

WORKERS' ACTION

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LEYLAND: WE EXPOSE PRESS LIES - IT'S A

LOCKOUT

FOR THE first time in over ten years, the whole Longbridge plant of British Leyland has been shut down.

A strike by 200 toolsetters who claimed extra pay for having to train new starters as well as do their normal work led to vast layoffs in the plant. The management decided to include in the layoffs some maintenance men and electricians who in the past have had an agreement by which they worked during general layoffs. Once these were laid off in one shop, others on these grades walked out too, on a one-out all-out principle.

On Monday 6th, Union officials managed to browbeat the toolsetters into agreeing to return to work. But then the bosses said "Unless toolsetters, maintenance and toolroom personnel and all other employees confirm that when they return to work they will work normally, honouring agreements and procedures, it will be pointless to attempt to restart production." (Birmingham Evening Mail, quoting 'a Leyland spokesman').

In other words A LOCK-OUT.

But it was the management who had broken an agreement - by laying off maintenance men and electricians in the first place. So WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

In fact, they are bluffing. A dispute at Lucas, a major component supplier, means they would have to lay off most Longbridge workers again anyway in a few days. But by continuing the present layoff, which is due to an internal dispute, they avoid paying layoff pay to the 18,000 workers affected.

This is because of an agreement on layoff under which internal causes mean no pay at all, whereas external causes would

by One of the 'Dirty Dozen'

Secondly, they have managed through pushing this hard line to the Works Committee to get the 800 shop stewards who met on Monday to oppose all strikes unless "procedure is exhausted".

In practice this means that the Works Committee and the various negotiating committees would have complete control over all disputes and that union members would not even be left the basic weapon of strike action until and unless their stewards recommended it. For example, rectifiers at Longbridge have been in dispute for 4 years over pay, and still they are bogged down in "procedure". Presumably even if it takes another 10 years, these men have no right to strike!

Witchunt

Thirdly, the management are clearly building up a witchunt against the militants in the factory. A vicious press campaign in both local and national papers is attempting to blame a few 'communist wreckers' ('the Dirty Dozen'!) for the present strikes. At present Longbridge bosses are biding their time on this question. But the events at Cowley and the attempt at Longbridge a few months ago to sack two new starters

Leyland try to cheat workers out of lay-off pay

show that this is the way Leyland management are thinking.

The trade union leaders at the factory have not only failed to fight this lockout, they have actually assisted the management all along the line.

Choices

A statement by the Works Committee on Monday 6th says: "We have only two choices and they are very simple ones. We continue as we are, let anarchy reign supreme and destroy ourselves. Or we change course and restore the authority of the Joint Shop Stewards. Give full and unequivocal support to the Works Committee and re-establish the authority of our District Organiser and the full time officers."

In other words, hundreds of trade unionists who decided to strike for claims they felt were justified will be left to sink or



Derek Robinson - C.P. convenor on the bosses' side.

Seamen to fight pay limit

THE NATIONAL UNION of Seamen has voted for action against the 4½% pay limit.

At its conference earlier this year the NUS voted to support the pay curbs. The members felt they had to 'help deal with inflation'. But when the question was taken from the level of 'do you want to help fight inflation' to the level of real daily experience of falling living standards, the seamen decided to act against the limit.

The dispute has arisen over the seamen's claim for a *6 increase backdated from last July. The employers, the government - and, shamefully, the TUC - say that all the seamen should get is £2.50-£4 increase as from next January. They base their argument on the fact that the seamen's last award - in July 1975 - was paid in two instalments, with the second payment in January 1976.

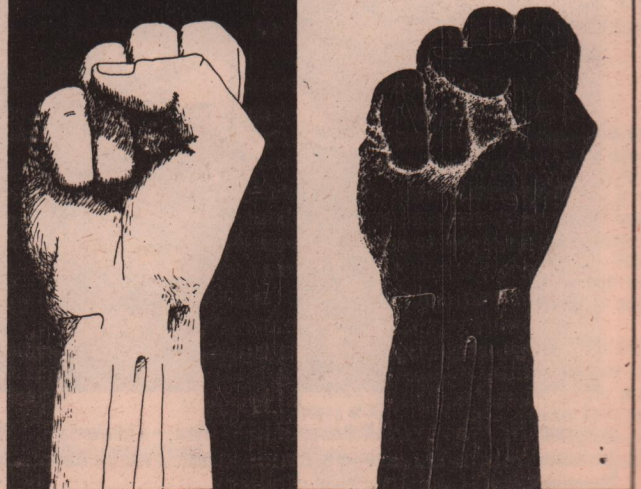
The NUS regard this as duplicity because they only agreed to the staggering of the award because of the employers' 'financial difficulties'. But that is not the real issue. The issue is the 4½% limit. That is how the government sees it, that is how the whole employing class sees it, it is how the TUC sees it - and it is how other trade unionists will see it.

Socialists and militants have to face that issue squarely - and argue for full support for the seamen from the TUC and from every trade union. The question is whether we favour wage increases which at the minimum keep up with rising prices - or, on the contrary, workers paying the cost of the capitalist crisis.

For a ballot among a membership spread all over the world, the seamen's poll was a large one; and for a postal ballot - the method which most favours the right wing - the majority was decisive enough. With or without TUC support, the seamen's leaders have a responsibility to organise action, and to show the way forward for thousands of other workers whose indignation is building up against the pay curbs.

March against racism!

Sat. 11 Sept. 2pm from Whalley Range Blackburn



'WE HAVE PROVED OURSELVES'

says Palestinian leader



WE REPRINT BELOW an interview taken from the latest issue of *Israel & Palestine* — a monthly review whose position is one of support for the 'moderate' wing of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. The interview is with an unnamed leader of FATEH. We reprint it, not because we agree with the political positions that he expresses nor necessarily with his concrete assessment of the Lebanese situation, but as an act of solidarity with the Palestinian Resistance. It is important that their views get across to the British labour movement.

The interview reveals a strikingly different assessment of the military situation in the Lebanon than the one we see daily in the Press. It also shows up some of the weaknesses of FATEH'S approach such as the heavy emphasis placed on diplomatic initiatives and the reliance placed on Arab regimes like Saudi Arabia. Although the interviewee is quite correct in pointing out that the Saudis are supporting the Palestinians at the moment, he seems to imply that this will always be the case. But the past provides many examples of Arab regimes turning on the Palestinians when it suits them. Syria is only the latest and most tragic example.

Q. It is said, in the West, that the Palestinians were weakened considerably by the Syrian intervention in the Lebanon. Is this true?

A. No. Militarily speaking, we did not just defend ourselves, but withstood a major attack by the whole brunt of the Syrian army, of the Maronite forces which have

become a fully-fledged army, well equipped and well armed, and even of that part of the Lebanese army which went over to the Syrians. All this under objective conditions which prove that we stood well on the battle-field. Even our logistics, the most difficult aspect of them all are not bad. More than that. The Syrian blockade of Lebanon has been broken and we obtain our supplies and arms by land and sea. Moreover, an immense quantity of Syrian-owned armaments and ammunition was captured by our forces. I wish to draw attention to a statement by the leader of the pro-Syrian factions in Beirut on the eve of the invasions in which he declared that his men had enough arms to decide favourably the situation inside 24 hours. These arms were taken by us, indeed inside 24 hours. More material streams into Lebanon for our forces. We stand well.

Q. Yet you have withdrawn from a considerable parts of Lebanon?

A. Our strategy is to concentrate in certain parts of the country to withstand the superior forces before us. The so-called Moslem-majority areas.

Q. Yet Tel al-Zataar is in a Christian area?

A. No strategy is involved as far as Tel al-Zataar is concerned. This refugee camp has already entered history, I daresay. It is a symbol. It is, well, the Palestinian's Massada if you wish.

Q. So you consider that the Palestinian forces were not broken?

A. Not only not broken — they stand proud and strengthened. Let me say that we have now been tested under actual fire. The Syrian tanks broke the defences of the

Israeli super-power in 1973, and threatened Upper Galilee in the first days of that war. Under similar conditions, facing far less well trained and equipped Palestinian forces not possessing at that time advanced military equipment, the Syrian tanks were unable to advance to conquer Beirut, and were partially destroyed and captured.

Q. What is your comment on Western Press reports that you gone to Damascus to surrender?

A. This is wishful thinking. The Syrians, the Israelis, and the Americans indulge in wishful thinking. In their stupidity, they think this will make their internal life easier.

Decisive

Q. So why were there negotiations with the Syrians?

A. Negotiations are held after a confrontation when there is no way for either of the sides to obtain a decisive military victory. Then the two sides meet to find some way out. In this case, none of the sides was able to get a decisive military victory in the battlefield.

What was either side's objective? The Palestinians did not want total victory. We did not expect to enter Syria, conquer Damascus, and so on. Our aim was to rout their army, to stop their advance. This was our wish and this was done. The Syrians — on the other hand — had a political aim: the capture of Beirut and the taking-over of the PLO. They were unsuccessful on both points. Beirut did not fall into their hands. They suffered heavy losses. Thus they finally decided to enter negotiations. This decision is itself a Syrian defeat.

Q. Perhaps they just wish to play for time?

A. Quite possible. But this is alright with us. For us negotiations with the Syrians are not a sign of weakness, but rather the crowning effort amongst all our other efforts. We have got important diplomatic results in the last few weeks. Let me mention a few of them:

(1) When Mr. Khaddam went to Moscow, he was not met at the airport by Mr. Gromyko. His hosts greeted him in a very frosty way indeed.

(2) When President Assad went to Bucharest, President Ceausescu only saw him after meeting with a special PLO envoy. This was seen by Assad as a severe snub.

(3) We keep a running dialogue and negotiations with France, culminating in Foreign Minister Monsieur Jean Sauvagnargues receiving on August 3rd Said Kamal, deputy director of the PLO's political department...

(4) Even the United States itself has acknowledged our strong position. The US Embassy in Beirut is keeping a de facto, running dialogue with the PLO forces

there. The Embassy has practically been accredited to the PLO in Lebanon. This cannot be denied and the importance of such a development minimised. There have been a number of agreements between the PLO and the US Embassy... We watch over the Embassy's security. The Embassy is on the borderline between West and East and had the US decided to cut all ties, it was easily possible to transfer this embassy to the Christian area.

(5) Tremendous pressure is being applied on Syria in the Arab world. There have been rumours that Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States no longer support the PLO. That is not true. My personal experience and knowledge allows me to state that news items published about this in the Western Press are untrue. The Saudis and the Gulf States leaders support us with oil, which is a decisive kind of help when Lebanon is cut off and the Sidon refineries put out of action. Economic help to the PLO is also forthcoming from the Saudis as usual.

is not pro-Islamic in a fratricidal civil war.

Thus, the Saudis have been highly embarrassed by the Syrians. Saudi Arabia hoped that the Syrian invasion would steady the situation... This did not happen. Popular hatred of the Syrians was kindled throughout the Arab world. Even inside Saudi Arabia there have been strong press criticism of the Syrians — and the Saudi press is state controlled...

We therefore consider that, on the whole, the Lebanese conflict has been favourable to our aims. Our army has been tested in the battlefield. We have proved ourselves politically, militarily, and diplomatically...

I wish things had not taken the course they did. But this being so, and all things being considered, I am satisfied with the latest developments.

Q. Then the press reports are just part of a campaign according to you?

A. ...Both the Syrians and the Israelis have transferred their offensive to the Western newspapers' editorial offices... On the one hand, they pretend that the PLO is moribund; on the other, they write in the Israeli press and say in the Knesset that now a power-vacuum has been created in southern Lebanon, and that Israel should intervene before the PLO takes over there. If we are "moribund", what are they afraid of?

Rumours

Q. What about the rumours concerning internal differences in the PLO and Fateh leadership? It was even said that Mr Arafat is going to be replaced?

A. There exists no other democratic leadership in the Middle East other than that of the PLO and Fateh. Our leaders have been democratically elected. Since 1970, say, there have been few internal disputes or open disagreements on policy. Arafat cannot be replaced except in a democratic manner, through electoral process, by the apparatus of democracy inside the PLO and Fateh...

In any human group there are always differences of evaluation. Take the Israeli cabinet. We do not have one hundredth of the differences of opinion which exist inside the Israeli power structure...

Q. So the Syrians did not try to influence you internally?

A. The Syrians did indeed try to influence the internal membership and leadership of the PLO and affect Abu Amar's (Arafat) leadership. They tried to do this through constitutional structures — and were unsuccessful in a most disastrous manner. If they want to depose Abu Ammar they will have to deal with the elective process and our membership is all for Abu Ammar.



A Palestinian woman lies dead in the ruins of Quarantina — a Moslem area in Beirut over-run by the Christians earlier this year. Like Tel al-Zataar last month, it was the scene of savage massacres of the Palestinians who were sheltering there.



Falangist militia-man

Q. How do you explain the Saudi change of heart?

A. The Saudi Arabian stand has been misinterpreted. The Saudis have different and conflicting imperatives. Saudi Arabia and her Gulf allies are against the Left. Because of this, their support for the right-wing traditionalist coalition of the Falange and other rightists in the Lebanon was only natural... Nonetheless, Saudi Arabia also believes two things: that there will be no settlement and no stability in the Middle East without a settlement which safeguards the Palestinians' interests, and also that the Saudis are the guardians of Islaam. It is difficult, on those grounds, to swallow a stand which

LAST week in Dublin the Criminal Law Bill and the Emergency Powers Bill went through both the Dail and the Senate of the 'Republic of Ireland' to provide the latest addition to the legal arsenal being mobilised against the Provisional IRA.

The declaration of Emergency would permit suspects to be held for seven days without charge. The Criminal Law Bill, which follows logically from the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act passed by the Fianna Fail government in 1972, will increase sentences for "terrorist" offences and create a new offence, 'incitement to join or assist an illegal organisation'. And it gives some police powers to the army.

This law means a total clamp-down on Republican activity as it introduces penalties for "any person who, expressly or by implication, directly or through another person or by advertisement, propaganda or any other means, incites or invites another person to join an unlawful organisation or to take part in, support, or assist its activities."

The *Irish Times* pointed out

Government, Opposition, Officials, British

Ireland: All join hands against the Provos

by Eddie Byrne

that now you could get seven years for belonging to the Provos and another ten if, on leaving the dock, you shouted 'Up the IRA'.

The result of the voting was never in doubt — the Fine Gael (right wing Tories)/Labour Party coalition Government has a clear majority in both Houses. Anyway Jack Lynch, the Fianna Fail opposition party's leader, did his best to outdo Prime Minister Cosgrave's declaration that he would "nail down the godfathers of illegal organisations."

Fianna Fail did attempt to amend the Bills. First, to try to limit the period of detainment to two days and the duration of the emergency powers to 12 months; secondly, they sought to represent the professional interests

of the police (who don't like their powers being bestowed on the army) and the lawyers organised in the Incorporated Law Society (who fear a serious drop in their fees unless detainees are allowed to consult legal advisors!).

The votes (70-65 in favour in the Dail and 53-18 in favour in the Senate) were taken in the middle of a carefully orchestrated campaign against the Provisionals accompanied by the charade of the accusations by the Republic Government of British torture in the North of Ireland.

The weekend before the vote Dublin saw a big 'peace' demonstration. "Near the entrance to the Government Buildings" reported the *Irish Times* "the crowd sang hymns, prayed and read aloud the Northern women's Peace Declaration."

Among the crowd of 'peace' lovers were the representatives of the all-party rabble in parliament who were about to sign and seal the declaration of legal war on any militant opposition. And in loyal attendance on them Tomas MacGiolla, President of Official Sinn Fein.

Shortly after the vote Rory O'Brady, Provisional Sinn Fein President, was arrested for the non-payment of a 30 pound fine levied on him for attending the

banned rally to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Easter 1916 Rising.

On the same day the European Commission on Human Rights published the report of its findings on British torture of detainees in the north of Ireland. The charge against the British government was upheld in the main. And thus Cosgrave strengthened his position further by playing the anti-Brit and at the same time joined hands with Britain to try to smash the Irish Republican struggle.

IRISH NOTES

A RECENT report by the Economic and Social Research Institute concluded that the Eire economy was "faced with difficulties which seem insurmountable". An EEC Commission report came to the same conclusion.

Finance Minister Ritchie Ryan quickly denied the Reports' findings — but went on to say that they showed the need for wage restraint. And this month's ICTU (Irish Congress of Trades Unions) is expected to approve an interim agreement for wage rises to be limited to between three and five pounds. At the same time, talks will start between the ICTU, the employers and the government on pay curbs for 1977 and 1978.

The ICTU's earlier rejection of the draft National Wage Agreement had been on grounds of too many escape holes for employers to get out of paying (it came to be dubbed the "Colditz Agreement"). Now, citing the parlous state of the bosses' economy, the ICTU is ready to fall into line.

THE trade union leaders, who will soon be sitting down with the bosses and the government to see how their members can best be robbed, think that they are going to achieve what they choose to call "full employment" — that is, an unemployment rate of 4%.

Professor Brendan Walsh, in a study published last year, estimated that to reach the target, between 300,000 and 340,000 new jobs net of redundancies, would have to be created between 1971 and 1986. These would have to come in manufacturing industry, as agricultural employment continues to decline and the services sector is already "too large".

In 1974, however, there was a net LOSS of 3,700 jobs in manufacturing industry; and in 1975, though the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) 'created' 14,000 jobs, basic that many people were made redundant. The IDA is desperately hoping that it can keep pace with the job losses this year.

The catastrophic nature of these figures may not be immediately apparent to people used to thinking in hundreds of thousands. For example, the 26,600 jobs lost in 1975 represented 14% of total industrial employment. Add to this an inflation rate twice that of Britain's, and unemployment and social security payments that are bad for men and often non-existent for women, and the true nature of the plight of the southern Irish working class becomes clear.

As it is in Britain, unemployment hits the whole of the working class, helping to drive down wages and push back working conditions and trade union gains. As unemployment continues to rise, industrial output is actually increasing — a measure of the speed-up on the shop floor that so often goes hand-in-hand with a big jobs slaughter.

PAUL Tansey, Economics Correspondent of the *Irish Times*, commented recently: "Perhaps we would be better advised in addressing ourselves to the social and economic problems which will result from permanent unemployment rather than continuing to express confidence ... that the attainment of full employment is just around the corner."

That, in its own way, is just what the Cosgrave government is doing. In the wave of reaction following the blowing up of British Ambassador Ewart-Biggs, it has armed itself with two massive new legislative blunt instruments. (See above). It has made it clear that the new laws are designed to deal not only with para-military organisations, but "republicans or extreme left wing organisations."

Watch out, shop stewards, organisers of the unemployed, political protesters: the detention camps await you!

THE latest repression bodes very ill for the fate of Noel and Marie Murray, the two young anarchists railroaded to the death cell by a Special 3-Judge, no-jury court (itself a product of previous 'short-term', 'emergency' legislation). It is all the more urgent that defence of the Murveys is organised internationally. Their defenders in Ireland have been harassed and isolated and now face the possibility of summary 7-day arrest at any time.

They are demanding a re-trial for the Murveys in a civilian jury court. Support their call with letters and resolutions sent to the Irish Embassy at Grosvenor Place, London SW1 and to the Irish Prime Minister Liam Cosgrave and the Minister of Justice, at Government Buildings, Dublin.

After the big lie, what next?

JACK JONES, HUGH SCANLON AND JOE GORMLEY are becoming increasingly worried.

Along with other architects of the 'Social Contract' they have put forward wage restraint as an alternative to unemployment. But unemployment levels have now topped the 1½ million mark. All predictions point to mounting unemployment totals throughout the winter. There will not even be a minimal drop in the unemployment figures before next Spring, and the jobless total will remain over the 1½ million mark then.

They pushed wage restraint as a means of protecting real wages from the ravages of inflation. But in the year ahead consumer prices are expected to rise by 14% — while wages are pegged at 4½%.

Jones, Murray and Co. obviously wished for levels of unemployment and inflation to come down sufficiently to dampen the mood of militancy that exists among many sections of workers. The seamen's vote for strike action against the 4½% shows that groups of workers are prepared to fight to maintain their living standards against the Labour government and the pleas of the TUC leaders.

Faced with mounting unemployment and a continued fall in living standards these leaders are desperately in search of a new formula to help them ride the TUC Congress and the period ahead. They are searching for a formula that can be sold to trade union members, to the Confederation of British Industry and the Labour Government. Their prospects of finding one look increasingly shaky.

Adopt new policies

One part of their argument is the old one that the Labour Government should be persuaded to adopt new policies. These policies recommended by Messrs. Jones and Co. are either down-right reactionary — import controls to export unemployment to workers elsewhere — or a total diversion, arguing with the Government and the CBI to set up more job centres to push down the embarrassing level of unemployment a trifle.

Even such measures are only seen as claims for favour from the Labour Government. The leaders of the TUC are prepared to sell jobs, conditions and wages to keep the Labour Government in power. They set no price on that support. As Jack Jones put it himself in the *Morning Star* recently, "We worked to put this present government in power — in power to undo the havoc wrought by a doctrinaire and divisive Tory Government. It would be folly not to help sustain the Government in power."

The problem of the TUC leaders is to make their members think the same — and accept the consequences.

Jack Jones has another problem to talk himself out of. At last June's recall TUC he argued that the 4½% limit was to be positively the last round of wage restraint. That it would be followed by a return to "free" collective bargaining. He has repeated this argument again at the Brighton TUC as part of his method of quelling the rising tide of protest and anger at cuts and unemployment. But while calling for "free collective bargaining" 'next time', Jones and other TUC leaders are already preparing proposals and schemes for next year's pay policy with the CBI and the Labour Government.

The TUC leadership, Murray and Jones, have committed themselves to a lifetime of bargaining within capitalism. They see themselves as having a joint interest with the employers to main-

tain the bosses' stability and profit so as to enable the process of bargaining to continue. Their calls for 'import controls' for sacrifice for the Nation, reflect their collaborationist position exactly. They find themselves now in the position of facing a clear refusal from the employers and the Labour Government to accept a return to full free collective bargaining. And their own prospects diminish of persuading the trade union membership to accept another round of restraint.

The employers and the Labour Government are desperate to ensure that there will be no battles by workers to recoup the losses they have suffered as a result of wage restraint. They know too, as the employers' magazine *The Economist* has pointed out, that Dennis Healey's most recent credits are due to be repaid by December. They know that the bankers and employers will lay even more stringent terms on the Government to cut back further and guarantee wage control or face another run on the pound and 'crisis' on the stock market.

Jack Jones, capitalism's faithful servant, is therefore desperately qualifying his call for free collective bargaining. He is calling now for an 'orderly return', of linking any wage rises above a base line of percentage wage increase to productivity and efficiency. In this he is echoed by Joe Gormley who clearly feels he can hold the NUM back no longer but sees productivity dealing as the most palatable solution to the employers — exchanging jobs, conditions and safety for wage increases.

Behind the scenes at the TUC Congress, behind the handshakes the unanimity and the token platform criticisms of the Labour Government, the trade union leaders are finding themselves in increasing difficulties. How much longer they can police wage control, unemployment and speed-up for the employers depends on the demands placed on them by the bosses and the Government — and the response of rank and file trade unionists to the attacks of the employers and government and the capitulation of their leaders.

Jones and Murray will search frantically for formulae to hold up profits, calm the bankers and yet take the steam out of the mood of workers in the factories and workplaces. That's why they're calculating for next year with their productivity and efficiency schemes.

Mood of militancy

Our job is to see that they don't succeed. To fight for policies that can turn the mood of militancy into mass, militant action with a clear political focus. The key policies are:

- ☆ No wage restraint under capitalism.
- ☆ Automatic cost of living increases — one pound for every 1%.
- ☆ Straight lump-sum increases to make up for the backlog and to boost our living standards.
- ☆ No time limits on wage agreements.
- ☆ A national minimum wage of forty pounds. This minimum to apply also to grants, pensions and benefits — which should be protected by cost of living increases.
- ☆ Work-sharing under workers' control with no loss of pay. Cut hours, not jobs.
- ☆ A National campaign for a 35-hour week.
- ☆ Nationalisation under workers' control with no compensation of enterprises declaring large-scale redundancies.

THE provocations by the police that led to last Monday's riot at the Notting Hill Carnival were not the result of mismanagement by the police, as has been suggested in much of the press. They were the outcome of a deliberate policy of harassment — a policy designed to give the police the grounds for banning the Carnival altogether.

Local authorities and the police usually aren't very keen on large numbers of people coming out onto the streets. They regard it as a nuisance and a 'threat to public order', and would much rather see people coralled away somewhere in a standium where a closer eye can be kept on them. This is just what the local council and police attempted to do with this year's Carnival and, although they didn't succeed this year, it looks like next year they will get their way.

The Notting Hill Carnival has been an annual event for the black community ever since the first one in 1965. Every year the numbers have swollen — from the 500 who attended the first one to the 250,000 who were there this year and last. It is run by an Organising Committee of West Indians, who negotiate with the local council and police over the arrangements.

Official

Up to last year there were few complaints from either local people or the police.

But, after last year's Carnival, a campaign was whipped up against it by a local right winger, George Clark, who used a 'community paper' — the *Goldbourne* — to publicise his aim of banning the Carnival from the streets of Notting Hill. He soon got the support of the police and local Tory councillors.

The first official moves against the Carnival came in late August at a meeting between the Carnival Organising Committee, the police, and local councillors. At this meeting Tory councillors from Chelsea and Kensington (which border Notting Hill geog-

COPS CAMPAIGN TO STOP THE CARNIVAL

raphically but are a million miles away socially and politically) were supported by the police in their demands that the Carnival be moved to another site.

If not, Chief Superintendent Paterson (the local police commander) warned, there would be a massive show of force by the police at the Carnival itself.

These opening shots in the campaign against the Carnival were followed by a mounting public campaign in the pages of

the *Goldbourne* and the *Kensington Post*. Chief Super Paterson joined in — taking the Carnival organisers on a trip to Battersea Park in a bid to persuade them that it would be a better site.

Go ahead

But the Carnival Organising Committee persisted with its demands that the event go ahead as it had done in the past, and

received the support of the majority of the people in the area.

In the end, because of the force of feeling in favour of the Carnival, the police and the council gave in, and agreed that the Carnival would go ahead. At that time, Paterson's threats of a massive policing of the Carnival were not renewed. The Carnival organisers made their own plans for a stewarding force of 300.

Nevertheless, there were signs that the police weren't going to let the matter rest there, and only a week before the Carnival two black community workers associated with the Black People's Information Centre wrote to Robert Mark, chief of the Metropolitan Police, expressing their concern over what they saw as a change of attitude to the Carnival by the local police, and warning of the 'hard line' approach of Chief Superintendent Paterson.

No-one paid any attention to the letter — and 1,600 police turned out in Notting Hill to 'control' the Carnival.

It was this vast show of force that certainly precipitated the battle. The local black community knew all too well the efforts of the police to stop the Carnival and, like their black brothers and sisters around the country, have experienced daily harassment from the local force.

Aggro

The presence of so many police on what is, after all, essentially their Carnival, was a major — and intended — provocation.

The national press has embellished its reports of the battle with 'before and after' pictures, as if all was friendship and harmony in the first two days. But people who were there tell a different story — of a build-up of incidents throughout the three days, with all the aggro coming from the police. A white woman who tripped and fell was about to be helped up by a black youth when police surrounded him, dealing blows and insults. The police, as someone present put it 'spoil the whole atmosphere —

surprise' when the battle finally erupted: their preparations included a mobile operating theatre parked in a side street.

Since then, the scenario has been as anyone associated with the fight for the Carnival might have predicted: the 'riot' has been the pretext for calls for 'drastic steps' to be taken in the organising of next year's Carnival — presumably herding it into a football stadium as a 'spectacle' rather than a living, communal event.

Next year

But that may not be so easy. The police have come in for a quantity of criticism and suspicion which they clearly didn't expect. Already Labour MP Sydney Bidwell has called for an inquiry into the cops' behaviour, and the West Indian community is preparing to defend its right to hold another Carnival next year — this time without police harassment.

Under Colonial rule black workers in the West Indies were forbidden to hold Carnivals. Slave laws banning large gatherings and processions were invoked, and riots followed as black workers defied the bans, forcing the authorities to concede. The face of British racialism doesn't change...

Coca cola: the real thing

BRAZIL HOLDS THE world record for industrial accidents. This is how one multi-national makes its contribution to the grim statistics.

Coca Cola sales have dropped in the wake of a scandal which, according to the company, is all a fabrication of its competitor, Pepsi Cola. It began in February when Antonio Castigliola, a journalist with *Folha de Sao Paulo*, decided to investigate rumours that a black worker at Coca Cola's Bonsuccesso plant had drowned in a tank of syrup and that thousands of bottles of Coca Cola made from the same syrup had been sold.

Evidence to official enquiries from workers at the plant alleged that two workers, Carlos Alberto de Oliveira and Marcelino Cardosa da Silva, had drowned in a tank in October last year and that their bodies had not been recovered until 24 hours later, by which time over 10,000 litres of drink made from the syrup had been distributed.

The company completely denied the story. One Coca Cola official told journalists: "Coca Cola will give a present to the person who finds the black who fell into the tank in one of our bottles."

The bodies of the two workers in question were later found in two cemeteries. Police

announced that Alberto de Oliveira had died in 1974 of a heart attack, but there was no confirmation of this from hospital records and his internment certificate at the cemetery had disappeared. No order was given for the exhumation of the body. The administrator at the other cemetery refused to reveal the date Cardosa da Silva's body was received.

Denied

The official investigation did not produce any conclusions. The labour department enquiry was headed by Dr. Luis Carlos de Brito, who at the beginning promised to get to the bottom of the case "if it's the last thing I do." He became very secretive after an unsolicited visit by the Coca Cola president in South America, Gerald R. Shaw. A senior engineer was appointed to investigate the tanks but only one of his three reports was publicly released. It simply said there was a tank (the existence of which Coca Cola had denied) into which workers could fall.

Coca Cola employment records contained no mention of the workers. It was noted that they were arranged in alphabetical order rather than the

ascertain whether documents had been removed. An employment bureau used by the firm refused to surrender its records to the enquiry and was not made to do so.

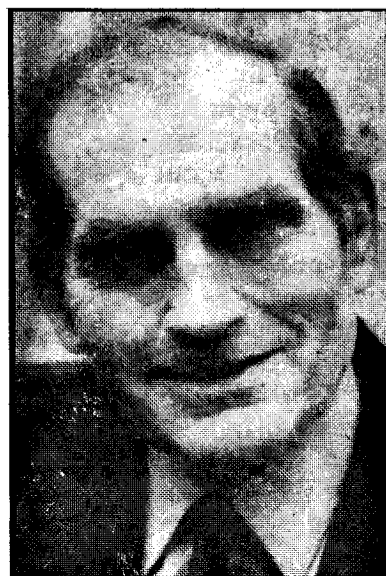
Three workers had declared their willingness to testify to the police enquiry. One was only called upon to give preliminary evidence, while the second was charged with slander and subsequently jailed for "alcoholism."

The third never testified; his mutilated body was found in a ditch with fingers and toes burnt off with acid. Commissioner Godfredo Cesar Marques, who at the opening of the enquiry had said that after 26 years police experience "economic power and pressure don't intimidate me", declared the enquiry closed.

"Nothing happened. All the workers at the Bonsuccesso factory can turn up dead and I will not take any notice," he said.

The journalist Castigliola has received anonymous death threats and Coca Cola intends to sue him. The company was fined 373 cruzeiros for failing to meet security provisions and for three cases of excessive working hours.

Report taken from LIBERATION BRAZIL NEWSLETTER —



BLACK SELF DEFENCE IN ACTION ON THE STREETS OF GRAVESEND

GRAVESEND is a town with a 'race problem'. The local paper regularly carries front-page headlines such as 'Race Clash in High Street'; the police are 'worried', while the mayor calls for calm.

Just the sort of situation the National Front and National Party like to point to in support of their policy of repatriation — it shows that immigrants just can't live in peace with their neighbours...

How, then, did Gravesend's 'problem' arise?

During August members of the National Party arrived in town and began distributing racist leaflets outside the market on Saturday mornings. They kept up a continual volley of abuse at passing Asians. On the afternoon five white youths attacked three elderly Asians. One of them, the President of the local Sikh temple, was thrown through a shop window.

Subsequently a fight broke out, and a member of the National Party was punched by an elderly white man.

This was a big event for the local press. They quoted the NP member as saying that he had been attacked by a coloured man; the earlier assault on the Asians was not mentioned.

The following weekend the NP were back in force. This time an Asian who attempted to take a leaflet from the fascists was sprayed in the face with ammonia, and fighting broke out. There were two arrests.

At this point the mayor stepped in, appealing for calm and calling for a 'round table' discussion between NP members and representatives of the Asian community to resolve

their differences — an idea supported also by the Community Relations Council.

After separate discussions with both groups, the mayor was in a happy frame of mind. "I am confident goodwill will prevail and we will see no more trouble" he explained.

The following day his hopes were dashed. Despite a decision by the local Asian leaders to tell their people to stay away from the town centre and 'out of trouble' (leaving the field to the NP, who no doubt expressed their satisfaction to the mayor), there were more incidents. One man was arrested for threatening an Asian, and when he was searched he was found to be carrying a flick-knife. In his car was a loaded revolver. (In court the following week this man, a member of the British Movement, received

a suspended sentence.)

In the face of these attacks the Asian community has become sharply divided. Many of the elders believe that the best course is to hold discussions with the fascists, meanwhile staying off the streets and relying on the police to keep the peace.

Beaten

Explains Balwinder Singh, a leader of the militant **Workers Against Racism** group: 'In the past several of the older people have been arrested, and a couple of them beaten by the police. Now everyone is paying them attention — the mayor asks them to meetings and tells them how responsible they are. 'it has really gone to their head'

They are also afraid that if they take any action, this will

be turned against them by the press.

But many of the Asian youths are becoming extremely angry and impatient with the continual presence of fascists spreading their propaganda in the town. Last Saturday the National Front also tried to get in on the act, originally planning to hold a demonstration. They were met by an organised group of Asians, and within an hour they were dispersed without managing even to give out more than a handful of leaflets. However, it is very likely that they will be back. (In Bolton a couple of weeks ago such a rout of the fascists spurred the police into a massive turnout the next week to make sure the fascists would be able to give out their leaflets unimpeded.)

The **Workers Against Racism** group was formed in July in

response to the racist murders in Southall. It adopted a six-point programme, including the organisation of self defence groups in every street and seeking unity with white anti-racists in the trade unions.

At present their main difficulties lie in building a stable organisation and in breaking out of isolation from the white labour movement. They can undoubtedly command substantial support for mobilisations on Saturdays against the fascists in the streets, but this support remains largely on the level of physical confrontation. Many youths see no purpose in attending meetings to argue out a strategy.

Handful

White trade unionists, with the exception of a handful of socialists, have done nothing to show solidarity with the Asian community or to take up the arguments against racism inside their organisations. It is vital that an anti-fascist committee is set up in the area, with representatives from the trades council, stewards' committees and the local Labour Party.

At present the local press can get away with presenting a picture of two gangs of extremists — the National Party and NF on the one side, and Asian hot-heads and a few 'left wing agitators' on the other — both equally responsible for violent clashes. To change this, the fascists must be isolated in the white community and defeated in the factories as well as confronted in the street.

JAMES RYAN



The example: Southall Asians confront police after the murder of Gurdip Singh Chaggar

Journalists help expose racist press

THE **TOTTENHAM HERALD** is a typical local paper. Once a week its readers get a staple diet of court reports, local happenings and sports results, births, marriages and deaths, classified ads — and a dose of racism.

The only unusual thing is that the Tottenham journalists aren't getting away with it.

At the end of last month **Herald** journalists were faced with an angry meeting of blacks, trades council and Labour Party activists and anti-racist members of the **National Union of Journalists**. They were shown cuttings from their own paper, with headlines such as 'What about us whites, asks angry councillor', and squarely accused of inflaming racial tensions and giving support to the fascists.

anagh, shaken at having to answer to local people for his actions, for once, threw out a smokescreen of excuses. Non-journalists wouldn't understand about deadlines, he said, which don't allow time to be too choosy about what you write. Unfortunately for him, other journalists in the meeting tore that argument apart.

Balanced

So Kavanagh switched to saying that racist reporting was perfectly OK because the **Herald** balanced these articles with reports about the doings of the Community Relations Commission. And anyway, 'a journalist's job is to reflect the attitudes in the

illor makes a slanderous attack on black people the paper is quite right to give him a column on the front page.

These arguments too were heavily attacked by people in the meeting, who pointed out that the press not only 'reflects' but helps to create opinions. But when it became clear that the **Herald** journalists refused to acknowledge their role in reinforcing racist ideas in Tottenham, a member of the **Campaign Against Racism in the Media (CARM)** — which had initiated the meeting — called for a picket of the newspaper's offices.

This idea was taken up the following night at the first meeting of the Tottenham Campaign Against Racism. A full-scale

planned on the question of racist propaganda generally, with the **Herald** coming in for special attention. The attack is also being taken up inside the NUJ, with Kavanagh finding himself on the wrong end of a disciplinary charge.

Targets

The **Tottenham Herald** is only the first of several targets singled out by **CARM**, an organisation of journalists and black activists which was set up in July to fight the wave of racist propaganda which played such a big part in inciting violence against blacks.

Similar actions are planned against the **Newham Recorder** in

Reporter. **CARM** works both inside the NUJ, using the union's disciplinary machinery against racist journalists, and in the labour movement generally by linking up with trade unionists, black organisations, CLPs and Young Socialists branches who are prepared to unite in action against racist news coverage — through pickets, demonstrations, boycotts and so on.

At present **CARM** is London-based, but it intends to build throughout the country groups of journalists, black militants and socialists. A national movement must be built, capable of acting not only against local papers and radio but against the national press and media.

For literature and more information, write to **CARM**, 43 Shaftes-

The by-elections in Walsall and Stechford

Labour or IS?

THE INTERNATIONAL Socialists are standing Jimmy McCallum as a candidate in the Walsall by-election. Reportedly they will also stand a candidate in the Stechford by-election.

Many socialists and revolutionaries will instinctively want to vote for McCallum. He will campaign against racism, against unemployment, and against the cuts. His Labour opponent represents a party whose government maintains racist immigration controls, permits massive unemployment, and pushes through the cuts.

WORKERS' ACTION, however, believes that this instinctive reaction is wrong.

We are in favour of supporting any concrete class struggle action against racism, unemployment or the cuts — any strike, any mobilisation against the fascists — even if the political leadership of that action is confused, and however much it annoys or embarrasses the Labour Party establishment. However, an election is not the same as a strike.

Elections, for revolutionaries, are basically an opportunity to make propaganda. And that means propaganda for revolutionary ideas — not centrist ideas like IS's.

On unemployment, the cuts, and wages, IS counterposes its *Right to Work Campaign*, in a sectarian fashion, against the building of a working class united front. It substitutes agitation to 'fight hard against the bosses' for political demands — like the sliding scale of wages and hours — that point the way to a socialist alternative. On racism, IS often evades the issues calls instead for black-white unity around economic demands: "Black and White Unite and Fight for the Right to Work".

And even if IS had better positions on those particular issues, they would be within the political framework of sectarian self-proclamation, opportunist adaptation and centrist flabbiness.

Often IS has ended up taking positions clearly on the *wrong* side of the class line — giving de facto support to British troops in Ireland in 1969; joining the bourgeois "anti-terrorist" chorus over the bombing of the Para officers' mess at Aldershot; adopting the chauvinist 'vote no' position on the EEC. It is not a matter of IS's politics being in the right direction, but not going far enough. *They go in the wrong direction — in the last analysis, in a petty-bourgeois direction.* IS will not lead the working class to the overthrow of capitalism any more than the Labour Party will.

Split

Normally a revolutionary tendency stands candidates in elections, wherever it can — to win support for its ideas and its organisation. In contrast to the attitude of groupings like *Militant* and the *Socialist Charter*, it would not be at all deterred by the fear of 'splitting the vote' and perhaps losing a seat for the reformists to the right wing.

When Marxists are not strong enough to stand a candidate, normally we fight for our ideas through giving critical support to the mass party based on the working class — in Britain, the Labour Party.

We vote Labour *not* because of the official ideas of the Labour Party — we criticise those sharply and counterpose our own ideas. Nor do we do so because it is a 'lesser evil' than the Tories. In

by
**COLIN
FOSTER**

fact it often wreaks greater havoc than the Tories can get away with

We advocate a Labour vote — because Labour has a mass base, the allegiance of the mass of the organised workers of this country. With Labour in power, this mass base can be mobilised behind demands on the party the working class has put into government — demands that it cease to operate capitalism, cease to act as the bosses' broker. Such mobilisation is a key element in the development of the working class from Labourism and towards revolutionary politics.

This application of the tactic of the united front at the governmental level means calling on those parties which claim to base themselves on the working class to break with the bourgeoisie. It would be possible for revolutionaries to make propaganda for this while standing their own candidate (it would be one of the elements of that candidate's platform) but not while supporting small centrist groups — even if the centrist platform is criticised.

IS obviously has no mass base. We could justify voting IS only on the basis of its programme.

Blur

And this is the worst time for Marxists to blur the difference between our ideas and the politically blind 'more militancy' notions of IS. Right now, the working class is paying (through the attacks of the Labour Government) the price for the failure to develop political ideas adequate to the potential of the great militant industrial struggles of 1972-1974. Workers looking for ways to respond to the Government's attacks will no doubt be attracted by McCallum's Walsall campaign. It would be a disservice to them if revolutionaries were to endorse that campaign and the blind alley that IS represents. It is a case where any criticisms we were to make of IS would be outweighed by our endorsement.

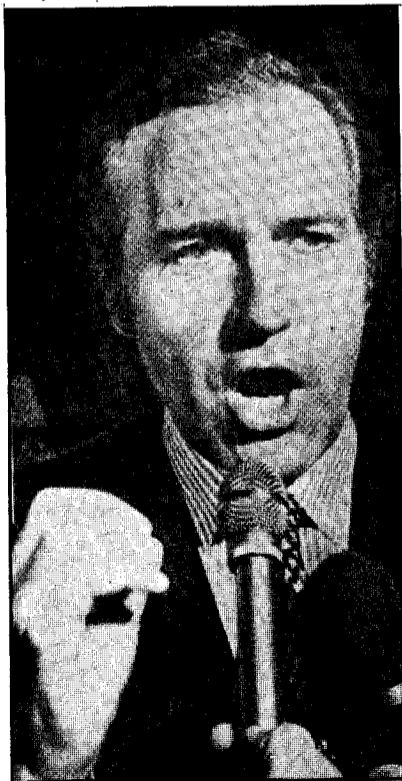
In the February 1974 elections many revolutionaries supported the IMG and WRP candidates; but they were wrong, because all that support achieved was to give a little credit to the IMG and WRP's political notions.

To pick and choose 'lesser evils' among non-revolutionary programmes is disorienting and unworthy of Marxists who seriously uphold the necessity of revolution and the necessity for absolute clarity of ideas to secure revolutionary victory. Marxists have the courage to counterpose

their ideas both to the reformists and to all varieties of centrism.

Such was the attitude of Leon Trotsky. Arguing against Andres Nin in 1930, he wrote: "You speak of the backwardness of the Spanish workers and of the necessity of making them acquainted with the fundamental ideas of communism before posing the question of the Left Opposition... For myself, I assert that I do not consider myself able to give a lecture on communism to the most backward workers without at the same time posing the questions of the Left Opposition..." And that was while the Trotskyists still considered themselves a faction of the Communist Parties.

In 1935 he argued for the Independent Labour Party in Britain to support Labour Party candidates against the Communist Party. "The ILP and the CP were propaganda organisations not mass organisations; united fronts between them were meaningless if each of them had the right to advance its own programme. Those programmes must have been different or there would have been no justification for separate parties... United fronts for certain specific actions could have been of some use, of course but the only important united front for the ILP is with the Labour Party, the trade unions, the cooperatives. At the moment, the ILP is too weak to secure these; it must first conquer the right to a united front by winning the support of the masses. At this stage, united fronts with the CP will only compromise the ILP..."

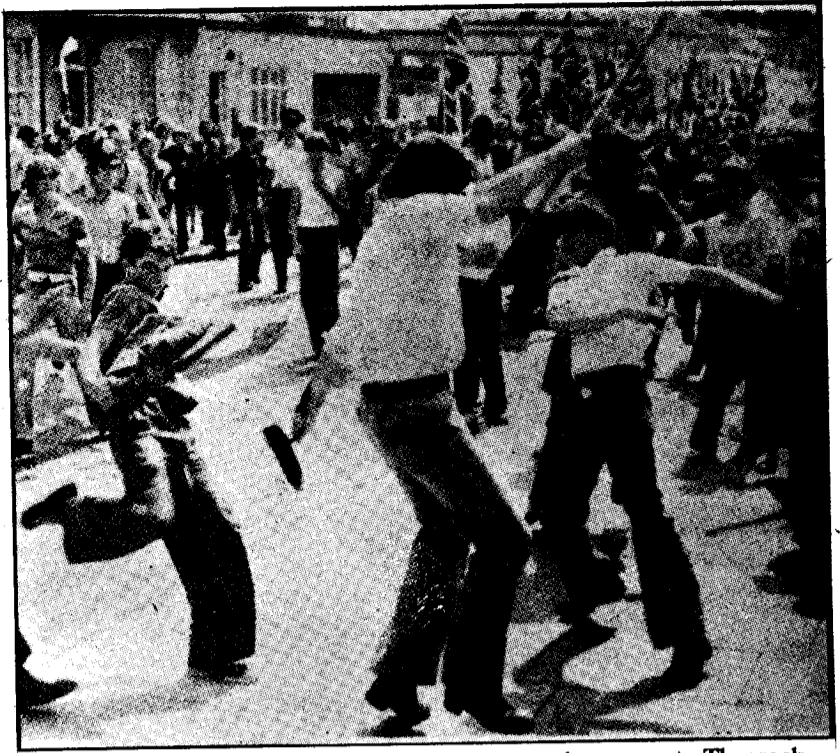


John Stonehouse

The next year, believing that the ILP had no further revolutionary possibilities, Trotsky argued for his co-thinkers in the ILP to move into the Labour Party — in terms that made it clear that they should support Labour candidates against ILP candidates, even though the latter might be more left wing.

Thus Trotsky argued that in elections revolutionaries should not seek the 'least evil' of the non-revolutionary programmes on offer, but on the contrary should seek the tactic which best allowed them to put over their own ideas.

Today's would-be Trotskyists



Anti-fascists clash with National Front and cops in run-up to Thurrock by-election. The question of organising against the fascists is going to be a vital political and practical issue in Walsall too. The fight for active unity against the fascists and the protection of labour movement and immigrant meetings must be made a central issue in the campaign.

of the IMG have a contrary attitude: they support the IS candidate because, although they have criticisms of IS's programme, they find it better than any other available! In fact the international current of which the IMG is part has for 25-30 years been seeking around for the best centrist current on offer to which to hitch their star. Recently in Italy, the IMG's sister group the CGR not only supported but participated in the centrist electoral bloc *Democrazia Proletaria* (see WA June 24th and July 1st).

But doubtless the IMG and IS would reply that we are nipping about the IS candidature in order to cover a capitulation on our part to the Labour Party. Are we?

Clear

When a clear class issue was posed with the vote of confidence in the Labour Government's cuts programme on March 11th (the day after 37 Labour MPs abstained), **WORKERS ACTION** took a clear line of saying Labour MPs should *refuse* that vote of confidence. IS and the IMG were evasive.

We do not need to vote for IS in order to prove that we are against racism, against unemployment, against the cuts. We will prove that by our fight for our politics on these questions in the mass party based on the trade unions. We see no reason to be diverted from that fight by IS's party-building exercises.

Marxists, of course, may sometimes support candidates who are neither equipped with clear revolutionary ideas nor are candidates of the mass party based on the working class.

In 1914, for example, Antonio Gramsci and the group around him in the Italian Socialist Party in Turin proposed that the Socialists adopt Gaetano Salvemini as election candidate. Salvemini was not a socialist. But he was generally recognised as the spokesman of the oppressed peasants of Southern Italy. Gramsci wanted to propose Salvemini in order to assist in the task of making revolutionary propaganda on the southern question in the Turin working class.

"The workers of Turin want to elect a deputy for the Apulian

peasants. The workers of Turin know that in the general elections of 1913 the overwhelming majority of the peasants of Mol-fetta and Bitonto supported Salvemini; the administrative pressure of the Giolitte government and the violence of the gangs and the police prevented the Apulian peasants expressing themselves.

"The workers of Turin do not ask for pledges from Salvemini, neither of Party programme nor of discipline within the Parliamentary group; once elected Salvemini will answer to the Apulian peasants, not to the workers of Turin, who will carry on their propaganda according to their principles and will not be at all committed by the political activity of Salvemini."

Only recently we had the case of Eddie Milne in Blyth — who was standing clearly against corruption in the labour movement, with the support of several local trade union bodies.

IS's campaign will probably get enough support to make it worthwhile for them. IS, from their point of view, are absolutely correct to put up a candidate. But that is not enough reason for us to hook our propaganda to IS's campaign, rather than the campaign of the Labour Party.

Mass

As Trotsky argued: "The mass organisations have value precisely because they are mass organisations. Even when they are under patriotic reformist leadership one cannot discount them. One must win the masses who are in their clutches: whether from outside or from inside depends on the circumstances."

"Small organisations which regard themselves as selective, as pioneers, can only have value on the strength of their programme and of the schooling and steeling of their cadres. A small organisation which has no unified programme and no really revolutionary will is less than nothing, is a negative quantity."

Such an organisation is IS. **WORKERS ACTION** advocates a Labour vote in the by-elections, while calling on all our supporters in the trade unions and the Labour Party to press home their criticism of the politics on which Labour fights these elections.

Stocksbridge plans a humble submission

THOSE people who have ever travelled from Sheffield to Manchester on the A616 may remember passing through a small town called Stocksbridge. But if they don't remember it, they are easily forgiven — its only noticeable feature is the local BSC steelworks, and in that part of the world steelworks are ten a penny.

To the working people of Stocksbridge, however, the steelworks is the life and soul of the community, providing the only major source of local employment — around 6,000 jobs. With Sheffield a ten mile bus ride away and Barnsley even more inaccessible — and both these areas having high unemployment rates themselves — the steelworks assumes an even greater importance for Stocksbridge workers.

For many years now, they have been expressing concern over the future of the works. Already in the past few years the umbrella frames department has been closed down; the spring mill and the production of stainless steel have been transferred to the BSC Shepcote Lane works in Sheffield.

Now the Bar and Rod Mill is threatened with transfer to Alloy Steel Rods Ltd in Sheffield, a firm in which BSC has a 25% stake. Here a new mill is to be developed for precision alloy steel rod rolling.

The transfer of the bar and rod production to Sheffield is part of a large scale rationalisation plan by the British Steel Corporation for the whole industry. Monty Finniston (retiring chairman of BSC) has stated that by 1985 there will be six large sites and twelve smaller ones; whereas in 1971 there were about 30 steel-making plants plus a number of other plants, rolling mills etc. At a rough estimate, therefore, BSC plan to close down or transfer at least half their existing plants.

The disastrous consequences

for steelworkers have already been felt at places like East Moors and Shotton in Wales. The effect on Stocksbridge will be every bit as bad.

So feelings are running pretty high — a public meeting last month to consider action was attended by well over 500 people. But the responses and solutions put forward in no way match up to the realities of the situation.

The most noticeable thing about that meeting was that it was called by the Town Council, not by the unions! The platform was made up of the Mayor (a Mr. Sweeney, who chaired) and another councillor; George Caybourn, District Secretary of the AUEW; Richard Caybourn, Conventor of Firth Brown (largest

steel producer in the private sector); Harry Parnham, area organiser of the ISTC (Iron & Steel Trades Confederation); Eric Guest AUEW, conventor of the Stocksbridge Works; and John Mendelson, Labour MP for the local constituency of Penistone.

Viability

Their arguments and 'solutions' will be familiar to anyone acquainted with the fight against closures at East Moors, Shotton, Bilston and other places. They are the arguments of 'viability', of saying that *our* plant can be profitable.

But this approach — which accepts that viability and profit-

ability are what matters — leaves the ball in BSC's court, giving them (to mix the metaphor...) a blank cheque for closures if they can prove their calculations are right. In fact they needn't even do that: the viability approach is so divisive ('don't close *our* works but one in the next town) that no united fight can be started and BSC can do what it likes.

BSC's plans are about *rationalisation* and *centralisation*, and the smaller, scattered works like Stocksbridge don't fit in. All over the world the trend is for large integrated plants like those built at Scunthorpe and Redcar. BSC has laid its plans accordingly; it is concerned to show a profit rather than to save jobs, and

doesn't care tuppence for the special pleadings or good ideas it gets from this or that local mayor or MP.

Against this background Richard Caybourn of Sheffield Trades Council and AUEW advised that "Stocksbridge should not defend what can't be defended" and thought it better to propose to BSC that the works should be turned over to production of special or 'exotic' steels (for the aerospace industry, turbines etc). Stocksbridge workers should draw up plans and present them to BSC. (How many other such well-meaning plans they've been presented with!). And if the plans were rejected — no action was suggested.

For its part the ISTC, the main union for steel production workers who have taken the brunt of the redundancies, has specialised in doing *nothing* except to offer occasional beatings to BSC. On this occasion ISTC area organiser Harry Parnham expressed the view that the redundancies were based on "sound economic logic". But "with the right kind of investment Stocksbridge has a future", and that this investment had to be monitored (*who by?*) to make sure it went to the right places.

Other speeches were in the same vein, contrasting in their complacency the anger and frustration expressed from the floor. But with the platform solutions the only ones on offer, the anger and frustration will produce no better outcome than the prevarication and pussyfooting.

The meeting ended up *accepting* the closure of the Bar and Rod Mill — on 'condition' that other work is created to enable Stocksbridge to remain a steel making centre. BSC should 'guarantee in writing' that sufficient investment will go to Stocksbridge in the future.

And an "action committee" is to be set up — to formulate plans for humble submission to BSC...

Alone

Such policies will get steel workers precisely *nowhere*. Nor will racist comments from the platform about 'Japs' taking 'our' steel orders. The only strength of the Stocksbridge steelworkers is their own industrial strength. They should press in their unions for a policy of **NO REDUNDANCIES**. Modernisation should mean shorter hours — not redundancies, nor loss of jobs by 'natural wastage'. Such a policy should be adopted nationwide, to put a stop to the parochialism and divisive competition between workers in the various threatened plants. Workers in a place like Stocksbridge should not be left to fight alone, but backed up with the national strength of their unions.

As one steelworker put it to me in the pub after the meeting. "I worked at Dagenham once and I'll tell you, if the workers here had *one third* of the militancy of those people then they could move bloody mountains". The rest of the Stocksbridge workforce would do well to take heed of these comments. The future of their jobs and their community is at stake.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM



Like the Stocksbridge workers, these Scottish workers are marching for the retention of 'their' works only.

West London hammers the hospitals

West London hospitals have been at the receiving end of investigations by the District Management Team covering the Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham area. Their brief was simple: how to eliminate chunks of the Hospital service by 'rationalising' it away.

The first thing was that Acton was 're-designated' from a general hospital to a hospital specialising either in geriatrics or in psychiatric treatment. Along with this came a systematic run-down in services and maintenance. The lift was declared unsafe, and half the hospital is now inaccessible and closed down.

It seems likely that the 're-designation' was in fact a prelude to the closing down of the hospital. It happened to Poplar Hospital; it happened to Liverpool Road Hospital. The Elizabeth Garratt Anderson is threatened in exactly the same way: a run-down, then the declaration that there aren't the resources to put things right, and then closure — with the hospital in question already virtually closed.

At Acton it means not only redundancies for the staff, but also a massive extra burden on Hammersmith Hospital. More than two miles away (and a long bus ride, if you can get a bus). Hammersmith Hospital in the best conditions would have problems coping with the extra burden. But in a year or so the situation will become even worse — for the DMT has various plans for the DMT's various plans for Hammersmith.

In the long run it is planned that Hammersmith will close

entirely as a general hospital. Then the whole burden of the district will fall onto a single hospital, the Charing Cross in Fulham Palace Road.

The Consultants want Hammersmith as a specialist unit concentrating on renal and cardiac surgery — and the DMT will have recognised the economies such specialisation will bring — such as a reduction of staff numbers and in 'costly' facilities.

Life and death

What it means for patients is longer journeys: it means that kidney and heart patients will not be treated at the general hospital and will have to travel to the specialist units. And that casualty and general patients will have to make their way over long distances to a far-off 'centralised' general hospital. Since building has been frozen, the Charing Cross will now, without expansion of its capacity, have to take three hospitals' general patients. But the new specialist Hammersmith will probably have a number of its wards closed.

Thus there will be a general contraction of facilities, dressed up as progress.

There's nothing wrong with specialist units — but people need them as well as existing facilities, not instead of them in some sort of 'swap' game.

In matters of life and death, you can't swap health facilities around like stamp collections.

A worker at Hammersmith



Hospital told Workers Action that there are signs already of cutbacks similar to those at Acton and the EGA.

For instance, all posts in clerical, medical and ancillary sections have been frozen with no recruitment unless it can be proved that the job is really essential. What this means is that many departments are currently understaffed, with vacant jobs being 'covered' by others during the normal working hours. There have been cuts in overtime working, which is essential for the normal running of the hospital. And the post of the Chief District Administrator, who left in July, will be filled "as soon as possible".

Meanwhile the intake of new student nurses has been reduced this September by 50%. State finalists are being told that there are no jobs waiting for them when they qualify in October. But they were also told by the Chief Nursing Officer "not to worry".

For ancillary workers (non-medical staff who do cooking, cleaning, laundering, and carrying the patients) there are threats of very large scale redundancies. Management are "assuring" workers that they'll be put onto other work. But as NUPE steward Bill Geddes says: "I'm a baker. You can't make a baker a butcher".

Perhaps, however, the DMT can accomplish such a transformation. After all, it's doing its best to turn a health service into a production line...

MARK TRAQUAIR

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TRICO bosses play last card

THE LAST cards of the Trico management are now being played at the longest running equal pay strike.

They have now had to close down production indefinitely in Brentford, laying off 455 men and 77 women production workers. There can be no doubt that while the women strikers have been surviving on £10 a week strike pay the employing class have rallied to the Trico bosses through the Employers' Federation and are paying them large amounts of money to keep the strike going and eventually to demoralise the women and drive them back to work.

They recognise full well what this strike means in terms of the organisation of the workers inside Trico (which has a virtual monopoly in the production of wind-screen wipers); and also in relation to the inspiration it will give to thousands of other women who have been robbed of equal pay and have been used as cheap labour by the capitalist system.

The findings of the Industrial Tribunal against the women did not lead to the massive return to work which the management prayed for. Only a few women trickled back into the factory.

The results of the tribunal in management's favour is indicative of the sham of the government's "equal pay by law" promises. Even the press, who for years have been lauding the equal pay act and telling women that they have never had it so good have been forced to recognise that perhaps a few of the loopholes need tightening up fast.

The way that the Trico case was handled by the tribunal was a perfect example of the way the

contended that there is currently any difference at all between the work which they (the men) are doing and that which their female counterparts are doing. So here the company must rely upon the 'escape' provisions contained in the Act.

They immediately accepted the employers' excuse that the ex-nightworkers were more flexible than the women operators and claimed that this constituted a "material difference". The

TRICO — A STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL PAY by MARY CORBISHLEY.

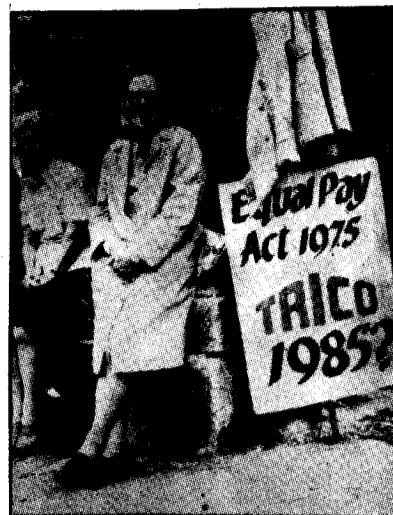
A WORKERS ACTION pamphlet describing the history of the strike, and the shabby record of Industrial Tribunals. It includes a background analysis of the fight for equal pay and the role of the Working Women's Charter.

ONLY 5p. OBTAINABLE FROM 49, CARNAC ST, LONDON SE 27.

employing class has used the legislation and its procedure to rob women of their rights. As the employers' stooge who presided over the industrial tribunal said, "in their (Trico's) case, it is not

"neutral" judges fell over themselves to agree.

The laying off of the production workers must be seen as a victory for the strikers, but there is no doubt that the next few



weeks are going to be crucial to the outcome of the strike.

The employers have already launched a campaign of intimidation and threats — intent not only on smashing the strike but also the whole union organisation within the factory. Threats of redundancies and letters stating that those on the picket lines are all students are only two of the tactics used by a management which is becoming increasingly desperate. The struggle has now spilled over to their Northampton plant, where the completely exploitative nature of Trico management is seen to the full. The women there not only have not got equal pay, they are also getting £11 below the basic rate at Brentford. Recently strikers went down and unionised the factory and there are now plans for the women at Northampton to take up the issue of parity with their sisters at Brentford.

Because of the drastic need to draw in much broader sections of the labour movement into active solidarity with the strikers, the initiative, in the 16th week of the strike, of the Greater London Area Trades Councils to set up a support committee must be welcomed. Represented at this meeting were 19 trades councils, divisional and district committees, and the Working Womens Charter Campaign. A number of necessary tasks were outlined including picketing, the organisation of factory tours to spread solidarity action with Trico, the effective

blacking of Trico products in every locality; publicity and most important of all, a demonstration, mass picket and day of action.

It is unfortunate, however, that the day of action so vitally needed to boost the morale of the women and to put real pressure on the management and the Employers Federation is not to take place until at least 3 weeks' time. Similarly the horrified reactions from the organisers of the meeting to the suggestion that they should try for stoppages at the car factories where the Trico products are used stood in stark contrast to their claims that the united strength of the labour movement could "crack Trico like a nut".

Indeed it could. The problem is that the labour movement and particularly the leaderships of the major unions involved in this dispute have not thrown their full weight behind the women strikers. If the no. 8 district of the Confed of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and the AUEW nationally realised as much as the Employers Federation does the importance of this strike, the women at Trico would, for a start, not be scrimping and scraping on £10 a week strike pay — the AUEW would have organised a national levy of all its members so that these women did not suffer from financial hardship. Similarly the effective blacking of all wind-screen wipers would have taken place.

An ongoing support committee must be created and the day of action organised to draw in the maximum support, so that the boot can really be put into the Trico bosses.

Pat Longman



The Right to Work March from London will reach Brighton on Wednesday to join the NUPE anti-cuts lobby of the TUC.

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THURSDAY 9th SEPTEMBER. Campaign to Repeal the Immigration Act public meeting on Racism and the Law. 7pm at Artists for Democracy, 143 Whitfield St, W1.

SUNDAY 12th SEPTEMBER. Chile Solidarity Campaign demonstration, starting 1pm at Clerkenwell Green.

SUNDAY 12th SEPTEMBER. Public meeting of Wolverhampton Anti-Racist Committee. Speakers: Tariq Ali, Mr Noo (President of Wolverhampton IWA, Jimmy McCallum (SW prospective candidate, Walsall North) and Keith Wymer, (Labour Party prospective candidate, South Staffs). 3pm at Wolverhampton Polytechnic.

SATURDAY 18th SEPTEMBER. RCG public day school on 'The Crisis of Capitalism and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat'. 10am to 6pm at UMIST students union, off Sackville St, Manchester. Further information from Day School (WA), 49 Raiton Rd, London SE24 0LN.

SATURDAY 30th OCTOBER. National Working Womens Charter day school on nursery campaigns. 10am to 5pm, at the Centre of Environmental Studies, 62 Chandos Place, WC2. Creche provided.

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CPSA calls one-day strike

THE NATIONAL Executive Committee of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) has decided by a big majority in favour of a national overtime ban and a one-day strike against the Government's attack on jobs in the civil service.

The DHSS Section Executive of the CPSA has imposed a ban on overtime throughout the section to force the expansion of employment by the planned 1,300 jobs. The Government has announced cut-backs on projected employment targets amounting to 60,000 jobs.

The NEC resolution reads: This meeting notes the reports on progress on the campaign against cuts in public expenditure. We resolve that campaign should go forward and that the following NEC decision be presented at the forthcoming series of members' meetings:

"a. In order to preserve job opportunities a ban on overtime should be made general in November. The implementation of the ban and its application to be the responsibility of the General Purposes Committee.

"b. That Section Executive

Committees and corresponding bodies in all areas should encourage and guide an attitude amongst the members of 'one man, one job'.

"c. That an all-members one-day strike should be considered in conjunction with other public sector unions in order to focus attention on cuts in public expenditure to coincide with November 17th lobby of Parliament to institute a more general campaign.

The loose wording of this last part could be a loophole by means of which the CPSA bureaucracy will try to get out of its commitments. It is up to the members to make sure this can't be done.

But the CPSA members mustn't be left on their own. It is important that other unions — in particular other public sector unions! — support the Parliamentary lobby and also call a one-day strike against the cuts in public expenditure.

Other unions should also follow the CPSA's example of banning overtime to protect not just existing jobs but job opportunities projected in previous plans.

Stephen Corbishley