

Socialist Worker

Failure in success?

for workers control and international socialism

100,000 TAKE CONTROL OF LONDON'S STREETS

Socialist Worker Reporters

ON OCTOBER 27 100,000 marched on the most militant demonstration seen in Britain since the war.

The mobilisation for a victory for the National Liberation Front in the Vietnam war is in no way like the pacifist CND marches of the 1950s. Last Sunday the marchers took command of the streets.

There was no confrontation with the police because the numerical and political strength of the demonstration forced the state to retreat and allow the marchers to dictate their terms.

Real threat

This tremendous self-confidence and discipline poses a real and growing threat to the capitalist system. If the anti-war campaign can link up with struggles and gathering discontent of the working class, then the basis for a revolutionary movement can be established.

And it is this real and political threat that the press deliberately played down and concentrated instead on the handful of disrupters who cynically led a small and less political section to Grosvenor Square for a pointless 'confrontation' with the police.

Bad day

The press spotlighted Grosvenor Square because it knows these punch-ups alienate working-class sympathies for the marchers.

Nevertheless, October 27 was a bad day for the British Press. Six weeks previously The Times, in an article by Brian Cashinella (a correspondent with uncannily close contacts with the British intelligence services) had unleashed a campaign of calumny and lies about the demonstration which frightened the London bourgeoisie.

Cashinella warned of a plot to seize the bastions of state power by a handful of anarchists. The rest of the press took up the cry. 'This is not,' trumpeted the Sunday Express on the morning of the march, 'primarily an anti-Vietnam war demonstration. It is a cold and deliberate exercise in violence by evil men using

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SOCIALIST WORKER PICTURES BY JEFF PICK

The head of the mammoth march on the Embankment last Sunday. Another picture on back page.

Protest at Ulster visit

NORTHERN IRELAND Prime Minister Terence O'Neill and his Home Affairs Minister 'Adolf' Craig are visiting London next week to see Wilson.

Irish socialists involved in the struggle in Ulster for civil liberties and basic democratic rights have appealed to their London comrades to stage protests at the visit of these reactionaries. Details of the visit are not yet available, but Socialist Worker urges readers to watch the press and to picket both Downing Street and the Ulster office (11 Berkeley Street W1)

Czech youth fight on

CZECHOSLOVAK resistance to the armed invasion by Russian imperialism goes on.

The demonstration by 5000 young people in Prague on Monday (the anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak republic) was a brave gesture of defiance. The marchers knew that their 'provocation' could bring the tanks rumbling back, with more indiscriminate killing of counter-revolutionaries.

In spite of the general cries in support of Svoboda and Dubcek, there are signs of some disillusionment among young Czechs with the totally passive role of the Communist Party leadership. But the disillusionment seems to increase their nationalism and

decrease the socialist content of the struggle.

When the Russian ruling class first invaded there was a widespread, if confused, feeling that the Czechs were fighting for the right to build their own form of socialist society.

Fervour

Now this has been largely replaced by nationalist fervour and opposition to all Russians. Responsibility for this must lie with Dubcek and company.

They sought mass support in their struggle to oust the Novotny regime in order to modernise Czech state capitalism, not to transform it into socialism.

If the present ferment among young Czech workers

and students develops a reliance on rank and file activity and the creation of a genuine grass-roots leadership, then their struggle for liberation may bypass the nationalist cul-de-sac and open up the real possibility of workers' power.

AEF CHOICE

ENGINEER'S president Hugh Scanlon has offered his members 'three choices' in deciding how to settle the pay dispute with the employers.

In a circular to 40,000 shop stewards, district committee members and branch secretaries, he offers: 1. accept the offer plus arbitration on women's pay; 2. accept the offer with discussions on women's grading; 3. reject the offer.

THE OCTOBER 27 demonstration was clearly an outstanding and overwhelming success, yet many who took part felt tired and dispirited. The future of the anti-imperialist movement depends on resolving this paradox.

A mass demonstration should sum up past activity and point the way ahead. The march did this in so far as there was any past activity to sum up.

We succeeded in organising ourselves in the face of opportunistic Maoist, police and press provocation, yet in the process our very militancy seemed to get muted. It was almost as though at times we accepted the press definition of militancy as violence.

In a sense we were bowled over by our success. By the time the march started the police had effectively abandoned the streets to us. We were able to sweep forward where we had decided without even evoking any token opposition.

STRENGTH

If we had had to fight for what we had won on the day perhaps many would have been happier. But it is a measure of our strength that this victory was conceded to us without a struggle.

But such a victory was not experienced by everyone as a victory. Part of the reason is that the aims which the march had set itself were so limited.

We never planned to occupy anywhere to hold our own rally. We never really planned to assert our collective strength.

The reasons for this are clear. What discussion and debate there has been never really reflected a grass-roots movement.

There was no real continuity with the past marches because there is still no genuine widespread involvement at local level as distinct from a massive mobilisation for the actual happening.

SOURNESS

The march was not the peak of a mass movement but a substitute for it. Any sourness about the march is but the sourness of the movement writ large and a punch-up could only have concealed this.

By overcoming all the problems which past marches have thrown up this march was an outstanding success. Another like it would be a disaster.

The task and the urgency of building a mass movement against the war in Vietnam still remains. The only way, as we have stressed repeatedly, is to forge the links between the war in Vietnam and the war in Britain—that is to be involved squarely in working-class activity, and revolutionary socialist politics.

(Socialist Worker welcomes contributions on this important subject. We hope to publish a selection of letters next week.)

ENGINEERS:

Scanlon's conversion to productivity

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The engineers' leaders are using rank-and-file pressure to win new concessions

How do things stand now with the engineers' pay claim? The Times reported on October 23, that the executive of the Amalgamated Engineering and Foundryworkers Union will soon be sending round a detailed account of the negotiations to divisional and district officers, and will 'encourage' them to call meetings of stewards to discuss it.

'This will certainly have the effect,' the report went on, 'of stirring up militant elements to unofficial industrial action' in view of rank-and-file opposition to productivity concessions.

The executive of the AEF has postponed their next meeting from November 4 to 22, and 'By that time, there should be enough trouble to make employers and government anxious to resume the negotiations...and the engineering unions, led by the AEF could once again have the initiative.'

In other words, the union leaders hope to use the threat of rank-and-file pressure to force further concessions. But can they still use the threat of a return to a national strike to back up the demands? And how much will still be left at stake by then?

The gap at the breakdown of negotiations on October 20 had already so narrowed that, together with the failure of the leadership to conduct a real and active campaign to explain the demands to the rank and file, much of the head of steam will already have escaped.

What do the money concessions by the employers amount to? The Observer on October 20 calculated their cost at 3½-4 per cent a year over four years. But on union calculations, an increase of 7 per cent was needed in the coming year simply to offset rises in prices and taxes.

Dropped insistence

And on productivity, Scanlon has dropped his earlier insistence on an across-the-board increase before even discussing it, and according to press reports, has agreed to accept shift-work, time-and-motion study, flexibility, and the abolition of 'restrictive practices'. An active and informed campaign by rank-and-file militants can still save the day, but for this the first need is to understand how things came to the present position.

In an interview with the Socialist journal New Left Review earlier this year, Scanlon was asked: 'How do you think this opposition to the Prices and Incomes policy can be made effective?' He replied: 'I see it in the engineering wages application which we have just presented the engineering employers...the application is so wide that one wonders how it will ever be accommodated.'

'It asks for a substantial wage increase without any strings attached—in other words without any productivity deals, with all that implies for the Prices and Incomes Policy—for a shorter working week, increased holidays and holiday pay, increased overtime

'PROD' DEALS AND THE RAPID CONVERSION OF HUGH SCANLON...

by **STEPHEN MARKS**

premiums, and a better guaranteed week.'

'...and...if any part (of the claim) were substantially conceded, what would we do if the government stopped it? This is how I see the possible development of resistance to the Prices and Incomes Act.'

But did Scanlon run a massive campaign to explain this plan for a fight against the wages freeze to a wider audience than the readers of the New Left Review? No.

As early as January 12 he told a Times reporter who asked if the claim would bring him into conflict with the government: 'I don't see why it should. I think there is scope for a settlement, involving a substantial wages increase, even within the terms of reference being discussed by the TUC.'

Once Scanlon decided not to campaign against the government's attack on workers' pay and conditions, he had no alternative but to buy an increase at the price of concessions on 'productivity'. In the NLR interview, Scanlon stressed plant bargaining, but in conjunction with national negotiations, and in the hands of the stewards:

'I see it as the responsibility of national negotiations to provide certain acceptable and substantially increased minimum levels...which the stewards can build up depending on the profitability and other factors of their own particular employer... The question of the standard week, holidays and holiday payments, overtime premium—these are all, correctly, in my view, the prerogative of national negotiations.'

It is the question of improving wages which is so much the responsibility of the shop steward, and he should be given every encourage-

ment. It is his job to get the best plant bargaining over and above anything we might be able to achieve at national level.'

This may be the impression he gave to the New Left Review but the capitalist press seemed to think (see for example the Financial Times, October 15 and the Sunday Times, October 20) that Scanlon favours making this the last old-style national negotiated claim, with one last across-the-board increase, and going over in future entirely to plant bargaining.

Cosy chats

And the employers' enthusiasm for this does not suggest that the union negotiators talked too much about leaving the bargaining to shop stewards. What local bargaining conducted by cosy chats between local officials and the boss can mean was shown by the productivity plan recently rejected at Morris Radiators in Oxford. What this means is shop stewards reduced to bargaining over little more than conditions in the lavatories, while the regional gaps between high-wage and low-wage areas widen, with long-term dangers for all.

We to a large extent conclude agreements at the national level without any real consultation with the rank and file members. I think that this, as much as anything must be made a reality in our national negotiations vis-a-vis the rank-and-file membership.' (Scanlon in NLR interview.)

On this too we can agree on the need to hold Scanlon to his word. We must be wary that the mere threat of local meetings of stewards

will be used to try and pressure the bosses into giving a little bit more.

Instead militants must demand mass meetings to discuss all the terms and concessions in the open, and reject any 'package' whereby small gains in money terms, soon eaten away by the rising cost of living anyway, are bought at the price of concessions on 'productivity' that destroy all workers' power over their conditions.

But since the union leaders have failed in the massive job of explaining the issues, and have given too much away already, the job seems immense. How can it be done? We can answer this by ending with two quotes from Scanlon:

'Our members on the shop floor can get more in 10 minutes than we can get in 10 months of negotiations' (Financial Times, October 15).

'I feel that workers' control—as distinct from workers' participation—will come out of the wider political and industrial struggle, rather than just from a narrow fight for improved wages on the shop floor, though the latter is an integral part of the struggle.'

The Labour government and the bosses want the workers to pay to get the country out of its economic mess, through their attack on wages and conditions. But despite the Prices and Incomes Act, despite the wages freeze, despite the massive push for 'productivity', workers continue to move ahead on the wages front. It was this resistance, channeled into a fight for union

office, which elected Scanlon president on a militant programme.

But the head of steam behind him at the grass roots was lacking. There is still no organised movement of rank-and-file militants to hold the leadership to its word and prevent a sell-out.

Surrounded by the right-wing in the union, pressured by the government and the bosses, with no massive campaign to explain to the members the industrial and the political issues and why the two can not be separated any longer, Scanlon has caved in.

Hammer home

The job must be carried on afresh by the militants themselves.

To hammer home all the time the danger of 'productivity' sell-outs.

To drive in the point that behind each boss stands the Labour government which has chosen to back the employers rather than those who put it in.

To build a movement that can link the militants and their struggles across the country.

And from that to build a new political movement in place of the wreck of the old parties, which can answer the threatened destruction of all workers have won on the shop floor over the past 25 years with the demand for workers' power.



SCANLON (centre):
What happened
to the campaign?

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WHERE WE STAND

SOCIALIST WORKER IS THE paper of International Socialism, a movement of revolutionary socialists who believe that the present form of society, with its blatant inequalities, its periodic crises, wars and racialist hysteria must be replaced by one based on a planned economy under full workers' control; those who produce the wealth should own and control the means of production.

International Socialism is opposed to any incomes policy that seeks to restrict the wages of the workers in order to boost the profits of the employers. We unconditionally support all shop stewards and rank and file trade union members in their struggles for

better wages and conditions and oppose all reactionary laws that threaten the liberties of the labour movement. We support all strikes in defence of workers' interests with the demand of no victimisation of trade unionists. Redundancy should be opposed with the demand: five days work or five days pay. Shop stewards organisations should strengthen and extend their influence by linking up on an industrial and ultimately a national basis.

We are opposed to racial discrimination, a weapon used by the ruling class to divide the labour movement. Immigration control must be ended, ensuring the free movement of peoples regardless of

race and colour. Black and white workers must unite and form their own defence organisations to fight fascism and racialism. The labour movement must demand the immediate recall of British troops from abroad as the first step towards ending colonial exploitation.

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

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Inspiring, of the En

The Making of the English Working Class by E.P. Thompson (Pelican Books 18s)

This marvellous book is a republication of the hard-backed edition of 1963 with a few revisions and a final up-to-date postscript which answers some rather more orthodox historians.

Thompson traces the rich history of the English working-class movement from 1780-1830, and not merely the political movement, for he delights with descriptions of ideology and manners of the class whether religious, economic or social.

Pitiless

He performs an immense service in revising for us the work of bourgeois scholars by showing us that the history of the worker's struggle in this period is not one of 'freedom slowly broadening down from precedent to precedent' but instead one of pitiless oppression, judicial murder, provocations by spies and secret arming and training for a revolution against 'Old Corruption' that never came.

So effective was the repression and the triumph of the ruling class that 50 years later men hardly dared to speak of their part in the widespread revolutionary conspiracies of those bitter days.

Today nearly all memory of this furious and courageous past is gone from the collective consciousness of the workers. Yet what a tradition there is, which any socialist movement in the world could be proud of!

The Wallace campaign: cashing in on hysteria and despair

from JOEL STEIN in New York

At a George Wallace rally in Pittsburgh 10,000 followers chanted: 'Who needs niggers?'

The chant reveals the feelings of the tens of millions afflicted by this plague.

Southern whites of all classes. Workers throughout the US but mainly in the mid-West and border states of the South. Middle-class and rural supporters everywhere.

Wallace's American Independent Party is smashing that hallowed institution of US society, the two-party system.

Through the two-party system, the US ruling class found the means for satisfactorily organising the vast spectrum of its diverse interests. Each of the parties consists of numerous local and state parties controlled by the leading business, land and professional interests of the area.

IN BUSINESS

These are welded together in national structures dominated by giant corporations and banks. The two parties are in business competing for control of another business, the government of the United States, of the various states cities and counties.

This patch-work structure in turn rests upon the comparative social peace and 'prosperity' of US society since the Second World War. But this prosperity is itself a product of a permanent crisis, the permanent war, cold and hot, and the arms economy.

The illusory democracy of American liberalism rests increasingly upon a growing state, police, military and bureaucratic apparatus. The two can co-exist only so long as the genuine crisis can be held off.

But the crisis is forestalled only by the extension of the state

apparatus. Either way the days of liberalism are numbered.

Each day real conditions grow worse. The cities are an insult to human life.

There is inflation. Threats of unemployment held off only by the war. Working conditions become more miserable.

The general insecurity becomes unbearable. Unbearable, it mounts to hysteria. And the hysterical watch 'long-haired protestors' 'attacking' police. (A recent poll shows 60 per cent of Americans supporting Mayor Daley's use of the cops in Chicago.)

They walk the streets in fear of angry unemployed youth—mainly black.

They see the US more and more isolated in a hostile world. Nearly defeated in Asia by a tiny nation.

The world seems to turn upside down and they search for a way out. The liberals, the official representatives of the US ruling class have hinted at the way.

The liberals, after all, created the cold-war fever. It was under President Harry Truman that the infamous list of 'subversive organisations' was set up.

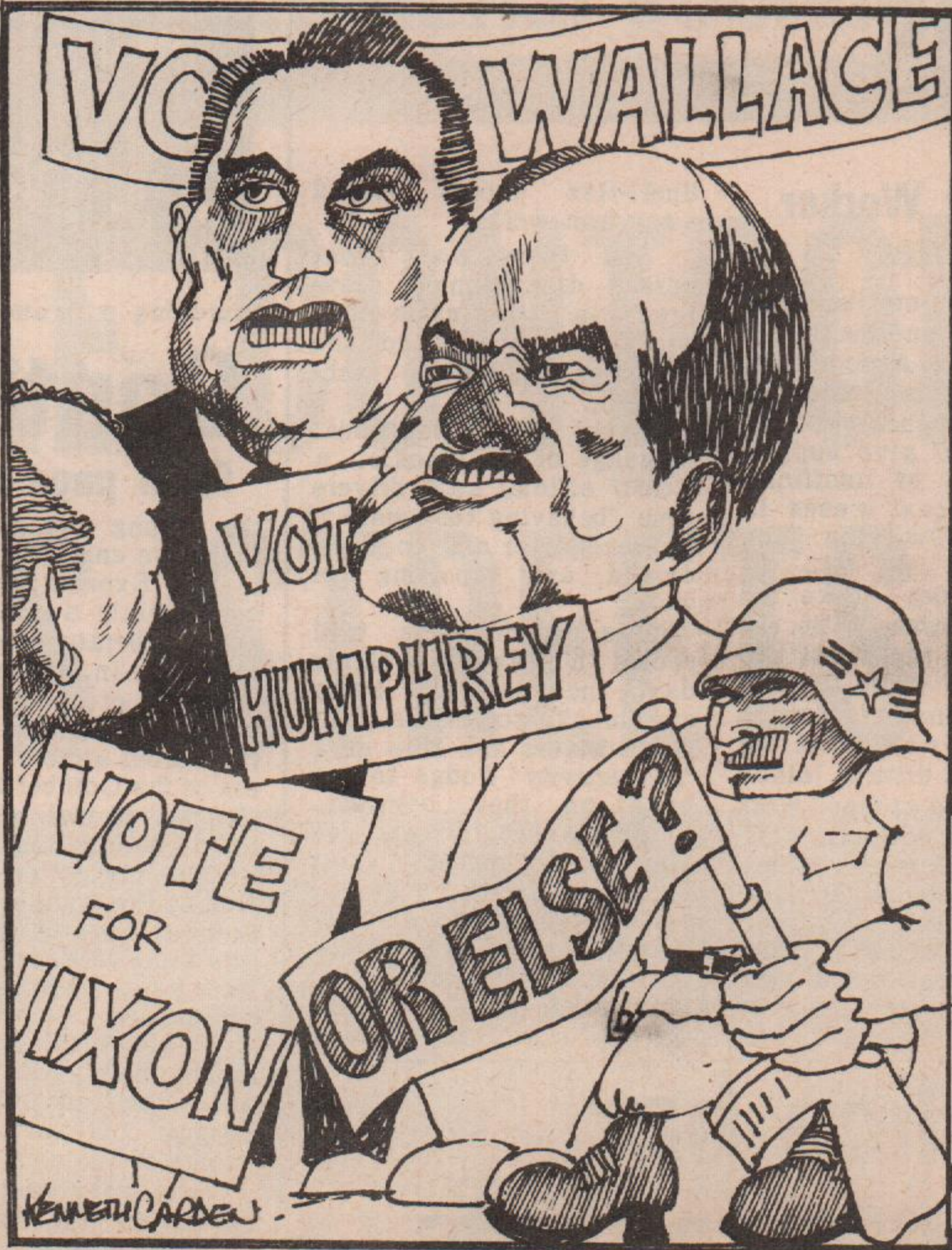
Humphrey, even in the 'good old days', was always a vehement cold-warrior; a designer of the Bill establishing detention camps for 'subversives' in case of 'national emergency'.

The liberals, in their boundless generosity, do not blame black people for the unbearable conditions which they are made to suffer. But the real problem for the liberals is not the racist conditions but that black people struggle against them.

The liberals like to think that black people are not so bad, that is, that they are passive. But 'rioters' are very bad.

Black militants are trouble-makers who 'cause' unrest. If only there were no struggle... the rulers could get down to solving the problems.

The liberals have always made stability the watchword of the day. They invented the 'law and order' cloak for racism.



In bourgeois society, the people can do nothing. They may only choose the rulers who do everything for them.

The rulers need stability to solve the problems; say the liberals. And the 'people' must logically conclude that now we need a ruler to bring stability. A George Wallace.

He promises to use the repressive machinery which the liberals have already assembled, just as he feeds off the racist and reactionary sentiments planted by the liberals.

THE TREND

Nixon and Humphrey are also for 'law and order'. Wallace, even with his Dr. Strangelove running mate LeMay, is no more 'hawkish' on Vietnam than his rivals.

Whether he wins or not, the trend will be towards the policies which Wallace demands although ultimately a Wallace will be needed to carry them out.

These policies are focused today upon black people and anti-war protestors. But the general crisis of US society demands general solutions—demands that all US workers accept worsening

conditions in defence of the military and economic might of US capital.

Wallace is still in a position from which he can be 'irresponsible' in viewing labour unrest, that is, not come out against it. The question is how soon US workers will come to realise that Wallace is one of their enemies.

The trade union bureaucracy's support for Humphrey is very largely responsible for the workers' turn towards Wallace who, if nothing else, promises 'change'. Wallace's success shows the complete disgust of millions with the old parties.

It shows the need for a complete and unequivocal break with them as the first step towards building a movement to fight for a real solution to the problems of US black people, suffering in the extreme the problems faced by all US workers, for jobs, housing and education.

A movement is needed to link this struggle to the fight against the Vietnam war which makes these policies even more unattainable. The Peace and Freedom Party, which has taken this first step, helps point the way for the 'real politics' needed by the US left

LETTERS

Distrust and frustration with union leaders

ALL OVER BRITAIN in every aspect of industry the bitter taste of distrust and frustration is felt in every worker's mouth because of the grim realisation that the trade-union movement above shop floor level is selling them out left, right and centre.

Far from offering leadership and acting in the interests of the people who elected them—the workers—they are collaborating with the Labour Party, the so-called 'worker's government' to further suppress and increase the burden already carried by the working class.

Already we have back prescription charges. Free milk for some of our children has gone for a burton. School dinner charges are increasing.

Income taxes have gone up. Rent increases are being imposed all over the country, and in general the cost of living is spiralling to dizzy heights.

Phoney deals

On top of all this there is the workers' wage restraint imposed by the government's Prices and Incomes Board and in every section of industry large numbers of workers face the dole because of phoney productivity deals arranged for them by their union executives and the government.

Even the Communist Party is too busy trying to get their members into Parliament to consider or assist the workers in their struggle and that advertising machine, that so-called 'red peril', the Morning Star is adopting the mantle of right-wing respectability by accepting and advertising that latest capitalistic exploitation, the new 5d. postal swindle.

Although all this injustice is prevalent, and frustration is rampant, a growing number of workers realise that only by activity among the workers, and a new revolutionary working-class movement can liberation and true socialism be achieved. Merseyside Building Worker.

MARXISM OR LENINISM

by Rosa Luxemburg
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heroic — the rise of English workers

BOOK REVIEW

George Mellor and Jeremiah Brandreth, hanged for their parts in the killing of the abominable Horsfall and the Pentridge rising respectively, were men of heroic stature and in both cases they were almost certainly two of the secret army of Luddite 'captains'.

Who now remembers Colonel Despard, the old Jacobin, hanged for treason and then quartered in 1803? He was probably innocent of the particular charges against him. He, with many others, is part of the suppressed, insurrectionary conspiratorial history of the left in this country which is far more important than was once believed.

Even if the British did not produce a programme or great ideologist, they spring far more directly from the most oppressed classes than do continental conspirators.

Fortunately everything in the book is not gloom and heroism. The chapters on non-conformist religion are often hilarious and provide an excellent antidote to the pious moralising of the present day Christian Union types.

The utterly nauseous Jabez Bunting, who refused to officiate at the funeral of a Luddite killed in the attack on Rawfolds mill, is a case in point as he is still revered by some religious sectarians today.

Whether Thompson is speaking of drillings on the moor, the ravings of Joanna Southcott or the procedures and rituals of early trade unions he quotes from contemporary documents, letters, pamphlets or novels to give us a real flavour of the period.

It is perhaps true that there is a certain inconclusiveness about this book. Was a revolution possible during the period, let alone probable? Thompson does not answer the question though by implication he is pessimistic. Perhaps he considers the posing and replying to such questions no part of the historian's job though others may enjoy this piece of speculation.

Enjoyment

Whatever faults there may be, the work is a must for the bookshelves of all socialists. Even if it is a bit indigestible in total it can be dipped into and chapters can be read on their own with tremendous enjoyment. To be recommended as a present for the festival of the winter solstice.

Edward Crawford

Next week
PETER SEDGWICK
reviews
the life and letters
of George Orwell

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'Spy-in-cab' strike: drivers paralyse key centres

THOUSANDS OF LORRY and tanker drivers joined a national 48-hour strike on Monday and Tuesday against the 'spy in the cab' meter proposed by the government's Transport Bill.

Leaders of the unofficial strike will meet in London in a few days to plan further action. They will demand from the two unions to which most of Britain's 500,000 drivers belong a 'copper-bottomed' assurance that they will join the fight against the introduction of 'tachographs'.

Socialist Worker reporter

The unions are the Transport Workers and the United Road Haulage Association. The TGWU is officially against the tachographs but has failed to give support to the rash of unofficial action in recent weeks in Teesside, Tyneside and Merseyside.

The two-day strike hit hard in key areas. The car industry was the worst hit. Deliveries from British Leyland's Austin factory in Birmingham were held up and car ferry drivers joined the strike and stopped work at Rovers in Solihull. British Road Services three haulage depots in Birmingham were closed.

The strike was also effective in the London area, the second main target of the leaders. Drivers at four

Shell-Mex depots stayed away from work.

And there was widespread disruption of services in the north-east, where drivers have led the campaign against the tachographs.

Using the traditional language of the blackleg, a TGWU official said drivers were 'behaving responsibly' in Manchester and on Merseyside and reporting for work.

The tachographs will record a driver's working day, including his stops and breaks for meals. Militant drivers see this as a 'productivity' dodge to cut back on their overtime.

At present, drivers can only supplement their appalling basic wage by driving long hours of overtime. Instead of tachographs, they want a much higher basic wage that will allow them more time for rest.

Sectarians ruin union conference

From JOHN PHILLIPS
LAST SATURDAY the All Trades Union Alliance met in Birmingham to discuss the programme written as a result of earlier conferences this year and last.

A number of trade union delegates from the International Socialists attended in the hope of participating in a much-needed discussion on the problems facing political militants—but this was not to be.

Instead we, and any other trade unionists present, witnessed the sorry spectacle of the organisers, the Socialist Labour League, viciously rejecting any idea of working with any other groups or tendencies and in the process boring non-SLL delegates to tears with the imaginary iniquities of the 'International Socialists and Communist Party riff-raff.'

Excellent

Little attempt was made to analyse the industrial situation in a constructive way which would have been possible had the discussion centred around the conference document—an excellent analysis which Socialist Worker fully supports.

The conference did manage to vote for a daily Newsletter as well as resolutions in support of apprentices, tenants and for the repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act, but the overall picture was clearly stated by the organisers—that the All Trades Union Alliance is the industrial arm of the SLL and those who do not agree with the total programme of the SLL will not be tolerated.

And so yet another opportunity has been lost, a few more militants disillusioned. The lessons of the past decade of sectarian politics have still not been learned.

Police bar angry tenants from town hall

From BRIAN EBBATSON
TEESSIDE:- 500 tenants found entry to last Tuesday's council meeting blocked by 3-foot high barricades and 200 policemen.

Two hundred tenants had marched in protest against rent increases from Clairville Common. They were met by a further 300 waiting at the Town Hall.

A small deputation of 14 was allowed in, escorted by 50 police, to the council chamber where they presented a 25,000 name petition and returned hundreds of rent increase forms.

The Chairman of the Teesside Federation of Tenants Associations, Bert Elcoate, in a defiant statement, told the council: 'Those of us who have not been hoodwinked by you will resist and you will fail.'

Meeting

According to the local Thomson-owned press, two Labour councillors made a bid to oppose the rent increases at the meeting, but they showed a noticeable lack of solidarity with the deputation and none crossed the barricades to address an impromptu report-back meeting of tenants outside the Town Hall.

The deputation were loudly cheered. Feeling was high and determination to fight on affirmed.

'The barricades show they are frightened. Now we must go on to firm action and not pay the increased rents,' a spokesman said.

One councillor did vent-

ure to show his face. He pulled back the curtain to see the crowd below, but he caught the eye of a young housewife who replied with a common working-class two-fingered gesture.

The councillor promptly retired.

The rents go up on November 11. The Federation is preparing plans for a rent strike.

A mass rally will take place at Middlebrough Town Hall on Monday November 4 and on November 5 (Guy Fawkes' Day). Effigies of Alderman Pearson, Chairman of the Housing Committee, will be burnt at Tenants Association bonfires all over Teesside.

On November 6, Pearson himself will address a tenants' meeting in Billingham.

Bus rota protest

From ROSS HILL
LIVERPOOL:- Busmen staged a 1½-hour lightning strike at Speke garage on Sunday. They were protesting about their rotas and the way in which the garage is run.

Since the 11-week bus strike earlier this year, the corporation have cut back services. Where passengers waited 10 minutes they now wait 20. And some routes have vanished altogether.

Buses lie idle in the garage, and the busmen have to sit around. Although they won slightly higher basic rates after the strike, they are getting little or no overtime.

Socialist Worker Meeting

Liverpool

Chris Harman: US out of Vietnam. Russia out of Czechoslovakia.

Mitre Hotel Dale Street (nr tunnel)

Monday November 4 8.00



Marching with arms linked, the International Socialists' contingent, 3000-strong

Control of the streets

From page one

the young and gullible for their own ends.'

The Express, which has consistently supported cold and deliberate exercises in violence in Vietnam, like the rest of the millionaire press, refused to listen to the stated aims of the leaders of the October 27 AdHoc Committee and of its affiliated organisations.

The committee stressed from the outset that the tactical aims of the demonstration were far removed from those 'reported' by the press.

First of these was to launch the biggest ever demonstration in Britain in support of the liberation armies of Vietnam.

In this aim they succeeded—but for the lies of the press. The 'police estimate' for the numbers marching was swallowed almost unanimously by Fleet Street hacks. The figure—30,000—was, crowed the newspapers, 'considerably less than in March'.

But 20,000 'briefing' leaflets were handed out, about one for every line of

marchers—which would point to a total well over 80,000. National Council for Civil Liberties observers counted more than 100,000 marchers entering Hyde Park.

The demonstration succeeded in its second aim—control of the streets. Those who compare October 27 to the big CND marches of the early 1960s should remember the latter's meek acceptance of police marshalling in the streets; the unchallenged parcelling into small, slender lines, and the fact that even in Trafalgar Square in 1960 (the year of the biggest Aldermaston march) the traffic was barely interrupted.

No control

On October 27, the police abandoned all hope of controlling the streets. They concentrated instead upon property, and warned the various property-owners along the route that they would have to tend to their own barricades.

The Ad Hoc Committee laid down its objectives: control of the streets through most of Central London for a full afternoon.

They threatened no violence if these demands were conceded.

The police, for sheer weight of numbers, had no option but to concede and the enormous majority of demonstrators were content to consolidate their gain, without provoking violence.

Only a tiny minority, well supported by the press and television cameras, succumbed to the 'militancy' of Audie Murphy and the Light Brigade.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in an editorial on Monday said the International Socialists 'strayed from the route originally planned and went to Grosvenor Square.' This is not true. The IS contingent, 3000-strong, stayed with the main demonstration.

INDEPENDENT TELEVISION NEWS in an 1½ hour programme on Sunday concentrated solely on Grosvenor Square. Socialist Worker editor, Roger Protz, who was interviewed on the programme, attacked 'this grossly unfair' coverage.

Spain: Asturian miners fight pit disasters

From ANTON ACHALANDABASO

MIERES, Asturias, October 23:- When the Asturian miners go on strike hope revives in Spain.

Asturias, the country of the revolution of 1934 and of the dynamite-throwing militia men of the Civil War, a country whose life blood is coal.

Now again, the miners are on strike. In the Mieres area, in the Caudal valley, at Concejo del Aller, the miners refuse to go down the pits.

It is an angry strike of solidarity. Early last week a miner was killed in an accident at the pit called Baltasara.

His mates and the workers from a neighbouring pit,

Polio, went to the funeral. The employers victimised the miners from Polio.

Immediately, a strike started at Baltasara and Polio. Just when a negotiated settlement seemed possible, two miners were killed by the collapse of the roof in a pit in the Aller valley.

All the pits in the valley stopped work for the second burial. A settlement now seems impossible. The victims cannot be forgotten and the repressive State is ready to strike.

A statement sent to the press today by the Consorcio Minero Hunosa, the semi-public coal monopoly, says that loss of production so far has been 35,000 tons, which added to fixed costs, constitutes a loss of 42 million pesetas.

The firm appeals to the principle of authority and asks the pits which have not yet joined the strike to abandon their intention of doing so. There are 6,000 miners on strike so far and Hunosa employs a total of 22,000.

The miners are not fighting alone. In Bilbao, the third most important Basque engineering firm, with 6,000 workers, had a four-day successful strike. The workers demanded longer holidays and increased wages.

TINGE

But strikes in Spain do not usually end in victory, even when demands are very small. The smallest action acquires a political tinge. The state makes all working-class action illegal.

The government decree ending the wage freeze after a summer of austerity has not defrosted anything. The decree forbids any wage increase higher than 5.9 per cent. All factory committees oppose this measure knowing that it is a new form of wage freeze and that the new National Plan for economic development will again lean on the already tired backs of the workers.

The autumn will be rather eventful. All political tendencies agree on this. The government also agrees.

The advertisements in the daily papers show that more and more jobs are being advertised by the different police bodies.

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