

Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

181 25 JULY 1970 4d

Arms and troops: the two faces of Labour

THE DOUBLE-DEALERS on the Labour benches have been in fine form this week in the House of Commons.

They have ranted and roared their disapproval of the Tory decision to resume arms sales to South Africa at the same time as they approved the government's emergency powers to break the dock strike.

It is a disgrace to sell arms to a regime which imprisons militants and smashes freedom of speech. But, nearer home, when the 'national interest' of the profiteers is at risk, it is quite all right to threaten to use troops against militant dockers and abolish the rights of assembly, picketing and free speech.

The hypocrisy of the Labour leaders and the great majority of Labour backbenchers stinks in the nostrils of every genuine socialist and trade union militant in Britain.

Honoured agreement

In office they took no action against the South African regime. They honoured the Simonstown agreement which gives British imperialism a naval base in the white racialists' prison camp of a country.

And while everyone on the left will condemn, march and demonstrate against the arms flow to Vorster, the issue goes beyond the sale of guns, planes and ships.

It is British big business which maintains the South African regime through its enormous financial stake in that country. It is British big business which helps Vorster imprison the black majority.

The Labour Party is not prepared to mount a campaign against the role of British big business, either at home or abroad. In or out of office, whatever their 'left' phrases, they surrender to that same big business when it cracks the whip.

Not impressed

So Mr Wils on and Mrs Castle, we are not impressed by your high moral tone about arms to Vorster while you enthusiastically back the Tories' emergency powers against a key section of workers.

You have done nothing for the black people of South Africa except to tighten the bonds that hold them.

You have done nothing for the workers of Britain except to increase their exploitation.

Death of Macleod

ONE down, 328 to go.

On other pages

The dockers' fight is your fight - page 2
Paynter links up with bosses - page 6
Arms for South Africa - page 3
Crisis in Russia - page 4

All out if the army goes in SPREAD DOCK STRIKE NOW

CALL OUT LORRY DRIVERS, PETROL WORKERS, MARKET PORTERS - APPEAL TO NUR FOR SOLIDARITY

THE DOCKERS MUST WIN! They are fighting the rich, arrogant port bosses and the new anti-union Tory government. A defeat for one section of the labour movement will be a defeat for us all.

Rank and file dockers are keen and determined to win. But are their leaders equally keen and determined?

All along it has been the officials of the Transport and General Workers Union who have been dragged unwillingly into action by the militancy of their members.

Now the inaction and pussy-footing of Jack Jones and Tim O'Leary is putting the whole strike in jeopardy. They lead Britain's biggest union, with more than a million key workers in every section of the transport industry.

They could win the docks strike this week if they called into action other sections of the TGWU.

It is vitally important that the strike is won quickly. A long-drawn out dispute will allow the bosses and their press to really get to work on the dockers, attempting to split their ranks with the usual twaddle about the 'national interest' and 'our' economy.

GRIM TRUTH

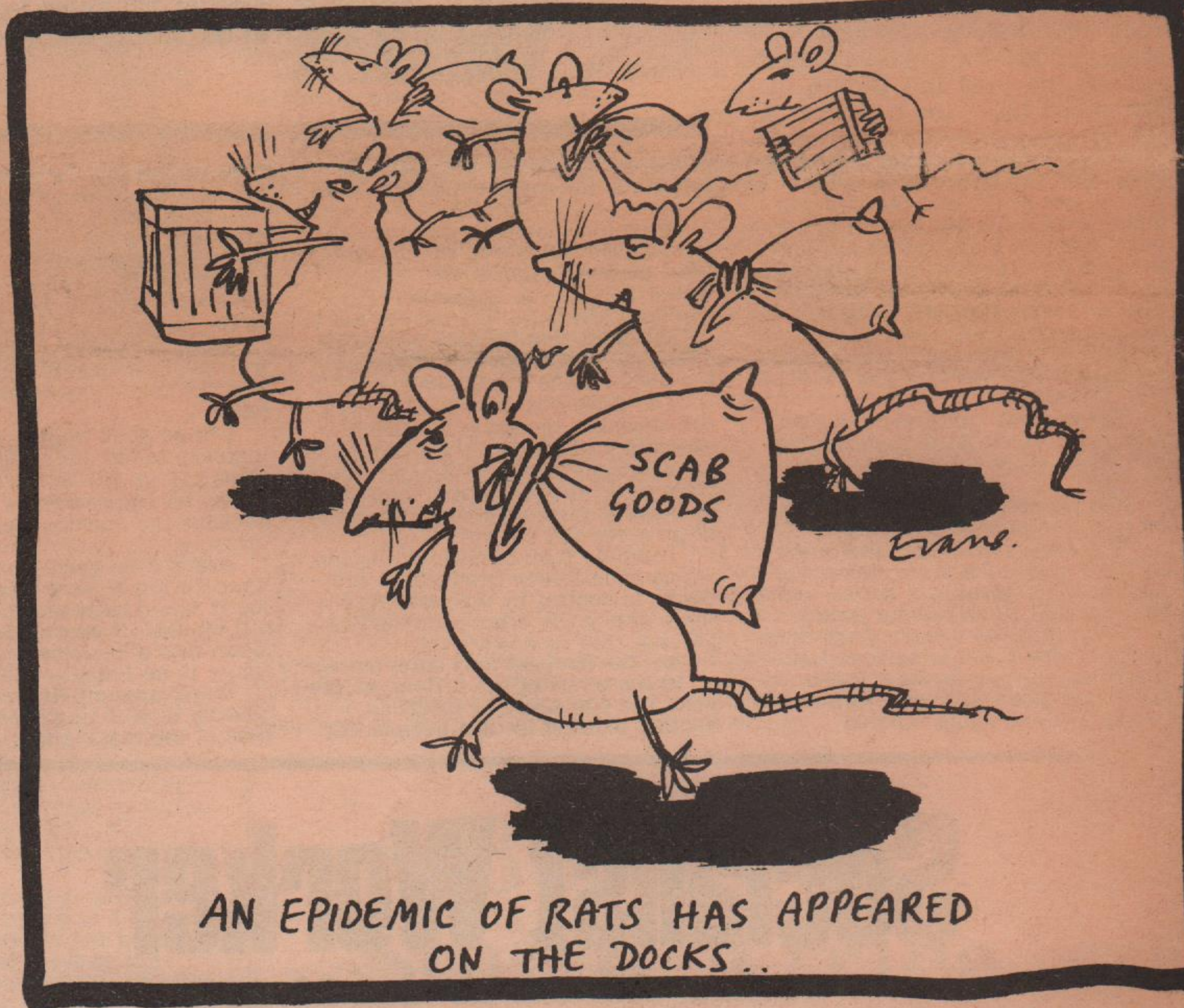
The TGWU seriously weakened London busmen in 1958 by allowing their strike to drag on for week after week without calling out other sections of the union and appealing for solidarity action from the railwaymen. The result is that even today many London busmen hesitate to take strike action because of the bitter memories of 1958.

History must not repeat itself on the docks. It is not just a tired cliché to say that the dockers are fighting our fight. It is the grim truth.

If the dockers lose the battle for the basic, they face the steamroller of the Devlin docks plan, stage two. That means 'modernisation', the bosses' expression for productivity deals, massive redundancies, shift work, job mobility and more work from a smaller work force.

That really is the same fight facing millions of workers in Britain as big business attempts to modernise at our expense.

The rank and file of the TGWU are right behind their docker brothers. They should demand that Jack Jones bring the bosses to their knees by calling out:



Lorry drivers
Market porters
Dockers employed by the private petrol firms' ports.

Appeal to the National Union of Railwaymen to black any freight from the docks and to call out their members who work in the docks.

On Wednesday, Southampton dockers again showed the way. While Jones and co were deliberating for hours in Transport House about whether or not to move perishable foods, a mass meeting in Southampton voted not to touch such work.

There is no room for sentiment in this strike. The dockers' wages are more important than a few tons of rotting bananas. There is enough food in Britain to feed the people for a considerable length of time.

But if the troops are moved in, every section of the working-class movement must spring to the dockers' side. If the TUC

general council is serious about supporting the dockers, it should call a total stoppage as soon as the first khaki strike-breaker crosses the picket line.

The strike has already shown who the greedy graspers really are. Dockers who agreed to load medical and other essential supplies donated their wages to charity while the shopkeepers have made a quick killing by marking up food prices even though there are no shortages.

And the international links and identity of interest of all workers have been shown by the magnificent solidarity of dockers in Holland, Belgium, France and Scandinavia.

Full support to the dockers.

No retreat on the £20 basic.

All decisions to be taken by mass meetings.

Nationalise all the ports under full workers' control.

Spread the strike - and win.

Yes, they have plenty of bananas...

THE DOCKS BOSSES, like bosses everywhere, have moaned about impending doom and bankruptcy if they pay dockers £20 a week basic.

The press screeches about 'greedy' dockers. They keep quiet about the vast profits made by the port employers.

Last year the Port of London

Authority chalked up a clear profit of £2,238,000. This figure excluded a handy £1.5m following the sale of St Katherine Dock to the Greater London Council.

Docks bosses on Merseyside aren't heading for Carey Street, either. Between 1963 and 1967 they collected total profits of £26m and

last year the record shows £4,420,000.

Latest figures available for the Clyde Ports Authority show profits for the year 1967 were £1.5m.

The British Transport Docks Board is responsible for 19 ports including Southampton, Hull, Grimsby,

Swansea and Port Talbot. Profits for 1964, 65 and 66 were £1.64m, £1.13m and £1.49m respectively. Provisional figures for 1967 also exceed £1m.

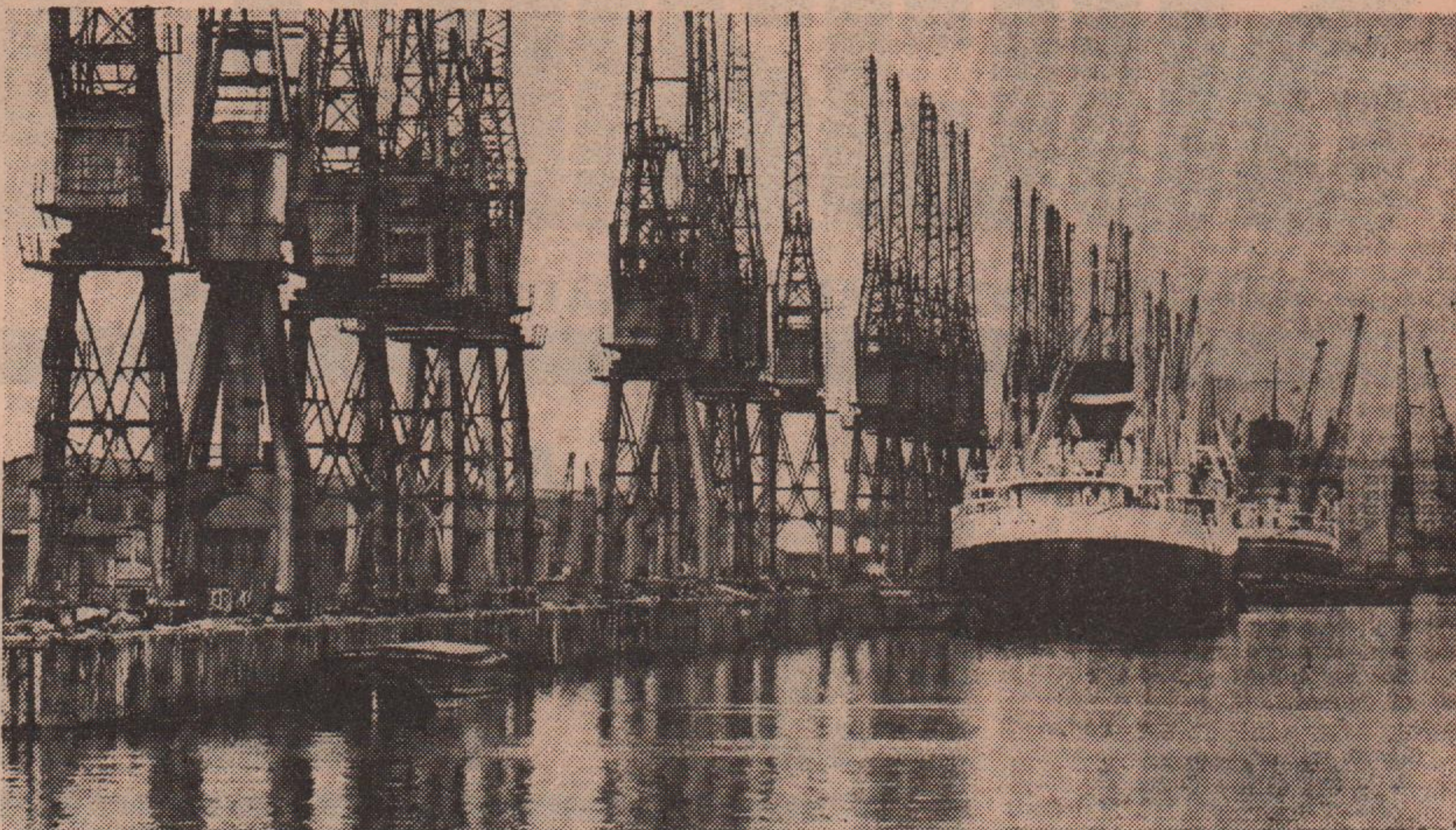
Last year Bristol's docks bosses were ship-shape profitwise with £1,232,133 in the kitty.

And in Manchester last year the bosses notched up £1,843,097.

The dockers' fight is your fight

A struggle for control, not just money...

NIGEL COWARD answers questions on the ports dispute



London docks strikebound: waiting for the Tommies

THE DOCKERS are making headlines again. Dockers have made many contributions to working-class history.

On 10 September 1889 the General Manifesto of the South Side Central Strike Committee demanded 6d an hour from 7am to 6pm, 8d overtime, not to be taken on for less than four hours and meal times as usual.

This was a turning point in trade union history and we are still very close to this past struggle. After all, decasualisation and the 1967 anti-Devlin strike continued the fight for job security.

Pennies per hour were fought for then. Now the question is over pounds per hour. Still the struggle goes on over the division of the cake between the class of employers and the class of the employed.

The demand over meal times is similar to the disputed issues in any modern productivity deal in any industry. Everywhere the bosses try to make 'their' workers pay for their own increases.

These great controversies over how much money have been accompanied by other struggles — over control.

Who should run the ports — the owners, the state or the men?

The owners were declared unfit in 1947 when joint trade union and employers' control was set up under the National Dock Labour Board.

Since then the Labour Party has pussy-footed towards nationalisation. Wilson got as far as a Ports Nationalisation Bill (now thrown out by the Tories) which ignored



In the famous Dockers' Tanner strike of 1889, strikers carried effigies of their children. They contrasted their small, undernourished children with the robust, well-fed offspring of the employers.

Eighty-one years later, the dockers are again in struggle with the port employers. And medical research shows that working-class children are still smaller and worse fed than those of the middle and upper classes.

principle, respected property and left ports outside the scheme so as to permit strike-breaking.

Even a nationwide nationalisation scheme (for which the dockers went on strike earlier this year) would do little to safeguard dockers' interests. Indeed the same catastrophic decline that has decimated the Railwaymen's Union in the 1960s faces the dockers.

The same old threats, the same old enemies, the same old life of struggle will remain — ask any miner or railwayman. But we support the fight for even limited nationalisation because it raises the key questions of property and control.

The only form of nationalisation which hasn't been tried yet in the docks is control by the men. And if there aren't any other alternatives, perhaps this is worth a try.

Are the dockers only after money? In the terms of the official strike-yes. The £20 basic is itself an ancient demand for it's been in for

over two years — a pattern repeated in many other industries.

Try telling an HP company what your average income is and they'll tell you about the prime importance of your basic. Dockers work a 50 hour week and £60 is only available to the handful on automated berths.

Many get much less than the well-publicised £35 13s average. And the employers offered 4 per cent!

It's no good talking about the increase being one of 80 per cent (from £11 1s 8d) as the press does. It may be 80 per cent — and that's because the starting figure is so lousy.

And it's no good the National Association of Port Employers saying it would increase their wage bill by half. It may be half — and again that's because the starting figure is so lousy.

The Transport Workers' Union costing is of 7-10 per cent. Regardless of the real figures, the crucial

issues are being avoided by both employers, state, press and union.

What are the issues then?

Any strike has hundreds of causes, because the men have hundreds of grievances.

Here the money issue has to be added to the redundancy issue, the containerisation issue, the nationalisation issue. For money alone won't open any of the closed wharves.

Money won't retain the national port register at its present levels. Money won't prevent greenacres (accidents). Money can't make rotting fishmeal cargoes any less filthy, or stop cement dust from stifling the men in the hold.

The very nature of the work dictates and guarantees conflict. And when that work is done for another man at his behest with his tools, conflict is likely.

When his interest is to have as few of you, doing as much work for as little pay as possible, then conflict is assured.

These are the issues which the press reduces to 'greed'. These are the issues that cannot be smoothed over with scary phrases about the nation's jugular vein. These are the issues of the strike.

The clearest thing of all is that the state has backed this strike. The state, as ever, has sided with the bosses — because it accepts (to the extent it can be independent at all) that private property is sacred.

The timing of the strike probably owes a great deal to the confidence which the return of the Tories gives to the employers.

Test case

The Tory Bill Tonge, of the port employers, has been encouraged to refuse the left-wing Jack Jones' appeal to negotiate while the strike is on, by the Tory Employment Minister Robert Carr, who has been 'careful to lean on neither side'.

Employers' representatives want this strike to be a national test case for the principle of productivity dealing. As Carr said on 13 July: 'I very much hope... that the progress towards modernisation of the ports can go on uninterrupted and, possibly, with a new determination'.

In a nutshell, this is the warning to all organised workers facing productivity deals regardless of industry: progress for profits at your expense.

Tonge has said: 'If there's to be a crunch over the speed at which we can 'modernise' jobs away, then let it be now'. Carr agreed and 'lent on neither side' by organising troops to break the strike.

Jones begged for negotiations. All are interested in the 'national interest' — they say. Socialists say there are only class interests. And you back one or the other side.

The Devlin Report on the docks offered permanence in exchange for loyalty and 'white collar' status. Tell that to the 16,000 fewer dockers there are since 1967.

Where did the wages that are not being paid go to except to the employers' bottomless pockets?

Why should the housewife bear the brunt with price increases?

We are against the shopkeepers using the strike as an excuse for fiddling an extra mark-up. We are against the speculators who cash in on feared shortage. We are against the currency markets who breathed a short-lived sigh of relief about the pound just before the dockers' delegate conference last week.

There's months of food supplies in Britain. We sympathise with the housewife whose husband's earnings make things tight at any time.

Lies abound in the press. Listen to the Financial Times on 11 July 1970. 'Thanks to stocks... some intelligent anticipation... some improvisation in re-routing deliveries through transport facilities that remain open, it could be some while before the dock strike created a real crisis'.

Why do the bosses have different information from the workers? We are against lies, too.

Then why the state of emergency? It's a showdown. There's been no honeymoon between the Tories and the workers.

The state can't exist without productivity deals and since the prospects for future profitability are at stake throughout industry, the biggest stick of all is used.

We say: a straight increase without Phase II or III of Devlin. No 'strings'!

The dockers have guaranteed to handle essential supplies — if these are medicines for social need and not just 'perishables' for profit. But, as in 1926, the state wants to use its biggest stick and hides under a smokescreen of guff about having the nation's interest at heart (having precipitated the whole thing). That's where the blame belongs.

Law and order

Why weren't the speculators ousted with troops during the 1960 potato famine, when warehouses were stockpiled and the goods held off the market? Because 'law and order' expresses the right of a few to profit from the needs of the many.

What's next? In a fast-changing situation, what can be said is this:

1. It looks like being a long strike for morale is high and the demand is just and this is the first nationwide strike since 1947.
2. The employers are digging in, but may not remain united. The issues look a bit different, depending on whether you're a shopowner or a port operator.
3. On arbitration, TGWU docks secretary Tim O'Leary wants it to be 'on the merits of the case'. But the case includes the Bristow report on the handling of containers, redundancy versus salaries status as implemented by Devlin, whether containerisation is to be used for the bosses' profit or to create redundancy.

Mass meetings should have the final say on any negotiated settlement, and the Transport Workers' Union held to the issues. Only weak leadership will guarantee defeat and so far the employers' determination is stronger than that of the official union's.

Enquiries are never neutral, especially when like Pearson (1966) and Devlin, they are tailored to force through a productivity deal.

'Red plotters'

4. The press will whip up public opinion against the dockers, with Red Plotters turning up everywhere. No man loses wages to satisfy destructive outside elements — his kids still need shoes and the HP companies are relentless.

Dockers should demand:

Extend the strike: the TGWU should call out lorry drivers and its members employed in the docks owned by the oil and petrol monopolies. An appeal should go to the NUR to back the strike.

No strings.

No handling 'perishable' goods.

Support the dockers: trade union branch resolutions should flood Transport House.

Full nationalisation, with compensation (if any) to be decided by the dockers.

Modernise by abolishing the employers. For full workers' control.

Socialist Worker

6 Cottons Gardens London E2 8DN

Tel: 01-739 1878 (editorial) 2639 (business)

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 a state of workers' councils and workers' control of

WHERE WE STAND

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.

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the paper.

Tory arms help prop up South



British-built Saracen armoured cars on patrol in Orlando, an African township near Johannesburg

Picture courtesy of African National Congress

Africa's racialist tyranny

by BASKER VASHEE

SOUTH AFRICA, the racialist police state with the most oppressive laws in the world, prepares for violence. For the only answer to ruthless white domination has to be an armed revolution by the non-white majority of the population.

The rulers of South Africa know this and are preparing themselves to meet this inevitable situation.

The government continues to make even more oppressive laws and arms itself with bigger and better weapons.

The obsessive anti-communism which dominates government thinking is merely a smokescreen to hide a deep fear of the African majority of the country. Every act by this majority to redress even a minor grievance is suppressed under the pretext that it is instigated by communism.

Any rent strike or industrial strike is, to the South African government, part of a world-wide communist plot. To meet this 'communist' challenge, the government has created a massive armed machinery at phenomenal expense.

The South African police have an annual budget of £36 millions, with a force of 31,000. And since 1965 the government has created new mobile police units, especially trained in guerrilla warfare, 'ready to go to any part of the country at short notice in time of disturbances to maintain or restore order'.

Following the disturbances in 1960, a further police reserve was created, which now numbers 25,000. The entire police force is armed with the most modern weapons, backed by armoured cars, troop carriers, aircraft and helicopters.

Since the appointment of Vorster as Prime Minister, there has been an expansion of the Security Branch, whose strength has trebled in the past three years. Its annual budget for 'special services' is £1,150,000.

TORTURE

The Security Branch has extensive training in psychological warfare and the application of torture. They also undergo training in the science of politics, a field where the quality of its graduates leaves much to be desired.

For example, asked why there are so many Jews in the communist movement, General van den Bergh, head of security, replied: 'They become communists because communism was the highest form of capitalism'.

In 1969, with the creation of the new Bureau of State Security (BOSS), expenditure on the security services doubled to £2,650,000.

The annual defence budget of South Africa increased from £64 million in 1962 to £136 millions in 1969. This makes something like £810 millions spent on defence in the past nine years. Combined with its expenditure on the police, South Africa spends more than 20 per cent of the total budgetary expenditure on the maintenance of order.

The permanent force or standing army increased from 7,721 in 1961 to 17,276 in 1967. Behind the army

stands the Citizens' Force, based on the compulsory training of all white youths from the age of 17. In 1967, 32,522 were called up for training. Of these, 10,000 went into the Commando Forces, and are liable for training for up to 20 years.

The Commandos consist of not only recruits but also volunteers, who were not previously members of the army or Citizens' Force. There is also an air commando force made up of private pilots and planes. In 1964 these had 12 squadrons and 249 aircraft.

It has been officially stated that South Africa can field at a moment's notice 100,000 trained men, plus up to 100,000 commandos.

Equipment in the army includes Sherman, Comet and Centurian tanks, Ferret and Panhard armoured cars, Bofor and Oerlikon anti-aircraft guns, Green Archer and Fledermans radar equipment, which screens the whole country.

The navy has 35 ships, including destroyers, minesweepers and seaward defence motor launches. In addition three Daphne class submarines were ordered from France in 1967.

The airforce is equipped with Sabre Mk 6 interceptors, Mirage supersonic jet strike fighters, Mirage intruder fighters and Mirage sea reconnaissance planes, Buccaneer low-level naval strike bombers, Nord Transall troop carriers, Lockheed Hercules transport aircraft, Cessna Skywagon jet reconnaissance aircraft, Vampires, Viscounts, Skymasters, the Mystere 205 fitted with Hawker Siddeley 125 engines, and a large number of Harvard aircraft capable of being used as light bombers. There are also Super-Frelon, Alouette, Westland Wasp and Sikorsky helicopters.

Between 1961 and 1967 the budget for the manufacture of munitions increased a hundredfold, from £154,000 to £23,000,000. By 1968 South Africa could produce its own napalm bombs, a new anti-tank mine, two other types of shrapnel mines and near-sight infantry rifles.

South Africa is self-sufficient in the manufacture of rifles, mortars, grenades, smoke bombs, aerial bombs, and explosives, armoured cars, parachutes, tear gas, rockets, both anti-tank and air-to-air. The Atlas Aircraft Corporation, heavily financed by the government, is now producing the Italian Macchi 326 jet trainer under licence.

Since 1963 South Africa has been developing a guided ground-to-air missile at the Institute of Rocket Research at Pretoria University. In 1965 the first research missile called Harp I was launched, reaching a maximum height of 90 kilometres. A bigger and more powerful Harp II rocket is being developed at a research station in S W Africa.

In the state-owned chemical plant called SASOL, South African scientists, with the help of the West German industry, have been developing nerve and poison gases called Soman and Sarin, which are colourless, odourless and tasteless. These gases were developed by IG-Farben



DOUGLAS-HOME
Arm the racialists

experts at the end of the Second world War in Germany.

The South African Atomic Energy Board make no secret of the fact that the South African government has recently been giving active encouragement in the development of atomic weapons.

This has extended to nuclear research, a field in which, according to numerous American specialists, South Africa has 'great potential'. Prominent members of the government have continuously advocated the development of nuclear weapons. The budget allocated some £12 millions to research in nuclear energy in 1967.

South Africa has also established two giant military bases in conspicuous situations north of her border. One is in Malawi at Lilonwe, the site for the new capital, which South Africa is helping to build. A major feature of this base will be an international size airport adjoining a South African airbase.

The second military base is in the Cprivi strip in South West Africa. Here, as well as an airbase, there is a massive military complex, including probable missile sites.

FRIGATES

In June this year, the South African government made a bid to lift the British arms embargo, encouraged by the Conservative victory in the British elections. According to the London Financial Times (30 June 1970), 'South Africa is primarily interested in aircraft and ships to improve its maritime capability'.

The article goes on to say that South Africa will probably order 20 Hawker Siddeley Nimrod long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft, equipped with complex electronic devices to hunt down submarines. These would cost up to £75 millions.

Secondly, South Africa would want to buy a small number of frigates, 'such as the 2500-ton all-gas turbine powered Type 21 general purpose frigate, with Rolls-Royce engines. . . this vessel will also use the 4.5 inch Mark 8 fully automatic gun, a Westland WG-13 helicopter and Short Sea-Cat ship-to-air anti-

aircraft missiles'.

These would cost between £7 to £8 millions. The government is also after the bigger 3500 ton type 42 destroyer. This vessel will also use the WG-13 helicopter and will have Hawker Siddeley Sea Dart surface-to-air missiles (with surface-to-surface capability) missiles. This costs around £17 million.

Other weapons mentioned were the British Aircraft Corporation land-based Rapier anti-aircraft missile. The Rapier is designed for use against very low-flying high speed fighter-bomber aircraft. The Buccaneer bombers are also a possibility on the shopping list.

There is a general consensus in the British press that weapons for South Africa's 'external defence' are all right since these cannot be used for internal counter-insurgency. It is widely publicised that the South African government needs these weapons to counter any communist threat.

But the South African regime has a quite extraordinary idea of what constitutes a 'communist threat'. It has already threatened Zambia and Tanzania with armed intervention if the two countries persist in training guerrillas for the Southern African liberation movement.

It is also common knowledge that the South African army has been involved in counter-guerrilla activity in Rhodesia, Angola, Mozambique and SW Africa. These activities are considered in Pretoria as anti-

communist and defensive.

But if South Africa is faced with a revolutionary situation, it is highly unlikely that it will discriminate between weapons of external defence and internal security. It will use every weapon at its disposal to crush mercilessly any legitimate uprising on the part of the African majority. And no British government will be able to stop it.

All socialists must at all costs stop the sale of arms to South Africa. The Labour Party executive is planning a mass rally in Trafalgar Square for this purpose. While we should support these efforts on the part of the Labour Party, it is absolutely essential that we should point out that it was the same Labour leadership which only a year ago signed a massive contract with the South Africans to supply the state-run British Atomic Energy Board with uranium for five years.

HYPOCRISY

The uranium is mined in the mandate territory of South West Africa and such a contract gives legitimacy to South African rule in SW Africa. It would be well to point out that such a contract was deliberately kept secret by the Labour cabinet because of the elections.

No socialist can have any genuine alliance with such blatant hypocrisy.

Books on South Africa

Rise of the South Africa
Reich: Brian Bunting 1s

Politics and Law in South
Africa: Julius Lewin 1s 6d

Revolutionary Road for South
Africa: Unity Movement 1s 6d

South Africa, apartheid and
Britain: LRD & ANC 1s 6d

IS BOOKS

6 Cottons Gardens London E2

London:
Merton;
arch;

Shift work: danger to workers' minds and bodies

by RUPERT MARTIN

Ford Southampton car worker

IT IS an established medical fact that shift work in industry is a serious health hazard to all engaged on it.

Some years ago a convention of doctors meeting in Paris made this clear. Isn't it strange then that while medical opinion is followed - and rightly so - in many things, it is completely disregarded when big business is involved?

It is said that there is no sentiment in business. Neither is there any for workers who cause the business to thrive and make the fabulous profits enjoyed by the privileged few.

How interesting it would be to see the reactions of the leeches of society, who suck the blood of those who work for them, if they

were given a taste of their own medicine by being shifted off their fat backsides and made to do shiftwork themselves.

Just see how long they would last out. Let all those who shout their big mouths off whenever workers react to the injustices forced upon have a go themselves in the foundries and factories. It would be a very different story then.

Men have to leave their beds at 4.30 am to make the 6 am shift. The next week they start at 2 pm and go home at 10 pm. Then yet another change by starting at 10 pm until 6 am.

For others there is the 'twilight' shift - 4 pm until 12 am or a com-

plete night shift alternating on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

How nice for the man on 2 pm start. The kids are at school when he leaves for work and gone to bed when he returns home. It is too late to go anywhere on his own, let alone with his wife.

Arrive home early morning. Turn the key silently for fear of disturbing the whole house. Then by trial and error discover the best time to go to bed.

Shall he go straight to bed and be awake by afternoon and be tired out before he gets to work again? Or shall he wait until midday and turn in then? If he does he invariably gets up by early evening, feel-

ing like nothing on earth and with a cob on that causes everyone to keep their distance.

But there's always the pleasure of finishing at 2 pm on the 6 to 2. Just think - all the afternoon and evening to do what you like with - except for the fact that you must go to bed when your friends are going out for the evening. You mustn't forget to be up at 4.30 am to start work at 6.

Privilege

But don't be so ungrateful. Doesn't the considerate boss pay a few coppers extra per hour to give a man the privilege of starting and finishing work all round the clock.

Then there's a little matter called sex, which seems to get so much publicity these days although it's been going on for some time now. Champagne and oysters may be

all very well as a stimulant to those who can afford them, but they are not within the realms of a shift-worker who has flogged his guts out all night and finds it difficult to rise to the occasion when required to do so.

This does not merely cause frustration, which a cold shower will cure, but a serious rift and resentment between a man and wife, who may be compelled to seek solace elsewhere.

We know this problem doesn't worry the idle rich. As Bernard Shaw said, 'They can afford to be immoral'. But with most working folk, far more is at stake.

Shift working is an evil to mind and body. Eventually, health breaks down and another human being is on the scrap heap.

But who cares, apart from those involved? After all, workers are expendable.

'Productivity... discipline' - East, West, the language is the same

by CHRIS HARMAN

Editor of International Socialism

THE WESTERN PRESS has been full of renewed speculation about changes among the Russian rulers. This has been encouraged by the decision to put off the next Congress of the Russian Communist Party until next year, after repeated promises that it would meet this year.

What lies behind all this? There is increasing evidence that the Russian economy is facing profound difficulties.

In December, according to Pravda, the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party 'took note of the lagging behind in the rate of development in a number of branches of industry and the slow growth of labour productivity and the efficiency of social production. . . Mr Brezhnev specifically complained of shortfalls behind planned targets in mining, ferrous metals, cement, steel, paper, petrochemicals, the food and agriculture (particularly meat, milk, and eggs)'. . .

These difficulties in the economy have referred to these difficulties in the past.

As to Brezhnev (Pravda 24 April), 'Comrade Brezhnev dwelt on the question of the economic competition between the two world systems (ie the Russian bloc and the west). This competition takes different forms, he said. . . The fundamental question is not how much you produce, but also at what cost, with what outlays of labour. . . It is in this field that the centre of gravity in the competition between the two systems lies in our time. The all round development of socialist competition remains our constant concern today. . .'

has become quite widespread. . . The current increases in labour productivity cannot be considered satisfactory.'

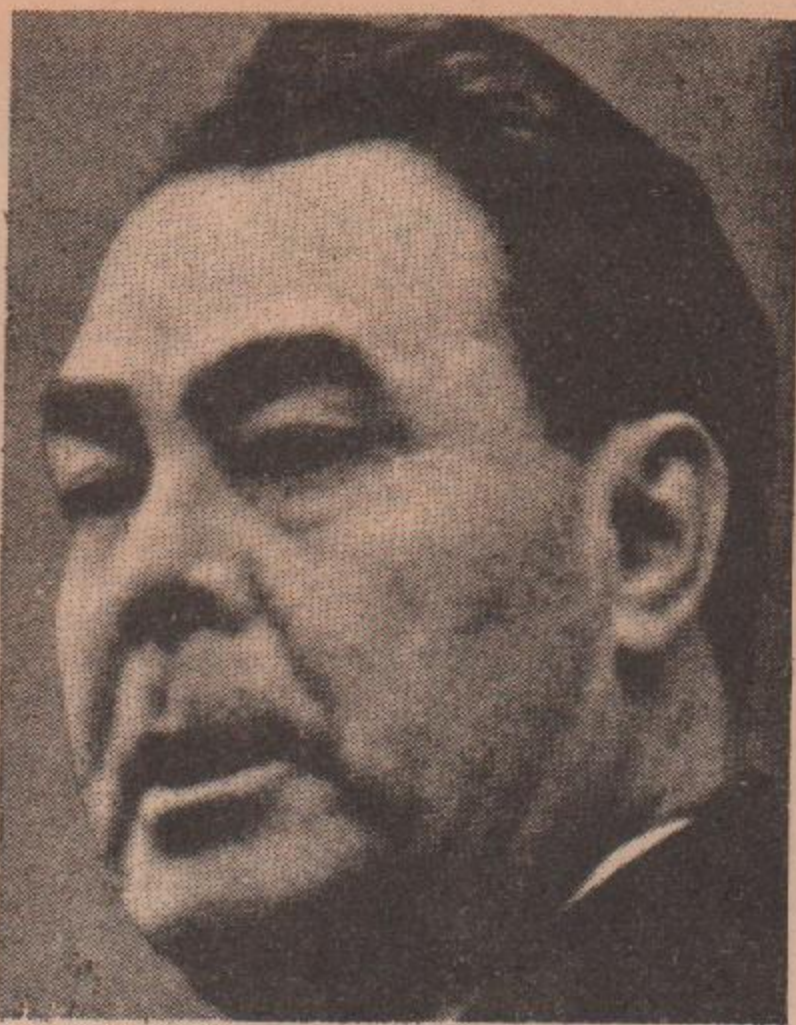
It was precisely such failures of the economy that caused the downfall of Khrushchev in 1964 and gave rise to the movement associated with Dubcek in Czechoslovakia towards the end of 1967.

From the speeches of the Russian leaders there is no way of telling how serious these failures are at the moment. But it is possible to see that they are worrying Brezhnev, Kosygin and their friends.

'Minor flaws'

What are the origins of these failures? According to western commentators these show that 'socialism cannot work'. On the other hand, according to pro-Russian Communists, they are merely minor flaws in the onward march of 'socialism'.

If you look carefully at what the Russian leaders themselves say, you can easily see that in fact the economic problems of Russia have nothing whatever to do with 'socialism' at all. They continually stress two points: the need of the Russian economy to 'compete successfully' with the west and the difficulties that arise due to the 'indiscipline' of the workers.



BREZHNEV: 'Work time frittered away'

In a recent speech (according to Pravda 24 April), 'Comrade Brezhnev dwelt on the question of the economic competition between the two world systems (ie the Russian bloc and the west). This competition takes different forms, he said. . . The fundamental question is not how much you produce, but also at what cost, with what outlays of labour. . . It is in this field that the centre of gravity in the competition between the two systems lies in our time. The all round development of socialist competition remains our constant concern today. . .'

concern today. . .'

He went on to point out that in this competition they were hampered by the failure of Russian workers to see things in this light.

'Speaking frankly, sometimes many of our rank and file workers and many of our executives need a heightened sense of responsibilities and discipline. . . There are frequent instances in which precious work time is frittered away, people come to work late or fail to appear at all without valid reason, and cases of absenteeism, sometimes connected with drunkenness.'

The controllers of Russian industry have gone out of their way to introduce measures which look very much like productivity deals in this country in order to encourage workers to work harder and be 'more competitive'. For instance 'regrading' measures are very important. 'An important part in raising labour productivity is played by the movement to combine occupations'.

Workforce reduced

An example managers are always being told to copy is that of the Schekino Chemical Combine where 'a considerable amount of the funds economised by reducing the number of personnel is used for encouraging workers who have assumed additional obligations with respect for tending the machines. . . As a result the number of workers at Schekino was reduced by more than 800.' (Both quotes from Novikov, in Kommunist no 3 1969).

But the increased economic problems of Russia's rulers seem to indicate that these moves to increase 'productivity' are not being successful. For all the talk about 'indiscipline' and a 'lack of commitment of workers to the work process' indicates one thing: the Russian workers feel that they as a class have nothing to gain from working harder to build up industry to compete with the west.

Vast formations

After all, it is now 40 years since Stalin first decided to compete in this way. In this time industry has grown enormously, vast formations of tanks which are tanks capable of invading Czechoslovakia have been built up, massive nuclear weapon systems capable of threatening nuclear destruction, whether to the west or to China, have been developed, satellites have been sent into space.

But the average Russian worker has scarcely benefited at all from this. He still has an average pay packet equivalent to about £10 a week in this country.

He still has an average living space of about eight square yards in his home (just imagine how much room that would leave you).

No wonder he sees little point in working harder - doing his work mates out of a job in the process - just to increase 'productivity' even further.

So the two roots of the present crisis in Russia are the fact that the workers resent having no control over production and the fruits of production, plus the fact that production is determined by competition.

Real solution

But no change in the Russian leadership can deal with these problems. They are basic to the whole system that Stalin and his successors have built up in the USSR - (which is why we call it 'state capitalist') - just as they are basic to the private capitalist system that exists in the west.

A real and lasting solution to the economic problems of the Russian bloc, as of the western bloc, requires that production should be for the satisfaction of human need, not for competition.

But this first requires a genuine socialist revolution in which the now massive Russian working class once again takes control of industry and links up with workers in the west.

International Socialism 44

Karl Marx and Engels on Women's Liberation

Ray Challinor: Origins of the Cold War

Duncan Hallas: Western Capitalism - latest phase

Hans Magnus Enzensberger: the Cuban Communist Party

3s a copy or 18s for a year

6 COTTONS GARDENS LONDON E2 8DN

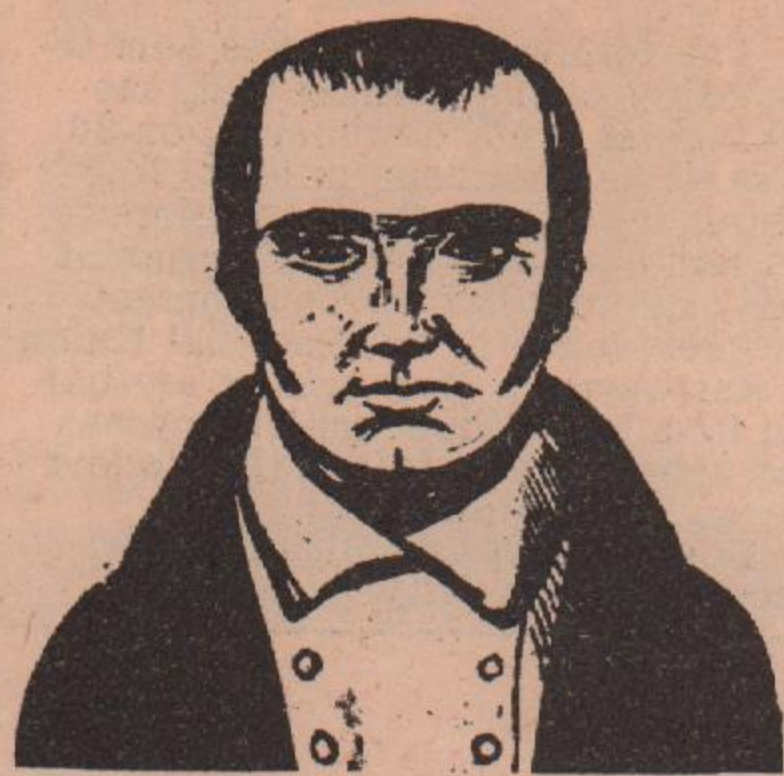
In memory of the Martyrs

LAST SUNDAY, the small Dorset village of Tolpuddle staged the annual march in memory of six farm labourers who were arrested, jailed and shipped to the convict settlements of Australia in 1834 for attempting to form a trade union.

Their victimisation and the massive, nationwide campaign to win their release was one of the important turning points in British working-class history.

In 1833 Tolpuddle farm labourers had their wages cut to 8s a week and further cuts were threatened. One enraged labourer, George Loveless, formed a branch of Robert Owen's Grand National Consolidated Trades Union.

The local farmers, like employers throughout the country, were terrified by the threat of the



GEORGE LOVELESS

unions. In Tolpuddle, Loveless, his brother James, Thomas Stanfield and his son John, James

Hammett and James Brine, were arrested, subjected to a farcically rigged trial and shipped to Australia for seven years.

Thirty thousand workers staged an enormous march and demonstration in London. After years of ceaseless campaigning, the Tolpuddle Martyrs were released in 1838.

This year's Tolpuddle march was more than just a ritual. Workers from all over the South West took part, including contingents from Centrax and Ottermill Switchgear in Devon, where militant strikes for decent wages and trade union rights have been waged this year. This militant action by South West workers is the best possible tribute to the six Dorset labourers who played a fundamental part in the struggle for trade unions in Britain.

At 56, ex-miner Joe Kenyon starts fighting the SS



Joe Kenyon is a 56 year old militant socialist who has been unemployed for four years. Before that he was a miner at North Gawber Colliery, Barnsley, for 30 years before becoming National Council of Labour Colleges Organiser for South Yorkshire in 1960. He resigned in 1966 when he could not stomach the TUC's idea of working-class education when the NCLC was merged with the TUC Education Department. He has nursed the idea of the Claimants and Unemployed Workers union for a long time. Even Joe confesses to being surprised at the tremendous response.

Have you had any reactions from the Labour Party?

One prominent local Labour councillor said: 'What the bloody hell do the unemployed want with a union—let them get to work or starve. It's a pity but I think this is a pretty common attitude in the party.'

Even leading left wingers like Judith Hart made public attacks on 'scroungers' a couple of years ago and helped to create a sneering and unsympathetic attitude to those in desperate need. I think it is a terrible indictment of the Labour Party that in the recent general election people were more prepared to vote for a tanner off income tax than for greater compassion for the unfortunate people who have to scratch along on dole and SS benefit.

Is there any way in which Socialist Worker can help?

I am sure it could — by articles, reports of CUWU activities and with lots of good detailed articles on poverty, health and welfare, etc. Also IS branches could help a lot by sending a member to meetings of the local Claimants' branches armed with useful information.

Anyone interested in the work of the CUWU should write to Joe Kenyon, 120 Standhill Crescent, New Lodge, Barnsley, Yorks.

National Union of Mineworkers.

Twenty minutes after going back to the office he was paid. In another case the manager of the dole office yielded another claim after I had spoken in the name of the union.

A lot of people believe that those on social security or unemployment benefit are scroungers living on the state. How do you feel about that?

Well I suppose there might be a few like that, but let's face it, there are far more parasites living on gluttony and guzzling in the West End and Mayfair and sailing about in yachts.

They rob the workers of millions of pounds, not the measly few bob of the lads on SS. Anyway there's no joy in being on the SS — you don't get paid a princely sum at best and some of the officials do their best to humiliate and give the claimant a sense of guilt.

From the letters I've received all of these people really want work — to win back their self respect, their own dignity — to be able to say they're earning their own money. The scroungers smear is ideological anyway, aimed at turning workers against workers.

Joe, you were a member of the National Union of the Unemployed in the 1930s. Is there anything to learn from its successes and failures?

Well, of course it's a very different situation today. Then the major fight was against mass unemployment and cuts-in benefit. Today unemployment is more selective and a major problem is that of underpayment of what is due.

In the thirties we learnt to find loopholes in the law. I think this is still a very important part of tactics. The branches of the union will have to be information centres equipped to argue the claimants' cases.

I never had a great deal of regard for the marches, the Jarrow March included. I thought they were a sort of comic band affair. I suppose it brought the plight of the regions to the public notice but the real battle was fought round the local dole offices. The only real hope is to challenge the whole economic system which produces unemployment and poverty.

Leading on from that, what tactics do you see as being of use in the struggle?

It is difficult to imagine a dole queue strike, but we will develop methods of fighting the machine. We will have to make great efforts to secure the co-operation of those in work, to the extent of sympathy strikes. After all it's their fight as well.

We expect to introduce a system of associate membership for those in work. A number of trade unionists in Barnsley have already indicated their wish to join.

What are the aims of the new union?

The main aim is to fight the battles of the unemployed and anybody who is applying for Social Security benefits or meeting with difficulty with the various SS departments (Anybody familiar with the history of Hitler will know what SS means!). Another important aim is to get more working class people involved in practical politics.

Have you any proof that people don't get their dues?

I have a lot of evidence over the years, but I'll give you one recent example. I got a letter last week from a chap in Bolton who quoted his total income from benefit as £10 7s.

I calculated that he was 11s6d under the minimum basic rate and was not receiving the 10s supplement for a claimant of over two years' standing. 21s 6d is a hell of a lot of money to be light. The trouble is that benefits are to a large extent discretionary and unless a claimant knows his rights exactly he can often be short.

What has the response been so far?

Very good. In two weeks I've had letters from practically every county in England and from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Letters from towns like Bournemouth, Southend, Southampton, Portsmouth, Bristol, many parts of London, Cardiff, Swansea, Anglesea, Bolton, Burnley, Southport, Oldham, Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow, Newcastle, Wakefield, Rotherham.

In Barnsley we already have over 50 paying members. The letters were the result of an article in The People and a couple of TV appearances. The letters tell over and over again of hardship, desperation, anger and a determination to do something about it.

Have you had any successes yet?

A few. For example the other day a fellow came to the house, said he'd heard about the new union and could we do anything for him. He'd just had his dole stopped.

After a pit accident he'd been in hospital for eight months. The NCB sent him his cards while he was recuperating (the Coal Board have an agreement with the Miners' Union that if men are off so long, they automatically get their cards) After hospital this man had been ordered by the DEP to go to a 'rehabilitation centre' which he later found out to be work on a farm near Cambridge, for 24s per week plus board.

He refused, saying that if he had to do farm work he wanted the rate for the job. He was then classified as unwilling to take work and refused benefit. I also discovered that he was getting less than he was entitled to. I told him to go back with a full list of entitlements, demand his rights and threaten the

Cottons Column

MR CHAPMAN PINCHER, who is a journalist, not a breed of dog, told Daily Express readers last week that Special Branch were keeping an eye on a group of dangerous revolutionaries who 'commute' from one trouble spot to another.

Perhaps they qualify for a British Rail Red Rover?

The Express's Sunday version explained where the cash to finance these foul acts really comes from. Under screaming headlines about 'reds behind docks strike', the Beaverbrook Blackshirt panted out the astonishing news that a gang of 'real socialists', not pro-Russian communists, were leading the dockers by the nose towards national disaster.

More, more, we cried insatiably. And more there was. These vipers are anti-Russian but their activities are actually financed by the Russian Trade Mission in Highgate.

This appalling fact is not known to the rank and file, only to the 'leading militants' of the organisation. We'd been wondering how Tony Cliff managed that week's holiday in Swanage...

Does anyone believe this drivel? Sadly, one supposes that readers of the Express do. They should ask themselves one question: why, in both pieces, was there not a scrap of evidence — names, addresses, dates — to back up these absurd allegations?

MR S N STEEN has just upped his salary from £181 a week to £243. Deservedly so, for Mr Steen's company, Smith and Nephew, is vital to the country's economy. It makes Snuggi-Pants.

A shadow of his former self

NO SOONER had Iain Macleod breathed his last than Michael (Shadow Cabinet) Foot was on the Today radio programme to say that a 'chill of horror' had gone through him at the news. He was sure the whole House would mourn the passing of Mack the Strife.

Michael Foot eulogising a Tory at 7.30am is a bit too much for sensitive stomachs. And it really is quite stomach-turning the way in which even the most 'left' Labour MP becomes a prisoner of the parliamentary system, looking upon the House as a 'club' where, after the rough and tumble of a debate, all the Hon. Chaps retire to the smoking room for a cough and drag, party labels discarded.

No whiff of the class struggle enters those hallowed walls. Get outside, Foot, and sniff the air. Have you forgotten the old working-class slogan 'The only good Tory is a dead one'? Any ideas on how to define a good 'left' MP?

Land of the unfree minds

THE American people celebrated the birth of their nation earlier this month but it seems few of them know what Independence Day is all about. 50 people were approached in the streets of Miami and asked to sign a copy of the Declaration of Inde-

pendence. Only one agreed to append his monicker.

Quite a number thought it was anti-American propaganda. Two called the Declaration 'communist junk'. One threatened to call the police, another wanted to tell the FBI.

And the one all-American guy who agreed to sign only did so on the payment of 2s.

The test was carried out after an earlier questionnaire circulated among 300 young adults attending a Miami gathering had shown that 28 per cent thought an excerpt from the Declaration was written by Lenin.

Next week: a review of State and Revolution by George Washington.

LORD CROWTHER, recently booted out as chairman of the Trafalgar House Property group, is to receive £18,000 compensation for 'loss of office'. 600,000 workers on the dole should immediately demand parity.

Clobbered in the cloisters

THE CHURCH of England, it has been said, is the Tory Party at prayer. The reactionary attitudes of the church elders were seen again last week with the intemperate sacking of Mr Michael De la Noy, the Archbishop of Canterbury's press officer, for writing two thoughtful articles on (careful now) . . . sex.

The incident reminded a journalist who works not a million miles from Cottons Gardens of a small uproar a few years back when, desperate for a crust, he wrote a small film review for a radical Christian magazine edited by De la Noy. The film, Rattle of a Simple Man, was a tedious concoction about a North Country chap 'oop for t' Cup' who is picked up by a kindly prostitute.

Unused to the censorious ways of the church, our journalist dismissed the film as a string of clichés about a 'randy Mancunian' and the tired old 'tart with a heart of gold'.

All hell (if you'll pardon the expression) then broke loose. Thousands of returned copies of the magazine flooded into De la Noy's office. One vicar in darkest Surrey publicly burnt his bundle on the village green.

It has taken the Church leaders several years to get their own back, but they've done for De la Noy at last. God moves in a mysterious way. . .

THE RUMOUR from Peckham High Road is that Hugh Scanlon has walked away with the voting for presidency of the Engineering Union against John 'I was Bill Carron's Double' Boyd. Excellent.

Pity therefore that our Hughie, champion of workers' control, has sneaked through an amendment to the union rules whereby his next term of office is extended, until 1978, when he retires.

Put down tha musket

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE DEPARTMENT: Well done, Tom Swain, the Labour MP who called on his two soldiering sons to defy any orders to strike break in the docks. (Only slight nagging doubt: what are his sons doing in the army?)

Join the International Socialists

There are branches in the following areas

SCOTLAND
Aberdeen; Clydebank; Dundee; Edinburgh; Glasgow; East Kilbride.

NORTH EAST
Durham; Newcastle upon Tyne; Teesside (Middlesbrough and Redcar)

NORTH
Barnsley; Bradford; Derby; Doncaster; Hull; Leeds; York; Selby; Sheffield.

NORTH WEST
Lancaster; Manchester; Merseyside; Preston; St Helens; Stockport; Wigan.

MIDLANDS
Birmingham; Coventry; Northampton; Leicester; Oxford; Potteries.

WALES AND SOUTH WEST
Bath; Bristol; Cardiff; Exeter; Swansea

SOUTH
Ashford; Brighton; Crawley; Folkestone; Portsmouth; Southampton.

EAST
Cambridge; Grays and Tilbury; Harlow; Ipswich; Lowestoft; Norwich; North-east Essex.

GREATER LONDON and HOME COUNTIES

Acton; Angel; Camden; Chertsey; Croydon; Dagenham; Deptford; East London; Enfield; Erith; Fulham; Greenford; Hampstead; Harrow; Hemel Hempstead; Hornsey; Ilford; Kilburn; Kingston; Lambeth; Merton; Reading; Richmond; Stoke Newington; Tottenham; Walthamstow; Wandsworth; Watford; Victoria (SW1).



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

Name _____

Address _____

Send to IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Socialist Worker

Communist Party a caricature of a socialist force says an ex-member

The following letter was sent to the editor of the Morning Star, the Communist Party newspaper, on 30 June. It has not been printed. The reference to Dave Bowman refers to his resignation from the Communist Party in order that he can contest the presidency of the National Union of Railwaymen. Communists are barred from this office and Mr Bowman has subsequently joined the Labour Party. The Morning Star said Mr Bowman had no political differences with the party.

I WAS interested to read the Executive Committee's statement in the Morning Star 30 June concerning the resignation from the Party of Dave Bowman.

After a period of activity in the Communist Party, I, too, have now decided to resign my membership. In contrast to comrade Bowman, I think my reasons for doing so have some basis in the principles of Marxism.

The main emphasis of Party work is on co-operation with the Labour 'Left'. These people, who willingly accept the constraints of parliamentarianism, generally hold fixed, confused and outdated notions of socialism.

As a 'wing' they are a perpetually disorganised museum piece always ready to demonstrate their loyalty to the Labour leadership whenever 'necessary', eg at elections (facts to which, as one who was a Labour Party member for several years, I can testify).

Anchored

One major consequence of attempting 'left unity' with this group has been the reduction of the CP to a caricature of a revolutionary force; it has become anchored to the coat-tails of the Labour Party.

The policy of unity with the 'Tribunites' arises out of the Party's own faulty analysis of power. Power does not reside in Parliament as the British Road to Socialism assumes — but in industry. Parliamentary democracy is an illusion on which so much energy and resources are concentrated.

The EC have 'temporarily suspended' (ie probably permanently abolished) the important full-time Party post of Student Organiser. This was done because of the burden this job imposed on the Party's finances.

Yet, at the same time, 58 Communist candidates were, predictably, losing their deposits after a General Election campaign on which the Party wasted £40,000!

Lukewarm

With policy contradictions like this one, it was little wonder that many militant comrades gave a lukewarm reception to an internal circular, in June, requesting hefty donations to the election fund.

The most urgent task for communists is to build an industry-based movement possessing a revolutionary political perspective. This would make possible a confrontation with capitalism on ground where the working class has the advantage of unity, organisation and awareness of class divisions.

So, unlike comrade Bowman (and comrade Will Paynter etc etc) I will not be departing to the right but rather to the revolutionary left. Other Party members must bring themselves to decide their political futures and the fate of the Party. -Yours fraternally, NIGEL TODD, Lancaster.

Builders arrested

CHEESHIRE police on Monday arrested 46 workers picketing the Shell and Burmah oil construction sites at Ellesmere Port.

All the arrested men were photographed and many were kept in prison for over 10 hours, 18 to a cell. None, including one man whose wife is pregnant, was allowed to make phone calls, and four were handcuffed and marched 100 yards down the road after they had been released on bail.

At court in Chester on Tuesday morning, all 46 pleaded not guilty. The case was adjourned until 31 July.

DEVON MILITANTS JEER VIC FEATHER AT TOLPUDDLE RALLY

From Granville Williams
TUC general secretary Vic Feather was heckled fiercely by militant Devon workers when he spoke at the annual Tolpuddle rally last Sunday.

There were angry shouts from workers earning as little as £11 a week when Mr Feather told them that class differences in society were disappearing. The only problem now was educational differences, he said.

Strikers from the Ottermill Switchgear factory near Exeter, who have been outside the gates for 11 weeks for a £24 a week basic wage and full trade union recognition took part in the rally, along with strikers from the Fine Tubes factory in Plymouth, who have been on strike for five weeks.

The organisers of the rally — a tribute to the Dorset labourers jailed for starting a union in 1834 — refused to allow Jim Moore, chairman of the Ottermill strike committee, or a spokesman from the Fine Tubes strike committee to address the workers.

ARROGANT

One lesson which the Devon strikers carried away from the rally was the need to organise and fight for their rights and wages without reliance on full-time union officials.

When bosses arrogantly sack workers, the only reply is to link up with other militants through the Tolpuddle Group, a growing movement dedicated to the fight to improve low wages in the region.

The Fine Tubes strike in Plymouth was made official 10 days after the men came out.

The strikers, members of the Transport Workers Union and the Engineering Union, exhausted all the negotiating procedures, which began last December, when they asked for a substantial wage increase.

Wage rates, between 8s2d to 9s an hour, gave gross wages of around £16 for precision tube work for aircraft and atomic energy. Wages rates and scales are determined by the management through job evaluation but shop stewards never signed the agreement.

BACKED OUT

The managing director, T Barclay, slated the men all through negotiations. He said he was not prepared to give any more money and that 'productivity' would provide a basis for talks. Subsequently he backed out even on this.

On 1 July, the men, like the strikers at Ottery, were told they would be sacked unless they went back to work. This had no effect on their determination to win the strike.

NOTICES

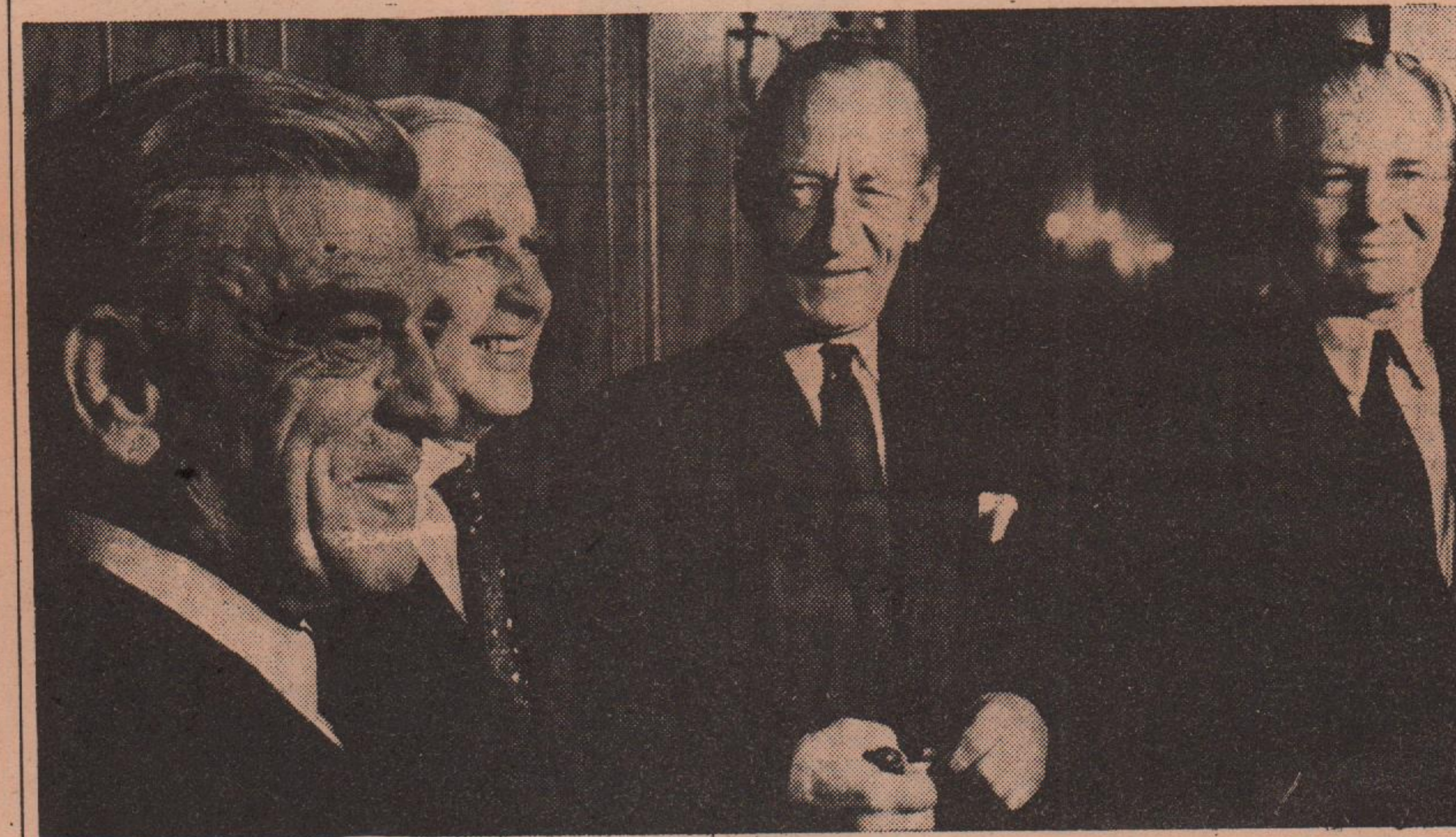
Socialist Worker Fighting Fund
FOLK NIGHT
Friday 31 July 8pm
Nags Head, Wandsworth Rd SW4
(corner North Street)
Jugular Vein
Hugh and Stephanie Thomas
and others
Admission 6s.
Buses 77 and 168
Wandsworth Road station

THIS SUNDAY 26 July: Socialist Charter march and rally in support of the docks. Assemble Charing X embankment 3pm, march to Tower Hill for meeting at 4pm. Spkrs: Reg Taylor, Reg Francis, Alf Lomas.

WEST LONDON IS and union branches: public meeting on docks strike, Hammer-smith Town Hall, Fri 24 July 7.30pm.

SWANSEA IS: Amos Moulds (AUBTW) gives two talks on Swansea in the 1930s. Fri 7 and 14 Aug, 7.30pm, Red Cow pub. All welcome.

Published by the International Socialists 6 Cottons Gdns London E2. Printed by SW (Litho) Printers Ltd (TU all departments) Registered with the Post Office.



Chemical strikers beat bosses with no-strings rise

SW Reporter

DAGENHAM:— 1800 workers at May and Bakers drugs and chemical plant have won a substantial victory over their employers with a 'no strings' 16 per cent pay increase on all the basic rates.

The workers—half of them women—voted to accept the offer and return to work after three weeks on strike. They had originally demanded a 20 per cent all round increase.

The strikers were backed by their union, the Chemical Workers.

The new pay deal means basic rates of 9s8d to 12s7d an hour for men and 6s7d to 8s6d an hour for women.

The management were clearly surprised at the unity and solidarity of the men and women workers, on strike for the first time in seven years. The firm's first 'final offer' with productivity strings was given the contempt it deserved.

A further attempt to divide the workers with a graduated 11-18 per cent offer, also with strings, got the same treatment. The firm had to replace their junior negotiators with senior executives once they saw that the men and women really meant business.

The strikers were annoyed when news of the 16 per cent offer appeared in the local press before it was put to a mass meeting. It was clearly a manoeuvre by the bosses to appeal to individual strikers over the heads of their representatives in a bid to break their solidarity.

The workers rejected a clause in the new pay deal which ruled out any further claim for a year. With prices rising at a fantastic rate, M&B workers know the 16 per cent increase is only the beginning of a wages fight, not the end.

Workers at M&B in Norwich accepted a 15 per cent all-round increase, but they sold a tea break in return. They are members of the General and Municipal Workers Union

THIS is the last issue of Socialist Worker for two weeks. Our printing and editorial staff are taking their summer holiday but arrangements have been made to produce special editions of the paper to keep pace with the dock strike.

SW Reporter

DAGENHAM:— 150 moulding line workers at Ford's foundry stopped work for an hour last Friday morning. They were protesting against a 10s penalty on all the 4500 workers in the foundry.

The penalty was imposed when

Paynter links up with bosses

PICTURED above are the members of the Pearson Court of Enquiry into the docks dispute. From left to right: Will Paynter, Lord Pearson, ETC Grint and FJ Fielding.

The simple aim of such enquiries is to water down the class war with jaw-jaw. In a bid to appear 'impartial' these anti-worker bodies like to include one tame trade union official.

This time they have made quite a catch. How impartial can you get when you include Will Paynter on your enquiry? For not only is he the former 'militant' secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers but a former communist as well.

It is a disgrace that Paynter should sit on such an enquiry, particularly when the Tory government is threatening to use troops to break the docks strike. We await the reaction of the Morning Star...

THE national secretary of the International Socialists, Tessa Lindop, has been taken ill and will be out of action for several weeks. Head office will make every effort to deal with urgent enquiries but regular circulars and bulletins may be delayed.

Ford workers walk out over bosses' 10s penalty

the pattern makers had walked out to a meeting outside the plant during working hours to discuss their current grading claim.

But the initiative of the moulding line workers was not followed by the rest of the foundry. The foundry management told the moulding line stewards that they could not withdraw the penalty as they were bound

by the national claim.

Denis O'Flynn, AEF foundry steward said: 'If anyone, management or union, attempts to reach agreements or continue to make agreements without the sanction of the men on the shop floor, they can continue to expect reactions like this.'