

# WORKERS' FIGHT

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4p

## STOP THE FASCISTS

FOR YEARS, THE FASCISTS in their sewers have been feeding off the oppression, injustice and demoralisation created by the capitalist system and its two main parties, Tory and Labour. Now the 4,789 votes for Martin Webster - National Front organiser with clear fascist connections - in the West Bromwich by election, are a clear warning to us to cut off the growth of this fungus.

Prices have soared, unemployment is still high. The Labour Party and trade union leaders point out these facts clearly enough. But what do they say are the causes? What do they do about it?

Do they point to the real causes - the system where people get jobs only if they can make a profit for an employer; the profit-grabbing of the big monopolies; the massive waste of the rich? Some of the left-wingers do, on special occasions.

### action

But do they act to bring united working class action for wages to keep ahead of prices? Do they press for hours to be cut with no loss of pay, instead of jobs being cut? Do they make practical plans to nationalise industry, without compensation to big shareholders, and provide jobs for all? No.

For practical purposes, the Labour leaders ignore the real causes. Meanwhile they blame Common Market entry for price rises (as if prices didn't rise when Britain was 'sovereign'; as if French workers were responsible for Value Added Tax).

They talk about the 'dangers' of immigration - as if there was no unemployment in the '30s, when there was scarcely a black face in Britain.

Where the Labour leaders mumble and quibble, the racials and fascists speak their false words clearly and simply. And they promise to do something - to launch vicious attacks on black workers, communists and militants.

That's why many workers, confused and disorientated by

the record of Labour, turn to the camp of the frightened little men.

For the labour movement, the fight against fascism is a life or death struggle. If the fungus is allowed to spread, in each section of the movement which it affects white worker will be split from black worker and turned from war against the bosses to war against each other.

What must we do to root out racialism and the fascism it breeds from the labour movement?

### root out

\* Argue the true causes of attacks on living standards and jobs, and work out a socialist programme to fight them. Mount a campaign of education against nationalism and chauvinism, which leave workers a prey to both racialism against their black fellow-workers, and also Tory 'national interest' propaganda.

\* Oppose the Immigration Acts which have made racism 'respectable'. Defend those of our brothers who are singled out and victimised under these laws.

\* Build unity in struggle of black and white workers. Insist that your union take special measures to involve immigrant workers. (e.g. Recruiting leaflets in suitable languages, etc.) Make sure that, where they want it, we fight for the representation of black workers on stewards' committees etc. Take the initiative yourselves if the officials neglect

these things.

\* Support black workers in struggle, with practical aid, solidarity and picketing - particularly where white racist workers have scabbed on them. Let these scabs be shown up for what they are. If other white workers stand aside, these bosses' men will feel justified in their ludicrous and vicious delusion that they are somehow 'defending their standards' by scabbing on their black fellow workers.

\* Make sure that when fascists or racials try to demonstrate or to terrorise black people, we prevent them. Drive them off the streets. Organise to help defend black communities against attacks.

Drive the fascists off election platforms. Webster campaigned for the National Front, without much trouble, at factory gate meetings. That must never be allowed to happen again.

But above all, militants must face the implications of widespread racialism in the working class, and indeed in wide sections of the labour movement. Proposals for unity and anti-racialist campaigns are mere good intentions unless they are ideas, slogans, proposals in the hands of an organisation which sees the fight against racialism as part of a general class struggle and can act as an agency for organising that struggle on all its levels.

On page 4: How fascists infiltrate the Unions.

Centre pages: How Tories help the fascists.

### ▽ Use this Pamphlet ▽

To help campaign against racism, WORKERS' FIGHT has produced a 20-page pamphlet which explains the roots of racist thinking, takes up 'reasonable' sounding racist arguments, examines the racism of the 'popular' psychologist Eysenck, and exposes fascist infiltration in the Unions.

The pamphlet is written in a clear style, and should be an invaluable aid to militants striving to fight racism at work.

We appeal to all readers and supporters of Workers' Fight to take it into their workplace and make sure it gets as wide a circulation as possible.

Single Issues 10p & postage  
Bulk Orders: 50p for 6; 80p for 12

DON'T SCAB  
THIS IS YOUR FIGHT



Racialism  
and the  
Working Class

### THE LABOUR PARTY AND NATIONALISATION

## Clear Out all the Bosses

How sad, the papers said... all that old 'socialist dogma' about nationalisation coming up again in the Labour Party. So upsetting, when they thought that 'ideology' had been ended, and everyone agreed on a pragmatic approach to politics, seeking the best way to run the mixed economy.

It's no wonder the case for nationalisation appears dogmatic, when it comes from people who see it only as a way to run capitalism better - 'making Marks and Spencers as efficient (in exploiting shopworkers?) as the Co-op'. But if there is a view which is old fashioned, outdated, unsuited to reality, it is the view that says that big industry, the working life of most people, and a good part of the wealth created by labour, should be controlled by a tiny minority of rich parasites (1% of the population owning 80% of all privately-owned company shares).

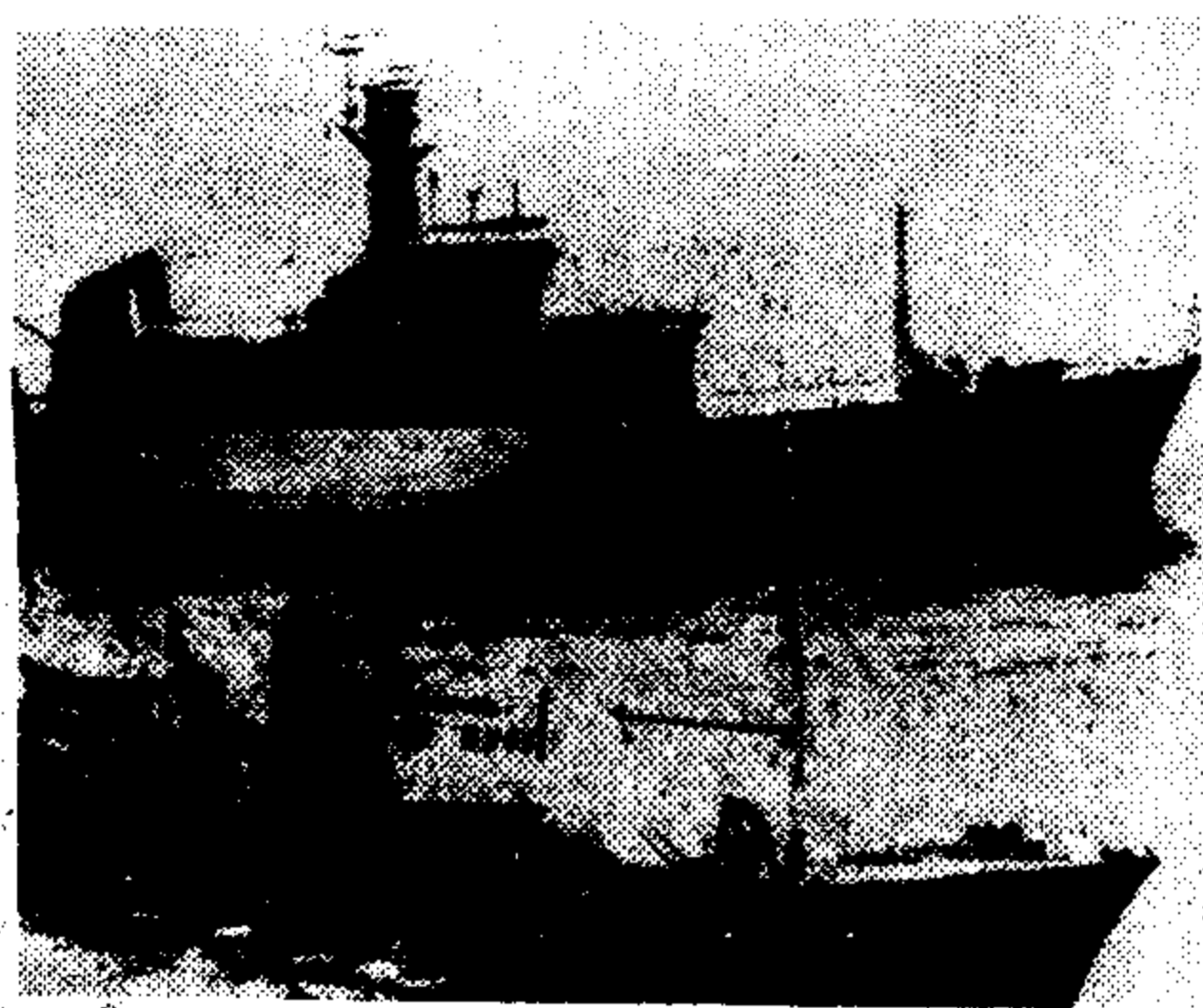
It is true that nationalisation as we have seen it so far in Britain has helped little. Generally it has been a case of ailing capitalist enterprises, in basic industries necessary to the whole economy, being bailed out with big compensation and continuing dividend payments. The capitalist governments (Labour or Tory) have handed over control of the nationalised industries to the former owners - people like Lord Melchett in steel, for example - and paid them big salaries to run a cheap basic service for their fellow-capitalists.

This is quite different from socialist nationalisation, which is a step not to bolster up the bosses, but to take industry and the state out of their hands and bring in workers' control. The difference gives us a warning about the motives of people like Wedgwood Benn and Judith Hart

If they were to nationalise the 'top 25' with compensation, it would cost £12,000 million of taxpayers' money; if they were to nationalise without compensation, it would need not just Acts of Parliament, but a powerful show of working class force to defeat the big business tops.

Continued page 2





# British Gunboats Prop up Profits

By  
**John Sterling**

**"Iceland must stop exploiting the fact that she is a small and weak country up against a large and powerful one" !! (Daily Mirror)**

In the 19th Century, Britain became the exploiter and the plunderer of the whole world. Whole areas of the world were brought under ruthless colonial domination and thus became 'backward', even though, until as late as the 18th Century, they had been on

a comparable level to Europe.

In India, for example, the cotton industry was deliberately destroyed for the benefit of the Lancashire cotton masters.

Of course, this helped prosperity in Britain. Mainly for the rich — but even the working people of Britain have had advantages over the peoples of most of the world. And those advantages have led many socialists to believe that the British work-

ing class can achieve self-improvement and even socialism by pushing its own narrow interests, disregarding and even opposing the oppressed peoples. In reality these 'socialists' have led us into two bloody world wars.

Only the fact that such 'socialists' have dominated the British labour movement for decades, can explain the shameful attitudes shown over the 'Cod War'.

Trawlermen are worried about losing their jobs, of course. But surely their hours of work are more than long enough already. Let's demand that trawlers keep out of Iceland's waters, that trawlermen's hours of work are

cut with no loss of pay, at the expense of the trawler owners' big profits. It is not the people of Iceland, but the British trawler owners, who have kept trawlermen's wages and conditions at a miserable level.

Iceland is more fortunate than most of the small nations of the world. But, like the others, it depends almost entirely on one industry: fish make up 82% of Iceland's exports.

For Icelanders to oppose British intrusion in their fishing grounds is not aggression or, as the Press rather ludicrously calls it, bullying. It is basic self defence.

## 8 months for marching

Michael Farrell, a leading member of People's Democracy in Belfast, was sentenced recently for eight months imprisonment on a trumped up charge of being party to a "breach of the peace."

This arises out of PD's refusal to knuckle under to interference with peaceful demonstrations planned by them in Belfast. Every single PD or Republican march which has aimed at entering the centre of Belfast has been banned, while the UDA, in full para-military uniforms, have been allowed through several times.

Sentencing Farrell, the Magistrate denied that the courts had allowed political motives to influence their judgment.

Farrell is appealing.

**The Industrial Relations Act and the fight for a GENERAL STRIKE**

Coming shortly, a comprehensive collection of articles on the general strike. A short introductory section deals with the events of July 1972 and the situation leading up to them. The central section contains articles on the experience, including Britain 1919-26; France May 1968; the 1972 Quebec general strike, and a new translation of Rosa Luxemburg on Belgium, 1902. A third section deals with the question of trade unions and the State, and an appendix discusses the positions of the left groups on the General Strike and the July Crisis of 1972.

This useful collection of reprints will be ready this month. Price 20p plus 5p postage from 98 Gifford Street, London N.1

## LABOUR PARTY

From page 1

On previous records, they are not going to either pay out £12,000 million, or mount a serious workers' struggle. They are 'doing a Gormley': they make a big noise about doing something very radical which they are sure won't come off, and hope to divert attention from the here and now.

One writer has said that the Labour Party is the most dogmatic party in the world: dogmatic, not about socialism, but about insisting that Parliament is the be-all and end-all of politics. That means the Labour Party is paralysed from any forceful action against the ruling class.

That's one reason why many working class militants have turned away from the Labour Party in recent years, some of them to revolutionary socialist politics.

They have found the Labour Party undemocratic. When a Labour Government is elected on radical promises, it does little or nothing to fulfill them. Now, when the elected National Executive proposes that, after 54 years, the party might do something about clause IV of its Constitution, then the party leader simply refuses to admit even promises.

Gormley's motives didn't stop us supporting the call for a general strike; nor should Benn's and Hart's motives stop us from supporting militants in the Labour Party who fight for the party to stick to the National Executive decision.

Through the experience of that fight, many of them will join their fellow workers who have been convinced of the necessity of the revolutionary road to socialism.

## N. Ireland: Elections in the Gerrymandered state

As expected, the Six Counties local government elections have returned more serried ranks of Unionists. At the time of writing the latest figures available covered 483 out of a total of 526 seats. "Official Unionists" took 109 of these followed by 94 "Unionists", 66 "other loyalists" and 13 Democratic Unionists (Paisleyites), giving the pro-Union right a grand total of 282 seats — nearly half the total.

Next, Alliance did only moderately well with 59 seats, while the Northern Ireland Labour Party has so far won only 4 seats and, as always when the major political question — the existence of the Six Counties within the U.K. — comes to the fore, it suffered a heavy setback, (this time perhaps more serious than previously).

The SDLP have garnered 74 seats, not as good as they had hoped for but clearly useful to Whitelaw's plan, which must now rest on ensuring a repetition of this kind of voting in the elections for the Assembly on June 28th, with the emergence of a governmental block composed of Official Unionists, Alliance and SDLP as the goal.

Whether this will be the result is another matter. Vanguard are clearly determined to pull out all the stops on June 28th,

and it is still not clear how much support Faulkner commands in the Unionist ranks. (While some "official Unionists" are opposed to the White Paper, other "independent Unionists" and 'non-Party' members are solidly behind Faulkner.)

The Provisional Sinn Fein

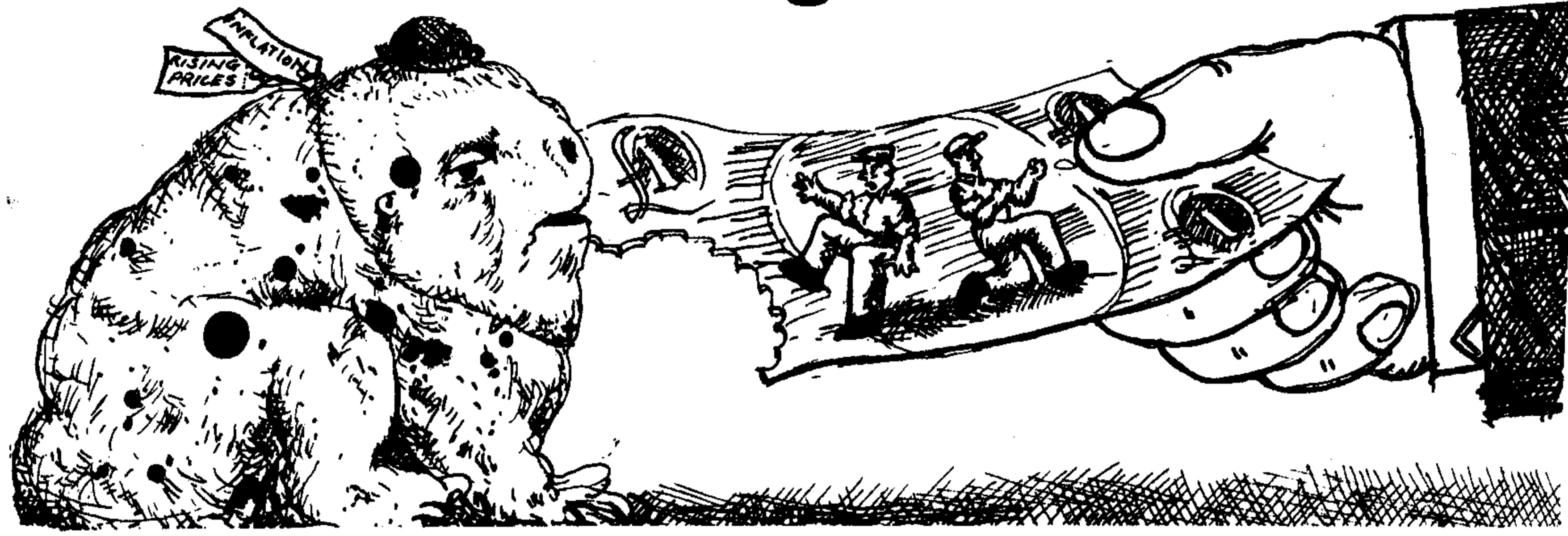
boycott has clearly had some effect: in Andersonstown only 46% bothered to vote. Let us hope that many more people come to see the idea of elections in one vast gerrymandered area of Ireland as the farce they are.

Chris Gray



**THE NEW STORMONT**

## Introducing Phase 3



EVERY SO OFTEN WE HAVE A Profumo scandal, a Maudling affair, the Poulson case, the exit of a Jellicoe or a Lambton, or the exposure of a Lonhro.

This, says Heath, is the "unacceptable face of capitalism".

WRONG! Every face of capitalism is unacceptable. We only hear these "unpleasant" facts when someone makes a hash of things — and then only the tip of the iceberg shows.

In the Lonhro case, vast sums of money were paid through a tax haven, the Cayman Islands. This is in fact a common feature in many capitalist countries. And Britain is especially well endowed with these facilities.

Half way between Liverpool and Northern Ireland there is a tax haven, 32 miles long by 12 miles wide, called the Isle of Man.

For most people it is a working class holiday resort. For the Isle of Man government it is just a business concern.

The elected representatives are only given £800 basic a year. Consequently only those with successful businesses, accountancy and law firms, or the wealthy retired and 'gentlemen' farmers, can afford to be in the government.

The Governor and the Government have wide powers to co-opt others into the government apparatus. Not only does the Manx government act in the interests of the ruling class — but its members are the bulk of the ruling class.

The No.1 government post, that of Chairman of the Finance Board, is filled by J.B. Bolton, a wealthy

Not the exotic Cayman Islands, but a few miles from Liverpool:

# A TAX HAVEN WITH A REGISTERED COMPANY FOR EVERY 9 PEOPLE

by John Rimington

accountant who was appointed by the Governor in 1962. Recently, with other members of the government, he bought a huge estate called 'The Nunnery'. After purchasing it, they found they had made a bad deal. So they sold it to the government, at a profit (of course). Then the Government (i.e. J.B. Bolton and his pals) sold The Nunnery to J.B. Bolton's son — at a loss, would you believe...

This was described as "a normal business transaction."

The standard rate of income tax is 20p in the pound, and there is no Surtax, capital gains tax, death duties and little corporation tax.

This has brought two big influxes into the Isle of Man.

In a population of 55,000 (many retired) there are over 6,000 registered companies. The number is now increasing at about 80 per day.

In simple terms, a company comes over and registers in the Isle of Man. This is done by an accountant or a firm of solicitors, who act as the 'letter-box company'. The company then directs its profits through the Isle of Man, gives the accountants and lawyers a handsome commission, and buggers off with its tax-free loot.

This, of course, does nothing for the Isle of Man except fatten the already fat bank accounts. In one day, J.B. Bolton's son registered 189 British companies — for guess whose accountancy firm?

Now the property speculators have moved in too. In one week, a £100,000 farm increased to £200,000, while another piece of land jumped from £58,000 to £100,000 within three days.

After the speculators take their tax-free rake off the builders move in. The Local Government Board which controls planning, exercises no control on the big contractors. The builders can erect huge estates in the island's treasured beauty spots at inflated prices. Then the lawyers and accountants take a big slice on each transaction.

At the end of this chain of profitable swindles you get a leggo-brick house selling for £20,000. At these prices the Manx themselves are being rapidly pushed out of the housing market. And they are not amused.

To those who would say that private enterprise is the only way to organise society — is this what you mean? And it doesn't just happen in the Isle of Man.

Meanwhile, capitalism passes out a few crumbs of what it calls "welfare", all the time screaming about the 'spongers' who are supposed to be living it up on Social Security.

But we don't want crumbs. We want the whole bakery!

## A.I.L Trade Union Conference told:

### Watch out for your rights now!

"There is no room for complacency — what is happening in Northern Ireland today is a testing ground for what can be happening here tomorrow, not just for members of the IRA and their sympathisers but for trade union militants".

This was the clear message of the Anti-Internment League's trade unionists' conference held at Conway Hall on May 19th.

Already, it was pointed out, building workers have been charged with "conspiracy", and arrests and raids have been carried out against Irish people and others associated with defence of the Irish struggle, all over the country.

The 250 strong conference heard from Will Reece of the Coventry Prisoners Defence Committee about the recent harassment of supporters of the Irish struggle living in Coventry.

He felt that Coventry itself was

a deliberate choice — in 1939 an IRA bomb which exploded in Coventry killed a number of people, and ever since then the local papers had kept thoughts of its fresh in their readers' minds.

It is not just the Coventry 6 who are on trial, he said, but the whole movement, as to whether it can mount an effective defence campaign.

Maureen Maguire of the Belfast 10 defence committee spoke of the ill-treatment of the 10 since their arrest, and called for support for their defence campaign.

The afternoon speeches ranged around the 'findings' of the Diplock Commission, which meant that no longer will a person be 'innocent until proved guilty', but 'guilty until proved innocent'.

A speaker from the NCCL asked, how long will it be before an attorney general gets up in the House of Commons and calls for an end to trial by jury of trade union militants, on the basis of intimidation by other trade unionists of the jury, and that in any case, how can trade unionists be expected to try other trade unionists?

How long indeed?

Marion Kavanagh

## CEYLON PROTEST EXPOSES

### SMUG HYPOCRISY

THE CEYLON HIGH COMMISSION in London was the scene of elaborate and extravagant celebrations on Tuesday May 22nd, in praise of the present regime in Ceylon, and marking the first anniversary of the Sri Lanka Republic (inaugurated under emergency regulations operative since March 16th 1971.)

Sponsoring these elaborate festivities were a number of reactionary Ceylonese organisations in Britain, in collaboration with the High Commission.

But the celebration was completely thwarted by the presence of the Ceylon Solidarity Campaign and its supporters.

The hypocrisy of these celebrations was exposed by these comrades. They demonstrated carrying wreaths with dedications in Tamil and Sinhalese, and showed with their literature, that the revellers were drinking to the blood of 25,000 young men and women murdered by the Government of Mrs. Bandaranaike in April-June 1971.

What was to have been a smug, self-satisfied public relations stunt was effectively frustrated. Inside the High Commission the main subject of conversation was the presence of the demonstrators and the reason for their protest.

The last thing the Ceylonese officials were expecting on this occasion was a situation where they had to explain away the policies of the Government and be faced with criticism of its repressive and murderous policies.

Through its publications and through such activities, the Ceylon Solidarity Campaign has been aiming to pose an effective challenge to the lies and hypocrisy of the SLFP-dominated "popular front" government, which, in its actions, has shown itself to be the prime defender of British capitalist profits in Ceylon.

Contact the C.S.C. at 9, Dennington Park Mansions, London N.W.6.

## "a very nice young man.."

DIGBY JACKS, outgoing President of the National Union of Students (a Communist Party member) lectured last month to the Royal College of Defence Studies.

This 'College' with its mainly one-year courses, trains senior army officers (Brigadier and upwards), senior civil servants (Grade A3 upwards), foreign military personnel and a few bright young sparks in effective control of the civilian population.

Topics include, when and how to use the army, how liberal can one get, questions on the control of the press and the 'low key' use of the police.

It also instructs its students on 'drugs', 'left wing groups', 'the trade union movement', 'the bad and not so bad sides of capitalism', 'foreign military activities', 'world guerrilla movements' etc. Students can opt for particular courses.

Digby Jacks lectured the learned generals on students and the student left. Some of those present described Jacks as "basically a very nice young man with a fundamentally conservative outlook".

An outlook he picked up at lunch parties with Margaret Thatcher? Or in the Communist Party...



RANK AND FILE MILITANTS have long had to fight the massive right wing bureaucratic hulk that sits on top of the trade unions. In some unions, such as the General & Municipal and the EPTU, there has been an outright reign of terror conducted by the right wing leadership.

But this right wing bureaucracy, though it fights tooth and nail against the militants, has grown up organically from the very way in which trade unions exist within the capitalist system, under the pressure of 'middle class' ideas.

While it will do anything for a quiet life, this bureaucracy still depends for its existence and position in society on the continuation of trade unionism.

But there is another set of right wingers in the trade unions. They aim to destroy trade unionism completely, and indeed to abolish all civil liberties under a right wing dictatorship. And one of the reasons they are growing is that the right wing that's already in the unions, the bureaucratic officials and leadership, create the conditions that make these fascists' ideas 'acceptable' to some workers.

The fact is that there is a sinister conspiracy on the part of a real, genuine 'tightly knit group of politically motivated men', to establish themselves and grow like a cancer in the trade unions.

## National Front

The most dangerous of these is the National Front, which feeds on the rife confusion of ruling class ideas that permeate the working class movements in this country.

The National Front, in fact, claims to be a "working class" organisation. Its magazine *Spearhead* often carries attacks on big business and appeals and open letters to trade unionists. This is,



Webster, NF Organiser. See also centre page for the other side of his face

indeed, a characteristic of fascism, which aims to recruit and organise demoralised workers on a demagogic anti-capitalism — only to use them to bail out capitalism when it is really threatened by the working class.

The National Front's real programme is not based on class but on race: they continually talk about the "British race", whatever that may be, the supremacy of the "nation" and the need to make 'Britain' great. The big enemy is not the bosses but the 'foreigners' and the struggle they commend is not a class struggle but a 'patriotic' one — that is, racism and chauvinism.

These are people who think Heath is a dangerous socialist, that "the cinema industry is dominated by Reds of every hue", and that "the BBC are so left wing that

# "WAITING FOR THEIR CHANCE"

## How Fascists infiltrate the Trade Unions

by Rachel Lever

they have an official policy of only recruiting ... (those) who can prove their left wing pedigree".

They even seem to believe in a 'British way of killing' — "we are now sampling new and utterly foreign methods of killing, such as stabbing, in our city streets after dark".

And these are people who dress up in Nazi uniforms and lob fire-bombs into black workers' homes. Their real intentions in the trade unions are not expressed openly. But here they are in black and white, in an internal circular of the National Socialist Movement (of which the present chairman of the National Front was a leading member): "If you cannot join in our activities, then join your local Conservative Party branch, the Labour Party, a Trade Union and work and wait for our chance."

In each of their campaigns so far, the National Front have been helped to achieve small successes by the ruling class ideas taught in schools, by favourable press publicity, and above all by the attitudes and politics of most of the trade union leaders, which meet them at least half way and do a great deal to make their vile racist propaganda seem normal.

## Armour

In every chink in the working class's internationalist armour — and many of these chinks are gaping holes — these fascists can enter, get a hearing for their ideas and spread decay, confusion and division. They play on the fears and insecurity of workers facing unemployment, inflation and housing speculators, only to divide and weaken the movement and debilitate it against the attacks of capitalism.

The 'issue' of immigration is one of their main lines of attack. While anti black prejudice has its roots in Britain's role of colonial overlord, the spreading growth of the weed in recent years can be traced directly to the actions of both Tory and Labour governments in restricting immigration, thus giving official sanction to the old prejudice.

These Acts have institutionalised the idea that black immigrants are undesirable. All the quotas, work permits, vouchers etc. have served to create the impression that immigrants are a 'bad thing'. If there isn't anything wrong with them why keep any out at all?

In their operation, too, these Acts create a climate of racialism, with the 'outsiders' arrested at the coast and shunted off like criminals. The mentality of 'Keep them out' —

jointly fostered by both Government parties and the entire capitalist press, and never challenged by the trade unions — thus quickly turns to "Kick them out".

The Trade Union bureaucrats have throughout adopted an ostrich-like stance. Vic Feather, no doubt thinking he was displaying a high degree of internationalism, has said "The trade union movement is concerned with a man or woman as a worker. The colour of a man's skin has no relevance to his work."

All very worthy if there was no discrimination in employment and promotion, if there were no racism in the trade unions. But unfortunately there is both, and they have to be fought. To be 'colour-blind' is to shirk that fight.

In Bradford, 70% of the Corporation bus drivers are Asian, yet not one of the inspectors is Asian. The T&GWU social club there, despicably called the "Union Jack Club" operates a bar against 70% of the union members. In such stagnant pools, which the trade union movement has been willing to accept within its ranks, the National Front can do their fishing.

In the Mansfield Hosiery strike last year at Loughborough, 400 Asians fought for the chance of equal promotion to the top grade jobs. They found that 'their' union, the National Union of Hosiery & Knitwear Workers, (a TUC affiliated union) had actually some time previously supported the white workers' attempts to keep these jobs exclusively for themselves. In the course of the strike this Union kept quiet about the recruitment of scabs to these jobs.

As a result, the National Front was able to make an intervention in the situation and recruit some of the scab workers. Several strikers were threatened with violence by these thugs.

Taking advantage of the fact that the trade union movement has done nothing to combat racialism and has never opposed the immigration Acts (the latest of which create a different legal status for a section of the trade union membership), the National Front got together 2½ years ago with a number of other fascist organisations to form an organisation which they hoped would be a front for their activities.

## Front's front

It called itself Trade Unionists against Immigration (Tru-Aim), and its founders included Mosleyite Danny Harmston from Smithfield, the notorious Hitlerite Colin Jordan, members of the Monday Club's "Powell for PM" group, the Racial Preservation Society, and a variety of free-lance heavies with day dreams of world domination.

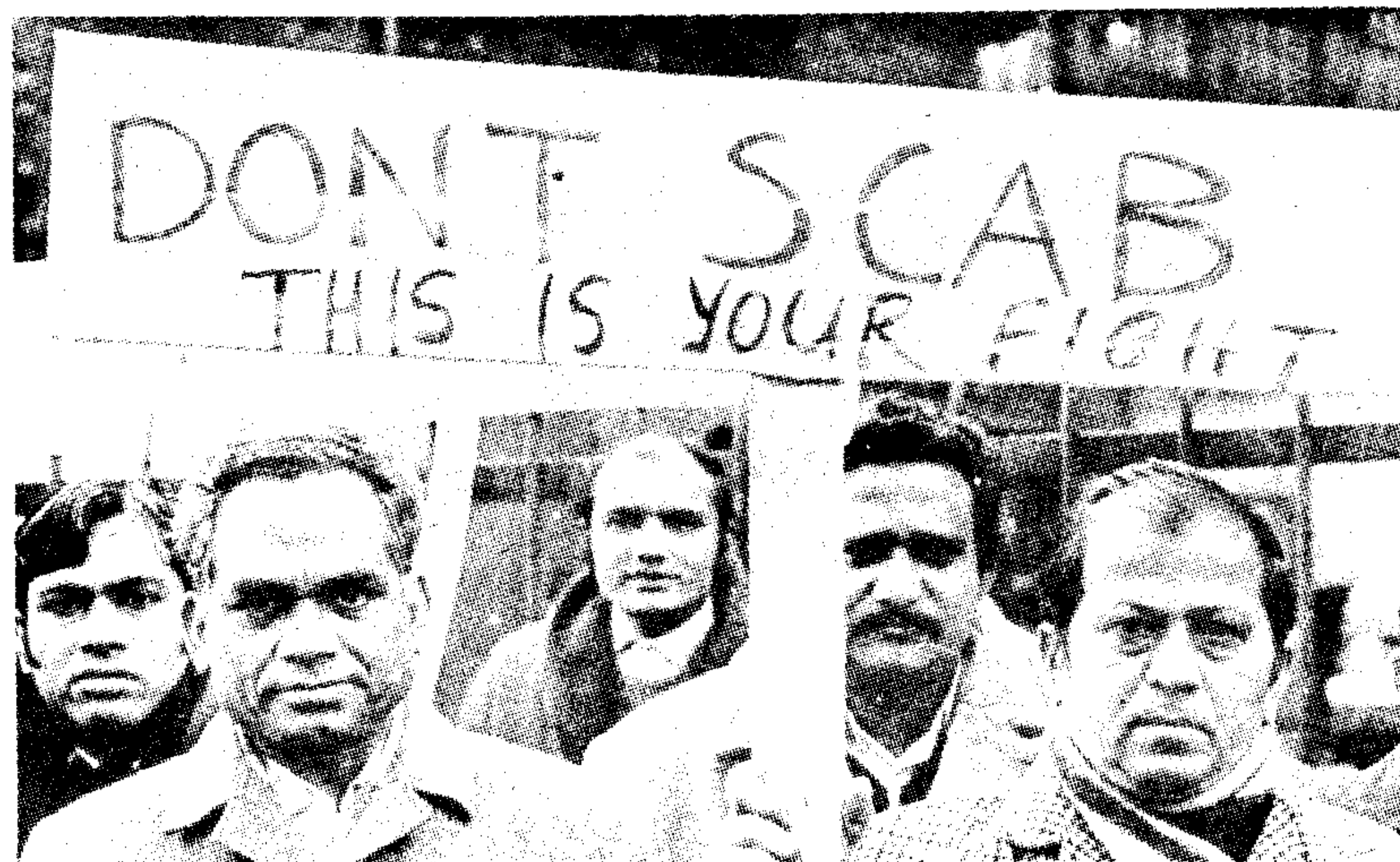
Tru-Aim has not had much success, partly on account of the early exposure of the openly fascist nature of its founders. Its planned march through Oldham last year had to be cancelled when a determined counter-march was organised.

But there is a drawback to relying on exposing a well-known Hitlerite like Jordan and that is that many equally vicious fascists are not particularly pro-German, and in fact their main line of attack is precisely a British nationalism which is actually aroused by the war-time sentiments that trip up a Colin Jordan.

This came out clearly on the issue of opposition to the FEC, which has been another big spring board for them.

The majority of the labour movement, including the Tribunites, the Communist Party, the Socialist Labour League, the International Socialists and the International Marxist

Continued next page ▶



Strikers at mansfield Hosiery, Loughborough. Their strike committee initiated the Conference on Racism and the Trade Unions at Birmingham



Group, all opposed the entry of Britain into the EEC. In the context of the fact that the only existing alternative was Little England and the 'Empire', the dominant tone of the 'anti-Europe' campaign was chauvinistic, with, for instance, the CP's Morning Star complaining bitterly about the 'loss of British sovereignty'.

This was just the atmosphere in which the National Front could merge in with what appeared to be a left wing, militant working class protest. (The very fact that the NF were able to do so must of course raise serious doubts as to whether it was such a protest: Workers Fight at the time fought a campaign inside I.S. for it to fight this dangerously nationalist line of argument in the only way possible: by countering internationalism to both the pro- and anti-EEC positions.)

At a rally in central London against EEC entry, organised by unions like NATSOPA and ACTT, the fascists were able to merge with the 'patriotic' atmosphere and issue a great deal of fascist and racist literature.

The hysterical, slanted and blatantly racist reporting of the war in Ireland has also greatly aided the Front. On the basis of having 90% of its fascist propaganda work done for it by the national press, it has launched agitation in areas like Glasgow and Liverpool, in support of the murderous British Army and of the Orange supremacists.

## Sectarian

These two areas, which have been in the forefront of working class militancy, are both particularly vulnerable to sectarian hatreds. It is not so very long since Catholic-Protestant conflict was a big feature in the life of those cities.

These tactics must be countered in the strongest possible terms. Let Northern Ireland be the warning!

An internationalist campaign of solidarity with the Irish people fighting British imperialism is here a necessity if the trade union movement is not to be further poisoned by nationalism and racism.

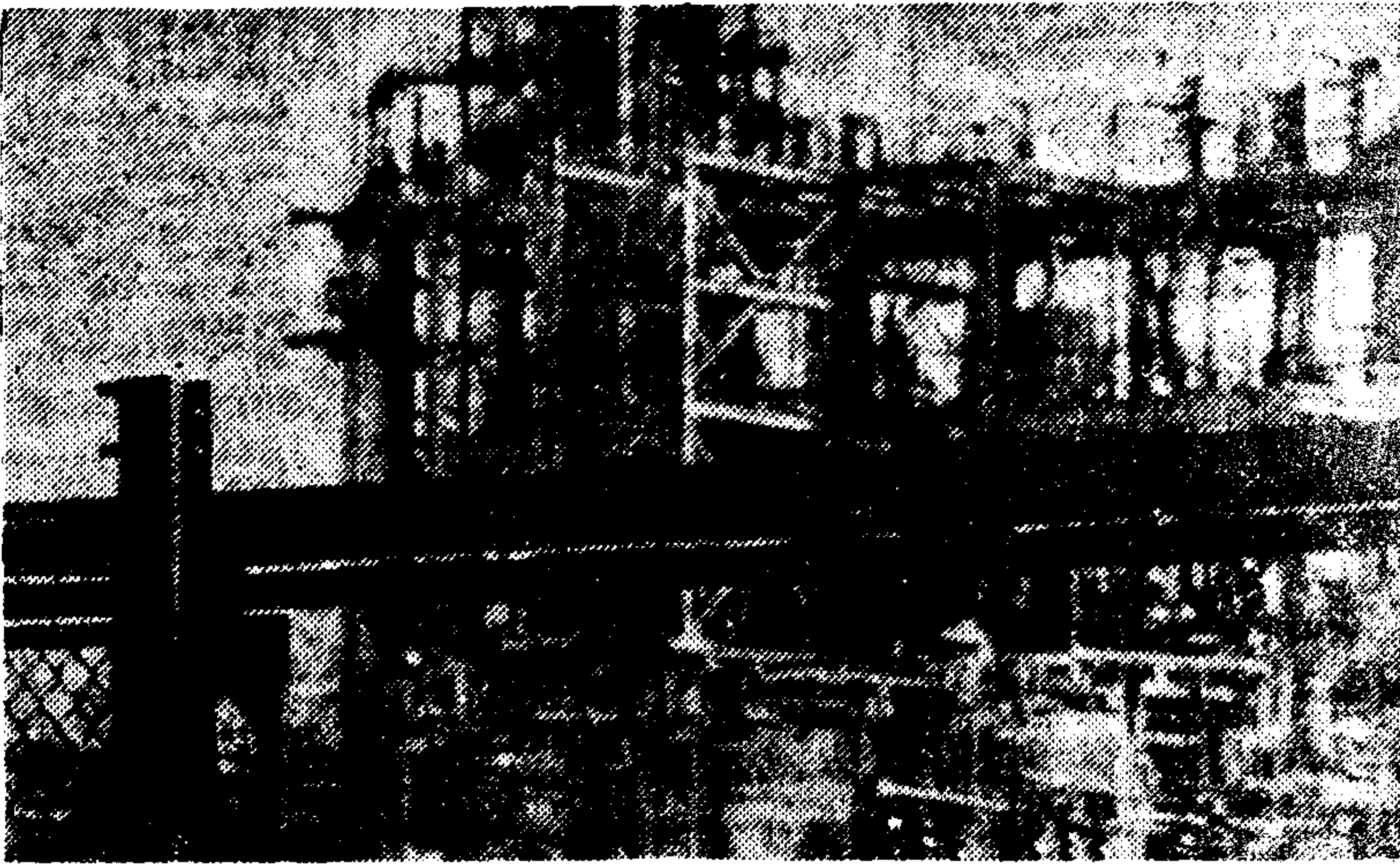
There have been a number of other right wing campaigns directed at trade unionists, ranging from Moral Re-Armament and Working Together — big money campaigns with lavish advertising and the support of such trade union leaders as Chapple — to such nut-case groupings like the "More Prosperous Britain Society" which is run by an eccentric millionaire who recruits scabs, and gets thugs to break up demonstrations.

But the themes of these campaigns have generally been about how much happier we'd all be if bosses and workers worked hand in hand and dropped all this silly class struggle business. This has naturally fallen on deaf ears among trade unionists.

What is more important is a clear campaign in the trade union movement against the nationalism which lies at the root of the National Front's propaganda, and which has allowed fascism in Britain to grow from a tiny, slimy trickle to a filthy little stream.

In addition to this internationalist re-arming, the trade union movement must be prepared to eject these vermin from its ranks, both organisationally and physically, and drive them back into the dark corners of British politics from which they have been able to creep in the last five years.

Part of the new Rohm & Haas works on Teesside



# The Big Stink on Teesside

One of the well-known hazards of living in Teesside is that things tend to fall apart. Fences, gates, window frames and outbuildings lose their nails and other metal parts on contact with the peculiar chemical compound that passes for air. ALAN THEASBY here reports on some of the latest bits of foul play — and suggests a solution that workers can fight for.

AFTER DR. TREVOR FUGE, Teesside's local Alkali Inspector, stepped in to investigate complaints of a sickly sweet smell over Redcar and the mouth of the Tees, management at the new Rohm and Haas chemical works at Seal Sands closed a small part of the plant for a few hours.

This was done as a "good neighbourly act" as, despite the certainty of local health officials that the smell comes from the works, the firm denies that this is necessarily true.

An understanding that Dr. Fuge would be contacted before the plant was re-opened was ignored, and the firm went ahead to resume work without informing him.

Teesside's chief health inspector, Mr. Frank Sugden, doubted if any real anti-pollution measures could have been taken in such a short time.

He said "Dr. Fuge asked them to close down until they had introduced better temporary measures or permanent measures to deal with the smell, and I would be surprised if they had done this in one day."

Rohm and Haas claim that £2m. has been spent on combatting pollution. They did not say if this amount included their recent "temporary remedial work" which consisted of fitting a cover to one open topped tank during the short shut-down.

## Noxious

Paper figures to fool the taxman don't fool the people of Teesside — we can see, smell and feel the obnoxious muck that gets pumped out of the chemical, steel and engineering works that are concentrated here.

The situation is so bad that on May 14th, two days after the acrylate plant opened again, 250 workers at the ICI North Tees (Billingham) site reported sick and went home after an on-site meeting. Plumbers, electricians and platers had complained of feeling ill, being sick and having severe headaches resulting from the Rohm and Haas fumes.

These were not delicate and frail young things, but burly workmen who daily work exposed to ICI's own brands of smelly filth and noxious odours.

The next day, well known four-minute miler Christopher Chataway, Tory Minister of Industrial Develop-

ment, sipped 'champers' at the official opening of the plant.

Meanwhile, local public health officials checked complaints of further smells throughout the area, and commented that it appeared to be "the same smell as in recent days, but it is not such an acute odour."

It was so bad, in fact, that the works manager got complaints from Redcar, although the wind was blowing in another direction most of the time.

Meanwhile, ICI are in trouble over the emission of a white dust on May 17th. The dust, Hexamethylenediamine (used in the manufacture of nylon), settled over the Grangetown area of Teesside, damaging paintwork on cars.

Although the emission only lasted a few minutes, a lot of cars now have pitted paintwork or whole patches stripped off. God knows what the stuff could do to your skin, but it sounds a whole lot more effective than soap!

In the River Tees, acid is so strong that it has damaged the North Tees Power Station's cooling system. River water is drawn in to cool steam pipes, but these have become so corroded by the acid that they have developed leaks. Because of this, four generators have had to be taken off load ("unplugged" from the mains supply) at various times.

Although this has been going on for six months, it has been hushed up, and ICI have only just admitted that they have been holding a long series of talks with the Northumbrian River Authority and the CEEB.

British Titan have also been involved in these discussions, which have as their aim some way of solving "the problem".

This problem is not the danger to dockers, shipyard workers, tugboatmen and anyone else likely to be soaked in acid waste; it is the damage done to metal tubes and pipes in a sector of British industry — a sector that provides the bosses of other industries with a cheap power supply.

No-one seems even interested in the power workers themselves, who have a rough enough job anyway, without acid to worry about as well.

As usual under capitalism, machinery is more important and more valuable than human life.

So, in the interests of the health of the CEEB's pipes ICI are to

last thinking about trying to neutralise their acid waste. British Titan Products are also planning to "do something", but they are not quite sure what, yet. In the past, both firms just pumped acid straight into the Tees without treating it in any way.

A B.T.P. spokesman also said: "We are doing nothing in the way of discharge into the river that we haven't done for years."

Perhaps that's why even the water rats cannot live in the Tees, for round here they say that if you throw one in it will dissolve immediately — if the muck doesn't throw it back again first.

## Our Standards

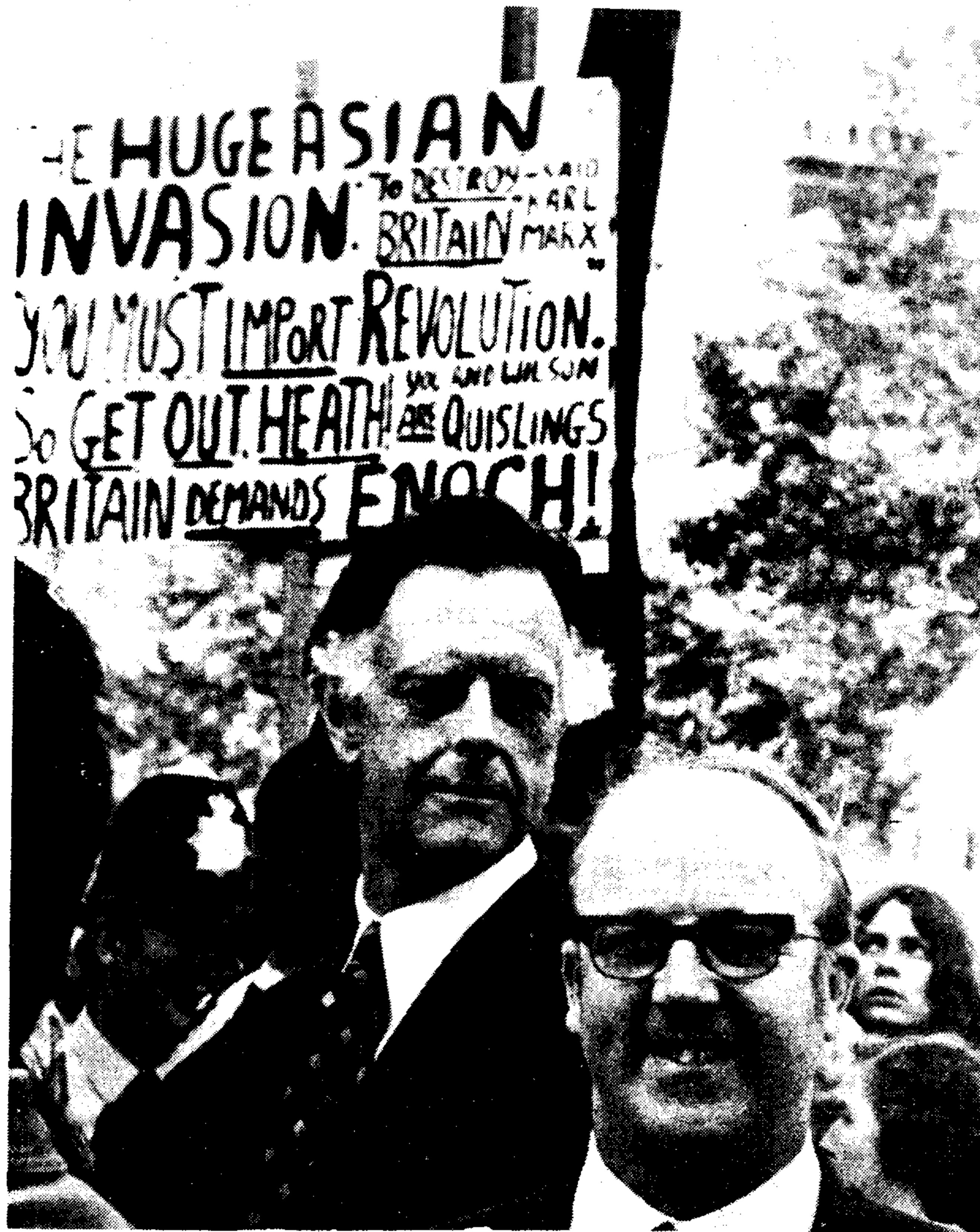
Workers always suffer the effects of pollution, having to live and work in grime, oil and fumes all day, their homes sited near the sources of the lead, carbon monoxide, soot and nitric acid that permeate the rain and air; whilst the managers commute to their safe country cottages and seaside villas.

What then should workers do to prevent their lives being shortened, their clothes and houses ruined, by pollution?

The Tories' answer to the problem is a few more smokeless zones where workers have to pay extra for heating, and the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign. These are diversions to keep people's minds off the real culprits — the big industrial firms who skimp on health and accident safeguards in order to keep their profits as high as possible.

Until workers take over the running of industry in their own interests, we will always have the unnecessary pollution of the air, seas and rivers. That does not mean we just spread socialist ideas and wait for the revolution. We must campaign inside the trade unions for the setting up of workers' inspectorates of safety, and general health. These would consist of delegates from different trades unions and in various industries, and would check all factories, sites and offices to make sure that all safety and health regulations are met — not just government or local government regulations, but standards laid down by the workers themselves. And if these standards are not met by the bosses — then the men walk out.





# THE 'MOND FRONT

How a section of the Party helped the Fas 4,789 votes at West I

by Maxine Landis

**Big fleas have little fleas  
Upon their backs to bite 'em,  
And little fleas have littler fleas,  
And so, ad infinitum ...**

WHILE THE TORY PARTY'S MONDAY CLUB RECENTLY sat in conference to elect a new chairman and executive, a prominent member of the fascist National Front sat in a nearby pub receiving progress reports of the proceedings.

This is just one link — but a vital one — in a political chain that extends all the way from the Government at one end down to the backstreet Nazi thugs with their knuckledusters and firebombs at the other.

There are, of course, big differences. The former serve the interests of British capitalism today. The latter are its insurance cover for the future, the claws that will be unsheathed when the capitalist rat is one day cornered. Meanwhile, the links are being forged.

Last week's by-election at West Bromwich, in which the National Front polled 16% of the vote, was the biggest victory they have scored so far, and it was in large part due to the work which the Front has put in to get an organisational foothold within the Conservative Party.

## Respectable

The main arena for doing this has been the Monday Club, a right wing section of the Conservative Party. It has two members (Rippon and Amery) in the Cabinet. The Monday Club, whose 'respectability' is guaranteed by being part of a major party, is heavily infiltrated by the National Front — who in their turn strive to get rid of the fascist taint ("we're not racials, just nationalists..."), and are helped in this by their association with the Monday Club.

In addition, a whole series of intermediate 'front' organisations provide a happy hunting ground where paid up members of the National Front work alongside 'respectable' Tories in such worthy enterprises as the Anglo-Rhodesian Society, the Britain and South Africa Forum, the Society for Individual Freedom, the South Africa Society, the Anti-Common Market League, Powellight, and the various virulent anti-immigration organisations.

The Monday Club is, however, the main focus for the Front's attentions.

The Monday Club has had as many as 30 MPs in its ranks at any time since its foundation in 1962. It started as a small pressure group. Now there is a num-

ber of about 2,000 full "national members", and, since local branches began to be set up 7 years ago, much larger numbers of 'branch members.'

At this level, the Monday Club provides a framework for the traditionally extreme right 'grassroots' Tories to organise. Club publications, regular meetings and local and national demonstrations have given these right wing Tories a new sense of confidence and cohesiveness.

The Club takes its name from what it calls 'Black Monday', the day on which Harold Macmillan publicly accepted that what he called 'winds of change' had been 'blowing through Africa.' For a time, simple Empire loyalism (up-dated recently to Southern Africa 'kith-&-kin' support) spiced with the usual hunting cries of 'flog 'em, hang 'em' etc from the suburban bloodhounds, were the Club's staple ideology.

But the less emotive questions of economic policy, and the problem of attitudes to EEC entry, proved less simple. Split between 'Europe' and the 'Empire Commonwealth', the Monday Club instructed members that it would 'not take a line for or against entry', and that they could do their own thing. Some, like Rippon,

were heartily for it. Others (the branch members) were a

By contrast, a rabidly racist Uganda Asian immigrants with the pack. But this campaign aches for the Monday Club, seen a constant series of growing closeness of a number of fascist National Front.

The West Middlesex branch was disbanded a few months ago. National Front candidate ran in the Uxbridge by-election. Then the Monday Club invited John I. National Front (a man with a reputation for possessing offensive weapons) to be the branch's representative in a para-military right wing campaign. "It's time we all said Mr. Leonard Lambert, and, despite pressure from Michael Woolrych (who has said "will not tolerate members of a proscribed organisation"), the branch is still in the Club."

A further row has now developed in Birmingham, East Midlands and London, using to hand over members' headquarters.

These local branches can be powerful. Here is Lambert's membership of Essex (which has together): "we have 30 county council seats, local government civil servants..."

## Organ

But it is not only at this level that the National Front has succeeded in recruiting sympathisers in strategic positions. Last year Tory MPs and administrators alleged that the National Front of infiltrators right at the centre who used their positions to get elected as Tory candidates.

The booklet was taken seriously by the cabinet minister and two dozen members to resign from the Club. Mr. Jonathan Guinness, open to criticism in an interview with the George Young (a self-confessed





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the booklet as a chief source of ultra-right intrigue) who stood against Guinness for the Chairmanship, were to win, then "it could be considered a move in the National Front direction..."

Such a move has in fact been in progress for some years now. For instance, in April 1970; a National Front "Activity Bulletin" included a section urging all members to attend a Monday Club rally in Trafalgar Square, and instructed - "would London members who are able to get to the Square at 1pm or shortly after in order to occupy good positions in the meeting area please contact us as soon as possible."

In March 1970 the National Front paper "Spearhead" commented that "the Monday Club has a useful purpose as a rallying point and recruiting ground."

In March 1971 the Daily Mirror carried an article warning of the growth of the National Front within the Monday Club. The Chairman of the large Monday Club Sussex branch, John Ormowe, talked to the Mirror of his admiration for Adolf Hitler. Embarrassed by such an unashamed departure from what it considered "traditional Toryism", the Monday Club expelled Ormowe. But his supporters in the Branch were allowed to remain.

Another character that the Monday Club had to expel is Tim Beardson. But not before he had been allowed to expound his views in favour of a corporate state in the pages of the Monday Club's magazine, Monday World. In this he praised the ideas of the French fascist Charles Maurras, saying they were "especially relevant to us today."

Another article in Monday World, by one Ronald King, states among other things that "Government is too important to be left to democracy."

Notwithstanding such espousal of openly fascist ideas, the Monday Club, which is keen to stay inside the Conservative Party (and without too many more resignations at that!) is deeply embarrassed by the presence around its ranks of the old synagogue burners and swastika wavers.

However, when it comes to international contacts, it is not so bashful. In May 1971 the Monday Club arranged a meeting at Caxton Hall for the notorious Australian neo-nazi Eric Butler. And not long ago a Monday Club delegation visited Italy, where they attended a gathering with the Fascist M.S.I.

But whether it likes it or not, the Monday Club is these days increasingly seen in public arm in arm with the National Front. When the Monday Club launched its 'Halt Immigration Now' campaign last September, many observers noted that the meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster was heavily stewarded by National Front toughs, including NF organiser Martin Webster. And after the meeting, the entire rally joined in the National Front's march to Whitehall.



The balance within the Monday Club will no doubt continue to shift a good deal. The neo-fascists, failing to capture the leadership in last month's election, have taken a knocking. (Not that we need have any illusions about the Guinness leadership, which is as reactionary as they come.) But, with their unashamed racism, they will continue to win the warped little imaginations in the Tory branches, where fraternisation with the Front nazis will gain in attractiveness and respectability as the Front's electoral successes grow.

And, in turn, the Club will provide these little fuhrers with access to the sort of backers - in the Army, civil service and big business - that could one day, if they are not smashed now, turn their nasty little fantasies into a very much nastier reality.

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1. Behind him, the semi-literate scrawl of a fascist banner; in front, Ken Taylor, one-time Parliamentary candidate for the National Front. But Michael Woolrych, Director of the Monday Club, remains serenely unperturbed.

2. Monday Club and National Front banners mingle together on a patriotic anti-EEC demonstration.

3. John Tyndall, Chairman of the National Front, as he wishes not to be remembered: in 1962 he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for organising, training and equipping a para-military right wing political organisation. Does he have military backers now?

4. Martin Webster: the picture that wasn't circulated to the voters of West Bromwich.

5. Some NF followers in their Sunday best.

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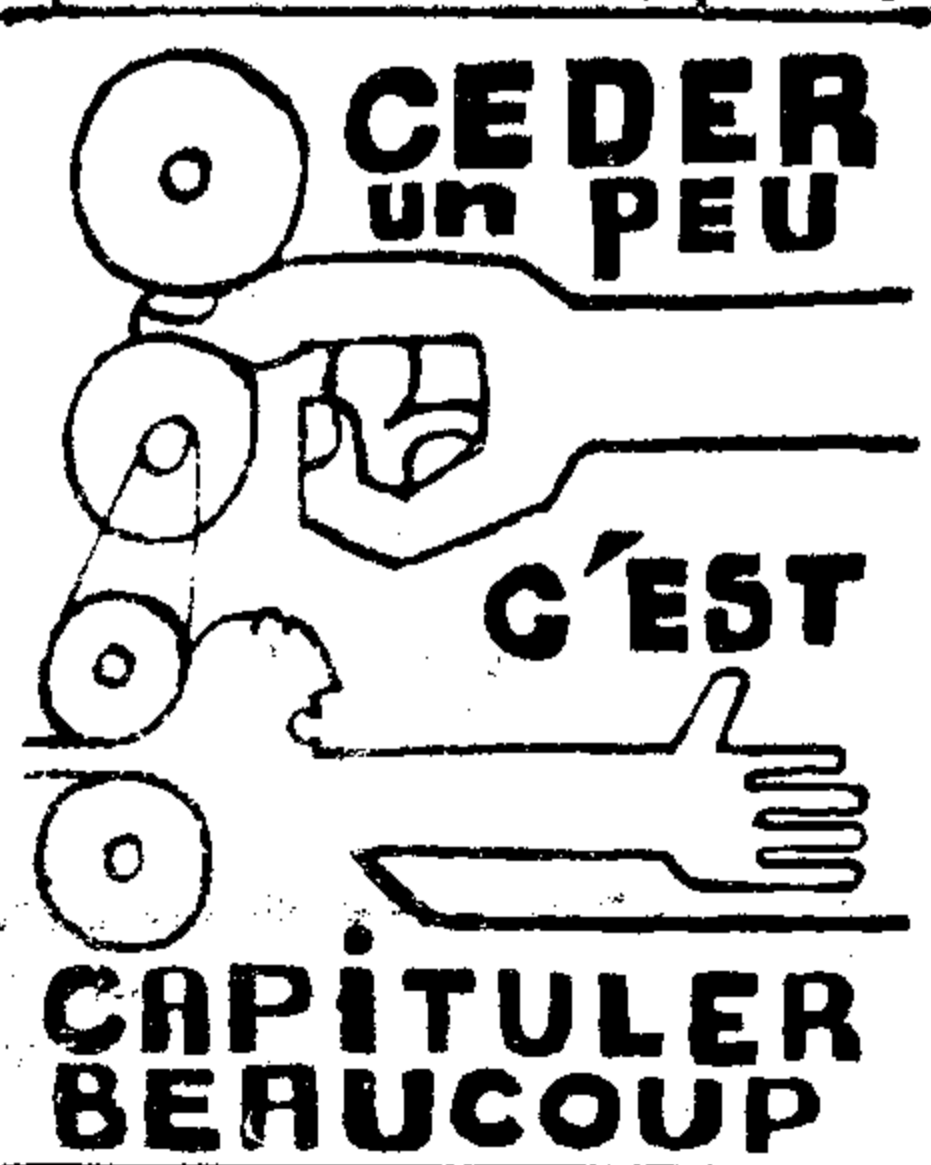
# 5 YEARS SINCE FRANCE'S

# 'MAY EVENTS'

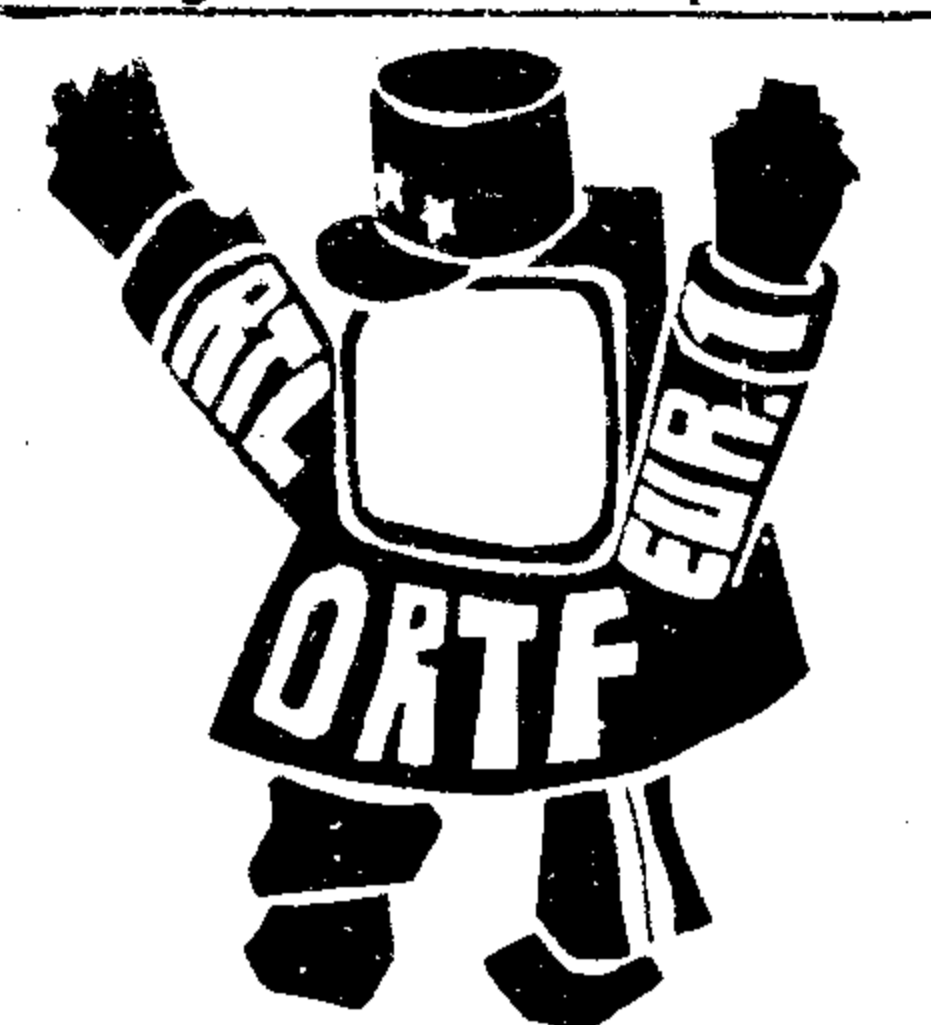
Students took over the Paris School of Fine Arts and turned out an incredible spate of posters, many commissioned by strike committees. Images like the Factory Occupied (1) and the Factory Militant (5) have since spread around the world.



1. An early poster designed to spread the idea of occupations.



2. "To concede a little is to capitulate a lot!" Produced when the first big settlement was promised.



3. TV and Radio organisations depicted as a Gaullist robot.



5. "The struggle continues"

## What have British workers learned?

by Tim Finnigan

FRANCE, MAY-JUNE 1968: A great flame sparked by the students when they fought the hated strike-breaking riot police to a standstill.

Dragging their 'leaders' behind them, 10 millions struck, factories and work-places were seized and occupied. For two weeks there were mass demonstrations, endless meetings and discussions. Revolutionary songs sounded out and red flags fluttered from rooftops and through the streets. Posters appeared everywhere. Radio and television workers, civil servants and small farmers, school pupils and sewer-men, footballers, actors and nurses, joined in.

The police wavered. The conscript army was confined to barracks, not to be trusted.

Demands grew. The granting of them produced a great chorus — don't sign! Stay out for more! They wanted a change of society; they were offered an election to change the government. And the 'leaders', the Communist Party and the CP-led union federation, casting around desperately for a way to get the harness back on, managed to manoeuvre the working class into the 'ballot-box trap'.

But the experience was a great reminder. That revolution is on the cards in the cities of Europe as well as in the hills and jungles of far away places. That the working class can be spontaneously revolutionary — but that without a revolutionary leadership, the treacherous reformist and Stalinist leaderships that are already established will do their utmost to drain away, and derail that revolutionary energy.

The tremendous volcanic upheaval was not without its ripples in Europe. The following year Italy reverberated with sit-in strikes.

In Britain, too, sit-in strikes have now become very common, though always, so far, on a sectional basis: sometimes as 'work-ins' to "prove viability", sometimes to prevent machinery being moved (as at Plesseys and Fisher Bendix), and sometimes to back up wage demands (the Manchester engineers).

We have yet to see occupations and the seizing of plant and machinery in the context of a political general strike, as in France. But, with the use of flying pickets and mass pickets and walkouts that challenged Government laws and institutions (as last July), the working class in this country has certainly taken massive strides forward. And the sit-ins, despite their limitations, have seen thousands and thousands of workers challenging the bosses' rights over 'their' property. It is highly probable that before long these new tactics will have been fused together in another big step forward.

But the lesson of France is that this is not enough. However eager and willing the working class is to take on the bosses and their government and state, it is still hopelessly vulnerable to the treachery of its leaders and the wiles and manoeuvres of its enemies.

A revolutionary leadership must still be built!

A full analysis of the 'May Events' is included in the forthcoming Workers' Fight pamphlet 'The Industrial Relations Act and the Fight for a General Strike'. (20p plus 5p postage; order from 98 Clifford St. London N1.)







Saltley — the mass picket no law could hold back ▲

## The 1875 "Conspiracy" Act

# Their law — or our power?

WORKERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY found themselves charged with 'conspiracy' (as were the 5 Birmingham building workers, see p.12), have discovered that the world of Alice in Wonderland is not entirely fictional.

Whereas in a case of civil (or "tortious") conspiracy, the 'injured party' must prove that those who conspired to wrong him unlawfully actually carried out their conspiracy in a case of criminal conspiracy not only do the police not have to prove that the various accused did the unlawful act (for instance, intimidate) — but the 'crime' need never even have occurred!!

A criminal conspiracy is defined like this: "agreement of two or more persons to do an unlawful act or to do a lawful act by unlawful means or to do a lawful act for an unlawful purpose."

### Theory

As one judge summed it up (and summing up is what they're paid to do) — "if two men agree to blow their noses together during Divine Service so as to disturb the congregation, they may be indicted for conspiracy" — even if when it came to it they couldn't find their handkerchiefs!

Well, all that is in theory, and as one lawbook informed me, "A strict enforcement of the law by the police and management would undoubtedly have led to large numbers of prosecutions and civil actions".

But what is theory can be made practice — if it suits them and if the working class lets them.

When the Industrial Relations Act was passed, it repealed the two main previous trade union Acts, the Trade Disputes Acts of 1906 and 1965. But it didn't touch the 1875 Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act.

What did the 1875 Act do?

It banished the last remaining shades of the old Combination Acts which had been framed to outlaw trade unionism. It said clearly that if something wasn't a crime if done by one person, it didn't become a conspiracy if more than one person did it.

But that still left us with all the things that the ruling class define as being crimes. So, if two of you decide to shake your fists at a scab, then that's not just intimidation, it can also be 'conspiracy to intimidate'. And, by the previous definition of criminal conspiracy, it need never even have happened!

Now, many things that workers decide together to do, in furtherance (as the law describes it) of a 'trade dispute', are quite legal. But many, many other things are not legal at all.

For instance, Section 7 of the 1875 Act says that —

Every person who, with a view to compel any other person to abstain from doing or to do any act which such person has a legal right to do or abstain from doing, wrongfully and without legal authority ..

1. Uses violence to or intimidates such other person or his wife or children, or injures his property; or
2. Persistently follows such other person about from place to place; or
3. Hides any tools, clothes or other property owned or used by such other person, or deprives him of or hinders him in the use thereof; or
4. Watches or besets the house or other place where such other person resides, or works, or carries on business, or happens to be, or the approach to such house or place; or
5. Follows such other person, with two or more other persons in a disorderly manner or through any street or road."

The penalty prescribed was £20 or up to three months in prison.

The 24 North Wales Building workers (see p.12) currently facing charges under the 1875 Act are

charged (among other things) under Section 7(1): "That you on the 6th day of September at Shrewsbury on a building site known as Kingswood wrongfully and without legal authority intimidated divers people with a view to compelling those people to abstain from their lawful work..."

### Legal?

But just look again at Section 7(4): "Watches ... the .. place where such other person .. works .. or the approach to such .. place" etc. That would seem to outlaw picketing!

But isn't picketing legal? Yes. However, the key is in those words "wrongfully and without legal authority". Because other laws — primarily now the Industrial Relations Act — define what is and isn't "wrongful". Accordingly, it isn't wrongful to picket by their definition — "for the purpose of peacefully obtaining or communicating information or of peacefully persuading any person to work or abstain from working."

By that definition, workers have been breaking the law in their thousands for decades.

Also by that definition, many successful strikes would never have been won.

Under the Industrial Relations Act, a whole lot more things are "wrongful". If it is not an "industrial" dispute (say, an anti-government strike); or if it is one of a vast number of "unfair industrial practices", then it ceases to have the "legal authority" referred to in Section 7 of the 1875 Act.

And, if the police decide to move in, then the most peaceful "watching", even "for the purpose of peacefully obtaining or communicating information" **CAN LAND YOU IN PRISON FOR THREE MONTHS** under the 1875 Act.

what conclusions can workers draw?

We have some legal rights — but they are very, very few. They were not framed by us or for our benefit. **Most of our rights have been established in struggle and by struggle.**

The ruling class has its power — in the statute books, in its courts and in its prisons. And we have our power — in the streets and in the factories.

When we pit our power against theirs, as we did in support of the Pentonville 5 last July, then these laws are not worth the paper they're written on.

The cases of the North Wales 24 and the Birmingham 8 are test cases, for the ruling class and for the working class. They have all the laws they need, on paper. What they're trying to do is establish them in reality. **They** know that they have to do that not only in court, but through a confrontation and a struggle which they mean to win. They have set up special anti-picket squads to back them up.

### All Out

We must know that too. The demonstrations at the court have been a start. What's needed now is a clear pledge from every organised worker that if any one of the 24 or the 8 is **jailed or penalised in any way**, then every one of us is out.

If we fail to lift the action from a mere token, then the working class will be well on the way to losing the right to conduct its own struggle in its own way — a right which no lawbook defines, but which has been carved out in practice.

And if this happens, the trade union movement might as well be back where it started. Or, at any rate, back in 1875.

Ron Vandy



## FREE The Belfast Ten

Pickets of Brixton Prison are continuing in support of the 10 people from Belfast arbitrarily arrested and charged with 'conspiring to cause explosions in central London on 8th March'. The Committal proceedings have so far been presented with a great mass of police evidence to prove ... that all the accused were in London at the time! Meanwhile the propaganda barrage of 'security' measures continues, to establish in people's minds the image of desperado terrorists. For them, the consequence is that after nearly three months in jail visitors are still being blocked and harassed.

The Belfast 10 Defence Committee holds regular meetings in London on Sunday nights at 8 at the General Pictou, Caledonian Rd. near Kings Cross. It can also be contacted for stickers, leaflets, speakers etc at 88 Roslyn Road, London N.15.



## Political prisoners denounce 'Saor Eire'

Portlaoise Prison, May 18th 1973  
We the undersigned political prisoners in Portlaoise Prison wish to publicly state that we have severed any connections which we have or ever had with the organisation calling itself Saor Eire. In this action we are following the lead of other genuine political elements who have resigned. Our reasons being the following:

1) That Saor Eire originally was constituted to combat imperialism in Ireland. During the last two years owing to political weaknesses in the structure of that organisation undesirable elements have been able to operate around its fringe and carry out actions under the name of Saor Eire which had nothing in common with the stated objectives of that organisation. As a consequence of these pseudo-political individuals genuine revolutionaries have been in danger of being tarred with the same brush, their political integrity questioned and the possibility of their credibility with other revolutionary organisations tarnished. As this element now seems to constitute the leadership of that organisation we feel it our duty as revolutionaries to point out to the Republican Socialist movement the degeneracy of that collection of individuals.

2) Furthermore these people have not alone been content to use that organisation for their own personal ends but have gone so far as to interfere with the anti-imperialist struggle in Ireland by using harassment and bully-boy tactics against life long members and supporters of the Republican Movement. As has been stated in numerous press articles a cloud of mystery still hangs over the brutal murder of a sincere

and dedicated revolutionary, Peter Graham, in October 1971.

Saor Eire once operated as a sincere revolutionary organisation. For us, it does no more.

In conclusion we again wish to reaffirm our allegiance to the establishment of a Democratic Workers'

Republic in Ireland and pledge our support to the revolutionary forces that are struggling to attain it.

Martin Casey Eugene Norrby  
Sean Morrissey Donal Dineen  
Joseph Dillon Danny McOwen  
Donal O'Laoghaire Paddy Dillon

## Soldiers rampage in Preston

by Alan Theasby

A GANG of Junior Infantrymen stationed at Fulwood Barracks, Preston, invaded the town's Waverley Park on May 14th and attacked some young local people. After the 'incident' 40 of the young soldiers were questioned by the police, and several were brought before a juvenile court panel.

Lt. Col. John Bird, the barracks C.O., has put the park out of bounds to the 200 Junior Infantrymen under his command. He claimed that the fight was "an isolated case".

ISOLATED? These lads are systematically trained to kill, and maim, to have no regard for human life, to look upon people as targets.

Whether in Aden, Congo, Ireland or at home, British soldiers have always been taught to attack "trouble-makers" (including strikers) and to dehumanise people into "wogs", "wops", "Micks" and "Reds" etc.

In civilian life, anyone who acted in the way that soldiers do would be labelled as vandals and hooligans by the very people who give the Armed Forces their orders. In fact, given the fact that the Army is very choosy about who is recruited (out of 200 Teesside applicants recently, only 8 were signed up) it might seem to some as if the forces are deliberately accepting thugs and hoodlums who get a kick out of violence.

I personally know of such cases: one, a petty criminal with a long history of pathological violence, has recently signed up with the Paras, and openly bragged about how much fun he has had "getting stuck in" to the Ulster Catholics; and an ex-Army bus worker delights in revealing the methods he used to "interrogate" civilians in the Middle East.)



WHERE  
WE  
STAND

CAPITALISM is inseparable from the exploitation by the bourgeoisie of the working class 'at home' and (since 'advanced' capitalism became imperialist) of the workers and peasants in the colonies and neo-colonies abroad.

It is a vicious system geared to buttressing the strong against the weak, to serving the handful of capitalists against the millions of workers, and to keeping many millions in poverty so that a few may prosper. Capitalism exalts property and degrades life. It is at the root of the racialism which poisons and divides worker against worker. It is a system of massive waste and social disorganisation, at the same time as it forces the working class to fight every inch of the way to better or even maintain its wages and conditions.

Having once been progressive, in that it at least developed, in the only way then possible the productive resources of mankind, it is now a totally reactionary force in history. Its expansion after World War 2 gave it merely the appearance of health: in reality the boom was like the flush on a sick man's face. Already economic expansion has given way to creeping stagnation.

TODAY the ruling class can keep their system going only at the cost of large scale unemployment and attempts to cut the living standards of workers in the 'rich' parts of the world, of massive starvation and bloodshed in the 'poor' two thirds of the world, and of the ever-present threat of the destruction of humanity through nuclear war.

THE ONLY WAY OUT is for the working class to take power and to bring the resources of the modern economy under a rational working class plan, in place of the present unplanned and blind private profit system. Having overthrown capitalism and established social ownership of the means of production, the working class will build towards a truly communist society, in which at last the principle will be "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs."

The working class has created political parties for this purpose - LABOUR PARTIES, COMMUNIST PARTIES, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. But in country after country these parties have joined capitalist governments and managed capitalism. They have betrayed the socialist aspirations of their working class supporters, tied the labour movement to the bosses' state, interest and ideology, and destroyed the political independence of the working class.

The task is therefore to build a socialist party which will stand firmly for the interests of the working class. WORKERS' FIGHT is a group of revolutionary socialists, aiming to build that party: a party which is democratically controlled by an active working class membership, which preserves its political independence and fights the ideological domination of the ruling class.

The basis of our activity is the scientific theory of MARXISM, the only theory which gives a clear understanding of present day society and of the necessity of revolutionary change.

Although they cannot organise the struggle for workers' power, THE TRADE UNIONS are indispensable for the defence of workers' interests. We fight for the independence of the unions from all state control, and within the unions for militant policies and for democracy. We see the trade union bureaucracy as a distinct stratum which acts as a broker between workers and bosses. Its life and work-situation is quite different from that of the working class. Lacking a direct, necessary allegiance to working class interests, or any fundamental historical interests of its own, its general tendency is to work with the bosses and their state against the working class.

Only a mass national rank and file movement, linking up the different industries and guided by the ideas of revolutionary Marxism can, in this period, turn the trade unions into reliable instruments of working class interests, independent of the bosses' state.

We fight against the INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT, against any incomes policy under capitalism, and against any legal restrictions on trade unionism.

We fight against UNEMPLOYMENT; for a national minimum wage; for work or full pay; against productivity bargaining.

We fight to extend the power of workers to control the details of their own lives in industry here and now. We stand for the fight for WORKERS' CONTROL with the understanding that it can be made a serious reality only in a workers' state. We are against any workers' 'participation' in managing their own exploitation under capitalism.

We believe that the 'PARLIAMENTARY ROAD TO SOCIALISM' is a crippling illusion. The capitalist class will not leave the stage peacefully; no ruling class ever has. Socialism can be built only by smashing the capitalist state machine (army, police, civil service) which is the ultimate defence of the bosses' power in society, and replacing it with a state based on democratic Workers' Councils.

THE LABOUR PARTY is a capitalist party in its ideas, its policies, and in its record in government. At the same time, the bedrock organisations of the working class, the trade unions, support and finance the Labour Party. There is an 'open valve' connection between the Labour Party and the Unions, allowing the possibility of large scale active working class participation in the party.

We relate to the Labour Party, therefore, not by simply denouncing it, but by attempting to advance the working class towards outgrowing and breaking through the particular stage in its own development - ideological, political and organisational - represented by Labourism.

We fight for full and equal rights for WOMEN, for female emancipation from the male domination which has co-existed throughout history with class society and which has its roots in such society. We fight, in particular, for the emancipation of women of our own class, suffering a double and triple exploitation, who have been most accurately described as the "slaves of the slaves".

We fight against RACIALISM and against immigration controls. We fight for the integration of immigrant workers into the labour movement and for a united front against capitalism, whilst supporting the right of black minorities in Britain to form defence leagues or independent political organisations.

We give unconditional support to the struggles of oppressed peoples everywhere fighting against IMPERIALISM, and to their organisations leading the fight.

British workers have - fundamentally - more in common with every single worker throughout the globe, irrespective of race, religion, or colour, than with the whole of the British ruling class. We see the fight for socialism as a world-wide struggle, necessitating the creation of a world revolutionary party, such as Leon Trotsky founded the Fourth International, in 1938, to become. We consider that the mainstream of Trotskyism surviving from the 1938 Fourth International is the United Secretariat of the Fourth International but that this organisation in some of its theories and much of its practice (for example that of the British section) represents a degenerate form of Trotskyism. We fight for the regeneration of the Fourth International.

We stand for a political revolution of the working class against the bureaucracies of THE U.S.S.R. and the other countries called 'communist' which we consider to be degenerated and deformed workers' states. The social regime of the different bureaucracies has nothing in common with socialism, let alone with real communism. At the same time, we defend the nationalised economy in these countries against capitalism and imperialism, unconditionally: that is, irrespective of the selfish, usually anti-working-class and anti-revolutionary policies of the ruling bureaucrats, and against those policies.

There are OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS which have generally similar aims, but methods differing from ours, or differing conceptions about what needs to be done here and now. We consider all these groups to be seriously - sometimes grossly - inadequate in theory and practice. We favour unity in action with these groups where possible, and a serious dialogue about our differences.





## Teesside

Gasworkers' walk-out △

### 'Walk to job' strike spreads

A DISPUTE OVER TRANSPORT facilities at work sparked off a strike of over a hundred Teesside gas workers on May 22nd.

The walk-out was led by 27 Stockton men who had been told to walk to jobs in other areas. This lead was quickly followed by 50 at Thornaby and 50 at Middlesbrough.

The next day another hundred came out as the strike spread to Redcar and Darlington. Middlesbrough gas fitters held a short sit-in at the Commercial Street work-

shop, then walked off the job. Servicing and installation work in the area came to a standstill, and only emergency services continued to be run.

Northern Gas management had directed Stockton gas fitters to jobs in Middlesbrough, claiming that work was slack in their area. They refused to provide adequate transport for the men, who had to make their own way to various jobs scattered over a wide area. When the men pointed out that they are not

allowed on buses while carrying gas bottles, they were told to walk or go by bike. (Ever tried cycling or walking several miles carrying a bag of tools and a gas bottle?)

Those who refused were suspended.

This happened twice. The second time, the men just walked out, and were joined by other gas fitters throughout the area. The strike has not yet been made official by the men's union, the GMWU.

Why not?

Alan Theasby

*James Connolly  
and  
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## Coventry

### Important toolroom struggle at G.E.C.

THE PRESENT STRIKE OF 211 GEC (Coventry) toolroom workers is the biggest and longest since the scrapping of the Coventry Tool Room Agreement last year. The issue is one of pay, and is crucial to future toolroom negotiations in the area.

So important is it that even the notoriously right wing AUEW District Committee has organised a 'voluntary' levy of other toolmakers in the area.

The Coventry TRA meant that toolroom earnings were based on average piece work earnings in the area. This meant in effect that TGWU men fought for higher wages by strikes, etc., while AUEW men sat back and automatically gained an increase - hence the right wing nature of the AUEW locally.

The scrapping of the Coventry TRA meant that each toolroom was on its own. Initially wage rates agreed were high in order to gain the scrapping of the agreement. But now the cold light of day has set in.

Most factories and toolrooms are beginning to make more militant noises and re-activating shop stewards' committees that had been doing little or nothing for years.

GEC toolroom workers are first in line, basing their pay claim on the district rate, whereas the firm looks at pay in comparison to GEC's other works.

Thus Bro. Doug Sadler, senior steward, stated "We are, in wages terms, about 16th out of 30 major toolrooms in Coventry. But that is calculated on the £47.20 rate. Our basic rate is just over £45 which puts us third from the bottom. Some toolmakers in Coventry are getting £54 to £57 a week."

The dispute also involves arguments over Phase Two. GEC have offered £2.88, whereas the men have put in an ingenious claim for an agreed £1 plus 4%, to be implemented in increasing instalments. This way they would start with a 48p

rise on week 1, increasing to £5.76 by week 52!

In 12 months time they would start fresh negotiations on a new wage rise using a higher weekly platform than the company are offering.

GEC have turned this down flat

and refuse to meet the men. Neither will they discuss fringe benefits, extra holiday pay, or anything.

Clearly they have been boosted in their arrogance and inflexibility by the Tory Government's pay freeze, and intend to crush this strike, if they can. The GEC Tool-

### Liverpool Women strikers put cops in their place

THE STRIKE AT 'CROFT'S SEAFOODS', Liverpool has now got the support of Liverpool dockers and of freight workers at Liverpool Airport, who are refusing to handle the company's product. As the strike is almost 100% solid, the main effect of this is to hit the company's main factory in the Isle of Man - something the management didn't bargain for!

The 78 women who work in this factory are having to strike for the most minimal of conditions and pay. They are demanding an assured 40 hour week and a basic wage of £14.

Up to now they have been working on piece work rates, which at the whim of a new under-manager were almost halved, and with no basic pay at all at those times when work was slack. They could be sent home for days on end with no pay, to be recalled suddenly on a weekend, depending on the vagaries of the sea-food catch.

Working conditions are, they believe, illegal under the Factories Acts. Little protective clothing is provided, there are no medical facilities (and injuries from the fish shells are frequent) and they must work with their hands constantly in icy water.

The factory is being picketed daily and the experience with the

police has been nothing unusual - that is, an experience of harassment.

The local Superintendent told one of the pickets that she would be arrested if she continued to shout 'Scab' at the one woman and six men who have refused to support the strike even though they all stand to gain by the strike's success. The pickets replied to the police threat - "If you arrest her you will have to arrest all of us".

The Police officer then tried to tell the girls that only six pickets were allowed on the gates, to which came the reply "there is no law stating how many are allowed on a picket." At that point he got on his radio and asked for reinforcements and a black maria. And in response one of the strikers went and 'phoned for a local reporter to come and witness the mass arrest of 77 pickets.

After that, picketing continued without further interference.

The employers have said that any strike would be the first and last, because they would rather close the factory than concede the workers' demand for regular work and pay.

But these women are prepared to stay out until they have a job that they can call a job.

Colin McCowan

makers must not be left alone.

Already at the giant Bayton Road Industrial Estate (Exhall) small non-union machine tool firms, which used to offer up to £5 above the district rate to get workers, are now offering £10-£15 under the district rate.

The TUC have sold out on the Tory pay freeze. Only rank and file action can win the coming struggles. A local combine committee for machine tool workers must be built. The small backstreet firms must be unionised.

This must be done if wages and conditions are not to be eroded. And it must be done NOW to defend the GEC workers.

Dave Spencer



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## 8 up for 'Conspiracy'

FIVE BIRMINGHAM BUILDING workers face charges of conspiracy to trespass and unlawful assembly. This results from their occupation last February of the SOS Bureau in Birmingham (partly owned by Slater Walker Securities).

The aim of the occupation, which was quite peaceable, was to give publicity to the campaign against lump labour. Three ATV cameramen who entered the building to film the demonstration are also up before the courts. Clearly, as in the case of the North Wales 24 building pickets charged with Conspiracy to Intimidate, the object once again is police intimidation.

The campaign against lump labour, in particular, must gain increasing support around the demonstration planned for June 25th, when the workers come before the court again.

### THE LUMP

It has been estimated that of the one million building workers, 400,000 are on the lump. This means a tremendous weakening of trade union organisation and the effective wrecking of any decent conditions on the sites. Lump workers are not covered by insurance, safety rules, first aid or holiday pay. And they are often brought in to break strikes, as was recently the case on the Laing's St. Thomas' Hospital site, London.

Another effect of lump labour has been to bring about a shortage of skilled labour in the industry. With names in plenty like Bobby Charlton and Edward Heath on the management's books, any man can

present himself as skilled without having to prove it.

A four-years' apprenticeship is seen as a mug's game now. Some firms quite cynically advertise offering, say, a months's (!) training to prospective carpenters.

Little wonder that people complain about the shoddiness of modern building. Builders have simple aims and they're pretty singleminded about achieving them: they are, to cram as many houses or offices into as little land as possible, throw them up as fast as possible and, of course, make big profits in the process.

No wonder the industry is renowned for backhanders, fiddles and gigantic profits.

The Birmingham lads should be given medals, not prison, for their actions. The only way to break the lump is by a vigorous national campaign to unionise all sites, and this means strenuous picketing.

There is no use looking to other people to do the job for us: the absolute arrogance of the building employers and their Tory servants was seen in Parliament on May 18th when even Eric Heffer's milk and water Bill against the lump was thrown out.

Only rank and file action can force them to retreat and at the same time defeat the police intimidation.

\* Coventry Trades Council are to organise a meeting on June 25th in support of the Birmingham 8; and Coventry S.E. Labour Party have agreed to finance coaches to the next demonstration in Shrewsbury in support of the North Wales 24.

Dave Spencer

## △ Birmingham out against the Lump

On 18th May, 1,000 Birmingham building workers marched through the city in a demonstration against the Lump. All the sites in the city centre were affected, though some were working with a depleted (mainly lump) work force.

At a meeting after the march, Pete Carter of the CP and Charter told building workers - "Smash the Lump or in two years it'll smash you!"

The main area of the attack in the fight against the lump is to be the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham Airport. The firm which won the contract, Douglas's, have said that it is going to use sub-contract labour only.

However, to quote Pete Carter, "If there is any lump labour, it doesn't get built."

Other demands include adequate toilet facilities and a subsidised canteen.

Ken Barlow, UCATT regional secretary, pledged full union support in the fight against the lump. However, it is uncertain how much longer Barlow can walk the razor edge between Charter (which is strong in Birmingham) and George Smith, UCATT boss. No matter what course he takes he will come under attack from one side or the other.

It is important that Charter's influence in Birmingham continues to grow, otherwise Barlow's left noises are likely to subside into a witch-hunt against the militants and we will see a virtual end to the fight against the lump.

The demonstration was badly timed, as on the same day the North Wales 24 were in court. One building worker on the march put it this way: "this demonstration could have been at any time; we should have been in Shrewsbury supporting our arrested brothers."

Kevin Crowe

At the London anti-Lump demo there were big delegations from Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham as well as London. At the meeting afterwards, it was decided to focus nation wide action against a selected employer of lump labour.

This is the first time that Charter has ventured beyond local actions.

The next national day of protest is scheduled for 6th June.

# Defend the Pickets

# KILL THE LUMP!



## North Wales 24

The police must have been hoping for a small turnout in Shrewsbury on May 18th, what with the big Lump demo going on in London the same day, and the fact that they had only picked out 7 of the North Wales 24 for a court appearance that day.

However, over 400 workers, socialists and students came to Shrewsbury with banners and slogans to march and demand that all charges

against the 24 be dropped.

The banners bore witness to demonstrators from as far as Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Oxford, Bristol, South Wales and Yorkshire, with members of the ETU, AUEW, NUM, TASS, ASTMS, UCATT, NUPE and the T&GWU.

Delegations from political organisations, including several branches of Workers' Fight, were also on the march.

Speakers stressed the importance of the attack by the Tories on the right to picket; and John Byrne, leader of the almost 2-year long strike at the IRO site at Bootle, raised a cheer when he said that no scabs had set foot on the site.

The next court hearing will be on 15th June, where it is expected the 24 will once again be remanded - while the police try desperately to get their 'case' organised.

We too must organise: for a bigger demonstration, and for the funds which these 24 workers and their families will need to cover expenses and to back them up in their fight.

Send donations to: Defence Committee Treasurer, M.R. Williams, 1, Fford Pentre, Ocean View, Carmel, Holywell, Flintshire.

Cynthia Baldry

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