

# \* Socialist Worker

For workers control and international socialism

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What  
we  
think...

Strike leader talks to Socialist Worker

## LEYLAND: BRINDLE RAPS THREAT OF CLOSURE

LEN BRINDLE, chairman of the strike committee at British Leyland's Lancashire plants, hit back this week at Lord Stokes' threat to close down the factories unless the 8500 strikers return to work.

Stokes, chairman of the giant car, bus and truck combine, said in an open letter to all BL workers last week that the strikers were jeopardising the jobs of other sections.

On Tuesday, Len Brindle told Socialist Worker: 'It came as no surprise to me that after three weeks of silence Lord Stokes made his threats.

'But why isn't he asking why, after 40 strike-free years, 8500 men and women are on strike? He should be finding the reasons - not issuing threats of closure.'

### DEMANDS

The workers are demanding £24 a week for skilled piece workers, parity of bonus for women workers and £18 10s for new starters. The average wage for a skilled worker at present is less than £14 a week.

Even at £24 a week, Lancashire workers would be as much as £10 a week behind Midlands car rates.

Mr Brindle, convener of shop stewards, said the strikers, who have been out for nearly a month, are convinced of the justice of their case.

'We are prepared to fight a long struggle. The men are adamant that any settlement must be just and reasonable - and in writing,' he added.

He was a member of a



BRINDLE  
Not surprised



STOKES  
Should ask why

ort from other workers. Collections were being held in a number of factories.

Last Sunday, Leyland stewards went to Liverpool to meet their opposite numbers at Ford's Halewood plant. As a result, collections are being held this week among Ford workers.

'This support had clearly encouraged Len Brindle, who spoke seriously of the need for workers to unite beyond the boundaries of individual combines or industries.

'Unity is of paramount importance,' he said. 'Faced by growing mergers and closures, workers must look seriously to the question of organisation.'

### HOSTILE

He said the stewards at Leyland's Lancashire plants were hostile to the government's planned anti-union laws.

'So are most of the workers in my section, where I am the steward. There are some who think legislation is necessary and that strikes are damaging the economy.

'But when the issues are explained they can usually be won over.'

He added that the recent strike call by the combine committee covering all stewards and convenors throughout Leylands was 'definitely on and would go ahead'. The committee has decided to press for a stoppage on the day the anti-union plans become law.

Contributions to: Leyland Motors Emergency Fund, c/o treasurer J. Catterall, 94 Shevington Moor, Standish, Wigan, Lancs.

## Appeal to stop racialists

LEFT-WING GROUPS in the Havering area of Essex have formed a united front to fight the growing local threat from racialists and fascists.

On Monday evening, June 16, the extreme right-wing National Front and Oswald Mosley's Union Movement are holding a joint meeting in the Laurie Hall, Romford. Council permission has been given for the meeting.

The Left-wing groups have appealed for maximum support from socialists and trade unionists to attempt to stop the racialists holding the meeting.



## BUILD THE IRISH CIVIL RIGHTS SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

John Palmer

THE CIVIL RIGHTS TRUCE granted to the new Unionist prime minister in Northern Ireland, Major James Chichester-Clarke, when he took over from Captain O'Neill, is running out. In the intervening weeks it has become clear that the Unionists have little intention of meeting the basic demands of the civil rights movement - or of any section of the working people of Northern Ireland.

The Unionist Party bosses promise electoral reform at some distant date. In the meantime they have appointed hardliner Brian Faulkner to preside over the examination of boundary changes. There can be no confidence that the Unionist government will eliminate the basis of their own party's sectarian grip on many local councils. To do so would be to invite a total split in the party.

There is even less intention of tackling the appalling problem of housing and unemployment. On the former the Unionists have made big play with a promise to increase the house building programme by a few thousand 'by the mid 1970s'. In the meantime Catholic and Protestant workers can fester in the slums of cities like Derry and Belfast.

Even less has been done to provide jobs for 'Catholic' and 'Protestant' areas alike. Not that much could be done within the paralysing grip of the crisis of declining capitalism in Northern Ireland.

While turning their back on social and economic reform, the Orange junta has flouted any demand to disband the armed Paisleyite B-Special police. The Specials have been given full support by the Unionists and will continue to be supplied with arms and ammunition by courtesy of Wilson.

The working people of Northern Ireland have been remarkably patient. But there can be no doubt that the civil rights movement, spearheaded by its militant wing, People's Democracy, will take to the streets.

There is no doubt that with demonstrations likely to start soon, repression from the B-Specials and Paisleyite bully boys will be ferocious. For that reason alone the development of a massive solidarity campaign in Britain is vital.

### Campaign started to act

The Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign has started with a series of successful mass meetings at town halls, factories, and building sites in London addressed by Bernadette Devlin. Several branches of the campaign in Irish areas have already been set up.

Both International Socialists and the People's Democracy are giving full support to the campaign which will now be taken throughout the length of Britain with meetings planned in Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow and other cities.

The campaign is open to all socialists and workers supporting the six points of the militant civil rights movement (one person one equal vote, one family one house, one man one job, disarm and disband the B-Specials and Royal Ulster Constabulary, and for the right of the whole Irish people to national self determination). Of course socialists within this campaign will not abandon their advocacy of an Irish workers' republic as the only viable path for Catholic and Protestant workers in Ireland.

As Bernadette Devlin and the ICRSC have made clear, the campaign will also attack the abuses which exist in the southern state where a general election is being held. But the main emphasis at present is correctly on the north. And ICRSC will also support every other genuine civil rights mobilisation in Britain. For that reason we are supporting the June 22 Trafalgar Square rally being called by the London branch of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Campaign.

But the need now is for every section of the revolutionary left in Britain to practise what it preaches about solidarity with workers fighting in countries dominated by imperialism. Ireland is on our doorstep. The outcome of the struggle there is bound to have a profound impact on the development of the struggle in Britain itself.

For details of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign contact Pat Denny at 01-485 0476.

FROM 1954 to 1964 Enoch Powell made not a single speech on immigration. This was the time when about a million workers from Pakistan, India and the West Indies came into Britain to fill the worst jobs at the worst rates of pay and to assist British capitalism to expand.

These workers were then joined by their families. Their wives went into hospital to have children, and their children went to school.

This was too much for Enoch Powell, who started to make increasingly hysterical demands to 'send the blacks home!'

The high priest of free enterprise and the arch enemy of bureaucracy wants to spend £300m on 'repatriation' and to set up a special Ministry for the purpose.

As the booming capitalism of the 1950s begins to shrink all the fine talk about racial equality degenerates into a new squalid racialism.

### FEARS

Powell aims his speech at workers, filling them with mysterious fears about 'invasions' and 'occupations'. The workers should know that they have nothing to fear from the immigration of other workers but a great deal to fear from Enoch Powell.

The social services, housing, hospitals, schools, are not overstrained in the slightest by immigration. The immigrant is not only a receiver of benefits or a user of the Welfare State. He is also, primarily, a worker.

The immigrant 'takes out' from the social services only 80 per cent of what the white worker takes out. He contributes more than he uses. The social services would be even worse without immigration than they are with it.

The shortages in our society are caused not by immigrants but by the system for which Enoch Powell tells us he 'thanks God': the capitalist system under which decisions on what to build and how to teach are taken solely for the sake of increasing the wealth and power of a tiny few.

### PROOF

When workers fight against that system for a better life, racialism is irrelevant to them. The proof of that is in the picket lines: at the Barbican in 1967 (where half the strikers were coloured) on the picket line at Ford early this year (where 70 per cent of the foundry pickets were coloured) or at the current strike at Wolverhampton Die Casting where black and white workers are fighting together for better conditions.

The menace of Powell's racialism will not be avoided by the soft liberalism of the Community Relations Commission. Only when workers struggle against Powell's beloved capitalism will they discover and attack their real enemies and in the process consign Enoch to the gutter where he belongs.

# Revealed by Marx —the secret of the system

WHY IS THE CENTRAL conflict in modern society the conflict between those who own and control the means of production, the capitalist class, and those who own nothing but their ability to labour, the working class?

What is the basis of this class conflict? Why are the interests of capital and labour irreconcilable?

These are the questions posed and answered by Marx in *Wage Labour and Capital*. Writing in 1849, Marx sought to explain the real roots of the class antagonisms which were emerging in the revolutionary upheavals then sweeping the whole of Europe.

Under the capitalist mode of production the worker, lacking productive resources of his own, has no option but to labour during a specified amount of time for the capitalist who hires him. What the worker sells is his ability to labour, his labour power.

In return he receives a wage. Labour power, therefore is bought and sold just like any other commodity. Wages are the price of the commodity, labour power.

Labour was not always wage labour. The slave, for example, did not sell his services to the slaveowner. He was himself the property of his owner, but his ability to labour was not a commodity. Slave exploitation differed from the exploitation of the working class.

### Not permanent

Moreover, just as slavery gave way to a different way of organising men's economic activity, to different class relationships, so too wage labour is not 'natural' or 'permanent' but will be abolished when capitalism is overthrown.

What happens in the exchange between capitalist and worker? The capitalist starts out with a certain

sum of money, his original capital, and with it buys labour power, raw materials, machines etc. In the course of production a product with a certain value is created. Part of this value merely restores the value of the raw materials and machinery used up.

Another part corresponds to the value of the goods needed to keep the hired worker alive according to a certain standard of life (which may vary from time to time and place to place), and to keep him capable of working and of reproducing himself. But still a part of the value created in production remains left over — surplus value.

Where has this surplus value come from? It arises from the fact that the worker spends only a part of the time for which he has been hired creating value equivalent to his wages. The rest of the time he spends producing value for which he receives no compensation.

This surplus value is pocketed by the capitalist, who has thus enlarged the original capital value he started with. He has accumulated capital.

The continuous extraction of surplus value through the buying and selling of labour power is the secret of the capitalist system. The capitalist is driven constantly to expand surplus value both absolutely and as a share of the total value of production, not because he is greedy by nature, but because he is in competition with other capitalists.

### Follow suit

A larger surplus can be re-invested in more and better equipment to cheapen production costs and selling prices. If one individual capitalist does this, all the rest are forced to follow suit and if possible do even better to avoid being driven out of the market.

As Marx puts it, 'The division of labour is necessarily followed by a greater division of labour, the application of machinery by a still greater application of machinery, work on a large scale by work on a still larger scale. That is the law which again and again throws bourgeois production out of its old course and which compels capital to intensify the productive forces of labour because it has already intensified them, the law which gives capital no rest and continually whispers in its ear, 'Go on! Go on!'

Thus under capitalism social needs are necessarily subordinated to the accumulation of capital. It is the very nature of the capitalist economy which sets the interests of capital and labour in total opposition to one another.

DAVE PURDY

NIGEL COW on the docks shipbuilding, the buildings seamen — all were suppose Yet one thing the workers' suffer. What want?

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T.B: Since ion of the sch fall-back rat week's unen risen from £9 less deductio to be a minim

# Prod deals: an attempt to smash workers' control of the job



Militants face a formidable alliance of employers and right-wing union officials. That alliance was seen in action during the Barbican building site dispute. Picture shows locked-out workers jeering at police-guarded blacklegs

## THE BATTLE FOR SHOP FLOOR CONTROL

by TOM HILLIER AEF shop steward

PART TWO

ALL OVER BRITAIN productivity deals are being negotiated. The measures attached to these deals are being put into effect in many factories and building sites.

The common feature to workers affected by these deals is the loss of job control. From such control flows their ability to determine wage rates.

The Woodhall-Duckham Agreement of May 1967, for example, forced the men on the Romford Gas Works site to lose from £8-£10 a week. Anyone who opposed these measures was threatened with expulsion from their union, the Constructional Engineers.

Overtime, when required, became compulsory, with the threat of labour-only subcontracting to take on the jobs of those who declined overtime. Many similar examples exist.

There is no shortage of literature on the subject of productivity deals, but the

militant on the shop floor will find little to assist him in his struggles for the reports praise the virtues of this type of bargaining.

What the man on the shop floor needs is some knowledge gained through practical experience. To date, contributions from socialist sources range from negative comment — 'total opposition' — to shopping lists of workers' defensive measures to be traded during productivity bargaining or 'last-ditch defence' tactics.

### STRATEGY

We should examine these suggestions on their merits.

Total opposition to productivity deals is a fine-sounding slogan. It is like calling for total opposition to capitalism.

But slogans are quite meaningless without the necessary strategy and they are quite useless to shop

stewards faced with all the pressing problems that these deals bring.

Faced with a situation in which, despite their warnings, their members have voted to accept a deal, should stewards stand aside until job organisation has been eroded and led to redundancies and say with a superior look 'I told you so'?

Of course as socialists we must oppose these deals in every conceivable way. But in order to earn credibility for our ideas among workers we must be prepared to lead struggles with our members against the implementation of these deals.

That is the meaningful way to oppose them. In that way we educate ourselves and other workers who will face similar deals later on.

Most workers are told by their shop stewards that any increase in pay will only be

granted by the employer if it is linked to an increase in productivity. This piece of ideology, flowing from the rationale of monopoly capitalism and its agent, the Labour government, is accepted as a 'fact of life' by most stewards.

In this setting, it is not surprising that thousands of workers have swallowed both the argument and the deal.

The most that isolated militants can do is to insist that productivity deals will lead to increased profits for the boss, loss of demarcation and control on the shop floor and redundancy. They must consistently fight for a policy of opposition to such deals and encourage where possible industrial action in defence of job control.

### ALLIANCE

Militants face a formidable alliance — the employers, the sell-outs of various union leaders in the past, the right wing on their own stewards' committees and in their sections where their views may be respected but where economic necessity is the most pressing influence.

It would be an error to underestimate the effect of the millionaire press on the average workers. In this respect, the service rendered the employer by the Daily Mirror is worthy of the Queen's Award to Industry.

The press plays up the better aspects of productivity deals and redundancies are either given little space or are completely ignored.

The alternative to acceptance of a prod deal is to take industrial action, but this is not always possible given the relation of forces in a section or a factory. To many workers in poorly-organised shops, prod deals appear to be the only method open to them to obtain an increase in pay.

Another problem relating to industrial action even in strong, well-organised sections, is the fact that it is the

government as well as the boss that they will be fighting against. This fact must be emphasised to pose the political nature of these deals.

In order to counter defeatist attitudes, militants must point out examples where workers have won against such odds, but they must choose realistic examples. For instance, workers in an unorganised food factory like the US-owned Heinz company would hardly be impressed by accounts of the telegraphists' success in obtaining increases above the government's norm of 3½ per cent. They have no such strength and no relationship can be seen to their experience.

Many workers will not heed our warnings about the implications of prod deals. In many cases our advice will not only appear irrelevant but at times untrue.

This is because more sophisticated managements are slowly phasing the changes they make and workers rarely feel the bite collectively until the entire scheme is completed.

Examples from militants who have experienced deals must be made available to workers as a whole. Already the effects or Measured Day Work are making themselves felt in Rootes plant at Linwood. This sort of experience must be recorded.

### CREDIBLE

When the teeth of a prod deal begin to bite deeply into the workers they will remember those who 'sold' them the idea and who opposed it. Our credibility will increase if we have been consistent in pointing out the political nature of these developments and have been seen to participate in the struggles around job control.

Often the employers decide to advance section by section the size of the work study team, the areas most fruitful to observe etc. In some cases this sectional

progress can be useful — information based on the experience of those sections which have undergone study will be of value to other sections.

Shop stewards will have to fight against sectional interests and see the need to organise together with other stewards in order to discuss mutual problems. The more progressive ones will need to contact experienced militants who have knowledge of prod deals in order to draw the lessons.

### CONTACT

International Socialists can assist in this work by putting militants in contact with one another, providing information in Socialist Worker and supplying speakers to trade union branches, factory committees, etc.

From our involvement in this work we can build up a relationship which will lead to an atmosphere conducive to a discussion of our political perspectives.

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SOCIALIST WORKER is the paper of International Socialism, a movement of revolutionary socialists who believe that the present form of society, with its blatant inequalities, its periodic crises, wars and racist hysteria must be replaced by one based on a planned economy under full workers' control; those who produce the wealth should own and control the means of production. International Socialism is opposed to any incomes policy that seeks to restrict the wages of the workers in order to boost the profits of the employers. We unconditionally support all shop stewards and rank and file trade union members in their struggles for better wages and conditions and oppose all reactionary laws that threaten the liberties of the labour movement. We support all strikes in defence of workers' interests with the de-

# WHERE WE STAND

mand 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 in-

fluence by linking up on an industrial and ultimately a national basis.

We are opposed to racial discrimination, a weapon used by the ruling class to divide the labour movement. Immigration control must be ended, ensuring the free movement of peoples regardless of race and colour. Black and white workers must unite and form their own defence organisations to fight fascism and racism. The labour movement must demand the immediate recall of British troops from abroad as the first step towards ending colonial exploitation.

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

## NEXT WEEK Don't sell those 'restrictive practices'

The journal that provides for readers of S

# International Socialist

George Orwell: int

Revolutionar from inside

The failure of

3s inc post

36 Gilden Road Lond

# DOCKERS VERSUS DEVLIN

## Port workers face 19th century conditions and 20th century threats of redundancy and speed-up

by **TERRY BARRETT**  
Tilbury Docks, TGWU talking to  
**NIGEL COWARD**

case and not serve as an excuse for redundancy.

Interestingly enough, since the employers have had to pay the fall-back themselves (instead of the Dock Labour Board deducting it from the pay-packet as under the old scheme), the highest figure of men receiving this has been 550, compared with 3-4000 sent home daily before. Rather than send men home on fall-back, they get allocated phoney jobs on basic minimum rates, without having the possibility of the higher piecework earnings.

N.C.: What do the bosses now feel about Devlin?

T.B.: They've continually claimed that they've achieved very little from Devlin. This is a blatant lie. They must think we can't read!

Cunard reported in the Financial Times on May 16 an increased dividend for shareholders from 5 per cent to 8 per cent. And the Hays Wharf Group, one of the largest wharfingers, upped their profits from our labour by £300,000. This was the same week that they insisted on sacking 300 men from one of their subsidiaries, Mark Brown's wharf.

### Increased costs, increased charges

Of course, they can always pass on increased costs in the form of increased port charges, with the blessing of the so-called Prices and Incomes Board, thereby safeguarding profit levels.

I don't see what the ship-owners are complaining about. After all they still exist as employers. And the capitalist system works very well for them. Look at how you can have your cake and eat it too.

Firstly, already over the last 18 months the national dock labour force has been slashed from 63,000 to 55,000. This represents, based on a conservative average weekly wage of £20 (The Port, the employers' paper, puts the national average, including day workers and category 'C' disabled men, at £27), a loss of £160,000 per week in lost wages, or £12.5 million over 18 months.

And with these lower wage costs, tonnage has been maintained or increased!

Secondly, the employers,

despite trade union bleating about a voluntary severance scheme, are demanding that the government should co-operate in hastening redundancy by providing loans. Thus tax-paying workers and not the bosses will contribute to the severance pay of dockers.

The £3 million loan maybe comes from the £5 million this Hard Labour government saved on free school milk.

Thirdly, the port employers don't even have to use their profits for capital development. Again the state obliges by using taxes on workers to provide the new dock machinery, to the employers greater profit.

No less a person than Richard Marsh, as Minister of Transport, has repeated in the Commons and on TV, that the government puts £50m a year into capital development in the docks.

N.C.: Let's look at what's coming next. In common with productivity deals elsewhere in industry, the aim of the bosses is to gain greater control of the workers and to guarantee profits by ensuring continuous production and predictable wage costs. The basic issue of control over hiring and firing is alive now in the dock, isn't it?

T.B.: The capitalist bosses will never rest until they have the usual right to hire and fire dockers. Over 20 years ago, the so-called Labour government of that day found it necessary to take this right away from them.

### Callous treatment, industrial anarchy

This privilege - it's not a right - was removed not only because of their callous treatment of labour (ask any of the old boys) but also because their fiercely competitive system pushed them to the point of industrial anarchy and inefficiency.

Many dockers are unaware that the return of this power is one of the clauses that the employers require from Phase 2 of Devlin. Already they've made significant inroads, via the closure of wharves in London and the removal of facilities and cargoes to different areas.

For example, the Bay Manor Tea Warehouses in Grays, Essex have taken a large percentage of tea operations from the major London tea warehouses. And Bay

Manor operates with a very small, unregistered labour force, which the employers can hire and fire.

I appeal to all dockers to resist any attempt by the bosses to regain this power over us. Think what the redundancy rate would be if they had their way!

N.C.: Before we talk about redundancy, what do you make of the £1800 carrot of the severance scheme?

T.B.: It does look attractive, but on examination it's not so hot. The average age of dockworkers is 47 and many of those in their early 50s, having given their lives to the industry, have no other skill.

If a man of 55 takes this offer and even if he gets the maximum, where will he get another job? £1800 won't last for the 10 years to his pensionable age

### Gold today, black tomorrow

Besides this, the overall situation of employment is very bleak. In the next few years, there'll be continuing heavy redundancy in most of the declining sectors of British industry. Even on government expectations, the ranks of the unemployed will be swelled by over 200,000 steelworkers, 250,000 miners, 57,000 builders and quarrymen plus an unknown number of public transport workers.

This will be quite apart from the usual half-million or so out of work, and school leavers. So where will the docker go as his golden handshake drains away?

N.C.: The Financial Times of May 16 reports on the latest manpower estimates of the National Ports Council, saying 'Overall ... the labour force will drop from 53,500-55,000 at the beginning of this year to 35,000-40,000 by the end of 1972'.

The following ports are in for the following treatment:

	Jan 88	Dec 72
Liverpool	11,944	6,850
London	22,791	18,750
Hull & Goole	4,383	3,380
Manchester	1,957	560

T.B.: Rosy prospects, aren't they? It's happening all the

### Derry: wrong heading, not wrong demand

EAAMONN McCANN was correct to state (June 5) that I, not he, contributed that part of the amalgamated article which called upon socialists in the southern part of Ireland to demand that the Green Tory government arm Derry.

To remove possible confusion, could you explain where the heading on the letter came from?

Comrade McCann stated that it was 'not a demand I would raise'. Fair enough. Where then did you get the heading 'Derry - the wrong demand'?

I don't subscribe to the notion that the sacredness of democracy is best guaranteed when the bourgeoisie is armed to the teeth and the workers unarmed. -SEAN REED, London N1.

THE EDITOR COMMENTS: The headline lacked an essential question mark.

time. The waterside ponces, sometimes called port employers, have only one interest - their profit. And regardless of human consequences, they chase bigger returns to outdo their domestic and international competitors.

Despite the British Transport Commission making a clear £2m last year, in London alone St.Katherine dock, Regent's Canal and wharves south of the river (2, 7 and 9 sectors) are closing.

### General plan, pitiful payment

In cases like the Regent's Canal, the only reason for closure was the general plan to transfer labour to sectors of lower wage rates. The disgusting thing was that the Regent's men had to engage in a three week strike, to gain a pitiful redundancy payment of £50-100. It was only made official after they had occupied the West India Dock union office.

This must show that the nationalised employer is as bad as the private one.

This will always apply until the whole economy is run by, for and in the interests of the workers themselves.



Tea being unloaded at Tilbury

Look at how the men who were transferred to sectors were treated. They were promised payment for increased travelling expenses, until work became available in their own sector. The Dock Labour Board is now trying to go back on this. Like many other promises, the aim is to soften resistance until it is too late.

Many of those deported from these wharves are forced to spend three hours travelling if they want to remain in the industry. There was no real attempt to allocate men on the basis of age or fitness in this human raffle: men of around 60 were expected to handle the ocean cargoes, down a 60 feet deep hatch, shifting two cwt bags for 10 hours a day.

This discussion will be continued in a future issue

## Join the International Socialists

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**COLCHESTER** Ian Noble  
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Wivenhoe 272  
**COVENTRY** Dave Edwards  
53 Palmerston Rd Earlsdon  
**CRAWLEY** Deborah Ward  
2 Weddell Rd Tilgate  
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South Croydon  
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Heath Park Rd Gidea Pk  
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Lothair Rd Anfield L'pool 4  
**MERTON** Fred Milson 119  
Wolsey Crescent Morden  
**NEWCASTLE** Tony Corcoran  
26 Lesbury Road  
**NORTHAMPTON** Alan Druker  
21 Ardington Road

- NORWICH** Gerald Crompton  
220 College Rd NOR 54F  
**NOTTINGHAM** Tony Evans  
289 Derby Rd Nottingham  
**OXFORD** Dave Peers  
21 First Turn  
**PORTSMOUTH/SOUTHSEA**  
Alan Sandham 30 Lowcay Road  
Southsea Hants  
**POTTERIES** John Whitfield  
5 Grosvenor Rd Newcastle  
**PRESTON** J Prus, 72 Lower  
Bank Rd, Fulwood Preston  
**READING** Miriam Belsey  
22 Redlands Rd Reading  
**RICHMOND** Edward Brown 4  
Cheyne Ave Twickenham Mddix  
**SELBY** John Charlton 12  
Thatch Close Selby Yorks  
**SHEFFIELD** J Wilkin  
15 Raven Rd Sheffield S71SB  
**SOUTHAMPTON** John Fisher  
144 Thornhill Park Road  
**STEVENAGE** Michael Downing  
57 Trumper Rd Trots Hill  
**STOCKPORT** Geoff Hodgson  
73a Forest Range M/C 19  
**STOKE NEWINGTON** Mike  
McGrath 28 Manor Road N16  
**SWANSEA** Dick Jones  
19 Woodlands Tce  
**TEESSIDE** Barry Slater Flat 3  
73 Redcar Rd Giusborough Yorks  
John Foster 10 Pallister Ave  
Brambles Farm Middlesbro  
**TOTTENHAM** Laurie Flynn  
374 High Road N17  
**WATFORD** Paul Russell  
61 Carpenders Avenue  
Carpenders Park  
**WIGAN** Ray Challinor  
34 Whiteside Ave Hindley  
**WOLVERHAMPTON** Dave  
Yorkspur 274 Penn Road  
**YORK** Bob Looker 22 Hobgate  
**VICTORIA** Tony Dunne 14  
Carlisle Mansions Carlisle  
Place SW1

Please send further details of the meetings and activities of the international socialists to

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# CLYDE: WORKERS' CONTROL ONLY ANSWER TO CHAOS

Peter Bain, DATA

GLASGOW:- Once again Clydeside shipyard workers are being called on to make sacrifices in jobs, pay and conditions to pay for a crisis in the industry. In response to their request for £12m, Upper Clyde Shipbuilders are to receive £9.3m from the government in loans and grants.

The company have so far been unable to raise the remaining £3m from their shareholders. As Lord Aberconway put it, 'I cannot conceive that it would be in the interests of John Brown's shareholders to invest more money in UCS'.

When Sir Eric Yarrow, whose yard is only profitable because of its specialisation in 'can't lose' government contracts, was asked if he would be investing in UCS, his reply was 'Would you?'

Having made huge profits in the 1940s and 50s, the shipyard owners now propose to squeeze more concessions from the workers and more subsidies from the taxpayers. But such is their confidence in the future of UCS that they won't invest in their own yards.

The bosses' failure to modernise the yards has caught up with them. Everything, the press tells us, now depends on the workers swallowing the conditions laid down by the bosses and accepted by the Shipbuilding Industry Board and the government.

## Way cleared

The way has been cleared for a campaign to force the workers to accept a colossal worsening of conditions.

Under the UCS plan, the workforce is to be reduced by 3000 over the next 13 months. In the next two years the company are looking for a 45 per cent increase in productivity - a rumour is going round that everyone is to be fitted with roller-skates.

The rule book is virtually flung out as flexibility, interchangeability and double-day shifts are pushed through. Three-shift working may be next in line.

A wage freeze will operate until December 1970 unless directly attributable to increased productivity. Joint management/union 'monitoring' committees will review the achievement of monthly targets.

## Accept loss

The unions' response to these proposals has been to accept the loss of 3000 jobs through 'natural wastage' - the term used by the bosses to describe workers who die or leave while in their employment.

Whatever the terminology used, there will be 3000 less workers employed in UCS. Nothing has apparently been learned from the Fairfield experience when exactly the same tactics were used by Sir Iain 'we had the workers over a barrel' Stewart to blackmail the men into accepting far-reaching changes in conditions and practices.

Just as Stewart and George Brown announced their intention to use Fairfield as a testing ground for productivity dealing, so Technology Minister Anthony Wedgwood-Benn says that the problems

## New squeeze on work force

confronting UCS are typical of the problems confronting British industry as a whole. Government support for UCS is dependent upon the unions co-operating fully in the company's proposals.

Only the call by No 2 Divisional Council of the Draughtsmen's Union for nationalisation without compensation under the control of workers' committees, no sackings and union access to company accounts, plus the Boilermakers' talk of nationalisation have provided any real alternatives to the bosses' and government's plans for a smaller, tightly controlled labour force.

There is still time for workers to fight to defend their jobs and conditions. Militants must continue to raise the crucial issues.

Meetings, demonstrations, sit-ins and occupations should be organised to emphasise the right of workers to a job and decent conditions.

## Open books

The campaign to make the shipyard workers the scapegoats for the present situation should be answered by demands for the accounts of UCS and the old companies to be opened to inspection by the workers.

Then we would see how much was taken from the yards during the boom period and hived off to more lucrative investment when it suited the bosses.

All negotiations must be attended by shop stewards and reported to mass meetings of workers before anyone is committed to anything.

The government cannot avoid its responsibility either. They sponsored the Geddes Report. They demanded sackings. If they are incapable of organising the economy so that workers have jobs then they must provide full maintenance.

While we live in a society in which a few men, the owners of industry, run things in their own interests, then redundancy, worsening conditions and wage freeze are always on the agenda.

When, like the robber barons of the Clydeside shipyards, they demand concessions from workers, socialists must put forward the demand of nationalisation under workers' control of not just the shipyards, but of industry as a whole.



## Militant school children demand free discussion

SW Reporter

POTTERIES:- 'Revolution in the educational order' and 'Trotskyist indoctrination' were accusations made by teachers after a meeting of 100 militant school children in Hanley, Stoke on Trent on Friday.

The meeting decided to launch a campaign in the area for pupils' rights, freedom in education and open political discussion in schools. The pupils condemned teachers' paternalism, the prefect system and the attitude of the local education authority.

The meeting also voted to exclude a plain-clothes police officer from the back row.

## 'Ban group'

Teachers have threatened to expel children at the meeting and an education committee councillor said, 'I shall fight in the council to have this group utterly banned.'

The school children asked International Socialists and members of the Revolutionary Socialist Students' Federation to print and distribute

## Bro Varley has a bright idea

WHO NEEDS laws against the unions when right-wing union leaders themselves are bursting with bright ideas to hammer the rank and file?

Our prize for scab of the week goes to Mr Ted Varley, president of the National and Local Government Officers Association. He told his union conference at Brighton on Tuesday that the government should consider withholding social security benefits from strikers instead of proceeding with legislation.

## CUSHION

He said: 'I cannot help wondering if much of the hardship has been taken out of strikes. Social security benefits and income tax rebate provide a useful cushion.'

And the capitalist system provides a nice soft cushion for Brother Varley.

their leaflets called 'Is your life ruled by others?'

Leaflets were confiscated at one school but they were regained and given out again by enthusiastic supporters of the campaign.

A further meeting of the campaign was planned for this Friday. It is thought that local radio and press hysteria will swell the attendance.

## Victory for squatters as mother is re-housed

SW Reporter

BRENT:- Mrs Peggy Jolly and her three children have been rehoused by the Greater London Council after eight weeks of squatting.

Mrs Jolly was due for eviction from her home but she refused to be dumped in Brent council's half-way home in Dartmouth Road.

Her husband had deserted her and as the rent book was in his name the owner of the property wanted her evicted.

## Nailed lie

Brent Squatters mounted a major political campaign in the area which was supported by the local tenants' association.

The Squatters nailed a lie from the chairman of the Brent Housing Committee, Councillor Sklar, that Mrs Jolly was up for eviction because she was behind with the rent.

Public meetings were held on IS platforms and the authorities had to contend with large demonstrations in Brent Town Hall.

The Squatters held their own mock inauguration when the new mayor was installed in office.

## GOOD SALE

MORE THAN 200 copies of Socialist Worker were sold last Thursday during the lobby of the TUC special conference in Croydon.

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## DON'T JUST STAND THERE - GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES...

Nat Soper

THERE ARE MALIGNANTS in the workers' movement who poison the air with their complaints about our elected leaders. IS has its unfair share of these dissidents. Not content with blackguarding Harold Wilson and even - cads that they are - saying wicked things about Major Barbara, they manage to save some of their bile for trade union leaders.

Being a tolerant man, possibly even indolent, I have never before challenged those who have spoken ill about our leaders, but I am no longer willing to stand silently by while the traducers of good men spread their venomous slanders. I will speak out.

Thursday, June 5 1969 is the day that marks my conversion. Yes, conversion, for on that day I underwent what I can only term a moving religious experience. The place - Fairfield's Hall, Croydon. The occasion - the special Trades Union Congress.

Now it wasn't what the chairman said in opening the conference that filled me with this new-found sense of purposeful dedication. Nor was it anything that Victor Feather said either, although he does have the voice and manner of a latter-day Methodist. (I am told his full name is Victor Grayson Keir Hardie Karl Marx Vladimir Ilych Feather.)

When Vic had finished his recollections of things past, including the awful moment when some trade union officials appeared to have walked out on the PM (thank God it wasn't true! They were only going out to the WC) it appeared to me that the General Council had walked out on Vic, for at least half of them left the platform precipitately.

## Strong lights

The chairman carefully explained that the hall lights were so strong that he would have difficulty in identifying those in the body of the hall who wished to speak. He need not have worried. His performance was perfect - well, almost. He had to be prompted at first before he got into his stride. 'Who will speak first?' he asked. 'I will', said Briginshaw. And he did. He supported the General Council.

The second speaker was Cousins. He supported the General Council. The third speaker was Stagg. I think his choice must have been a mistake since he is not a member of the General Council.

But he did have the decency to support them. Then we had Hayday, Cannon, Scanlon, Parry, Doughty, Plant, McGarvey, Green, Anderson, Fisher - all of them except that damned Doughty supporting the General Council. Of course things went off the rails at times and outsiders got in.

As I sat there I felt proud that I had been permitted to come along to listen to this great General Council debate. And, as I listened my pride gave way to humility, which in turn was succeeded by a religious fervour.

Nor was I alone. With a single accord I and my fellows in that great hall sank on our knees. And in that position we heard Vic Feather's closing statement and voted for the General Council. I am still on my knees. I find the position very comfortable.

Why don't you join us and get down on your knees, too? Standing there you look so bloody silly - and conspicuous. After all, you don't want to draw attention to yourself, do you.

with their success, but there is still a lot to be done in the area. Homeless families are numerous in Brent, while the Chalkhill Estate has many empty houses.

You can contact Brent Squatters at 59 Denzil Road, NW10.

## 'Leveller' Crossman soaks the workers

MR RICHARD CROSSMAN has been hailed as a great leveller by the press for his new wage-related insurance contributions. There is so much enthusiasm for the system that no one is bothering to ask whether the increases are necessary.

If the social services need cash then swift measures should be taken to soak the rich, the tiny handful of people who control industry and whose profits are booming thanks to the Labour government.

The fact that six million men earning less than £18 a week will 'only' have to pay a shilling a week extra is not cause for applause for Crossman but an indictment of the fact that so many workers earn such a miserable wage.

The 'egalitarianism' that the press really admires lies in the equal distribution of the new increases between employers and workers. In the past the employers have paid a higher rate, but now, in line with government policy, the burden is being switched more and more to the workers.

## NOTICES

ISE this Saturday, June 14 - 19 discussion meeting on perspectives for revolutionaries. Spkrs include Tony Cliff and Frank Campbell. 1-5pm, New Theatre.

ISRAELI Revolutionary Action Committee calls for support for demonstration against Zionism and imperialism at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane this Sunday, June 15 during visit of Israeli premier Mrs Golda Meir at 8pm.

IS LONDON REGION meeting, Sat June 21: imperialism and the third world. Spkrs Nigel Harris

and Malcolm Caldwell. 2.30 Assembly Hall, Institute of Education (Senate House) Malet St, WC1 (tube Goadge St, Russel Sq).

BERNADETTE DEVLIN, MP speaks on The Fight for Civil Rights in Ireland on Monday June 23, 8pm at Islington Town Hall, Upper St, N1. (Tube: Angel, Highbury & Islington; buses: 19, 38, 172, 279, 80).

IS Housing sub-committee, Crown and Sugarloaf, Garlick Hill, EC4, Mon June 16, 8pm. Please send branch delegates.

## Airfix union rights strike spreads

THE FOUR-WEEK OLD strike at Airfix plastics factory at Sunbury, Middlesex, may spread to other factories in the group.

Union membership at the nearby Kingston Plastics, also owned by Airfix, has also been growing steadily. A stoppage is planned there as soon as the Transport Workers' Union is strong enough. A meeting of workers has also been held at the Earlsfield factory to discuss forming a union.

Workers at all Airfix factories suffer from the same problems - low wages, poor working conditions and a management determined to

increase its already plump profit margins.

The Sunbury strikers, who are demanding management recognition of their union organisation, have given a lead which is likely to be followed throughout the group.

Members of IS have leafletted all the Airfix factories in the London area with details of the Sunbury strike and urged workers to form union organisations.

The leaflet points out that Airfix made £13 profit per worker every week last year and in the first six months of this year profits have doubled.