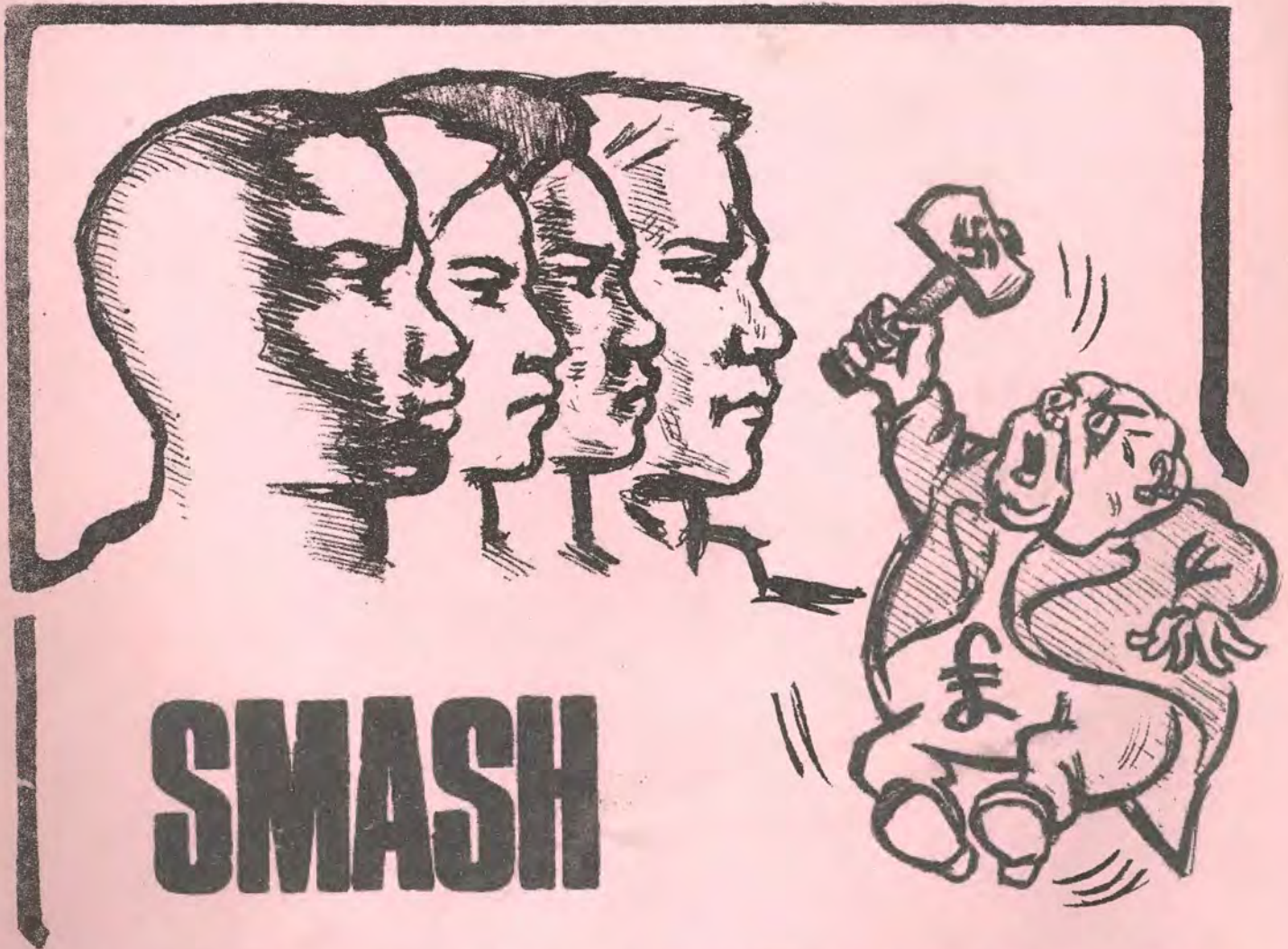


NORTH LONDON ALLIANCE
in Defence of Workers' Rights



SMASH

CREEPING FASCISM

BULLETIN

Nº 1

1971

2p

CONDITIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS AND RULING CLASS POLICY

The North London Alliance is in agreement with the growing mass of advanced workers and progressive people up and down the country, that the British ruling class is set on the road to fascism. The crisis of British capitalism, as part of the world imperialist system, is daily becoming more acute, as is the contradiction between the capitalist class and the working class. Fascism is the only form of capitalist class rule in conditions of extreme crisis and decay.

To maintain and increase their profits, the bosses are desperately trying to shift the whole burden of their crisis onto the shoulders of the working class by making an allout attack on living standards and by intensifying exploitation. They are embarked on a systematic policy of rocketing prices and rents and unemployment accompanied by the hatcheting of the "welfare services". They have reintroduced and increased prescription charges. They have put an end to free school milk for over sevens and increased the price of school meals out of all proportion. They have cut back on their pathetic housing programme ignoring the plight of thousands of homeless families.

The ruling class is systematically whipping up racism to divide and divert the working class from struggle against the real cause of their plight. The capitalist mass media, TV and gutter press have pushed racism, sometimes blatantly and sometimes subtly and arch Tories like Enoch Powell and the Monday club pose as the saviours of the working class. Capitalist racism is experienced at first hand by black workers - in jobs and pay, in housing and education. The national minorities in Britain suffer super exploitation and a double oppression compared with white workers. Racist thugs in 'respectable' organisations like the National Front and in even more respectable organisations like the police force have been given the goahead to attack and intimidate to their hearts content. The vicious Sunderland Road bombings and the murder of black people are further examples of growing fascism.

Simultaneously the ruling class have increased the rate of exploitation of the working class, particularly through "productivity deals", which represent a fundamental attack on the wages and conditions of the working class. Productivity deals provide the negotiating framework in which shift work is introduced and 'non-productive' time of teabreaks, washing up time etc. eliminated, as is employment for thousands of workers, presumably because they too are "non-productive". Credit for clinching these deals in the interests of the bosses must go to the sold out TU beaurocrats.

As a direct result of ruling class policy we have witnessed a new awakening in the working class movement over the last few years. The bosses have been plagued by an avalanche of militant actions and strikes for better wages, conditions and job security. It is not surprising that millions of the workers who have taken up the fight have done so despite the T.U. bosses. There are many instances where the workers have had to take on not only the monopoly capitalists but the T.U. stooges simultaneously, e.g. Pilkington Glass, G.K.N. Sankey, B.S.C. Port Talbot. Wide sections of workers not regarded as traditionally militant have come to the fore in struggle. Women workers, particularly the Ford women, the Midlands garment workers and the night cleaners. Workers in the public sector; the council workers, the power and postal workers.

Parallel to the general workers movement have grown organisations to fight particular features of capitalist exploitation and oppression. Black workers have responded to the need of the national minorities

to combat the racism and fascism they experience daily. The women's Liberation movement for complete social equality and economic independence is growing and maturing daily. There has been an upsurge among young workers and students against imperialism and in support of the just struggles for National Liberation in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and in support of the workers' struggles at home. The school students Movement by taking up the struggle for democratic schools in a democratic society have realised the oppressive and class nature of capitalist education and have increasingly orientated themselves towards the working class as a whole.

These trends in the working class movement show clearly that working people are overcoming the ruling class policy of divide and rule and are breaking through the artificial barriers of race, sex and age.

This is a period in which the struggle between the two main classes of British society, the capitalist exploiting class and the working class, is becoming fiercer. Let there be no mistake about it the bosses intend to nip the workers movement in the bud. New and more intense methods of repression have been brought into play by the ruling class with the Industrial Relations Act and the Racist Immigration Bill. The Industrial Relations Act is to paralyse the labour movement and shackle the unions to the state. The racist Immigration Bill is designed to divide the working class by further whipping up racism in order to make black workers the pool of cheap labour to undermine the economic struggle of the white workers. It would be fatal to underestimate the significance of these reactionary laws and not to realise they are actual steps towards fascism. So the limited democratic and economic concessions made to the working class are breaking down and dwindling away under the pressure of the economic crisis.

What is the nature of this crisis?

The bosses press of late worked overtime spouting about "economic crisis" "balance of payment crisis" "devaluation" etc. but they can't afford to let us know what it's all about and to what extent it is developing. It is essential that we understand the real nature of the crisis and its causes.

CRISIS OF IMPERIALISM

In the past capitalism, not satisfied with the profits made at home from exploiting the working class, plundered and raped every corner of the globe. This development is known as Imperialism. The super exploitation of the workers of Asia Africa and Latin America, and the bleeding dry of the raw materials meant super profits for imperialism. These provided the means in the capitalist-imperialist countries to buy off the revolt of the advancing workers with meagre concessions. The relative prosperity of British workers, the so-called "affluent society" "welfare state" and "privilege" of democratic rights which had the effect of toning down the class struggle, were made possible from out of the imperialist super-profits. But the oppressed peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America have been rising up against Imperialism and waging wars of National Liberation. The peoples of the world have scored great victories which have weakened imperialism and are in the process of defeating it totally. Peoples China led by Chairman Mao, is no longer the happy hunting ground of imperialism, but is a powerful and united country building socialism in leaps and bounds. The Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian peoples engaged in a protracted struggle have brought U.S. imperialism, with its mighty military machine, to its knees. Because the sources of super profits are being reduced the insoluble crisis of imperialism is exentuated even further by the imperialist fighting among themselves for the control of the remaining markets. In this fight U. S. imperialism became dominant, particularly after World war 1 and British imperialism has been reduced to a third rate power. That's why the British

capitalists have been coming down harder on the workers at home.

In order to understand the concrete effects that the Bosses' offensive will have on the workers' movement a close look at the two major pieces of fascist legislation is necessary. The fascist Industrial Relations Act makes illegal, punishable by fines and imprisonment, every tactic traditionally employed by workers in their struggle against the bosses. Unions are to be registered and their constitutions will be dictated by the state. The actions open to workers under this Act will be restricted to a disciplinary code which lays down "unfair" and "fair" industrial practices. Political strikes will be illegal so all unofficial actions. Any political organisation and publication that advocates, supports or encourages an unofficial action can be banned. This sinister piece of class legislation makes illegal the closed shop and solidarity strikes. It is an 'unfair attack on the rights of free speech and freedom of political activity. It is clearly a vicious attempt by the bosses to impose a fascist state.

The racist Immigration Bill will force black workers coming to this country to register with the police and will impose one year contract and annual review of work permits. The Act creates the status of 'patrial' and 'non-patrial' on the basis of the colour of skin and ethnic origin. It is clearly intended to make black workers third class citizens and will leave them open to constant police harassment. They will be searched and open to instant arrest, including deportation. They will not have freedom of mobility or the right to vote. This fascist Act will intensify the legalised racism of the British monopoly capitalist state will create the British version of the racist South African pass laws.

But does this neo-fascist legislation in practice change the nature of the capitalist state? No! The capitalist state is embellished and strengthened. Ever since classes came into being in human history the ruling class perfected a machinery of coercion and force against the exploited masses. That machinery is called State. All states are class dictatorships and the British ruling class state is no exception. Today in Britain about 4% of the total population own more than 80% of the total wealth of the country. Through private ownership of the productive resources and the exploitation of the workers for profits this tiny but fat, capitalist class not only piles up immense fortunes but controls the political life of Britain. Every week new mergers and take-overs concentrate wealth and power into fewer and fewer hands. The monopoly capitalist class fills the controlling positions in industry, finance, and trade and in the armed forces and police, the civil service and law courts.

Capitalist parliamentary democracy is even more of a sham today than it ever was. How could there be real democracy for the exploited and democracy for the exploiters at the same time? While in appearance the extension of universal suffrage was increasing democracy, in reality the governing role of Parliament was being removed. Real power was step by step concentrated in to the Cabinet, then into the inner-cabinet, then into extra-parliamentary committees of big businessmen and civil servants known as "experts". So the routine of government is in the hands of an increasingly strengthened and privileged centralised beaurocracy, and policy and decision lies with this handful of leaders of finance capital. Meanwhile the rubber stamping puppet shows of Parliament goes on, to cover up the dictatorship of the ruling class. Parliamentary democracy has remained a most useful deception.

The ruling class are using the Labour party to divert the efforts of politically conscious workers into parliamentary channels. The Labour party cynically masquerades as the workers friend, while telling them to wait four years for the next general election as though fascism could be dealt with in parliament. More and more workers are seeing through this can and have come to realise that social democracy is ruling class ideology within the ranks of the working class. The TUC leadership talk of refusing to register their unions while traitorously planning to do the opposite. These class collaborators think they can fool workers into believing their soothing words can best defend themselves by the tactic of passive resistance within the overall strategy of relying on the Labour Party. Their do nothing policy of a war of words without active resistance in this present situation of growing fascism clearly shows the nature of the TUC's leadership. The fact that Lord Cooper's GMWU and Jack Jones's TGWU are talking in defeatist terms of having to register indicates that the TUC under its social democratic leadership cannot be relied upon to lead any struggle let alone an all out fight against the fascist monopoly capitalist state.

The 1926 General Strike provided the important lesson that the working class needed more than the Labour movement led by reforming social democrats. Many workers have heard the trotskyist call for a general strike to force the Tory government to resign and a labour government elected on a platform of "real social policies" This slogan means relying on the bankrupt TUC leadership and class collaborating Labour party. In a situation of growing fascism, these social democratic stooges of the ruling class leading the working class to defeat as they did in the the 1926 General strike and in Germany in the early thirties

The fight to smash the bosses' offensive against our living standards and democratic rights is a fight against creeping fascism. In this situation of creeping fascism one thing is clear. In order for the working class to finally solve all its problems it will need a mass based revolutionary party armed with revolutionary ideology which is capable of leading the working class in mass struggle to sweep away the capitalist system of exploitation once and for all and beginning the glorious task of building a socialist society.

NORTH LONDON ALLIANCE DEFIES POLICE INTIMIDATION

The North London Alliance in Defence of Workers' Rights was joined in the struggle against the bosses' vicious offensive on the working class!

The N.L.A. was formed in April of this year by a number of groups and individuals who recognise the importance of political work in the community and of Serving the People.

The N.L.A. organised a public meeting on this growing fascism in May, where Mike Cooley, the militant president of DATA union spoke. Following this successful beginning, the alliance planned a public meeting and demonstration on July 9 and 10. The purpose of this demonstration and meeting were to oppose all the attacks on the working class, and in particular to oppose **increasing racism** and the racist Immigration Bill. While the bosses are making all-out attacks on the working class, they are more and more resorting to open deliberate racism, to divide the working class and to make the doubly exploited and oppressed black workers the scapegoat for the capitalist crisis they find themselves in.

It was with such consciousness that the NLA organised street meetings in the Wood Green area. Over 10,000 leaflets and 200 posters were distributed and displayed in the area. On July 3rd, after shoppers had stopped to listen to a speaker on rising prices, and the general offensive of capitalism, the police moved in to stop the meeting. Four comrades were arrested including an Indian, who after being attacked by three fascist thugs, was then set aside for special treatment by the racist police. He and one other comrade were made to miss work through severe bruising in the limbs and abdomen. Also arrested was a thirty year old woman, who was 4½ months pregnant. It is alleged that she assaulted, causing actual bodily harm to a 25 year old P.C! All four face charges of using 'Threatening words and behaviour' contrary to the 'Race Relations Act.' 1965,

In spite of the arrests, the members of the Alliance refused to be intimidated and carried on plans for the meeting on Friday 9. On the Friday evening there were four uniformed police, two at each entrance to Woodside House, Wood Green, where the meeting was being held. Also before the meeting could commence, the chairman had to ask a gentleman to leave because many people were unhappy about the fact that he had been seen coming to the meeting, from the police station, directly across the road.

On the Saturday, following a successful rally in Duckett's Common, Turnpike Lane, where two - three hundred people had listened to speakers from the different organisations and watched a play by a local theatre group, about 150 people began a demonstration up the High street to Wood Green. Thousands of shoppers lined both sides of the road to watch. Police were seen to dive into one section of the demonstration which was militantly shouting the slogans; "Industrial Relations Bill Out!" "Racist Immigration Bill out!" "Fascism out!" "Racism out!" They proceeded to arrest a comrade who Black Unity and Freedom Party. A second of their members was then arrested as was a member of the School's Action Union. All three are alleged to have assaulted the police. The SAU comrade made a formal complaint inside the police station about the treatment handed out to his black brother.

In spite of this unprovoked attack, the demonstration refusing to be intimidated by the police or their dogs, regrouped, continued and completed the peaceful demonstration. They militantly shouted slogans denouncing fascist and racist attacks from the bosses and their stooge police force.

All seven people arrested are now awaiting trial. These are political trials and the N.L.A. intends to fight them as such.

The experience of the N.L.A. only confirms our belief that in this period of increasing attacks on the working class, of increasing violent racism, it is absolutely necessary to organise and smash the bosses offensive and creeping fascism.

The favourable response and support from many has encouraged us to continue our agitational and organisational work. We intend to build closer links with the community by serving the real needs of people. We plan to organise and show revolutionary films, hold political education classes and public meetings. We will endeavour to support any workers and tenants struggles and oppose all racism and injustices. Many families are finding it harder to make ends meet. We shall attempt to help these families overcome some of their difficulties by organising clothing programmes and other 'Serve the People' programmes.

It is only by serving the workers real needs that the North London Alliance can win the peoples active support and so become their own fighting organisation

'SERVE THE PEOPLE PROGRAMME / AUTUMN 1971

** R A L L Y SATURDAY 21st AUGUST 1971 2.30pm

- DUCKETTS COMMON, TURNPIKE LANE

** D E M O N S T R A T I O N SATURDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

ASSEMBLE DUCKETTS COMMON 2.30pm

In three incidents nine comrades were arrested by the cops; they face political trials and the N.L.A. will fight them as such. We would appreciate all financial contributions towards the costs of the trials

IN ORDER TO BUILD THE ALLIANCE, WE NEED THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF WORKING PEOPLE IN NORTH LONDON.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND PLANS OF THE ALLIANCE, AS WELL AS SUGGESTIONS FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

Please write

c/o 34, Tabley Road, Holloway, N.7.

The N.L.A. welcomes all criticism, proposals & contributions concerning this issue & further issues of the BULLETIN