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Builders strike a blow against the dole queue

Shrewsbury Two
A massive lobby

Healey – a wage freeze in mind?

by JACK PRICE

Apart from the assertion that “millions” will be on the dole (which Healey is no doubt far better qualified to make), the essence of the speech differs little from the line trade union and Labour leader have been peddling since the “social contract” first got an airing.

Yet Healey’s speech was followed by a flurry of denouncements by trade union leaders. Foremost of these was Jack Jones — the most persistent advocate of the same line: that low wages can somehow cure or stave off unemployment, and that workers should therefore voluntarily accept lower wages rather than higher unemployment.

None of these people has yet been heard to utter the obvious fact that unemployment and inflation are caused by the inherent irrationality of the capitalist system on a world scale and not by workers having enough to eat, clothes to wear, a place to live in and a couple of weeks holiday, whether it be to Blackpool or Majorca.

So why the denunciations of Healey? And why — if after all Healey was only backing away at the same tree as Wilson, albeit from another angle — did Wilson’s speech meet with a genuinely approval from trade union leaders, while Healey’s got the bird?

First, because of the factional line-up within the Labour Party between “right” and “left” — even though they both stand for much the same thing. The only thing they differ over is whether to run capitalism with state intervention, or to run it without such intervention.

The TUC chiefs rattle their spars and demand that the Government clear such “controversial” speeches with them before they are delivered; Len Murray accuses Healey of “rewriting the social contract” without a by-your-leave. This is all play-acting in the conflict between two saddlemen of the same shoddy article, each afraid the other will make a mess of things and give the game away.

Secondly, the TUC leaders are afraid that Healey will institute some system of wage freeze — in other words, a wage cut.

Several ingenuously vicious schemes are said to have been put forward. Shirley Williams has advocated a change in the Price Code which would penalise firms conceding what the Government considers “a high wage rise”. There also the idea that workers getting increases over a norm would be taxed heavily, so that the State would back such an increase.

Whatever the ploy for keeping wages down, it is likely that Healey will advocate a wage norm. His reference to wage increases for “better off workers” shows he is thinking along the lines of persuasion used by Heath during Phase 2 and Phase 3: we should remember how much too, the weakest and poorest workers were bashed the worst.

This government is of course whole-heartedly committed to keeping wages down. The whole point of the “social contract” is to do this without statutory controls, thereby gaining the full sympathy of the trade union bureaucracy and helping these disloyal “leaders” to manoeuvre, with the rank and file. And union leaders are deeply shocked at the prospect of having to put up a show of fighting a Labour government which institutes statutory controls.

When Wilson spoke a week before, and attacked the focus for a fight back against the bosses’ tactics and the union leaders’ sell-out. Already, news of the occupation has spread to building sites outside Manchester and the Rank and File Organising Committee has agreed to help circulate the Pochin Shop Stewards leaflet.

Locally, the Polytechnic Students have donated £100 to the strike fund (it is unofficial) and E5 has come from an LPS branch. Man from Innes Yarns, only just back work after their strike, have visited the site and pledged a levy from their first week’s wages as a recognition of the solidarity the site gave them during their strike.

Help will certainly be needed. Already the management have called in the police, who didn’t do anything then, though they will if they get half a chance. Send messages and money to the Shop Stewards Committee, at 45 Heathfield Drive, Bolton.
IAN HEYES talks to WORKERS FIGHT about the Pochin's occupation

Why did the men decide to strike and occupy?

When the workers were informed that there was no justification for the sackings. They felt that the sackings were a campaign. The pressure by management to get the remaining workers to carry on with their duties was too much. The workers felt that their rights were being undermined. The reason why we are occupying is simply because we have been informed that there is no justification for the sackings. The management has been very arrogant and has refused to listen to our demands. The workers feel that they have been treated unfairly and that their rights have been violated. The workers believe that they have been treated unfairly and that their rights have been violated. The workers believe that they have been treated unfairly and that their rights have been violated.

What do you think of the record of the building unions in fighting unions?

Despite the high unemployment in the building industry, all the unions have done is to publish leaflets saying that they are doing their best. This is one reason why UCATT is losing members. Conference decisions are not carried out. For example, the demand for £10 and £14 per hour has been dropped. The latest pay offer, which we have been asked to accept, is well below the Conference demand. The call for the 15 hour week is still in force. The building unions have shown themselves to be weak and ineffective.

Solidarity

From the beginning of the dispute, the local UCATT officials seemed to feel that they were on the side of the building firms. It was a matter of choice whether they could support the picketing or not. We have been working with the building unions for some time now. We have had many meetings with them and we feel that we can rely on them. We are confident that they will support us in our fight for a better deal.

The government has refused to negotiate with the building unions. They have refused to acknowledge the existence of the building unions. The government has refused to negotiate with the building unions. They have refused to acknowledge the existence of the building unions. The government has refused to negotiate with the building unions. They have refused to acknowledge the existence of the building unions.

There is an old saying that "you can't take the cake out of the pie". In this case, the government is attempting to remove the workers from the building unions. The government is attempting to remove the workers from the building unions. They are trying to break the workers' spirit and morale. They are trying to break the workers' spirit and morale. They are trying to break the workers' spirit and morale.

MERCY

Due to the complete isolation they are experiencing, many workers are suffering from a lack of support and encouragement. The workers are feeling very vulnerable and isolated. They are feeling very vulnerable and isolated. They are feeling very vulnerable and isolated. They are feeling very vulnerable and isolated.
You will not find Kurdistan on the map because the Kurdish nation was divided into four by Britain after the First World War, in line with the general Berlin imperialist policy of "divide and rule". You will hear nothing of Kurdistan because the capitalist west and the parasitic bureaucracy of the Soviet Union have maintained a conspiracy of silence regarding the national liberation struggle of the Kurdish people.

The line which divides the Assyrians and the Kurds into separate national groups is entirely artificial. It was drawn by the British in 1920 and the French in 1931 as a way of dividing up the territory of the Kurds. The northern Kurdish territories are ruled by Iraq, Iran, and Turkey, and the southern Kurdish territories are ruled by Turkey and Iraq. The Kurds are not a nation because they do not have a national consciousness, they do not have a national territory, and they do not have a national state.
The C.I.A.

JUST ONE HEAD OF THE HYDRA

by JANE GORDON

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As soon as President Ford, backed by a high-level commission to investigate the activities of the C.I.A. within America, is ready to be heard by Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, the story begins to emerge—well-kept secrets of the commission's members being handed over by the director of the C.I.A., who had been under pressure from Washington officials in order to set up a joint committee in local intelligence services in various countries, equipped and using local police and army as a base for operations.

The American state keeps different agencies and departments for different tasks. The C.I.A. has been developed and was deliberately used by the Bush Administration Committee, set up 45 years ago, kept up to 750,000 U.S. citizens, and helped to bound many from their jobs, which put the CIA's alibi for a black-bag break-in (in January of 1974) at stake.

At times when the US ruling class feels threatened at home, and needs to seriously repress the rising class, it will either set up new bodies (as in Britain the Special Patrol Group was set up in response to a heightened class struggle, and in France the special anti-riot police force created in 1947); or it will form existing bodies into much more ferocious instruments; or it will bring its more experienced trickers into the American area.

Whichever of these options it takes, the effect will be the same. The important thing is not whether the CIA or the Keystone Cops: the determining thing will be the degree of repression which will be required to enforce.

The present crisis arises basically out of a situation where the US in the Vietnam war, trusted and supported as the champion of freedom. And in the deepening of the present recession, as more and more are rolled up and shaken awake from the American Dream, this new knowledge might help to impel them into action against a system which offers only insecurity to its workers at home and poverty, degradation, murder and dirty trickery for export.

I will be a task for the working class movement to dig out of this bloody-nosed riff-raff of the CIA — which has been chopped out by the anguish of bourgeois editors or the deliberations of commissions. Socialists in the US and everywhere should grasp the opportunity now. In the wake of the recent developments to expose the role of the CIA and mount a mass campaign for its disbandment.

VIETNAM—THE LONGEST GOODBYE

by JOHN STERLING

The US is already 'intervening' on a scale which is massive by any standards...

At the last several months. In Saigon they have been anti-Thieu protests on the grounds of blaming the government for the NLF victories, but more radical opposition can scarcely show itself publicly under Thieu's police regime.

There is no doubt in Saigon and in Cambodia that the war is over. In a coalition government formed early last year, but a grass roots level the country is still divided into areas of Pathet Lao influence and areas of right wing influence.

In Thakhek, a small town in the northern Laos, a conflict over control of local level has led to the killing of 30 demonstrators, including one man and wounding 11. After the killings reached the capital, Vientiane, hundreds protested in the streets.

A number of local organisations hold, on January 6th, put forward a series of demands, including free elections, a government of national unity, and the withdrawal of Pathet Lao forces from all government posts and the liberation of all political prisoners.

The Pathet Lao, in the town of Ban Haon Sen in late December (and backed up there by a military rebellion) led to a joint administration being set up, with the balance favourable to the Pathet Lao. But in Thakhek the right wing responded with force.

In Laos, as in Vietnam, the peace settlement recommendations of 1973 has not led to anything resembling peace. In Cambodia, with the beginning of the Khmer Rouge, the situation is even more unlikely to hold most of the real country.

For the past several months, there has been a steady drift of Pathet Lao forces into Laos, with Pathet Lao forces menched into the Pathet Lao forces and the Pathet Lao forces into the rotation of the Pathet Lao forces, and into the rotation of the Pathet Lao forces.

We have not reported the relatively small resources into direct action by the Pathet Lao, and instead have concentrated on pulling the main supply road from Pathet Lao, along the river route.

Either tactic is wrong from a socialist point of view, and certainly enough discontent with the corrupt leadership of the Pathet Lao to warrant the overthrow of the Pathet Lao as a result of these plans. The Pathet Lao forces have now realised that their support is no longer secure and are fighting for survival.

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Wages for housework

We might as well say “THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE RULES THE WORLD”

Preparations are now in hand to seek the industrial recognition of gay workers, and to promote the formation of an umbrella trade union for the entire gay community. This will be the first of its kind.

Homosexual workers are often in an unenviable position. Sexual discrimination is a widespread problem that only affects all women but particularly affects some homosexual workers, both men and women. Housework is often virtually excluded from some fields of employment. For example, very often, for instance, live in constant fear of exposure and victimization. Any recognition or promotion is systematically denied and other petty forms of discrimination are widespread.

Homosexual workers frequently feel a sense of the victimization and lay-off at work. But what gay workers can do is to find ways of putting ourselves against all our fellow workers in the struggle. This will help to make the unchallenging sucking up of women and other social groups — just as in political life the techniques used — not just in terms of activities — used for the common good of the movement.

It is hoped that the conference will feature lively discussions on these and other problems facing gay workers. But what is needed now is publicity and support for the conference.

This support must be of the broadest possible kind, within the labour movement. For trade union workers, the decision of the conference will itself be of vital importance. It is necessary to start coming to grips with this question — as well as helping homosexual workers to shed their fears and play a full part in the labour movement.


Leukemia

danger ignored

The official view put out by the Cancer Research Campaign is that there is no connection between the leukemia crisis and the working class. The official view is that it is a result of the development of the fatal disease in一首 of the workers.

Given the current health emergency, it is essential that all workers and their families take action to fight this disease.

In the December issue of "Health and Safety at Work" the C.I.B. and the NUM issued a joint statement to all miners and their families, urging them to take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the disease.

Now in any form of society people are afraid of death, and their health is something that cannot be taken for granted. But the difference between bourgeois society — where death is not a real threat, and the working class society — where death is a real threat, is something that cannot be taken lightly.

BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND!

BLOODY SUNDAY

COMMEMORATION

February 5th at Speakers’ Corner, Hyde Park, London, 12.30pm; following by public meeting at 2.30 pm, led by Troops Out Movement.

January 26th: Manchester T.O.M. (near Piccadilly Circus), Speakers include Joan Maynard MP, Ernie Roberts, Steven McCaffrey and Alasdair Renwick.

OPEN LETTER FOR A REVOLUTIONARY REGROUPMENT.

The Open Letter calls for a revolutionary regroupment, lays down 12 points as political guidelines and maps out practical steps towards unity.

98 Gifford Street, London N1 CDF. Please enclose a 4p stamp.
RELIEF
A PRACTICAL FORM OF SOLIDARITY

In recent days, following the Birmingham bombing, the Labour Government has set itself the task of removing the last vestiges of the repressive State runs in Ireland by the implementation of the three measures which Jenkins himself has described as "draconian".

It looks as if this government is preparing for a situation where the British army will be given an even firmer hand in the pro-republican area.

A STRANGE PECKING ORDER

PRODUCTION AT BUSTED'S (UK's biggest) Chicken's plant in Broad Lane, Birmingham, has had its share of problems. In February, when 20 lorrymen struck over pay talks. The men, TGWU members, want to be paid their piece rate and to bring their wages in line with those of drivers doing similar work in other areas. But the boss of the company, Mr. T. O'Hare, refused to negotiate.

Coupled with this, as was evident from a recent visit to Derry and other areas of the North, the persistent repression is still very much in evidence. The combined effect of roadblocks and massive cement blocks which the people have called "dragons' teeth", entry and exit is still accompanied by body and bag searches, requests for identification especially from young men, women and children, and cameras which click automatically every few seconds.

The frequent question on everyone's lips, when they meet anyone over from Britain, is "what is being done in Britain to expose our plotters?" Many bogus socialists were highly critical of the British left, who they accused of being all mouth and no action, and claim that the left here speak of solidarity, yet not even a trickle of aid for the families of internees and prisoners, or to the socialist movements in British occupied Ireland, is being channeled through.

The areas aid is needed can be listed, and the following suggestions could be used as a basis for an Irish Relief Group which could function in many areas of Britain:

1. To local newspapers, magazines etc could be sent to those held without charge or trial in Long Kesh or in the present camp, and to those jailed in the various places of imprisonment both north and south.

2. Comrades in Britain should be encouraged to maintain a dialogue with a prisoner or internee by writing at least one letter a month, or sending a few lines with a socialist newspaper by post.

3. Organising functions to raise funds for the Prisoners' Dependent Funds and other relief bodies which are active in this humanist endeavour eg the Green Cross.

4. Organising meetings at which ex-internees or relatives of internees could be invited to attend and put forward their views in their own interest.

5. Publish reports and booklets in the few remaining Irish counties.

Pete Conlan

THE ANTI-TERRORIST MEETING

MEETING to discuss the above will be held at the Workers' Education Alliance, 25th January, in the City of Cambridge. A final notice of the meeting will be given in due course.

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