

Socialist Worker



FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Ulster cops and Paisley thugs unite to stop civil rights march

STRIKE VOTE AT RENAULT

FRENCH CAR WORKERS at the nationalised Renault works voted to stage a 24-hour strike this week, a move that could spark off a new threat to de Gaulle's regime in the wake of the president's austerity measures to save the franc.

But timid union leaders, frightened of any confrontation with the government, over-ruled the decision and said the strike should last for only half a day on Thursday.

The call for a full day's stoppage was supported by 90 per cent of the Renault workers. The Renault factories were one of the key areas of opposition to the government in May and June's unfinished revolution, with workers occupying the plants and flying red flags.

Simmering

Their latest move could detonate the still simmering militancy and anger among workers and students.

The Renault workers say the management have not brought in agreed improvements in working conditions. They also claim that the Christmas bonus has been reduced this year and semi-skilled workers will receive almost 150 francs less than last year.

The firm's president made it clear that, like de Gaulle, he believes the workers must pay for the wild speculation in French francs. There could be no question of additional concessions, he said, because the May strikes had been expensive and the demands of international competition made it impossible to raise the price of Renault cars.

Collets on strike

Collet's bookshop staff in London are striking on Friday. Picket support is requested for all branches.

From SEAN REED, Armagh, Tuesday

UNITED ACTION between police and supporters of the clerical nazi Ian Paisley stopped a civil rights march in Northern Ireland on Saturday.

The march was part of the growing movement for voting and housing rights for the catholic minority in the Ulster police state.

5000 civil rights marchers were met by a solid wall of 1000 Paisleyites at the junction of Thompson Street and Market Street in the town centre.

Weapons

The Paisleyites openly carried weapons. I saw lead pipes, police batons, pickaxe handles and table legs with nails stuck through them.

They were supported by 300 riot police.

It was victory for the thugs. They stopped the march, brazenly defied the law and, aided by the police made a triumphant tour of the city.

The stage was set for the victory of reaction on Friday, when 150 police entered Armagh at 7.30 in the evening.

After a night spent patrolling the nationalist (anti-Paisley) areas of the city, they took up positions in Market Square and held it until 5 am on Saturday, when they changed places with the vanguard of the Paisleyites, who arrived in four buses.

With the key position in their hands, the thugs were able to cut off approach roads from Belfast to the city centre.

At 8 o'clock, the riot police returned from breakfast and placed a ring of steel around the town.

All vehicles except those of the Paisleyites were stopped and searched.

Entering the city from the north and giving my name as John Reed, I was allowed through three police road blocks.

Entering from the south and using the Irish form of my name, I was searched for

weapons. Police ransacked the boot of my car, the glove compartments and under the seats.

It was an open display of police-Paisleyite collusion. As one civil rights worker said to me: 'With police like this, do we need Paisleyites?'

Solidarity

ON MONDAY, the riot police moved back into Armagh to declare their solidarity with Paisleyites as they menaced a smaller demonstration by civil rights marchers.

100 civil rights supporters staged a sit-down in the council chamber and disrupted the monthly meeting. There were cries of 'Fascist' when the council leader praised the police for preserving law and order on Saturday.

Militants wanted to march on the city centre, but nationalist leaders urged the demonstrators to disperse. Police made no effort to prevent chanting Paisleyites from occupying the roads and threatening civil rights supporters.

On trial

AS WE GO to press, charges against 46 supporters of the Civil Rights campaign were being held in Derry. The accused include our correspondent Eamonn McCann and the charges arise from the march in Derry on October 5. Socialist Worker declares its solidarity with those on trial.

Oxford protest -back page

The Hong Kong hypocrites

THE MILLIONAIRE PRESS is waging an hysterical campaign for the release of Reuters' correspondent Anthony Grey who has been kept in solitary confinement in Peking for 16 months.

Of course Grey should be released. His treatment by the 'socialist' Mao regime is barbarous and a working journalist should not be held responsible for the crimes of the British government.

But what the right-wing press forgets to tell its readers is that the Peking



The London Squatters Campaign, protesting about London's homeless, occupied the roof of a half-empty block of luxury flats in Snaresbrook on Sunday. They plan to install a homeless family in an empty block as the next phase of the campaign.

Powell's homes plan means £2 a week on rents

By ALAN WOODWARD

ENOCH POWELL's basic anti-working class nature has been proved by his latest proposal to sell all council dwellings and let 'free enterprise' run future house building.

He says that all council property should be sold to owner-occupiers and property companies. But few people could afford the high cost of house-buying.

The waiting lists are so long that many are middle-aged before they get council accommodation and are not in a good position to get a mortgage for a house or flat.

SNAP UP

As the Greater London Council's experiment shows, few want to buy their homes. So if Powell's plan was put into operation, the property companies would snap up whole roads, blocks or even estates.

These are the property companies who already make massive profits out of the demand for housing, such as the speculators who buy land cheap and sell it dear for building purposes.

Powell justifies his idea of ending government subsidies on housing (miserably inadequate as they are) by saying that it would save the taxpayers £500 million a year.

But divided up between the five million council



POWELL: Divide workers

tenants, this means a yearly increase of £100 each, or an average of £2 a week on rents.

Many rents would go up even more. Powellism means higher rents—with a vengeance.

The biggest subsidy of all is the one paid to the moneylenders by council tenants and mortgage payers alike in interest payments on loans.

This amounts to more than half of a tenant's rent and more than half of an owner-occupier's repayment. We are paying double for our housing and all the talk about subsidies from government, ratepayers or taxpayers cannot hide this.

Interest charges burden tenants with £250 million and residents with £400 million a year. Under a socialist system of tenants' and residents' control this would be abolished and £650 million saved—but this conclusion escapes Powell.

He also wants future building to be turned over to private enterprise. This would result in housing prices rocketing up faster than ever before.

Businessmen invest capital where it brings the highest profits and quickest return. Normal commercial investment should, with care, bring a return of 15 per cent.

This means the initial investment is doubled in 10 years, at the most, allowing for tax. Applied to new buildings at £3000 each, the equivalent £6000 repayment over 10 years would be £600 a year, or a rent of £12 a week.

Such prices are clearly out of the question for most people, but to reduce the weekly rent even to £6 would make investment 'uneconomical'. A businessman cannot build houses just because people need them when he can get twice as much profit by investing elsewhere.

So Powell's policy would result in higher rents or less housing being built or worsening conditions—or most likely all three.

Powell has shown by his latest speech that racialism and bad housing are part of the same attempt to divide and demoralise workers. He is not the friend of white workers but the enemy of all workers, black and white.

'Santa' Karl Marx Xmas cards 1s each

10s a dozen (inc. envelopes)

Rosa Luxemburg 1919-1969 poster

black on red 5s
black on white 4s
prices inc. post

Socialist Worker, Paxton Works, Paxton Road, N17.

There's no such thing as a 'typical cop'...

by ALAN PLATER

DAVID EDGAR's television piece (SW November 23) deals with an episode of Softly Softly by another writer, one I admire, though I didn't see the piece in question, and from this basis he embarks on a general attack on the show, with the phrase 'patronising crap', sticking, if that's the best word, in the mind.

People are welcome to say this about my work, but I'm not obliged to agree, and I don't.

His main complaint is that the characters are 'honest, straight and lovable' so that when one of them, Inspector Watt, comes out with reactionary talk, the audiences lap it up as 'God's truth'.

Why David Edgar assumes that all the viewers, himself excepted, should indulge in this lapping is unclear but it seems dangerously near an arrogant assumption about respective intelligences.

The question is a simple one. Does the writer of a police series assume that his subject is lovable and animal-fond, or does he assume that he is a sadistic planter of pot and demonstrator hater?

Instant category

The answer is equally simple, in my case anyway: neither. Because, sad as it may be for lovers of the Instant Category, there is no such thing as a typical cop.

I know a policeman who loves his kids and mine too, I know another who is a socialist (which is unusual) and is forced to play his favourite game of whist at the Conservative Club (for practical reasons) but wears a red tie to do so.

Neither is typical, any more than David Edgar is a typical critic, student or socialist.

Let us examine the lovable theory a stage further, in terms of my own recent contributions to the series. If Mr. Edgar watched these with the same care that enabled him to spot two slighting references to students within five minutes, he may also have noticed a (lovable) copper beating up a suspect and getting a winking reprimand from his superiors for so doing.

He may have noticed

another (lovable) copper advocating painless destruction for men who molest children; he may have noticed a man using his position of wealth, family and position to get preferential treatment from top police officers. He may notice parallel examples in future episodes under my name.

If David Edgar is asking me, as a writer, to make coppers cosy all the time, I will refuse; but if he is asking me to make them all bastards, I will also refuse. The organisation that harboured Challenger also includes the men who dug out, assembled, identified and labelled the bodies at Aberfan.

In fact, it is this very ambiguity, the built in contradictions of the work, that stirs the interest of the writer—and John Hopkins wrote 50 odd stunning episodes for Z Cars and in the process became the best television dramatist in the business, simply because he, too, was fascinated by this ambiguity.

Writers do not make plays out of love for their subject, but out of a mixture of love and hatred: it is a process of defining conflicts, not blowing kisses to any one section of society.

In this connection, I cannot accept the premise that students have a monopoly of human virtue, not the converse that coppers have cornered the market in human vices. Common sense and observation alike suggest they are all fairly evenly spread, and if uniform provides an escape route for the physically violent, it can also be argued that the academic world provides an asylum for the socially irresponsible—though I am not thinking of radical activists; rather the middle-of-the-road bourgeoisie waiting for their pass degrees and superannuation.

I am sure Mr. Edgar will provide a lively and passionate column on television, and God knows, there is plenty for him to go at. But I assure him that the last thing I shall ever be is a PRO for anybody.

I stand by every syllable I've ever written: call me a liar by all means, but don't expect me to agree.

Television writer Alan Plater is also part-author of Close the Coalhouse Door, the record-breaking play about north-east miners.

France and the crisis: will de Gaulle spark new revolt

by workers and students?

by IAN BIRCHALL



CHARLES DE GAULLE's decision not to devalue the franc has been compared to a brilliant poker bid.

But while gambling man Charles plays the international financial game, the French working class are like the wife and kids sitting at home wondering if there'll be enough left to pay the gas bill.

To understand the logic of de Gaulle's strategy we must go back to last spring's general strike.

Keep the workers split

Faced by the united action of 10 million workers occupying the factories, de Gaulle, like any other ruler, was powerless.

It was only by playing on the divisions in the working class that he was able to survive the crisis.

Since then, de Gaulle's strategy has always been to keep the workers split. Above all, he had to avoid any head-on collision with the entire working-class movement.

If he had devalued the franc last summer, or attempted to impose a total wage freeze, he would probably have had a second general strike on his hands.

Instead he gambled on expansion, setting a very high target for industrial growth. It half came off.

The much heralded 'Red October' fizzled out into nothing more than a few student demonstrations. But the international financial crisis, plus the speculators in France, brought fresh

trouble. (Contrary to what is often implied, most speculators are Gaullists, not communist wreckers.)

The new measures do represent a vicious attack on working-class living standards. The cut-back in subsidies to the nationalised industries is going to mean higher prices for gas and electricity and higher railway fares. Every worker's pocket will be hit.

The general effect of the measures will be an increase in unemployment, but not a big one. Estimates are about 200,000 more out of work.

But this comes at a time when unemployment is growing and when many bosses are trying to weed out the militants and 'trouble-makers' who took a lead in the strike last spring.

All over France struggles are going on in different factories against victimisation. Where immigrant workers are involved, militants are often not just sacked but deported—sometimes to the welcoming arms of the Spanish or Portuguese police.

Total wage freeze out

Growing unemployment will make this struggle all the tougher.

And remember that French workers are already badly off compared, say, to the Germans. Despite their four weeks holiday a year, French workers work 12 per cent more hours—about five hours a week—a year more than workers in other Common Market countries.

All the same, de Gaulle's government has not dared impose a total wage freeze. That would have meant taking on all the workers together.

The process of attacking wages and conditions will continue in the form of local skirmishes. Already, the French Employers' Federation has demanded limitations to trade-union rights and a preservation of 'authority' in the factories.

But the present crisis is going to mean a lot of trouble for the Gaullists. Most explanations of Gaullism fail to recognise its peculiar quality.

Essentially, Gaullism represents an attempt to create a corporate state—that is, capitalism with state planning and the trade unions sucked into the planning machine. As such, it is a more advanced form of the kind of society the British Labour government aims at.

Around the hard core of corporatism, however, there are a lot of frills. In particular, de Gaulle's peculiar patriotism—his eccentric foreign policy with regard to America, the Common Market, etc.

Now that America has helped to bail out de Gaulle, some of these frills may have to go and de Gaulle will have to be more friendly to the US and US policies. This could lead to a

complete regrouping of political forces in France. The Gaullists are already split, between the hard-core right wingers and the reformers who genuinely believe in the myth of 'participation' for workers in industry that was widely discussed last spring as a sop to the strikers.

So the government lurches between two extremes. De Gaulle, who last June released the fascist General Dalan, now bans the fascist terror group Occident (though whether his police will enforce the ban is another matter.)

Collapse of Federation

Already some of the 'Left Gaullists' have criticised de Gaulle's failure to be tough enough with the currency speculators.

Meanwhile the non-communist Federation of the Left has collapsed. A whole bunch of politicians are discussing forming a new opposition party.

But their only real opposition is to the frills of de Gaulle's policy—like keeping Britain out of the Common Market, a tactic which he may now have to drop. On fundamentals, they agree.

This leaves the Communist Party out in the cold. Well-informed rumours suggest that there is a pro-Russian group who would like to split the party. And although the party still has at least the passive support of many workers, it is quite unable to lead a fight against the new measures.

Before May, the main tactic of the CP and its trade union, the CGT, was the ritual procedure of one-day general strikes. This looked very militant, but was in fact just another public holiday.

Since May the one-day strike has been shown up as useless, and the CP has no way of putting up a fight.

So the CP opposition will be largely verbal. Georges Seguy, the CGT leader, has said that 'The CGT recommends all militants to claim a wage increase in proportion to the rise in the cost of living since June.'

Such advice amounts to telling the workers to look

May—student workers bro France to a New clashes when de Ga start to take effect.

after themselves can do nothing. The other m the CFDT, wh utation of be resive, has commission o unmask specu words, verbal no lead in str

Nothing replace

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worker's d

Lord on the carpet

WHILE 2,500 workers in Cyril Lord's factories in Northern Ireland wait to see what luxury they can afford this Christmas, the Carpet King himself has little to say on the matter.

Lord, whose carpets have made him several millions of pounds, is not usually stuck for words. His first millions were made in Lancashire, where he started his enterprises. 'My heart is in Lancashire', he used to say.

That was before he moved to South Africa with two factories turning out his tufted carpet. He was not saying where his heart was then, but wages were cheap even if his machinery was outdated by any standards.

Tufted carpet was Lord's own development, and success and profits came while he was the only one making it. But then everybody caught on—and other manufacturers began to market it.

At this point things began to go wrong. The Consumer Council found they were receiving more complaints about Cyril Lord carpet than any other make. The competition was serious.

Then came the move to Northern Ireland. Government grants are higher there than in Lancashire, and helped to make up for the problems with the product. Lord's heart moved to where his pocket was. Then, while business still

seemed to be thriving, Lord ('I was a worker myself once and always have been') sold 30 per cent of his shares and went to the Bahamas.

Since the collapse of the firm, Lord has been reported in North Carolina having treatment—for heart trouble. That Movable Heart must have caught up with him.

Harry's tall storeys

REASSURANCE for those tenants who have had to leave their high-rise flats built on the Ronan Point method. Not all tall buildings are in such danger of falling down.

Centrepoint, the 34-storey building in London's Tottenham Court Road, is built with a bonded steel framework—but then it is an office block, and they are built to last.

The developer, Harry Hyams, has no intention of letting off any part of it just yet—it's all the building or nothing. For if he allows part to be occupied, he would have to pay full rates on the block.

He is too careful a man for that. Come housing shortage or high-rise block, he has made a reputed £27m. personal fortune from property.

Proliferation than thou

TRADE UNION membership in Britain is going down—official. Membership of Clive Jenkins' Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs is going up.



Clive Jenkins Managerial Re

Jenkins is one forget it. It seems to his head. T week carried ertisement air ing the manag 'We are ain ment in the year bracket' 'These are t ariat.' There wil for the first pe a photograph Jenkins' ne militants on a

* Socialist Worker

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SOCIALIST WORKER is the paper of International Socialism, a movement of revolutionary socialists who believe that the present form of society, with its blatant inequalities, its periodic crises, wars and racist hysteria must be replaced by one based on a planned economy under full workers' control; those who produce the wealth should own and control the means of production. International Socialism is opposed to any incomes policy that seeks to restrict the wages of the workers in order to boost the profits of the employers. We unconditionally support all shop stewards and rank and file trade union members in their struggles for better wages and conditions and oppose all reactionary laws that threaten the liberties of the labour movement. We support all strikes in defence of workers' interests with the de-



mand of no victimisation of trade unionists. Redundancy should be opposed with the demand: five days work or five days pay. Shop stewards' organisations should strengthen and extend their in-

fluence by linking up on an industrial and ultimately a national basis.

We are opposed to racial discrimination, a weapon used by the ruling class to divide the labour movement. Immigration control must be ended, ensuring the free movement of peoples regardless of race and colour. Black and white workers must unite and form their own defence organisations to fight fascism and racialism. The labour movement must demand the immediate recall of British troops from abroad as the first step towards ending colonial exploitation.

The task of revolutionary socialists is to join workers in their struggles with socialist ideas that will link up the various sections of the labour movement and help create a force that will lead on to workers' power and international socialism.

Labour policies hit hard on Humberside

DAVE LANGSTON and ALAN ROONEY

BIG BUSINESS is merging, streamlining, shaping up for more and fiercer competition in world markets.

Everywhere governments are being instructed to deliver workers to business at a given price, a given quality and at given times. The package of requirements is called 'incomes policy'.

But everywhere workers are refusing to be packaged. Sit-ins, strikes, working to rule—the picture of resistance is the same in Britain, in France, in America or in Japan.

And so, everywhere, governments are bringing out the big stick of unemployment to break the resistance.

Unemployment isn't just happening. It is being used for a purpose: to drive the wedge of government control over wages and control over workers' organisations deep into our lives.

PISTON

Wage freeze and unemployment are government economic policy. They are two strokes of the same piston.

In Hull and Humberside region this is abundantly clear. It is already a very backward region, with some of the worst wage rates in the country.

The consequences of low wages can be seen in every aspect of its life.

The annual report of Hull's Town Planning Officer published at the end



Supporters of the WEDGE movement campaigning recently in Hull for a £16 minimum wage for lorry drivers.

of October presents a grim state of affairs. 38 per cent of houses in Hull 'lack exclusive use of one of the four basic amenities'.

21 per cent of houses in Hull lack hot water, compared with 12 per cent nationally.

33 per cent lack an inside toilet, compared with 17 per cent nationally.

According to a recent survey, 18,000 houses (12.5 per cent) in the area are 'unfit dwellings'.

This is the situation in an area where unemployment is well above national and regional levels. Unemployment has doubled in the last two years. October '66—2000 plus; October '68—5000 plus. Many of those without work are building workers. Fishermen also suffer seasonal setbacks and there are moves to cut down on British Rail docks staff.

It is not surprising to learn that there is a steady emigration from the area. 4649 people left the city of Hull in the last year, the worst figure in a decade according to the Planning Officer.

YOUTH

Many of these are young people who leave to seek work elsewhere. Around 30 out of every 100 youths in Hull are able to secure apprenticeships whereas the national figure is 40 in a 100.

Despite the high unemployment, much has been done to fight for higher wages and improved working conditions—but still more needs to be done.

The WEDGE movement, which includes Corporation busmen as well as lorry drivers is a hopeful development, and East Yorkshire busmen may soon be allied with the movement. (The WEDGE Committee's address is 43 Great Union St., Hull.)

Further militancy must also grow from improvement in shop-floor organisation.

This is essential as the trade unions locally are passive where they are not corrupt.

Organised solidarity between all workers is needed especially as unemployment is being used to keep the general wage level depressed.

Under the pretext of tightening up on 'scroungers', the Ministry of Employment is acting as a supplier of cheap labour.

Ministry officials have been travelling the country, 'interviewing' men and telling them to take what work is offered or their money will be stopped. In another northern city, 150 men were cut off without a penny in one month.

REGULAR

Men are directed to work for ridiculously low wages. A man with children to support is expected to work for £10.5—or £11 a week with no overtime. This is a regular occurrence.

Unemployment helps operate the wage freeze, and where wages are so low that they are not worth working for, a little pressure from the Ministry fills the jobs.

The key problem in the area is wages, and that whether we like it or not, is a practical problem, for behind the low wage rates stand the twin prongs of government economic policy—wage freeze and induced unemployment.

Nobody is going to solve these problems for us, we've got to do it ourselves. We must strengthen shop-floor organisations in the area, and link the organisations together for a common effort.

We CAN break the freeze and raise wage rates in the whole area.

We CAN defend both employed and unemployed workers against bullying and direction at the Labour Exchange.

For further information contact:- Paul Gerhardt, 52 Freehold St., Hull.

Pensioner Margaret battles on against a slum landlord

by JENNY SOUTHGATE



LAST WEEK I talked with a fine militant.

Some readers will already know of Margaret Ryan, because she was featured on BBC 1's Cause for Concern.

Has all this publicity helped her? It would seem not, for Margaret, a 65 year old pensioner, still lives in one grotty furnished room in Liverpool Road, Islington.

Her furniture consists of a bed and a mattress with holes, one chair and table, a sink that leaks. There is a wall cupboard for food, but Margaret keeps her food on the mantelpiece since neighbours found insects in their margarine.

Condemned

The greasy, stained wallpaper becomes damp when it rains and the lino is rotten. The landlord removed her fireplace, and the gas was cut off when he emptied the pre-paid meter.

Gas has since been restored to the house, but not to Margaret because the Gas Board condemned the cooker. I'm not surprised, for I've seen better on scrap heaps.

What is it like to have a Rachman-type landlord? Margaret Ryan can tell you very clearly.

'I was homeless and moved in here at the end of 1964. The rent was £3.5s and Mrs. de Lusignan, the landlady, gave me no rent book.

'The rent was gradually reduced by the Rent Tribunal to 12s 6d because I had no gas or electricity or fire, although last week electricity was restored after months of candlelight existence.

'There are rats and all last winter we had no back door or lock on the front door and people came and went at all hours. The one toilet seat was ripped off and there were no lights on any of the passages or stairs.'

'Worst of all though, is the constant harassment and worry.'

Mr. and Mrs. de Lusignan have separated and are disputing the ownership of their several properties. Various receivers have been appointed to manage the properties and receive the rents, but this has done little to improve the living conditions for any of the tenants.

Mr. Jones of Jones & Morgan 270 Haydons Road, Wimbledon SW19, is the present Receiver. His only response to the 'Cause for Concern' programme was to issue Margaret with notice to quit, and he has written to her solicitor saying she is nothing but a troublemaker and that she must go. Margaret has indeed encouraged many tenants to go to the Rent Tribunal to get rent reductions.

What part are the council playing in all this? Margaret showed me a letter from the LCC Director of Housing acknowledging the receipt of the medical certificate that she had sent to be considered together with her application for housing.

The letter was dated 5 June 1956—12 years ago.

After complaining to the Public Health Department about the conditions, an inspector visited and made

reports, but nothing was done until last week when a man came to put insecticide on the floors.

Margaret is a militant member of Islington Tenants' Association. In 1966 it organised protests and letters asking Islington Council to take over control of the de Lusignan properties.

This could be done by using powers granted under the 1964 Housing Act whereby the council could issue control of management orders. Yet the council have refused to act and thus condemn Margaret Ryan and hundreds like her to live in disgraceful and degrading conditions.

Dwindling

London and many other cities have extremely acute housing problems. A capitalist society does not cater for needs, only for profit.

In this system councils do not build nearly enough houses, and the stock of rented accommodation is dwindling fast because it is more profitable to sell these houses to property developers or to owner occupiers.

This situation encourages exploitation. Pensioners, single people, immigrants, families with young children, in fact anyone who can't afford to buy a house or who does not qualify for council housing, find themselves in the desperate situation

This is one of the richest countries in the world, yet only a socialist revolution will ensure that all people have a decent home to live in.

Margaret Ryan is an inspiring example of the determination of ordinary working people to defeat their oppressors.

Join the International Socialists

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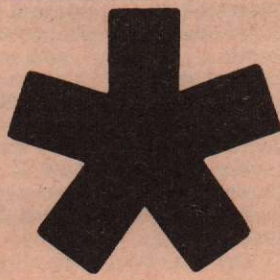
WATFORD Paul Russell
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Dave Spilsbury 274 Penn Road

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Please send further details of the meetings and activities of the international socialists to



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A funny thing happened...

IT'S A HARD LIFE being a revolutionary. One branch of the International Socialists recently decided that they were bored with working in the student arena.

It was time, they declared, to turn to the workers. A bus ride away was an industrial town where part of the proletariat, lorry drivers, were up in arms about the 'spy in the cab' meter.

The drivers, members of the TGWU, were holding a meeting in a pub. Armed with leaflets, the IS comrades set out for the town, found the alleged pub and meeting and asked timorously if they could come in.

'No' came the answer. Undaunted, a note was pushed under the door with the message: 'We are the International Socialists and we declare our solidarity with your struggle.'

There was no response. Finally the meeting broke up and the IS members asked the first person to emerge: 'Isn't this the TGWU lorry drivers' meeting?'

'You must be daft,' he said. 'This is the Variety Artists' Federation.'

Bottoms up

WORKER's guide to redundancy payments: it all depends who you are.

Six directors of International Distillers and Vintners, made redundant when Watney, Mann took them over, share out £264,000 between them.

convert to the revolution?

likely to let no

to have gone to the Times last full-page advertisement at recruitment of industry at management £3000-£5000 a said Jenkins. the new prolet-

be a prize person to send in of any group of managerial picket line.

LSE STUDENTS PLAN NEW PROTEST

STUDENTS at the London School of Economics are preparing this week for a new challenge to the college authorities.

Protests are planned at the annual 'Oration Day' ceremony on Tuesday, when the speaker will be Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper, a supporter of the military junta in Greece.

Already this term, LSE has been occupied in support of the demonstration against the Vietnam war. And last week the candidates of the

From MARTIN SHAW, LSE, Wednesday

Socialist Society (RSSF) polled highly in the Union elections.

Martin Tomkinson, who is also secretary of the International Socialists' Highbury branch, was defeated by only 39 votes in the poll for president.

At the Oration ceremony students will interrupt the usual deadness of this official occasion by asking

questions of Trevor-Roper about his attitude to Greece. They will also demand replies from LSE's own governors to questions about the running of LSE.

SUGGESTED

Staff are saying that if this happens the director will close the school. This has also been suggested in

the national press.

It seems that the authorities may be seeking a pretext for reprisals against militants. Victimization would accompany a lock-out.

Workers will be familiar with the pattern: when organisation in one section reaches too high a level, attempts are made to smash it. This has happened at ENV and on the Barbican in recent years, and

LSE's socialists are aware of the need for solidarity.

If LSE is closed, either this time or in the future, the justification given will be 'academic freedom'. But it will be the authorities who will deny freedom of speech.

We shall allow Trevor-Roper his say: but will they give us ours?

Wolverhampton students get ready for Powell: see column 5 this page.

ICI STRIKE IS SNUB FOR CASTLE

Socialist Worker Reporter

TEESSIDE:- the ICI national shop stewards committee has backed a call from the workers at ICI Wilton for a national strike to win a negotiated 6.8 per cent increase, referred to the Prices and Incomes Board by Barbara Castle last week.

The strike has been called for 10 pm January 7 to 6.00 am January 9—a full strike for all shifts.

The meeting, at Eston Labour Club on Saturday morning, was attended by delegations from ICI plants at Huddersfield, Doncaster, Trafford Park, Blakeley and Hyde plants in Manchester, Hillhouse at Blackpool, Billingham and Wilton.

Messages pledging support came from Ardeer, Grange-mouth and Dumfries (all in Scotland), Kilroot (N.Ireland), Welwyn and Gloucester.

The 6.8 per cent rise—30s a week for craftsmen and 22s for general workers—was won after a campaign by the 'unofficial' national shop stewards committee for a 10 per cent increase with no strings. ICI, with its pre-tax profits for the first nine months of this year at £115 million, a 57 per cent increase on last year's figures for the same period, can well afford it.

Profits up

The first nine months' profits are already 10 per cent up on last year's figures for the full 12 months. The estimated profits for the year are £145 million—about £20 per week per worker and dividends are expected to exceed the 12½ per cent payout the shareholders are accustomed to.

But the strike is as much against government interference in wage bargaining and the Prices and Incomes Act.

The one-day strike will be equivalent to a fortnight's stoppage in its effect on production. The whole plant will have to be run down and restarted again.

It will also seriously affect exports—up 27 per cent this year so far—the government will have to take notice.

But the one-day strike is not seen as the end of the struggle.

'The battle has only just started' ran the stewards' committee's press statement. 'If the money is not forthcoming, there will be no productivity talks, for a start.'

'And if there is no decision from the PIB by January 7, a further stoppage will be called on February 5,' I was told.

One member of the national stewards committee told me after the meeting: 'We aim to use the next six weeks to build up the organisation and ensure 100 per cent support throughout the country. We will send speakers all over the country to speak at ICI plants.'

ICI workers can deal a hefty blow at the government's anti-working class incomes policy, as well as win their justified demands. The strike call is a great advance for the militant workers at ICI and their leaders in the joint shop stewards committees.

Ivy Bridge cash

£35 for the locked-out workers at the Ivy Bridge building site in Middlesex was collected at the re-call conference of the International Socialists in London on Saturday.

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'Slaves' charter' for sites men

From TED RICHARDS (ASPD)

WHAT'S in a penny? A lot, it seems for the Labour government and their pet performers on the Prices and Incomes Board, (chairman £300 a week, ex Tory MP, Mr Aubrey Jones.)

The board has at last published its report on the pay claim for Building and Civil Engineering workers submitted to them in May.

March supports Ulster rights

OXFORD:-300 workers and students marched on Saturday in solidarity with the struggle for civil rights in Northern Ireland.

The march was organised by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Oxford Campaign (NICROC) and was supported by a wide variety of political organisations. 'One man, one vote' was the main slogan, but some sections also took up the shout: 'Tories out, North and South'.

TGWU caves in

THE Transport and General Workers' Union put the finishing touches on Monday to the engineering industry's wage sell-out by belatedly joining the other unions in accepting the employers' pay and productivity offer.

MEETINGS

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS Manchester and Stockport branches. Public meeting. Thursday, December 12, 8 pm. Roger Rosewell (ASTMS) on Productivity, Prices and Pay, Black Lion, Blackfriars Street (continuation of Market St beyond Deansgate)

SOLIDARITY meeting: The federalist politics of Students for a Democratic Society (USA). Speaker Jim Kaplan (SDS). Friday Dec 6, 8pm at The Swan, Cosmo Place, London WC1 (between Southampton Row and Queen's Sq.)

Advertisements for this section are 6d a line pre-paid. Deadline Tuesday.

Barbara Castle decided four weeks ago that the interim pay award to builders of 3d for labourers and 3½d for craftsmen was 1d an hour too much.

The PIB, not surprisingly, has decided exactly the same. He who pays the piper calls the tune!

Apart from calling for a wage cut of 1d an hour, the Board makes several other suggestions.

First, cut overtime, which boosts earnings too much.

Secondly, get the men to work harder and cut down on breaks. Next time you stop for a rest, the PIB and the bosses will want to know the reason why.

Thirdly, introduce nationally negotiated bonus schemes. Bonus earnings are too high where they are negotiated by the shop stewards, who represent the men.

Fourthly, introduce 'job evaluation' into the industry. This means getting more work out of a worker, and more profit for the boss.

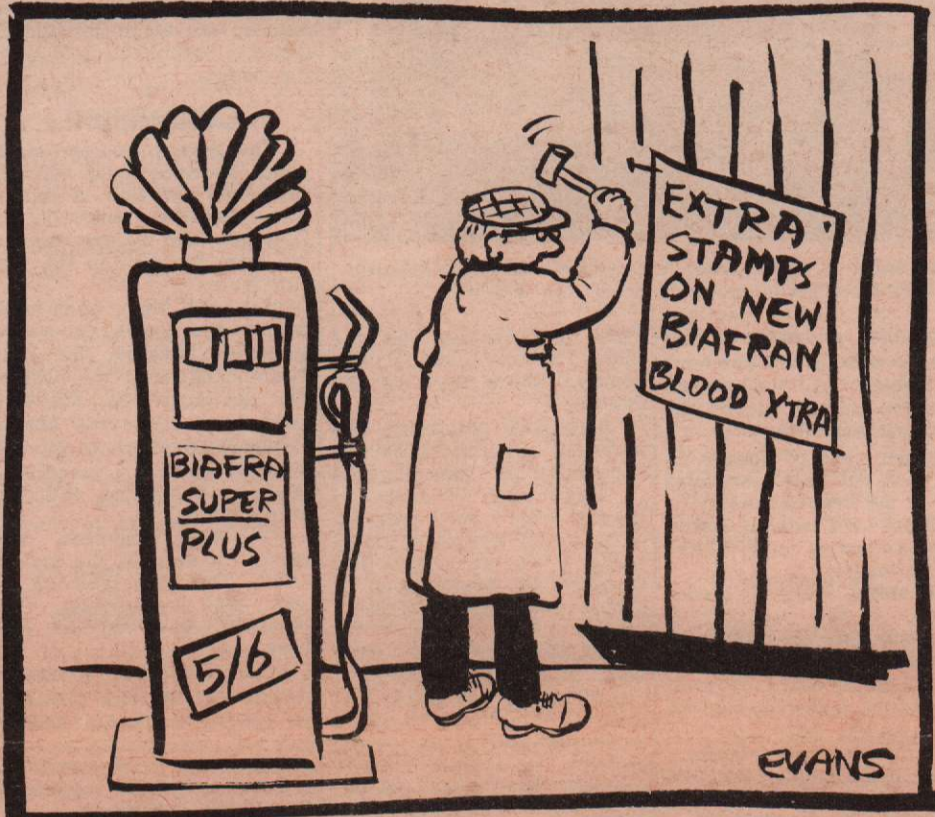
DEMANDED

Add to this the suggestion for a grading scheme to be worked out by the National Joint Council and the whole adds up to exactly the 'slaves' charter that the employers have been demanding.

The unions have not been forgotten. The Board proposes that employers should 'check off' union dues from the men's wages, thus 'helping the unions' and delivering the rank and file, bound and gagged, to the bosses.

This vicious package must be opposed tooth and nail by building workers.

Organised building workers must oppose the PIB report and all it implies and step up the fight for £15 for labourers and £17 11s 8d for craftsmen—with no strings.



Renee Short jumps on anti-black bandwaggon

MRS RENEE SHORT, so-called 'Left' Labour MP, jumped on to the keep-the-blacks-out bandwaggon this week by demanding that no further work vouchers be issued to immigrants wishing to go to Wolverhampton.

But only a week ago Mrs Short was demanding that Enoch Powell, her neighbouring Tory MP in Wolverhampton, should be prosecuted for his racist speeches. It may have occurred to her that principles do not necessarily win votes.

Speaking in the Commons debate on Monday about government aid for 'problem areas', Mrs Short said Wolverhampton needed relief from the number of people coming to the area. She demanded a total ban on work vouchers for immigrants wishing to work there.

'It is quite wrong that migrants should come to this country and look for jobs for which they think they have qualifications when it is found that their education, good at home, is not really acceptable here,' she added. The implication is clear: blacks may be intelligent in their own countries, but they are no match for the brainy whites of Wolverhampton.

Continuing in the same warm-hearted vein, Mrs Short also called for a clamp-down on the number of wives and children allowed into the country.

It is an interesting sign of the decay and political rottenness of the Labour Left that they now lard their speeches with racist abuse that their old arch-enemy Hugh Gaitskell would have found nauseating.

'Nuremburg Rally' greeting for Powell

From DAVE SPILSBURY

WOLVERHAMPTON:- This Friday (December 6) Enoch Powell is speaking to students at Wolverhampton Polytechnic in his constituency. An anti-Powell front was formed last week to coordinate opposition.

It decided on Monday for militant opposition to focus on turning the meeting into a 'Nuremburg Rally' to draw the connections between Powellism and Nazism. An alternative meeting may be held after a walkout. 'He must not speak' is the main slogan of the militants.

Ghetto school opens

NEXT MONDAY Powell will again face opposition in his own constituency. The Grove Primary School, a custom-built ghetto school erected in three months with 90 per cent immigrants on the roll, is being officially opened and Powell will attend as Member of Parliament.

The distortion in the composition of the school's population is directly connected with the policies advocated by Powell. The local education committee is playing midwife to apartheid schooling in Britain.

Immigrant organisations, the Council for Community Relations, the International Socialists and other political groups plan to protest at Powell's presence.

Shipyard sparks reject productivity deal

From ROSS HILL

MERSEYSIDE:-Following the example of the nearby Shell-star site, 400 electricians at Cammell-Laird's shipyard at Birkenhead have unanimously thrown out a proposed package deal.

It would have meant 'productivity, flexibility and interchangeability'—i.e. mass sackings—in return for £2 to £3 more a week. Boilermakers at the yard also rejected the deal.

The deal would ban all go-

slows and strikes.

'The management just want a nice, passive, flexible labour force,' said an apprentice. 'They know they'd soon make up for the wage increase.'

Cammell-Laird's is an old fashioned firm—the foremen still wear bowler hats, and forelock-touching is encouraged—but it hasn't taken the management long to find out about Barbara Castle's new way of trying to kid the workers.

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