who can doubt that, after the miners' victory? Only a fraction of the strength of labour was used — and the Tories were routed completely. The miners smashed right through the Government's undeclared Incomes Policy. Never before has policy collapsed in a heap of rubble.

The miners are a special case? Yes, because they made themselves a special case. So can all workers — builders, railwaymen and the others with wage claims. Special cases are determined by strength, not by appeals to justice. Not every group of workers are as strategically well placed as the miners. But class-wide solidarity — blacking, mass picketing, the sympathetic strike — can magnify enormously the power of sections of workers. No section of the class must ever again remain isolated in its struggles. That is the lesson of the miners' strike, and many workers who were not in it are now watching it with great interest and receptivity.

And the Tories think that their legislation will be enough to frighten other workers from pressing home their claims through the breach in the incomes policy, and into abandoning the militant tactice which won the day for the miners.

We must meet the demand that the Unionists must deliberately ignore any single provision of the Act. The law is the Tories' law; we owe it no allegiance. The Tories are not strong enough to force us to comply with it.

At the same time the exhillation over the miners' victory should not lead us to forget the great reserves of strength of the ruling class. They still control society and its wealth, and the state and its reserves. They will never go down peacefully. They cannot allow many more victories like the miners'. faced with that prospect they will organise and mobilise all the resources to smash down the working class. Our history teaches us this bitter lesson. Once before, Red Friday July 22, the miners imposed on the Government a serious defeat, because they were backed by the strength of the labour movement. Only the Government and the bosses beat a tactical retreat, and used the time to prepare for a total confrontation of the classes — the General Strike of May 1926. The state, the police, the army, Tory stooges in the labour movement — all were prepared, and the bosses watched their chance and took it. The labour and trade union leaders sold out the strike. And more than a generation had to pass before the labour movement recovered from the defeat.

The working class is immensely powerful and self-confident today, far more so than in the 1920s. The Tories have grave difficulties in Ireland: they probably couldn't turn out the present army in a major class confrontation, now. Once before, too, a labour upsurge and a war in Ireland coincided; 1921, when machine guns were mounted at pitheads in Britain while the Back and Tans terrorised Ireland. The British bosses weren't strong enough to deal with both together, and had room to manoeuvre only because there was no common strategy linking the Irish workers fighting for national independence and the anti-bosses struggles of the British workers. The British ruling class first made a deal with the Irish middle class, got the Irish people to back off the struggle, and then turned on British labour, building up for its defeat the working class in the General Strike.

It is not, of itself exactly — we must make sure it doesn't — but the lessons are obvious.

We've seen our strength. But the weakness was also shown during the miners' strike. The General Strike was a bit like Cappie of the EPTU. (The verbal bandwagon-jumping 'support' of the Labour Party meant nothing.) The major reserve of strength possessed by the Labour and Trade Union leaders. They are the potentially fatal weakness which can undermine the vitality of the labour movement, through treachery, or ineptitude, or both.

The weakness and flabbiness shown by the official labour movement (in some cases, the NUM during the NUM's "strike," and in the fight against the Industrial Relations Act, means that the working class must recognize — while there is still time — that the labour movement in Britain needs to reconstruc itself, organizationally and ideologically. If we are to win the coming battles and settle with the Tory class once and for all, we must face up to the implications of that fact.

Just Part of the Job

"Well, that's just one of those things that go together. How often have we heard this, or something similar, said about accidents at work? In heavy industry, building, mining, manufacturing, on the docks and many other pieces of work, accidents are common enough to become almost accepted as 'part of the job.'

In mining alone 6,500 men have died since the nationalisation of the pits. That's 260 killed every year, the hidden cost of coal. Perhaps we could ignore the significance of these figures with a shrug of the shoulders, saying that accidents in industry are 'natural', unavoidable, 'part of the job', or also, as some industrial psychologists insist, simply a result of human nature.

But a recent conference in Paris, concerned with the effects of technology, showed up this sort of modern quackery. Figures were produced which indicate precisely one of the major causes of industrial accidents — the drive for high productivity.

In manufacturing industries in 1958, the number of accidents produced by each worker was 92,3; in 1967 it was 110.7. On the other hand, in agriculture, in 1958 there was only one accident for every 114.3 units of productivity, but by 1965 the number of accidents for every 99.9 units. In other words, whilst output per worker (productivity) had increased in these years by 19.9, output per accident (safety) had fallen by 21%. This shows clearly that accidents increased directly as productivity has increased.

LIGHTER SCHEDULES

What is happening here is that as machine processes are speeded up, all work is lightened, or, at least, is done as less time is allowed for the completion of jobs, so the load on the worker increases, making him increasingly likely to make mistakes that might lead to an accident. This 'load' isn't just simply physical, the amount of lifting, for example; it includes psychological factors which are often far more important.

Research has shown that people can only concentrate on a limited number of things at once; if this level is exceeded or if work is done at near capacity levels of concentration, the worker is likely to make mistakes. Thus the increase in productivity and industrial accidents go hand in hand.

Of course, this is new phenomenon. In 'Capital', Marx discussed the intensification of labour as a necessary tool of the employers for the raising of their profits. The drive of the capitalist system towards higher and higher productivity necessitates an ever expanding development of technologies, 'and as long as the capitalist system is laid on the shoulders of the workers in two ways: by lengthening the time they must spend in the factory and by raising of productivity.'

This is still their strategy today in the age of 'productivity deals.'

The bosses strive always to keep the basic rate as low as possible, thus making workers put in longer hours in overtime and harder work on bonus and piece rate schemes.

Also, there is still, to quote Marx, "the tendency that wages shrink, as soon as the prolongation of the hours of labour is once for all forbidden, to compensate itself by a systematic heightening of the intensity of labour, and to convert every improvement in machinery into a more perfect means of exhausting the worker." . . . and, we might add, into a more perfect means of killing him.

Accidents, productivity, unemployment — and profit. These fit together; to attack one we need to attack them all.

The fight for safe and decent conditions of work is part of the fight against capitalism as a whole, and will not be completed until there are no bosses to put profits and production above the lives, health and safety of the workers.

NEAL SMITH

Cond. from pl. disunity — each port trying for its own 'solution', when only combined action on the full 9 point Charter can offer any solution. Unity of ports, and unity of unloading the nicked ship, was made by a dispute about the right of the boot from the tuck NASU, to be represented. It is essential if we are to defend ourselves.

Only when the unity of national dockers' action — or the unity of the docle queue. And we may not have a great deal of time to choose.

HAROLD YOUNG

Published by Workers' Fight, 88 Gifford Street, London N.1
Printed by voluntary labour.
by Phil Lewis

The government's announced intention of investing £5 million in Govan-Scotland Linehouse divisions of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders marks an important new stage in the struggle of the Clyde workers for the right to work; and it is a good point to sum up the experience of the work in Scotland.

Much has happened since the decision of the UCS workers, on Friday 30th July 1973, that they would not allow the Tories to close the yards and sack 6,000 workers. The UCS workers, taken together with the more aggressive and more quickly victorious strikers at Plessey and Fisher Bendix, holds many lessons for the working class on how to fight - and how not to fight - against redundancies.

The workers' direct action at UCS promised to be the spearhead of a general attack by the working class on the fostering disease of unemployment. As far as we know how it was to be, despite the determination and self-sacrifice with which UCS workers have persevered in the battle.

The struggle and actions of the UCS workers were held back to a level acceptable to gentlemen like Bevan, and even Scottish Tory ministers concerned for local prospects. Workers were not allowed to strike at normal times and men and managers acted very much as before. Workers made redundant were paid from collections taken among the rest, whilst they carried on working, making ships for the Liquidator for fuelling.

REID

Jim Reid, Communist Party leader of the stewards committee, sent over backwords to paint the picture of reasonable, hard-working men, willing to bargain, do as any capitalist, bent on exploitation, could hope for. And the leadership of the stewards rejected the view that the fight against unemployment needed a total strategy on the part of the working class to deny the right of the employers to decide the fate of the workers.

The Communist Party in fact declared that the demands put by the Trotskists (such as a strike without break, or pay), worked out on a clear analysis of unemployment's role in the present capitalist crisis, would alienate the trade union bureaucracy and that in fact the yards could be made a viable, profitable concern upon unionization.

Statements from Reid about the possible need for an eighteen-month freeze to put the industry back on its feet and the need to increase productivity, show the insularity of the "Communist" Party to lead such a working class struggle.

COMpromise

Throughout the 'work in' the UCS stewards leadership showed its desire to compromise on points which would have strengthened the workers' bargaining power. In October the stewards agreed to enter into separate negotiations about the Clydebank division, and also agreed to discuss productivity and wage rates in return for certain guaranteed orders from the Tory minister John Davies.

This did this despite the fact that general meetings of the shipyard workers had continually stressed that any negotiations could only take place with reference to all four yards of the UCS complex.

Reid and Affried further weakened bargaining power by releasing the bulk carrier New Westminster City, despite the motion carried by a general meeting that no ships would be released until there were definite guarantees about the future of yard.

They explained their action by saying that they were "anxious to show good faith" with the American firm of Marathon Construction, which were considering investment in part of UCS. But employers, who seek people in order to increase their profits, can be expected to change their skins and start giving jobs out of gratitude for our 'consideration' for them. Quite simply, they must at all times be fought, not crumbled to.

Also prominent in misdirecting the UCS struggle was the bottleneck makers union leader, Dan McGar- retsy, who last week was highly praised by the Tories for his "consistent constructive and helpful role." He did, in fact, justify derision from the British ruling class. He not only begged Stenhouse, Tony chairman of Govan, to give 'no strike' agreements from UCS workers, but also said that the union would accept a three and a half week and three shift working if the yards were kept open.

If this seems 'real reason' of the point that it is obvious that giving large scale subsidies for full employment any concessions of this sort only increase the exploitation of workers in employment and thus allow the number of jobs to be further decreased.

It is impossible to fight for the right of 3,100 workers to have a job and for the uninterrupted work threatened by the government if this situation continues, workers giving in to bosses and threats of the government and accepting one of the 800 jobs on very terms.

CONTRACT

At this point it is valuable to contrast the positions of Fisher Bendix (Kirkcaldy) and Plessey (Alexandria). Without the example of the giant first step taken at UCS of challenging the right of the government to sell the Plessey and Fisher Bendix shipyards, it is quite possible that much has not happened. And it is a measure of the speed with which working class militancy has advanced in the last 8 months that UCS is now no longer in the vanguard of the new militancy and the new tactics.

Plessey and Fisher Bendix were genuine occupations where managers were evicted and barricades set up in defiance of the employers, their law and their government.

The Plessey occupation followed the attempt by the employers to move valuable capital from its Liverpool factory as a base for profit. The Alexandria plant had formerly been a large naval torpedo factory and had been sold to Plesseys at knock-down prices. By their occupation, it is hoped to allow the movement of plants and the compulsory action of what Plessey workers, the Alexandria workers won jobs for all the occupants and making Plessey's create an industrial estate in Alexandria.

Even then they refused to let the unfinished work leave the factory until permanent jobs were created, and refused to end the occupation until arrangements had been made to employ on a temporary basis in the meantime.

FISHER BENDIX

Fisher Bendix too was an example of a real workers' occupation. Gates were guarded with full democractic meetings were held, involving the workers' families as well.

However, only a partial victory was achieved. Although the management had been forced to cancel the original sackings and have guaranteed an closure until 1975. But a joint management/union committee has agreed to examine productivity and there are still threats of further redundancies.

The committee is under the chairmanship of Harold Wilson (as local MP...). It is obvious that his role is to contain the strike. As the government proposals for UCS are announced which will still leave the fate of 4,200 workers undetermined, 11,000 redundancies are already decided in the government proposals, there are important conclusions we can reach.

In the fight for the right to work there can be no agreement with the employers or the Tories. There can be no retreat on health help from the corrupt Labour Party or trade union leaders. There can be no acceptance of productivity agreements and shift systems which lead to more redundancies later.

We can place no Faith in the employers to create jobs. We know there will never get us anywhere.

Factors threatened with redundancies must be occupied and the demand raised for nationalisation under workers' control.

The employers' right to decide the fate of workers must be challenged by a fight for union control over hiring and firing. Many of those unemployed, overtime continues. We must demand no over-time and instead the shortening of the working week without loss of pay to provide more workers with jobs.

Those at present unemployed must not be deprived of their union rights as well as their jobs, or they will be used to weaken the position of those with jobs.

Work or full pay must be the central core of our demands. In the battle against unemployment any strategy must be total. Above all, we must not allow the bosses to solve their problems at our expense.

View, Bann and Reid - all good friends
IRELAND'S LONG STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

by Carol Coulter

THE ROOTS OF THE PRESENT situation in Ireland — North and South, the two are inseparable — lie in the fact that the country is at one and the same time a neo-colony, and part of the advanced capitalist complex of Western Europe. We can uncover these roots by looking at Ireland’s tragic and terrible history.

Ireland’s geographic position meant that it was always the last stop for the peoples who migrated Westward across Europe in primitive times. This meant that the social organisation in Ireland was generally lagged behind that of the rest of Europe. Ireland was still a tribal society when Europe was dominated by feudalism. This did not mean that Irish civilisation was always at a generally lower level, because it also resisted the Roman invasion and the subsequent barbaric invasions.

However Ireland’s socially backward state made it very vulnerable to invasion from England. The establishment of a hook-and-chain system through feudalism, which was not as advanced as the feudal systems of England and France, made Ireland easy prey when it was invaded by England. The establishment of colonies in Ireland was one of the ways in which the English feudal society expanded.

From the 12th to the 16th century Britain maintained a colonial enclave in Ireland never seriously controlling more than an area around modern Dublin.

In the 16th century the Tudors decided to conquer Ireland thoroughly and completely in the interests of the growing British capitalism as well as those of the ruling — landlord — class. The British were well aware that they would face a resistance from the Irish.

During these 16th century wars of conquest against the Irish, the English rulers learned that an overlord’s presence in Ireland was not enough. It was necessary to pay rent to the landlords and repopulate Ireland, and they opted for a policy of “plantation,” aiming to replace the Irish with settlers, as the American Indians were later to be replaced by colonists.

Under Elizabeth and her successors thousands of the native Irish were driven from their land and replaced by English and Scottish protestants. All the land was given into the hands of landlords: Irish ones — men who under native Irish law had no personal rights to land which was held as common property for all their people — and English adventurers being paid with land for their services.

The consequences of this policy, between the beginning of Elizabeth and the bloody Cromwellian “final solution” after 1649, dominated Ireland politically and economically, and stultified its development for centuries to come.

ULSTER

The planters were not easily distributed throughout Ireland. A large proportion of them concentrated in the north west, where they brought with them not only their Presbyterian religion but also traditions of manufacture and teaching practices.

They gained a certain security and prosperity (though not, of course, without struggle against the landlords). These Presbyterians had a history of rebellion and dissent in England and Scotland, of struggle for democracy which was intimately related to their economic activity. They had to struggle but their struggles were separate and on a different plane from those of the Catholic natives.

The Protestant tenants were subordinated to the landlords and the exploiters, as were their fellows in England and Scotland. But in Ireland both planter tenants and alien landlords had a common interest against the native driven off the land, which the one newcomer now owned and the other settled.

The planter tenants were able to get livable terms from the landlords, while the native Irish tenants were as conquered and degraded a race as were over the natives of Peru or Mexico.

This was the original root of the divisions to be found in the Irish people to this very day.

The planter tenants’ relative security, with some rights recognised by the landlord, gave them serious advantages and allowed them a certain margin to accumulate a little capital which combined with their skills to lay the basis for the development of modern industry in that part of Ireland.

This nascent capitalism was a strong element in the development of democratic republicanism in Ireland, fusing with the rebellious traditions of the dissenting Presbyterian religion.

Not all lower class protestants were concentrated in the North. Landlords parasite had emigrated all over Ireland and had around them a retinue of procurers for their various wants. These people gradually came to form a manufacturing and trading community in the towns of the South, linked by religion to their masters but by objective interests to the peasants and artisans of the rest of the country.

From this group came some of the foremost democratic and republican leaders in Irish history, and indeed, Republicans and democrats in the front ranks of the revolutionaries of that time.

One of these was Wolfe Tone, born into the Church of Ireland in Dublin trading family, a freethinker, a radical republican, a sympathizer and active supporter of the Great French Revolution of 1789, and a general in the army of revolutionaries of France: an internationalist in the best tradition of European revolutionary movements.

UNITED IRISHMEN

He was the architect of the United Irishmen, a revolutionary group that sought to unite all the oppressed, “the men of no property” in a united Irish Republic, pledged to the “Rights of Man” of the democrats of the time.

They wanted to sweep away every vestige of feudalism, including every landlord, to make religion a private matter and, freeing Ireland from British domination, to set up an independent Irish Democracy which would free the peasants from the burden of the lower class Protestant landlords and pave the way for the development of an independent capitalist class.

But this was not to be. The forces behind Tone were to be too weak to stand up to the combined weight of the British state and the Irish landlords. He was not backed by the middle class men of property, as the Persian masses who carried out the revolution there had been at the beginning.

The United Irishmen’s rebellion of 1798 was ruthlessly suppressed. The leaders were hunted down and exterminated and the whole peasantry population terrorised.

SHOTGUN “UNION”

But England and her lackeys in Ireland knew — as every lesson — that they had discovered the social dynamite still present in Ireland and the danger it represented to stability, and even to the very security of England in wartime.

The limited but promising success of the United Irishmen in bringing together oppressed Catholics with an oppressed section of the Protestants, (the Presbyterians, not, significantly, the Anglicans) that threatened, and was clearly seen to have threatened, the existence of their whole system.

So they forced an Act of Union through the Irish Parliament by bribery and corruption of men who hardly needed to be bribed or corrupted. This Act stellar all the possibility of an independent development of the small Irish bourgeoisie, and with it Britain embarked on a conscious and deliberate policy at the expense of the rest of the population.

They built on the long-standing distrust between the Catholic and Protestant sections of the population, a distrust arising out of their historical, cultural and social differences.

They continued to buy the loyalty of the lower class Protestants with small privileges. One of the main sources of the Orange Order, an organisation aimed specifically at binding Protestants together. It was initially a movement of Anglican preachers in Armagh, headed against both Catholic and Protestant tenants in defence of the
The Irish labour movement was a significant force in Irish politics and played a crucial role in the struggle for national independence. The movement was characterized by its strong commitment to social justice and its role in organizing workers and advocating for fair wages and working conditions.

The Irish labour movement emerged in the late 19th century as a response to the harsh conditions faced by workers in the rapidly industrializing Irish economy. From its early days, the movement focused on issues such as trade unionism, collective bargaining, and the protection of workers' rights.

The movement was particularly active during the early 20th century, as Ireland faced social and political upheaval in the wake of the Great Famine and the British colonial rule. The labour movement played a key role in the fight for Irish independence and was instrumental in shaping the country's modern political landscape.

The labour movement also played a significant role in the Irish Free State, founded in 1922, and in the establishment of the Irish Republic in 1923. The movement's influence continued to grow throughout the 20th century, as workers sought to improve their living standards and challenge the power of the ruling classes.

Today, the Irish labour movement remains a powerful force in Irish society, advocating for workers' rights and social justice and working to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of resources in Ireland.
Karl Marx

"can never itself be free"

"A Nation which enslaves another"
VICTORY TO THE I.R.A.

WORKERS RIGHT
"I was a Nazi for the CIA"

SOUTH AMERICA is a notorious haven for retired Nazi officials, former SS officers and former Gestapo officials. Busters of Nazi war criminals believe that Colonel Hans Barger, right wing dictator of Bolivia, is shielding Claus Buten, former Gestapo chief in Lyon, who murdered 4,000 people, and was banished to the gas chambers in the SS 14,300 French Resistance fighter.

A certain rich businessman, Claus Altman, looks remarkably like Barger, and to a veritable coincidence has a wife and family whose names and birth dates are the same as those of the ex-Gestapo boss's own wife and children...

Beveridge's wartime record, as the Canadians evidence against Altman, forced President Pompidou of France to demand extradition. This has been refused by the Bolivian dictatorship.

The CIA — America's secret service — is watching every move of the French Government. After the war, Barger worked for the CIA, who refused to allow detailed questioning by the French. They are also reputed to have helped him to obtain the false Red Cross passport that took him safely to Bolivia.

The USA (which incidentally is not at all lacking in its own war criminals of mere recent vintage than Barger and his ilk), has a vested interest in maintaining right wing regimes and protecting their investments in South America. Both governments are also concerned about the worst enemies of socialism and the working class.

Barger and his associates have little to worry about from Pompidou who is very keen to forge a friendship with the former freedom fighters may yet put pressure on the French government.

A.T.

ALBERT BLOGSWORTH, THIS IS YOUR LIFE

The scene is set.

Eamon Andrews, complete with TV camera, is outside the gates of Iram Steel Works. Various individuals in well pressed overalls strech their necks to see immmortally on the television screen.

Eamon carefully scans the faces of the 6:00am to 7:00am shift workers leaving the factory. "ABC News recognition. He steps forward"

"Albert Blogsworth?" Eamon, somewhat surprised "Are you sure?"

"Eamon is taken aback. "What recognition?"

"Aye, I knew thee as soon as I clanged thee on the brow. You're Val Doonican."

"I'm Eamon Andrews, for Chatsworth TV."

Albert spots his wife in the crowd. "She Maggie, this eeres that Eamon Andrews off that there Opportunity Knock's."

"Jesus wept, that's Maggie Green" grins Eamon.

"Albert's wife Maggie thinks its time to interject. (To Eamon) Eamon notes alongside God, David Frost and Malcolm Muggeridge)."

"Albert doesn't have much time to watch telly, Eamon."

Eamon becomes his best smile.

"Albert Blogsworth, pudding, furnace man. THIS IS YOUR LIFE"

"Be fancy! He's doing you, I don't believe, gangs Maggie."

"Yup it him here if he's not careful."

"The TV Rolls pulls up alongside the truck."

"Ify Gun Albert. Bloody foreman can't afford one of these."

"Well we see David Frost" asks Maggie.

"Eamon is getting a bit desparate. "You can see Annie Walker, Eamie Sharpe and Len Fairnough's underpants if you wish. I'll even show you Michael Miles' mausoleum, but please get in the car."

"The car pulls away with Maggie waving in regal fashion."

"Good evening, ladies and gentlemen...

"The other day I was in Lanarkshire visiting Steel works and meeting ordinary working folks. Since then I've had a half dozen tons of mail and sent my suit to the cleaners."

"But more to the point, whilst I was there I met a man whose whole life has been so crammed with exciting events that I feel you people really ought to meet him. After nineteen years in Iram Steel Works I suppose we could say that steel was in his blood. A lot of his mates have their blood in the steel."

"Eamon turns to the viewers.
Ceylonese style

They are due for early release.

"The Government will decide later what action should be taken against the others. Those against whom there is substantial evidence of direct involvement will have to face charges of high treason which carries a mandatory death sentence."

There are undoubted advantages to leaving the judicial decisions to the courts. Even the sternest of human judges might be moved to indecisive leniency at the thought of requiring large numbers of youths to face a mandatory death penalty—an emotional failing to which computers are not subject. Moreover, computers can be programmed much more easily than can judges to accept as valid evidence whatever the programmer desires.

Bandaranaike's pioneering role in computer jurisprudence may well go down in history alongside Richard Nixon's introduction of computerized bombing in Indochina. It only remains now to develop a computer that can perform actual executions, and the members of the United Front will be able to say with a clear conscience that there is no blood on their hands.

from Intersentinal Press

**Release**

**Angela Davis**

ANGELA DAVIS, black militant and communist, has gone on trial this month for murder, after almost two years of solitary imprisonment.

She has become for the black people of America a symbol of the fight back against the reactionary and racist US state.

The prosecution are well aware of her influence and have mounted a vicious campaign against her.

Her imprisonment has aroused many formerly non-political people, black and white, into forming defense committees. However, their solidarity has so far been limited to such campaigns as petitioning the Bar committee, a US legal body. Any real defense campaign can only be one that takes in the struggle of Angela Davis herself—a struggle against Nixon's reactionary state and its police.

**Don Mintoff**

**Off with his head?**

THE DISPUTE BETWEEN MALTA and Britain over payment for the base on the island has had an Atlantic-Wonderland Quality. When did you last hear one party to negotiations still in progress pour such public contempt on the other, suggesting in so many words that he was a jumped up native who needed putting in his place?

In fact, the British have tried to provoke as much intransigence as possible in their dealings with Mintoff. Were they really trying to reach agreement, even if it did involve driving a hard bargain?

Many Maltese interpret their motives quite differently, and the following extracts suggest why.

The first comes from a letter written to us by a British resident in Malta, the second from an article in the English Times, both are dated in the latter part of January.

"I'm sure the vicious campaign launched against Mintoff by British mass media reflects a decision to get rid of him and his supporters (i.e., the Maltese workers).

"There was first the playing for time in September—a promise to settle negotiations for a new agreement in three months, with a refusal to budge from their initial offer at the end of the time.

"Then the bluff that after all Malta was of no consequence to them, coupled with the expectation that a threat to withdraw would terrify the Maltese and lead to the fall of the government.

"Now this bluff has been called on both sides: there has been a backlash to the wall rallying of support by the Maltese community, and desperate new offers for a settlement by the Americans and Italians.

"Britain however seems ready to go it alone, and I foresee a preference of withdrawal coupled with plans for actual intervention.

"Officially British troops are to be out of Malta by the end of March. In practice not a man or a weapon has been moved. A cruiser kept guard in the harbor and commanders have taken over military airfield at Hal Far. Meanwhile top MI5 chiefs and helicopter patrols go on uncannily.

"Malta News: "Britain wanted Labour out of the way for easy means of foul. Several attempts by the British Secret Service to disrupt the Maltese Labour Government have failed... The British intelligence service studied several plans to get Labour out of the way."

"It was believed that the Maltese could have been invited against the Labour Government when Mr. Mintoff's administration would tell the British to get out and the British played upon the beliefs that Mr. Mintoff would resign if the Nationalist Opposition would be organized demonstrations against the government.

"The British Intelligence also considered a plot to bribe a member of the Labour Government so that he would cross the floor." (The Labour majority is only 1.)

"Work to carry out their plan was started. This was investigated by the police, and the British Intelligence gave up.

"Whitehall issued orders that the Maltese employed with the Services should be given their discharge notices, confirming that in this manner these workers who are mostly Labour supporters would start protesting against the government.

"However the plan miscarried. When the demonstrations were held these were not against the Government but huge rallies of support for Mr. Mintoff."

"Quite. Quite," says Elamson quickly.

"You're not what you know it who you know" quips Albert, with great originality.

"Have you still got ambition Albert?"

"Ambition? You've got to admit I've come up in the world lad, a labourer's son becoming farmancer. May lad, though I say it myself, I've not done too badly.

"Elamson booms, 'I think we can say you've led a full life.'"

"You can that.

"Don't you envy anybody?"

"I don't envy nobody. Can Frank Sinatra stoke up a furnace? Don't care how much money he's got, I'd be he envies the likes of me.

"The programme draws to a close. Elamson stands up to go out. Albert's name is emblazoned on it in iridescent.

"Just then the lights go out. Albert is at the door, and is heard to say 'Bloody miners. Why can't they be satisfied like you and me...'"
FRANCE: 200,000 March Against Factory Gun-Guards

by Paul Itize

On Saturday March 4th, in Paris a procession striking over four miles accommodated the coffin of 23-year-old Marxist worker Rene Pierre Overney, murdered by an armed thug.

The killer, Tramoni, was part of a private police force employed by the Renault management under the same title of ‘Working Conditions Improvement Team’, to back up the increasing repression in their factories.

On February 24th a group of Maquis attempted to enter the Renault factory while distributing leaflets. They were met by the private army of the company and in the skirmish that followed Overney was shot dead.

Overney had been a worker at the factory until June 1970 when he was dismissed, in the words of the Renault management, for “distributing non-trade union leaflets” and for “selling again at the work place a political newspaper approving violence” (Le Monde, March 1).

The funeral march was the biggest political demonstration since the workers were supported by all the left groups, calling for an end to private armies of management, and for workers’ self-defence.

It was opposed by the Communist Party, who have been conducting a hysterical campaign against the left groups — and the dead man too — accusing them of plotting with the government to create disorder so as to damage the Communist Party’s electoral chances!

HARMONY?

The response to Overney’s murder has (yet again!) astounded and terrified those who think social harmony and working class apathy the natural order of things.

May 1968 initiated a series of struggles involving the newly rediscovered all-in tactics, drawing groups of workers (often immigrants) who had been scarcely involved in the May-June events as such.

Many new demands have been thrown up, such as the restructuring of wages in favour of the unskilled and semi-skilled, and the skilled and supervisory grades who have till now made up a large part of trade union membership.

In the last year these struggles have tended to run into each other. With a work disapproach, the Communist Party has again devoted all its energies to pressurizing the workers into accepting its inexcusable illusion of a calm but radical atmosphere which will give them and the ‘official’ electoral victory. Their union, the C.G.T., has moved in to evacuate the workers’ tactics and smoother their demands.

Management and government have sought to use the occasion to re-establish and reinforce a pre-1968 level of discipline.

Police have violently broken up picket lines and arrested any sit-in strikers in a whole number of places. Militants have been sacked and private armies established.

The C.G.T. has not protracted too much. One of its members at Renault, on hearing the shout of Overney, is said to have tolled a group of horrified workers: “That makes one less of them, and you understand, comrades, before we did the policing, now they themselves are here to do it, and that’s very good.”

The French journal Latte Ouvriere describes the growing repression at Renault:

“…”The papers and radio have not spoken of the tightening of discipline and of conditions in which the management makes its employees work, of the sackings, of the punishments of all sorts which have become regular in the last few months, particularly in the semi skilled sections of the plant.”

“Gradually, especially since May 1971, the management have forced a work discipline which is no different from that notoriously operating in Citroen for example, by the use of a much strengthened body of security staff and plain clothes thugs. Through 1971 and then again this January groups of Maquis and other workers have been attacked with little or no press.”

But not for long — there were too many witnesses, and too many had known the dead man. His old work mate from Renault carried his coffin. The mass demonstrations made up largely of young workers, technical college and high school pupils rather than the more middle class students (as at first in 1968) mark the beginning of a new stage.

The funeral was attended by 200,000 people, according to the conservative newspaper Le Figaro. (The police estimate was 100,000; the Communist Party’s 40,000...). The following day the conservative newspaper Le Figaro wrote: “That the figure of the participants is disputed does not change the fact; it was an important demonstration that took place Sunday.”

That ‘Le Figaro’ clearly relishes the embarrassment of the Communist Party demonstrates not that the revolutionaries play into the hands of the ruling class, as the Communist Party leadership claims, but that the Communist Party, a large and powerful party in France, can never be reformist enough for the bourgeoisie. Not, however, for want of trying by its leaders. But because behind the reformist leadership stands a militant working class, over whom the Communist Party leaders are likely to lose control if they gain power only to manage capitalism as the Labour Party does here.

The real left is stronger now than in 1968, workers are more wary of the Communist Party than they were then: more recognises it for the right wing sham that it is. The Government carries the discredit of tax and fraud scandals instead of the authority of De Gaulle.

Social harmony, in France as anywhere else, is not normal. It is merely a temporary lid clamped on a sea of discontent and a working class which will again, as in ’68, challenge the bosses’ power in society. And this time the “Communist” Party may not be as capable of living up to the responsibilities as it was in May-June 1968.
What their papers say......

Preston: BAC workers fight new work study scheme.

ON FEBRUARY 7th, 3,000 manual workers from three British Aircraft Corporation factories in the Preston area came out on strike.

The main work in the Military Aircraft Division of BAC, producing the joint French/British Jaguar, Strike Masters for New Zealand, and Fencer fighters for the European MIRAC project, had been critical of the new work study scheme, and the men are now on strike against the union's recommendation to accept it.

The union has introduced a new wages-payment system, which uses the principles of MIRAC, an 'advance' on measured day work now being pushed in Midlands car factories.

Stewards have been sent on management and TUC courses in preparation.

Before the strike began, there was a series of one-day strikes against the bosses to try and negotiate the wages system.

The strikers are demanding that the scheme should be re-established, and public confidence in it should be 'restored'.

As the self-appointed spokesmen of all the MIRAC, said the judge who sentenced two crooked directors to 7 and 8 years in prison, he 'found no evidence of any breach of the law'.

Well, he wasn't speaking for us, and we don't think he was speaking for the majority of the nation either, who were never much heeded by the law which protects the property and order of the rich.

The MIRAC thinks 'Mr. Justice Lasby should back the most abhorrent duty which can ever concern a judge' in sentencing the detectives.

Really? As we were a judge we might find it much more abhorrent to have to punish a man driven to drink by misery or to imprison a person for selling goods to a supermarket.

We might be more appalled to see the trade-unionised families on the streets so as to put up their rents.

But, if the MIRAC is not bothered by such products of the everyday workings of the law, neither is it really very worried by the 'wickedness' of the 'few rotten apples' in the police.

For, as the MIRAC says, "a nation's police are a reflection of the society they live in", and what really worries the MIRAC is precisely that the "good name" of the police is fast "restored", people might come to associate the crookedness of the police with the crookedness of a society where the difference between big business and big crime is largely a question of what you can get away with.

MAULDING

At the top of the pyramid of the law standing and the home Secretary, First President of the Real Estate Industry of England, 60 members are now in New York prisons for fraud. But then, defrauding shareholders is not exactly a crime, and why should we throw away our mere defrauding workers — after all, they are the mainstay of the capitalist system.

MTM will benefit some workers by giving them higher bonuses.

MEASURED TIME MOTION

MTM is being introduced to help the BAC bosses over the problem of fixed-price contracts, and to solve some of the financial problems caused by projects done in cooperation with Common Market countries.

MTM is a more accurate method of measuring what a worker does, and how fast he does it. It is designed to cut "waste time" by up to 15%. It will mean more control and supervision, and it is certain to go on for a period of years, and as one foreman put it "the less intelligent worker" will go. They will be made redundant, or disappear down the "natural wastage" drain.

S.S.

The Department of Social Security has, as usual, been neutral. By refusing the claims of the workers for increased pay the smallness of payments to others, it has attempted to pressure the men back to work.

In response, 15,000 BAC workers, together with members of Preston Unemployed Workers Union, on Thursday February 19th, occupied the local Social Security office for nearly 4 hours.

As a result of this the union publicly gained, the S.S. was forced to increase payments.

This victory itself raised the morale of all the strikers.

The Preston BAC strikers are leading the LOCAL fight against MTM and redundancy. But this strike is crucial for all BAC workers.

If MTM is introduced into Preston factories, the BAC management will use this to spread it to their other factories.

Similarly, the Pre-on strikers feel that it is proving that any form of "fighting other battles. For example in Bristol, the main fight is against the wiped-out factories.

Unless these different struggles are linked, the BAC bosses - because they are controlled and know what is happening - can win.

For the same reason the lack of any link-up between the different factories around the AWE national 13 point claim will mean a weakening of the workers' side.

The Preston District Committee has the example of the Manchester and Sheffield district committees. With prices rising daily and the miners' 1980 victory over this "fight" it will be easier for us.

This is not the time to hang back.

I would like to know more about Workers' Fight.

NAME

Address

Send to: Joe Wright, 21 Lindum Street, Manchester 14.
The miners have not just won a few pounds in money. They have won a degree of self-confidence for the future, and a degree of organization that not even they expected.

This other important victory of the miners’ strike can’t be allowed to die away. Any money victory which still leaves the Tories and the employers in power is a partial victory — one battle won in a continuing class war.

Mineral miners need to organize and prepare for future battles.

A first step has been taken in North Staffordshire. A small nucleus of miners has started to hold regular meetings, and are producing reports and articles for the forthcoming national rank and file miners’ paper “The Collier.”

The miners’ main objectives have been decided as follows:

1. To stress that the victory was won by rank and file solidarity of all miners and that solidarity must be forthcoming from mine-workers to other miners with claims coming up, especially the railwaymen.

2. To continue to work for an SIL (Union of Miners) in the Public Service, as called for by the Union of Post Office Workers.

3. To point out the dangers in the steel industry — the “promise” of productivity dealing in September. Productivity deals have always meant the same production can be carried out with fewer workers, i.e. redundancies.

4. The 12-month clause, which means that the next round of negotiations will come up just before the summer holiday in which coal consumption is lowest.

5. The lack of any agreement that no further pit closures are to be allowed.

All these dangers can be fought.

The 16-month clause is only a piece of paper. There is nothing to stop unofficial moves for a pit strike increase in September, with no productivity strings.

The vital thing is to develop and extend the links that grew up during the strike into a strong fighting organisation of rank and file miners.

Martin Thomas

Manchester
Confed. stewards on the move

MANCHESTER’S ON THE MOVE! That’s the message that went out from a recent meeting at the Holdsworth Hall of 600 stewards in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, District 29. After the sell-out by the Confederation stewards talks with the Engineering Employers’ Federation on 15th December, the District 29 stewards have been left high and dry.

But along with the unanimous desire for a national “Leaders Equal to the Head, we want a real fighting spirit, a real willingness to fight not only for the District’s demands but also against the entire employers’ offensive.

On unemployment, for instance, Betty Crawford of Forneth said “It was a great shock when she said they told you that you don’t work hard enough the industry will be in trouble; now you’ve worked hard and YOU’re in trouble.”

UNION OSTRICH

Ron Williams of Stockport summed up the meeting’s feelings on the Confederation’s attitude to the Industrial Relations Act: “It’s the union that’s done an ostrich on us. What did they say? Look at the Bill, study it. And ignore it.”

But the biggest response was drawn by those who pointed out that the criminal way the Confederation has对待 workers of small firms to go to the wall. In a recessionary period the workers can only move forward with the fighting support of their brothers and sisters in the bigger firms.

Bristol
BENDIX WESTINGHOUSE

WORKERS PREPARE TO FIGHT

REDUNDANCY

The Bristol based firm of Bendix Westinghouse announced on March 2nd that it is to sack 150 workers in the next 2 months.

This company which makes air brakes is being sold to the U.S. concern, is jointly owned by two American corporations, Westinghouse and Bendix. The firm (which employs a thousand workers) already sold 100 production workers before Christmas, complaining of a fall in demand.

This second redundancy will affect staff and other “indirect” workers.

There are already over 11,000 on the dole in Bristol, and workers at Bendix Westinghouse have decided that it is time to make a firm stand against the management and challenge its rights to dispose of working people as it pleases.

For workers, however, the ASTMS shop stewards said “We are definitely not accepting the redundancies.”

It is not yet clear what tactics will be adopted against these redundancies but the experiences of recent successful struggles against redundancies at Fisher Bendix, Plews, and Allis Chalmers will not have been lost.

Simon Temple

And for nabbs!

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Simon Temple

Teeside: Solidarity strikers sacked

LARKHAM — INSULATION MEN

in the Hartlepool (Teeside) area are being sacked for coming out in support of their striking fellow-workers on the Tyne and Wear. And the bosses are openly advertising for scabs to take their jobs.

400 of the workers struck in January to support the 500 Tyne-side Thermal Insulation workers who’d been out since November for an increase of 15p on top of the national minimum rate, to bring their wages up to those of laggers in other regions, eg Scotland.

When the Hartlepool men walked out, they were given a warning notice after a week on strike, then got their cards through the post.

The sympathetic strike became a lockout.

The fight is essentially about the right to win local awards over and above the basic rate. The employers said that local claims were a breach of contract.

For the last 14 weeks the men’s union — the GMBU, and albeit its officials have done nothing to help the strikers. They have in fact tried to break it by telling men to go back to work, and fought any attempts to make the strike work.

But they will be directly responsible for any scabbing. But then, attacks on militants are nothing new to Lord Cooper and his “brothers.”

Even the attempt of the firms to recruit skilled and unskilled workers who need not be union members, under the Industrial Relations Act — to work on the locked-out laggers has provoked no response from the GMBU, who are already putting the Tyne Act into practice.

That Act makes sympathetic strikes illegal. But workers cannot and will not allow their rights to be taken away so easily.

The Hartlepool laggards are only the first of a wave that will ram through the whole working class existence down the throats of Heath and his Tory spies.

Alan Theasby