Shrewsbury Special Supplement  

APPEAL TO THE LABOUR MOVEMENT 

from Des Warren 

I HAVE SPENT a week in prison now. The convicts and others in there told me that he had been demonstrated more than in the previous 10 years. There was a conspiracy? Yes, but not now by the workers. The conspiracy was one between Home Secretary, the employers and the police. It was conceived and executed after passage from Tory MPs. It was not an industrial conspiracy, but was negotiated with the employers, and the demands charged in the picketing of the Regents Park Station was simply a police attack. It was a very good reason why to end all conspiracy. No one would have had any evidence of conspiracy, but who was in on it or was kept out of it? 

That would have led to even more conspiracy questions. But who was the industrial conspiracy? 

There is no conspiracy. I am content on the charges and will appeal. But there will be more important appeal to the entire working class union. Nobody here only think they are in the matter that has been taken place. 

The trade union and working class movement cannot accept this verdict. 

& Ricky Tomlinson 

I HAVE SAT here for many weeks and seen my character systematically dragged. It was said in the last war by Doctor Goebbels that if you repeat a lie often enough it becomes accepted as the truth. This I have observed in this court and now know it to be true. 

So much so that the constant use of the words "politically," "criminal," "terrorist," "fanatic," "criminal" and "traitor" is now accepted as a fact. 

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The trade union and working class movement cannot accept this verdict.
THE ORGANIZED violence of hired scalpers against Chrysler strikers in June of this year must be seen as a grim warning that in future blood will flow on the picket lines ... if the unions get their way.

The dispute at Chrysler's Ryton plant at Coventry began on Thursday, May 21st, with 4,000 workers striking in support of 600 body shop workers.

Pleading quickly organised by an Action Group set up by the union and the Ryton workers to get solidarity for the strike against other Chrysler plants. The Action Group policy was to form up a counter-attack of pickets on the factories, to stop production and force the company to meet lay-off payments.

Meanwhile, workers at other Chrysler plants were to stay in and go on working, while pickets blocked the removal of their products.

Chrysler management, setting the scene for things to come, swung into action; it destroyed railings, demolished walls, and flew helicopters over the plant taking photographs of the pickets and returning alternative ways of shifting supplies to avoid the pickets.

This proved unsuccessful. Then on Monday June 18th, like thieves in the night, the Walker Bros. rent-a-scab unit (hauled by the Daily Mail as a brave commando action in the spirit of Dunkirk and Colditz) moved into action.

They called themselves SPECIAL AIDS SERVICES and were equipped in the main of ex-separatists. Their name was intended as a play on the name "Special Air Services" (SAS). They had all been used in the IRA, some of them in undercover assignments, brutality and dirty tricks.

Walker's SAS did their name-sake proud. Taking six overloaded lorries out of the Stote component plant they smashed through the picket line throwing bricks and bottles at the strikers as they went. Inside the Stokes plant John Docherty, a forklift driver, was assaulted with a hammer by scabs who feared he would raise the alarm at the picket line.

Violence didn't stop at Stoke. At Chrysler's Dunstable plant where three of the lorries eventually arrived the other three collided as they were over-loaded - one of the company's own security guards was thrown against the gate and badly injured as the scabs drove past him.

Needless to say, the scabs drivers broke every rule in the book. They had no lights, blacked out number plates, were overloaded and dangerously driven. And the police? "Well, it was too dark to see, and too late to do anything!"

The press (who didn't actually praise the police drivers) tried to cover the whole incident by splashing big front-page pictures of two of the scabs "apologising" to a victim in hospital.

A BREVE GLANCE at recent changes in the police force and the Army - the official, uniformed thugs - reveals a far more concerted and powerful force for attacking the working class than ever seen before. The struggle is more cunning and better armed - the police have been strengthened by the New York model. The Government has already promised existing legislation on picketing. No, not the present law, but the lack of e.

THE STRIKE BREAKERS

Ex-paras

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AT THE END of the building workers employers' favourite magazine, 'The Builder', the list of effective picketers was headed by the "Serious and Officially Recognised" - the Central Orgs (or the Confederation of British Building Industries). This list included the T&G, the Amalgamated Engineering Union, and the Transport and General Workers' Union. The T&G was listed again as the "Serious and Officially Recognised" and the Amalgamated Engineering Union as the "Serious and Officially Recognised". The Transport and General Workers' Union was listed again as the "Serious and Officially Recognised". The list was completed by the "Serious and Officially Recognised" of the Civil Engineering Contractors Association and the "Serious and Officially Recognised" of the Building Contractors Association. The list was signed by the "Serious and Officially Recognised" of the Civil Engineering Contractors Association and the "Serious and Officially Recognised" of the Building Contractors Association. The list was signed by the "Serious and Officially Recognised" of the Civil Engineering Contractors Association and the "Serious and Officially Recognised" of the Building Contractors Association.

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of rifles had been found. Thes rifles had been stolen from a nearby Cadet training centre.

Things looked bad for the prisoners.

**Trial dropped**

It was later revealed that the shop had been rented in the name of someone who had not been arrested. A little further investigation revealed this man to be a known police agent-Informer who had worked for the Special Branch as a provocateur. It then came out that it was he who had delivered the box of guns with another man. This other man, it then turned out, was a policeman, a member of the Special Branch.

Thus exposed, the trial of the "Blackley 5", as the prisoners were called, was swiftly dropped. But the Special Branch was not investigated. The attempt to frame 5 innocent people, who could have got long terms in jail, was given scant publicity; certainly much less than the publicity surrounding their arrest, when big headlines blazoned forth that an "IRA Arms Cache" had been found in London.

The Special Branch and its trick have been with us for a long time. But with the success of the flying pickets during the miners' strike, the ruling class began to formulate a new threat. Special flying squads of anti-picket forces trained in riot control were advocated by various sections of the employers. The Army staff was insistent.

**Special Army units**

For Kitson, normal actions in the class struggle can be "subversion", for example "illegal" use of "political and economic pressure, strikes, protest marches, and propaganda". It can also include the use of small scale violence for the purpose of coercing recalcitrant members of the population into giving "support" (i.e. pickets). He says the Army should weigh in to combat this "subversion", and he wants specialised army units to act as strike breakers - "specialist individuals and units within the army to enable essential civil services to be maintained in the event of civilians being unable or unwilling to maintain these".

**Armed police**

Shortly after he became Prime Minister, Edward Heath gave this message to the United Nations: "It may be that in the 1970s civil war, not war between nations, will be the main danger we face".

It is not difficult to see the connection between this message and the arming of police that led to the spate of killings outside banks and at the Indian Embassy, when two Pakistani teenagers armed with toy guns were shot and killed.

These killings were carried out by members of the Special Patrol Group - apparently the latest addition to the State's arsenal of anti-working class violence. All this doesn't mean that pickets will be faced with p

**Tories' Picket Stew**

"strike, the Economics!"... To get away with spring violence, 4 noisy incidents left by the National Insurance Department and Lloyds Bank... and the main problem is enforcement of it.

Thousands of miners who picketed Salford depot appeared to lay the blame on to the police, but no action was taken. During the building strike, employers have been complaining about the lack of police intervention. It is said that the police have allowed the strikers to proceed, but have done nothing to stop them.

"Neither can I agree with Mr. George Smith, the Director of the Transport and General Workers' Union, that the police are afraid of violence. Picketing has been going on for weeks and no action has been taken.

"But either way the problem is reduced to one of enforcement"... And when it comes to enforcement they don't mind little "noisy incidents or "violence".
TORIES' NEW ATTACK ON RIGHT TO PICKET

ONLY two days after Des Warren, Ricky Tomlinson and John McMullan Jones were locked into their cells at Shrewsbury, the Tories' "Law Lords" took their war against picketing another step further along the way to making picketing virtually illegal.

The case they were considering, officially called Hunt v. Brooke, also, like that of the Shrewsbury case, 24, arose out of the 1972 Building Workers Strike.

But whereas in the Shrewsbury case, means of frame-up, lying and control, the police claimed that there was "violence and intimidation", in this case there was the "violation of the law for which there were no means of frame-up, lying and control".

John Brooke, a full-time organiser for UCATT, had been on the picket line in Shrewsbury, but was arrested during the strike. He stopped a lorry to inform the driver there was a strike on and that he should turn back. As he was telling the driver the reason for the strike, he was arrested by Police Inspector Hunt of the Lancashire Constabulary.

Hunt claimed he was arresting Brooke on charge of "theft" under Section 121 of the Highways Act 1959. Deputy Inspector Hunt, who had been a witness to the Shrewsbury hearing, knew that "peaceably communicating information" was clearly within the law, and so when he appeared later at Stockport Magistrates' Court he was not surprised to be found Not Guilty.]

As if all the Tories' talk of cracking down on picketing was about "peacefully" picketing, the matter didn't stop there. The Home Secretary sided in and ordered the Lancashire Constabulary to appeal against the Magistrate's judgment.

The Magistrate had stated that the right to picket was "meaningless unless the pickets themselves in such a position that the person to be persuaded is obliged to stop and listen for a reasonable length of time."

But the Appeal Court - and now also the Law Lords, to whom Brooke pursued the case - found that it wasn't within the law to stop people, however peacefully (Brooke had merely stood in front of the lorry holding a placard).

Thus, even according to the Stockport Magistrate's definition, the legal right to picket has been rendered "meaningless."

Now, just like the case of the Shrewsbury 24, what started out as a local case of police harassment has been turned by the Tory government into a national mechanism of scale attack on workers' rights.

This judgment, an attack on the midstest and most solid of weapons - picketing coupled with the Shrewsbury trial and the savage "deterrence" of the new anti-picketing bill passed there - is the clearest indication that the steps are not interested in 'peace'.

What we have now is a whole new set of laws.

And just that's they are going to get!

The \CANCER OF VIOLENCE

Right from the first announcement of the arrest of some of the Workers' Strike leaders in February last year, WORKERS' FIGHT campaigning groups have been busy to publicise and explain the arrests. Not a single issue of WORKERS FIGHT went to press without reporting the latest news about the case and many numbers bore major feature articles elaborating capital issues raised, and fighting to make this case a central rallying point of the whole working class.

These reports & articles appeared both in the context of a wide coverage of events and issues facing workers here and abroad, from a revolution in socialist viewpoint.

WORKERS FIGHT, now published every week, is vital reading for all those facing capitalist's attacks. It is a vital weapon in fight back for socialists.

This Supplement is published by Workers' Fight, 99 Guildford Street, London N1.

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\TUC BACKS TORIES AGAINST PICKETING

IT'S A POLICE COUP

POLICE MOVE IN ON 24 WORKERS

The 1978 'Compared to History'

MARCH 15

ORGANISE, DEFEND, COMMITTEES NOW!

READ WORKERS' FIGHT!

\One other thing: isn't it time we insisted on our definition of "Violence". Picketing - demonstrations and all other forms of protest are more or less infiltrated and sporadically banned. But what of the daily events?

In 1972 there were 2,271 deaths at work among insured working workers. Huge numbers of building Skinhead attacks on the police and the targets were not included in that total, and the "officers" who were killed are the worst and the death rate is double. There is, on average, a police strike on at least one British building sites. The average police union is in breach of safety regulations. About 20.

This is just one facet of the social peace that we are told we should not disturb for fear of "violence".

So when we hear reformist hagging at the concentration only begets violence", the answer is Yes! The violence of the capitalists begets our violence! [ durchsichtige Schriftart]