

Socialist Worker

**New Nazis:
smokescreen
for major
parties**

Richard Kuper

GERMAN ELECTORS go to the polls this weekend after a month of widespread labour agitation.

The rank and file movements in the steel, coal and shipbuilding industries have been followed by union pressure for wage rises throughout the economy. Postal workers and railwaymen were followed this week by the army association and the police union, the latter asking for ten per cent backdated to the beginning of September.

Effective wage rises are likely to be around 13 per cent - similar to those achieved after the struggle in France in May 1968.

The movement has been a great embarrassment to the major political parties. Neither the Christian Democrats (CDU) nor the Social Democrats (SPD), coalition partners since 1966 and now desperately trying to draw some distinctions between themselves, have anything meaningful to offer the German working class.

AGITATED

The SPD protests at Chancellor Kiesinger's 'personality cult'. The CDU is opposed to revaluation of the Deutschmark which Schiller of the SPD has demanded. While revaluation would satisfy international capital in its increasingly agitated search for a way of easing the world reserve shortage, it could also make German goods uncompetitive and lead to unemployment.

For both the parties (and for the press, radio and television here in Britain) the neo-Nazis (NPD) are a godsend. The spectre of fascism is exploited mercilessly to try and gather the population round the good old parties of law and order.

But in doing so the CDU plays upon nationalist aspirations and the division of the Fatherland, and the SPD takes a hard line on student and Left-wing militancy because of 'fear of the right-wing backlash'.

This is not to say that the NPD can be ignored - far from it. The students and workers who recently prevented the NPD holding an election meeting in the Ruhr understand that there can be no compromise with fascism.

UNTOUCHED

But for the SPD and the CDU, the fascists provide a convenient smokescreen. Just as in the USA last year voters were faced with three law-and-order candidates, so in Germany the immediate move to the right occurs within the existing major parties.

Whatever the election results (and polls show the major parties very close, so an SPD government, a CDU government, an SPD coalition with the tiny Free Democrats, or even a new 'grand coalition' are all possibilities) the underlying problems will remain untouched. The working class will still be squeezed to maintain Germany's balance of payments surplus, productivity increases will be demanded, wealth and power will remain wildly lopsided.

It is a heavy price to pay to maintain the competitiveness of German capital. It is the same price which is demanded in every single capitalist economy for each class is dependent on its position on the fundamental anarchy of the system.

We know this in Britain to our cost. The German workers are learning the same lesson.

WHICH WAY TO SOCIALISM? public debate

**Paul Foot
and John Palmer**

**versus
Eric Heffer MP
and Sid Bidwell MP**

Dome, Brighton 7 pm
Thursday October 2nd

AND

**March against Labour's Tory
policies: The Level, Brighton
4 pm Thursday October 2**

For workers control and international socialism 139 25 September 1969 every Thursday 3d

'Subbies' cut back on safety practices

NINE MEN DIE ON KENT CEMENT WORKS

Ernie Stanton

Constructional Engineering Union

FIVE BUILDING WORKERS have been killed in the last six weeks on a big construction site at Northfleet on the Kent side of the River Thames. Since the start of the contract 12 months ago, a total of nine men have died.

Six of the dead workers were members of the Constructional Engineering Union. A large number of men have also been seriously injured.

The site - next to Northfleet Power Station - is for a new cement works for Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers.

The main contractor is Vickers Engineering Ltd, but only a few of the workers are employed by Vickers direct. Instead Vickers have let the work out to more than 30 sub-contractors.

This enables them to reduce costs by cutting across established working methods and practices. The inevitable results are that the casualties are not only job organisation, but the men themselves.

All of these are called accidents. We think this is too mild a word to describe deaths and maimings of which the basic causes are clear.

The men on this site are working under conditions similar to those implemented by Al Capone in Chicago in the days of prohibition. To use the word primitive would be an understatement.

One worker was killed recently by an object which fell from the steel work and hit him on the head as he was attempting to wash his hands in a puddle.

OUTCRY

There are no washing facilities at all. Safety precautions are non-existent. Men are working without ladders, scaffolding or working platforms. There is not even an ambulance stationed on the site to take away the injured and the dead.

A public outcry was started recently after a report in the local press on the latest wave of fatal accidents. Relatedly, the site is now running alive with pompous little bureaucrats - factory inspectors and union officials - attempting, we hope, to stop the mass slaughter before the entire workforce is eliminated.

Yet all of them were aware of the conditions on this site before the mass murders took place. In fact as recently as a month ago, the London Divisional Conference of the Constructional Engineering Union delegated the general and assistant general secretaries, Bros. Eddie Marsden and Jack Johnson, to visit the Northfleet site.

No doubt due to pressure of work they have not been

Small-time Mafia bosses

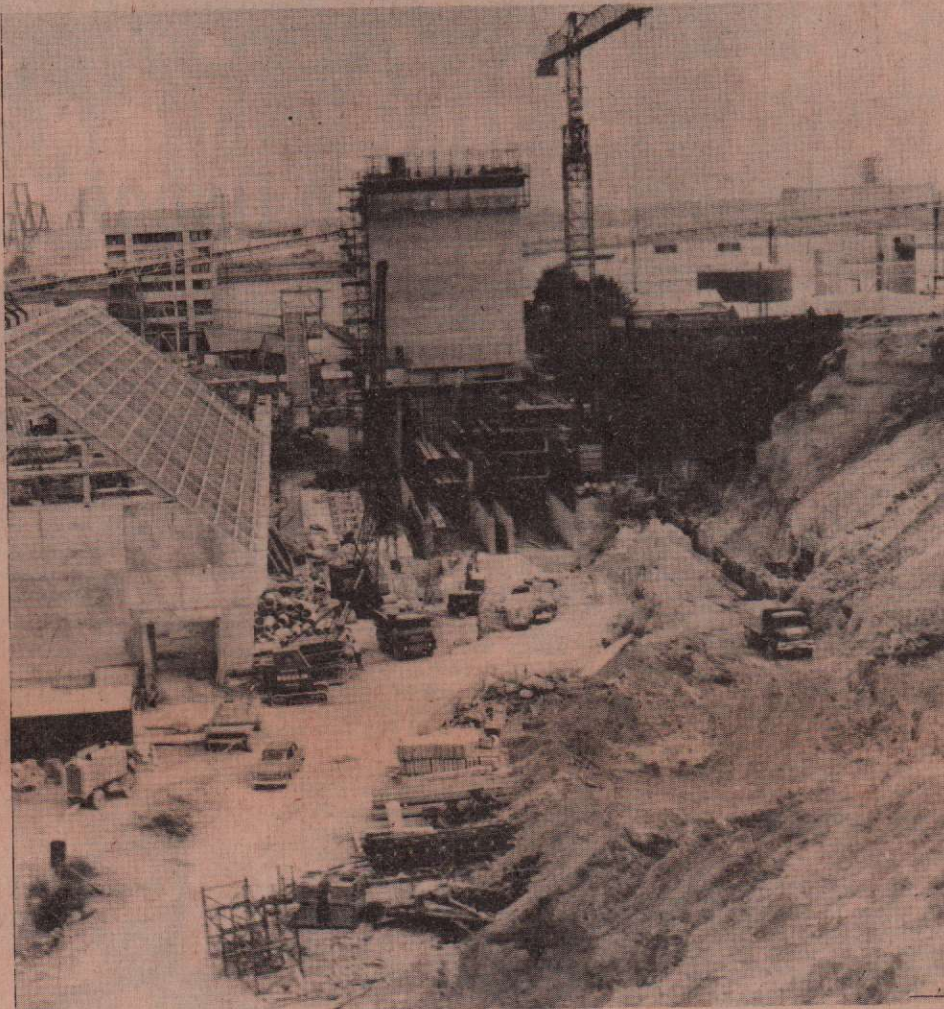
able to as of yet - but since then another steel erector has lost his life.

In the past, big contractors like Vickers Engineering employed most of their labour direct. But with the government's cut-back on capital expenditure in the construction industry has come full-scale unemployment. This, together with the union's aid and complicity in forcing through productivity agreements, has been a major factor in the growth of sub-contractors.

Management and union leaders have been able to negotiate what they are pleased to call good productivity agreements, all of which involve reductions in the take-home pay and clauses which take away the workers' right to negotiate at the point of production. The workers have either rejected this outright by coming out on strike or have reluctantly accepted under pressure from the union officials.

The results have been more or less the same everywhere - workers quickly lose enthusiasm in the work.

The employers have reacted by cutting the contracts up into small pieces and handing them out to small sub-contractors, often referred to as 'one man bands'. The 'subby' either works on a price basis or on a day rate, in many cases only employing a couple of



Part of the APCM site at Northfleet

dozen men.

With a big contract split up into small sections, it becomes difficult to organise and fight against the appalling working conditions. Other perks offered are no tax and no insurance contributions. What they don't advertise are the bloody awful conditions and lack of equipment and safety.

CRIPPLED

When these so-called accidents occur the injured worker often finds that the subby has no insurance or capital behind him and the victim is unable to get blood out of a stone. There have been many cases in recent years where a worker has been crippled or killed with no hope of any sort of compensation for himself or his dependants.

The organisation of the sub-contracting industry is comparable only to the Mafia. Everything is done by word of mouth under strict secrecy.

An ordinary worker with no capital may start up in this dirty business, employing 20 or 30 men. A few pints bought for an engineer can result in

to back page

SW Reporter

ULSTER'S B-Specials, the Orange hooligans who led the terror attacks on Catholics and civil rights marchers, have not been disarmed or disbanded. In spite of pledges made by Wilson at the height of the savagery in Derry and Belfast, no effective measures have been taken against

the Specials.

In the two cities steps were taken to get the Specials to hand in their weapons when they went off duty. But as most of the Orangemen have a varied assortment of weapons at home, the move was largely ineffective.

And outside Derry and Belfast, the lawless bands are still free to keep their weap-

ons at all times.

Now efforts are being made to maintain and strengthen the Specials under a new name and guise. It has been suggested to the Hunt committee studying the role of Ulster's police that a 'Home Guard' should be formed to patrol the border.

The suggestion was made to the committee by the Royal

Ulster Constabulary, a body well-known for its impartiality. There is little doubt, of course, that the idea has come from the ruling Unionist Party.

Whitewashed and strengthened, the Specials, looking for imaginary IRA men on the border, would be ready for further action to maintain Unionist tyranny in the Six Counties police state.

Hippy squatters spotlight crime of empty buildings

Roger Protz

THE CRIME of the Piccadilly squatters, attacked by all sections of 'respectable' society from The Times, through Jeremy Thorpe to assorted Labour MPs, was that they dared to occupy an empty building.

The venom aroused by this assault on the sanctity of private property conveniently hides the real crime - that large buildings lie empty for months and years while tens of thousands of people in London alone are homeless.

The occupation by the 'hippies' should not be considered on the same level as the more courageous, militant and potentially political take-overs by homeless working-class families. But the Piccadilly squatters have served to spotlight the lunatic priorities of capitalist society and the brutal manner in which they were treated by the police must be condemned.

There was no mention in

the press of the fact that many of them had to be treated in hospital after their eviction and that several are likely to be scarred for life.

But we should not be surprised. The police are the guardians of private property and when property is threatened, the velvet glove comes off.

Shelter, the organisation that spoke recently of the plight of the million homeless in Britain, also jumped on to the bandwagon to attack the squatters. They were not helping the housing campaign by their activities, Shelter complained.

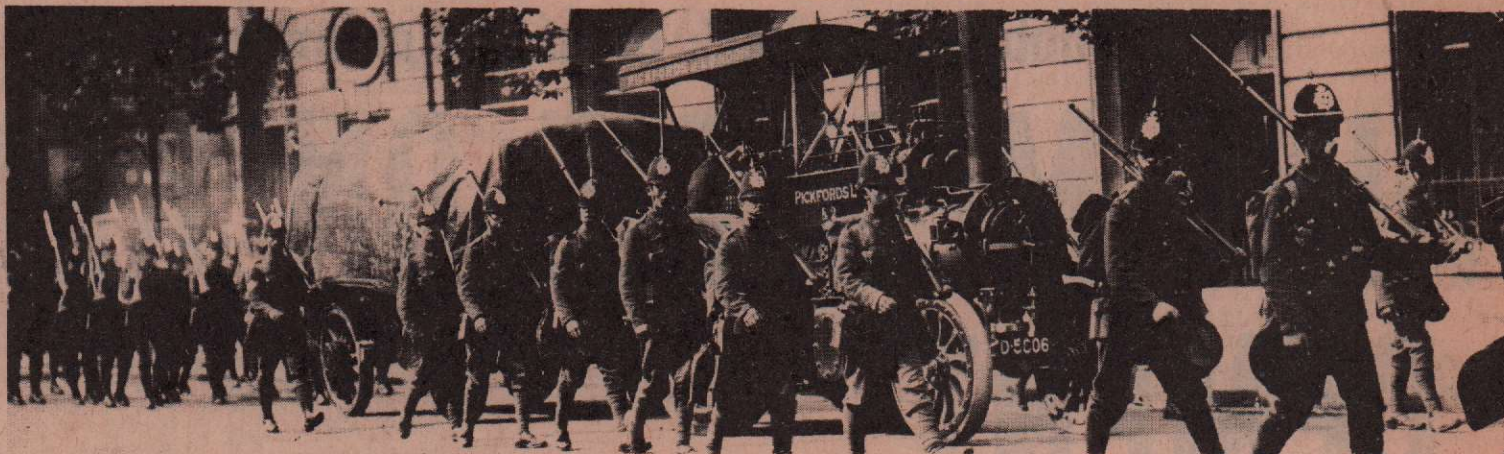
When the chips are only half-way down, soggy liberals jump for cover.

The housing problem will only be solved by a sharp fight. The 'hippies' may possibly join that fight. We have no doubt that the well-roofed gentlemen of Shelter will be nowhere to be seen.

New role for B-Specials?

Labour's 'glorious heritage': compromise, betrayal and a blind faith in parliament...

As the Labour Party conference meets after another year of attacks on the organisation, wages and conditions of the working class, Tribune and the 'Left' MPs will argue that all would be well if the party only removed the present leaders and reverted to its former, militant socialist past. But that past has its roots more in myth than history.



The railway strike, 1911: escorting a traction engine along the Strand. The Liberal government from 1910-1914 freed up troops against strike. The Labour MP helped keep this reactionary government in power on the pretext that the 'Tories might be worse'

ONE OF THE essential supports of the system of illusions which serves the Labour Left around Tribune is a partly imaginary, partly distorted version of the history of the Labour Party.

The party is represented as a socialist one which was created by the mass action of the working class.

The right-wing leadership, which unaccountably retains power despite its supposed minority support, has undermined the true nature of the party, which will, if we are patient, eventually return to its historic role of leading the working class — by voting once every five years for the right leaders and policies — to socialism.

The reality is that the party was not founded as a socialist party and never became a socialist party, even in 1918 when it adopted a new constitution, including the famous Clause Four that spoke of taking over the "commanding heights of the economy".

It was established not by the trade unions, whose leaders were in the main committed to the Liberal Party, but by the Independent Labour Party, a party of reform whose socialism was of a formal, state-collectivist kind.

The ILP had failed to attract mass support between

its foundation in 1893 and 1900 and its leaders concluded that an alliance with the trade unions, which in the main had opposed the establishment of an independent working-class party, was the only way to create a mass movement.

The swing to the right in politics in the late 1890s, illustrated by a number of anti-union legal decisions, of which Taff Vale is the best known, created the opportunity.

The Liberal Party found it increasingly difficult to reconcile its role as a party of the progressive employers and a reforming party appealing to working men. This accounts for its ambiguous stand on the question of trade union freedom from legal interference.

Concessions to the Liberals

In order to attract the discontented Liberal trade unionists to support an independent labour political force, the ILP was prepared to make extensive concessions.

The resolution which established the Labour Representation Committee (forerunner of the Labour Party) at a conference of 1900 attended by representatives of about a fifth of the total of trade

by FRED LINDOP

union members, was a recognition of the fact that the trade union leaders remained for the most part radical Liberals.

The ILP leaders (Keir Hardie, Ramsay MacDonald) denied any suggestion that commitment to the new body implied commitment to a socialist programme.

The LRC declared its purpose to be to 'secure the representation of working-class opinion by men sympathetic to the aims and demands of the labour movement' — an essentially trade union concept which was not much of an advance on previous labour representation organisations which had operated as semi-independent units of the Liberal Party.

The Social Democratic Federation, the major Marxist organisation in Britain, took part in the foundation conference and attempted to give the new body a clear socialist orientation. It tried to get the LRC to declare that 'the representatives of the working class movement in the House of Commons would form a distinct party based on the recognition of the class war and having for its ultimate object the socialisation of the means of production' (in other words, a British equivalent of the German Social Democratic Party).

Hardie and Co gave short shrift to this proposal. They were quite willing to play upon the most backward elements in the trade unionists' consciousness to isolate the SDF — although the rigid and sectarian SDF leadership gave them some assistance.

The extent of the compromise was decided by the level of consciousness of the LRC supporters for whom mere representation in parliament was a big step forward.

The history of the LRC between 1900 and 1906 and of the Labour Party thereafter follows from this beginning.

'The history of the LRC is largely the history of the political manoeuvres to reach electoral accommodations with the Liberal Party... After



HARDIE Pact with Liberals

protracted and secret negotiations, MacDonald and Keir Hardie reached an understanding in 1903 with Herbert Gladstone, the Liberal Chief Whip, under the terms of which the Liberal leaders agreed to use their influence to prevent local Liberal opposition to any LRC candidate who supported 'the general objects of the Liberal Party'; in return the LRC was to 'demonstrate friendliness' to the Liberals in any constituency where it had influence.

* Parliamentary Socialism by Ralph Miliband.

The labour movement was not told of the agreement. Both Hardie and MacDonald denied any pact existed.

After 1906, the parliamentary Labour Party functioned as a more or less radical appendage of the Liberal Party in parliament. From 1910 to 1914, it helped to keep in power an increasingly conservative Liberal government which used the army and police freely against strikers (Tonypandy is the most notorious example) and inflicted mounting barbarities on the suffragettes.

No campaign against war

The Labour Party defended its action against socialist opposition — from within and without the party — on the grounds that the alternative was a Tory government which would be even worse. Tribune's favourite arguments have a long history!

The militantly pro-war attitude of the majority of the party and its supporters in

1914 was no surprise: nor was it a surprise that the small opposition in the parliamentary party was pacifist and refused to lead a campaign against the war, or to join forces with the only meaningful opposition to the war, the shop stewards in the engineering industry.

When the Labour Party adopted a new constitution in 1918 under pressure of the growing radicalisation of the working class and the growth of a Left wing inspired by the events in Russia, it formally adopted an ILP programme of nationalisation. All except the most extreme right wing among the leaders supported the programme — but it was clear from the speeches that they had no intention of allowing the formal affirmation of 'socialist' objectives to interfere with the real work of the party — the business of winning power and forming a government.

Although the newly-introduced individual membership probably on balance gave the militants more scope for activity, the nature of the party did not change.

The history of the inter-war period is even less edifying than that of the pre-1918 period. It should be clear

that the best working class particular 1910-1914 freed up troops against strike. The Labour MP helped keep this reactionary government in power on the pretext that the 'Tories might be worse'

Reality upside

Nor should action in reflux whole way will be seen as than an act of ion.

The tradition of an essential party and movement off the alien collaboration in upside down. entire political Tribune position

'Insensitive' speech

I WOULD LIKE to correct some of the inaccuracies in Roger Protz's report of the Ho Chi Minh memorial meeting (18 September).

It is of course true that it is necessary for marxists to make an objective analysis of the contribution of dead revolutionaries. No one would deny IS's right to do this.

However Chris Harman's speech in the first place was balanced too much on the negative aspect to be an objective assessment of Ho, (this flows from his denial of the socialist character of the Vietnam struggle) and in the second place was not the kind of speech which should have been made at that meeting.

It was a memorial meeting, not a debate, held to express solidarity with the Vietnamese people, at the loss of their leader, and with their struggle against US imperialism. It took place shortly after Ho's death, when many people who disagreed with Harman's assessment were not feeling particularly 'objective' and after a period of fragmentation and bitter

recrimination amongst the forces who support the Vietnamese.

It was therefore also an opportunity to focus attention once more on Vietnam, on the continuing struggle and the hypocrisy of Nixon's 'withdrawals' and to reunite the movement for another mobilisation in the autumn.

By the time Harman was halfway through his speech the hall was in an uproar and it was only with difficulty that he got through, since he constantly added fuel to the fire, either insensitive or uncaring about the mood of the meeting. After I had spoken, a message from Lin Qui, the North Vietnamese representative in London, was brought in by someone whom Protz erroneously refers to as 'a Maoist', asking for an apology, or she would not speak and would leave the meeting. Harman refused and she left.

This may not have been 'objective' on Lin Qui's part, but considering the circumstances it was understandable. Why does Protz not mention this?

Then the CP and the Maoists then saw their chance to do the dirty on VSC, the CP leaving the platform and the Maoists trying to get everyone to leave the hall. Order was eventually restored when Harman at last left the platform and I moved the resolution dissociating the meeting from Harman's views, despite attempts by Harman's sympathisers to shout me down.

I moved the resolution because I heartily disagreed with Harman's views on Ho Chi Minh's contribution, his analysis of the nature of the struggle in Vietnam and his implied opposition to mass demonstrations. I considered it wrongheaded to pose against the real achievements



HO Memorial

of Ho and the murder of in 1945 and mo Harman's using in that way.

Finally I important to re the meeting. ation that in condoned the Trotskyists is gusting. Protz there was no on the resoluti have the advan on the platform the hall parti voting and the carried overwh

IS views or or anything e debate is a rul meetings. They right to oppos on the Vietnam, ly and frankly not have the n the tenderly on Vietnam wh ing expressed not have the rig attempts to ac action. - BOB don W5.

Ireland and the troops

'THOSE WHO their own slag cannot expect

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WHERE WE STAND

a state of workers' councils and workers' control of production.

Only thus can the transition be ensured to a communist society in which the unprecedented productive forces thrown up by capitalism can be used to assure an economy of abundance. Only the working class, itself the product of capitalism, has the ability to transform society in this way, and has shown its ability to do so in a series of revolutionary struggles unprecedented in the history of all previous exploited classes.

The working class gains the experience necessary to revolutionise society by

constant struggle against the ruling class through the mass organisations thrown up in the course of that struggle.

To overcome the unevenness with which this experience is gained, to draw and preserve the lessons of past struggles and transmit them for the future, to fight against the pressure of bourgeois ideas in the working class, and to bond the fragmentary struggles against capitalism into a conscious and coherent offensive, a revolutionary Marxist party of socialist militants is required, embracing the vanguard of the working class.

The struggle to build such a party is only part of the wider struggle to create a World Revolutionary Socialist International, independent of all oppressors and exploiters of the working class, whether bureaucratic or bourgeois.

International Socialists therefore fight for:

Opposition to all ruling-class policies and organisations.

Workers' control over production and a workers' state.

Opposition to imperialism and support for all movements of national liberation.

Uncompromising opposition to all forms of racialism and to all migration controls.

CAPITALISM has nothing to offer mankind but exploitation, crises and war. The ruling classes of the world—a tiny minority—subordinate the needs of the vast majority to the blind accumulation of capital in the interests of competitive survival.

Imperialism condemns two-thirds of mankind to famine and calls forth movements of national liberation which shake the system and expose its essential barbarism. The constant and mounting preparations for war and the development of weapons of mass destruction place the survival of humanity itself in the balance.

The increasing intensity of international competition between ever-larger units drives the ruling classes to new attacks on workers' living standards and conditions of work, to anti-trade union and anti-strike laws. All of these show capitalism in deepening crises from which it can only hope to escape at the cost of the working class and by the destruction of all its independent organisations.

The only alternative is workers' power — the democratic collective control of the working class over industry and society through

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the paper

EE management voted at mass meeting

ON WEDNESDAY 17 September workers clocked on as usual at the giant English Electric plant at Fazakerley, Liverpool.

But some 300 of the workers in B Shop, Fusegear Division, had an unusual morning ahead of them. The management organised the production of not fusegear, but placards for a mass meeting!

Materials were provided and fusegear production stopped, although the pay didn't.

This happened a few hours before a mass meeting was due to discuss the take-over of the plant, along with two other EE factories on Merseyside.

The take-over had been called by a Joint Action Committee made up of six shop stewards from each factory. They planned to occupy the plants from last Friday and continue production in order to prove that it is the management that is redundant, not the workers.

Three thousand skilled workers from the factories are due to join the Mersey dole queues when GEC-EE boss Arnold Weinstock sacks them as part of his drive for still higher profits at the expense of the workers. Merseyside already has an unemployment rate twice the national average.

STRATEGIC

Before the meeting was due to start, the management led the gallant 300 out, in rows of four, to take up strategic positions at the front of the meeting.

Subsequent press photos that appeared showed the meeting studded with placards demanding that the Action Committee call off the plans for the take-over. This was done, even though a mass meeting at the Boxing Stadium some weeks before had authorised the imposition of an overtime ban and sit-ins.

What could not be seen on the photographs (although you could have guessed by the abnormal proportion of 'workers' dressed in nice white shirts and ties) was that the meeting was riddled with members of the management who voted against the take-over.

The impression was given that the occupation and the

BEHIND THE MERSEY DEFEAT: LACK OF GRASS-ROOTS' SUPPORT AND LURE OF GOVERNMENT REDUNDANCY HAND-OUT

SW Northern Industrial Reporter

STEWARDS CALLS FOR ALL-OUT STRIKE

A MEMBER of the shop stewards' Joint Action Committee told Socialist Worker that some of its members were demoralised by the set-back of last week's vote, but others were determined to carry on the struggle.

He said he was in favour of an indefinite strike in an effort to stop the redundancies. But this time, he stressed, the stewards would not announce publicly the details of such an action so that the management could organise against them. He felt that one of the

mistakes the committee had made was to declare too early and in too much detail the plans for the take-over.

The steward, who preferred to remain anonymous while the management was temporarily on the offensive, thought the Action Committee had been right to say that production could have been maintained if the take-over had succeeded. The stewards had not expected the occupation to last for more than a few days, but the spokesman added that it was probably a mistake to suggest that wages would have been paid.

Action Committee were universally unpopular. That was not the case.

But it must be said that a portion of the blame for what took place must lie with the stewards at the two Fazakerley plants. Support for the

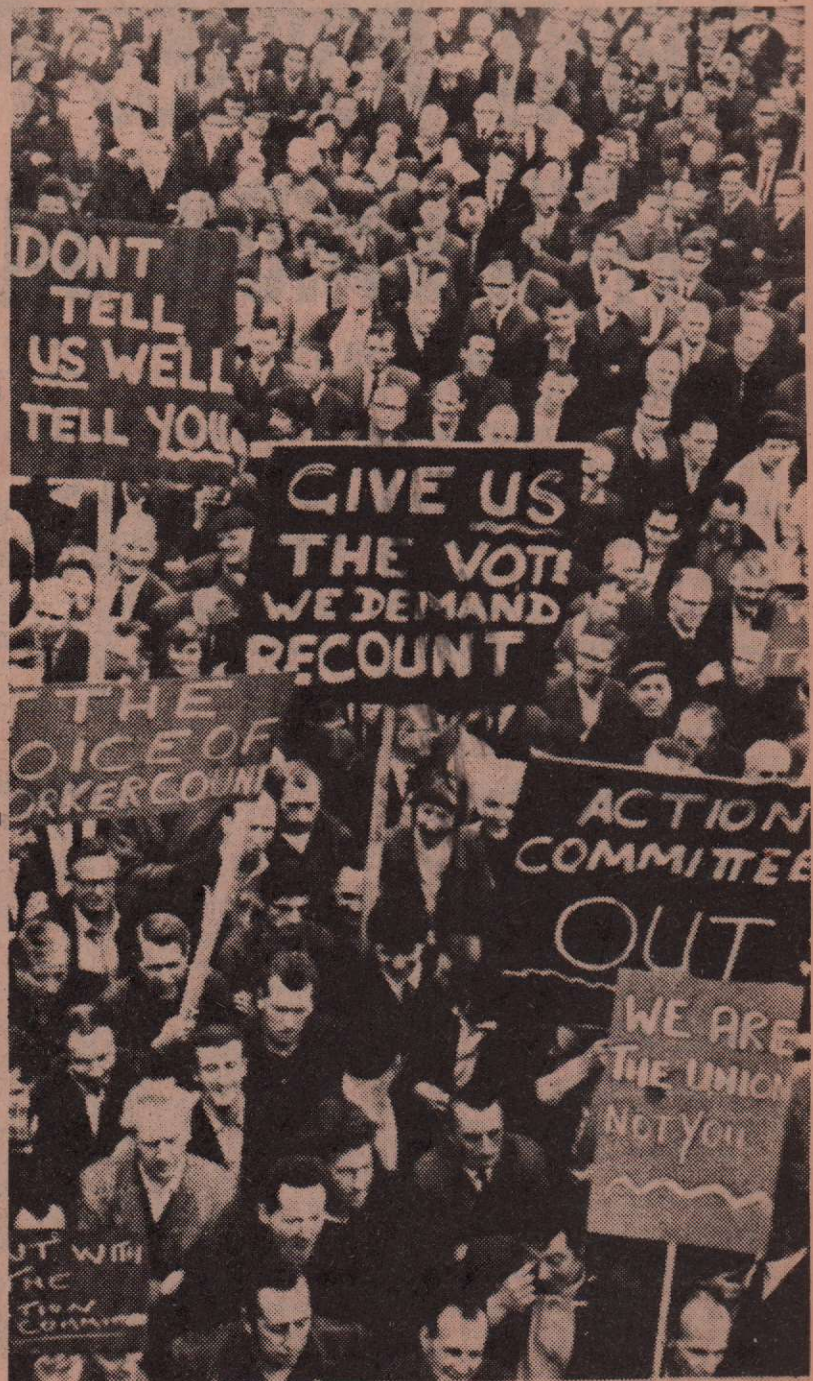
Action Committee was much firmer at the Netherton factory (which is scheduled for complete closure) because there have been regular mass meetings there for some time, together with explanatory bulletins.

But at the Fazakerley factories the stewards have been inclined to soft-peddle—a reflection of the fact that for years they have found it easy to win rises without serious battles with the company which, until recently, was operating in a sellers' market.

NEGLECTED

The stewards have also neglected the political education of their members. This has had two effects: firstly it enabled the management to use the old 'red smear' to great effect and secondly it was reflected in Steward Bewley (the gutter press hero who, complete with loudspeaker, took over the Wednesday meeting) telling the Daily Express: 'I back Enoch Powell. If it weren't for all these people in this country there would be plenty of jobs.'

Anyone with an ounce of political education would know that Powell is one of



The mass meeting at Fazakerley: the banners were made in working hours and members of the management joined the crowd to vote

the champions of ruthless sackings in pursuit of the god of profit.

Undoubtedly a big factor in the rejection of the occupation was the Redundancy Payments Act, brought in by the Labour government with the deliberate intention of preventing resistance to just this sort of action by Weinstock and others. Because of the good wages at Fazakerley (about 12s an hour) many workers have been there for a long time and stand to receive a few hundred pounds when they are sacked.

But in spite of a desire by many workers to fight the 3000 sackings, there was a suspicion of the plan for an indefinite occupation during which the intention was to operate the plants without the management. Such an advanced type of action demands a high level of political understanding, as well as a solid trade union type of experience.

The Action Committee did well in the field of linking up with shop stewards in other industries on Merseyside, and with committees in other plants in the GEC-EE combine. But they were ultimately defeated by the prevailing 'management-mindedness' of their own members. This must underline the need to weld together militants in industry to fight for a socialist alternative to the capitalist system and its two-pronged attack by the employers and the state.

turned down

the TUC's... MacDonal...

national picture... theory of the...

ch at Ho meeting

LETTERS

so,' says Stephen Marks (18 September - N. Ireland: fine slogans and grim reality). But it is precisely because I agree with Marks' tedious homily that I am driven to wondering what on earth IS's old slogan 'Withdraw British troops' meant.

Assuming that IS took its old slogan seriously, what perspectives for developments in Ireland did it have? Surely there were only three 'possible' lines of development - only one of which could be taken seriously: firstly, that a situation like the present one would develop (in which case IS, considering its present position, should not have called for withdrawal); or - seriously? - that the Catholics would storm the country driving the Unionists before them (in which case the troops would admittedly be in the way); or thirdly, that Protestant-Catholic unity on a revolutionary, anti-Stomont basis would emerge from the situation (in which case the troops would have been used to stop the revolution).

If either of the last two lines of development were considered to be even remotely 'possible' by IS in the pre-pogrom situation, then it is IS, perspectives, slogans and all; that cannot be taken seriously. And if, on the other hand, the first of these developments was the one expected, then IS couldn't have taken its own slogan very seriously.

After all, an organisation can hardly be said to take its slogans seriously when it changes them the moment those events occur which it expected when it first raised that slogan.

We will see how seriously the Irish and British Left take IS's next slogan: withdraw British troops.

The 'short run' that Stephen Marks talks about now that the barricades are being taken down - must surely be over.

If that is so, then surely IS will revive the slogan 'Withdraw British troops' (unless of course it believes that the troops, being an advantage while the barricades were up, are indispensable now that they are down!)

On the other hand, if the situation is 'frozen' solid - which I doubt - and the 'defusing' has been successful enough to allow the British troops to retire to their rural and English barracks, the slogan 'Withdraw British troops' must be revived. Wasn't it exactly in such a situation that IS first raised the slogan.

But perhaps there is yet a logical way out of IS's game of ideological ping-pong with the slogan 'Withdraw British troops'. Perhaps since SW sees advantages in a military ex machina, it might prefer Jack Lynch's idea of a UN 'peace force'. Now there's a bunch of lads to freeze a situation - and they're not nearly as partisan as the British troops!

Best of all, UN troops may include Greek and Turkish Cypriots, or Zionists and Arab Palestinians... people with experience of the 'stabilising' role of British troops. People who - I feel sure Stephen Marks will agree - were grateful to British troops for stopping unnecessary bloodshed in their countries while the 'extremely stupid' and irresponsible British Left called for the troops to be brought home. LIAM MACBRIDE, Oldham, Lancs.

Russia: how the revolution was lost

by Chris Harman

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LAMBETH Andy Smith Flat 6
126 Sreatham Hill SW2
LEICESTER Lynette Alham
Stanford Hall Stoughton Drive
South Oadby Leics
LEEDS Vince Hall Flat 3
25 Bagby Rd Leeds 2
Woodhouse-Viv Hopkins
25 Midland Rd Leeds 6
LOWESTOFT Trevor Moss
82 Blackheath Rd
MANCHESTER-J Sutton 11a
Rowan Ave Wallely Range M18:
Joni Jones 15 Parsonage Road
Manchester 20
MERSEYSIDE Mick Talbot
15 Sefton Park Rd Liverpool 8
MERTON Fred Milson 119
Wolsey Crescent Morden
NEWCASTLE B Hardy 25 Coach
Road Wallsend Tyneside
NORTHAMPTON Mick Bunting
25 Witton Rd Duston N'hampton

NORWICH Gerald Crompton
220 College Rd NOR 54F
NOTTINGHAM Tony Evans
289 Derby Rd Nottingham
OXFORD Steve Bolchover
181 Iffley Rd Oxford
PORTSMOUTH Jason Hill
2 Edgeward Rd Milton gouthsea
POTTERIES Dick Pratt 27a
North Street Newcastle Staffs
PRESTON J Prus 72 Lower
Bank Rd Fulwood Preston
READING Miriam Belsey
22 Redlands Rd Reading
RICHMOND Edward Brown 4
Cheyne Ave Twickenham Middx
SELBY John Charlton 12
Thatch Close Selby Yorks
SHEFFIELD Christine Wilkin
15 Raven Rd Nether Edge
SOUTHAMPTON John Fisher
144 Thornhill Park road
SOUTHEAST Chris Peace 13
Stirling Ave Leigh-on-Sea Essex
STEVENAGE Michael Downing
57 Trumper Rd Trots Hill
STOCKPORT Geoff Hodgson
73a Forest Range M/C 19
STOKE NEWINGTON Mike
McGrath 28 Manor Road N15
SWANSEA Dick Jones
19 woodlanes Tee
TEESSIDE Phil Semp 72 Mersey
Rd Redcar: Rob Clay 33 Pasture
Lane Lazenby Teesside
TOTTENHAM Laurie Flynn
374 High Road N17
WANDSWORTH Mark Hutton
87 Broderick Road Wandsworth
Common SW17
WATFORD Paul Russell
61 Carpenders Avenue
Carpenders Park
WIGAN Ray Challinor
34 Whiteside Ave Hindley
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:

Name

Address



Send to 6 Cottons Gardens London E2

PRINT BOSSES PLAY ON INTER-UNION SQUABBLES

A. Malone (SOGAT)

IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED that TUC secretary Vic Feather's favourite song is that old Scottish air Whistle and I'll come to you my lad. The Press Lords scarcely had their fingers out of their mouths this week before Bro Vic had averted yet another catastrophe, the threatened lockout of all National Graphical Association members employed on national papers in London and Manchester.

A square deal all round - 25s a week increase for the machine managers, in return for their non-replacement on retiring - has temporarily settled the dispute.

Teachers to strike over sackings and cuts

Dave Spencer

COVENTRY:- Teachers voted for strike action here at a mass meeting last week. Members of the National Union of Teachers will call out six schools on 1st October in the first wave of action to reinstate 311 sacked part-time teachers.

To cut back on education expenditure, the Local Education Authority saved £180,000 by sacking the part-time teachers. The alternative, says the LEA, is to put up the rates and it blames the government for the cuts.

But the Minister of Education has said the rate support grant was sufficient to pay for all teachers without any sackings.

The NUT is demanding that all schools should return to the staff-pupil ratio and educational standards that existed before Easter, when the first batch of part-timers were sacked.

Test case

Strike action was advocated by the Young Teachers' section of the local NUT before Easter. They eventually won the day against the Coventry executive.

But now the action committee set up to plan the strike campaign is made up of headmasters who voted against strike action.

Coventry is a test case for future strike action elsewhere, and LEAs and local NUT branches will both be awaiting the outcome. But with conservative leadership, the scales are weighted in favour of a sell-out.

Only a more conscious and active rank and file involvement in the local NUT, together with a public campaign explaining the appalling conditions in schools to industrial trade unionists can really win the day and lay a basis for future struggles.

Building site crash injures two men

TWO BUILDING WORKERS were injured in Brighton on Monday when scaffolding collapsed and they plunged 60 feet to the ground.

One of the men, Richard Grove of Brighton, had a suspected fracture of the spine.

Fleet Street is on offer for 'rationalisation', for a grand love-in to the god of profit, involving the ritual sacrifice of many workers' jobs.

To this end, the bosses have been chanting for one union in print. But in pursuit of their patriotic goal, they will at the same time exploit any tension between the two main unions - the NGA and the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades.

The present battle of NGA members is for the maintenance of their pay differentials over the so-called unskilled workers. They say the differentials are being eaten away by productivity dealing.

But this is a cloak for the battle the bosses are fighting, the wholesale future of the industry. Big advances in printing technology, complete dependence on advertising revenue and their utter powerlessness to even dream of controlling any costs except that of labour, are the factors forcing the bosses into conflict with the immense strength of the organised print-workers.

PURGES

The bosses can only gain the initiative in a situation where workers' energies are directed inwards, to vicious squabbles over which colour of union ticket will have a share of whatever jobs remain after the purges.

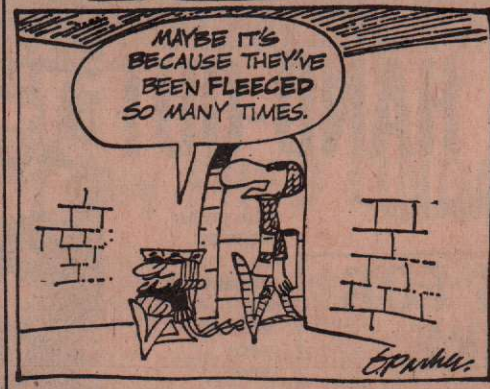
The NGA membership must be honestly criticised for their adherence to a policy which keeps their eyes fixed on maintaining differentials, thereby thwarting the possibilities of a united front against the employers' offensive. But all trade unionists and socialists must unconditionally defend NGA members against the employers' gangsterism and intimidation.

SOGAT militants must not resign themselves to a quite justified frustration against NGA policies and practice. They must redouble their efforts to put more of the fibre of resistance to the bosses' offensive into the hearts and minds of the 'craftsmen'.

SIGNS

The most encouraging signs of the last week have been the NGA strike action at the People last Saturday over the coming redundancies at the setting Sun and the unofficial plumbers' and electricians' strike at the Sporting Life over plans for a new combined printing arrangement with the People.

Here is a real chance to develop a fighting unity among those workers who without unity share the same fate. Newspaper workers are indeed nervous, but we have to fight for our nervous system, with a clear programme of cast-iron no redundancy guarantees, refusal to negotiate under pressure, and the kiss of life for the federated house chapels.



Reprinted from Wildcat, a new American Left-wing paper

300 demand reinstatement of sacked convenor

Dave Peers

NEWCASTLE:- Bill Kay, convenor of the Glasshouse Street works of British Engines, was one of nine fitters 'made redundant' last Friday.

It was no ordinary redundancy. It was a deliberate and planned victimisation of a militant trade unionist.

The workers downed tools and demanded the reinstatement of Bill Kay. But at a mass meeting on Monday the strikers' unity was broken by the intervention of Harry Branstone, official of the Transport Workers' Union.

He urged the 55 TGWU members at Glasshouse Street to return to work and they carried out his instruction.

Three proposals

On Friday, following the sackings, shop stewards made three proposals to the management about Bro Kay, who was not allowed to work the two weeks' notice to which he is legally entitled. The proposals were:

1. That if Bro Kay could not be employed as a fitter he should become full-time convenor, or
2. That he should continue to work as part-time convenor, or
3. That he should be full-time convenor with his wages paid entirely by the men.

All three proposals were rejected out of hand, although the office of convenor was recognised by the management in a productivity deal earlier this year.

In the last two years since the convenor and stewards began to organise the factory, they have increased tradesmen's wages from £14-£15 a

Farrell to tour Lancashire

MIKE FARRELL, a leading member of the People's Democracy in Northern Ireland is on a speaking tour of North-West England. Lancashire is the most Irish of English counties.

There are innumerable links with Ireland - family, social and religious - and it is intended to try to mobilise the maximum support for the civil rights movement.

The itinerary is: 28 Sept, Liverpool (see notices below); Wigan, the Raven, Wallgate, public meeting, 1pm; Bolton, open-air meeting, shopping precinct, 4.30pm, 29 Sept, Preston, Bruce Cafe, 2.30pm.

week to £20 14s. The factory is also now 100 per cent union organised.

The sacking of Bill Kay is a deliberate attempt by the management to smash union organisation.

The 300 members of the Engineers' Union are still out and will meet again today (Thursday) to hear if the AEF will make the strike official.

a whisper in the right place.

Unions do little or nothing about the subbies, apart from sending pious resolutions to the TUC and the government. Way back in June 1966, according to CEU executive council minutes (marked 'Private and Confidential') the rank and file presented the council with numerous resolutions demanding that action be taken against the sub-contractors. Each resolution was noted.

PASSED

The executive council did discuss the issue though and Bro. Hughie (Four Ways) Barr moved the following militant resolution which was later seconded and passed unanimously:

'That in every case where a contractor has a past practice of himself doing certain types of work with members of the CEU, then only sub-contracting of such work should be allowed provided (a) that the sub-contractor has a responsible adequate equipment, insurance cover and capital and (b) that the employees of the sub-contractor shall be members of the CEU, provided that the CEU can supply the kind of labour required. Where, however a contractor has no past practice of doing certain types of work with their own employees (members of the CEU) then there are no grounds for pressurising the firm in such circumstances.' (Unanimous)

We know only too well that Bro. Hughie Barr is reluctant to pressurise either subbies or main contractors.

What we think

Strategy needed to fight the sackings

THE RULING CLASS breathed again last week when workers at the English-Electric factories on Merseyside voted to call off their planned occupation of the plants in an effort to stop 3000 redundancies. If the take-over had gone ahead it would have presented not only a serious challenge to the GEC-EE monopoly but to the whole capitalist system - and to the Labour government that enthusiastically backed the merger of the two electrical giants.

The vote against the take-over was a partial defeat for the stewards who formed the Joint Action Committee. As our Northern Industrial Reporter shows on page 3, the stewards at two of the factories did make mistakes, but it is important that recriminations should be avoided and that positive lessons should be drawn from the dispute.

It was a courageous step to take. The stewards advocated going one step further than their French brothers who occupied factories last year. The English-Electric militants said they would run the plants. Had they succeeded they would have shown, if only for a few days, a glimpse of workers' control in action and the possibility of a planned, rational society free from the demands of a tiny clique bent only on producing profits at the expense of the majority.

The struggle on Merseyside and throughout the GEC-EE group must go on to save the jobs of the many thousands whom Weinstock and Company wish to sack in their pursuit of the Wilson ideal of profitable efficiency. Committees linking up all the unions - white and blue collar - in the combine are a necessary first step to reasserting the rights of the workers, those who produce the profits for bosses and shareholders.

A strategy is also vital for trade unionists facing the ever-increasing numbers of mergers between vast industrial complexes. Socialist Worker has commissioned articles from industrial militants on the problems of redundancy and mergers. When they appear we hope they will aid the labour movement to combat more effectively the ruthless plans of the employers. If a militant campaign of action against redundancies can be mounted (including wider-based factory occupations) the Merseyside 'defeat' may yet appear as a significant step forward.

Workers' Press

ON SATURDAY the Socialist Labour League begins publication of a daily newspaper, Workers' Press. It is a considerable achievement and bears witness to the dedication and self-sacrifice of the SLL's members. We wish the paper well. On occasion we have had good reason to complain at the SLL's sectarianism and wilful distortion of our politics. We hope Workers' Press will avoid the pitfalls of its predecessor, will open its pages to a genuine debate between socialists and will play an important role in the crucial campaign to build a united revolutionary movement.

Nine men die on Kent cement works

from page one

Two weeks ago a number of CEU members, outraged by the slaughter at Northfleet, demanded a mass meeting at Kingsnorth Power Station with a view to calling a strike and marching down to Northfleet and holding a meeting with the workers on the Northfleet site.

As usual, Hughie Barr (the convenor at Kingsnorth) asked for no action to be taken until he and another steward had visited the site at Northfleet.

They later reported back to Kingsnorth that all the bad conditions at Northfleet had been cleared up and the site was working to maximum safety. The death of the steel erector the day before was described as a genuine accident. Some embarrassed union officials are even trying to cover it up by describing the site as an 'unlucky' site or one that is a 'Jonah'.

We wish to point out to these class traitors that in June 1966 there were many workers in the construction industry who are not here today when the rank and file called on the Constructional Engineering Union to go on an all-out attack against the main contractors who employed subbies. Their call was merely noted by the executive council and instead the EC passed the usual peace-at-any-price resolution.

The membership, faced with the alternative of working under a union-negotiated agreement or being unemployed, will often choose the third alternative of working for a labour-only sub-contractor.

We have been systematically bludgeoned into accepting either productivity deals from the main contractors or mass murder from their agents, the sub-contractors. The unions can't help us because they were partly responsible for helping to create the circumstances in which the sub-contracting industry flourishes. Surely we can no longer allow a situation to continue in which nine of our fellow workers have been killed in 12 months so that more profit goes into the coffers of Vickers Engineering.

PRESSURE

What is needed now is the realisation that the unions will not and cannot do anything about it. We must do what is necessary ourselves.

We suggest, as a starter, that all big, well-organised sites should lend their industrial strength to the not-so-well organised ones, particularly those of Vickers Engineering Ltd. All construction workers employed by Vickers should begin now to put maximum pressure on local management to clear up all safety hazards at Northfleet.

It may be necessary to have 24 hour token stoppages followed by an all-out strike on every construction site in the country. Do something now to stop the mass murder at Northfleet Cement Works. Resolutions won't help unless they are backed up with positive action.

Published by the International Socialists, 6 Cottons Gdns, London, E2. Printed by SW Litho/Printers, Registered with the GPO. Annual subscription £2.

NOTICES

LIVERPOOL ICRSC march in support of civil rights from Islington Sq. Saturday 28 Sep. 10.30am. Speakers at Pierhead 11.30am. inc. Mike Farrell, People's Democracy, Belfast.

MANCHESTER IS: Paul Foot on Powellism. Friday 26 Sept 8 pm. Labour rooms, Princess Rd, Moss Side.

ISLINGTON ICRSC Social-food, drink, music, dancing and folk singers. Holborn Assembly rooms 7.30-11.30pm Saturday 27 Sept. All welcome. Admission 5s.

Comrade wishing to share flat in GREENFORD area - contact George Collinson, 235 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middx.

CROYDON IS: Public mtg. Tues. 30 Sept 8 pm. Bowes Egan on Northern Ireland. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon.

PREPAYMENT of notices is essential. Average 5 words to line, 1s a line. Remittance and copy must arrive not later than Tuesday.