

# RED WEEKLY

3 MARCH 1977

No. 189

PRICE 10p

END LINKS WITH SMITH & VORSTER!

ALL OUT FOR A.A.M. NATIONAL DEMO  
Sunday 6 March

Assemble Speakers Corner 1.30pm

SUPPORT THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN  
FREEDOM STRUGGLE!

# Demand pay beats prices

The Labour Government, British Leyland bosses, the National Enterprise Board and the AUEW leadership have come together in an unholy crusade. The object of their wrath is the striking British Leyland toolroom workers.

Engineering union President Hugh Scanlon told the workers to call off the action. Terry Duffy, Midlands Organiser and right wing candidate in the AUEW Presidential elections, said 'There are plenty of people who want to destroy Leyland and the toolroom workers are giving them a chance'.

Well, Brother Duffy, there are certain people who are trying to make working people pay for the insanities of the economic crisis and you and your friends in the AUEW leadership are letting them get away with it.

## STOOGES

As we go to press it seems that the NEB stooges will recommend a lock-out at Leylands. It is possible that the Government will agree. This would be the first time workers have been locked out by Labour. There are no depths too low for this Government to plumb.

But the toolroom workers are fighting back. They have had their differentials eroded by as much as £10 a week under the Social Contract and they are not taking any more.

Scanlon, faintly echoed by the Communist Party, talks about 'flexibility' in wage deals. This is newspeak for bringing all negotiations under the control of the bureaucracy.

The toolroom workers are having none of this. They are defending differentials because there is no lead coming from the union or from the British Leyland Combine Convenors, who oppose action against Phase 2 of the Social Contract.

But there are two reasons why differentials are not enough to defend living standards. Firstly, inflation is unchecked and whatever gains the toolmakers win will soon be eaten away again.

And secondly they provide no solution to the majority of workers who are hit by the

Government's policies. A clear alternative to the incomes policy of the Social Contract is what is needed to build a really effective unity.

That alternative must be one which automatically guarantees to defend wage levels against price rises. This means a nil-norm threshold for all workers, based on a cost of living index calculated by the workers organisations themselves.

When Alan Fisher of NUPE declares himself against free collective bargaining he touches a raw nerve. It is true that a policy is needed which will defend even the most weakly organised sections of the working class.

But we may be forgiven for thinking that Fisher and his friends are just trying to let themselves off the hook. We would like to be proved wrong. We will be more inclined to listen to their defence of the low-paid when they name the day for national strike action in defence of living standards and against the cuts.

## STRIKES

Their statements would ring more true if they declare themselves in favour of turning the 19 April strike action called by the Leyland stewards into a national strike against the Social Contract.

The Social Contract is not just a wages policy. It is a way of bashing workers' living standards in all areas of life. Action by public sector workers would point the way forward for all workers.

These are the policies which must be fought for in the 'rank and file TUC' called by the Leyland Convenors on 3 April in Birmingham Town Hall. This presents a real opportunity to coordinate the battle against the treacherous attacks of the Labour Government and the union leaders.

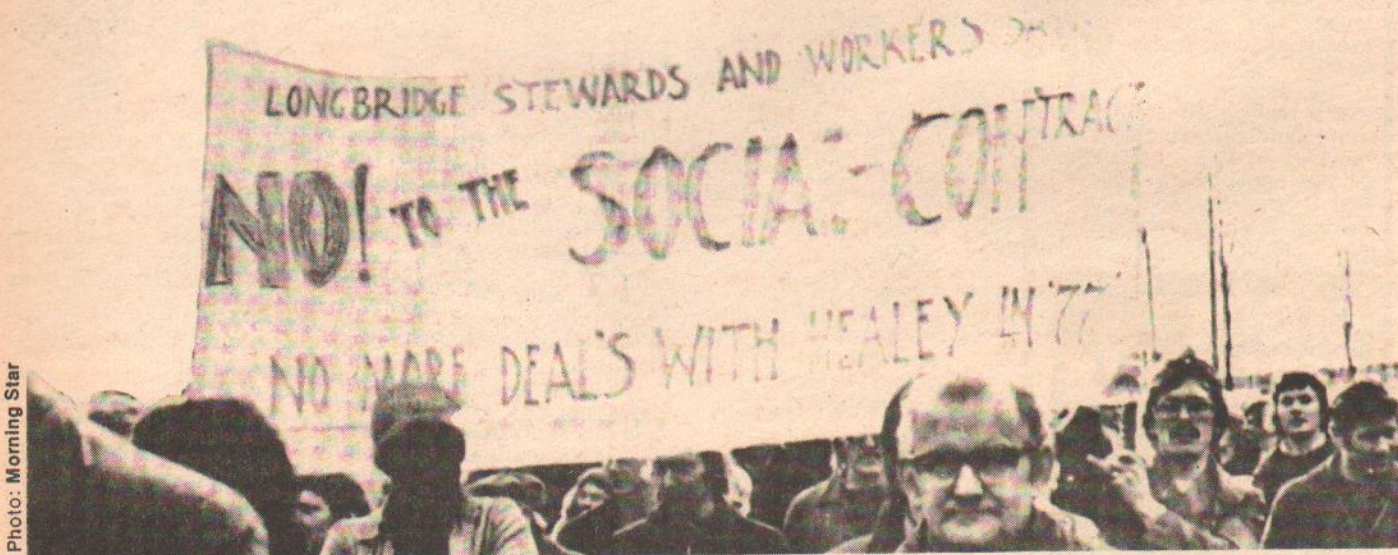


Photo: Morning Star

SUPPORT LEYLAND CONFERENCE ON 3 APRIL

'The National Front is a Nazi Front'. 'Fight the bosses, not the blacks — smash the Social Contract'. 'No immigration controls. End Labour's racist laws. Smash the National Front'.

Last Saturday these slogans reverberated through the working class streets of Stechford. The fascist National Front had decided to march in Stechford to peddle their racist filth. They had intended to whip up the racist vote and intimidate black people. Instead they were met by an anti-racist demonstration that dwarfed their racist columns.

When the NF decided to march through Stechford — soon to be the scene of a by-election — the immigrant groups and the organisations of the revolutionary left agreed to mobilise against the NF. Groups like the Bangladeshi and Kashmiri Workers' Associations, the Pakistan Welfare Association and the Afro-Caribbean Self Help Organisation, the Indian Workers Association, as well as the International Marxist Group and the Socialist Workers Party joined together to form the 26 February Committee. The aim of this committee was to build a counter-demonstration to show black people in Stechford that they would get practical support against the attacks of the NF.

## OBLIVION

Unfortunately the 'official' Birmingham labour movement had different ideas. The Trades Council called a demonstration one and a half hours before the anti-NF demonstration was due to leave. The Trades Council decided not to march through Stechford. Instead 140 of them walked through deserted streets into the oblivion of the City Centre. After all this was safer and was not likely to offend white voters!

Around two o'clock the real demonstration left. Some 1500 people, with banners flying, set off through Stechford. The demonstration made loud and clear where it stood on racism. Asians and West Indian workers on the streets did not just nod their support. Encouraged by the presence of a real anti-fascist movement they left the sidewalks and joined the march. They raised their fists in clenched salutes of defiance to the fascists and chanted: 'Smash, smash the National Front'. By the time the demonstration reached its end the 1500 marchers had become 3000.

Along every street, passing



Photo: G. M. COOKSON (Red Weekly)

# BIRMINGHAM WORKERS PUT FASCISTS IN THEIR PLACE

every pub and shop, the demonstrators gave out their leaflets. Because this was not just a march of defiance. Its aim was to win as many people as possible — both black and white — to a socialist fight against racism. Two hundred copies of *Red Weekly* were sold. One thousand IMG anti-racist leaflets were distributed. Over 50 IMG anti-racist pamphlets were bought.

Despite the success of the demonstration it was not without its blemishes. One coach from London never got to the demonstration. When it got near the assembly place it

was met by a woman comrade who is an organiser for the Socialist Workers Party. She curtly instructed the coach to follow her, telling them that the demonstration was a splinter march — a position with which the Birmingham Trades Council would no doubt heartily agree.

Instead of directing the coach to the real anti-fascist demonstration she chattered on about the police stopping the marchers getting near the fascists. The people on the coach were therefore diverted away from the demonstration and sent off to shout abusive slogans at the NF. This sectarian idiocy, which is aimed simply to boost the SWP, weakened the demonstration and ignored the democratic decisions of the organising body.

## STUNT

At the end of the demonstration, SWP spokesperson Ken Appleby bemoaned the fact that it had not 'confronted the NF'. However he 'forgot' to mention that a coachload of his comrades were in beleaguered isolation outside the NF meeting. After all if a stunt has failed, why publicise it — even if your comrades are in danger?

The demonstration shows that a real united anti-fascist movement can be built. At the meeting called by the IMG on 24 February, where Tariq Ali and Brian Heron, IMG prospective parliamentary candi-

date for Stechford, spoke, over 100 Asian workers attended. The main theme of the meeting was building united action to defeat the fascists.

At the end of the meeting some 40 Asian workers, including a group of shop stewards from GKN, handed in their names saying they would be

prepared to work for Heron in the election campaign. What is even more important is that these workers left that meeting pledged to build Saturday's demonstration. The massive turnout of Asian workers shows that they took that pledge seriously.

BOB PENNINGTON

## \* WITHOUT COMMENT:

'The city of Birmingham was the centre for protest demonstrations against racialism on Saturday.

The first, organised jointly by Birmingham Trades Council and Labour Party, was part of their ongoing campaign against racialism.

Nearly 300 marched from Adderley Park to the city centre, led by the regional banner of the Transport and General Workers Union. Other branches represented the Post Office Engineers... Labour Party and Communist Party branches.

Later, from the same assembly point, a much larger demonstration set out, organised by the International Marxist Group, the Indian Workers Association, the Socialist Workers Party and a number of Bangladeshi organisations.

They mustered 3,000, many from outside Birmingham... From *Morning Star*, 28 February 1977.

# Demo to fight trespass Bill

THE CRIMINAL Law Bill is completing its passage in the House of Commons, but support is growing for the national demonstration on Saturday 19 March against part 2 of the Bill.

The proposals in the Bill, first suggested by the Tories in 1972, would make virtually every single occupation seen in recent years a criminal offence; whether it be the type of occupation which has just ended at the Wildt Mellor Bromley factory in Leicester, the recent student occupation at the London School of Economics, or the various occupations of empty houses occurring in London and elsewhere. Under the new Bill each of these actions would be open to immediate police attack — the iron fist of the Social Contract.

The TUC General Council now opposes the trespass proposals — apart from offences relating to the occupation of embassies — and the Labour Party has sent a 'pressure' delegation to the Home Office urging the Government to drop the Bill.

## SUPPORT

Further formal support is also expressed by a wide range of

ees, the salaried staff section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the National Union of Students, the cine-technicians union ACTT, the Annual Trades Council Conference. The Labour Party Young Socialists, 30 Constituency Labour Parties and 37 trades councils have also stated their opposition to the Bill.

## ACTION

This huge formal support, the result of two years of campaigning, must now be turned into action. An essential pre-requisite for this is to penetrate the anti-squatting smokescreen which the Government uses to whip up support for their proposals, by pretending the measures are directed solely at squatters.

In answering such distortions, militants need to point out both that the Bill is aimed at all forms of occupation, and that squatting is a legitimate form of direct action which both fights homelessness and draws attention to the tens of thousands of empty houses throughout the country.

For further details of the Campaign against a Criminal Trespass Law, the organisers of the 19 March demonstration, contact

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volume 2 number 1 February/March 1977

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# BLACK AND BLUE

## Cops crack down on black youth

The Metropolitan Police are out for revenge. The events in Notting Hill last summer were such a blow to their dignity that they have created an edifice of flimsy charges against 18 black youths from the Islington area, most of whom were present at the Carnival.

These ridiculous charges consist of phrases like 'conspiracy to rob' .... 'on a day unknown' .... 'from a woman unknown'. In other words, the police have scaled new heights of technology in being able to penetrate the thoughts and minds of young blacks in Islington.

They are no longer bothering to accuse their victims of having done anything in particular; they simply know that the youths were thinking about doing it. 1984 has arrived a few years early — the mind police are already here!

## PRECEDENT

The use of the 'conspiracy' charge has a well-known precedent in the case of the Shrewsbury Two. But the police now seem to be turning to its use as an alternative to the equally vague charge of 'sus', i.e. 'being a suspected person', which was the favourite all-purpose charge against young blacks until recently.

The 'sus' charge is part of the Vagrancy Act of the early 19th

century, and used to be known as 'loitering with intent'. But it is only a minor offence, which is dealt with in local magistrates' courts, whereas 'conspiracy' to do anything carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

## UNLAWFUL

The police have used the seriousness of this charge as a carte blanche for all sorts of unlawful practices: they kept the youths, most of whom are about 17 years old, in custody for two or three days, not allowing them to see lawyers or parents, so that the kids would be sufficiently pressurised and isolated to provide the names of their friends — which is what did happen.

The police then burst into the homes and even work-places of these friends to arrest them, like a posse of cowboys bent on 'cleaning up the town'. All defendants were refused bail initially.

The Parents Defence Group, which now includes most of the parents of the accused, has succeeded in getting half of them out on bail, but the remaining nine have been in custody since November — and the trial at the Old Bailey is not expected until the summer.

This Defence Group marks a welcome change in the attitudes of

many black parents, who often believe that it is the 'bad company' their kids keep which gets them into trouble. The gross behaviour of the police and the grotesque nature of these charges has made them indignant.

The initial reaction of a handful of parents concerned about their own children is now developing into a wider concern that the police should not be allowed to ride roughshod over black people in general. The Defence Group now recognises the need for a stronger parents' movement, and they have called a meeting to organise future actions and to discuss ways of strengthening resistance to police oppression.

## DEFENCE

Local anti-racist groups and other organisations should not only offer their own support for these initiatives, but should also attempt to win recognition for the right of black people to organise themselves in their own defence.

SUE ASPINALL

★ MEETING: Tuesday 15 March, 7.30pm. Manor Gardens Library, Islington, London.

# Wildt workers end occupation - but fight on!

On Monday 28 February textile machinery workers at the Wildt Mellor Bromley, Aylestone Road factory in Leicester ended their occupation, staged in protest against the threatened sacking of all 390 workers in the factory.

The occupation ended after a writ had been served against the workers and the chief constable had threatened to smash the occupation with 200 policemen.

Under this pressure, which was all the more difficult to resist as one of the unions involved, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, had refused to give official support for the occupation, the WMB workers felt they had no option but to continue their resistance to closure by picketing the factory from outside.

## AUEW

Considering the role the AUEW bureaucracy have played in the dispute, it is not surprising that the local official concerned, District Secretary Bridget Paton, welcomed the end of the occupation as 'a step in the right direction'.

This set-back in the struggle at WMB makes it all the more vital to build as much support as possible for the workers threatened with the sack. Transport workers have a special responsibility to ensure that the £3.4 million worth of finished machinery is not moved from the factory.

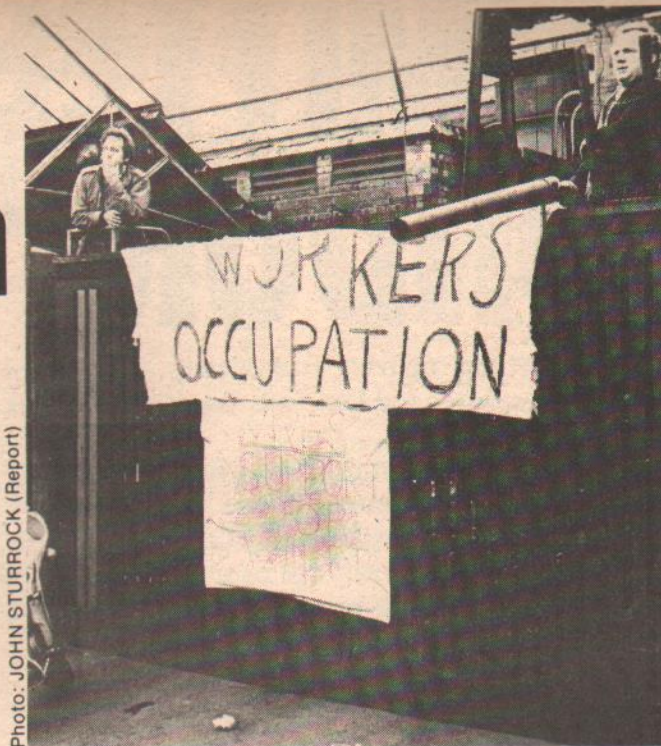


Photo: JOHN STURROCK (Report)

# and so do the wives

Lynn Anderson and Christine Billington have launched what could be a decisive contribution to the struggle of workers at Wildts. They have set up a Wives Support Group.

Red Weekly readers will remember the campaign of British Leyland bosses and the media in whipping up the so-called 'Cowley Wives' against the Leyland workers there. But the action of the Wildts wives will not make front page news in the Fleet Street gutter press.

As they say themselves: 'We

knew the wives would be hit hard and we wanted to give them as well as the men moral support and try to do something for the hardship cases. Forty women turned up at our first meeting... a lot more couldn't come but we have been keeping in touch by phone. One of the reasons we started the group was to stop women nagging their husbands and breaking their morale.'

These women have a real reason to fear redundancies in an area like Leicester, where there are no comparable jobs.

And Christine Billington points out that, 'if we lose this one, it could spread to other factories'.

## NEXT

The next step must be for the women to become involved at all levels of the struggle. It is not just a question of moral and financial support. Now the need is for the women to be involved shoulder to shoulder in the day to day conduct of the strike and in the working out of its long-term aims.

# BLACK THESE HOTELS

THE FIGHT to organise workers in the catering industry which began in Oxford three and a half months ago has now assumed national proportions.

The action which started at the Linton Lodge and Randolph Hotels was extended to the Grosvenor House Hotel in Sheffield. Now workers at Trust Houses Forte establishments in Birmingham (Night Out Club) and Crawley

have been forced to fight for the right to join the Transport and General Workers Union.

In London, directly after the take over of the Cumberland Hotel by THF, a worker has been victimised because of General and Municipal Workers Union activities.

In order to fight this coordinated offensive by the National Association for Freedom-backed

THF management, national action by the T&G and G&M is absolutely essential.

The absence of such action up till now has meant that the establishment of a joint stewards committee from all these hotels this week comes not a moment too soon.

One of their chief demands will be for the implementation of offi-

cial union policy by the T&G to start effective national blacking of the hotels. Sheffield T&G, at the time of writing, have decided to go ahead with the blacking of the Grosvenor House Hotel.

Their impatience is justified. It is a bitter irony for catering workers that a three and a half month strike is necessary to be recognised as members of the most powerful trade union in Britain.

# Defending London's Hospitals



Photo: JOHN STURROCK (Report)

Almost 80 shop stewards representing nearly 30 London hospitals met last Wednesday to thrash out a strategy to fight the growing cuts in the National Health Service.

The call for the conference came from the South Camden District Shop Stewards Committee, who led the successful district-wide strike action in defence of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, threatened with closure.

Delegates from shop stewards committees across London submitted resolutions for the conference and speakers included those from the EGA, St Bartholomew's, and the Hounslow district stewards

hanging over the hospital workers at the conference:

**The Resource Allocation Working Party Report:** These Department of Health proposals seek to play the age-old trick of divide and rule by arguing that in comparison with other areas, London has too good a health service.

But instead of bringing other areas up to London's standards, the RAWP report proposed to cut 'deprived' areas such as the East Midlands by three per cent, and to bring down London to the same level by cutting its spending by 12 per cent.

**The Priorities Report** plays the

'level down' — cut hospital staff by 12 per cent and community health workers by seven per cent.

The conference would have none of these tricks. They voted overwhelmingly against all cuts in the NHS, and in favour of hospital expenditure rising as inflation rises. The delegates also supported the call for a substantial wage increase, protected by a sliding scale to pace with inflation.

## URGENT

In recognition of the urgent need

branches and shop stewards committees for full support for the mass lobby of the 22 March public sector union conference calling for national strike action against the cuts; they also voted for full support for the 11 May day of strike action by the London members of the National Union of Public Employees.

The conference overwhelmingly rejected a resolution from supporters of the Socialist Workers Party-dominated Hospital Worker which implied that the only solution to the cuts was to attend Hospital Worker's national conference, and to back its demands.

# IN FOCUS

RED WEEKLY

## Devolution Bill Defeat

After last week's vote, the only certainty about devolution appears to be the continued renovation of the Royal High School in Edinburgh. No matter what Parliament decides, the building contractors have a legal contract to rely on.

The working people of Scotland are not so lucky. The blatant treachery by the Labour MPs who killed the Devolution Bill was done in the very name of legality — the legal sovereignty of the Palace of Westminster.

The Devolution Bill was framed explicitly to produce a rigid Parliamentary structure, deprived of any tax raising powers over private capital, and comes complete with veto powers vested in their Lordships of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. But the reason why the Bill had to be supported was simple. It entailed the essential core of self-determination for the people of Scotland and Wales — the right to elect their own government and decide their own policies.

It would be a mistake to see last week's vote as some example of rising English nationalism, John Bull versus little Scotia. Clearly all parties actually want to sort out a situation they see as a bit of a mess. It is Margaret Thatcher who, in arguing for all party talks, explains that 'we are all committed to devolution. It is the particular form it takes which is at issue'.

## BUILT-IN RESTRICTIONS

When she talks about 'all' what she means is the most intelligent and politically sensitive supporters of the British ruling class in Westminster, Labour and Tory. Their real problem is how to get legislation through the Commons, which will set up an Assembly in Scotland complete with built-in vetoes and restrictions, past the frenzied petty bourgeois base of the Teddy Taylors and Tam Dalyell.

What is incredible is not some wave of imaginary English chauvinism, but the serene contempt in which MPs, Scottish as well as English, hold the opinions of working people north of the border. Many Labour MPs feel totally free, despite party and trade union conference decisions, despite clear indications of overwhelming support in Scotland, to sabotage the Bill.

All these factors are as nothing, apparently, when compared to the 'rights' of our elected representatives to act against the clearly expressed interests of working people, whenever it suits them. Last week we saw the 'democracy' of Parliament so beloved of the lefts like Eric Heffer and the right wing like Shirley Williams in its true colours.

We can only expect the squalid deals and manoeuvres of the proposed all-party talks to make this clearer. Behind the scenes compromises and the lottery of the voting lobbies now stand out as the visible foundations of our great British democratic system.

To confront this sham the demand for a referendum is obvious and correct, and better still is the demand of immediate elections to an Assembly which can then determine its own powers and constitution. For the Scottish National Party, which has also advanced these positions, they are mere debating points — nothing will be done to organise anything unconstitutional.

## SELF-DETERMINATION

But where do such demands point to? If Parliament has no 'right' to decide on this question and instead it is decided by a binding referendum, worried social democrats ask themselves, what about Agee's expulsion, or abortion restrictions? Perhaps it becomes necessary, even imperative, to defy Parliamentary legality on these questions as well?

For these reasons the demand of self-determination for Scotland and Wales is increasingly important, as the fight for an elected Assembly confronts head on the electoral cretinism among Labour leaders. By taking a position clearly and unambiguously for a referendum and immediate elections, we can ensure that it is working people, not a collection of individuals in Westminster, who start to decide what kind of political future the working class in Scotland, Wales and England are going to have.

## Lobby 22 March Conference

The joint steering committee of public sector unions, set up for the 17 November demonstration to co-ordinate action against the cuts, has decided to hold a 'discussion conference on the social wage' on 22 March.

They are inviting each union to send a mere 25 delegates to it, and aim to use it to pressurise the Government, which is prep-

stewards have called for a lobby of the conference, demanding that the union leaders name the date for national strike action which can seriously challenge the cuts.

The 'Right to Work' Campaign has already taken up this call, and Red Weekly asks its supporters to build this lobby to demand that left-talkers like Fisher act. It will be at Central Hall, Westminster, 9.30am on 22

# LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETS IN LONDON

1293 delegates, from 132 shop stewards committees, 34 union district committees, 61 trades councils, 4 union executive committees and 272 union branches, attended last Saturday's conference called by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.

The conference endorsed a 'declaration' prepared by the organising committee, which stated that: 'only mounting rank and file action can influence the trade union movement to use its full strength to bring about a fundamental change of [Government] policy based on expansion of the economy — the only way to cut unemployment. Only action can restore the eroded real wage by ending the Social Contract, ensure a return to free collective bargaining, and reverse the Government cuts in spending on the social services'.

This mounting rank and file action was spelled out as:

- ★ A day of national stoppages and demonstrations on the day after Parliament reassembles after the Easter recess.
  - ★ Maximum support for the 3 April Leyland Stewards conference on wages.
  - ★ All out support for action against cuts by public sector workers.
  - ★ Solidarity and support for workers in whatever action they take for the right to work, wage demands, a shorter working week and equal pay.
  - ★ Local committees to conduct an ongoing campaign on all these issues.
  - ★ The TUC to declare that the Social Contract must not be renewed or extended.
  - ★ No hastily reconvened TUC before unions have met to decide their own policy.
- Below we take a look at some of the lessons and implications of the conference.



Photo: JOHN STURROCK (Report)

## CP begs "lefts" to return

DEREK ROBINSON, Communist Party member and Leyland steward, spelt out the strategy put forward by the Liaison Committee leadership when he said that the declaration should be supported because it 'established the broadest platform and widest platform of unity — unity around rejecting any Phase 3 and a return to free collective bargaining, that being the 'most important task facing the movement'.

The same theme was echoed by Kevin Halpin summing up on the discussion, who said that whilst he disagreed with a delegate who had called for productivity dealing, and with a member from the train drivers' union ASLEF who said that the main problem was maintaining differentials, the important thing was that they had to win their unions to voting against

the Social Contract at the TUC.

This strategy of 'all behind the banner of free collective bargaining' is, however, nothing more than an attempt to rebuild an alliance with the left trade union leaders at the expense of fighting Phase 2.

'Some leaders have recognised that they were wrong in accepting the Social Contract. We must convince others of the same', said Bert Smith, UCATT North West Divisional Council delegate.

A delegate from Yarrow shipyards put it still more bluntly: 'Bob Wright is a living example that if you push them hard enough they'll come back to you and lead the movement correctly.'

The truth of the matter is that it was these 'lefts' like Jones and Foot who were the architects of the Social Contract,

and these 'left' leaders, just like Wright, have done nothing to organise a fightback against the Social Contract for two years, and are only now 'realising their mistakes' because they wish to regain the leadership of the growing opposition amongst workers to the Social Contract.

The LCDTU is begging these 'leaders' to come back and lead the present movement. Unity at any price is on the order of the day, that is why no alternatives or amendments were allowed to the declaration.

The building of a real opposition to the Social Contract requires more than this — it requires building a strong unity of the class in action around policies which offer a class wide alternative to the Social Contract.

Red Weekly readers should

attend the recall conference of the Campaign for Democracy in the Labour Movement on 27 March to prepare for a fight in the Leyland conference on wages — a fight for such policies as immediate wage increases to make up for the wage cuts under the Social Contract, automatic increases in wages and state benefits that keep pace with inflation, an immediate minimum wage of £50 a week to defend the low paid, and equal pay for women.

This is the next step in building an organised left wing based on alternative class struggle policies, a left wing which does not rely on the vacillations of the Bob Wrights of this world but fights to force the lefts into united action around such demands.

## Unity- at what price?

FIGHTING for the maximum unity of the left in the trade unions was one of the recurring themes of the discussion at the LCDTU conference. One approach to this question was demonstrated by the Right to Work Campaign. It was a totally wrong approach.

Elementary to such a fight for unity is the necessity for workers' democracy — clear debate and discussion around resolutions, the right to move amendments and to speak to them.

Right to Work speakers John Deason and Eddie Prevost made not even a mention of the lack of

leaflet to their 'constructive suggestions for the conference declaration'.

But this was not an oversight by the Socialist Workers Party, the main force behind the Right to Work Campaign. In their own paper, *Socialist Worker*, where freedom of expression for the Right to Work Campaign is guaranteed, no criticism whatever was made of the Communist Party, whose policy of support for the left bureaucracy has condemned the LCDTU and last year's Assembly to complete inactivity.

While *Socialist Worker* (26 Feb-



solution offered is preventing full-time officials from hogging the platform.

As it was, the SWP's declared policy of a joint coordinating committee between the LCDTU and the Right to Work Campaign was not even mentioned by their two speakers.

The sectarianism of the SWP towards the other forces on the far left and their hostility towards any form of programme of demands capable of providing a workers' alternative to the crisis is just the other side of the coin from their policy of putting 'unity' above any fight for such socialist policies.

## Fighting the right with Wright?

'Let's not go into the reasons why the movement didn't respond to the imposition of the Social Contract up to now'.

These were the words of Les Dixon, summing up from the platform at the national Broad Left meeting of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers a few weeks ago.

Instead, let's pretend that everything is as it was, and go on as we did before. That is how the Broad Left leadership approach the problem of building an organised left wing in the union to mount a fight against the Social Contract. And that is why they chose Bob Wright as their candidate in the AUEW Presidential elections taking place this autumn. Bob Wright is again calling for an end to wage restraint, after two years of doing nothing to fight the wage cuts of Phases 1 and 2. The Broad Left leadership is again asking AUEW members to rely on these 'lefts'. In the Broad Left *Engineering Bulletin*, the 'voice of progressives in all sections of the AUEW', they put forward policies to gain unity with these 'left leaders' — but they are policies which offer no real alternative to the Social Contract.

They call for the implementation of Labour's election manifesto — a document which embodied the Social Contract and its policies of class peace.

They call for import controls and an expansion of investment in British industry — but nowhere set out a programme around which to fight for workers control over the economy.

And they call for a return to free collective bargaining — but

nowhere outline the policies around which a struggle can be launched to regain the wage cuts of Phases 1 and 2 and protect future wages against inflation.

Nor has the Broad Left leadership proposed to take any action. Wright is quite prepared to support a pressure campaign to influence negotiations over Phase 3, but when it comes to organising a fight back against Phase 2 he makes no challenge to Scanlon's justification for scabbing on the British Leyland toolmakers' strike — that 'a bargain made is a bargain kept'.

Wright's candidature offers neither alternative policies nor action around which to fight the Social Contract. What is needed in the AUEW is a candidate who will — a candidate who can — contribute to the building of a class struggle opposition in the union, which will mount an effective fight against the right wing. If the Broad Left is to make a contribution to building such an organised left wing it must cease relying on 'left' leaders like Wright, and instead be prepared to organise independently so as to force these 'lefts' into united action.

An immediate step in this direction would be for the Broad Left to commit itself to building the lobby of the National Committee demanding the submission of a national wage claim.

It is for these reasons that *Red Weekly* believes that it is necessary to argue within the left in the AUEW for an alternative candidate, a candidate who can take forward the fight to build a class struggle opposition.

## Thornett steps up T&G campaign

ALAN THORNETT, candidate for the post of General Secretary in the Transport and General Workers Union, warned last weekend that electoral procedures in the union were still open to corruption.

Speaking at a press conference organised by the Campaign for Democracy in the Labour Movement, Thornett urged all members to check that all procedures were followed in the balloting, which will continue until 19 March.

Thornett had agreed to speak to the labour movement press only after the media had given extensive coverage to the so-called 'four main contenders': Evans, Kitson, Cousins and Miller.

The press had not covered Thornett's campaign, with the exception of the *Daily Telegraph* reporting a slanderous petition originating from right-wing Cowley convenor Reg Parsons that Thornett had 'plotted' the transfer of 60 T & G members to the AUEW. The petition was circulated on the first day of balloting for the post.

Thornett sought dispensation from his branch to refute the charges, pointing out that the procedure (which led to the rejection of the application by the local T & G branch) had taken place strictly within the prescribed time limit laid down by the Bridlington procedure.

### FOUGHT

Thornett has fought the tactics of a conspiracy of silence on his campaign by addressing meetings organised by the CDLM all over the country. Meetings have taken place in East and West London, Southall, Oxford, Leeds, Coventry and Hull. Further meetings are planned in Liverpool, Sheffield, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Bristol. One example of the support that Thornett has been getting was the support pledged by a Hull T & G convenor at the Morrison Engineering factory, and stewards in Fords, Dagenham, are also campaigning actively in the plant.

of struggle against the Social Contract since its introduction. He carried forward that struggle at the conference of Leyland stewards held on 15 February in Birmingham, moving a motion of support for any action against Phase 2 of the incomes policy.

### WORST

Derek Robinson, Longbridge convenor and leading member of the Communist Party said at the same conference: 'The worst thing that could happen for British Leyland, or the country, is for groups of workers to think they have got the God-given right to take sectional action in defence of their own conditions... We can't afford strikes in British Leyland, not the tool room workers nor any other strikes.'

Thornett explained the role of the Communist Party in their limiting of action under Phase 2 to a pressure campaign aimed at achieving a majority at the TUC Conference. This, he said, facilitated the introduction of Phase 3 because of the implication that the labour movement should be bound by such positions.

Pointing out that the best way to defeat any new phase of incomes policy was to carry forward a fight to smash Phase 2, Thornett emphasised the importance of the forthcoming conference of the Campaign for Democracy in the Labour Movement on 27 March in Birmingham.

STEVE POTTER

Credentials 50p from: Kevin Lee, 44 Devonshire Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham 20.

★ CORRECTION  
We apologise for a factual error in last week's article on the T&GWU elections. Commonwealth Smelter militants have not pledged their support to Alan Thornett. In fact the branch recommended support to John Miller. The quote attributed to CSL militants was not made by them. The error came about as a result of a misreading of

JOHN STURROCK (Report)

# LSE occupation ends BUT FEES FIGHT GOES ON!

SIX HUNDRED police ended the two-week-old occupation of the London School of Economics. All the surrounding streets were sealed off at 3.00am last Saturday morning as the police moved in to evict the occupying students. The police were enforcing a High Court injunction sought by the 'liberal' director of the LSE, Ralf Dahrendorf.

These events totally explode the myth, peddled by the Broad Left leadership of the National Union of Students, that the proposed increases in tuition fees will be defeated through alliances with 'progressive' college authorities of the Dahrendorf stamp.

The Broad Left at the LSE have been discredited. The outcome of the students' vote for who should represent them at the forthcoming NUS conference resulted in only one Broad Left candidate being elected for the seven positions.

The other six places went to a coalition of overseas student activists, independent socialists and members and supporters of the National Organisation of IS Societies and the International Marxist Group.

Action against the fees increases is still spreading, but the eviction of the LSE occupiers removes, for the time being, an important symbol from the campaign. More than ever a national lead is required.

Brunel, City and Sheffield Universities; polytechnics such as Middlesex and North East London; the Royal College of Art and Newham College in Birmingham are among the colleges still in occupation. Many more, including North London Poly and Sussex



Ralf Dahrendorf—his action smashes Broad Left's myth

University, are expected to follow suit in the coming weeks.

Students at Brunel University are fighting both on the tuition fees issue and for the provision of

creche facilities. Occupying students explain that the Labour Government is hitting the traditionally weakly organised sectors such as overseas students and those with children first and hardest. To fight the cuts as a whole, direct action had to be the response to this tactic.

Militants recognise that small concessions can be won at college level, but the main target must be the Labour Government and nationally organised direct action to ally students with the growing anger inside the working class against the Social Contract.

As was most strikingly demonstrated at the LSE, many socialist militants see the need for maximum unity to provide a lead for the campaign and challenge the Broad Left. The present struggles should be an important lesson for NOISS members, whose national organisation still fails to grasp that they are not the sole alternative to the Broad Left.

As a national organisation, NOISS failed to build for the overseas students activists conference at Middlesex Poly on 12 February. At that meeting they also opposed the setting up of a co-ordinating committee that could have provided an alternative lead to that being given by the National Executive.

The sectarianism of the Socialist Workers Party stands in stark contrast to the positions adopted in practice by many NOISS militants in the colleges.

At the NUS Scotland conference held last weekend NOISS participated in a joint far left slate for the Executive elections. At Brunel and Bristol Universities they participate in a united left structure which organises in campaigns and elections. At Southampton University they campaigned for the joint candidate of the left for president. A joint platform between NOISS and the Socialist Society was drawn up for a complete slate in last week's elections at Warwick University. Agreement has so far been reached on a joint platform for the Hull University elections and even in the NOISS stronghold of North London Poly NOISS made initial approaches to the IMG for a joint platform before deciding to stand a separate slate.

The argument that NOISS has used that any alliances cannot precede the development of a mass base in the colleges is not in practice held even by large sections of their own membership.

The Socialist Students Alliance established last month has set itself the task of organising a united face of the socialist militants as a step in the process of developing a mass based alternative to the Broad Left in the union. The forthcoming NOISS conference on 12-13 March will have to face up to these tasks as well. The struggles going on at the moment show that thousands of students are looking to an alternative, one that can roll back the gains the right wing have made in the student movement.

## 'Great Debate' hides cuts attack

BY THE END of March the great 'debate' on education will have taken in seven regional conferences. As a finale we are promised a government green paper. But even before the end of the regional conferences one thing is clear: this is no democratic debate. In each regional event so far something like 200 delegates have had only 45 minutes for discussion.

Why then has the NUT described the basis of this debate in such glowing terms, even to the extent of saying that it is a recognition that education '.... is the road to growth'?

It is clear that the aim of the exercise for the Labour government is to justify government intervention into education and to sugar the pill of massive cuts by saying that standards can be raised as resources are destroyed.

This 'debate' clouds the real issues that are at stake for workers and their children in a society that allows one in three to leave school and join the dole queue.

If Shirley Williams and the Labour leaders were really interested in a debate about the education of the people they claim to represent, they would start with a different agenda. They would examine the effects that the denial of nursery education has on one and a half million two- to five-year olds. They would look at the revelation of the Bullock Report that 40 per cent of schools had only eight books per pupil. They would look at teacher unemployment and its effect on class sizes.

But the NUT leaders know that this alternative to the sham debate of the CBI and DES would give them the job of leading a fight in the Labour and trade union movement against government cuts and the social contract.

But these 'debates' do more than act as a smokescreen for cuts; they try to finger scapegoats. Williams, who once professed a passionate belief in the welfare of the working class, now says that some of our schools are poor not because of the buildings or local difficulties, but because of 'weakness in staffing'.

She points the finger of suspicion at the men and women who entered the profession '.... who had no great inclination nor talent for teaching'. She was one of those who launched the expansion of the colleges during the 'golden years', now she appeals to the 'consciences' of thousands of teachers to resign.

A key factor in this charade is the intervention of industry. Not content with accusing the schools of being wasteful drains on the economy, they blame the schools for unemployment and stagnation in industry. The schools, they say, do not provide young people with skills that are useful to industry.

But industry does not want to pay even for these limited objectives. They want the burden of training placed squarely on the schools. It is notable that there has been a sharp decline in the number of day release and apprenticeship courses over the last two years.

Instead of lining up with the TUC leaders behind the Labour government's attacks, the NUT leadership should organise a fight back. This would be the real answer to hypocrites like the Daily Mail who described the hundreds of students who tried to make their voices heard in the great 'debate' at Bradford as a screaming mob. Many of this 'screaming mob' had been encouraged into teacher training colleges by the same Labour leadership that wishes to throw them out.

Three hundred people organised a real debate on education at Newcastle Polytechnic on 18 February that showed the way forward. Members of many public service unions and unemployed teachers discussed the effects of the cuts on education.

They concluded that the '.... great debate' on education is an empty diversion and should not be continued in its present undemocratic form'. Militants in the trade unions, especially the NUT, and in the student movement will be demonstrating to their leaderships over the coming months that this is the sort of initiative they should be taking.

## Socialist Teachers call conference

This week-end, 5 and 6 March, will see the second open conference of the Socialist Teachers Alliance [STA] formed in November 1976. The conference presents an important opportunity for militants in the education sector to spell out a strategy for fighting the cuts.

Despite the fact that the cuts are an integral part of the Social Contract, Doug McAvooy, Deputy General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, told teachers on strike in Hereford recently that the NUT leadership 'had given its backing to a third year of the Social Contract and would recommend its annual conference at Easter to support TUC policy for a planned return to free collective bargaining'.

Fortunately McAvooy is not the only person in the NUT with ideas on how to fight the cuts. The topic of 'cuts' was voted top of the Agenda for the NUT's Easter Conference, receiving 88,647 votes. Of all the motions on this topic, motion 73 backed by 16 local NUT associations and initiated and supported by the Socialist Teachers Alliance got the most votes of all — 30,211. Needless to say it charts a different course from McAvooy and his friends.

Motion 73 calls for a 'campaign waged in co-operation with other trade unionists, especially those in the public sector' and spells out a programme of action: no classes over 30; no covering up for absent or non-appointed staff; extra preparation time; no compulsory transfers of teachers; no discussion about 'priorities'; and finally for the establishment 'in each locality [of] joint committees of action with other trade unionists affected by the cuts to mobilise the full resources of all involved in the fight against the destruction of the social services.'

The right-wing leadership of the NUT Executive, greatly disturbed that such a 'radical' motion has come top, have already leaked to the press their intention to 'amend'

to discuss how to strengthen this important step forward in the NUT.

The conference must also answer the right-wing attacks which attempt to shore up the Social Contract by calling for increases in local authority rates or which attempt to put the blame for the cuts on car workers or some other section fighting for wage increases. Militants in the NUT must be able to put forward concrete policies which can unite teachers with the rest of the labour movement through demands which the whole of the movement can fight for.

Such demands should include the abolition of interest repayments [currently running at £100,000 a day in the Inner London Education Authority alone!]; the protection of all educational spending, including wages, against inflation; and a campaign for local councils to reveal their plans on education.

But above all the STA has to campaign for national strike action which is the only way a real fight against the cuts can be developed. As a first step it should fight for the NUT to support the call for strike action on 11 May by London NUPE.

BERNARD REGAN (East London NUT)

OPEN CONFERENCE Socialist Teachers Alliance

Sat/Sun 5/6 March

Sat: 'Against the Cuts'; Sun: 'For Trade Union Democracy', 'Against the Black Paperites'.

Begins 11am sharp (registration from 10.15am), at Caxton House, St Johns Way, London N19 (Archway tube). Pooled fare, creche and accommodation.

Further information from Ber-



Three hundred demonstrators marched through Bradford last Saturday to protest against police harassment of gays. Over 3,000 people have been questioned in connection with the murder of an 11 year old boy scout last November.

But the investigation has been used as a pretext to harass gay people in the Bradford area. This has now assumed the proportions of a witch-hunt. Gays have been taken and interrogated late at night and sometimes taken from their place of work without warning. They have been photographed and fingerprinted against their will and denied access to their solicitors, relatives and friends. Gay social gatherings and houses have been put under surveillance and there have been raids on gay organisations. Some of those questioned have been threatened with blackmail.

It is clear that these interrogations have nothing to do with the murder

inquiry. People have thus been tricked into giving information relating to gay men between 16 and 21 years old. Oppressive legislation means that gay relationships are illegal below the age of 21. The police are now boasting that they could make over a thousand arrests from information gained during the investigation.

Saturday's demonstration was an impressive display of solidarity against this state persecution of gay men and women. The demonstrators demanded the public destruction of all police files, an end to the witch-hunt in the local press and legal equality for gay men, which means the reduction of the age of consent to 16.

But police harassment is not over yet. They sent a photographer along to get more information for the files.

Photo: MATTHEW DAVISON

## SOS- strike action needed

TOP BUREAUCRATS from the four main transport unions [T&GWU, NUR, ASLEF, TSSA] received a shock at a meeting of 250 trade union representatives from the public transport industry in London on Wednesday 23 February, called to discuss the Save Our Services [SOS] campaign.

Speaker after speaker from the floor demanded militant action, including a strike and a free fares day, in counterposition to the platform speakers' calls for more leafletting and lobbies of Parliament.

Trade unionists were angry that the campaign was being run by a public relations firm and without reference to, let alone control by, the shop stewards and trade union

General Secretary of the NUR, said that the campaign was democratically controlled because the NUR was a democratic union. Yet NUR branches were not even informed about Wednesday's meeting until the Friday before. Many of them had therefore not met to publicise or discuss this meeting, a fact that was reflected in the very poor turnout of NUR representatives.

Larry Smith, national bus officer of the T&GWU, told us we had to simply argue our case with the Labour government and covered up the role of Jim Daly, of the Transport Committee of the Greater London Council, who is slavishly carrying out the government's cuts policy rather than following the example of the Clay Cross council-

red to cuts that have already taken place on the railway, and to the recent shutdown of the electrical industry against the cuts. Yet his prescription for transport was to wage a political campaign until 5 May (the GLC elections). If the Tories got in, we might need to use our muscle, he said. In fact, the present Labour administration's Tory policies are ensuring that the real Tories will get in — loyalty to the Labour Party means fighting now by all means against Labour's cuts.

It was very clear from the meeting that transport workers are fed up with pressure politics, and recognise that only militant action can defeat the cuts in transport services. Chairman Jim Daly refused to put

membership should do as they are told by the leadership, not the other way round. The first resolution called for the SOS campaign committee to be elected from the meeting, and the second called for a free fares day on 21 April, the designated 'Day for Transport'. There is little doubt that both resolutions would have been carried by the meeting.

It is now necessary for transport workers to bombard their union leaders with resolutions along these lines, and for strike action on 11 May, which London NUPE has declared a day of action for the public services. In addition, meetings should be organised in each area to build the campaign together with workers from other sectors, both public and private.

# SUPPORT SOUTHERN AFRICAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE!

## BREAK ALL LINKS!

LAST WEEK ICI, Britain's largest multinational, announced record profits of £540 million. Barclays Bank followed suit with £197.9 million, a 39 per cent increase on the previous year. Both of these firms have substantial investments in South Africa.

In its annual report ICI claimed 'strong showing in overseas markets'. One of its subsidiaries, African Explosives and Chemical Industries, in which ICI has a 49 per cent share holding, has three factories in South Africa producing tear gas, nerve gas and defoliants.

During 1976 ICI allocated R40 million [about £60 million] to AECI for various capital projects. The latest of these has been to invest in the Transkei. This is a joint project with the Transkei Development Corporation and the London-based Standard Bank, whose chairman is Lord Barber, the former Tory Chancellor.

The independence of the Transkei is recognised as a complete fraud. Even the United Nations voted to oppose all dealings with the 'so-called independent Transkei'. All the EEC countries, including Britain, supported this vote. Only the United States abstained.

Barclays, along with Standard, dominates the South African banking system. Barclays operates via the National Bank, a company in which it controls 63 per cent of all shares. Twenty seven per cent of Barclays branches world wide are located in South Africa, second only to 37 per cent in Britain.

Recently, however, Barclays gave an even firmer commitment to the apartheid regime. National gave £6½ million to the South African Fighting Fund to bolster defence spending. This was the largest single contribution to Vorster's war treasury for his 'anti-communist crusade'. The managing director of National claimed that this donation was 'part of our social responsibility'.

The Labour Government responded by calling in a representative of Barclays to the Foreign Office to give him a rap over the knuckles. In reality the Labour Government has done nothing to

hamper the £6 billion of imperialist interests in South Africa.

The Labour Government has continually chosen to ignore Labour Party policy and conference decisions. At the last Blackpool conference a motion, Composite 44, was passed demanding an end to all British investment in South Africa. This has remained a dead letter. The Labour Government must be forced to implement its party policy now.

The workers movement cannot sit by and idly watch the Labour Government refusing to act against the Vorster regime. Industrial action needs to be taken to halt all trade and investment with the racist states of Rhodesia and South Africa.

While the demand that British companies recognise black trade unions is central, the leaders of the British trade union movement have been as lukewarm in their attitude as their counterparts in the Government. The boycott called by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in January was only seen as a single protest, not the start of a concerted campaign against imperialist interests in southern Africa.

However there are workers in Britain who have taken effective action against British investment in racism. Workers at Henley Forklift Co., for example, have blacked all South African contracts, while workers at Hopkinsons in Huddersfield continue their strike against a sanction-busting management.

Hawker Siddeley workers at Brough, on Humberside, are faced with mass redundancies. However they have refused a suggestion by local Tory MP Patrick Wall that sales of Buccaneer aircraft to South Africa would protect their jobs. A mass meeting decided to continue the struggle against sackings and against imperialist investment in South Africa.

**LABOUR MUST BREAK ALL LINKS WITH SMITH AND VORSTER.**

RIC SISSONS

# Banned

Red Weekly is pleased to print this article by **DRAKE K** the Black Allied Workers Union, recently expelled from the union with certain of the points made by Brother Koka but feel their contribution to building solidarity with the struggle of blacks to strengthen their trade union organisation.

**THE BLACK Allied Workers Union is a black trade union. It is a union of blacks, for blacks, organised and run by blacks.**

The BAWU was founded in August 1972 at a general public meeting of a cross section of black workers in Johannesburg. Since then it has spread to various industrial centres all over South Africa. It is national in scope and operation, and determined to bring about the liberation of black workers from oppressive, suppressive laws and from the exploitative labour and economic system which has reduced blacks to a sub-human state.

The union is for blacks — by 'black' we mean all those who are discriminated against by law,

tradition, racial prejudice and attitude and have been deprived of the right and power to decide for themselves or choose their own destiny. It is for all black workers who find themselves in a position of economic deprivation, denied the right to collective bargaining through the process of trade unionism because of their race and the colour of their skin.

The purpose of the BAWU is to organise and unite all black workers into a powerful labour force that can earn the respect and de facto recognition of both employers and the Government to educate black workers and make them aware of their power and significance at work; to build them into a oneness — the spirit

MONTHLY CASH AVERAGE BY RACIAL GROUPS (1970)

Racial Group	Mining	Manufacturing	Construction	Electricity	Bank and Bldg Society	Central em
Rand						
White Worker	368.8	307.2	325.3	369.1	298.2	2
Asiatic	98.9	77.4	150.4	—	106.8	1
Coloured	75.2	73.6	109.6	76.7	80.4	1
African	18.3	52.3	49.9	55.3	66.9	

## 'Marxism-Leninism' in Mozambique

In June 1975, FRELIMO came to power in Mozambique having led a successful struggle against the Portuguese and effectively smashed the former colonial state apparatus. There was then much speculation about the nature of the new state that FRELIMO would construct over the ruins of the old one.

Last month FRELIMO held its Third Congress (the first since independence) in Maputo, where it declared itself a 'Marxist-Leninist vanguard party' dedicated to building a new society on the basis of 'scientific

socialism'. To determine the objective reality of Mozambique today in light of these declarations demands a look at the country's political economy and social organisation, and more importantly, at the trends these indicators of its development.

In the two major foreign exchange earning areas — migrant labour and transportation of goods — Mozambique has not in any way loosened debilitating ties with the imperialist economy and particularly South Africa.

The handling of South African Rhodesian goods accounted for 30 per cent of Mozambique's total earnings.

International Solidarity with the struggle in southern Africa.  
Speakers include:  
**C. GABRIEL** [LCR, French Section of the Fourth International]  
**BARNEY MOKGATLE** [Soweto student]  
**TONY BOGUES** [Jamaican Revolutionary Marxist League]  
Representative from *Lutte Ouvrière*  
**TARIQALI** [IMG]  
Saturday 5 March, 7.00pm.  
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square. Nearest tube Holborn.  
Organised by the IMG.

**THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS** calls on all its members to support **AAM NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SUNDAY 6 MARCH** Assemble SPEAKERS CORNER, 1.30pm. UNITE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

## SMITH 'REFORMS': A SIGN OF WEAKNESS

One of the problems which dogged the recent manoeuvres in southern Africa — both the 'Kissinger mission' and the Geneva talks — was the absence under white racist rule of any important section of the black population with significant material interests to defend. There has thus been no privileged layer within the opposing camp whom the racists and imperialists could seek to use as the basis for a 'compromise'

### ANSWER

The classical 'neo-colonial' type of solution has been the answer for imperialism elsewhere in the continent — a face lift based on extending the privileges of the better-off blacks

Government, while the basic set-up of imperialist exploitation and the poverty of the masses continues unaltered. But it has been far more difficult to implement this formula in Rhodesia and South Africa (where an attempt is being made via the 'Bantustan' scheme).

### CONVERTED

Rhodesia's Ian Smith, after more than a decade as an unabashed spokesman for outright white supremacy, last week became converted to 'neo-colonialism'. That is the meaning of the sudden decision by the Rhodesian Government to implement most of the ten month old recommendations of the Quenet

On the surface some of these reforms seem quite dramatic. For example, they modify one of the central pillars of white domination — the Land Tenure Act (which traces its history back to 1931), which assigned to exclusive white ownership the richest half of the country's land. It will now be possible for Africans to purchase land in the 'white' farming area. Similar moves are to be made towards allowing Africans to acquire property. At the same time racial restrictions on private educational and medical establishments will be relaxed (but not state-run ones).

### EXCLUSIVE

quite clear: the benefits of the subsidised social services will remain the exclusive prerogative of the white but the cash-on-the-barrelhead sector will be opened to all. Thus a pound from a black person will now be considered equal to a pound from a white person; though nothing is to be done to change the fact that most of the pounds are concentrated in white hands.

### NO EFFECT

If such measures had been taken 50 years ago when Rhodesia first acquired self-government they might today have produced a privileged black elite. If Smith had embarked on them at the time of UDI two years ago they might now be of some use in strengthening the hand of 'moderates'. But at this late date they are virtually meaningless.

They will have no effect on the masses, and little short-term effect on anyone else. Land values in the white farming areas reflect

# Union Leader Speaks

**A, a full-time organiser of South Africa. We disagree at this will be an important workers in South Africa to**

solidarity and unity that is essential for the workers' 'family', based on the philosophy of black consciousness and black communalism.

Black workers in South Africa are by law (Industrial Conciliation Act) neither recognised nor classed as employees. Only whites are referred to as such. Black workers are nothing but a work force — a unit, a labour machine for the production of 'white' economy in 'white' industries in 'white' urban areas, farms and mines.

Trade unions are for those who are regarded as 'employees' and defined as such by the Industrial Conciliation Act and other labour laws — namely white

workers. Although black workers are not prevented by law from organising themselves into a trade union, they cannot be recognised by the Government.

The position of BAWU is that legal recognition by the Government is not a priority. What is essential is the organisation, education and mobilisation of black workers into a labour force which would gain itself de facto recognition by virtue of its existence and function.

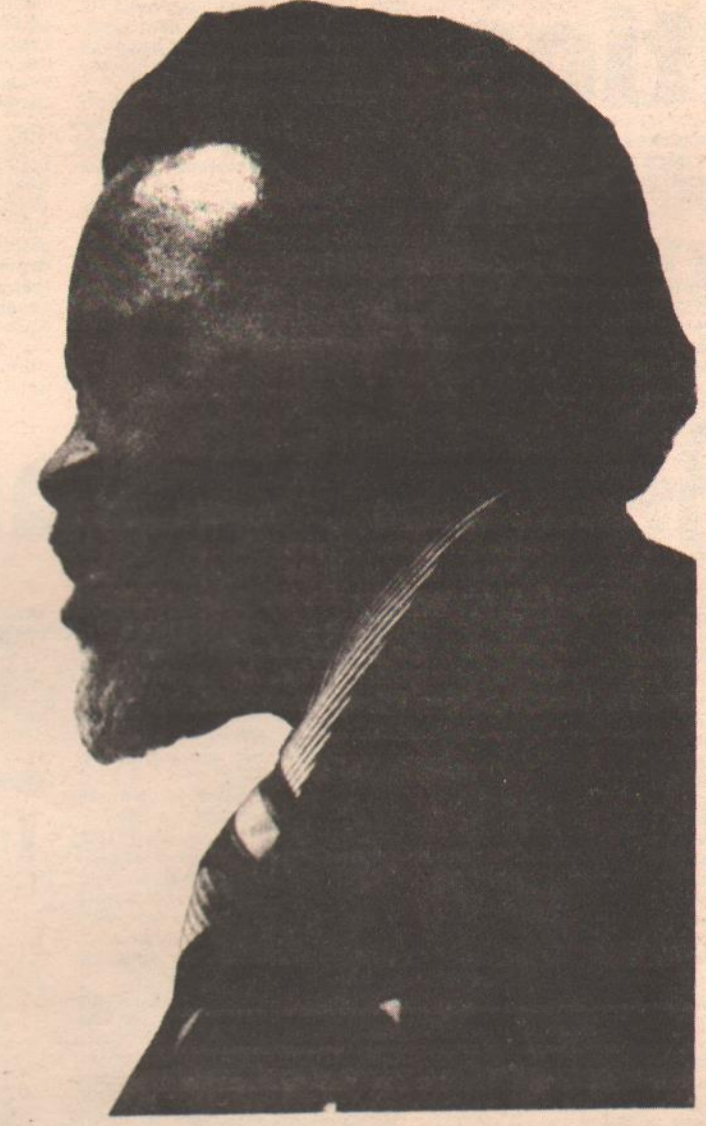
## RACIAL

Black workers are not being oppressed, exploited or discriminated against because they are miners, salesmen, engineers, teachers, doctors or road diggers. They are simply deprived of their rights because they are black. Wage differentiation is levelled against the black worker, not because of the type of work they are doing, but because they are black. The racial origins and skin colour determine the worker's income and his or her social position. This discrimination affects black workers in all sectors of employment — mining, manufacturing, construction, farming, etc. (see accompanying table).

## RICH

It can be seen from the table that black workers are always on the worst receiving end. This is in a very rich country, with its earning power rated fifth in the world and first in Africa. The disparity in wages, working conditions, privileges and rights is purely based on race and colour.

In their struggle to liberate themselves from these shocking labour conditions and from the racist labour laws of the fascist regime of Mr John Vorster's minority Government, black workers are looking to themselves as the only competent agency to bring about that liberation and



DRAKEKOKA

change the political, social and economic systems in South Africa.

The BAWU attitude to the TUC of South Africa and white trade unions as a whole is that blacks can no longer entrust their interests and liberation into the hands of whites who are a party to

the making of industrial laws that are discriminating against and oppressing us.

Our stand is based on the principle of self determination. Blacks should take the initiative in effecting a change in the labour system. Thus BAWU does not have links with the TUCSA.

White unions can only play the role of educating their own members into accepting the change that is bound to come.

## RESPECT

Such trade unions as the Industrial and Commercial Workers Union, the South African Congress of Trade Unions, and TOFATUSA are regarded by black workers in South Africa with respect and reverence. BAWU considers itself as complementary to these unions and not in competition with them.

BAWU's practical involvement in the major struggles in South Africa cannot be stated without endangering the position and activities of its members within the country. Anyway, there could never have been a successful workers' strike such as the 'Stay-at-Home' without full participation by conscious and well-organised black workers.

British firms, like any other business concerns in South Africa, are beneficiaries of the immoral, exploitative economic system. They enjoy the fruits of cheap labour and the protective measures for their white workers.

## FIRED

They joined the Government in threatening black workers who stayed at home during the three successful stay-at-home strikes in 1976. Their management either fired or deducted wages of black workers who followed the national strike call.

They joined in the Industrial Employers Association who took a hard line and threatened black workers with dismissal if they obeyed future stay-at-home calls. They are in no manner different from Vorster's oppressive regime.

In this respect we see the vital role that the British trade unions can play in helping their fellow

workers in South Africa. They can pressurise those companies who have investments in South Africa to improve the working conditions and wages of black workers.

Unions can pressurise British concerns to recognise, assist and enable black workers and unions to achieve their economic aspirations. They should identify themselves with the black workers' struggle. In the words of the Roman Catholic Bishops they should come out into the open and clearly state that 'they are identifying themselves with the aspirations of the oppressed'.

## BOYCOTT

British unions should join and participate actively in the boycott of South African goods. The withdrawal of British workers' handling of South African goods would have an impact on the South African Government. The international workers' solidarity with black workers in South Africa is essential.

The British trade unions and other international trade unions could support black workers in South Africa financially and with personal know-how in order that they might organise themselves effectively.

The strengthening of the black workers' organisation in South Africa and their support in the non-violent strikes is the only surest way to bring about a bloodless non-violent change of the political and economic situation in South Africa.

The South African Government has plunged the country into a state of violence and bloodshed. Black workers are now finding themselves caught up in a violent society. It will be very difficult for them not to react violently. It is just a matter of time.

The British trade unions and others could rescue the situation for the sake of humanity, justice and peace.

Gov-	Provincial Admin.	Local Auth- ority	Railways
224.3	293.6	295.3	
73.5	60.2	53.8	
59.2	85.9	70.6	
35.9	45.0	52.3	

# Minism' bique

An initial fall in port productivity caused by the departure of skilled Portuguese personnel has been offset by pressure from the South African government on exporters to direct cargo through Maputo resulting in a 90 per cent increase in South African cargo from May-August 1976. FRELIMO has not remained a passive partner in this process and recently sent a delegation to conclude with South African Railways this mutually beneficial arrangement.

Further signs of Mozambique's increasing integration into the world capitalist economy are consideration by the World Bank of a \$100-200m

white racism, and for all but a few individual black farmers the consequences of the repeal of the Land Tenure Act will be nil. Significantly the Government felt unable to accept the one recommendation of the Commission that might have had some impact — the establishment of a limited, property-based black electorate.

Inside Rhodesia these reforms will only be seen as a sign of weakness — both by the black masses and by the white racists themselves. They are thus likely to accelerate the crisis of white racist rule rather than relieve it.

Their only positive assistance to the Smith regime will be as an item for foreign consumption — a means of showing, in Smith's words, '... the Government's sincerity and honesty of purpose in tackling this vital question'. It is now an important task of the international solidarity movement to expose this bombast for the lie it is.

loan, the visit of the EEC Development Aid Commission in September 1976 and a £1.7m loan by them for a survey of rail links, the arrival of two West German firms to survey coal mining possibilities in Tete province and the resumption of the search for oil by Hunt Petroleum (USA).

## TRENDS

Is the declaration of FRELIMO as a Marxist-Leninist Party a serious attempt to reverse these trends towards the reintegration of Mozambique into the world capitalist economy? The political trends in the country, despite FRELIMO's claims of building 'People's Democratic Power', show a disturbing tendency towards the exclusion of the mass of the population from effective participation in politics.

In the fifty small, mostly abandoned, nationalised firms, the workers are not directly involved in any decision making, for FRELIMO has appointed administrators who have incurred resentment from workers. The right to strike has been curtailed by FRELIMO as have the activities of the 'workers commissions' which grew up after the Lisbon coup.

## ELASTIC

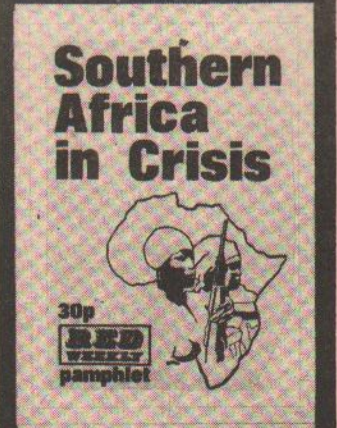
This situation, when taken in conjunction with the objective economic realities of present day Mozambique, can only lead one to the conclusion that FRELIMO ('as the leader of the State') is defending a process of neo-colonialisation.

The bandying about of the term 'scientific socialism' at the FRELIMO congress by such well established bourgeois nationalists as Joshua Nkomo of the Patriotic Front only displays the elasticity Marxist terminology has acquired. Can the same be said for the term 'Marxist Leninist Vanguard Party'?

MIKE LEWIS and JULIUS KAPANIA

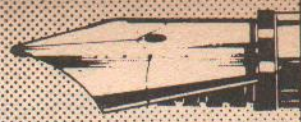


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# Letters

## Workers unity and devolution

Günter Minnerup is mistaken in his criticisms (*Red Weekly*, 24 February) of Neil Williamson's article on Scotland; the demand for an Assembly but not for separation is consistent with the principle of self-determination for Scotland, and ought to be the demand put forward by Scottish Marxists in the present situation.

First of all the demand for an Assembly is not the same thing as accepting the Devolution Bill. Neil's position is quite logical, we demand an Assembly with powers to implement socialist policies in Scotland, but give critical support to the present Bill. If it is passed we fight for the Assembly to transcend the limited powers it will be granted; demands for specific policies to extend its powers will be posed concretely as the Assembly is confronted with the impact of the crisis in Scotland.

Those like the Socialist Workers Party who counterpose to the national question in Scotland the quite different problem of British working class unity base themselves on an abstract application of the Marxist critique of nationalism. On the other side of the same coin are those like Günter and the Socialist separatists of the *Scottish Worker* group, who try to apply an equally abstract concept of self-determination. *Scottish Worker* try to present Lenin's position as meaning that self-determination equals separation, whereas in fact Lenin only advocated the right to separate as a democratic method of avoiding working class disunity.

The question as to whether or not we should advocate Scottish separation can only be answered by a concrete examination of the political situation in Scotland, and in Britain vis a vis Scotland.

The problem of Scottish self-determination is a distinct and concrete problem posed by the unique relationship of the nations of Britain, and the unique combination of class and national

consciousness which marks the Scottish working class. There is nothing 'quasi-religious' in Neil's concern about the 'unity of the British working class'.

Unlike in Ireland the expansion of English capitalism into Scotland and Wales revolutionised the national social structure in the two smaller countries. The working class became the strongest class in all three nations (relatively stronger in Scotland and Wales than in England), and in the process organic ties were developed by the workers of all three nations.

The 'unity of the British working class' corresponds to the felt needs of the Scottish and Welsh workers, as much as the English workers. The economic and social struggles in the three nations are closely intertwined, and initiatives in one nation have an immediate impact on the other two; witness the way in which both UCS and the victory of the mass picket at Saltley affected the form of working class struggles throughout the three.

The strength of this unity is proved, as Neil pointed out, by the fact that despite the inroads made by the SNP on Labour's electoral support, there has been no serious support for a separate Scottish labour movement; this indicates that once the existing demand for a measure of legislative autonomy is satisfied, Scottish politics would quite rapidly be re-polarised on a right-left basis.

Günter is right to say that we should demand a question about separation in any referendum. But he has to face the fact that in the present situation there would be an overwhelming vote against separation. There is nothing confused or inconsistent in this, Scottish workers recognise the close relationship between the Scottish economy and the British economy and the Scottish and English working class, they therefore seek a new relationship to the

British state which gives them a greater degree of control over their own destiny while not breaking these links.

He is also correct (to a certain extent) in criticising Neil for tending to 'dissolve' the question of self-determination in a 'foggy concept of bourgeois democracy'. It does seem to me that Neil skirted round the question of national consciousness in favour

of a rather general exposition of democratic principles.

This fails to completely answer dogmatists like John Lister of the Workers Socialist League (see *Socialist Press*, 19 January) who insist that the problems in Scotland are no different to those in the English regions, and that paying attention to the national question in Scotland is a 'diversion'.

Lister ignores the fact that the national consciousness of Scottish workers is a material factor in the present political situation, because the economic crisis in Britain is seen by them in its relationship to their sense of nationhood. They therefore behave politically in response to that relationship: leaving the WSL and the SWP fuming impotently about 'diversions'.

The dogmatists do not understand that the integration of the

Scottish working class into Labourist electoral politics combined national and class consciousness. That is why the electoral strength of Labour in Scotland was very different from that in England, and the pattern of political developments has now diverged from that of England. After the disastrous Labour Governments of the sixties and seventies it is only logical to expect a decline in the national element of Labour's support.

Fortunately the advance of bourgeois nationalist politics has been only partial, and has been confined to the electoral arena. It is still possible to contain it by granting the Scottish people a degree of legislative autonomy; that is why we are logical and consistent in saying that an Assembly with real powers is in the interests of the Scottish working class but separation is not.

The issue for English socialists is somewhat different; the philistine Labour 'lefts' have just combined with the most reactionary elements of Toryism to defeat the Government's guillotine motion, this means that the Devolution Bill will probably be talked out. If it proves impossible to get Devolution through Westminster the present support for an Assembly may well give way to mass support for separation.

It will of course be the duty of socialists in England to advocate the right of Scotland to secede. But that is not the situation now, and the main challenge we face on both sides of the border is how to avoid it.

That is why I welcome *Red Weekly's* serious treatment of the issue and am alarmed at the ignorance and insularity prevalent on the rest of the English left.

BOB PURDIE (Coventry)

# Reject all participation

I am glad that Martin Eady replied so forcefully to Chris Bullock's semi-apology for the Bullock report (*Red Weekly*, 3 February).

However, there are one or two points to be added. Comrade Bullock's attempt to ride several horses at once consisted of first characterising the proposals correctly as a form of 'class collaboration'.

But he then went on to argue that somehow, through 'democratic' control of that process by the workforce, such measures could be extended mysteriously to spill over into genuine workers control. A democratic and accountable system of workers representatives would be an important step [my emphasis] sums up his approach.

There are two errors which helped lead to such a dangerously misleading mish-mash. Firstly the mistaken idea that 'workers participation', suitably beefed up, can be used by the labour movement as a permissible tactic, to be bent to its own interests.

Any proposals/measures which threaten the independence of the labour movement and spread the illusion that antagonistic class interests can somehow be rationally united must be fought like the plague, not implicitly endorsed, even with 'democratic' safeguards.

This is even more emphatic in countries like Britain, whose labour movement has had a tradition of belief in 'compromise', 'company interest', 'national interest' and so on.

Bullock firmly places its proposals in the context of the British bourgeois-democratic tradition, knowing the impact this will have [and is already having] on the trade union movement. Such proposals are seen as 'a new advance for democracy', appealing to workers who believe that

they can run capitalism 'better than the management'.

Class-collaborationist schemes such as Bullock, even in their 'left' guise [the TUC variant], were designed, with a certain amount of historical validity, to minimise or eradicate open class struggle, not stimulate it.

The second source of comrade Bullock's error lies in his implicit view that when some significant section of the labour movement adopts a particular position, revolutionaries have to endorse that position, if they are to influence the course of such developments, within the framework of some supposed 'united front'.

Such a view is disastrously wrong. In many cases [and the Bullock proposals are one] revolutionaries must directly counterpose independent, revolutionary positions, no matter how much they may appear to be swimming against the stream.

As for alternatives, I endorse comrade Eady's points and won't repeat them. But I would like to add some remarks. The debate around the Bullock proposals [and hopefully their rejection] certainly could help bring about workers' control, but the implementation of those proposals would achieve just the opposite. But within that debate, we have to propose at all stages practical steps forward, not simply defensive veto demands.

This will involve taking up and extending the Communist Party's idea for the 'extension of collective bargaining' to other areas besides pay and conditions, such as pricing, social usefulness, the state of the market, etc.

In addition the enforcement of independent 'open the books' demands and an abolition of industrial secrecy would achieve precisely those gains that it is

imagined come from 'workers participation' [i.e. workers' access to all industrial/economic information].

But in all this, we must ensure that workers see that the possible ways of fighting for any of these social/industrial demands lie

through workers' control measures, imposed by their own strength and organisation, not through cosy worker-management deals, which Bullock advocates.

DEREK BROUGH (London)  
\* We welcome further correspondence on the Bullock Report.

# EVELYN REED COMES TO BRITAIN!



EVELYN REED, the feminist anthropologist and author, will be visiting Britain from 6-19 March. Evelyn Reed, who is a member of the Socialist Workers Party, the American Trotskyist organisation, will be speaking on the ideas contained in her book *Women's Evolution: From Patriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family*.

The book argues against ideas widely held on the left and in general, such as:

- \* women have always been the inferior sex.
- \* differences between the sexes inevitably lead to inequality.
- \* biology is responsible for women's second class position in society.

Evelyn Reed will be addressing meetings all over the country for the whole of her stay, including a symposium on 'Why are Women Oppressed?' on International Women's Day, Tuesday 8 March in Conway Hall with Irene Brennan and Hermione Harris.

Sunday 6 March: 7.00pm, Oxford Union, Oxford.

Monday 7 March: 12.30pm, Warwick University Students Union, Coventry.

Tuesday 8 March: 12.30pm, Sociology Department, North East London Poly, Livingstone House, London E15.

7.00pm, International Women's Day Symposium, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London W1 (Holborn tube). Other speakers — Irene Brennan, Hermione Harris.

Thursday 10 March: 8.00pm, Adult Education Centre, Peechey Street, Nottingham.

Friday 11 March: 7.30pm Leeds Trade Club, Saville Mount, Leeds 7. Social afterwards.

Saturday 12 March: Bristol. For details ring 0272 33567.

Monday 14 March: 1.00pm Middlesex Poly, Enfield Site, Queensway, Enfield, Middx.

Tuesday 15 March: 12.30pm Central Poly, London. 7.30pm. Room C018, Claremarket Building, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, WC2.

Wednesday 16 March: 7.30pm, Assembly Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh.

Thursday 17 March: 1.00pm, Durham University, Dunelm House, New Elvet, Durham. 7.30pm, Central Methodist Hall, Ridley Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

## ★ SPECIAL OFFER of Evelyn Reed's books

★ SPECIAL OFFER  
Red Books is making a special offer of Evelyn Reed's books. *Problems of Women's Liberation* 60p [regular price 90p], *Women's Evolution* £2.15 [regular price £3.15]. Orders of 5 or more copies of each book will be sent by air freight, at a special rate.

### WHAT'S ON

Deadline: 5pm, Saturday before publication. Rates: 2p per word except for general movement events.

**SQUATTERS** Action Council benefit: Fri 4 March, 8pm-2am at Acklam Hall, Acklam Road (Westbourne Park tube). Bands, disco, light show, food, late bar.

**REVOLUTIONARY Communist Group:** 'Women and Capital Accumulation', second in a series of six forums on women's oppression under capitalism. Admission 20p. Thursday 3 March, 7.30pm, Roebuck pub, 108a Tottenham Court Road (Warren St tube).

**COLLEGE Rank-and-File:** National Conference, Sat/Sun 5/6 March. Sessions on the Cuts, Social Contract, Racism. At the Polytechnic of Central London, N.W. Caversham Street (Goodge St tube). First session 11am Saturday. Social Saturday night. Coche available. For details ring 01-854 3760.

**IMG DISCO:** Sat 5 March, 9.30pm-1am. Waterloo Action Centre, Baylis Road, SE1 (opp Old Vic theatre). Music, bar (including real ale), good food, etc. 50p entrance.

**CACTL public meetings with film 'Occupy':** Fri 4 March — 8pm, Moss Side Peoples Centre, St Mary's St., Manchester. Mon 7 March — 12.45pm, UMIST Union, Small Ass. Hall, Manchester. Tues 8 March — 12.30pm, Salford University Union, Disco Area, The Crescent, Salford; 8pm, Stockport Shelter Housing Aid Committee, 9 Warren St., Stockport; Wed 9 March — 1.15pm, Tameside College Students Union (061-339 4150); 8pm, Burnley Voice meeting, Burnley Central Library; Thurs 10 March — 8pm, Bolton Employment Resources Centre, 4 Charles St., Bolton. Also meeting in Cambridge; phone 65449 for details.

**RELEASE** Collective needs a Housing Worker: work includes advice on squatting, council homelessness procedures and landlord/tenant problems. Opportunities for pressure group/campaign activity. Legal or practical experience an asset, commitment essential. The collective shares switchboard, cleaning and emergency phone duties. £33pw. Send full details to Housing, Release, 1 Elgin Avenue, London W9.

**POST-GRADUATE** Course in Urban Regional and National Planning. Applications are invited from graduates (and others with relevant work experience) for 2 year course which emphasises the political economy of planning in both the advanced and underdeveloped countries. A limited number of SSRC studentships are granted. Deadline: 1 May. (Creche available) Department of Planning, Architectural Association, 36 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3ES (01-636 0974).

**LONDON Spartacist Group forum:** Leninism: the National Question and Ireland. Fri 11 March, 7pm, Conway Hall, WC1.

**'INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST'** No 4, February 1977, out now, 25p. Articles on 'The I-C.L. and Women's Liberation'; the development of capitalism in Russia; and the debate on the Workers Government at the 4th Congress of the Communist International. 'International Communist' No 2/3 still available, 30p. All orders to G. Lee, 98 Gifford St., London N1 0DF. Add 15% for p&P, with a minimum of 10p and maximum of 70p. Subscriptions: six issues — Britain £1.50, Overseas £2. Libraries £3. Twelve issues — Britain £2.75, Overseas £3.75. Libraries £5.75. Cheques/POs should be made payable to 'I-C.L.'.

**MANCHESTER** International Forum, Neil Williamson, 'Scotland and the National Question', Wed 9 March, 8pm, Council Chamber, Barnes Wallis Building, UMIST Students Union. Adm 20p. Organised by IMG.

**WALES** Day Conference of Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law. Sat 12 March, 11am-5pm, Miners Hall, Merthyr Tydfil. For details and booking form, contact: CACTL Conference in Wales, c/o AUEW/TASS, 18 Anne's Close, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan.

**LONDON** Socialist Feminist meeting on Women's Unemployment: 13 March Caxton House, St John's Way, N19 (women only).

**NAC** National Conference, Sat. 19 March, South Bank Polytechnic, London.

**'SOUTHERN AFRICA:** The Struggle Continues'. Public meeting co-sponsored by Campaign Against Racism in the Media and Journalists Charter. Speakers: Eric Abraham (escaped South African journalist), Nkosazana Dlamini (SASO vice-president), Abdul S. Minty (AAM), and a member of the National Union of Journalists NEC. Thurs 3 March, 6.30pm, St Bride's, Bride Lane (off Fleet St), EC4.

**ALL-LAMBETH** Anti-Racist Movement Conference: Sat 12 March, Stockwell Hall, Stockwell Park Rd, Brixton SW9. Open conference with delegations. Contact: ALARM, c/o Student Union, South Bank Polytechnic, 7 Rotary St, SE1.

**Leeds CME** and CSC present a Day School on the Chilean Experience. Speakers from CP, SP, MIR, MAPU and Radical Party. Swarthmore Education Centre, Leeds, 10am-5pm, 5 March.

**Bristol Socialist Challenge Forum:** 'Southern Africa in Revolt — the Tasks for Socialists'. Speakers invited: Ron Press (SACTU), Pat Jordan (IMG), Tues 8 March, 7.30pm, at Baptist Mills Centre, Horley Road, St Werburghs, Bristol 2 (off Mina Road, nr M32).

**Marxism and the Mass Media:** series of fortnightly open forums. Sun 6 March: 'The Mass Film Industry'. 7pm at the London Film-Makers Co-op, 44 Fitzroy Road, London NW1 (Chalk Farm tube/Primrose Hill BR).

March against the Criminal Trespass Bill. Sat 19 March, assemble 1.45 in Cardington St (nr Euston Sq), then

# STOP THE PTA

The number of people, nearly all Irish, victimised under the Prevention of Terrorism Act is now approaching 2,500. Its introduction in 1974 was accompanied by many pious noises from British politicians about temporary 'draconian measures' being regrettable but necessary to end violence.

But British army violence has continued unchecked, Irish political prisoners are beaten up in British jails, ordinary Irish men and women have their homes raided and their freedom taken away. In March, this repressive piece of legislation is to be renewed for the fifth time by Westminster, three years after the 'temporary' Act came in.

People Against the Prevention of Terrorism Act, a national grouping which campaigns against the Act, needs your support, and the support of your organisation, to make March a successful Month of Action. We need:

- \* support for a mass leafleting/procession through Kilburn on 5 March, starting 11.30am. [The time may be changed because of an Agee/Hosenball demo, so check by phoning the number provided below.] This is to mark the commencement of the month of action. If outside London, can you organise something similar?
- \* commitments to support the demonstration called by the Lon-

union, Labour Party ward, women's group or any other labour movement or political organisation to send a contingent. The march will be followed by a rally at Hammersmith Town Hall.

\* orders for the pamphlet *Anti-terror in Britain — an analysis of the Prevention of Terrorism Act* [cost 25p per copy]. The pamphlet reveals the true nature of the Act as a racist attack on potential as well as actual supporters of Irish Republicanism in Britain. Use it widely in the labour movement and the communities to build a campaign among those who support us, and help break down the prejudices of those who do not.

\* meetings to which we can send speakers and raise a debate on the PTA.

\* Money. Leaflets, letters and especially the pamphlet cost an awful lot. Any contributions would be gratefully received, but we would particularly appreciate bulk, paid-in-advance orders for the pamphlet.

\* support for lobbies of MPs at their surgeries, and prominent local trade unionists where applicable.

\* sponsorship for PAPT, especially from trades councils, Labour Party GMCs and individual MPs.

If you can help in any of these ways, or if you are just interested, then contact PAPT at the address given.



# Belgian Workers go Dutch!

**THE WEEK** which has seen a virtual end to the Dutch strike wave has also seen the struggle against falling living standards taken up by workers in neighbouring Belgium.

The Dutch strikes were in defence of the continued indexation of wage increases. From 1970 wages were tied to a cost of living index which triggered an automatic pay rise every six months. However, from 1974 the gains of this system were eaten away by the introduction of laws regulating wages by the Social Democratic Government of Joop den Uyl.

The stronghold of the strike was the port of Rotterdam, the world's busiest, which was brought to an almost total halt. The strike rapidly gained support in over 300 companies, including the massive ICI and Ford factories.

A demand for a two per cent increase was added to the defence of indexation. Ironically, it was the percentage increase which was to prove the sticking point in negotia-

tions with the employers.

The workers could expect little help from the leaders of the two main union federations. The Christian CNV was the first to backpedal, calling its members in the Rotterdam docks back to work. The FNV, the major union body, linked to the Social Democratic Party, continued to give official support but insisted on factory-by-factory negotiations instead of pursuing the entire claim on a national level.

## ANGRY

Wim Spit, vice-president of the FNV, summed up its attitude: 'We don't like strikes.... the problem now is how to get the strikers back to work. They are very angry'. They

were very angry. But what was missing was a national policy on wages. The FNV's insistence on dividing up the claims has meant that different sectors have settled — usually favourably — and gone back to work separately. Those factories which are still out are dangerously isolated.

The defence of thresholds is an important part of the resistance to the attacks of the bosses and the Government. But the leadership of the FNV and CNV failed to tackle the crucial problem of wage indexation: who controls the index on which the wage increases are based.

Workers in Italy, who have a similar system of thresholds, have recently faced a similar problem. The latest austerity measures increased prices of items not included in the 'basket' on which the pay rises are calculated. Government legislation in the Netherlands has achieved

a similar effect without scrapping the threshold system

In Belgium the Christian Democratic Government of Leo Tindemans has tried the same trick. Its latest budget is designed to increase prices without triggering the thresholds. The main union federations, the FGTB and CSC, have no answer to this, but the Government measures forced even them into action.

Last week a wave of strikes started, demanding a 36-hour week with no loss of pay as an alternative to unemployment. The pressure from the rank and file of the unions is such that even the CSC, which has links with the Christian Democratic Party, has been forced to take up this slogan.

The Belgian workers are raising a number of other demands. The public sector workers, for example, see the indexed wage increases as inadequate and are fighting for an additional increase.

## STAGGERED

But, as in the Netherlands, the union leaders are refusing to coordinate these demands in national strike action, preferring a series of staggered strikes which will minimise the impact of the workers' action.

In Britain workers are beginning to raise the demand of the indexation of wages, giving automatic rises to keep pace with inflation. They can take heart from the effectiveness of the campaign of the Dutch workers, but there are also lessons to be learnt.

In all those European countries which have thresholds, governments and employers have been able to dodge the effects because they control the cost of living index. That is why only workers control of the index through their own elected organisations can provide a real guarantee of living standards. That is the way to automatic compensation for inflation.

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# World Outlook

## ★ Spain

A graphic illustration of the accuracy of Red Weekly's exposure of the Spanish far right was given last week when Spanish police discovered an arms factory in a flat occupied by Sanchez Covisa, the leader of the Guerrilleros de Cristo Rey. Sanchez Covisa was arrested, but he is probably not too worried as he has been detained a number of times before and released without charge.

In case the arrest sows any illusions in the Spanish Government, it was also announced last week that the emergency powers which the police have used to clamp down on the left have been extended for a month. The Government has also refused the Communist Party's [PCE] application for legal status.

And in case that sows any illusions in the PCE, it has decided to withdraw from the negotiating team with the Government once again, so as not to cause the Government unnecessary inconvenience.

The PSOE has also withdrawn from the negotiations for reasons which are even more pathetic. The Government has legalised the 'historic' PSOE, a right wing group which used to be the leadership of the party but split when it was ousted by the present leadership a few years ago. We have no sympathy for the 'historic' PSOE, but isn't it a little strange that the exemplary democrats of the PSOE should be in favour of the suppression of a working class organisation?

But come to think of it, these friends of Jack Jones and Michael Foot haven't exactly been in the forefront of the struggle to legalise the PCE and the far left either.

## ★ Greece

On 14 February two comrades of the ICOG (Greek section of the Fourth International) were arrested during a meeting of the trade unions expelled from the General Confederation of Workers of Greece.

The security groups of ESAK, the trade union faction of the Greek Communist Party, attacked the comrades who were distributing leaflets and handed them over to the police. Now they face charges under a number of reactionary laws such as 'excitement of political passions'.

The Stalinists are presenting themselves as the most resolute opponents of the Karamanlis Government in preparation for next year's elections. But this gross affront to workers democracy demonstrates again that the workers movement can place no trust in the CP.

The two comrades arrested are long-time militants who both spent many years in jail under the military dictatorship. Sofranis Papadopoulos is a construction worker and Giannis Felekis an offset printer and editor of Ergatiki Pall, the paper of the ICOG.

## ★ Portugal

Jorge Ribeiro, a programme assistant on the BBC's Portuguese service, has had his appeal against dismissal rejected. The sacking was based on alleged political bias by Ribeiro and another journalist, Antonio Cartaxo.

That is all pretty rich coming from the BBC, which has consistently intervened on behalf of the counter-revolution in Portugal in both its English and Portuguese broadcasts. As Red Weekly reveal-

ed in January, the dismissals came only weeks after a meeting of the Socialist International in Stockholm decided that the BBC and German radio should be brought into line behind the Portuguese Socialist Party.

This is another in the long list of the Labour Government's well-known defence of democratic freedoms.

## ★ Latin America

Amid ballot-rigging and the arrest of opponents of the Government, the election in El Salvador was supposedly won by the right-wing General Carlos Humberto Romero. Massive demonstrations



CARLOS HUMBERTO ROMERO

disputed the result and the opposition parties have called for a general strike to overturn Romero.

In Colombia four demonstrators were killed when police opened fire on anti-government demonstrations in different parts of the country. A curfew has been imposed in some areas and some unions have called strikes against repression.

Several dozen revolutionary militants have been arrested by the Banzer dictatorship in Bolivia. We believe that comrades of the Bolivian section of the Fourth International may have been among them.

## ★ Egypt

The massive mobilisations in Egypt in January, whilst successful in their immediate aims, were accompanied by harsh repression. Official figures claimed 75 killed and 800 wounded, although unofficial estimates of three times as much are probably more accurate, and over 2,000 arrests were made.

This follows the repression of previous mobilisations and the use of detention without trial, usually for periods longer than two years. It is to protest the latest attacks on democratic rights by the Sadat regime that the Committee Against Repression in the Middle East has called a picket of the Egyptian embassy from 12 noon to 3pm on Friday 4 March. This action has already been supported by representatives of the General Union of Palestinian Students, Middle East Research and Action Group, and the International Marxist Group.

## ★ China

Top of the pops in China at the moment is a song called 'Oh, how I love to carry manure up the mountainside for the commune'. The song apparently has a 'Country and Western flavour'. It is not difficult to see why it has displaced one of its rivals entitled 'Firmly Grasp the Key Link of Class Struggle and Talk About the Basic Line Every Day while Criticising Teng Hsiao-ping'.



Belgian workers demonstrate for a reduction in the working week with no loss of pay.

# Her 'Crime' - Advocating Abortion

ANNE LEGER came up for trial on 28 February before the Court of Correction [Magistrates Court] in Kortrijk, an average-sized town in Flanders. She is a member of the RAL [Revolutionary Workers League - Belgian section of the Fourth International].

Her crime — spreading propaganda about abortion. The case is

### ★ CORRECTION

Last week an article by Chris O'Brien claimed that a meeting of the Anti-Communist International Alliance in Barcelona on 30-31 October 1976 was attended by David Stirling, Walter Walker, Robert Butler and Colin Jordan. This assertion is unsubstantiated. It may well be that the people concerned were in Britain at the time and therefore could not have attended the meeting. Red Weekly and Chris O'Brien therefore withdraw this remark.

The Italian magazine Panorama has obtained a photo-copy of a document in the possession of the Spanish secret police which consists of a diagram containing the names of contacts of the Iberian section of the Anti-Communist International Alliance. Among the names on the list are those

causing widespread interest in Belgium and a broad movement in solidarity with Anne Leger is being built.

On 24 August Police-Brigadier Vanholme Wilfried and his colleague Maeba Georges were doing their night patrol. According to their testimony the DAF belonging to Anne Leger appeared to be badly parked so the two policemen 'went to the vehicle in order to control the situation'.

Everything appeared to be in order but.... 'After further investigation it was observed that the luggage compartment (boot) was not locked. Opening it, a parcel, held together with sellotape, was found. The top of the parcel was torn (by the coppers?) and several of the folders fell out.' The contents of the folder dealt with sex and contraception and was illustrated with various drawings of the sexual organs and contraceptive devices. The back of the folder dealt with abortion and gave some addresses

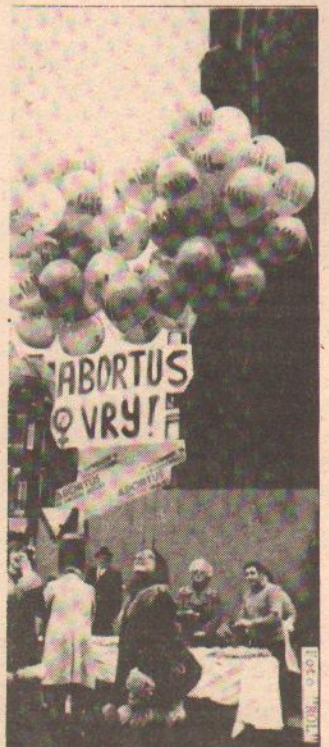
search the car and remove the contents in the absence of the owner) took the parcel to the police station. When they drew up the charge they cited the Law of 20 June 1923 regarding propaganda in favour of abortion.

The Kortrijk Prosecutor sent the CID to investigate. First of all the neighbours were quizzed about Anne's private life.

## SEARCH

Then, on 10 September, Detectives Jansen and Boutelgier made an early morning house search. The results proved negative but the detectives discovered Anne's connections with the revolutionary left.

According to the Belgian constitution the case against the authors of the leaflets found in Anne Leger's car should have been referred to an assize court, but the prosecutor is looking for an easier success in a correctional court. He



'Free Abortion'

the right to freedom of opinion as well as the struggle for the legalisation of abortion and a woman's right to choose. Every



Photo: LAURENCE SPARHAM



# 'The Rotting Society'

## LEONID PLYUSHCH INTERVIEWED

Leonid Plyushch, the exiled Ukrainian dissident, came to speak in Glasgow in December. He was interviewed by Gus Fagan for Scottish Socialist.

He was exiled from the Soviet Union in January 1976 after a world-wide protest campaign against his confinement in a KGB controlled psychiatric hospital prison. He is 37 years of age, a Ukrainian, and a mathematician by profession.

In 1966 Plyushch, a Marxist by conviction, began to write articles for the Samizdat press, the Chronicle of Current Events and the Ukrainian Herald, which serve as tribunes for the struggle for democratic rights in the Soviet Union. He was one

of the founding members of the Initiative Group for the Defence of Human Rights set up in the USSR in 1969. The group legally protested violations of the Soviet constitution and the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

In January 1972 he was arrested and put in isolation in Kiev prison. From there, in May of the same year he was sent to the Serbsky Institute for a so-called forensic psychiatric examination. From July 1973 to January 1976 he was confined to the Dnepropetrovsk special psychiatric hospital where he was compelled to undergo forced 'treatment'.

■ Could you briefly describe for us what are the main political currents inside the left-wing and working class opposition movement in the USSR?

The left-wing opposition, as part of the whole democratic opposition, is engaged primarily in the fight for democratic rights, for the rights which are enshrined in the Soviet constitution. But the left wing differs from the rest of the democratic opposition in that it considers political issues to be essentially related to the social and national issues.

Within the left wing itself, largely because of the absence of any information about political movements in the West, there aren't any really clear demarcation lines, any clear programmes. It is possible to divide the left opposition, however, into certain broad ideological currents.

First of all, there are the liberal Marxists who think that the regime itself will be forced to change under the influence of events, for instance under pressure from the intellectuals.

Secondly, there are those who support the October revolution but consider that the Bolsheviks were wrong and that what is necessary is to 'christianise' the regime. One can include under this heading the Tolstoyans.

A third current is the social democrats, close to the Mensheviks or the social democratic parties of the West. And finally, you have the neo-Marxists who consider the big defeats in the Soviet Union were not simply due to historical events but also involve essential weaknesses in Marxist theory itself.

There is an interest, among the left-wing oppositionists, in the old left opposition associated with Trotsky. But it is almost impossible to get any information on

this in the Soviet Union. It is far easier to get hold of *Mein Kampf* than the works of Trotsky.

■ You have referred to the Soviet Union as a 'rotting society'. When did the 'rot' begin and what do you think are its causes?

Under the Stalinist terror the whole population was in a straight-jacket. Anyone with dissenting views was simply sent off to a concentration camp. Then, of course, there was the role of the so-called official ideology.

The Stalinists were followed by the Khrushchevites and, in my opinion, they are even more open to corruption than the previous lot. At one time there really was a section of the population which sincerely believed that the party was building socialism. But since the Sixties I haven't met anyone who genuinely believes in the official ideology.

This leads to the situation where the youth are led to drugs, crime and into a complete spiritual vacuum. A large section of the people mock the official ideology in their family circle but on the official platform and at the work place they say that they support the regime. Only a small part of the population actually goes over into opposition. This unfortunate growth of cynicism is a symptom of what has happened to Soviet society.

The criminal acts are also a blind unconscious reaction, a protest against the total system.



Stalinist police arrest Crimean Tartars.

Similar to this also is the tendency or desire not to work, not to go to work, to embezzle, to use state property for one's own ends. The middle and lower layers of the bureaucracy are completely corrupted.

The upper layers don't need to be corrupted because they have illegal privileges which are many times greater than the official privileges. The Stalinist terror, the bureaucratic corruption, the cynicism, the spiritual vacuum. Those are the causes and the symptoms

of what I referred to as the 'rotting society'.

■ Would you describe for us what basically are the problems concerning the national question in the Soviet Union.

The first and basic problem is the nationalism and chauvinism of the Russian state. This is in fact a logical continuity of the Great Russian Chauvinism of the pre-revolutionary regime. The basic protest of all the non-Russian nations is against this form of patronism and chauvinism. Of

course each particular nation has its own problems and the national question differs in each case.

The most pronounced form of Great Russian Chauvinism has manifested itself in the deportation of whole peoples and the refusal of the Russian state to allow them to return to their native homeland.

Another form which this takes is the state anti-semitism. This reaches extraordinary heights in terms of the reduction of civil rights.

Big nations like the Ukraine are fighting for the maintenance of their culture and language. Because the attempt of the Ukrainians to maintain their culture and language is constantly under attack from the Russian party and state, the idea of independence gains more and more ground. This is also true among the other non-Russian nationalities. So all the non-Russian republics are fighting therefore for one form or other of independent development.

■ Did not the theory and practice of the Bolshevik Party under Lenin represent a conscious attempt to fight the problems of Great Russian Chauvinism? If this is the case, what are the roots of the re-emergence of the problem in such an acute form?

Lenin pointed to the danger of Great Russian Chauvinism in the party. But the October revolution did not itself solve this problem. The October revolution solved the

problem of industrialisation. But the problem of Great Russian Chauvinism and nationalism remained and became worse, particularly under Stalin.

■ What kind of measures are used by the Russian state to combat the national movements?

They use the same measures as against any other opposition movement, namely jailing, searches, blackmail, psychiatric hospitals and prison camps. From 1972 the Russification campaign has become a very conscious campaign, especially in the Ukraine. Not just the national movement itself undergoes repression, but also the higher party people and the cultural groups.

This is especially true of the party bureaucracy in the Ukraine, and the same thing happens in the other republics as well. The Russian Bolshevik clique doesn't trust the CP in the republics. They also attempt to divide and to poison the relations between the republics, to set one against the other.

■ Is the working class involved in the national movements or is it mainly the intellectuals?

In the eastern Ukraine it is mainly the intellectuals who are involved, with not much working class participation. In the western Ukraine there is greater working class involvement. The struggle of the Crimean Tartars involves the whole population.

The same is true of the Jews, where here is no differentiation between national democratic and working class demands. So the extent of working class involvement varies then from one republic to another.

■ What do you think can be done in the West to assist the national and working class opposition in the Soviet Union? Do you think this is something the left should be involved in?

The most important and the first issue to support is the demand for democratic rights. This is mainly what the working class movement in the West must demand. If the left in the West is active in defence of democratic rights in the Soviet Union they will have a big influence on the composition of the democratic movement itself inside the Soviet Union.

It is also very important for the left-wing opposition in the Soviet Union to obtain left-wing literature from their supporters in the West because this is very difficult to obtain in the Soviet Union.

# Workers' Jubilee 1917-1977



ERIC SISSONS continues his account of a jubilee that really matters for the working class — the sixtieth anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

Within the space of five days the workers and soldiers had taken control of Petrograd. Between 23-27 February Petrograd ground to a halt as strikes swept the city. The revolution had begun.

23 February was International Women's Day. This date had originally been chosen by the Second International as part of the fight for women's rights. In 1917, in Russia, no call for action had come from any organisation, including the Bolsheviks. Nobody was expecting strikes or demonstrations.

The women textile workers of the Vyborg district of Petrograd thought otherwise and went on strike. Finding themselves with a *fait accompli* the workers parties, the Bolsheviks, Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries, had no choice but to follow. 90,000 workers took up the women's lead.

The working class was on the move. The following day half of Petrograd was on strike. The day was spent in continuous demonstrations demanding 'Bread', 'Down with the autocracy', 'Down with the war'.

1917 a plan had been drawn up by General Khabalov, the local military commander, to crush any insurrection. Petrograd had been divided into six districts and then further sub-divided into areas.

Each area was allocated a regiment of soldiers. The police and troops were put under a single command, while the Cossack troops from the Don region of Russia were placed under the control of General Chebykin, the head of the Petrograd armed forces, as troubleshooters.

### SOLDIERS

Khabalov's plan did not use all the 150,000 members of the Petrograd garrison but a small section of 10,000 plus the 3,500 police, the military training schools and the two regiments of Cossacks. They, he had hoped, would prove to be reliable.

Throughout the five days the crucial question in every worker's mind was how the soldiers would react. The police were renowned for their brutality. Nobody had illusions about winning the police over; in two days at least 28 were beaten up in the demonstrations.

With the soldiers it was a different story. The masses rec-

and the chance to go home. Even the Cossacks, the most conservative among the army, felt sympathy towards the workers' demands. At the Erikson factory they did nothing to stop the workers leaving the factory by passing under the bodies of their horses.

On 25 February the strikes were still spreading. Now 240,000 workers were out, and had been joined by school students. The first

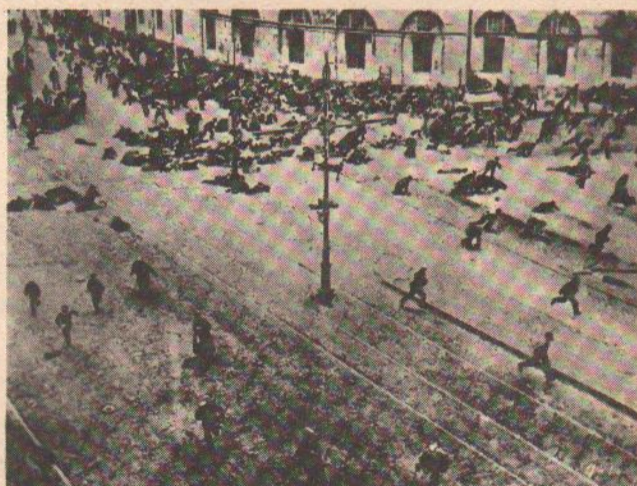


breaches within the army were showing. A group of Cossacks opened fire on the police after the latter shot at the demonstrations near the Alexander III monument.

The Czar, via Khabalov, issued an ultimatum for a return to work, while during the night of 25/26 February over one hundred worker leaders were arrested, among them five of the Bolshevik Petrograd Committee.

### POLICE

Sunday. The factories were shut, but that did not deter anybody. Massive demonstrations took place. The Vyborg district, the proletarian stronghold of Petrograd, was under the control of the workers. The police headquarters had been sacked. No police were to be seen there. During the day 40



people were killed at the hands of the police and the training squad officers. The decisive moment was fast approaching. Would the struggle, under a volley of well-aimed bullets, now collapse?

The strike leaders were unsure of their next move. The leaders of the workers parties, even the Bolsheviks, were trailing events. For example, it was not until 25 February that the Bolsheviks called for a general strike, but in reality that already existed. Events made up the minds of the workers. During the Sunday night the first regiment mutinied. The Pavlovsky regiment, on hearing that their training squad had opened fire on the crowds during the day, took over their barracks.

### LINKS

The following day they were followed by the soldiers of the Volynsky, Litovskiy and Proch-

soldiers and the Vyborg. Plans were being made to seize and disarm the police stations, to release political prisoners and to win over the rest of the garrison.

By Monday evening the plans had been implemented. Virtually all the troops had been won to the side of the workers. The arsenal had been taken over and weapons carried away. Officers were tearing off their insignia and fleeing. The political prisoners were freed.

### CZAR

Finally the Tauride Palace, the stronghold of the Czar in Petrograd, had fallen and now became the centre of the strikers and soldiers. The Peter and Paul Fortress, situated on an island on the River Neva, surrendered. Petrograd was in the hands of the workers and soldiers. The ball was

# 7 Days in the 6 Counties



For the last six months this column has consistently reported the various successes of the anti-Unionist resistance against the repressive manoeuvres of imperialism and its army of occupation. With the formation of the Relatives Action Committee, the fightback against the removal of political status began in earnest.

Roy Mason's efforts to step up army brutality in the ghettos behind the facade of 'Peace at any Price' exploded in his face as first the 'Peace People', then the troops themselves were bundled out of the Turf Lodge area of West Belfast.

In the absence of any political initiatives from Westminster, Mason's blatant policy of increased repression, mingled with the crude forces of the Northern Ireland Office's propaganda machine, such as the unforgettable '7 Years is Enough' campaign, rapidly exposed the real bankruptcy of British policy in Ireland.

From virtually every nationalist area of the Six Counties the same

demand is emerging — 'Troops Out Now'. In Newry a broad based front, including the Provisional Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Socialist Party and former members of the Republican Clubs, is actively campaigning for troop withdrawal, political status and repatriation of Irish prisoners of war incarcerated in English jails.

As the overall weakness of Britain in Ireland becomes clearer there is little doubt that these latest displays of militancy can lay a real basis for creating a mass anti-imperialist movement throughout Ireland.

It was to discuss this question that a conference of the far left was convened in Belfast last weekend. Peoples Democracy, Red Republican Party, Irish Workers Group, Socialist Workers Movement, Movement for a Socialist Republic [Irish section of the Fourth International], Socialist Women's Group and a number of individuals attended.

The intention was to hammer out agreement on a limited number of demands which would coordinate the local struggles and stimulate a

process of united discussion and action involving all the organisations of the anti-Unionist masses. In the event, wide agreement was reached to set up a left committee against repression, for troop withdrawal, and the restoration of political status. The committee is open to all organisations and individuals, with all organisations free to put forward their own programmes.

At a time when the crisis of leadership at all levels in the Irish working class becomes increasingly pronounced with every stage of the decline of imperialism, it is crucial that all the forces involved in the struggles of the working class unite around a programme which will provide a clear alternative for the struggle for national independence.

In this regard the conference represented a significant step forward. The same can be said for the recognition the conference gave to the role of women in the current struggles, and the need to take practical steps to allow for their fullest participation — such as positive discrimination in local committees.

The test of the committee will be its willingness to co-operate with other forces, to reach out to a broader spectrum of the anti-Unionist masses, to fight for the right of all tendencies to advance their own positions and fight for the self-organisation of women in struggle. In other words, to play a positive role in advancing the anti-imperialist struggle on the basis of stimulating a process of democratic control of the ghettos by those who live in them.

MIKE PINTER

## THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

# No Quick Knock-out for Rees

'It looks as if we're headed for a points decision over fifteen rounds'. So commented a member of the Agee-Hosenball Defence Committee last week, after a series of small victories over 'Puppet' Rees had made it clear that the Home Secretary is not going to get the quick knock-out he desires.

The arrest under the Official Secrets Act of the 'ABC Three' — Crispin Aubrey, John Berry and Duncan Campbell — now seems to have been an unauthorised Special Branch action. The wave of anger which greeted the arrests, especially in the National Union of Journalists, certainly did more than compensate for the demoralisation which greeted Rees's confirmation that the deportations were to continue — and the TUC General Council's decision not to take any further action against them.

### MEETINGS

Crowded meetings of NUJ militants, members of other unions, and political activists have organised a demonstration (details below), pickets and public meetings, as well as mounting a campaign for strikes and other industrial action. In particular, pressure is being put on the NUJ executive to call for action from members and organise a nationally.

The rank-and-file Journalists Charter group has named 9 March as a day of action, urging journalists

to raise the issue with other workers. One extremely effective way of achieving this is for journalists to demand that a union statement on the deportations and charges be inserted in the publications they produce.

As we go to press, only two of the 'ABC Three' have been released on bail, even though all three are charged under the same discredited section of the Official Secrets Act. John Berry, the so-called 'former soldier' (he left the army seven years ago) still languishes in Brixton prison.

### EFFORT

We urge our readers to make a particular effort to keep John Berry's name linked to Aubrey and Campbell, and *not* to treat him as a special (i.e. 'more serious') case — this has been the reaction of the national press and, indeed, of the NUJ's President, Rosaline Kelly.

For journalists, the difference between journalists and 'sources' is one they can ill-afford to stress if they want more stories in the future! For other socialists there can be no differentiation in support for people arrested and harassed in the cause of 'national security'.

• More than 400 people turned out to hear Philip Agee in Edinburgh last Thursday at a meeting organised by the Socialist Workers Party in conjunction with the Agee-Hosen-



Duncan Campbell (left) and Crispin Aubrey

ball Defence Committee. A demonstration to the American Consulate is planned for 4 March.

The meeting was opened by a speaker from the Defence Committee, who reminded the audience that the Labour Government was still deporting scores of people under the 1971 Immigration Act without any publicity at all. Then came a Chilean refugee and Angela Agee

[formerly a student in Brazil], both of whom stressed how CIA activity was tied in with the defence of imperialist investments. Angela Agee pointed out that Britain was now the fourth biggest investor in Brazil.

Philip Agee told the meeting of how he had placed his CIA experiences at the disposal of labour movement organisations so that

they could defend themselves against the kind of 'destabilisation' operation seen in Chile. It was essential to explode the myth of the CIA's invincibility.

At the end of the meeting a speaker from the Edinburgh Anti-Racism Committee was allowed five minutes to link this affair with the growth of racism and racist organisations in Britain [the National

Front plan to stand candidates in the next district council elections in Edinburgh]. It is also necessary, however, to drive home the connection with Britain's imperialist war in Ireland and the fact that the repressive methods being perfected there will sooner or later be turned against the British working class as well.

GAVIN PIXTON (Edinburgh SLP)

The Agee-Hosenball/Aubrey-Berry-Campbell Defence Committees have called a DEMONSTRATION: Saturday 5 March, Charing Cross/Embankment, 12.30 pm. March to Century House [Home of MI6] via Home Office. Bring your banners.

**DROP THE CHARGES!  
STOP THE DEPORTATIONS!  
SMASH THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT!**

**PICKET CALLAGHAN!  
Saturday 5 March, 12.30pm  
St. Pancras Town Hall  
[Greater London Labour Party Meeting]**



BARNEY MOKGATLE, Secretary of the Soweto Student Representative Council in June 1976, and now in exile in London, has sent us the following message:

It is very essential that the British people pledge their solidarity with the oppressed, suffering people of southern Africa. Britain has a great role to play towards the liberation of southern Africa. Therefore there is a great need for a solidarity campaign in Britain. There are many companies that belong to Britain in South Africa; there are many other links and trade that connect Britain to South Africa. If Britain does not support or promote apartheid, then why not cut links and trade with South Africa?

That is why I want to promote the solidarity campaign in Britain to grow stronger and stronger every day and to promote the organisations which are fighting apartheid. All organisations must work together. It is through this campaign that the British Government is going to cut its links and trade with South Africa.

I do not share all the views of Red Weekly, but Red Weekly has had news of solidarity and of the situation in southern Africa — for example the interview with Tsietsi Mashinini. Its supporters have organised meetings for me and other Soweto students. Therefore I would like to promote Red Weekly and its policy of carrying true stories and interviews and working strongly in building a solidarity campaign in Britain to give people who are ignorant about the

# ONE PROBLEM: MONEY

THIS WEEK sees the appearance of another Red Weekly pamphlet, Southern Africa in Crisis, as well as the publication of the Spring 1977 issue of International (marking the long-awaited regularisation of the IMG's theoretical journal). In the last three months we have also brought out three other Red Weekly pamphlets (The Socialist Challenge to Labour's Cuts, The Socialist Challenge to Racism, and How the Labour Government Supports Apartheid), as well as an issue of Socialist Woman and a Socialist Woman pamphlet (Abortion Rights — A Socialist Perspective). In other words, we're doing our level best to build the propaganda offensive which is needed to back up the fight for a class struggle alternative to the policies of this Labour Government.

There is just one problem, comrades. Money. A considerable part of the current IMG Fund Drive has been allocated to develop and sustain this operation. But only if we reach the £30,000 target. And the way it's going at present, we could fall a long way short. So if you want more pamphlets and journals — send in your contribution now!

Our thanks for recent donations to these comrades: Cardiff IMG, £6.85; Anonymous supporter, £100; Coventry IMG, £24.30; W. London IMG, £89; Southampton IMG, £8; Bradford IMG, £9.50; E. London IMG, £76; Hemel/Watford IMG, £17. That makes a total of £330.65, or rather — with a supporter's offer to match our efforts pound for pound — £661.30.

But we need a lot more than that each week. Just how far there is to go is underlined by the break-down below.

Area	Target	Received		
Bath	70	-	Manchester	830
Birmingham	790	511.80	Middlesbrough	55
Bradford	90	9.50	Newcastle	160
Brighton	160	41	Norwich	35
Bristol	270	77	Nottingham	-
Cambridge	145	81	Portsmouth	360
Canterbury	160	10	Oxford	430
Cardiff	235	12.85	Reading	90
Colchester	70	-	Sheffield	340
Coventry	215	30.30	Southampton	160
Crew	55	6.75	Swansea	160
Darlington	90	6	York	90
Hemel/Watford	270	17	Others	5,515
Huddersfield	35	-	Total	15,000
Hull	90	30	With match-	-
Lancaster	55	41		
Leeds	360	16.10		
Leicester	160	-		
Liverpool	200	-		

**PROMOTE  
RED WEEKLY!  
- SOWETO  
STUDENT  
LEADER**

# 2,000 RALLY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

# RED WEEKLY



Photo: ANGELA PHILLIPS (IFL)

Sister Desai of the Grunwick Strike Committee

About 2,000 people, representing a broad range of campaigns and organisations of the women's and labour movement took part in a national rally to assess Labour's legislation for women at Alexandra Palace, London, on Saturday 26 February.

The goals set by the organisers of the Rally were clearly carried through: the lessons of women's experience in struggle for their rights were firmly drawn through the day in both speeches and the wide array of colourful and informative stalls.

Speaker after speaker recounted how women's rights could not be won through relying on the Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay Acts. The message — coming through loud and clear — was that women needed to organise to defend their rights and extend them.

Sister Desai, of the Grunwick Strike Committee, received one of the most resounding rounds of applause. She forcefully explained how the low pay, compulsory overtime, regimented working conditions and sexist treatment of women were rampant despite the legislation.



I was told it was impossible... We musn't use the legislation as a couch to lie back on, but as a springboard to go forward.'

The final session of the Rally was filled with speakers from many campaigns and organisations involved in fighting for those women's rights which are not even mentioned in the Acts.

Speakers included those from the Women's Liberation Campaign for Financial and Legal Independence, the London Nursery Campaign, the Child Benefits Campaign, Gingerbread, the NUS Women's Campaign, and the EGA Hospital Occupation.

One of the most forceful calls to action in the final session came from Dr Berry Beaumont, speaking on behalf of the National Abortion Campaign.

## CONTROL

She explained that 'any number of the so-called equal rights laws that this Labour Government wants to boast about cannot change that basic reality — that until women are able to control their own fertility through safe and effective contraception and free abortion on demand, they will not be able to win control over any other aspect of their lives.'

Labour's record on abortion was appalling, said Dr Beaumont. 'Let's be clear that Labour MPs have been voting away the right of each and every woman here to decide whether to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. Unless the Labour Government is forced to recognise that abortion

is a class issue, and abolish the free vote, restrictions on abortion will continue.'

The Working Women's Charter

Campaign, one of the prime movers behind the Rally, provided the final speaker. Perspectives for taking the fight for the demands of the Charter

The former Strike Committee at Trico's sent a message to the Rally, regretting their absence, stating:

'We wholeheartedly support your fight for FULL rights for women and the abolition of any laws or contention that they are in any way second class citizens.

'We are confident that the battle for equality and the removal of sex discrimination, of which our strike was a valuable part, will be won. We congratulate you on your effort and send our best wishes for a successful rally.'



Photo: ANGELA PHILLIPS (IFL)

A member of SOGAT since the 1930s, Betty Tebbs told how the union bureaucracy had chopped her from the national executive because she was a woman.

forward were outlined. United national actions in support of struggles like those at the EGA Hospital and Grunwicks were placed at the centre of the continuing work of the Charter Campaign.

The Charter Campaign has also put out a call for a meeting on 2 April, the day before the British Leyland shop stewards conference against the Social Contract. As the leaflet issued by the Campaign at the

Rally explained: 'This gives us an excellent opportunity to ensure that women's rights become an integral part of the fightback against Labour's attacks'.

Future activities of the Charter Campaign will be discussed at its 2nd National Conference, called for 22 May at City University in London. Further details from Jill Daniels, 1a Camberwell Grove, London SE5.

## BARRIERS

Carol Ames, a West London teacher, was one of the several speakers giving personal evidence of discrimination and the barriers she had confronted in the maze of legal machinery used by the Act. The tribunals are there to do a job — and they do it very well — to provide another stumbling block for women.

'Another of the hurdles is the trade union bureaucracy. My union — the NUT — will take up women's issues. But when it comes down to doing anything and giving support,



Photo: ANGELA PHILLIPS (IFL)



Thursday's anti-Benyon march. [inset] Astrid Lever of LARC.

Photo: JOHN STURROCK (Report)

Photo: JOHN STURROCK (Report)

# Marching against Benyon

On Friday 25 February, 46 Labour MPs joined with 123 others to restrict women's abortion rights by voting for William Benyon's anti-abortion Bill on its second reading.

However, the spate of activity during the week of the voting was a clear sign that the battle is now firmly underway to turn the tide against this offensive.

The Labour Government paved the way for this latest attack by maintaining its stand for a 'free vote'.

Up to 2,000 demonstrators from all over the country demanded the defeat of the Benyon Bill the evening before the vote in Parlia-

The march, organised jointly by the National Abortion Campaign and the Abortion Law Reform Association, followed last Wednesday's picket of the DHSS where over 30 pro-abortion organisations were represented.

At the rally in Central Hall which followed the march, a keynote speaker was an activist from Bletchley, Benyon's constituency. She told the meeting that when Benyon's Bill was published, a group of women decided to make it clear that the Bill did not reflect the opinion of all Benyon's constituents.

Since then, a thriving local

Bill, 'but Benyon himself, in the next election' has been launched, involving militants from the women's and labour movement.

Astrid Lever, a speaker from the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign, explained that LARC was launched to involve women in the Labour Party in the fight for the implementation of a 1975 Labour Party conference decision for free abortion on request on the NHS.

She hoped that the campaign would join in actions with all groups fighting for women's abortion rights, and pinpointed the 14

as the next important national action.

The week's activities on abortion in London ended with the demonstration and meeting called by the Socialist Workers Party. Six hundred marchers — who would have contributed to a bigger, stronger united action had they marched the previous day — listened to a platform composed exclusively of SWP supporters. The most worrying aspect of the meeting was the continuing failure of the SWP to call on its supporters to build the National Abortion Campaign, although it does sup-



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