THE SCOPE of protest actions in the north of Ireland following the shooting of IRA volunteer Hugh Convey has given the lie to Britain's boast of having smashed the IRA and has now eroded the confidence of the Catholic population in the region.

Workers in Belfast burned hundreds ofarrods in several factories in both Ballymena and Derry and marched through the streets. In Derry a group of workers blocked the road outside Fort George army post for two minutes angry silent protest. In Belfast students left the university and joined demonstrators blocking streets in the city centre.

RAIDS

British troops in full riot gear turned out in force to drive the demonstrators off the streets.

In Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, where Hugh Convey was born, 300 protesters massed in the streets after police had tear gased them illegally outside the local RUC barracks. This was an attempt to break the gate. A group of-peaceful demonstrators has taken over an entire Barracks area and the police have been unable to wrangle them out.

The scene was one of a protest march every Monday since August 9th, 1974, when the incident was introduced.

British troops countered with mass arrests, detentions, and raids like those carried out in the Bombay, Andersonstown and elsewhere.

DARING

But the most daring retaliation for Hugh Convey's murder came when a group of soldiers of the Provisional Irish Republican Army, after detonating 150 kg of bombs in the centre of Crossmaglen Co. Armagh, set off on a gun operation from which they attacked a British foot patrol. After a short exchange of gunfire two British soldiers were killed.

Hugh Convey was shot and killed when trying to escape.

A WITH a number of others from the hilly Long Kesh internment camp. He had been in that place since June 1973 - over a year, that is, with neither charge nor trial. His "offence"? Being suspected of IRA offences.

About 35 men escaped from the now ruined camp along a funnel, but most of them were immediately recaptured. Three are still free.

NO TRIAL

But that is for Ireland. If anything, remotely like the shooting of Hugh Convey had occurred in the island of Britain, there would have been a massively outboulsy, a public scandal reverberating for months. But it happened in Ireland, as part of Britain's war to keep a grip on Ireland - so it causes very little stir. War is for Ireland, peace is for Britain.

When that war spills over into Britain, through such events as the bombing of a pub in Woolwich, then there is an outcry.

WAR

Any socialist - or person with ordinary human feelings - is sickened by bombs killing innocent people at random in pubs. But that's what war is like. The way to end it is to end the war. And the only real way out from the war in Ireland is through British troops getting out, now, and through the victory of the Republican cause - a united, independent Ireland.

FORGET

As long as the British working class allows the British army to be used against the Irish people, there is no right to condemn the Irish people fighting back for the right to determine their own future. We have a duty to support them.

People happy to rely on peace in Britain finding the results of oppression and violence overseas may hope for the defeat of the IRA, or prefer to try to forget about the whole situation. The Republican people of Ireland cannot forget and will not put up with Britain's oppression in Ireland.

Sick girl gets the full treatment

After the M62 bombing, Judith Ward told the police she had planted the bomb. On investigation it was clear she hadn't. But she did go on trial on charges of helping to organise the bombing. Her evidence was confused, contradictory, and nonsensical. Still the trial went on.

As the Provisional IRA have said it is evident that the English authorities are using a person who obviously needs medical treatment in a manner designed to satisfy the lust for revenge on the part of the British establishment.

The IRA's statement also points out that "The Irish Republican Army wish it to be known that Miss Ward was never a member of our organisation, and that we rejected her advances."
ON Wednesday November 6th, the front ranks of the movement to free Warren and Tomlinson were forced into a retreat from their decision to strike until the two lads were free.

What the employers, the Government, UCATT officials, the leaders of the picketing, or even Christmas couldn't have done, was achieved by the simple act of offering soap to leading local Communist Party (CP) members following the Party's 'no-strike' line.

Such has been the betrayal - and it really has to be called that - of the men's hopes of a real struggle at last, that even some CP members are bitterly angry and disappointed.
The front ranks referred to are the militant building workers in Manchester and Liverpool. On Wednesday morning, November 6th, 3,500 Liverpool were on strike, leaving 20 sites idle. It wasn't a token strike either, but what the men hoped would be the start of all-out strike action by other workers in the city. And 1,400 came to a mass meeting to hear a report back from the lobby of the UCATT Executive in London the day before. As this meeting Bill Jones and Alan Abrams, previously strong advocates of strike action, didn't speak. Instead the CP Party man, Mos, Marsh spoke, telling the lads that they were completely isolated in Merseyside and that no other union actions were taking place; and further, that as there had been a decision by UCATT to ask the TUC to do something and to hold a lobby of Parliament, and there was talk of an emergency resolution to the Labour Party Conference, the matter was now 'being dealt with higher up', and they may as well go back to work. The Chairman of the meeting even stated that there would be "no more official action".

AGREED

With this message of despondency and complacency delivered, in the name of the 90 shop stewards who had met earlier in the morning only a majority of whom had agreed, the others favouring continued stoppages, the meeting vested to return to work the next day and "work for a one-day strike of all Merseyside workers on November 21st".

A meeting of all Merseyside stewards was called on November 14th. This vote, which has effectively scuppered the whole attempt to get a mass strike movement off the ground, was based on a blanket line: for Merseyside was not isolated.

INDEFINITE

The very day before, many Liverpool stewards knew this - a meeting of 200 men representing 2,000 men from 12 striking Manchester sites, had decided that they would begin an indefinite stoppage the following Monday. Although they hoped for a call from the special meeting sponsored by Manchester and Saltford Trades Council on Friday 6th for other local strikes, they resolved that even without such a call they would come out, to spread the message "Two trade unions are inside - why aren't you?"

This courageous decision is the sort of thing that needs all over the country and in every industry if we are to get the 2 lads out of jail. Last Friday, the secession from the Party of a group of workers in the Printers’ Trade Union 'On Tuesday night, we talked with the Liverpool CP and agreed that we had to be ready to put the picket line down'.

ROLLING

But on Wednesday came the let-down, as Liverpool again threw the field, pouring on an avalanche of lies without calling any meeting of the stewards' efforts, and leaving them with no option but to follow suit. By last Friday, a whole massive drop out of the picketing had occurred.

So now instead of a real picketing action, a bland volving more and more people and appealing for solidarity, it's back to the tired old business movement.


des and Ricky - 2 out of 300

"A noor or a wink may amount to conspiracy," the jury was told at the Ansgar Bridge Trial. The trial of 14 men facing charges under the Shrewsbury pickets was even simpler: their conspiracy was to prevent the police and the bosses from bringing in a violent weapon which they had threatened to use again in the past ten or so years at their picketing, their activities they fear or dislike. 60's: from NCC, 16 Kings Cross Road, London W.1.C."

WHEN DES Warren and Ricky Tomlinson were jailed under a good law or a bad law, after a fair trial or a farcical one, any question according to law or according to fact they are 'guilty' or not, we would still be fighting for their immediate release. It isn't a matter of a great deal of concern toVelocities, whether the law Star Chamber

Conspiracy as a crime first appeared in English law in 1354, but the political potential of the conspiracy charge was confined to the 19th century. In 1846, its potential as an engine of government, in the hands of a few, was established. Since then the essence of the crime of conspiracy is the actual agreement. ... Moreover, conspiracy was... extended to agreements to commit all crimes, however trivial.

The conspiracy law is a bitter and tenacious legacy of Star Chamber methods... it authorizes trial and imprisonment of critics of constitutional authority and values.

The sudden revival of "conspiracy to intimidate" charges is but the latest example of how the Star Chamber decision to hold working class protests of the 'flying pocket' variety which supported striking workers' strike in 1972.

Scapegoats

The conspiracy device is ideal for scapegoating prosecutions... to convict scapegoats representing a mass movement.

Evidence is sufficiently punishable by a small fine to conspirators' courts can be elevated... into a crime of the utmost seriousness, ...the conspiracy device is usually increased from some statutory minimum authorised by Parliament by a conspiracy, i.e., a declaration in writing - into an offence carrying a maximum punishment of life, ... the device is used to incriminate into public interest' as defined by judges which means that those who make such an effective use of the implication... of whom the ruling class does not wish.

The 'real merit' of this law lies in its unique ability for manipulation by the power of the day. ...The conspiracy concept is inconvenient but illegal in fact.

Police weapon

It is now a frequent practice for prosecutors to charge both a conspiracy and a substantive count, and to bargain with... to drop the more serious count (conspiracy) if he will plead guilty to the substantive charge. The leading American study warns, "create pressures that can prove too great for even the "innocent to resist."
SIMONSTOWN
Labour Lefts offer only token protest
by Jack Price

There was in this judgment neither a consideration of Apartheid's merits or the evils of any dumping of NATO military supplies. The same day as Callaghan stated that the agreement would "wither on the vine", Lord Elwyn-Jones was telling the government's Labour's behalf that the government "should continue to have dealings with South Africa outside the sphere of military supplies." But the most emphatic confirmation of Labour’s real role on South Africa came when the racing regime's leader Vorster furiously thanked Britain for using its veto power in the UN, despite moves by a majority of nations to kick South Africa out of the organisation.

With the re-opening of the Suez Canal by the government realises the strategic importance to imperialism of the Cape route is vitally diminishing. That is why for a whole year we have been in the Middle East there was next to no naval activity in that region. Wilson's fury at three ministerial "rebels", Benn, Hart and Lestor, for voting for a motion "deploiring" the recent naval exercise in South Africa is less for their posturing on this issue than for the thrill this poses to the stifling unanimity he wants.
The fact that they have lodged no protest at all at Elwyn-Jones' speech shows up the shallowness of their protest for what it is.

The 1th Labour Left support trade with apartheid and it should then it must demand a total boycott of all relations, diplomatic, trade, military and financial, social and sporting.
Better still, it could go on to demand that Labour give material aid to those in South Africa fighting apartheid and to stop supporting independent black trade unions.

THE ARAB summit conference in Rabat last week endorsed the UN resolution of a month before, in support of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The "call to arms" for the PLO's leadership put forward by the Arab leaders was endorsed by the PLO's General Assembly.

The PLO, led by Yasser Arafat, the chairmen of the "representative of the Palestinian people." As United Nations members (Israel, the USA, the Dominican Republic, and Bolivia) voted against the 185 supporters of the move to invite the PLO, Britain abstained.
The Palestinian leaders have not, by this decision, been accorded recognition of their people's right to self-determination. But the fact that they have been invited to address the organisation is a major step forward.

For a nation based on racism, supporting South Africa, supporting the regime of President de Klerk, the so-called apartheid will be a step forward.

The reality is exactly the opposite. The de Klerk regime was born out of a systematic barbarism against the indigenous population of South Africa. The Masai, that of the Frelimo leaders in Mozambique, those who are today national leaders (and who are now cabinet ministers) were all part of the system, they threw the Palestinians out and gain "victorious position.

The new regime and the demand that the Arabs drive out the Israelis. They have turned towards the "facts" the chief "fact" being that Yasser Arafat, the leader of the PLO of South East corner of the Mediterranean, is approved by the US. The activity of the former "Palestinian Liberation Front" (PFLP) and the Arab Liberation Front (PFLP-GC) and the Arab Liberation Front (PFLP-GC) have been banned or suspended or suspended by the US. The activity of the former "Palestinian Liberation Front" (PFLP) and the Arab Liberation Front (PFLP-GC) have been banned or suspended or suspended by the US. The activity of the former "Palestinian Liberation Front" (PFLP) and the Arab Liberation Front (PFLP-GC) have been banned or suspended by the US, and the activity of the former "Palestinian Liberation Front" (PFLP) and the Arab Liberation Front (PFLP-GC) have been banned or suspended.
TWO JAILED FOR PICKETING

ALL OUT TO GET THEM OUT!
THEM OUT!

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO PICKET

workers' fight

Published by WORKERS FIGHT, 98 Gifford Street, London N.1
IN THE constitution of the International Socialists, the "Statement of Principles" concludes by saying that IS fights against all forms of racism. However, their unstated eleventh commandment is to compromise on anything and everything just as long as it keeps them popular with workers and sets the record straight about IS's Constitution with a large pinch of salt.

IS certainly does. When it first suggested a program for the Rank and File movement it was trying to get off the ground, it didn't even mention the need to fight racism. Very uncomromising. Anyway, someone pointed out that it had been forgotten and, they added in a clause saying that they were against racism "because it splits and divides workers." (And if it didn't split and divide workers, you'd want to take it IS would think racism the best thing since Janie Jones?)

But, put to that point, the worst that could be said was that IS is not very good at thinking about fighting racism. But worse was to come when they held the first fully affiliated delegate conference of the Rank and File movement in March this year.

**Detailed guide on how to fight racism**

For that Conference, Workers Fight formulated an addendum which included a very detailed guideline on how to fight racism. It was worked on by the Spun Plant G&M&U branch at Stanton steelworks, who got Georgie Barclay along to the Rank and File Conference to speak for us.

Now, there are many areas of the class struggle and trade union activity where there is no pressing necessity for revolutionaries to spell out lines and that detail of how to fight. But the fight against racism is different.

**Unite as many as you can**

Yet IS urged rejection of the addendum, arguing that they wanted to unite as many workers as possible against Phase 3 and the Social Contract, and that therefore the Rank & File programme shouldn't be watered down to exclude people who wanted to fight the Social Contract but weren't interested in "a political programme". By a narrow majority, the addendum was rejected.

Prove IS don't see the implications, but as it stands, Rank & File's programme would exclude a conscious racist such as a sympathiser of the National Front, but it would tolerate the racist pigeon-dealer, or the man who would insist on "foreigners" fitting in with British norms, or the man who thinks that "black people are probably to blame for housing shortages, or the man who says he won't fight for a black to be made supervisor.

**Leeds busmen striking to ban turbans**

After describing the hysterical atmosphere in which, led by fascists, Leeds busmen struck to enforce a ban on Sikh busmen wearing turbans, the article ("Racists take Leeds busmen for a ride...") goes on to explain the racist feeling in terms of the low pay and poor working conditions on the buses. "The racists have channelled these frustations into a blind alley."

So far, so bad. One might have wished for a fuller explanation of the roots of racism, but after all, it was only a short report. Moreover, "blind alley" would tend to suggest a neutral 'missing of the real target', whereas the target of these violent feelings is in fact a very vulnerable group of people who, as a result of this action, are right now probably going in fear of real violence to themselves and their families.

But here is the conclusion of the report, containing Charter's strike at Art Castings, Nuneaton—"and IS's solution to it all:"

"A rank and file busman's leaflet handed out at the mass meeting got a sympathetic response. Many busmen were disgusted by the events but unwilling or afraid to act."

The leaflet spoke of the programme of demands risen (sic) by Glasgow busmen, £5 minimum wage for 35 hours work, increased shift payment and £4 per cent one man differentials.

A further mass meeting planned for next Sunday on pay and conditions offers a great opportunity to fight for such a programme.

The appearence of a group of workers ready and willing to fight is the only way forward from the ugly impasse. Only such a campaign can isolate the racists who never have anything positive to say."

Here the narrow, economicist trade unionist myopia of the Rank & File formulation is taken to its most illogical conclusion, with Charter telling stinkers (about launching a split and viciously divided workforce into a major wages battle.

There is no mention of the need to tackle racism head-on, to educate and galvanise those who are "disgusted but unwilling or afraid to act", and to try to win over the others. Nor of a counter-campaign for education, nor one of demands, such as for a clear affirmation of the rights of immigrant workers to have their customs, religious holy days etc. respected. (See resolution.) Nor is there any hint of organising defence of the victimised Sikhs from violent physical attacks.

But then, it's own Rank and File Conference was told to vote against endorsing such demands.

**An arid and ignorant approach**

His final sentence sums up both the aridity and ignorance of this approach. We can't rely on the racists never having "anything positive to say." In fact it isn't true at all. Even the National Front can stand up and pose as good trade unionists, even, militants, on precisely the level Charter is looking to for a solution.

And then, if we accept that racism in one degree or another goes right through the British working class, then even some of the very best trade union militants are racists. Look at the London dockers who came out in support of Enoch Powell in 1968, striking and marching in support of his racist speeches: they actually identified their racism as something that was part of their militant defence of their living standards. And they, unlike the Leeds busmen Charter describes, were very well organised and relatively well paid, and any rank and file leaflet suggesting a wage claim would probably have been screwed up in the face of the question "who do you think you're talking to?"

**Never mind the turbans—feel the wage claim!**

Summed up the whole strategy expressed in this article is that IS's Rank and File refusal to take a political lead both with its rank and file grouping (and in general) is one of turning one's back on racialism and trying to distract workers' attention from it. It's the same attitude as holding up a bright toy to a child in order to take away from it, with as little fuss, tears and argument as possible, the box of matches it's got hold of.

Which is hardly the best way to advance socialist consciousness in the working class.

Nor, for that matter, does it represent an "uncompromising opposition to all forms of racism" if it is useless at a press conference expressing that IS's Conference pledged itself to fight against racism and religious sectarianism. We must not confine ourselves to recruiting immigrant workers to trade unions (using leaflets in the immigrants' own languages, etc.) We must fight against the exclusion of work or within the workplace unions (including social clubs). We fight for full employment only in conditions, status, grading, training, further education, access to skilled jobs and promotion opportunities. In support of any demands black or immigrant workers make for a clear affirmation of their rights (including religious rights) (like paid day pay leave, right to wear religious dress, turbans etc.) Recognising the importance of the specially close relationship between black and immigrant workers in the workplace. Against all immigration laws and controls, discriminatory legislation against their children, the effects of immigration system and deportations. For the physical defense of black workers under attack. For automatic official endorsement of industrial action by black workers, and in support of instances of racism whether they are in the minority or not.

Jane Gordon

Send stamped addressed envelope to Workers Fight, 98 Gifford Street. London N 1.
Applause, applause — but no hint of now things can change

Crude melodrama

Clay Cross - a few more steps towards victory

Some of those who have supported the Clay Cross councillors in their courageous struggle against the Housing Finance Act will probably be glad that the last few weeks have demonstrated their determination to carry on with their fight.

Certainly the Labour Government's promise to remove escalations in house prices from the Mortgage Institutions Act will be welcome news for the residents of Clay Cross.

However, the battle is far from over. The Government's pledge to extend the Rent Act and raise the maximum rent by 50% will not bring immediate relief for those faced with the rising cost of living.

The AWEU National Committee, in its latest letter, has called for a continued campaign to prevent the introduction of the new Rent Act. They write:

"We are convinced that the government's actions are not only a threat to the right to housing, but also to the democratic process. We urge everyone to join the national campaign against the new Rent Act and to resist the attempts to undermine the right to housing in our community."

AWEU soft-peddles on pay, supports 'Contract' deal

The AWEU National Committee met on Tuesday 4th November to discuss proposals on a pay claim. The meeting was attended by members of the National Committee in April, granted the Labour Government its first victory in maintaining the Tory Phase 3, left wing and Labour national agreements. And this National Commit- tee of the National Committee of AWEU and the local CDSU Government's "Social Contract" wage restraint, by voting 27 to 25 for the right wage motion. The motion did not go for £3 basic for craftsmen, the NC said, the wage for clerical staff should be increased. The NC rejected a call for a public campaign of propaganda and mobilisation for the claim. The local committee, in the working week to 35 hours was kept in, but basically the NC decided said. No fight.

Hugh Saville, as President, did not use his casting vote. But he did intervene, on the side of the right wing, suggesting that the public campaign and mobilisation for industrial action might not be a good idea. The next National Committee, in April 1973, could discuss progress.

Despite being very strong in some factories, and appearing strong on the left wing nationally, the AWEU is in some ways weak as a national union. While refusing to recognise the Industrial Relations Act, the AWEU has also made any effort to mobilise its members against the National Government's action against the National Industrial Court and the fines imposed on the AWEU.

Order books

The call for a campaign of mobilisation was a positive attempt to fight that weakness. The NC decision was to go in for the face of severe cuts in working lives and standards.

But order cuts in the engineering industry, and especially in heavy engineering, are up. If one tenth of the 'left' words of those in AWEU of the Executive Councils and officers was translated into action, real gains could be made by strike action.

Campaign

After the NC's rejection of a campaign to mobilise for the national strike, and if millions will have to fight to campaign from below, to secure a genuine national campaign and freely and honestly the present national pay agreement, the new rate of labourers will be £23.50.

AWEU National Committee had pointed out, a serious effort to build up a national campaign against the TUC minimum of £30 would be made in the attempt to raise the craftsmen's rate up to the £30 claim. By the end of the year, the craftsmen's rate should be raised to £35 per year, and a £50 increase would be needed just to correct the injustices that had been made.

During the first month of the strike, the strike had been supported by over 40 members. The demands of that million that need to be made to bring about gains increases, at least 40p for every 35, the names.

Melvin Kaye

IMI Workers ask - Don't you think we are unusual?

A LOT OF people could be forgiven for thinking that something was wrong when the confined at the mass meeting on Friday 1st November that there were a lot of people missing. It was extremely difficult to get an idea of the numbers at the meeting and the management's claim of 800 was not confirmed as a matter of fact, there was no difference between the workers for whom there were 800. They were both telling us we were the lowest paid and unskilled, and both using blackmail.

Management were giving us the same old routine, all companies give us when strikes are possible. We're working for 40 hours a week, we're losing that much money, it could mean closures. Yet last year, when the management were getting ready for the strike, in operation, they had never heard. They have also started laying off people throughout the company and are telling us that more will follow if we don't go back. This is not the real issue but pure blackmail, and it is up to the workers in the areas who get threat- ened with laycils to demand full pay, and if needs be, occupy the factories and try to spread this type of action on a national basis to force IMI into backing down. It may be our fight today, but it could be your fight tomorrow?

£15 p.w.

What about the union officials? They have refused to make our strike official because we did not exhaust our pockets, and we have exhausted our pockets, which is why we have put in for £15 per week. Therefore the officials will not negoti- ate "formally" with management, although they have had "informal" talks and come up with a formula for settlement.

The formula for a return to work is as follows:
1. Management's final offer is £15 a week for craftsmen and then the non-craftsmen will get a proportionate increase, in some cases £3.50 or less. 2. As long as we accept the offer, the company will honour the threshold agree- ment of 30th November, when it will be terminated.

We want the threshold payments will be incorporat- ed into the base rate. (While we are in favour of the consolidation of threshold payments, this has been a long time away from or alternative to further increases).

All increase payable from the day we return to work.

Lorry Drivers go for parity with Scots

SPURRED by the success of the drivers from Wales who have come under pressure from drivers from Scotland for 48 hours.

The parity fight with Scots has been underway in Hull and in parts of Lancashire. Yorkshire and the North. Some have been on the front line for months without success. The National Drivers' Union has been close to breaking point.

The nationalised National Freight Corporation, which is normally a union for 60 or so different contracts, could not have been more friendly.

Already depots of the National Centre and Freight- liners in Southampton, Glasgow, Liverpool and three different London depots (Willesden, Stratford and Kings Cross) have been closed following anti-union action.

The NFC had in fact recently agreed to a new four-day week, with a pay rate of £3.85, but the news of

"We demand justice for the armed forces, we demand that the NFC has been fighting strike strikes October

Lorry Drivers, Strike for Parity with Scots

Hunger strike victory for Frank Stagg

FRANK STAGG, an IRA political prisoner at Long Lartin, in Worcestershire, has been released after 18 months on hunger strike. The prison authorities conceded on his protest against being strip searched before and after all visits. Stagg had been on hunger strike since September 1971, and was close to death before he finally convinced the humane prison authorities that he was seriously ill. Stagg has now been released on parole with a minimum of 12 months.

250 demonstrators supported a march and demonstration organised by the Campaign for Homosexual Rights on 2nd November. The demonstration showed a growing support for some of the restrictions facing gay men, women and homosexuals. At present, all evidence of consensual sex between two males aged 20 who have sexual relations can be put away for up to five years, and this is just a long forgotten bit of medieval law, it actually happens.

In jail, the demands were to lower the age of consent for homosexual men from 21 to 16 law. In Scotland and Northern Ireland homosexuals are given the right to work. LONDON Workers Fight Saturday meeting "The Present Situation in Ireland". Speaker: Sean McGrath. 8pm. Saturday 11th November, at the "Cameo" Liverpool Road, N1 (Angel underground).