FOR YEARS, THE FASCISTS in their sewers have been feeding off the oppression, injustice and despair 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 Ennich 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 leaders do, on special occasions.

action

But do they act to bring united-class action for wages to keep abreast of prices? Do they press for hours to be cut out 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 rather than British Tories were responsible for Value Added Tax).

They talk about the 'dangers of immigration' - as if there was no unemployment in the '70s, when there was a scarcely a black face in Britain.

Where the Labour leaders mumble and quibble, the fascists 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 and death struggle. The struggle is allowed to spread, in each section of the movement which it affects while 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 racism and the fascism it emanates from the labour movement?

root out

* Argue the true causes of attack 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 racism against their black fellow-workers, and also Tory 'national interests' 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 a united 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 racists 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 racism in the working class, and indeed in wide sections of the labour movement. Proposals for unity and anti-racist campaigns are more good intentions unless they are ideas, slogans, proposals in the hands of an organisation which sees the fight against racism as part of a general class struggle and can act as an agency for organising that struggle on all its levels.

use this pamphlet

To help campaign against racism. WORKERS' FIGHT has produced a 20-page pamphlet which explains why the new breed 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

Racism and the Working Class

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, Round Table as, so the best way to run the mixed economy.

But we 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 been a disaster. 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 two towards the bosses, but to take industry and the state out of their hands and hand it to the workers. This difference gives us a warning about the motives of people like Woodward Benn and with Sir Keith Hart. If they were to nationalise the "top 25" with compensation, it would cost £2,300 million of taxpayers' money; if they were to nationalise without compensation, it would need not run capitalism better. Acts of Parliament, but a powerful show of working class forces to defeat the big business topic.

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. She needs to be made more powerful one!" (Daily Mirror)

In the 19th century, Britain became the exploiter and the plunderer of the whole world. While the world was then under ruthless imperial domination, it became "backward". Even though, until as late as the 18th century, they had been on a comparable level to Europe, Britain set it. 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 led many socialists to believe that the British working 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 "Cold War". Trawlers 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 triawlermen'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, but 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 knock 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 paramilitary 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.

LABOUR PARTY

From page 1

On previous records, they are not going to either pay out £12,000 million, or merit 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 heart of the matter.

One voter 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 leaders simply refuse 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 decisions. Through the experience of that fight, many of them will join their forces with those who have been conscious of the necessity of the revolutionary road to socialism.

N.Ireland: Elections in the Gerrymandered state

As expected, the Six Counties local government elections returned more or less the same Ulster Unionists. At the time of writing the last figures available cover 483 out of a total of 526 seats. "Official Unionists" took 109 of these followed by 94 "Unionist" 89 "loyalists" and 13 Democratic Unionists (Paisleyites), giving the non-Unionists 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 the SDLP 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 of another major coalition is 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 electing in one vast gerrymandered area of Ireland as the farce they are.

Chris Gray

THE NEW STORMONT
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

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 out of the tax net, 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 buries 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 case, J. B. Bolton's son registered 190 British companies -- for guess whose accountancy firm?

A.L.I. Trade Union

Watch out for your rights now!

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

This was the clear message of the Anti-Intrusion League's trade unionists' conference held at Conway, as we reported.

Already, it was pointed out, building workers have been charged with "insult" 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 Reeve of the Conway Prisoners Defence Committee about the recent reports of the detention of Irish soldiers living in Conway.

He felt that Conway itself was a waiting question: a deliberate choice - in 1969 an IRA bomb which exploded in Conway 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 Conway 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 "frightening" 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 sets 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 in any case, how can trade unionists be expected to try other trade unionists?

How long indeed?

Marion Kavanagh

"a very nice young man..."

JACOB JACKS, outgoing President of the National Union of Students (a Communist Party member) lectured last night at the Royal College of Defence Studies.

This 'College' with its mainly one-year course, 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 police population.

Topics include, when and how to use the army to crush, ask questions of the police on the wrong and the 'bogey' use of the police.

It also instructs its students on "drugs", "the trade union movement", "the bad and not so bad sides of capitalism", "foreign military structures", "world guerrilla movements" etc. Students can opt for particular units.

Dicky Jacks lectured the learned generals on students and the student movement, and described Jacks as "basically a very nice young man with a fundamentally conservative attitude."

An outlook he picked up at lunch parties with Margaret Thatcher? Or in the Communist Party...
How Fascists Infiltrate the Trade Unions

by Rachael Lever

Taking advantage of the fact that the trade union movement has done nothing to combat metalism 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 Unions against Immigration (TUiA), and its founders included Moscow's David Hammers from Shildfield, the notorious Hitlerite Colin Jordan, members of the Monday Club's "Powell for PM" group, the Racial Preservation Society, and a variety of groupuscules with daydreams of world domination.

The aim of TUiA was to act as a kind of "front group" for the National Front which finds itself unable to use the lie about the "oppression of the workers" by the trade unions. Its leaders appear to regard the other fascist organisations as "milk powder" which needs to be mixed with the more potent, but less visible, National Front. The TUiA has successfully managed to attract a number of trade unionists, and it has managed to gain a foothold among the trade union leaderships in the metal industry.

Armour

In many cases, the working class's own internalist-anti-communist, anti-socialist, anti-trade unionism is the first and last line of defence against fascism. Thus far, the National Front has had little success in infiltrating the trade unions, but it has achieved a number of victories in other areas. In particular, it has managed to gain a foothold in the metal industry, where it has been able to recruit a number of trade unionists to its ranks.

The "issue" of immigration is one of the main lines of attack. While anti-black prejudice has its roots in British society in general, its spread and intensification is closely linked to the actions of both Tory and Labour governments in relation to immigration policies. Thus, it must be seen as part of the wider struggle against the working class and the trade union movement.

These Acts have institutionalised the idea that black immigrants are undesirable. All the quotas, the "blacklisting" of trade union leaders, the "no-go" zones, the "no-gate" areas, have served to create the impression that these immigrants are a "bad thing". If there is nothing wrong with them, why keep any out at all?

In their opinion, too, these Acts create a climate of racism, with the "outsiders" arrested at the coast and shipped off like cattle to the "black zones". The mentality of "Keep them out" -

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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 passive for six minutes. ALAN THOMAS has 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 inspect, stepped in to investigate complaints of a sickly sweet smell over Redcar and the mouth of the Tees North Slops, it has emerged that the new Rohm and Haas chemical works at Seal Sands closed a crucial part of the plant for a few hours.

This was done as a “good neighbourly act,” as described in the certainty of local health officials that the smell comes from the works, the firm did not find 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 on 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 when they had introduced a few temporary measures or permanent measures to deal with the smell, and I would be surprised if they had done anything different by the end of the day.”

Fuge and Haas claim that a £100,000 spending on controlling fugitive emissions and a £200,000 investment in a new open topper truck 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 offensive stink 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, 250 workers at the ICI North Tees (Bullinsland) site reported sick and went home after an all-day meeting. Plumbers, electricians and plasterers had complained of feeling ill, being sick and having severe headaches resulting from the fumes.

These were not deliberate and cover-up tactics but, busy workers who daily work exposed to ICI’s own brands of smelly film and noxious odours.

The next day, well known four-minute mile Christopher Chataway, Tony Moly of Industrial Develop

Our Standards

Workers always suffer the effects of pollution, having to live and work in smog, oil and fumes all day, their homes scalded 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 skim 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 acid rain and steel and engineering works here near the rivers. That does not mean we just accept socialist ideals and wait for the revolution. We must campaign inside the trade unions for the setting up of workers’ inspectors of safety, and general health. This 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 were put in practice, and not just government or local government regulations, but also laid down by the workers themselves.

And if these standards are not met by the bosses — then it’s men walk out.
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 clause that will be unheeded 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 racists, 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 National Front 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 1952. It started as a small pressure group. Now there is...
Tory activists to Bromwich

It's probably a majority of nationalists. A nationalist campaign against the old boys' school that has brought in new head-which in the last year has seen a number of the unionists after supporting a group of members-but the Tory in the February election. While about 300 members of the local MC chairman, chairman of the borough's branch, of the local Conservative Party, and for organizing purposes) to speak to its [local] branch about the NF [local branch chairman]; the NF's national council. They had a great deal of trouble with the meeting and the local branch did not actively support a meeting. After the meeting, the entire rally joined in the National Front's march to Westminster.

The balance within the National Front will do quite 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 failure of the National Front, which is as reactionary as they come.) But, with their unashamed racism, they will continue to win over the warped little imaginations in the Tory branches, where fascinisation with the Front will gain in attractiveness and respectability as the Front's electoral successes grow.

And, in turn, the Club will provide these little footers with access to the sort of backer—In the Army, civil service and big business—[that could] only be achieved if they were smashed now and turn their nasty little fantasies into a very much nastier reality.
5 YEARS SINCE FRANCE'S 'MAY EVENTS'

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 million struck, factories and work-places were seized and occupied. For two weeks there were mass demonstrations, endless meetings and discussions. Revolutionary songs poured 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 sweaters, footballers, actors and nurses, joined in.

The police waivered. The conscript army was called up to barracks, not to be trusted. Demands grew. The granting of them produced a great chorus - 'don't sign! Stay out for more! They want a change of society; they were offered an election to change the government. And the 'leaders', the Communist Party and the C.G.T.-led union federation, casting around desperately for a way to get the harrass 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 Statist leaders who 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 revolutionized with sit-ins and strikes.

In Britain, too, sit-in strikes have now become very common, though always, as far as we can tell, on a sectional basis: sometimes as 'work-ins' to 'prove viability', sometimes to prevent machinery being moved (as at Plessey's 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 strike, 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'. 50p plus 5p postage. Order from 98 Clifford St, London N1.
The 1875 "Conspiracy" Act

Their law — or our power?

WORKERS who HAVE RECENTLY
found themselves charged with 'conspiracy' (as were the 3 Birmin-
ham building workers, see p. 12), have discovered that the world of
Alfie - in Wonderland is not entirely
fictional.

Blurred in a cause of civil (or 'section 4') 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, in-
murder) — but the "crime" need
never have occurred altogether.

A criminal conspiracy is defined
as the 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
summitting it up how they're paid to
do it): "If two men agree to blow
their noses together during Divine
Service so as to disturb the congre-
gation, they may be indicted for
'conspiracy' — even if when it came
to it they couldn't find their hand-
kerchiefs!"

Well, all that is in theory, and
as one textbook 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 1915. But it didn't touch the
1875 Conspiracy and Protection of
Property Act — what did the 1875 Act do?

It was stated that the two remaining
shades of the old Combination Acts
which had been framed for outlawing
trade unions. It said clearly that
if something wasn't a crime if done
to one person, it didn't become a
conspiracy if more than one person
did it.

But that still left us with all the
other things that the ruling class deems
as being crimes. So, if two of you
decide to shake your fists at a
scapegoat, then that's just intimidat-
ion, it can also be ''conspiracy to
intimidate". And, by the previous
definition of criminal conspiracy,
it need never even have happenned.

No, now, things that workers
decide to do together, 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:

1. 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, wrong-
fully and without legal authority
1. Uses violence or threatens
violence for or intimates
such person or his wife or
children, or injures his property,
or.
2. Persistently follows such
other person about from place
to place; or
3. Molest 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 hants 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
disorderly manner or through any
street or road."

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

The 23 North Wales Building
workers (see p. 12) currently facing
charges under the 1875 Act are
charged with many other things under
Section 1711. "Tell you on the 6th
day of September at Shrewsbury on
a building site known as Kingswood
wrongfully and without legal author-
ity intimated 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 ... or the approach to such ... place,
... or place ... or ... place ... or ... place."
That would seem to outlaw
wickets!

But isn't picketing legal?

Yes. However, the key is in
those words: "wrongfully and with-
out legal authority". Because other
rules — primarily now the Industrial
Relations Act — define what is and
isn't "wrongful". Accordingly, it
isn't wrongful to picket by their de-
definition — for the purpose of peace-
fully obtaining or communicating
information or of peacefully persua-
sing 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 "indust-
rial" dispute (say, an anti-govern-
ment strike), it is one of a vast
number of "unfair industrial prac-
tices", 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 commun-
ICATING 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 for our benefit.

Most of our rights have been esta-
blished 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
their, as we did in support of the
Penttville 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 parliament and
a struggle which they mean to win.

They have set up special anti-
picket squads to break them up.

All Out

We must know that too. The de-
struction of the court has been a
start. What's needed now is a clear
pledge from everyone organized
that if any one of the 24 or the 8 is
jailed or penalised in any way,
then every one of us is in.

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 law makes, but which
has been carved out in practice.

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

Ron Vandy
FREE THE BELFAST TEN

Portlaise Prison, May 18th 1973

The undersigned political prisoners in Portlaise Prison who are publicly stated that we have neither broke nor escaped, but are being fed and well treated, and the last card. We are in good health, and have no intention of deserting our political principles and the Irish struggle for freedom.

[Signatures]

Republic in Ireland and pledge our support to the revolutionary forces struggling to attain national independence.

Martin Crennan
Sean Morrissey
Joseph Dillon
Donal O'Leary
Danni McOwen
Peaty Dillon

Soldiers rampage in Preston

by Alan Theasby

A GANG of Junior Infantry stationed at Fullwood Barracks, Preston, invaded the town's Waterfall Park on Saturday afternoon and kicked a group of young local people. After the 'incident' 40 of the young soldiers were debarred from the park and were only released when they were brought before a juvenile court panel.

Cpl. John Bird, the barracks C.O., has put the park out of bounds to the Junior Infantry under command of the batch and thebatch claimed that the incident was an 'isolated case'.

ISOLATED? These lads are systematically abused to their own personal ends, but have gone so far as to interfere with the anti-imperialist resistance in Ireland. Ireland is engaged in using harassment and bully-boy tactics against the long members and supporters of the African movement. As it 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.

We therefore continue to wish to reaffirm our allegiance to the establishment of a Democratic Workers' Republic in Ireland, and pledge our support to the revolutionary forces struggling to attain national independence.

In civil life, anyone who acted in such a way would be labelled as 'vandal' and 'hoodlig-

[Signatures]

Only a mass national strike and mass movement, linking up the different industries and guided by the ideas of revolutionary Marxism, can in the future, 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 repressions on trade unions.

We fight against UNEMPLOYMENT; for a national minimum wage; for full or part

[Signatures]

We fight to extend the power of workers to control the details of their own lives in industry here. We are in the fight for theabolition of UNEMPLOYMENT, which has become a serious reality only in a workers' state. We believe in the slogan "PARLIAMENTARY ROAD TO SOCIALISM" is a crippling illusion. The capitalist class will not leave the state peacefully; no ruling class ever has. Revolution will be a boiling cauldron of social struggle and will force the working class to fight for every inch of the way to better or even maintain its wages and conditions.

Workers' councils are a necessary step towards the abolition of the state. We believe in the slogan "PARLIAMENTARY ROAD TO SOCIALISM" is a crippling illusion. The capitalist class will not leave the stage peacefully; no ruling class ever has. Revolution will be a boiling cauldron of social struggle and will force the working class to fight for every inch of the way to better or even maintain its wages and conditions.

[Signatures]

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[Signatures]

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 been in society. We fight, in particular, for the emancipation of women of our own class, such as the struggle for free choice and equality, which have been most accurately described as the "slaves of the slaves".

[Signatures]

We fight for an international anti-imperialist front and against imperialism. We fight for the integration of immigrant workers into the labour movement and for a united front against capitalists, which supports the right of black minorities to form their own defence leagues and 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 - Solidarity - 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 worldwide struggle, encompassing the creation of a world revolutionary party, such as Leon Trotsky founded the Fourth International, the fight against imperialism and against the Fascists; the struggle for the peace of the world; and the struggle against the British Imperialists (that of the British section) - represents a degenerate form of Trotskyism. We fight for the alliance of all the peoples of the world against the Fascists.

We stand for a political revolution in the working class against the bureaucracy of the SIUC, the cut-backs of the other countries, and the exploitation and destitute workers' states. The social regime of the different bureaucracies has shown in common with Fascism, is new states with real communism. At the same time, we defend the nationalised economy in these countries against capitalists and imperialism, successfully advancing the case that is, irrespective of the specific developments of the revolutionary policies of the ruling bureaucracy, and against those policies.

There are no solutions, and solutions other than the political, but methods differing from one or differing conceptions about what needs to be done here and now. We believe in the alliance of all groups to be seriously - sometimes greedy - in theory and practice. We favour only in action with those groups where possible, and a serious dial-

[Signatures]
Teesside

‘Walk to job’ strike spreads

A DISPUTE OVER TRANSPORT facilities at work sparked off a strike of over a hundred Teesside gasworkers 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 Middlebrough. The gasworkers’ first port of call came out as the strike spread to Redcar and Darlington, Middlebrough gas fitters held a short sit-in at the Commercial Street works.

Northern Gas management directed Stockton gas fitters to jobs in Middlebrough, 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 GMMU.

Why not? Alan Theasby

Gasworkers’ walk-out △

James Connolly and Ireland’s struggle for Freedom

10p plus 5p postage from
56 Gifford St, London N1

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 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 striking, etc., while AUEW men sat back and automatically gained an increase - hence the right wing nature of the AUEW locality.

The scrapping of the Coventry TRA meant that each toolroom was on its own. Initial wage rate agreements are high in order to gain the scrapping of the agreement. But now they are able to say it has set in.

Most factories and toolrooms are beginning to make more efficient noises and re-activating shop stewards’ committees that had been doing little or nothing for years. GEC toolroom workers are first in line, and it is only a matter of time before the district rate, whereas the firm looks at pay in comparison to GEC others.

Thus Bro. Doug Sadler, senior steward, stated “We are in wages terminology about 19th out of 30 major toolrooms in Coventry. But that is calculated on the £67.20 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 argued over Phase Two. GEC have offered £2.88, whereas the men have put in for an agreed £1 plus 4%, to be implement ed in increasing instalments. This way they would start with a 40%

Liverpool

Women strikers put cops in their place

THE STRIKE AT "CROFT'S SEAFOODS" in Liverpool has now got the support of Liverpool dockers and of freight workers at Liverpool Airport, who are refusing to handle the company's products. 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 75 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 were well below the normal wage for the job. They could be sent home for days on end with no payment, 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 Superintendant told one of the picketers 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 picketers 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 mark. And in response of the strikers went 'pioneered' 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.

Cecil McCormack
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 were affected, though some were working with a depleted (mainly lump) workforce.

At a meeting after the march, Pete Carter of the CP and Charter I'd building workers - 'within the Lump for two years I'll smash him beg.'

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 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 launch a national campaign to fight 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 20th June.

Defend the Pickets

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 demonstrations from as far as Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Oxford, Bristol, South Wales and Yorkshire, with members of the ETU, AUW, NUM, TASS, AFTS, UCATT, NUPE and the T&G.

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

Eight 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 28th, where the workers come before the court again.

THE LUMP

It has been estimated that of the one million building workers, 80,000 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 if they are caught in a strike, they are, to quote a member of the Lump, Laboratory staff, 'just as many horses or officers into an air 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 backhands, 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 area picketing.

There is no use looking to other people to do the job for us; the absolute arrogance of the building employers and their T&G acronym 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.

The 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

North Wales 24

Four hundred at Courthouse

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.

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Inside how the 'Conspiracy' law works

Speakers stressed the importance of the attack by the Tories on the right to picket; and John Byrne, leader of the London 12 for 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 19th June, where it is expected the 24 will once again be remanded - while the police try desperately to get their 'cases' 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 back up in their fight.

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

Cynthia Bidly

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