

CHARTIST

LABOUR'S REVOLUTIONARY VOICE No. 24 November 1974 Price 5p

WHICH WAY FOR LABOUR NOW?

MILLIONS of workers and their families are now looking to the Labour government for an end to soaring living costs, the threat to jobs and attacks on democratic rights.

The Tories were decisively rejected at the polls (they received their lowest vote this century!) and are now paralysed by a crisis of leadership. Labour has won a victory. There is now no excuse for failing to implement the pledges of the election manifesto:

- "to bring about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of wealth and power in favour of working people and their families."
- "to extend public ownership into profitable manufacturing industry—and not confine the extension of the public sector to loss-making and subsidised industries!"
- "to nationalise development land" and North Sea Oil.
- higher "taxation on the better-off".

But barely had the dust settled after the election when Wilson began attacking the trade unions and entertaining the industrialists of the CBI. During these amicable discussions Wilson promised to restore 'industry's profitability and cash flow'

CBI's demands

The CBI are demanding:

- Virtual abolition of statutory price controls
- £3,000 subsidy to industry
- Reduction of corporation tax
- Reduction in taxation on stock profits
- Dropping of all nationalisation plans.

The CBI's demands would require a complete reversal of Labour's election pledges.

The seriousness of these demands starkly illustrates the crisis of British capitalism. It is a crisis aggravated by a Balance of Payments deficit of £374m. for September—a state debt of £4,500m. for the year, increasing bankruptcies and factory closures, and pressures from the big banks and international creditors for savage cuts in state expenditure.

The last minority Labour government was under continuous attack from the CBI and members like Tate & Lyle who spent thousands of pounds attempting to



Campbell Adamson director-general of the Confederation of British Industry at 10 Downing Street

discredit the nationalisation plans. The big banks, millionaire directors, stock-exchange gamblers and landlords continue to stage a "crisis of confidence" refusing to invest through a massive strike of capital. They want tough measures against the working class in order to restore falling profit rates.

recession

United States President, Gerald Ford, sent his economic advisors hotfooting over to Wilson after the election to impress upon him the seriousness of the recession in America—there has been no economic growth for the last 9 months—and the necessity for drastic deflationary measures. That is, more unemployment and greater sacrifices from British workers. Chancellor Healey is already indicating that he is ready to oblige.

In his TV 'Speech to the nation' broadcast, Wilson tells us there will be no 'general increase in living standards' over the next two or three years. But CBI leaders want to drive living standards back to poverty levels.

As the 'Guardian' reported (16 October) "while strongly in favour of wage restraint the Confederation leaders stressed that they believed the general principle of allowing real earnings (after tax) to be maintained was more than the country could afford at present."

dictates

It is high time the dictates of these monopoly capitalists were put an end to. They are preparing savage onslaughts on wages, jobs and conditions and must be stopped. That means scrapping the wage-cutting 'social contract'. However dressed up, the social contract binds workers hand and foot to the careering chariot of capitalist crisis. It is a contract with a bankrupt system and has nothing to do with socialism.

Trade unionists have a socialist 'social contract' with the Labour Party. It is embodied in Clause 4 of the constitution. It calls for the 'common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange' under workers'

control. This 'nationalisation' contract has waited 50 years for implementation. Now is the time to act.

There is no need for austerity at all. No need for unemployment, inadequate housing and education and falling living standards. Ford workers, Scottish public service workers, miners and builders have all shown their determination to fight the effects of the capitalist crisis. We demand the Labour government match this willingness to struggle. We elected the Labour government to govern. To govern in the interests of the working class:

- End the 'social contract'!
- End talks with the CBI!
- Break with the employers!
- Mobilize the strength of the labour movement to fight for full industrial, financial and state power.

The choice facing the Labour government is clear. Either conquer big business — or be conquered by it. Dictate to the monopolies or submit to their dictates. There is no middle road.

JONES AIDS C.B.I.

BY MIKE DAVIS

JACK JONES leader of the Transport & General Workers Union has now made it quite clear where he stands in the fight against rising prices and redundancies. He opposes any fight.

In a speech at the union's Scottish conference in Motherwell he advised workers not to press for wage rises to keep pace with the breathless rush of price inflation. "A wonderful wage agreement is of no value if the firm with whom we have negotiated the agreement does not employ people any more", he said.

Such talk plays directly into the hands of Confederation of British Industry leaders who are calling for great sacrifices from the working class and at the same time launching a ruthless offensive to increase productivity and 'trim' their workforces.

Jones argued that "it is simply no use pressing actions that lead to the closure of firms we work for". But on the very same day as his speech for 'moderation'

and 'austerity', almost 1,000 workers at British Caledonian Airlines were made redundant. This was the sector of the state-run airways given over to private owners. British Caledonian was allotted all the most lucrative flight routes and a generous subsidy to start with. Despite all this, the airline is now on the verge of complete bankruptcy. Moreover British Caledonian had a virtually strike-free record. The same could be said for Court Lines where bankruptcy led to the axing of over 1,000 jobs.

Jones' argument is false to the core. Without struggle now, mass unemployment is inevitable. The gathering international capitalist recession will not spare those workers who accept Jones' advice. Already the number of firms applying for bankruptcy proceedings at Companies House were as many in September as in the whole of the preceding six months. Continued page 2

THE CHARTIST

Monthly Journal of the Socialist Charter Movement.
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NOW THAT a majority Labour government has been returned, a back-log of postponed price rises will inevitably be released. Leaders of nationalised industries are baying for increases in electricity, coal, gas and rail charges. The Tory constructed Price Commission is due to give the nod for increases in items ranging from engineering and electrical products to numerous food stuffs.

Immediately after the election, it was announced that Labour's Prices Minister, Shirley Williams and her Department, had been engaged in secret talks with industry heads at which proposals to increase prices by £1,000m. were made. This would add 2% to the retail price index.

The Confederation of British Industry is calling for an end to

Prices-what must be done when thresholds run out?

all price controls, as one of the conditions for 'co-operation' with the Labour government. Wilson has said in a national broadcast that he knew Labour's 'tight' price controls "are causing increasing problems" for the retail trade and industry, and would therefore be eased.

Chancellor Healey's financial wizardry will not disguise the harsh reality from workers and

their families. No matter how much the statistics are bent, the flood of increases in all kinds of commodities speaks louder than figures. Perhaps the Department of Employment's "30% inflation" calculations are nearer the mark.

What will happen when the threshold payments end next month? What meagre protection they provided against the worst inflationary ravages will be gone. What do

our labour and trade union leaders propose as a shield for real wages? Merely a threadbare social contract which requires that all workers accept wage restraint and sliding living standards for the next two or three years. Such policies must be ended.

To provide full protection to the purchasing power of real wages the TUC should immediately launch a campaign for a rising scale of wages. This would involve the extension of thresholds to a nil-norm and for every percentage point increase in a workers' cost of living index wages should rise correspondingly. Only in this way can the treadmill of wages chasing prices be overcome, and wage increases become real increases.

ON THE SPOT REPORTS OF TWO VITAL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY STRIKES

Support S.E.I. sisters

By Graeme Atkinson
(Stockport)

FOR SEVERAL weeks now, women at Salford Electrical Instruments in Heywood have been on strike against their employers, the massive GEC monopoly. This is because they dared to demand equal pay with the semi-skilled men at the factory on piece-rates, bonus rates and standard performance. When negotiations lasting nearly a year collapsed, the women went back on the day rate and were locked out for non-compliance with the management's instructions to return to piece work.

That was on 15 August. Since then, the women have fought alone, despite their union—the AUEW—making the dispute official. The men at the factory have, with the exception of the works convenor scabbed and the other SEI plant at Eccles has failed to take solidarity action. Nevertheless, support for the sisters at SEI has grown. Hull dockers have blacked SEI and local trade unionists and women's rights activists have made regular collections. On the 19 October there was a 300 strong rally at Heywood where Peter Branah, AUEW Bury District Secretary, spoke along with representatives of the Working Women's Charter the Wingrove & Rogers (Liverpool) Strike Committee, the Manchester Women's Rights Group and the Labour Party. Pledges were made to take up the fight throughout the workers' movement and £199 was collected.

The Bury District Committee of the AUEW has called a stoppage in support of SEI. In reply, GEC HAVE SACKED ALL THE WOMEN! There is now a serious danger of a Fine Tubes-type situation developing. To avoid this, the



Strikers at the SEI gates

AUEW must organise real action and stop dragging its feet over equal pay. The AUEW members in all GEC plants should be called out and meetings organised in other engineering factories to plan a serious campaign aimed at defeating GEC. This dispute is crucial. For a victory at SEI would be a real threat to £32,000 a year GEC boss, Arnold Weinstock who has no intention of conceding equal pay without a fight. That's why Weinstock's flunky, Brian White, has sacked all the women.

SEI must not become another Fine Tubes. The AUEW must ACT now with strike action to support the struggle waged by the SEI women for official union policy. A victory would have repercussions throughout the working class and would be a massive step forward in the battle for equal pay and women's rights.

Victory for Asian workers

by Geoff Bender
(Wycombe)

THIRTY TWO Asian workers at Combined Optical Industries Slough, scored a major victory in their seven week lock-out. The lockout began on 27 August when the company sacked the day-shift for refusing to work overtime, and the night-shift for taking solidarity action with them. The overtime ban was in support of a wages claim and the demand for a 40 hour week. In the 2 years since the union—AUEW—was started at the factory shift wages have been raised from a ridiculously low 33p an hour to 55p. Attempts had also been made to cut the 57½ hour working week.

The company defended the length of the working week saying that it gave the Pakistani workers a chance to send more money home, and claimed that could not afford more than 55p an hour.

On 24 July the Company changed the working hours from day and night shift to a 2 to 10 and 10pm to 6am shift system to counter the overtime ban. On 26 August the workers told the company they were going back to the old shifts. On 27 August the sackings took place.

Virtually round the clock picketing was started immediately. The AUEW District Committee made the dispute official and a fund was set up. £100 was donated by Eton and Slough Labour Party and International Socialist members helped on the picket line. Thugs hired by the company were brought in by minibus at different times each day. According to the company they were "Australian students". In the words of Derek Hows of the AUEW D.C.—'they look more like mercenaries than students.. this is the beginning of the private

armies!' A mass picket called by the AUEW D.C on 18 September was supported by more than 60 white and coloured workers. It ended with the arrest of two pickets as police forced their way through the crowd for the scabs mini-bus.

Blacking was started of Combined Optics products at Time Dundee, a major customer. However victory was achieved when skilled workers inside the factory impressed by the solidarity of the local labour movement and the determination of the pickets began joining the union en mass and supported those locked out. Skilled workers who polished the lenses and watch glasses at the factory could not be easily replaced.

The company capitulated, reinstating the 32 originally sacked, conceding a 40 hour week and increasing pay to 68p an hour. Still hardly a living wage but a great step forward and an inspiration to further struggle.

Defend 'Socialist Worker'

IN AN attack on the freedom of the socialist press, the Labour government's top law man—Sam Silkin has pushed through the High Court a criminal prosecution against Paul Foot, editor of Socialist Worker—weekly paper of the International Socialists. In a miserably obscure case of witness identity (Lords X and Y!) arising from a blackmail case earlier this year, Foot named names in defiance of the judge's ruling. Fines and costs totalling £8,000 against the International Socialists is a clear case of intimidation against the Left. 'CHARTIST' denounces this political assault by a 'Labour' representative against the independent socialist press as a capitulation to reactionary judges and demands the annulment of all penalties forthwith by the new Labour government.

Jones aids C.B.I. (from page 1)

Whilst leaving workers exposed to rising prices and demanding complete confidence in the social contract to protect living standards, Jones provides no strategy for the defence of the thousands of workers already facing the dole queue. Not a word about Labour nationalising most industries threatening mass redundancies. Not a word about tactics like factory occupations to fend off the

spectre of the 1930's. Not a mention of an independent working class strategy to defend the right to work. In short, Jones' class compromise policies, advocating reliance on the employers' benevolence to protect jobs, can only disarm and confuse, not only TGWU members, but the entire Labour movement whose jobs are under the axe.

And how are workers to fight astronomical increases in the cost of living? Jones is correct

to say that it is the real value of the pay packet we should be fighting about 'not necessarily the amount of paper in it.' But the deception lies in his failure to outline a strategy to do just this. If Jones were to mobilise his membership around the fight to extend thresholds to a nil norm and for a rising scale of wages to protect purchasing power, then some flesh could be put on his statement. At present it is merely hollow rhetoric.

Ford workers give class lead to Labour

By Don Flynn (TGWU)

THE SOCIAL contract of the new Wilson Labour government and the TUC has been exposed as a hollow sham by the 70,000 workers at the Ford Motor Company. The determination of the right-wing majority in Wilson's government to make the working class pay for the intensifying crisis of world capitalism through the wage-restraint provisions of the social contract has received a defiant no! The rebuff was delivered by the four-week strike of press-shop operators at the Ford Dagenham and Halewood plants.

The myth of the high-paid Ford worker grabbing wage increases that should be going to nurses, council workers and teachers must be exposed. For a start, wages in Ford are as much as £14 behind wages paid in the car industry in the Midlands, despite the higher productivity wrung from the labour of workers in Dagenham, Halewood, Swansea and other plants.

LOWER-PAID

Secondly, no amount of wage restraint on the part of car-workers will provide increases in the wages of their lower-paid brothers and sisters in the public sector industries and services. Wage-restraint in Fords benefits only the profits of the Ford Motor Company, which last year extracted nearly £1,000 from each of its 70,000 workers.

The present battle with Ford management is the most important workers have faced since the 1971 Parity Campaign. Centring around a long-standing dispute between press-shop workers in the Halewood and Dagenham plants, a major new campaign has been opened up upon which the maintenance of the living standards in the future will depend.

The 4-week strike in September/October was produced by the

management's decision to resist the demand for a £4 a week increase of the differential. A letter circulated by the management to all of Ford's 70,000 UK employees on September 5 took a 'no-surrender' attitude to the justifiable demands.

The men were told that if they took 'unconstitutional' action in order to achieve their demands, then "...in a very short space of time many plants would grind to a halt, thousands of people would be put out of work, the only result for employees being that they will lose large sums of money without any gain." In effect it was a declaration of war from the management.

NO REAL ADVANCE

However, Ford workers have had no REAL advance in their wages since 1971, an advance gained only after a nine-week official strike.

The press operators decision to strike for the increase in differentials was inevitable. It was the most serious challenge to the Ford management's policy of no more deals.

As is now well-known, the management's resistance, forced by orders from Detroit to get the lines running at all costs, conceded the "no-negotiations" stance in the second week of the strike after 12,000 had been laid off. Faced with a situation in which the entire work-force was pushing forward with sectional wage demands, the employers' side of the National Joint Negotiating Board decided to abandon the limits of the 1974 wage deal and open up talks on a new across-the-board series of increases five months ahead of schedule.

With a return to work in the press shop after 4 weeks strike



Ford workers lobbying the pay talks

the details of the claim became public.

The management's ploy in presenting the deal as a £63m—38 per cent—wage-increase was immediately seen through by the men themselves. It appeared that workers in the five grades would be receiving increases of £10 a week immediately. In reality this increase consists of consolidation into the basic rate of seven threshold increases plus washing-up and preparation time money. The '£10' increase was really £4.20. And, for this immediate increase of £4.20, future threshold increases would be scrapped and a whole series of measures from the stepping-up of work-study and the introduction of 'lead-operators' onto the lines were to be introduced. These 'lead operators' or 'utility men' are nothing short of company spies and constitute a serious threat to the security and conditions of Ford workers.

To cap all this, Ford have the audacity to 'offer' threshold payments after prices have risen by 36%!

WAGE-CUT

But this 'massive' wage increase, so eagerly pounced on by the capitalist press as evidence of the greed and selfishness of car-workers, actually represents a wage-CUT! Even without a lump-sum increase, with just the continuation of the existing threshold clauses, wages at Fords would have gained from the inevitable 12 monthly triggerings resulting from an 18 per cent inflation rate throughout 1975, the sum of £4.80 a week!

The deal is quite obviously unacceptable to the workers at Ford. It will result in a significant CUT in real wages whilst providing management with a blank cheque to introduce speed-up, manning cut-backs, work-study and mobility without any defence for the men who work the lines.

It is part of an attempt by the Ford empire to make the workers pay for a seriously declining rate of profit in the industry. The recent disastrous slump in car sales throughout the world merely aggravates the problem.

The whole future of the Labour movement depends upon the ability of these workers with their economic bargaining power, the so-called 'big battalions' of the TUC, to shatter the social contract and unite low-paid workers behind the demand for the extension of thresholds to a nil norm and full automatic cost-of-living increases.

The vacillations of the union leadership in attempting to proclaim the Ford workers demands as being in line with the social contract is patently false.

Ford workers have provided a real class lead to Labour by their determination to resist the capitalist monopolies assault on wages, jobs and conditions. It is the task of the Labour government to provide real political leadership to the militancy of Ford workers and embark on a course to break the power of the monopolies such as Fords. Socialist change not social-con-tricks is the only road out of this capitalist crisis for the working class.

Police build new strike-breaking force

Mark Douglas

IN PREPARATION for the coming struggles by the trade union movement in defence of living standards and against rising unemployment—struggles which are bound to lead to factory occupations, strong picket lines and large workers' demonstrations—the police forces throughout the country are building a special 'call-out system' of trained police to 'deal with any public order situation'. As reported in the 'Times' (16.10.74) recently, policemen are being recruited into 'mutual support units' to combat violence arising from political demonstrations, industrial unrest and football hooliganism—these units are the nearest the British police have come to setting up anti-riot squads such as those employed in France during the events of 1968. Other reports quote 'only single men are required as volunteers.'

The French equivalent, the CRS (Companies for the Security of the Republic) are fully armed tactical police—100% mobilised—built by President de Gaulle in the early sixties to clamp down on

the trade unions. The May general strike of 1968 confirmed to millions of French workers the unrestricted savagery of this 'elite corps' which brutally attacked workers and students on picket lines.

With revolutionary upsurges on the agenda in Britain, the police chiefs are clearly preparing similar violence against militant workers and others. Several Labour MPs have reacted to this prospect with alarm. The responsibility for any police violence—like that which resulted in a student's death in the Red Lion Square incident—rests clearly with the Labour government. Home Secretary Roy Jenkins who controls the police forces must be made to take action now to halt all such plans, disband the Special Patrol Groups and the Special Branch—the political police. Only this policy will avert the escalation of violence which the ruling class is increasingly resorting to as a method of controlling the workers' demands.

Repeal Conspiracy Laws!

MIKE DAVIS

AS WE go to press the appeal of Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson against 3 year and 2½ year jail sentences under the Conspiracy laws comes up in London.

These workers need the support of every trade unionist and worker. They must not be allowed to serve the remainder of their sentences. That they spent the bulk of their time in jail under a Labour government is a major indictment of that government. Perhaps Harold Wilson has forgotten that the Labour Party was built seventy years ago—around the time of the Taff Vale Judgment—to take political action in defence of trade unionists.

What were the crimes of these trade unionists? To fight against a pernicious system which kills almost 200 building workers every year, makes over 100,000 workers unemployed and subjects thousands more to insecurity and

black-listing? To fight to defend and raise the living standards of all workers in the jungle they call the building industry? To extend trade unionism and eliminate the employers fifth column—the Lump? To the building monopolies these are crimes!

The right to picket and strike was fought for over 100 years ago—and workers went to prison fighting for these rights. Now in 1974, the capitalists use the law and the courts in exactly the same way in an attempt to strip workers of every democratic right ever won.

The Labour government must immediately repeal the reactionary 1875 Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act and ensure the sentences are quashed. There must be no return to the days of the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

AFTER THE ELECTION—WHAT NEXT?

WE SMASHED the Tories. They received their lowest ever share of the poll—35.7%. We popped the Liberal balloon. They fielded 100 more candidates than in February, yet received 700,000 fewer votes. Nationally, we have transformed a situation in which the Tories and Liberals in Parliament outnumbered Labour by 320 to 301, into one in which Labour outnumbers the Tories and Liberals by a decisive 319 to 289. Following on the victorious miners' strike and election result in February, our whole movement is now in a considerably strengthened position.

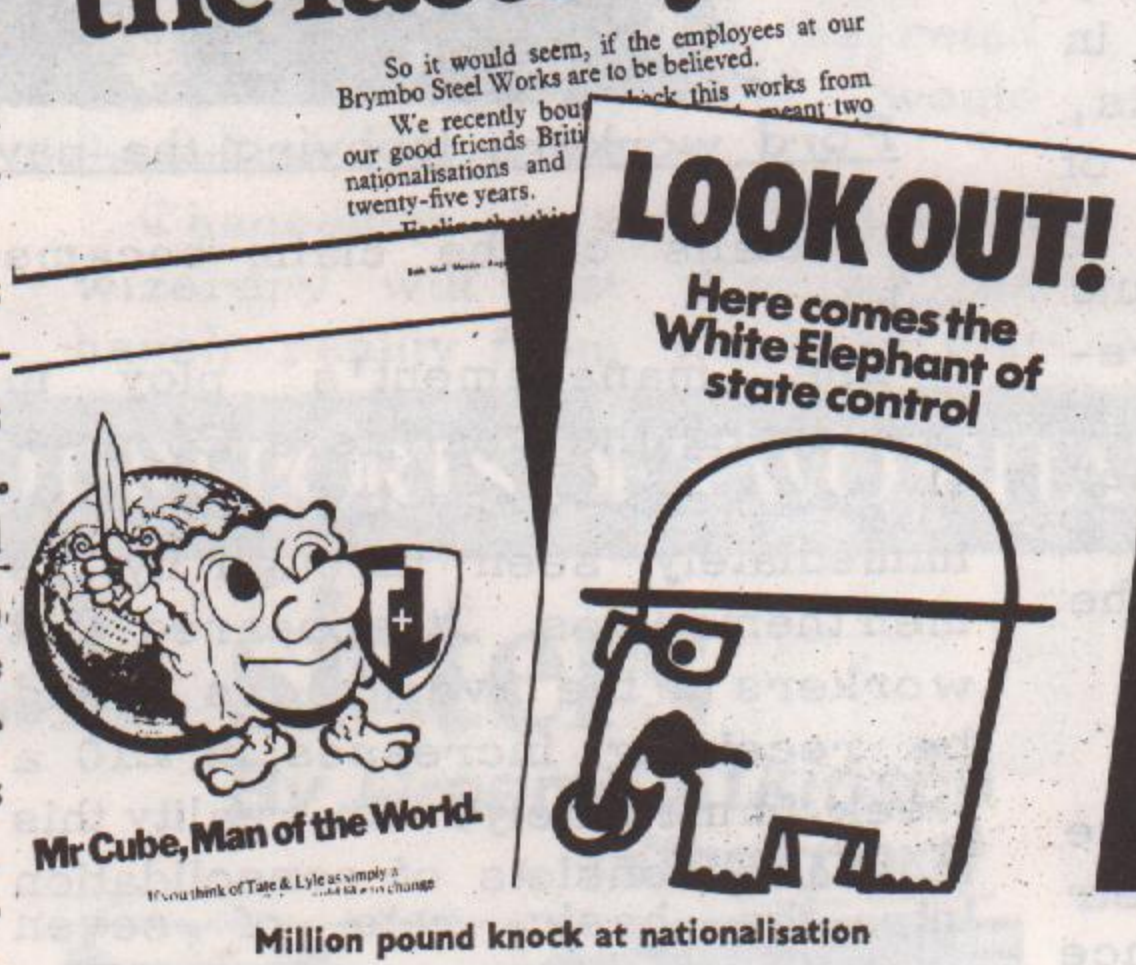
Our ruling class opponents are disastrously split. The economic system they represent is bankrupt on their own admission. Court Line, Ferranti, Jessel Securities, Hawker Siddeley, British Caledonian—one "free enterprise" company after another is collapsing, imposing lay-offs or begging for state handouts. Whenever was there a better time to bring industry into public ownership and workers' control? The working class has given its answer to the "Say no to Nationalization" advertisements of the monopolies. Now, all over Britain, Labour voters are expecting results. No to rising prices! No to wage freeze! We won the election—now let's see a really STRONG Labour Government which will GOVERN on our behalf!

retreat

But from Harold Wilson's behaviour, anyone would think the City, the Confederation of British Industry and the Tories had won the election. The feeble "controls" on prices, the monopolies have been assured, are to be lifted. Over £1,000m of taxpayers' money is being granted to private firms "to tide them over difficulties." Leading Labour ministers are again being 'converted' to the EEC cause. Instead of guaranteeing workers' jobs and

standards by seizing the assets of the giant monopolies, almost all of which contributed to the 'anti-nationalisation 'scare' campaign during the election, Harold Wilson has adopted Heath's reactionary line that we're all 'one nation'.

Nationalisation: Is it unwelcome on the factory floor?



It has to be admitted that Labour's majority was not as decisive as it could and should have been. But the reason for that is clear. The overall turnout was down from 78.7% in February to 72.8%. Given that, the drop in Labour's vote (from 11,656,726 to 11,468,645) was relatively small. Where left wing candidates stood, the Labour vote shot up. Eddie Loyden of Liverpool Garston, for example, increased his overall vote from 25,332 to 27,857. He had demanded the nationalization of the monopolies throughout his campaign.

Harry Selby's victory in Glasgow provided another example, and there were several more. But the emphasis of the Labour leaders during the campaign was far from left wing. Michael Foot attacked the Ford workers and the BBC workers' settlement. All the Labour leaders agreed with the Tories about the need for

By Chris Knight

years of "austerity". It was hardly surprising that many workers did not bother to vote, seeing no difference between the parties.

relieved

As for the rich, they are only just recovering from the fright of their lives. They expected a big overall majority for Labour, which would have 'lifted the lid' off the wages struggles of the trade unions, shattered ruling class morale, and immeasurably strengthened the power-base of the left wing inside the Labour Party from top to bottom. The Labour Government would have been quite unable to keep its hold on the rank-and-file of the movement without swinging a certain degree to the left. This would have brought the Government into collision with much of the ruling class. Now, with a Labour majority of only 3 over all other parties, our rulers are enormously relieved. As their mouthpiece, the TIMES, put it: "a substantial overall Labour majority would not have been at all an unexpected result to this election...it would have been very bad to have had a large Labour majority which would have put pressure on the Government from the left to make a further major movement towards socialism."

minefield

Now the capitalists are relying on Labour's slim majority to inhibit trade union militants anxious not to bring down a Labour Government, lending force to Harold Wilson's cries to the rank-and-file not to 'rock the boat'.

It is a dangerous situation. The TIMES sees a catastrophic slump as inevitable (which it is), and sees the Labour Party "walking ahead into the minefield"—i.e.

being made to take the blame for the slump and thereby destroyed. Workers are not going to support a Party which hands them over, without warning or protection, to the inflation, unemployment, homelessness and other ravages of capitalism in its worst-ever crisis. Many workers will even turn against their trade unions, if the leaders accept cuts in living standards in the name of the 'social contract.' As Ian Mikardo and other 'left' MPs put it in their letter to the TIMES, workers will see the contract as 'a contract with capitalism'—which is what it is.

no middle road

It is not we so-called 'extremists' who are endangering the survival of the Labour Government and Labour Party. The deadly dangers are our leaders, who imagine the coming crisis will permit the luxury of a 'moderate', 'middle-of-the-road' course. Big business will not stand for 'moderation', as they have already begun to show. The Pilkington Glass Company and Hawker Siddeley have already declared a 'strike of capital', refusing to invest as a form of 'blackmail' to force our Labour leaders' hand. Various 'private armies' have already begun to be formed. The working class will not stand for 'moderation' either, when that means unemployment and wage cuts. The 'middle ground' in British politics is beginning to disappear—as the Tavernes, Mayhews and other 'social democrats' and Liberals are discovering to their cost.

danger

Unless our Labour leaders stand firmly on the side of the working class, breaking with the capitalist system and nationalising the economy, then under enormous pressure they will be forced to split from our movement altogether. Big business is desperate for a 'Government of National Unity', and will do its

ENOCH Powell has marched back into Westminster with clear determination to use the situation in Northern Ireland to split the British Labour movement along anti-Irish, racist lines.

During the course of his election campaign in the Down South constituency of N.Ireland, Powell constantly raised the example of Ulster as a model for the rest of Britain.

The London Evening Standard described Powell's electioneering in the follow terms: "In the first days of his campaign to become Unionist MP for South Down there is no sectarian conceit he has omitted to flatter, no local prejudice or myth to which he has forgotten to pay homage." (26 September, 1974)

Powell's decision to throw his hand in with those forces fighting for the maintenance of Protestant ascendancy in the North is deeply appreciated by those groups, who during the election campaign were busily carrying out sectarian murders and terrorist intimidation. The right-wing thugs of the Ulster Defence Association see Powell

Powell sees Ulster as a model for Britain

COLIN KENNEDY

as an 'educated man' who will know how to talk to the Westminster politicians. Just the sort of person they need to justify and win support in Britain for their murderous activities.

But amongst the 33,614 voters of South Down who gave Powell his mandate to carry the cause of Protestant sectarianism into Westminster there are very many who in a short time will bitterly regret their support for this arch-Tory politician from Wolverhampton.

Powell is one of the chief advocates of mass unemployment and impoverishment for millions as a solution to the crisis of capitalism. And Ulster, one of the worst hit areas in the 1930's

depression, can expect no thanks from Powell when it comes to doling out these solutions again. Already in Northern Ireland, unemployment in certain Catholic areas is in the region of 30 per cent, while throughout the Six Counties joblessness concerns one adult in 10.

It is no wonder that Powell, who has striven to drive hatred or black and Asian people into the hearts of British workers, views Northern Ireland with such admiration. A vision of mass unemployment with the working class too split and divided to organise the fight back against the capitalist system, is certainly a model he would wish to see followed over in England, Scotland and Wales.

But the Labour Party, in government and in opposition, has



Enoch Powell

done nothing to challenge Powell's new power base in Ulster. On the contrary, it has complied with Powell by conceding many of the central demands in his programme for the maintenance of protestant privilege—one of which is the re-arming of the B-Specials through Merlyn Rees' expansion of the Police Reserve. This concession to militant protestant opinion on the part of the Labour government leads directly to the organisation of an Orange Home Guard established with the object-



Benn speaks to aircraft workers

The job axe hangs over them and thousands more.

almost to bully, entice and frighten a section of the Parliamentary Labour Party into one. This is the real danger—that in a situation of extreme crisis, without an election, a number of right wing and 'moderate' Labour MP's will simply withdraw their votes from the Labour Government and bring about a coalition. In any case the present Labour Government, on its present course, just cannot last. It will be a temporary Government of indecision, disorientating the working class while giving big business time to prepare for something else.

the way out

It is not we socialists, but those who prattle on about "national unity" who are sowing the seeds of industrial chaos and even civil war. We are for social unity, but that can be achieved only AFTER the roots of class conflict have been removed. We are for planning incomes—but only AFTER the millionaires have been dealt with first. We are for raising our productivity and efficiency at work—but only AFTER it is guaranteed that the profits will be ours.

ive of defeating republicanism through Westminster-sanctioned terror and violence.

Workers in Britain must clearly state that a Labour government has no right to be arming the right-wing extremists of the Protestant population.

The policies of successive 'liberal-minded' British governments have done nothing to stem the tide of protestant reaction. On the contrary, as long as Britain remains in Ireland, then the right-wing extremists will feel justified in their campaigns of sectarian violence and murder as they seek to crush the republican movement.

Britain has no solutions for Northern Ireland. As Powell's activities now demonstrate, the capitalist domination of Ireland by this country has been the cause of all the Irish nation's miseries. Labour has one responsibility to discharge towards the Irish people.

Get the Troops Out Now! and recognise the right of the Irish people to determine their own future!

Common Market In Crisis

SHIRLEY Williams and Roy Jenkins, unashamed representatives of big business interests within the Labour government, have stated they could not remain in a Labour Cabinet which took Britain out of the E.E.C. This is a direct affront to the working class. But an equally serious threat comes from Harold Wilson and James Callaghan. Under the cover of all their talk about 'fundamental re-negotiations' and referendums, they too are attempting to ensure that Britain remains in the Common Market.

FRAUD

'Fundamental re-negotiations' are a fraud. The Common Market cannot be fundamentally changed from what it is—an attempt by the capitalist classes of Europe to join hands to extract higher rates of profit from the European workers, and to withstand the threat of trade war from the U.S. and Japan. British entry is nothing but an attempt to solve the deepening crisis of British capitalism on the backs of the Labour movement. And all the 'fundamental renegotiations' in the world—even if they were possible, which they are not—cannot change this.

And the referendum is an evasion, nothing but a cover for Labour's refusal to immediately

Only when there are no more exploiters and parasites, and no one can live off the labour of others, will the interests of all co-incide and social unity be achieved.

Until that day we can only struggle. We must understand that we are NOT 'all one family' as Harold Wilson has alleged. The rich control the industry of this country—and the Courts, the Police and the Armed Forces, too—as their own private preserve. These gentlemen and their ladies profit from scarcity, doing nicely out of the homelessness, the unemployment and the sufferings of the working class. They will stop at nothing to keep their riches and power. To talk of 'one nation' in this context—especially today, when the 'private armies' of the rich have already begun to be formed—is to court disaster. Britain is not one nation. It is two. On the one side—the organised working class, representing the overwhelming majority of society. On the other—a tiny handful of immensely rich parasites, prepared to do away with all democratic rights the moment these threaten their monopoly of power. By subsidising these parasites, the Labour Government is acting as its own worst enemy and the enemy of the working class. We demand that it mobilise its industrial strength, disband the private armies, guarantee trade union rights to soldiers, disarm the bosses and seize the whole power of this country—financial, economy and military—into its own hands on society's behalf. But as long as it refuses this course, it is the duty of all supporters of the Labour Party to fight its policies tooth and nail.



Shirley Williams



Roy Jenkins

by Robert Gould

take steps to withdraw from the EEC. The danger is that in the event of a referendum, Wilson and Callaghan will use the marginal concessions they will no doubt obtain as an excuse to campaign for a 'yes' vote.

SPLITS

Callaghan is bent on hurrying through his renegotiations just as the Common Market countries have reached a new and higher phase of the splits that divide them. The most recent example of this was the fight between West Germany and France over the increases in Common Market farm prices.

The EEC Commission agreed that farmers needed an immediate increase in EEC agricultural prices, as a special emergency measure, to offset rising production costs, and proposed an increase of 4%. Farmers' leaders throughout the EEC staged demonstrations to back up their demand for bigger increases, and in particular the French farmers demanded an 8% increase. The Council of Agricultural Ministers agreed on a figure of 5%. But this was vetoed by the West German Cabinet which refused to accept the agreement unless there was a fundamental review of prices and of the Common Agricultural Policy itself.



Callaghan - leading the fraudulent renegotiations

This was the most serious conflict there had yet been in the EEC on the Common Agricultural Policy. With France pressing for an 8% increase and Germany reluctant to agree to any increase at all, very sharply the divergent interests were revealed between the EEC member countries.

PATCH-WORK

West Germany eventually agreed to a 5% figure, but their condition was a full stocktaking of the CAP to be completed by February of next year. But this was only a patch-work operation. Over the long-term, it is clear that the basis of the whole policy, the attempt to have a single price for food produced anywhere in Europe, is just not on.

As the 'Times' of 17 September put it, "The CAP in the form in

which it was originally conceived, now looks highly unlikely to survive the pressure of rising prices."

Nonetheless, the proposed review of the CAP is most useful to the Labour government's attempts at renegotiations. Fred Peart, Minister of Agriculture, said the agreement marked a step forward in the renegotiation process. The review of CAP was what Labour had proposed all along, he said, and it was what he had spelt out in detail as part of Labour's renegotiation demands. And Callaghan remarked "I doubt if CAP will ever be the same again. There is no point in renegotiating the Treaties at this stage, because as CAP has shown, the Treaties can be bent in so many different directions."

'YES' VOTE

So this is the threat to the Labour movement. On the one hand, the brazenly pro-capitalist positions of Jenkins and Williams, who want to remain in the EEC at any cost, and will resign from the Cabinet if a referendum rejects new terms. On the other hand, Callaghan and Wilson, who will try to win concessions on the CAP, and on Britain's contribution to the EEC budget, and present this as a basis for campaigning for a 'Yes' vote.

But the Lefts in the Labour Party around the Tribune group present no opposition at all. Opposing the Common Market on grounds of defending 'national independence' and 'parliamentary sovereignty' is not only reactionary but highly dangerous. They are paving the way for future attacks of big business when the bourgeoisie breaks from the Common Market at a later stage, and turns to nationalist, protectionist solutions.

SOCIALIST EUROPE

But there is another road. Reject the Common Market! Reject the fraud of 'fundamental renegotiation'! Reject the nationalist appeals of 'Britain Alone'! The only way forward for the British working class is out of the Common Market, and in unity with the workers of Europe, Labour should immediately withdraw from the EEC irrespective of new terms, and organise a Congress of European Workers Organisations, to further the struggle for a Socialist Europe. That is the only alternative the working class has to the Common Market.

But the Labour government under Wilson and Callaghan will take no such steps. In the event of a referendum being held, we must ensure there is an emergency Labour Party Conference to pre-empt the attempts of Wilson and Callaghan to campaign for a 'Yes' vote, and to commit the Labour Movement to immediate withdrawal from the Common Market.

PORTUGAL

TOWARDS THE BRINK

THE PORTUGUESE working class has won an important victory. The banning of the rally of the 'silent majority' and the fall of President Spínola clearly represents a setback for the Right. With hundreds of officers in the army and navy being arrested, or relieved of their posts, and with armed workers patrolling the streets of Lisbon, setting up road blocks and hunting out fascists, the working class has once again demonstrated its strength against the reactionary forces that were beginning to reassert their power in Portugal.

But how was there a threat of a right wing coup so soon after the destruction of Caetano's dictatorship on 25 April? And what are the prospects now?

Power vacuum

The overturn of the dictatorship in April had been immediately followed by massive workers' demonstrations, a huge strike movement, factory occupations and the flowering of working class political and trade union organisations. With the repressive state apparatus of the old regime being purged a power vacuum had been created. The bourgeois state was weak and unable to enforce its will. The working class was fresh and combative, and challenging the power of the bourgeoisie. But the bourgeoisie survived, due to the role played by the Portuguese Communist Party. The C.P. used its mass base in the labour movement not in a struggle to realise the independent power of the working class, but on the contrary to block that struggle. Entering the Provisional Government, together with the Socialist Party, it opposed the strike movement, kept it under control and ensured that Spínola and the Military Junta had the support of its own followers. The bourgeoisie was allowed to recover and gradually began to strengthen its power.

Repression grows

The banning of meetings of the Angolan Liberation Movement (MPLA), the indefinite suspension of one of the Maoist papers 'Luta Popular' and the shooting of a worker, Vitor Bernardes on a demonstration by armed police — these were the signs of the strengthening of the state. Tough anti-union legislation followed, making illegal political strikes, solidarity strikes, and strikes which take place without 30 days of negotiation and 7 days notice having taken place. Strike action became illegal if the workers' demands are met either in whole or even to a significant degree by management.

The C.P. now saw its own position being threatened, and began separating itself from the Right-wing it had previously uncritically supported. Splits within the Government occurred, and there began an open struggle within the

Armed Forces Movement between the supporters of Spínola and those on the left, sympathetic to the CP. This sharpened following the riots in Mozambique with the Right trying to utilise these events in an attempt to slow down the movement towards independence in Angola. President Spínola declared he would personally take charge of negotiations regarding Angolan independence, as opposed to Socialist Party Foreign Minister, Mario Soares who conducted negotiations with Frelimo in Mozambique.

But the working class was not standing still. At the end of August, strikers at TAP (Portuguese Airways) demanded the removal of former agents of PIDE (secret police) as well as higher wages and shorter hours. The strike ended only when martial law was declared against the strikers. On 23 August workers of the 'Jornal do Comercio' went on strike demanding the sacking of their reactionary editor, Carlos Machado. They occupied the premises and tried to publish a strike paper in defiance of orders of the army. On 4 September the print-workers called a one day general strike.



GENERAL SPÍNOLA

On 7 September, textile workers joined by TAP workers and construction workers organised a demonstration of 3,000 in Lisbon centring around demands against lay-offs and factory closures. And on 12 September, 7,000 workers of the Lisnave shipyards walked out of the gates and marched through Lisbon defying the recent law which forbids demonstrations during working hours. They demanded the purge of fascists from positions of power in the industry, and declared their opposition to the anti-strike laws.

The situation was now becoming tense. Attacks on C.P. meetings occurred in the north. On 10 September, Spínola made his appeal to the so-called 'silent majority' and the following week posters plastered the walls of Lisbon calling on the 'silent majority' to show their support for Spínola in a rally. This produced an immediate response. The Communists and Socialists denounced the rally as being organised by 'fascist reactionaries' and counter-demonstrations were called for. The railway workers answered the call, by preventing the movement of all 'specials' transporting right-wing demonstrators to Lisbon. The drivers of hired coaches took the same action.



LISBON DEMONSTRATORS CELEBRATING AFTER RESIGNATION OF PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT SPÍNOLA

by Graham Bash

Throughout the country, road blocks were set up to stop and search every car leaving all major Portuguese towns, and those coming into Lisbon. Every entrance into Lisbon was closed by barricades. Open conflict seemed possible. Apparently Spínola believed he could defeat the young officers of the Armed Forces Movement and went so far as to call in a battalion of paratroops to Lisbon. But the paratroops captains refused to obey his orders, leaving Spínola with no alternative but to surrender.

A demonstration of 10,000 had assembled in the streets of Lisbon to oppose the rally. The numbers swelled into 40,000 as it marched through the streets of Lisbon, and when Spínola's resignation was announced over the radio, it turned into a victory march joined by soldiers and sailors. The workers were again the masters of the streets.

Power

Once again, therefore, in early October, there was a power vacuum. On 1 October, the Financial Times correspondent reported '...commanding officers... cannot always now count on their men following their orders unquestioningly'. The Communist Party could have immediately launched a

struggle for power. They refused. Instead, the Stalinist leaders ordered their members to surrender arms taken from the fascists and gave full support to the new President, General Costa Gomes. Yet Gomes was Under Secretary of State for the Army in Salazar's Government and Caetano's Chief of the General Staff. Gomes immediately paid tribute to Spínola and pledged Portugal's continued commitment to NATO.

Interval

The forces of the Right have been temporarily baulked. The working class has won a victory. The overthrow of the dictatorship went too deep for there to be any easy return. The working class is now too strong, and the army too split to be used to destroy the trade unions.

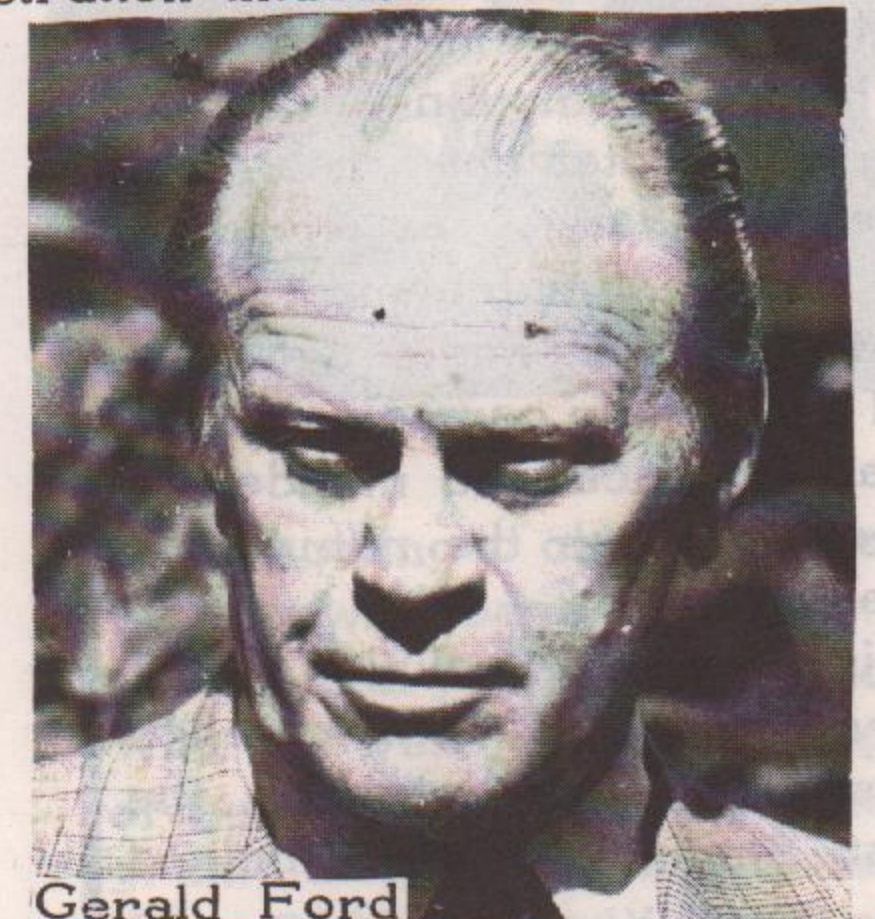
The present interval with an unstable regime must be resolved one way or the other. A move towards a bourgeois democratic Portugal is a utopia. But the treachery of the CP and its refusal to break with the Provisional Government and take state power, combines with the absence of any alternative revolutionary leadership to produce a situation pregnant with dangers for the working class. A struggle for a workers' government is on the agenda. It is only along this road that a bloodbath for the trade union movement can be averted.

UNITED STATES

Kick Ford out — For a worker's candidate in new elections!

by Clive Pullinger

on as a sort of caretaker President until the elections in 1976 keeping much of the old administration intact.



Gerald Ford

NIXON has gone. But even a popularity rating of only 24 per cent and a vote by the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee in favour of impeachment on three charges was not enough to force Nixon to resign. His resignation came only when his support had dropped to a handful of extreme right-wing Republican dregs in the Senate. This final exodus of support was caused by the revelation of a tape clearly showing Nixon instructing his aides to get the C.I.A. to stop the F.B.I. investigation into the Watergate break-in.

Having previously got rid of vice-president Agnew in 1973 the U.S. capitalists carefully selected a successor who would be ready to step into Nixon's shoes. They wanted an 'upright', 'honest', right wing Republican. 'Mr Clean' Ford suited their requirements even if it meant scraping the bottom of the barrel.

Nixon's resignation changes nothing. Ford is merely carrying

Ford is, if anything, to the right of Nixon. His recent statement strongly supporting the CIA's activities, particularly in Chile, his pardoning of Nixon, his policies of high interest rates and higher unemployment, all underline his closeness to Nixon politically.

NEW UNIONS AND THE LABOUR PARTY

by Graeme Atkinson

Part 7 of a series on 'The Struggle for Revolution in Britain'

THE economic crisis of 1875 confounded the best laid plans of the bosses and bureaucrats. The employers entered into head-on conflict with the working class.

In response to this, growing sections of unskilled and unorganised workers began to build trade unions.

The growth of such unions increased as the amount of time between capitalist crises decreased. From the 1880's to the beginning of this century, the new unions of the unskilled grew apace. The workers required basic defence organisations at the time when unemployment stood constantly around 10%. Demands for broad class action were raised, but trade unionism on its own was revealing its limitations. Consequently there was a revival of socialist ideas. The groups claiming adherence to socialism were small and often sectarian, refusing to recognise the unions as mass workers' organisations and standing aloof from the basic struggles of the class. The main body of pioneer socialists was the Social Democratic Federation which attracted the support of many class conscious workers. The Socialist groups struggled especially among the jobless. In 1887, the police attacked a demonstration of unemployed in London. This led to agitation around the whole issue of democratic rights.

8-hour day

This linked with the growing strength of the unskilled workers. Led by socialists, the match girls at Bryant and Mays won a major strike after a fortnight. Next came the struggle of gas workers, led by Will Thorne and guided by Eleanor Aveling, the daughter of Karl Marx. Their struggle centred on the 8-hour day—a demand Marx had fought for in the 1st International against the anarchists who had opposed political action to achieve it. The gas workers won this demand and the 6d a day pay increase. These major victories reflected the determination of the working class to defend itself and gave impetus to the dockers who, in 1889 won their demand for 6d an hour, after a bitter struggle against employers and government alike. These gains intensified the workers' striving for political independence. The crucial need now was for the 8-hour day and a fight to establish it legally.

In 1890, the TUC demanded the 8-hour day as official policy. This was the outcome of a fierce onslaught by leaders of the new, mass unions against those in the TUC who clung to class collaboration, to ties with the Liberals and to the concept of 'no politics'.

If the victories of the 1880's and 1890's posed the need for independent class politics, they also presupposed the defeat of the craft orientated TUC leadership. The key issue of the shorter working day was a political issue. How could it be legally enacted? Only by independent representatives of the working class in parliament.

All the leaders of the TUC opposed this demand for independent representation. The Labour aristocracy sought to act as a buffer preventing an open collision between the newly unionised unskilled and the Liberal party. Their efforts were not successful.

Taff Vale

Britain, only recently "The workshop of the world", was now losing its world economic and military dominance in the face of competition from the USA, Germany and Japan. The drive towards increasing export of capital was coupled with an intense attack on wages. These changes in the world position of British capitalism precipitated a whole series of legal attacks on workers' rights, culminating in the notorious Taff Vale Judgement of 1901, where the railmen's union found itself paying damages for losses incurred by the employers during a strike. The judgement created the conditions for a step forward for the workers' movement. The TUC leaders were forced to turn in the direction of independent politics. To even establish the new unions it had been necessary to carry the fight into the TUC, the bastion of the labour aristocracy. The 8-hour day, defence against the bourgeois state and the creation of an independent working class party, all had revolutionary implications. Even the most conservative layers grasped that times had changed. In these conditions the Labour Representation Committee took on the nature of a mass force and marked the beginning of a decisive break from the Liberals by the working class.

The independent mass political

party of workers to which Engels had devoted so much effort in the last years of his life, finally came into existence in 1906. The Labour Party affiliated to the 2nd International despite its Fabian reformist leadership which was content to tail after the Liberals on most questions. The outlook of the masses was one thing; that of the reformists at the head of the Labour Party was another. Whatever its defects, the Labour Party was a genuine expression of the mass movement of workers and of the development of mass unionism. Lenin, unlike the windbags who today dismiss the conflict with reformism, grasped the significance of these developments inside the working class defining the Labour Party as a political representative of the trade unions.



Lenin: understood Labour Party

Lenin stressed 'It represents the first step on the path of the real proletarian organisations towards the class-conscious policy and towards a socialist workers' party.' Lenin was far from ignorant of the corrupt, treacherous and opportunist nature of the leadership of the Labour Party but he did see the fact that the Labour Party was a necessary stage through which the British working class would pass if it was to build a revolutionary party. This was the essence of his differences with Hyndman at Stuttgart in 1908, who described the admission of the Labour Party to the 2nd International as a 'concession to opportunism'. The sectarian Hyndman completely missed what Lenin grasped so well; the opportunism of the Labour Party, its compromise nature and the drive of the working class to assert its indepen-

dence were but two sides of the same process. Writing in Pravda in February 1913, Lenin emphasised 'The British Labour Party which exists side by side with the opportunist Independent Labour Party and the social democratic British Socialist Party is something in the nature of a broad Labour party. It is a compromise between a socialist party and non-socialist trade union.'

Thus, the Labour Party has maintained its dual character of being a bourgeois and a workers party at one and the same time.

Reformism

The opportunist character was no accident. Without 'buying off' a whole section of the class, without creating mainstays inside the working class, capitalism could not rule. This whole section combined with layers of the petit bourgeoisie to dominate and betray the struggle of the working class. Reformism is the ideological expression of this layer. The Labour Party is its organised form. It cannot be wished away. The class can only break from reformism by being brought into conflict with it. This is a vital lesson which Lenin sought tirelessly to teach the sectarians in the early Communist Party. Today, Marxists must start from the recognition that the building of the Labour Party was an immense historical gain for the working class. There can be no separation of the struggle against the Labour and Trade union bureaucracies. The two are inter-linked.

Marxists

As Marxists we fight within the mass organisations of the working class in order to win the leadership from the bureaucracies which control these organisations. That is why we fight for our programme giving it life through the building of a revolutionary organisation, outside of which it is meaningless. That is why the Trotskyist movement must face squarely the vital lessons which reside in the history of the working class and why those organisations which claim allegiance to the ideas of Lenin and Trotsky but which turn their back on the mass organisations of the class, must be fought against in the same ruthless manner that Lenin fought the sectarians of the SDF and the early CPGB.

CONCLUDED

Kick Ford out (continued)

"He (Ford) opposed virtually all social welfare programs including establishing a food stamp system for the needy, Federal aid to elementary and secondary schools, rent subsidies, model cities, Medicare for the elderly, and the creation of the Office of Economic Opportunity..."

"He opposed attempts to repeal 'right-to-work' laws, he voted to weaken all minimum wage bills and safety bills in 1970 and 1972..."

"He voted for an anti-subversive bill in 1950, voted against requiring prior court approval for

wiretaps in 1954, voted consistently to fund the House Committee on Un-American Activities and its successor the House Internal Security Committee..."

(New York Times, 9 August 1974)

With an inflation rate of 11.4%, Ford has called for deflationary policies centred around a cut in the Federal budget to \$300,000m and a 5% income tax surcharge on those earning more than \$7,500 (£3,100). These measures will cause unemployment to rise even higher than the present 5.8%. Stronger measures can be expected after the November elections if the Democrats do not receive the two thirds majority veto.

Of course the Democratic Party offers no alternative to workers.

Senate Democratic Leader, Mike Mansfield proposes an independent action programme that includes wage and price controls.

With workers threatened with declining living standards the AFL-CIO (U.S.TUC) must use its strength to remove Ford (and his multi millionaire deputy Rockefeller neither of whom have been elected) from office and stand a workers candidate in the new elections.

A major victory was won in August by the United Mine Workers for union recognition at the Brookside mine in Kentucky. The strike lasted a year during which time several miners were shot, one fatally by company guards. The fact that the strike was won was due to the determination and mil-

itancy of the local miners in Harlam country. They have demonstrated



the need for independent working class action as opposed to the timid policy of the U.M.W. bureaucracy led by Arnold Miller. Miller and the rest of the AFL-CIO leadership must break their ties with the Democratic Party and form a Labour Party which can carry on the struggle for a worker's government.

young socialist NEWS

after "anti Strauss" attack

Vauxhall YS Under Fire

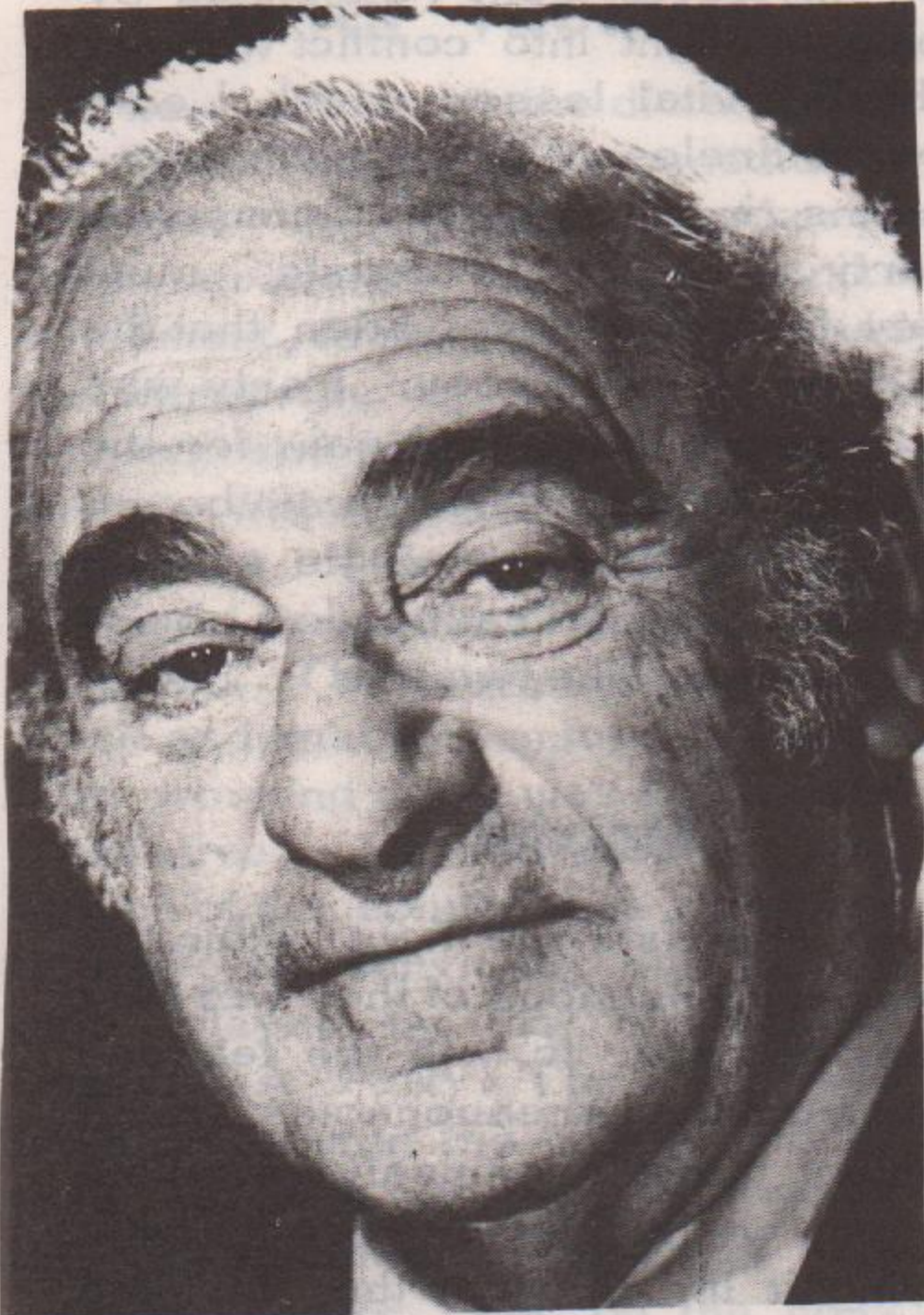
WITH MOVES within Vauxhall Labour Party to remove their right wing, pro Common Market MP, prior to the October 74 General Election, the YS stepped into action.

When Strauss (the millionaire MP for Vauxhall) announced at a General Management Committee meeting that this would be his last election providing parliament ran a full five years, the Young Socialists decided that things could not be left at that. The YS since its reformation in 1971/2 had always been opposed to the right wing ideas of Strauss and

ment Committee decided only to investigate the whole affair (including the other leaflet) after the election.

But the YS are not prepared to lie down. "We already have plans to go ahead with the campaign," said Robert Murphy, member of Vauxhall YS. "We intend to go out and recruit tenants, trade unionists and local community militants into the party to carry on the fight. We want to see the selection of a candidate who is prepared to fight the Tories outside and inside the Party".

Kevin Moore, Chairman of Vauxhall YS added a grim warning to other YS branches: "From what we have heard the role of the Regional YS Chairman has been inadequate. Instead of standing up for us they have been apologising. We make no apology for what we said and we shall continue to say it through whatever channels are open to us. With questions like getting out of the Common Market and nationalisation, I think we are going to see great splits in the Parliamentary Labour Party. I would say it is quite likely that people like Strauss and Jenkins could end up in some sort of coalition of "national unity" with the Tories. Hence I think it is very necessary for all YS branches to organise tight control over their MP's, replacing them where necessary as we hope to do in Vauxhall."



George Strauss Vauxhall's MP

when he voted with the Tories over the Common Market they attempted to have a vote of no confidence in him passed.

Thus in early October the YS put its ideas into practice. A leaflet was distributed on several major housing estates stating clearly the YS position on Strauss and the policies a replacement candidate should pursue. It asked people to vote Labour in the election, yet suggested they also join the Labour Party to replace Strauss with a socialist alternative.

Strauss and his supporters inside the Party, on orders from London Labour Party HQ immediately moved against the YS. A counter leaflet was distributed claiming complete faith in Strauss as MP and warning that the YS would be punished for their "scurrilous attacks".

The following day a special visitor appeared at the Vauxhall Labour Party Executive Committee. George Catchpole of the London Regional Labour Party office attempted to secure the suspension of the YS branch and a full investigation into their activities. But Catchpole received a rebuff as the General Manage-

LABOUR- BAN THE NATIONAL FRONT

demands new Hackney Y.S. branch

THE newly formed Stoke Newington and North Hackney Labour Party Young Socialists organized their first public meeting in the run-up to the General Election. Racism and the menace of the National Front were the questions under discussion.

The well-attended meeting heard Labour Councillor P. Shaikh, Trades Council Secretary Mike Knowles and LPYS speaker Don Flynn outline the problem of racism internationally and racism as it is espoused by fascist organisations like the NF in this country.

Immigration Act

Criticisms were also made of the Labour Government for its compliance with racist legislation like the 1971 Immigration Act which gave police a free hand to harrass all coloured immigrants and subject them to spot checks and possible deportation. The demand was made for the repeal of all anti-immigration laws.

The dangerous role of Enoch Powell was also spotlighted. Powell's role in the late 1950's as an open advocate of immigration of West Indian workers and as a Tory Minister of Health 1960-63 who had encouraged black workers to fill posts in the National Health Service was contrasted to his racist demagoguery of a few years later.

The need for action against the National Front and their attempts to infiltrate and split the organised trade unions on race hatred lines was forcefully stressed as was the need for a campaign against racism in the trade unions. A demand on the Labour Government to ban the NF was agreed by the speakers.

The YS meeting was the culmination of an organised campaign in Hackney to meet the threat of the NF in the election, which had involved street meetings with the Hackney Committee Against Racism and a demonstration sponsored by the Trades Council. But it also marked the beginning of a new and more determined struggle to eliminate the threat from the fascist NF.

WITHOUT COMMENT: Henry Lord, NF candidate for Hackney North and Stoke Newington claimed at the election count that the NF's bad performance was the result of threats and intimidation to his canvassers from 'subversives'.

moves towards forming a TODMORDEN YS branch

On the strength of a sustained intervention in the ultra-marginal constituency of Sowerby, comrades in Todmorden feel strong enough to launch a YS branch there. This move has already been unanimously endorsed by the local Labour Party and taken up in the Trades Council.

£300 FIGHTING FUND

After launching our Fighting Fund on 12 July, we have reached the sum of £157, which is just over half our target. We still need double this amount to reach our target of £300 by the 1st of January. With special thanks for donations from:

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Racist Busmen Under Pressure

by LEEDS
Graham Region
Durham

THE suspension on full pay of two Sikh busmen in Leeds has now entered its fourth month. The suspensions resulted from a row over their right to wear turbans. At first Leeds City Transport, which employs the two men as bus drivers, refused permission to the men on the grounds that the turbans were not part of the official uniform. They later reversed this decision, but members of the TGWU 9/112 branch voted against allowing the two men to resume work.

The branch later held a mass meeting which halted buses in Leeds for two hours. Despite pressure from Leeds Trades Council and the local TGWU officials, the men voted at the meeting to continue the ban.

The action of the 9/112 branch is an extremely serious example of racism amongst Leeds workers and is particularly tragic as it

plays directly into the hands of the management.

Picket

Leeds Anti-Racist Committee has called for a picket of the next branch meeting and it is hoped the decision will be reversed. The incident is extremely embarrassing to the TGWU bureaucracy which despite having a clear policy against racism has consistently failed to campaign amongst its membership on this question. In the coming period the need to combat racism in the working-class is vital for securing a trade union movement that is united and free from divisions on grounds of race, colour or religion.

Without unity on a class basis workers cannot even begin a successful fight against the capitalist threat to jobs and living standards.