

Socialist Worker

for workers control and international socialism

ENGINEERS: SAY NO TO 'PROD' DEALS

Paisley thugs stone factory workers

DOCKERS and SHIRT GIRLS MARCH FOR FREE DERRY

From

EAMONN McCANN: Derry, Wednesday

DOCKERS AND FACTORY GIRLS marched this week in support of the campaign for civil rights in the Northern Ireland police state.

On Tuesday, dockers marched for the second time into the walled area of Derry, defying a government ban. They clashed with steel-helmeted police and stoned a water-cannon. On Monday, 3000 girls from six shirt factories staged a token strike and also marched in through the walls.

13,000 storm city walls

From SEAN REED

DERRY'S WALLS were stormed on Sunday by 13,000 of its citizens who held a meeting in the Diamond area in the city centre in defiance of a government ban.

At first the armed police riot squad tried to seal off all approaches to the city centre by blocking the archways of the old city walls with armoured cars, tenders, Jeeps and portable wire barriers, but it was no use. Despite attempts by middle-class elements in the Citizens Action Committee to keep the marchers outside the banned city centre area, vast throngs of people surged through the ancient city gates at various points to hold a mass meeting.

The right-wing in the Civil Rights movement are flying a kite to sound opinion for a move to call off all demonstrations for one month to give Wilson a chance to put 'pressure' on Prime Minister O'Neill.

This is logical for these people, whose perspective is lobbying bourgeois parliaments, not mass struggle. They are being supported to the hilt by the tiny Communist Party of Northern Ireland.

Socialists must oppose this, and demand that the struggle be kept on the streets.

On Monday, police charges against Eamonn McCann and 45 others, including three MP's, were adjourned until December 4. The charges range from incitement to riot to unlawful assembly and breach of the Special Powers Act on the Civil Rights march on October 5.

In McCann's case the possibility of justice being done is slight. After he had been charged, and before the case was heard, Ulster Police Minister 'Adolf' Craig denounced McCann as being the chairman of the Irish Workers Group who Craig claimed were behind the revolt of October 5.

The girls chanted 'RUC-SS' and gave the Nazi salute. The RUC is the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the strong-armed police who battered marchers last October.

The girls held a meeting in the Diamond, the traditional meeting place in Derry.

At 11.45 that morning, 700 dockers stopped work and marched through the walled area to their union headquarters. They instructed union officials to tell Harold Wilson that they demanded an end to police brutality in Derry.

Stones and bottles

Late on Monday night, as girls on the night shift left the Cerdic shirt factory, they were met by a hail of stones and bottles from a mob of followers of the clerical fascist, the Rev. Ian Paisley.

Two girls had to go to hospital to have stitches inserted in wounds. A number of other girls suffered minor injuries.

Socialists moved into the Protestant working-class area and spoke to people about their campaign for civil rights and an end to the persecution of the Catholic majority in Derry.

There was little support from Protestant workers but no one admitted taking part

to back page



Market porters and busmen seen marching in London on Tuesday in support of GLC tenants who are refusing to pay rent increases. Report page 4. Picture by Roger Cox

Falling flats ruin Labour's building boast

HOUSING MINISTER

Anthony Greenwood refused to go on television to discuss the collapse of flats at Ronan Point, but he was happy to appear on BBC-2 and drool on about Christianity and Cathy Come Home.

In the course of his appearance, Mr. Greenwood reminded his audience approximately seven times that Labour had built more houses in the last three years than at any other time in British history.

In fact, although Greenwood himself specifically abandoned his pledge for 500,000 houses by 1970 last January, it is still the proud boast of Transport House

that despite squeezes and recession and high interest rates, marginally more houses have been built under Labour than under the Tories.

The truth is that Greenwood and his henchmen are absolutely terrified by what happened at Ronan Point—not because they fear another block might fall down but because the clamour for repairs and strengthening could damage their aims to build more houses.

A glance at the statistics shows that it is in high flats that Labour has managed to increase the number of dwellings most substantially. The fantastic speed with which these gerry-built blocks can be erected, and the large

number of dwellings they incorporate is bound to give a great boost to house-building figures.

Evacuation of all the GLC's unsafe system-built blocks, however, may be followed in other parts of the country.

Building resources previously devoted to house-building will have to be diverted to complicated, lengthy repair-work. Moreover, the new blocks that are erected will take longer—because of the new safety requirements.

In other words the 'new technology' which the government pioneered in house-building lies in ruins. It was based on a craze for numbers—regardless of safety or size.

Leper Powell spews more rubbish

ENOCH POWELL has opened his ugly racist mouth again and spewed more lies, filth and nonsense about black immigrants.

The leper MP for Wolverhampton is out for power in the Tory Party and is looking for support from the most reactionary, anti-working class elements in that party.

Powell's 'figures' about the possible size of the black community are sheer lies and have been refuted by the tamest of liberals.

But socialists should not be side-tracked into arguing about how many black people live in Britain, as though we accept the Tory and Labour

rubbish about 'a problem'.

The only problem that concerns the Left is the overthrow of the capitalist system and its poisonous champions like Powell.

It is the system that Powell so vociferously supports that is responsible for slums, bad housing, unemployment and the disease of racialism that diverts workers from their real enemies.

If Powell is concerned about the harassment of tenants by landlords, why was he such an outspoken supporter of the 1957 Rent Act that presented landlords with a blank cheque to jack

up rents and intimidate and evict tenants?

We must treat with contempt the attacks by Labour MPs on Powell. The groundswell of racialism in this country is largely the responsibility of the Labour government.

Little attention was paid to the ravings of Powell until the government clamped down on the Kenyan immigrants this year and raised the racist temperature by several degrees.

And Powell is allowed to make his slanderous remarks while black militants like Obi Egbuna and Michael X are prosecuted.

As Manchester University's Socialist Society journal Guerilla said: 'Enoch Powell claims he is the virus that kills socialism. He is also the virus that kills free speech'.

We are not interested in prosecuting Powell, as though we expect justice from the legal system. We are solely concerned that socialists everywhere ensure that he is prevented from uttering his abuse from any platform in Britain.

Readers may care to know that Powell is due to speak in Saint Clement Dane's Church in The Strand, London, this Sunday at 7.30.

THIS FRIDAY, November 22, is a crucial day for the men and women who work in the engineering industry.

The national committee of the Amalgamated Engineering Union meets in London to decide its next move in the three-year pay and productivity package wrapped up by the employers last month.

Employers and union officials seem united in their belief that 'some sort of agreement' will be produced on Friday.

This happy chorus ignores the voice of the engineering workers. Since the October compromise, there has been mounting opposition throughout the country to a package deal.

REJECTED

The committee representing 120,000 Midlands car workers has rejected wholesale the October package. The massive British Leyland Motor Combine representing 190,000 workers, opposed any interference with the existing system of negotiating piece rates at the place of work.

All over the country, shop stewards committees have thrown out the proposals. The productivity 'strings' in the employers' offer have been widely rejected.

Although AEF president Hugh Scanlon argued for substantial pay increases, he and his fellow negotiators made concessions on productivity which could seriously affect the standard of living of engineers for many years to come.

AGREED

They have agreed to measured day work. They have agreed to job evaluation. They have agreed to flexibility and work study.

As our survey on page 2 shows, all these concessions will take power away from shop stewards and in return for a small wage increase—quickly evaporated by the cost of living—turn the screws on workers by increasing the work rate and eliminating tea breaks.

The fight does not end on Friday. The AEF is the union of rank and file engineers.

Let them declare that they will not accept a 'prod' package. Lobby the national committee members.

Demand a straight increase without 'strings' and if the bosses and the government say no, then they must press for a total strike to bring them to their knees.

New attack

on French workers

THE FRANC has joined the pound at the international pawnbrokers. As the socialist press predicted at the end of the revolutionary upsurge last May, de Gaulle would have to attempt to win back the wage concessions made then to the workers.

The economic squeeze introduced by Couve de Murville this week are aimed directly at the working class. There are no direct tax rises, which will keep the middle class happy.

Whichever way de Gaulle turns, he runs headlong into conflict with the French working class. The squeeze could be the new spark to set light to a renewed struggle for power.

An SW round-up shows why the AEF must reject productivity deals

Measured Day Work: engineering bosses' new way of screwing more profit

At the meeting on October 25 of executives of trade unions affiliated to the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Union, Mr. Les Kealey, secretary of the engineering group of the Transport Workers Union is reported to have said:

'Measured day work is all right for some factories—look at Rootes, Linwood.'

Mr. Kealey was prolonging the myth that the recently-negotiated pay and productivity agreement at Rootes, Linwood, pioneered since that firm was wholly taken over by Chrysler last year, is a glittering triumph for the workers.

The agreement does provide for relatively substantial increases—of up to £6 a week for skilled men over three years, for three extra days holiday, for considerable increases in holiday pay, and for improved pension rights.

For this, the workers have had to accept measured day work in the body-building plant (it already existed on the production lines), 'flexibility' between toolmakers, toolfitters and machinists, and a three-shift system (instead of two).

The stewards fought particularly hard against the three-shift system. The 2-10 'back' shift is a nightmare, destroying the worker's day as well as his night.

Yet, on the advice of their executive (as early as last June, AEF President Hugh Scanlon described the Linwood proposals as 'progressive') they accepted measured day work, job evaluation and flexibility.

Jim Nichol, a militant AEF steward, who was moved from department to department while the agreement was discussed, does not share the official euphoria for the agreement.

'I'll tell you what flexibility means,' he told Socialist Worker. 'If you work with a group of men for some time, then maybe you'll form a militant block—begin to make demands which are taken up by other groups and so on.'

'Flexibility' means that on the advice of a so-called expert, the management can move men all over the shop and the factory. Very quickly, the most militant sections get broken up. It's happening already—every day.'

CHAOS

'As for 'job evaluation'—the place is swarming with IE's or industrial engineers,' he added. That's the name they have for work study men.

'These blokes don't even have stopwatches. They just stand around and say: four men can do that job—not five. So there's someone else packed off somewhere else, probably at a lower rate. It's chaos. I don't see how it can last.'

At the massive Singers sewing machine factory at Clydebank (which is outside the Engineering Employers Federation), the employers have persuaded the workers to sign a three-year productivity deal.

The agreement, which was accepted on September 25 by a mass meeting gives 30/- rises to craftsmen over two years, and in the same time brings the basic rates of women workers up to 93 per cent of the male rate. Yet incentive workers, once again, are cruelly victimised, receiving a 3d an hour increase on January 1st 1969 and 3d on the same date 1970.

Perhaps even more seriously, the workers have agreed in return to sacrifice their tea-break (five minutes) in the afternoon, and the women's five minute break before

lunch. Instead tea machines will be introduced, and tea will have to be drunk while at work.

Robert Dockery, an AEF steward at Singers, believed that the workers and stewards may be strong enough to 'work the tea break back' by pressure from the shop floor, but is highly suspicious of the bias against incentive workers.

The sacrifice of breaks is a consistent feature of many productivity deals proposed by the employers. At the Metal Box Company canning factory at the Park Royal industrial estate in West London, for instance, the workers went on strike well before the proposed engineering strike, hoping to force their employers, who are not federated, to give at least as good as federated firms.

After three days on strike the workers, who are poorly organised, under inexperienced stewards, accepted a package deal. The pay increase was indeed substantial—equivalent for craftsmen, of 44 hours pay for 37 hours actually worked.

For this increase they agreed to a two-shift system, and a sacrifice of one of the half-hour breaks previously granted to workers during their nine-hour day.

The sacrifice of the break has added significance at Metal Box. The deafening din in the factory makes it impossible for workers to communicate with each other while at their machines.

Hasty meetings of workers had to be fixed in the additional half-hour break which was not exclusively given over to a meal. Now, with the additional break gone, communications between workers will be almost impossible.

Tea breaks have also caused a number of clashes in productivity agreements proposed by the management. The workers in the Morganite Carbon factories in South London



Labour supports mergers that cause heavy redundancy and a pool of unemployed to threaten those with jobs into accepting MDW. Picture shows Woolwich AEI workers protesting at the closure of their factory after the merger with GEC last year. 5000 lost their jobs.

have decided to stay on strike despite the threat of losing their jobs, rather than give up their afternoon tea break in return for pay offers. The union officials, needless to say, have recommended that the workers accept the employers' proposals.

One of the most serious productivity agreements in the country is that presently proposed by the newly-merged Upper Clyde Shipyard, which under the influence of devaluation and £200 cheap government credit, is enjoying an unprecedented boom. There the workers, drugged no doubt by temporary prosperity and big promises, have accepted in principle all kinds of proposals for job evaluation, MDW and flexibility, (which, in time of recession, will give the employers every excuse to stop recruitment and demand more work all round) in return for relatively large pay increases and a guaranteed job.

RESISTED

A sinister provision has crept into the Workers' Charter (proposed by the employers)—that anyone who goes on unofficial strike at any time loses his 'guarantee of employment'.

In many engineering factories,

however, attempts to impose 'strings' by both management and union officials have been strenuously resisted by shop stewards. At the big Vickers Printing Yorkshire combine for instance, which incorporates S.W. Crabtree's (Leeds), George Mann's (Leeds), and Dawson Payne and Elliott (Otley), the management recently presented the stewards of all three factories (who meet together) with a package deal.

The basic rate for craftsmen, they suggested, should rise from 257/- to 300/- a week over three years (a miserable rise in itself). For this the employers demanded what they called an 'extension of piecework methods by method study'—or, effectively, the abolition of piecework and the development of new forms of measurement.

The AEF district official was amazed when the stewards complained. 'I don't know what you're worrying about' he told them. 'Everywhere job evaluation has been accepted, the workers have made gains.'

The stewards, however, voted overwhelmingly for rejection of the package. 'The proposals' explains Crabtree's shop steward Terry Jakes, 'are merely a way of getting more labour out of the work force. No worker gains anything from it.'

worker's diary

Why Reggie saw red

WITH A COLOURFUL display of public spirit, Tory leader Reginald Maudling hit out at Clive Jenkins of the technicians' and supervisors' union, ASTMS, when Jenkins spelt out the folly of British Eagle workers using their savings to try and rescue the company.

'You bloody well need rescuing from yourselves', said Jenkins.

'These remarks are a disgrace to all that is decent, humane, and progressive in the trade union movement', said man-o-the-people Maudling, with his finger on the nation's pulse.

But then Maudling should be thinking a lot about British Eagle right now. Their fleet of Boeings were leased from the merchant bankers, Kleinwort Benson. Maudling is an executive director of Kleinwort Benson.

Question: what does a merchant bank do with a load of large aircraft when the operators go bust and no one is immediately available to take them on?

Making devaluation work

POOR ROBERT MAXWELL. Millionaire publisher, Labour MP for Buckingham, loyal supporter of the Wilson government, and spurned by the Tory press into which he would so much like to buy his way.

Members of the government were reported to be offering up prayers for the success of his £34 million bid for the News of the World. The busy overlord of a large Sunday newspaper and other extensive interests would have no time for politics and the duties of an MP.

It is true that he was an energetic and self-appointed fund-raiser to the Labour Party. It is also true that he could always be relied upon to argue for George Brown's National Plan, the need for Incomes Policy, the freeze and the need for wage restraint.

The trouble, though, is that for Robert Maxwell Business is very

much Business, and he is too garrulous to disguise it.

He bought his publishing concern, Pergamon Press, for £13,000 in 1951. He expanded this to its current value of around £30 million, with over two-thirds of the shares held by himself or his family.

Came devaluation of the pound, and the call for the tightening of belts yet one more notch—and Robert Maxwell was way up front with propaganda on export opportunities and national interest. Pergamon was one of the concerns which gained a bonus from devaluation.

In the days before the announcement, Maxwell found himself with some hefty dollar credits in New York ready for conversion into sterling—the takings from Pergamon publications sold in the United States. With the insight born of his business experience, he instructed the New York bankers to delay the conversion until after the weekend. Monday saw an unexpected extra profit of nearly 20 per cent from devaluation.

Speaking Frankly

WHETHER IT IS berating building workers on strike at the Barbican for their lack of patriotism, or determining his company's attitude to the collapse of Ronan Point, Mr. Frank Taylor has all the in-built confidence of the self-made man admiring his maker.

For this boss of Taylor Woodrow started early—at the age of 16. He had £30 of his own, borrowed £70 from his father, and raised another £400 from the bank. All this was in 1921, and his intention was to build two houses, put his mother in one, and sell the other.

But the houses were so successful that he decided to sell them both and set up properly in the building business with his uncle (the 'Woodrow' of Taylor Woodrow).

L.D.T.

Socialist Worker

Paxton Works, Paxton Road, London N17. Tel: 01-808 4847

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

WHERE WE STAND

SOCIALIST WORKER IS THE paper of International Socialism, a movement of revolutionary socialists who believe that the present form of society, with its blatant inequalities, its periodic crises, wars and 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.

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

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

Name

Address

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

After Czechoslovakia, will Russia crush the other heretics?

by TERRY BULL

After Russia's brutal suppression of Czechoslovakia, the heretics of the Eastern Bloc are looking for shelter from the cold blast of Russia's displeasure.

Rumania, whose westward-pointing trade relations and general independence of Moscow in foreign affairs has earned the Kremlin's dislike, has begun nervously to get back in line.

Yugoslavia has remained defiant as in 1948 and Albania, China's tiny supporter in Europe, has begun, oddly enough, to edge closer to Tito, whose acceptance by Khrushchev back into the fold, precipitated Albania's flight into the arms of Chairman Mao.

How real is the danger that Russia will consolidate with force what she cannot win with words?

Last month Bertrand Russell, Jean Paul Sartre and others addressed a letter to The Times in which they expressed their fears of Russian military intervention in the Balkans.

The formal withdrawal of Albania from the Warsaw Pact following the invasion of Czechoslovakia, the exchanges of military personnel between Bulgaria and Moscow and the Bulgarian press's claim that 'the turn of other countries will come,' all point in one direction they said.

The letter concluded that any invasion of the dissident Balkan Powers by Russia and her satellites, East Germany, Poland, Bulgaria and Hungary, would be a betrayal of 'socialist internationalism'. But then we know how much store the Kremlin puts by that.

What would Russia gain from such acts? None of these states are so central to her defences as is Czechoslovakia but the Czech invasion was primarily to crush the spread of liberal ideas.

Albania it is true is a thorn in the flesh of the Russian bureaucracy as Tirana Radio constantly puts forward the Maoist line and denounces the 'revisionists'.

Scale down

Yugoslavia has her own problems—a slow growth rate and dissident students who, with workers' support, are urging 'left' solutions such as the scaling down of wide differences in income and privilege. But President Tito has massive support for his defiance of Russia.

Stalin himself hesitated to invade the one country in Europe where the resistance had liberated itself from the Nazi invaders and where fierce patriotism combined with rugged terrain, made conventional warfare hazardous.

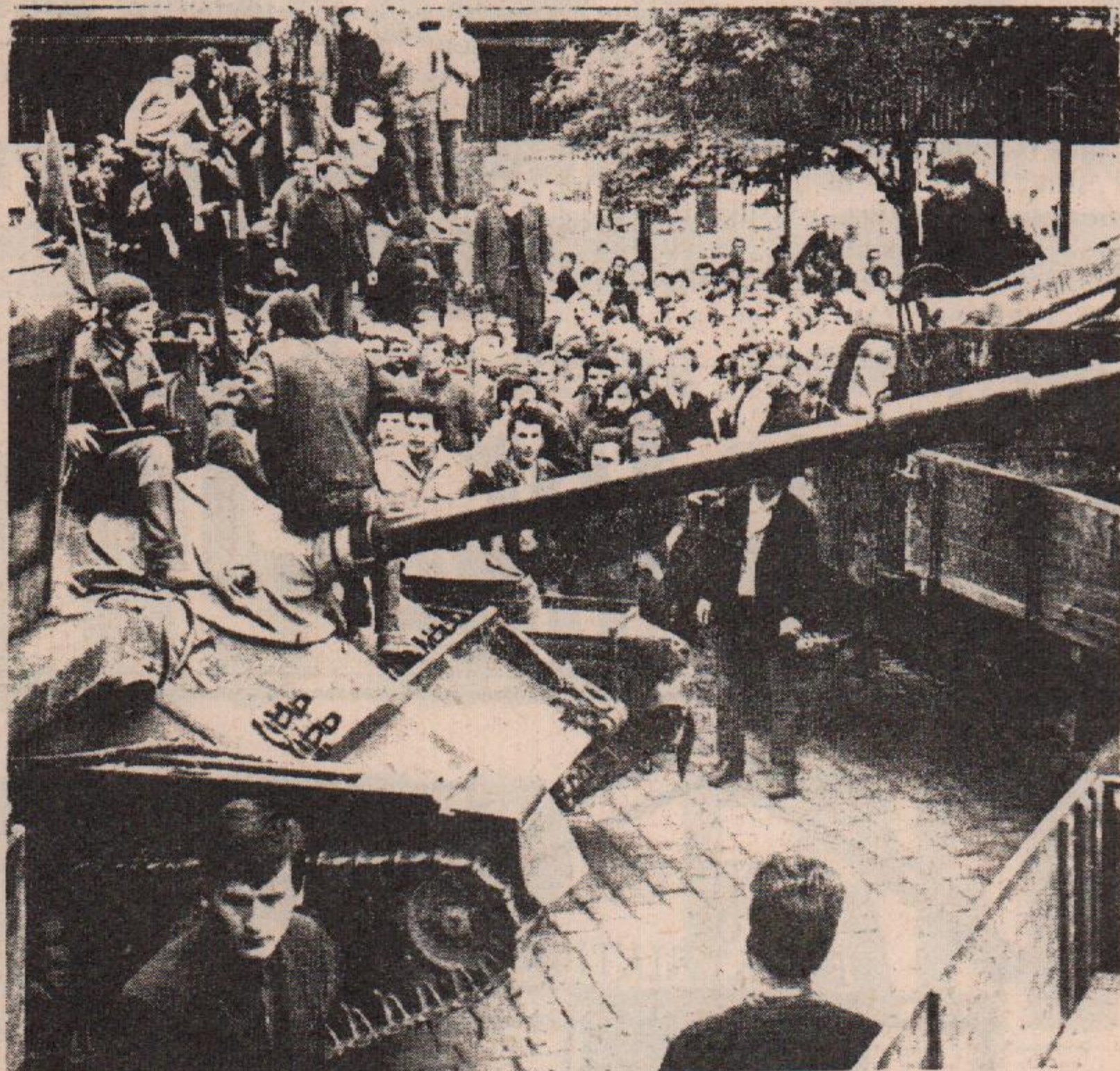
President Tito has said: 'Whoever tries to jeopardise our independence and sovereignty will encounter an iron wall of our peoples.'

Preparations have been made in the North for defensive guerrilla operations against the invaders. Reservists have been called up and arms have been distributed to the workers, who are now being trained in militia units.

A second line of defence is that NATO (ie the United States) could scarcely stand by and see the balance of power in the Mediterranean, already tipping in the Russians' favour, change completely with their possession of the Adriatic Coast.

There is no doubt that although many of the economic 'reforms' instituted by Tito have meant the growth of a 'red bourgeoisie' opposed by old partisans and left-wing youth alike, the regime is immensely popular. Nothing could break the front of national unity against an invasion and any attempt to annex Macedonia by the Bulgarians under the guise of 'defending socialism' would be met with fierce and unremitting struggle by the whole Yugoslav nation.

Albania, exposed by any attack on Yugoslavia would rather ally with Tito than fall under Moscow's



Young Czechs fought and argued with Russian troops during the invasion. Opposition would be much tougher if the Kremlin bosses went into Yugoslavia or Rumania.

control. Enver Hoxha, the mini-Stalin of this tiny mountainous state, has been conferring with his Chinese allies about what they could do to aid him in the event of a Russian invasion.

While Radio Tirana echoes Peking's rabid denunciations of the Czechoslovak invasion, it has fallen silent on the crimes of 'Titoist revisionism'.

Condemnation

Rumania is in the most exposed position of all, flanked by a hostile Bulgaria and the USSR itself (which annexed a large part of Bessarabia after the second World War).

Party boss Ceausescu has let it be known that he is willing to renew the Treaty of Friendship with the USSR, but his initial condemnation of the Czech invasion still stands.

An armed militia has been created in the factories and the military alerted. General Vaile, the army chief has said: 'All our military, from privates to generals, are ready at their combat posts (to defend) the freedom of our ancestral lands.'

A Rumanian deputy made the bitterest observation on the invasion: 'Our minds cannot comprehend, and even less can they accept, the fact that five socialist countries have embarked on an armed intervention behind the screen of slogans about the defence of socialism, slogans jammed in the ears of all mankind by the roar of armoured cars.'

The Rumanians who were not long ago calling for the dismantling of the Warsaw Pact now face the possibility of intervention. While the 'leading role of the party' has never been questioned the economy has been 'liberalised' from the top downwards and is today undoubtedly booming.

Gear industry

But as in Czechoslovakia, these economic reforms are designed to gear industry to meet the demands of the world market—ownership and control are still vested in the bureaucratic ruling class. The workers have no say.

The monolith of Eastern Europe has been cracked apart and the remaining heretics may now stand or fall together. For the moment all the internal contradictions of these state capitalist regimes have been downgraded by the single great dilemma created by the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia.

The Russians, however, are divided on the course to take. The Kremlin hawks have won for the moment in Czechoslovakia, at the cost of alienating many Western and foreign parties.

None of the other heretics represents so dramatic a threat to Russian dominance in Eastern Europe, but in the long run can they survive if the Russians see in these divergencies an ultimate threat to their own internal as well as external security? For the

moment they are probably safe for none are so strategically placed as Czechoslovakia and they are unlikely to allow even the limited form of free speech that Dubcek engineered to win a mass base for his power struggle with Novotny.

The Russians are sitting on a time bomb which may explode in Prague or Budapest, Belgrade or even Kiev. The repression and the terror of Stalinism cannot be applied to the sophisticated societies of Eastern Europe today without provoking the workers and students into open revolt.

For the moment force and fraud have worked at the price of alienating world opinion and, in particular, communist world opinion. The clumsiness of the Russian response should act as a reminder that great power is still wielded in the world by Stalin's heirs however historically bankrupt they are.

Eastern Europe is pregnant with the promise of a new order, socialism and justice, marxism and humanism all are struggling to free themselves from the corruption of the past. As socialists we must stand by those who call for an end to Moscow's diktat and the inequalities of state capitalism.

To understand the crisis in Eastern Europe you must read: An open letter to the Party written in a Polish prison by Jacek Kuron and Karol Modzelewski
4s6d inc. post from IS BOOK SERVICE 90 Mountview Road London N4

Television's soft-sell for the Boys in Blue

by DAVID EDGAR

'EVENING ALL. You all know it. The cheery opening to BBC's marathon-running, oft-revived epic Dixon of Dock Green.

That sums it up really. The cheery, paternalistic little Hallo, Friends that starts the ball rolling on another orgy of homespun advice to the law-abiding masses.

The most noxious thing about cops on the box is, of course, this nauseating 'we policemen are only human too' attitude; the lad next door image (which is presumably why cheroot-smoking, non-lad-next-door Alexis Kanner was sacked from Softly, Softly.)

Dixon's the worst; I've seen programmes on the Danger of Drugs for the Young and the classic Help the Police to Help You (a recurrent theme, so watch for helpful citizens, carefully disguised as Special Branch men, pointing out 'troublemakers' at demonstrations for the cops to pick off).

Dixon is distinctive for what he leaves out. No mention of Students, Immigrants, the Special Branch or other nasty sidelines. Just straight from the shoulder GBH from nasty young (note) thugs. And George Dixon's homely advice.

Softly, Softly is more realistic. There was a story in which John Watt thought that a job he was on to (through his paid informers) was an illegal immigrant racket. But, lo and behold, it turned out to be a nice comfortable little robbery after all. Well, there were women involved.

Gloss over

But Softly, Softly does occasionally do more than just gloss over those aspects of police activity that are a bit suspect. On Thursday October 17 it broadcast a story called Ped Herring.

This story involved a night-shift worker at a defence installation. (or a cover-factory for a defence installation). Holes had been appearing in the wire fence.

First suggestions included student rag, Special Branch can't deal with it; 'they're up to their eyes in student agitators and Welsh nationalists'. Students twice in the first five minutes.

But don't forget the timing of this programme. OK, so October 27 was a week away. But the AEF strike was due to start on the following Monday.

So what does the night watchman turn out to be?

After Inspector Watt pokes round a bit among this bloke's belongings, guess what he finds? Marxist Literature.

This is duly reported back to the boss. 'He's a Red', those in

the know assure the superintendent, 'but he's not been a Communist for years. A Trotskyite to some, a Mao-tse Tung man to others, even an anarchist'.

So the super, full of moral indignation, exclaims: 'An alleged anarchist guarding a secret establishment! It's too much. You'll have to get rid of him. If you can't get him straight out, make some plausible excuses.'

And this is from a copper who has, on several occasions, been seen helping children and old ladies. A man we've come to trust. Do we lap it up as God's truth? Well, of course we do.

But they've been very careful. The two men involved on this case are Watt and the large, lovable Box.

Now, they haven't put in Parlow, about whom we've occasionally had doubts. The lads on this case are honest, down-to-earth Watt and honest, down-to-earth Box.

So when Watt says, 'You don't tell people in industry to do something or they go on strike', we believe him. And when the same Watt admits 'I must be prejudiced' (against communists), we say 'how reasonable, how honest, down-to-earth, no nonsense of him' and go out and beat up a black man.

And, of course, the night watchman (who, it transpires with sickening predictability, is a Trot), cut the holes in the wire himself. Watt provokes the little man (who has a big chip on his shoulder about his failing eyesight, a sort of revolutionary Richard 111) into shouting at him, and charges him with 'threatening behaviour'.

Watt suggests reasonably that this little man is 'probably supporting Albania or some crummy African country about to be taken over by the Chinks'. Good old Watt.

The little man, with the chip on his shoulder now as big as Das Kapital, shrieks 'I want to be arrested!' Watt pours scorn. 'You only want', he says, 'to be paraded past your workmates like a martyr'.

And, pay-off time, they let him off.

The poor little bloke gets the sack, of course, but they don't charge him. How jolly nice of them.

It's this sort of patronising crap that is far more insidious than Wallacism, Powellism and other general Reds-under-the-Bed-isms.

It just pours scorn and contempt, quietly, from a great height.

And it's all done by the honest, straight, lovable characters we know so well, the ones who station closed-circuit cameras in Grosvenor Square, who beat up the demonstrators, who plant the pot and who victimise the blacks.

This review first appeared in Guerilla, magazine of Manchester University Socialist Society. David Edgar will be writing regularly on television for Socialist Worker.

Join the International Socialists

ABERDEEN: Janet Kennedy, 94 Bankhead Road, Bucksburn.
ACTON: John Deason, 148 Rusthall Avenue, W4.
BECKENHAM: Mervyn Smith, 9 Alton Gardens, Copers Cope Road. 01-658 6552
BOLTON: F. Canavan, 11 Sutton Road, Sutton Estate, Deane, Bolton.
BIRMINGHAM: Godfrey Webster, 128 Yardley Wood Rd., B'ham 13.
BRADFORD: Bob Komreich, Flat 1, 7 Oak Avenue, Bradford 8.
BRIGHTON: Micky Adams, Flat 4, 85 St. Aubyns, Hove.
CAMBRIDGE: Peter Smith, 65 Glisson Road.
CAMDEN: Chris Barker, 36 Gilden Road, NW5.
CHERTSEY: Nick Humphrey, 83 New Haw Road, Addlestone, Surrey
COLCHESTER: Ian Noble, 12 Coach Road, Arleford, Colchester (Wivenhoe 272)
COVENTRY: Dave Edwards, 53 Palmerston Road, Earlsdon, Coventry.
CRAWLEY: Deborah Ward, 2 Weddell Road, Tilgate, Crawley.
CROYDON: Jenny Woodhams, 26 Braemar Avenue, South Croydon.
DURHAM: A. Beard, 35 Hallgarth, Durham
EAST LONDON: John Metcalfe, 61 Wolsey Avenue, E17
EDINBURGH: Jim Smith, 25 Pitt Street, (Leith) Edinburgh 6.
ENFIELD: Gill Pressman, 34 The Chine, London N21.
FULHAM: Nicki Landau, 1a Phillimore Terrace, Allan Street, W8.
FOLKESTONE: Dave Cowell, c/o 18 Station Road, Folkestone, Kent.

GLASGOW: Ian Mooney, 4 Dalcross Passage, Glasgow W1.
HAVERING: Dave Rugg, 8a Elm Parade, Hornchurch, Essex.
HORNSEY: Valerie Clark, 18 Dickinson Road, N8.
HULL: Paul Gerhardt, 52 Freehold Street, Hull.
ILFORD: Lionel Sims, 99 Belgrave Road, Ilford (01-SEV 6991)
IPSWICH: Malcolm Bezzant, 45 Melbourne Road, Ipswich
ISLINGTON: Angel D. Phillips, 2 Chapel Mkt., Grant St. N1. 01-BRU1026
Dalston: Shoreditch: B. Hugill, 154 Downham Road, N1. Highbury: Martin Tomkinson, 4 Martineau Road, N5.
KENTON: Kevin Simms, 56 Salisbury Road, Harrow.
KILBURN: Sean Dunne, 18 Lithos Road, NW3.
KINGSTON: Roger Crossley, Flat 2, 6 The Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey.
LAMBETH: Andy Smith, Flat 6, 126 Streatham Hill, SW2.
LEEDS: Vince Hall, Flat 3, 25 Bagby Road, Leeds 2
LOWESTOFT: Ron Mallet, 30 Cotmore Road, Lowestoft
MANCHESTER: Jack Sutton, 11a Rowan Avenue, Walley Range, Manchester 16.
MERSEYSIDE: Ross Hill, 5 Lothair Rd., Anfield, Liverpool 4.
MERTON: Malcolm Roe, 22 Elmhurst Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.
MIDDLESBROUGH: Hilary Cave, 133 Borough Road, Middlesbrough, York.

NEWCASTLE: Tony Corcoran, 26 Lesbury Road, Newcastle
NORTHAMPTON: Alan Druker, 21 Ardington Road
NORWICH: Gerald Crompton, 220 College Road, Norwich NR54F.
NOTTINGHAM: Robert Abrahamson, 15 Wellington Square, Derby Road.
OXFORD: Steve Bolchover, 181 Ifley Road.
POTTERIES: John Whitfield, 5 Grosvenor Road, Newcastle under Lyme.
RICHMOND: Peter Glatter, 3 Burlington Avenue, Kew.
RIPLEY & ULKESTON: Clive Burnett, 75 Heage Road, Ripley, Derbys.
SALBY: John Charlton, 12 Thatch Close, Selby, Yorkshire.
SHEFFIELD: J. Wilkin, 15 Raven Road, Sheffield S7 1SB
SOUTHAMPTON: Mel Doyle, 13 Livingstone Road, Portswood.
STEVENAGE: Michael Downing, 57 Trumper Road, Trots Hill.
STOCKPORT: Barry Bidulph, 10 Foliage Crescent, Brinnington.
STOKE NEWINGTON: Mike McGrath, 28 Manor Road, N16.
SWANSEA: Pete Branston, 33a Uplands Crescent, Swansea.
TOTTENHAM: Laurie Flynn, 374 High Road, N17
TOWER HAMLETS: George Webster, 30 Leferve Road, E3.
WATFORD: Paul Russell, 61 Carpenders Avenue, Carpenders Park.
WIGAN: Ray Challinor, 34 Whiteside Avenue, Hindley, Wigan, Lancs.
WOLVERHAMPTON: Dave Spilsbury, 274 Penn Road, Wolverhampton.
YORK: Bob Looker, 22 Hobgate

CZECH STUDENTS OPPOSE SELL-OUT

AS 60,000 students begin a three-day strike in Czechoslovakia the pattern of domination established since the Russian occupation in August becomes clear. The last vestiges of resistance to the Russian demands are crumbling.

The 'liberalisation' of the regime emerged as the conflict within the ruling elite forced both sides to try to gather support for their positions from the mass of the Czechoslovak population. For a brief moment a section of the ruling class, led by Dubcek,

by Richard Kuper

fought for freedoms and 'reform'. One does not have to question Dubcek's sincerity, but the fight for press freedom and free speech is no longer part of the ruling-class's material interest. So, unhappily no doubt, they have finally given in completely to the Russian demands. After all, it is easier to exploit workers if they are not allowed to organise or to voice their protest.

Unfortunately for the rulers, they gave rise to hopes and aspir-

ations among other sections of the population which can't so easily be quashed. The Union of University Students in Bohemia and Moravia have rebelled especially against three aspects of Dubcek's sell-out: the censorship of the press and television, the curbs on foreign travel and the curb on freedom of assembly. They are still courageously supported by 1,000 Prague journalists.

What will be of great importance to the future of this resistance is the extent to which the student protest, still restrained and confined, can go beyond the

'intellectuals'. Can it fuse with the radical sentiments of the Czechoslovak workers?

For only then can their demands be realised—when they cease to be abstract aspirations and emerge as the expression of a genuine working-class alternative to the present state-capitalist regime—that is, when they cease to be mere liberal demands.

Will Russia crush the heretics? —see page 3

SPARKS STRIKE FOR 10 BOB RATE

From PETER BAIN

GLASGOW:- Contracting electricians took strike action on three building sites to back their demand for a 10s an hour wage rate.

Workers employed on two of the sites—H.G. Robertson and Drake and Skull—returned to work after a week. They accepted a productivity deal which includes a bonus scheme.

But the scheme is vague and unclear about how the bonus will be paid. The employers claim that this was the only way they could get the agreement through the Prices and Incomes Board.

Electricians at the Mann Egerton site are still on strike. The importance of their dispute can only be understood against the background of recent attempts by the Electrical Trades Union leaders to organise a Joint Industrial Board for the electrical contracting industry in Scotland.

Negotiations between the ETU and the Electrical Contractors' Association broke down earlier this year. The employers refused to pay Scottish sparks the same rates as English electricians.

BACKING

The ETU, with unusual militancy, told its Scottish members in the contracting industry that they would receive official backing for wage claims.

Experienced sparks suspect that the ETU executive hoped that the employers, forced to pay higher wages, would then agree to the JIB with its grading and control of electricians and harsh penalties, including fines, for militants.

It is important that the Mann Egerton electricians win their claim for 10s an hour without any productivity strings.

Workers should beware of productivity deals that all too often result in redundancies or wage increases that are eaten away by rising prices while they are saddled with worse working conditions or harder graft.

The contractors' claim that any increases have to involve productivity in order to satisfy the PIB is false. Only if more than 200 workers are involved is the employer forced to deal with the PIB—and many bosses prefer to cough up and keep quiet rather than face industrial action.

Donations to: B. Whitelaw 16 Florida Street, Glasgow S2

from page one

in the Paisleyite attack on the factory girls.

The socialists had to beat a retreat when they were chased by a man with a hatchet.

After today's demonstration, Derry is quiet. But a slow fuse is burning and may soon explode again.

The campaign seems to be undermining the mental faculties of Home Affairs Minister Craig. He denied that the factory girls' march and meeting had taken place at all and had flouted his ban on demonstrations in the walled part of Derry.

'There was no such march and no such meeting,' he declared on television. Told that the march had been seen by thousands of viewers, he said he preferred to accept the reports of his officials, not television journalists.

Printed and published by Socialist Review Publishing Co. Ltd. (TU), Paxton Works, Paxton Road, London N17. Registered with the GPO for transmission as a newspaper.

Sites fight goes on for £17

By FRANK CAMPBELL

Amalgamated Society of Painters and Decorators

IF THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT's record for workers lacks in socialism it does not lack in philanthropy. Barbara has seen reason.

Building workers are allowed to keep the 1d an hour they received in April as a cost of living bonus.

10,000 tenants lobby GLC

TEN THOUSAND tenants marched on the head office of the Greater London Council on Tuesday night to protest at rent increases as high as 15s a week imposed last September.

Chanting 'We won't pay a penny more,' the tenants lobbied Tory leaders of the GLC, who nervously promised a review of the rents in the next few weeks.

The size of the march, organised by the GLC Tenants' Action Committee, destroyed the council's claim that only 'a handful' of tenants were not paying the increases. The Action Committee claims that 80,000 tenants are withholding the increases.

Earlier that day, 300 workers from Smithfield, Covent Garden and Spitalfields market and London bus garages marched to the GLC in support of the tenants.

Victory at Morganite

From ANDREW BURNING AFTER EIGHT weeks on strike, the 1700 workers at Morganite Carbon's Battersea and Wandsworth sites have returned to work.

The management withdrew redundancy threats made two weeks ago and promised negotiations. Many workers on their first day back said that if the negotiations did not prove successful, they would go out again immediately.

But at a mass meeting on Saturday morning the highest hopes of the workers were realised. Their demand of 6d an hour without 'strings'—the management had demanded they lose the afternoon tea-break for the rise—was to be met by an immediate increase of 4d an hour and the extra 2d to be added in March without strings.

The majority of the building industry is unorganised. It is in the organised section that the claim of £17 11s 8d for craftsmen and £15 for labourers must be fought—and that fight demands a strategy.

Strategies exist. The main one is that of the Communist Party, the main opposition to the right wing that dominates the union leadership.

The CP policy is not so much dictated by possible economic gains but by possible strategic gains—the election of 'left' union officials.

But current leaders like George Smith, George Lowthian, Harry Weaver and Len Eaton (knighthoods have been omitted for space reasons) were elected originally on left-wing platforms.

Left platforms soon crumble under the weight of bureaucracies. Left leaders soon disappear.

The International Socialists programme is made more relevant, not less, by the week's events. That programme is:

All-out industrial action against the freeze.

Full official support for all building workers engaged in fighting the freeze.

Payment in full now of £17 11s 8d for craftsmen and £15 for labourers.

No strings—no productivity deals and no three-year tie-ups, whatever the PIB says.

2000 back £17 claim

MANCHESTER:- 2000 building workers went on a half-day strike on Monday in support of their pay claim of £17 11s 8d for skilled men and £15 for labourers.

Most of the big building sites in the area were paralysed. 500 building workers took part on a march through the city centre.

Tommy Coughlin, district secretary of the Woodworkers' Society, told a meeting at the end of the march that Harold Wilson had reminded guests at the Lord Mayor's Dinner last week that stock exchange gamblers can make as much money in one day as building workers earn in a year.



Print union puts life ban on press militant

By Socialist Worker Reporter

JOHN LAWRENCE, militant Father of the Chapel at the Press Association in Fleet Street has been removed from office by his branch committee of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, barred for life from holding office in the union and fined £20.

His 'offence' was to carry out the instructions of his chapel and circulate a statement asking SOGAT members to vote against an executive recommendation to end a cost of living bonus in a new wage agreement.

The chapel—the printing trade term for union members organised at each place of work—condemned the branch action.

All the officers resigned in protest. One member of the branch committee is also reported to have resigned.

The SOGAT executive decision to end the cost of living bonus flew in the face of a membership ballot which voted overwhelmingly against the new pay agreement.

DALY WINS NUM BALLOT

LAWRENCE DALY has swept to power in the National Union of Mineworkers on a strong left-wing programme.

Results announced on Wednesday showed that in a 70 per cent poll for the post of general secretary, Daly defeated his right-wing opponent Joe Gormley by 10,000 votes.

Daly's victory is a sign of the rising anger of miners at the cynical abandonment of their jobs and their industry.

The PA chapel staged a work to rule against the decision. As a result, the management of Britain's leading news agency (owned jointly by provincial newspapers) agreed to make a separate agreement which would include a cost of living bonus.

The union executive then turned a neat somersault by offering two contradictory alternatives to the members: the bonus should be retained... or it should be discontinued. They backed this with a statement to members urging that the agreement discontinuing the bonus should be accepted.

A second ballot resulted in 'victory' for the EC by just seven votes. The EC's trump card was to frighten members with possible intervention under the Prices and Incomes Act, if they demanded a bonus.

This so disgusted the PA chapel that it instructed the FOC (equivalent to shop steward) to issue the statement which led to his ban. Action was taken against Lawrence for 'conduct detrimental to the interests of the Society'.

A sustained campaign in support of Lawrence was waged in SOGAT's London branches and frightened the EC into a partial back-down. Last week, the executive ratified the branch decision but ruled that he could still be FOC at the PA and a delegate to the branch meetings.

He is still barred from holding office (FOC does not count as an office) and the fine stands. Lawrence is now appealing to the general council of the union.

Turriffs rapped

TURRIFFS, contractors at the £5½m Ivy Bridge development at Isleworth, Middlesex, have been asked by a national disputes commission to take back 500 locked-out building workers.

But will Turriffs accept the findings? Activity by the bosses on the site seems to indicate that the job is being tidied up in preparation for a six-month's shutdown.

MEETINGS

LONDON REGION IS: Tony Cliff on British revolutionary Left since the war Saturday November 23, 3pm. Africa Centre, King Street WC2 (tube: Leicester Sq.) 2s 6d

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM: Conference on organisation, London, Saturday, November 30. Details from branch secretaries.

Make sure you see Socialist Worker every week...

Name:

Address:

Organisation:

Enclose 27s/13s6d for a year/six months send me copies each week with an invoice (Delete where necessary) send to Socialist Worker, Paxton Works, Paxton Road, London N17.