

Socialist Worker

OCTOBER
27

Members and supporters of the International Socialists assemble 12.30 on south side of Waterloo Bridge between County Hall and Festival Hall, opposite Shell building.

If you are arrested or see a comrade arrested, phone either of the following numbers:

800 1391 or 340 6331

for workers control and international socialism

ENGINEERS: THE FIGHT GOES ON

by STEPHEN MARKS

THE ENGINEERS' STRIKE has been called off. At the last moment, the union leaders, like the grand old Duke of York, have marched their members down the hill.

After two weeks, if the employers have still not accepted the terms of the union negotiators, it may be on again.

It is the duty of every militant to hold them to this and to prepare the ground in the next 10 days for a renewed struggle. But by letting such a head of steam escape, the AEF leaders have made this threat seem very empty.

Scanlon and company should have conducted a massive campaign to explain the issues involved to rank and file members to counter the hysteria of the press and employers.

A campaign was needed, and still is, to explain the reasons why engineers must mobilise in defence of their wages and conditions against government attacks on the pay packet through higher prices, taxes and wage freeze and against the threats of employers and Barbara Castle on conditions in the name of so-called 'productivity'.

Task much harder

But the concessions made on both these issues have so reduced the difference between unions and employers that the task of preparing for a militant strike is very much harder. Scanlon has dropped his earlier insistence that the bosses must concede straight pay increase before the word productivity is even discussed.

Militants must demand that Scanlon come clean on just what has been given away. Press reports suggest that the union negotiators have agreed to accept shift work, time-and-motion study, flexibility and the abolition of 'restrictive practices'.

Even though British-Leyland boss Donald Stokes' pet plan to totally abolish piece-work bargaining and replace it by Measured Day Work has been shelved for the time being, this could still give the employers most of what they want. If 'productivity' plans go through future wage increases will only be given for corresponding increases in production achieved by faster working and more sackings.

Scanlon has already agreed with the employers that this must be the last nationally negotiated increase. Future bargaining will be at plant level. This means that the gap between high wage and low wage areas will widen and in the long run this threatens all workers, both high paid and low.

It means, too, with the effect of such schemes and MDW and the fact that bargains will be made by local union officials that the power of shop stewards to fight for wages and conditions will go for good.

The only issue the two sides could not agree on was women's rights to equal pay.

Significantly, it is the only area where union leaders have had their hands forced from below. The Ford women strikers at Dagenham have shown the way to stop compromises.

The terms of the negotiations must be made known before any decision is made on future progress of the strike. Any compromise on conditions must be voted on at plant level at mass meetings.

Strike or no strike, the struggle will continue at factory level, but to succeed it must be a broader and more political struggle than before, because the issues involved go beyond the size of the pay packet. What Scanlon has won hardly covers the rise in the cost of living, and inflation will eat it all away before the last of the yearly instalments has been paid.

What is at stake now is the whole set of conditions won by workers in hard shop-floor struggles over the past 25 years. What is threatened is the destruction of all workers' power over shop-floor conditions.

To meet this challenge militant rank-and-file pressure is needed. A new political movement is needed based on the points where the attack is now coming—on the shop floor.

Militants must link up on a combine and industry basis and explain to the rank and file just what is involved, industrially and politically, in the attack by bosses and government.

The campaign should begin now with the demand: **MASS FACTORY MEETINGS! A STRAIGHT £2 INCREASE! NO STRINGS! NO PRODUCTIVITY DEALS!**

MASSIVE PROFITS: see page 4

MEXICO: MAGNIFICENT DEFIANCE

THE DEFIANT demonstrations by black American athletes at the Olympic Games have cut through the chauvinism and humbug in Mexico City.

The organisers of the games, the same men who repeatedly demand that politics should be kept out of sport, have marred a magnificent sporting occasion with their crude jingoism, their desperate bids to win more golds in order to boost the morale of whichever regime employs them.

The Olympics were started as competitions between individual sports-

men. Taking part, it was stressed, was more important than winning. National pride had no part in the games.

SUPREMACY

That attitude has been all but destroyed by the power-crazy imperialist blocs and their hangers-on. Even in sport, east and west must struggle for supremacy.

All but destroyed...The brave gestures by the black Americans have undermined the authority of the cold-warriors of sport.

In particular they have pointed an angry finger at the disgusting hypocrisy of the American capitalist system, which in Mexico fetes its black athletes as champions but back at home treats them as 'niggers', second-class citizens.

The games and their nauseating 'league table' of gold medals will soon be forgotten but the clenched fists and black clothing will remain as a stirring reminder that even on the running track the rotteness of capitalism is being challenged.



WHOSE VIOLENCE?

IN A FRENZIED attempt to disrupt this weekend's huge mobilisation against the Vietnam war, the wildcat press and the WBBC (Wedgwood Benn Broadcasting Corporation) are running sensational stories about the 'violence' and 'armed insurrection' planned for October 27.

This is the oldest trick in the capitalist book—smear your opponents by wild scare stories. If the headlines are big enough, some potential supporters of the demonstration will be deterred from taking part.

FLING

There is no point in answering the lies and nonsense. Instead we should fling them back into the faces of the hired whores of the ruling class by saying YES there is planned violence and YES there are armed hooligans.

The violence comes from the United States army in Vietnam, bombing and blasting its way to destruction.

The armed hooligans are the American ruling class and their supporters, the anti-socialist, anti-working-class Labour government.

The hideously disfigured Vietnamese boy in the picture was not maimed by

members of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. He was set alight by burning petroleum jelly — Napalm dropped by US forces.

On Sunday we are marching AGAINST violence—the deliberate planned violence of a vicious imperialist system determined to crush the resistance of the Vietnamese people.

We are not planning—despite the lurid stories in the press—the revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist system on October 27. That can only happen when millions, not thousands, are united behind the banner of socialism.

These millions must come from the working class. That is why it is vitally important for Sunday's demonstration to make a direct appeal to workers by linking Labour's support for the Vietnam war with its home policies.

The Labour government that acquiesces in the horror of Vietnam is the same government that is pushing up rates, rents, prices and profits. It is the same government that refuses busmen and engineers a decent wage.

It is still not too late to join the march. Come to London this Sunday. The demonstration starts at Charing Cross embankment at 2.30.

Join with us in the biggest, most militant demonstration seen in post-war Britain. March with us for the victory of the National Liberation Front in Vietnam—not for a compromise 'peace' but for the total rout of the American ruling class that will spur the people of all beleaguered nations to cast off the shackles of imperialism—East and West.

Ali slams Guardian lie

THE GUARDIAN on Tuesday October 22 quoted Tariq Ali as saying at the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign's press conference the previous day: 'Only the International Socialists planned to use stewards (on October 27's march) and if they need stewards to discipline their members that is their own affair.'

Tariq Ali told Socialist Worker that he made no such statement and is angry at the implied slur on IS. He

stressed at the press conference that the appointment of stewards was up to the individual participating organisations.

Last month The Guardian quoted Roger Protz, editor of Socialist Worker, as saying 'If anything nasty happens IS will disperse.' This was also a misquote but a letter of correction has not been published. The reporter in both cases was Mr. John Ezard.

LETTERS

The 'intellectual dishonesty' of International Socialism...

HAVING SYMPATHISED with International Socialism for some years, I have recently resigned my membership because of the sheer lack of intellectual honesty that now stamps IS.

Just look at Socialist Worker of October 12 which describes the downtrodden Catholics of Northern Ireland as a 'class'—so that their struggles against the Unionists can be eulogised as a 'class struggle' with all sorts of revolutionary implications.

Or take the ambiguous attitude in the group towards Black Power—with some people suggesting it should be supported because it is militant and militancy is what we need (irrespective of the goals and objectives and perspective, if any, of that militancy).

What happened to the marxist definition of 'class' and the socialist programme of uniting all workers in a common fight against capitalism? Lost in sentimental romanticism that Marx must be tumbling in his grave over.

But the real gems are in your editorial on the proposed engineering strike. IS has rightly drawn attention to the proclivities of Labour Party politicians and trade union leaders to flout internal democracy in the labour movement. Decisions must not be taken over the heads of the rank and file.

Wonderful—but just read what SW says about the decision of the ETU and NUGMW to ballot their members to find out their views before supporting the AEF:

'Such ballots have nothing to do with democracy. They allow time for passions to cool, issues to be blunted and for great pressure to be brought on workers by the mass media of the ruling class.'

In other words, comrades, the workers are so much fodder for the capitalist system who can't even be trusted to take an important decision affecting their livelihoods themselves, lest they vote the wrong way. And as for the idea of a reasoned approach to political questions—that's out.

The 'passions' might get cooled once reason takes over. I suppose you know that appeal to the passions and contempt for reason and democracy are of the very guts of fascism?

The AEF decision to strike was taken by a bare one-vote majority on the union's national committee—31 votes to 30—and Scanlon has consistently opposed referring the whole matter to his rank and file members. Over 300 local branches of the AEF have called for a ballot of members before strike action—yet Scanlon refuses to listen.

The attitude of IS in backing Scanlon's blatant disregard for internal democracy within the AEF

is both dishonest and utterly contemptible. If the Tories ever need any proof of the Left's moral and political selectivity, then IS has given it to them.—PHILIP HINCHLIFF, London N8.

The Editor replies...

The editorial committee was very sorry to receive comrade Hinchliff's resignation although we do not understand how he could be both a 'sympathiser' and a member of IS. Nevertheless, we think his differences are based largely on misunderstandings and we appeal to him to stay inside the organisation and discuss those differences at branch and national level.

Eamonn McCann's report from Derry in the October 12 issue did not describe Catholics in Northern Ireland as a class. In his report he stressed that the vital fact in the Derry uprising was that a section of the working class was beginning to recognise itself as such instead of as a religious minority.

We also deny any ambiguity on the question of Black Power. Socialist Worker has argued that where Black Power is an expression of militancy and a determination for black people to lead a revolutionary struggle against their oppressors, then they must be given wholehearted support by marxists.

This is particularly true of the United States, where black workers at present are far more militant than white workers. But we oppose 'Black Power' when it directs its supporters into the blind alley of hatred for all white people, regardless of class.

Our standpoint on the engineers' strike was based not on whether every democratic nuance had been observed by the leaders of the AEF, but that an all-out strike would seriously weaken capitalism and raise the political consciousness of millions of workers.

A referendum structure for any organisation (trade union or socialist) in which all decisions would have to be referred to the entire membership before the leaders could act would mean in effect that no decisions would ever be taken. The important thing is not balloting but a democratic structure that allows for frequent election of officials and for their accountability to the rank and file.

That is why our demands for rank-and-file committees to control the strike and to demand consultation over negotiations to end the strike are more meaningful and potentially more revolutionary, because they ask workers to think and act collectively.

Three demonstrations in the past year against the Vietnam war of a militancy and vigour unparalleled in post-war British history marked a tremendous advance beyond the half-hearted pacifist demonstrations of CND days.

But the eve of October 27 brings into sharp relief the question of what such demonstrations and mass mobilisations are for and what they are expected to achieve.

It is clear what they are not for. No one looks to them any longer as a way of forcing the government to change its mind on a particular issue.

This 'lobbying' function only makes sense if one feels that the government, basically sympathetic to the aims of the demonstration, will be forced to take action if the magnitude of a particular problem can be brought home to them in some way. A mass rally might do this.

Wider movement

If the ruling powers are hostile, however, a demonstration will not force them to budge. To have any chance of this it would have to be part of a much wider political movement, and merely express in sharp form the threat contained in the existence and organisation of the wider movement.

Mass mobilisations over the war in Vietnam are not attempts to bring about a changed policy on the part of the powers that be. The function of the demonstration must be sought elsewhere.

It is to be found in what it achieves for those who participate and those who are on the fringes, either physically or emotionally. By its very nature a mass demonstration is a collective experience. It is an assertion of power, a statement of intention, a coming together of diverse and disparate groupings to demonstrate a common aim.

Its success is to be judged by how well it is able to hold itself together, to unite the different groupings and formations participating into a collectivity, to give them an awareness of their own potential strength.

The march on October 27 is a good illustration of this. The previous marches, elatedly militant, have been marred by a general disintegration and fragmentation.

The individual violence, the large numbers of arrests, generally of individuals leaving the demonstration, has been witness to this.



October 22, 1967 was a crucial and dramatic advance on all previous post-war demonstrations in Britain. The demonstrations in March and July this year, although with many important and successful highlights, represent stagnation.

The overall consciousness of those taking part has not been meaningfully heightened, the overall integration of the Vietnam movement has not been significantly cemented by the demonstrations themselves.

No solution

As socialists we recognise the violence inherent in the present system of exploitation and the ravages of imperialist aggression which have arisen from it. But individual violence and punch-ups with the police are no solution.

In fact they represent the failure of the movement to be able to absorb the participants into the collectivity itself during the demonstration to manifest a collective assertion of power as against a series of individual, dissipated protests.

Everything is not possible on

by RICHARD

demonstrations. They are not insurrections as such, but as John Berger has put it 'rehearsals of revolutionary awareness'.

So it is important to know what we wish to achieve from any particular mobilisation. We must make of it what we can, given the general political and social context and the state of the movement itself.

What we need urgently is one successful demonstration which can go beyond the widespread disorganisation of the recent past. Already some people who have been on previous mobilisations are feeling isolated and disillusioned.

Unless we can overcome this, demonstrations in future are likely to get smaller, not bigger—and to become cowardly.

By a successful demonstration I mean one which maintains its unity of purpose and structure. Every arrest is a defeat of enormous magnitude. It symbolises the fear and disintegration which we must strive to avoid.

A successful demonstration will be one in which those on the demonstration show to themselves

E is for Encyclopaedia
C is for Con game

THE BEST WAY to con the public is first to con the salesman.

A well-known publishing firm, which produces many books used in schools, along with other companies, is using this method to sell encyclopaedias.

At no time is the prospective buyer informed that the man at the door is selling, but only that he is advertising. A very carefully written speech is learnt, and always used (the same one, with slight variations, makes do for several companies).

The idea is to inform the prospective buyer that the commodity is not yet on the market and that you are collecting opinions. 'If we give you this encyclopaedia free, we want you to write a letter which we can print in advertisements,' says the salesman.

To prove his sincerity the customer must have a 10 year subscription to the 'question service' which allows him to ask a maximum of 10 questions a year. You then inform him that this will cost him in the region of £200.

The customer must also take

out a subscription to the 'year book', which again he has to pay for. At first you tell him he has 10 years in which to pay, but this is later reduced to three years.

Of course anyone who does not want the question service and the year book, which they will pay for over three years, does not get the encyclopaedia.

Giving something away

At all times the salesmen are led to believe that they are giving something away. But as you work for the firm it becomes apparent that the question service and year book pay for the encyclopaedias. How do salesmen get paid? Well, at the end of your training you are told that there are two methods, either £10 per week or 7 gns. per set, so, of course, no one argues.

You set off in a company car to a pre-selected part of the country and each person takes several streets. On the second day of starting work, I met a fellow employee who told me that she had worked at this for several months and had received

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Editor: Roger Protz Editorial Committee: Paul Foot, Richard Kuper, Peter Osborne. Business Manager: Jim Nichol.

WHERE WE STAND

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 demand 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 influence 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 racism. 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.

If you would like to join IS or would like further details of our activities, fill in the form below:

Please send further details of the meetings and activities of International Socialism to:

Name

Address

Send to Socialist Worker, Paxton Works Paxton Road, London N17

at insurrection



RD KUPER

their own power, in which those on the demonstration take over the streets and go where they want and maintain their own organisation and unity; in which a solid core of people are able to give a lead to those who come for the first time, not quite sure what to expect, to show by their cohesion and self-organisation what the nature of demonstration really is.

Only if we can accomplish this can we develop a wider anti-imperialist movement as part of a regenerated socialist movement in this country. The demonstration should sum up the months of work and preparation which have gone into it.

It should also show the way ahead. A massive proportion of those who turn out on October 27 will belong to no organised socialist grouping. What we desperately need is for them to feel part of a credible movement, not just part of a wild and pointless punch-up.

What we need is for them to return to their localities with a desire and enthusiasm for working-class politics and activity.

The Vietnam marches—tremendous advance on pacifist CND demonstrations.

The only place to build a meaningful movement against the war in Vietnam is at the grass-roots. The only way is to link this barbaric war to the overall oppression which capitalism inflicts on the working class.

Tremendous boost

One demonstration cannot achieve a link-up between the issue of Vietnam and the struggles involving the working class of this country against rent rises, productivity deals, and incomes policies. But a successful demonstration can give a tremendous boost to the efforts already being made everywhere to evolve forms of opposition to all the manifestations of a decaying capitalist society.

Next week's issue of *Socialist Worker* will have a full analysis and coverage of Sun day's mammoth anti-war mobilisation.

DO-IT-YOURSELF POLITICS THREATEN N. IRELAND'S POLICE REGIME

by PAUL FOOT

All the signs are that the exploited people of Northern Ireland, denied even the semblance of parliamentary democracy available to the rest of the United Kingdom, are beginning to 'do it themselves', to act to seize the basic rights and services denied them by an intolerant and reactionary government.

Eamonn Melaugh, secretary of the Derry Housing Action Committee, formed last March with the express purpose of encouraging and stimulating rent strikes and other forms of direct action to improve some of the worst housing conditions in Europe, told me:

'We've had 50 years of talk, 50 years of pacifism and 50 years of failure to end discrimination, poverty and exploitation in this city.'

BLUDGEONED

It was the Derry Housing Action Committee which inspired the weak, liberal Civil Rights Association to hold a march in Londonderry—a march, which, as we reported two weeks ago, was bludgeoned out of the streets by police fanatics.

During the week-end following the march, in one street in the Catholic heart of the city, all the ground-floor windows were broken by a posse of police yelling 'Come out, you fenian bastards!'

The police, like the government, rely upon religious prejudice to maintain their squalid regime. The Ulster Unionist Party gets the support of masses of Protestant workers because it has fanned the flames of religious intolerance for half a century, setting one section of the workers against another with the inevitable lurid tales of Catholic horror.

Such men are frightened now. The movement started by the Derry Housing Action Committee is not founded, as was the Irish Republican Army, on religious sectarianism.

John White, secretary of the Derry Republican Club, one of the most active organisations affiliated to the DHAC, told me:

'We are socialists. We want an Irish workers' republic, and we will work with anyone who works in a militant way toward that aim.'

The movement, started in Derry, has now taken root in Queens University, Belfast, which used to



The Civil Rights march—bludgeoned by police fanatics.

be the most reactionary university in Britain.

During the last three weeks it has been transformed by scenes which bear comparison with the Sorbonne University in Paris last May. Hardly an evening has gone by without the massive McMurdie Hall being filled with some 600-700 students meeting spontaneously to discuss the next form of action for 'civil rights'.

As a result of these meetings, the students have marched twice into the centre of Belfast. On the first occasion the police would not let them through to City Hall, because, they argued, there would be a fight with the supporters of the extremist Protestant Unionist, the Rev. Ian Paisley.

The second time, however, last Wednesday (October 16) the students called in support from Young Socialists and workers, doubled their numbers and marched unimpeded to the City Hall where they held a meeting.

In the enthusiasm and spontaneity of the meetings the students have moved from a vacuous liberalism to harder, more militant demands.

On the morning of the first march, for instance, they agreed unanimously to support their Vice-Chancellor and ban all non-student elements from the march. That same evening, after the sit-down, the vast majority voted to invite young workers and Young Socialist organisations to the next demonstration.

The terror of the authorities at the prospect of workers and students acting for themselves can be measured by the reactions of William Craig, known variously as the Papadopoulos or the Lardner-Burke of Ulster.

First, Craig tried to justify the brutality of his riot squads in Derry by claiming that the march was

organised by communists. This was greeted with wild laughter.

Betty Sinclair, Communist Secretary of the Belfast Trades Council and secretary of the Civil Rights movement, had originally been opposed to marching in the face of a police ban, and, on the students' first sit-down had rushed up and down the line of sitting students begging the demonstrators to 'go home now you have made your point'.

Then Craig said that the IRA was behind it all—an allegation which was laughed at equally loudly.

Finally, on October 16, Craig made a statement in the Stormont parliament 'naming names' of conspirators in the Irish Workers' Group, who, he said, wanted to end the bourgeois state in Northern Ireland.

He named Gery Lawless, who lives in London, Eamonn McCann of the Derry Labour Party and Rory McShane, next year's President of Queens Students Representative Council.

RESENTMENT

The reply to Craig is simple. YES, the men he named do wish to end the bourgeois state in Ireland.

YES, they do intend to campaign for an Irish workers' republic.

But, unhappily for Craig and his fanatical friends, they do not intend to do it with sectarian slogans and adventurist violence.

They intend to do it by helping to direct the resentment and frustration of the Irish workers away from Catholicism or Protestantism—away, in short, from themselves and towards their real oppressors whom Mr. Craig represents.

aedia, e...

quite a few orders, all of which were later cancelled and so she received no money.

You don't get paid during your training, you don't get paid until you've placed a set in a home and it's not even certain that you get paid then.

The companies concerned can afford a high turnover of labour because they have no expenses other than the cost of petrol.

The publishers using these tactics are all considered to be respectable. These are the tactics employed in capitalist societies to market commodities: tactics of deceit, dishonesty and downright fraud.

People in authority must know this goes on. They don't condemn it, therefore they must condone it.

If these are the tactics of so-called respectable companies, then what sort of methods do the back-street firms use?

A brilliant marxist analysis of May's 'unfinished revolution'.



3s. (inc. post) from IS Book Service 90 Mountview Road London N4

Dave Fisher

Join the International Socialists

ABERDEEN: Janet Kennedy, 94 Bankhead Road, Bucksburn.
ACTON: John Deason, 148 Rusthall Avenue, W4.
BECKENHAM: Mervyn Smith, 9 Alton Gardens, Copers Cope Road. 01-658 6552

BIRMINGHAM: Godfrey Webster, 123 Yardley Wood Rd., B'ham 13.

BRADFORD: Bob Kornreich, Flat 1, 7 Oak Avenue, Bradford 8.

CAMBRIDGE: Peter Smith, 65 Glisson Road.

CAMDEN: Chris Barker, 36 Gilden Road, NW5.

CHERTSEY: Nick Humphrey, 83 New Haw Road, Addlestone, Surrey

COVENTRY: Dave Edwards, 53 Palmerston Road, Earlsdon, Coventry.

CRAWLEY: Deborah Ward, 2 Weddell Road, Tilgate, Crawley.

CROYDON: Jenny Woodhams, 26 Braemar Avenue, South Croydon.

DURHAM: Graham Atkinson, 1 Medway Avenue, Hebburn, Co. Durham.

EAST LONDON: John Metcalfe, 61 Wolsey Avenue, E17

EDINBURGH: Jim Smith, 25 Pitt Street, (Leith) Edinburgh 6.

FULHAM: Nicki Landau, 1a Phillimore Terrace, Allan Street, W8.

FOLKESTONE: Dave Cowell, c/o 18 Station Road, Folkestone, Kent.
GLASGOW: Ian Mooney, 4 Dalcross Passage, Glasgow W 1.
HAVERING: Dave Rugg, 8a Elm

Parade, Hornchurch, Essex.
HORNSEY: Valerie Clark, 18 Dickinson Road, N8.

HULL: Paul Gerhardt, 52 Freehold Street, Hull.

ILFORD: Lionel Sims, 99 Belgrave Road, Ilford (01-SEV 6991)

ISLINGTON: Angel D. Phillips, 2 Chapel Mkt., Grant St. N1. 01-BRU 1026

Dalston: Shoreditch: B. Huzill, 154 Downham Road, N1. Highbury: Martin Tomkinson, 4 Martineau Road, N5.

KENTON: Kevin Simms, 56 Salisbury Road, Harrow.

KILBURN: Sean Dunne, 18 Lithos Road, NW3.

KINGSTON: Roger Crossley, Flat 2, 6 The Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey.

LAMBETH: Andy Smith, Flat 6, 126 Streatham Hill, SW2.

LEEDS: Alan Bailey, 26 Bagby Road, Leeds 2.

MANCHESTER: Jack Sutton, 11a Rowan Avenue, Walley Range, Manchester 16.

MERSEYSIDE: Ross Hill, 5 Lothair Rd., Anfield, Liverpool 4.

MERTON: Malcolm Roe, 22 Elmhurst Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

MIDDLESBROUGH: Hilary Cave, 133 Borough Road, Middlesbrough, York.

NEWCASTLE: Dave Peers, 106 Holly Avenue, Newcastle on Tyne 2.

NORTHAMPTON: Alan Druker, 21 Ardington Road.

NORWICH: Gerald Crompton, 220 College Road, Norwich NOR54F.

NOTTINGHAM: Robert Abrahamson, 15 Wellington Square, Derby Road.

OXFORD: Steve Bolchover, 181 Iffley Road.

POTTERIES: John Whitfield, 5 Grosvenor Road, Newcastle under Lyme.

RICHMOND: John Watson, 20 Sydney Road, Richmond, Surrey.

RIPLEY & ULKESTON: Clive Burnett, 75 Heage Road, Ripley, Derbys.

SELBY: John Charlton, 12 Thatch Close, Selby, Yorkshire.

SHEFFIELD: Nick Howard, 15 Raven Road, Sheffield 7.

SOUTHAMPTON: Mel Doyle, 87 Empress Road, Itchin.

STEVENAGE: Michael Downing, 57 Trumper Road, Trots Hill.

STOCKPORT: Barry Biddulph, 10 Foliage Crescent, Brinnington.

STOKE NEWINGTON: Mike McGrath, 28 Manor Road, N16.

SWANSEA: Pete Branston, 33a Uplands Crescent, Swansea.

TOTTENHAM: Phil Hall, 374 High Street, N17.

TOWER HAMLETS: George Webster, 30 Lefevre Road, E3.

WATFORD: Paul Russell, 61 Carpenders Avenue, Carpenders Park.
WIGAN: Ray Challinor, 34 Whiteside Avenue, Hindley, Wigan, Lancs.
WOLVERHAMPTON: Dave Spillsbury, 274 Penn Road, Wolverhampton.
YORK: Bob Looker, 22 Hobgate

Tory boss smears tenants

Socialist Worker Reporter

HORACE CUTLER, Tory boss of the giant Greater London Council, launched a vicious smear campaign on militant tenants on Tuesday. 'Threats and intimidations are being used to prevent some tenants paying rent increases', he told the council.

And he claimed that 95 per cent of GLC tenants were paying the full rent, including the increases imposed at the end of September.

SW needs urgent help

WE DON'T LIKE asking for money.

Most of our readers have very little. And they are probably a little cynical about socialist papers that are always on the verge of bankruptcy but never actually close.

But we are being serious. Our financial situation is very weak and unless we raise substantial amounts in donations for our print-shop fund then Socialist Worker may cease publication.

Our circulation is booming. It has surpassed all expectations.

But because we receive no revenue from advertising, sales of the paper do not cover the costs of production.

We must raise £10,000 by the end of the year. The fund at present stands at just over £7000. Because our readers and supporters have been involved in the preparations for the engineers' strike, the fund has stood ominously still for several weeks.

But our costs haven't stood still. As well as the paper, we have produced thousands of leaflets and posters for the engineers' strike and the October 27 demonstration.

Our finances are at rock bottom. We need your help urgently.

Please rush cash to the paper NOW. As much as you can possibly spare.

Don't let us down. Get us over that £10,000 mark.

If you don't, we may have to let YOU down...

The Tories and their Labour cronies on the council are clearly worried by the strength of the campaign to refuse to pay increases as high as 15s a week.

There has been a massive response to the GLC Tenants' Action Committee slogan 'Not a penny on the rent' and on estates throughout the area tenants are refusing to pay more than the old rent. Block representatives collect the rent, without increases, and hand the money each week to the rent collectors.

On some estates, as many as 95 per cent of the tenants are refusing to pay the increases.

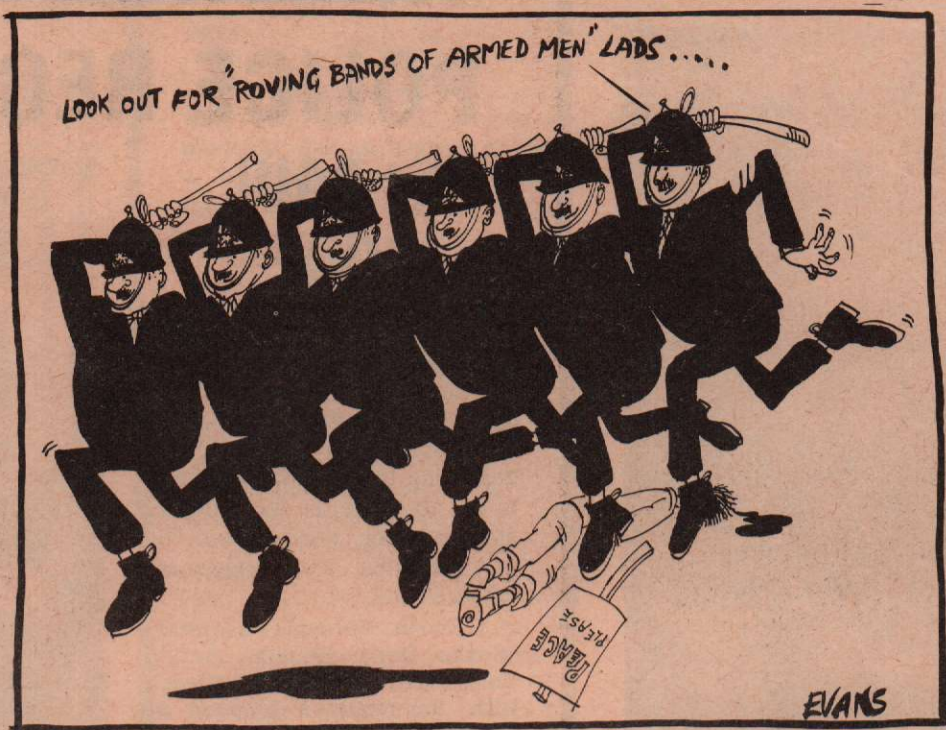
LINKED

Cutler's statement is intended to demoralise and split the tenants' movement. If the tenants were isolated on individual estates, his remarks might have some chance of success, but they are bound together by tenants' associations linked by the Action Committee.

A spokesman for the Action Committee said on Wednesday that Mr. Cutler's figure of 95 per cent was nonsense. 'The only threats and intimidations come from a few rent collectors,' the spokesman added, 'who are trying to frighten tenants into paying.'

A number of trade union organisations in London, including dockers and meat porters, have pledged full support and industrial action if the GLC attempts to evict any tenants.

For further information about the rents campaign write to: The Secretary, GLC Tenants' Action Committee, 18 Lithos Road, London NW3.



'MASSIVE' PROFITS FORECAST FOR ENGINEERING

By BRIAN WHITE

THE STOCK MARKET was worried. The government was increasingly concerned. For the prospect that the engineering employers would have to shed a little profit fat in order to meet demands from the engineering union has sent a terrifying shiver down the spine of British capitalism.

After three years of tough economic conditions, engineering companies like the rest of industry, are now beginning to see an upsurge in profits. Latest government figures show that trading profits in the first quarter of this year totalled £1,290 millions against the modest £1,098 recorded in the same period of 1967.

PAY OUT

The latest Financial Times profits breakdown shows that the 225 engineering and metal companies which published their results in the first eight months of this year, turned in profits of £266 millions. This is slightly lower than the £272 millions recorded in the previous year, but even so, the pay-out to shareholders went up from £65 millions to £66 millions.

In the heavy electrical industry, where there have been many mergers, profits jumped from £53 millions to £55 millions. And the aircraft and component industry showed a gain from £27 millions to £30 millions in its profits total.

All this, of course, is past history and covers much of the bleak trading conditions in 1967. Now the boost in profits from devaluation—together with the benefits of the government wage curb—is leading many company chairmen to forecast massive profits increases in the current year.

The Financial Times survey of business opinion on September 3 found that 96 per cent of engineering companies expected profits to rise over the next 12 months. A further 3 per cent expected them to remain the same, and 1 per cent thought their profits would fall.

But while companies may have to wait a few months for the profits upsurge, shareholders have already reaped the benefits. Although there has been a stock market set-back because of fears of the strike, £1,000 invested in the engineering industry at the beginning of the year would still be showing a nice £400 capital gain now. For the major companies, even more dramatic increases have been recorded.

The engineering bosses, fully supported by the government, have been bleating about the way in which an increase in wages would ruin the industry and price it out of the world markets. This is simply an attempt to blame workers for the catastrophic failure of management.

For years, capitalist planning organisations have been politely bemoaning the failure of the engineering industry. Back in 1966, the

Economic Development Committee for mechanical engineering pointed out that between 1954 and 1964, exports had doubled while imports increased four-and-a-half times. While in 1954, imports amounted to 18 per cent of exports, by 1965 the proportion increased to around 40 per cent.

Is this because the modest rise in wages has forced the management to increase prices and become 'uncompetitive'? Not according to studies sponsored by government and the industry.

PRICE

A survey by the National Economic Development Committee among 300 British users of foreign equipment showed that cost was often the least important consideration. As the Financial Times pointed out in December: 'Better performance reliability, accuracy or design can outweigh a modest price disadvantage compared with alternative buys'.

Nevertheless, the employers have eagerly seized the opportunity to use the workers as scapegoats for their own problems.

Socialist Worker Meeting
Liverpool
Politics behind engineers' struggle
Mitre Hotel Dale Street (nr tunnel)
Thursday October 31 8.00

Rhodesia: Fearless Fred and Tiger Tim plot a sell-out

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

LORD GOODMAN, millionaire solicitor of Harold Wilson, fixed the fate of four million Africans in Rhodesia some five weeks before his client and master met Ian Smith on the Fearless.

Goodman, who was accompanied by that well-known socialist and champion of racial equality, Sir Max Aitken, Chairman of the Daily Express, saw Smith and agreed with him that Britain would drop two of the demands made by Wilson on the Tiger in December 1966:

FIRST, the proposal for 'direct rule' from Whitehall while a Royal Commission put the new constitution to the people.

SECONDLY, the insistence on a 'crash programme' for educating the Africans.

BRIBE

Thus, Goodman and Smith agreed, the Rhodesian Front would be left entirely alone with a constitution ensuring minority rule for a century, and which, if white rule was ever threatened, can easily be changed by bribing a few black MPs.

The Fearless 'confrontation' was thus a charade, with both sides maintaining 'hard line' positions to protect their exposed flanks at home (Smith his right; Wilson his left).

Then they both went home pretending to disagree. After a certain amount of ballyhoo from both leaders, a 'settlement' can be confidently expected.

The only member of the government likely to resign over the settlement last week was Judith Hart. She has, however, now been conveniently promoted to the Cabinet, where Mr. Wilson can expect unanimous support.

90 workers axed by Napiers

From ROSS HILL LIVERPOOL:- Even before the ink dries on the AEI-GEC-English Electric merger, 90 local workers at EE will be outside the gate. On October 16, 90 workers at Napiers (a sister company of EE's) were given a month's notice at their works which adjoin the vast EE plant on the East Lancashire Road, Liverpool.

50 are hourly paid workers, and 40 staff. The management says 'overheads' are to blame.

One Napiers worker said: 'Napier's is the 'prestige' end of EE. It's not very profitable. They may axe it completely if they get their way, I reckon.'

Another worker, an older man, was despondent. 'Six out of 10 of the labourers are going', he said. 'Of course, they'll get redundancy pay, but that's only a sweetener, isn't it? This is only the beginning, you know. If this merger goes through they'll really get the chopper out next year.'

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Tyne railmen say 'recall NUR conference'

FOLLOWING the lead of the Scottish Districts of the National Union of Railwaymen, the Tyne District Committee has voted unanimously for a recall conference to reconsider the recently concluded 'productivity deal'.

As opposition to the deal grows from the rank and file more branches are urged to send resolutions for the recall to NUR headquarters.

REJECT

Tom Farrell, secretary Newcastle no.4 NUR writes: 'What possible solution is there for rank and file railwaymen? The only answer is to reject this agreement which to many has brought little pay and will result in dubious efficiency at the expense of time-honoured methods of safety in operating the railways.'

Any satisfaction or complacency on receipt of a

long overdue wage increase for lower grade staff will surely be dispelled when the full impact of 'versatility' is felt and their overall earnings are consequently reduced.

We must support those who seek to call a Special General Meeting as the only way in which we can obtain some immediate action for the total rejection of this agreement.

Socialists win courtroom battle

From JOHN TAYLOR

POLICE ACTION in breaking up a demonstration against the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia in August was taken for political reasons, said Tony Corcoran, a full-time

organiser for the International Socialists when he appeared in Newcastle Magistrates Court last week.

He and Mike Morris, a student, vigorously denied charges of causing an obstruction and refusing to move on.

Corcoran recalled that the five Russians who had demonstrated against the invasion in Red Square had been charged under similar Moscow city by-laws.

He told the magistrates: 'You know the real reason these people were charged was not because they were causing obstructions, but because they were having a demonstration the government did not agree with.'

One witness described how a policeman threw demonstrators' placards down the steps of the monument in the Haymarket, told Corcoran, 'I'll smash your bloody neck!' and marched him violently away.

'I was afraid', said the witness. 'I could not believe it. Here was something peaceful, proper and good going on and the policemen were stopping it.'

The defendants won a moral victory. They were fined a nominal £1 on each charge, instead of, as is usual, getting extra for pleading 'not guilty'. Morris was fined a further £1 for using obscene language, which he admitted. Corcoran and Morris

fought the evidence of four police witnesses point by point. In this way they showed they would not be intimidated and could take up plenty of police time in retaliation.

The intimidation is very real. After the hearing Mike Morris told how the same policemen stopped him the day following the demonstration.

They told him to get into their car, cross-examined him about what he was doing and threatened: 'We'll be on you if we have any more trouble.'

Morris said, 'I think they thought I was going back to the Haymarket because we had been there all week picketing The Green Berets film.'

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