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RED FRONT

FOR WORKING CLASS POWER
FOR A SOCIALIST BRITAIN



ORGAN OF THE MARXIST-LENINIST ORGANISATION OF BRITAIN

Special Issue: December 1970

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THE "LAW AND ORDER" PLOT

Commenting on the 1970 General Election in the last issue of RED FRONT, we said:

"Significant steps in the direction of establishing a 'corporate state' can be made only by a government of the extreme right after it has taken active steps to build up a pro-fascist mass base. Since the Heath administration is not a suitable vehicle for these moves, they require a preliminary change in the leadership of the Conservative Party, and it is the aim of the pro-fascist Powellite wing of the party to bring about such a change."
(RED FRONT, August/September 1970; p.7).

The correctness of this analysis has already been borne out by the intensive, nation-wide campaign which has recently been begun by the ruling Big Business circles of Britain.

THIS CAMPAIGN HAS THE AIM OF FRIGHTENING THE "MIDDLE CLASS" (THE PETTY BOURGEOISIE) INTO SUPPORTING THE CALL OF THE EXTREME RIGHT WING OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY FOR "LAW AND ORDER", FOR A "STRONG" GOVERNMENT TO REPLACE THE PRESENT YACHTSMAN AND HIS INEFFECTUAL CREW, A "STRONG" GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL "ACT" TO PREVENT THE COUNTRY FALLING INTO "ANARCHY AND CHAOS".

"A Commercial for Law and Order" - The Frost Programme

Television, the most influential of the mass media in the hands of Big Business, is being utilised not merely to boost the stature of "strong man" Enoch Powell (featured on the cover of "TV Times" and described in that widely-read pulp magazine in its issue of November 26th, in an opinion tactfully attributed to an anonymous reader, as "the greatest living Englishman"!)

At a peak viewing time on the evening of Saturday, November 7th, the well-known and highly paid compere David Frost, beloved of the Establishments in both Britain and the United States, had invited to be his guest on "The Frost Programme" Jerry Rubin, the American "Yippie" leader. (A "Yippie" is, according to Rubin, a hippie with political views).

Rubin obligingly recounted the aims of his "revolutionary" programme, a programme carefully calculated to terrify timid tobaccoists into slamming up their shutters and yelling for the police: "the

destruction of Western culture", "the freeing of all prisoners", "putting the judges in gaol", "the liquidation of everyone over 50", "freedom to smoke 'pot'"

Frost then took the unprecedented course of inviting all who supported Rubin's "political" programme to come on to the platform. But by some "error", instead of the normal six guest-tickets issued to someone being interviewed on the programme, almost fifty such tickets had been issued. The platform was immediately "invaded" by a crowd of "Yippies", who proceeded to shout obscenities, smoke what they said was marijuana, and "drive"

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The concerted plan by finance capital to attempt to destroy the British Labour movement and to impose a reactionary corporate state is now well under way. This unprecedentedly serious attack on fundamental working class rights and liberties, representing nothing less than the onset of objective conditions which can only lead ultimately to the adoption of revolutionary forms of class struggle by the working class, requires the building of a powerful, disciplined and highly organised united front embracing all sections of the working class movement. To assist in these vital tasks of working class mobilisation, M.L.O.B. is preparing a number of pamphlets, leaflets, posters and other propaganda material.

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Applications for candidate membership should be addressed to : M.L.O.B., 34 Upper Tollington Park, London N.4.

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Frost from the platform with children's water-pistols!

When the programme resumed after the timely commercial break, it was in another studio. Since the preparation of such a studio takes a minimum of thirty minutes, and since a producer is not permitted to incur costs of several hundred pounds for the preparation of an alternative studio merely in case of some "unforeseen eventuality", it is clear that the programme proceeded according to plan.

The "invasion" attracted more letters from viewers, as well as more press coverage, than any since commercial television was founded. Its aims were put with bluntness by Frost himself: it was, he said,

"... a powerful commercial for law and order." ("TV Times", November 26th, 1970; p.67).

The Great Black-out Conspiracy

On December 7th, electricity supply workers began an overtime ban and work-to-rule in support of a wage claim. While the authorities had been happy to grant a salary increase of £3,000 a year (from £16,000 to £19,000) to Sir Stanley Brown, Chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, the workers' claim for an increase of some £260 a year had been immediately and strongly turned down as "highly inflationary" and "completely unacceptable".

Within a few hours of the commencement of the work-to-rule and overtime ban, that is, before 7 a.m. on the morning of December 7th, wide areas of the country were blacked out as a result of power cuts imposed by the Central Electricity Generating Board.

While politically conscious workers are more than prepared to put up with some inconvenience, and even hardship, in the cause of industrial action on the part of a section of their fellow-workers, it is abundantly clear to anyone with knowledge of the functioning of the electrical power industry that the inconvenience and hardship resulting from these nation-wide and continuing black-outs have not been caused by the mild industrial action of the electricity supply workers; on the contrary, this latter has been the pretext for completely unnecessary sabotage of power on the part of the reactionary heads of the Central Electricity Generating Board.

This organised sabotage has been directed - with the significant exception of Northern Ireland - particularly at homes and offices, in order to conserve supplies for large factories - i.e., in order to interfere as little as possible with the profits of Big Business. But despite the offer of the electricity supply workers to take any necessary steps within or

outside the "rules" to see that the supply to hospitals was not interrupted, hospitals were blacked out - in the first few days without even the customary warning of an impending out - so that the threat to the health, and even the life, of patients could be used in the propaganda campaign to brand the power workers as "murderers".

John Davies, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, gave the game away when he said in a television interview on the evening of December 8th that the government had "in a way" selected the wage demand of the electricity supply workers, despite their unique productivity record, for a "showdown" against "inflationary wage claims".

The power sabotage and the associated propaganda campaign against the electricity power workers has not been without some success. It is rare in the history of British industrial struggles to see notices in the windows of shops, pubs and hairdressers of the type of "Power Workers Not Served"!

But this unscrupulous campaign is only partly directed at the power workers, and at working class wage claims and industrial action in general. IT GOES MUCH FURTHER. It is clear that it is another stage in the campaign to frighten the petty bourgeoisie, and workers who think like the petty bourgeoisie, into lining up behind the campaign for a "strong government" to "prevent anarchy".

It is essential for politically conscious workers to express, as does RED FRONT, COMPLETE SOLIDARITY with the power workers and with all workers who are compelled to take industrial action to defend their living standards. Such action helps all workers.

It is just as essential for politically conscious workers to explain to their fellow-workers the real motives behind the unscrupulous campaign that is proceeding, lest they discover too late that the road to a "strong government", a government of "law and order", a government that will "act" against "anarchy", is --- the road to Auschwitz.

It would be a grave mistake to regard this campaign with cynical amusement, for it is capable of deceiving millions of people. The British ruling class is one of the most cunning in the world, and it has embarked on this campaign with deadly earnestness. It may, indeed, have its elements of farce - but in the wings are men like Enoch Powell hoping to transform this farce into a tragedy, waiting at Wolverhampton-les-deux Eglises to be "called" to "save the nation"

Political Bureau,
Marxist-Leninist Organisation
of Britain

December 14, 1970.