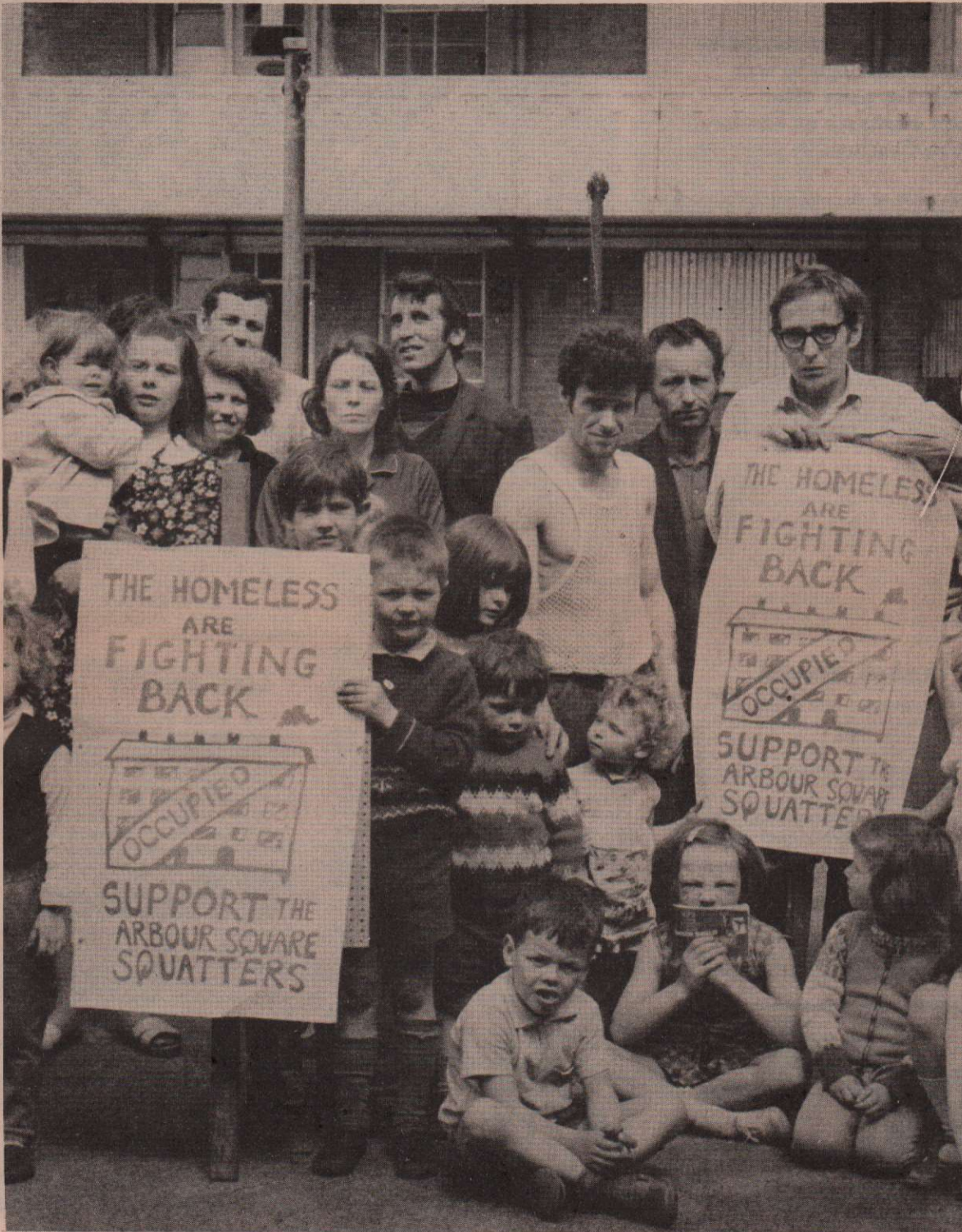


# Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

187 19 SEPTEMBER 1970 4d

## RUDI: FIGHT TORY BAN



### Homeless families ready for battle of Arbour Square

THESE are the squatters of Arbour Square—homeless families who have occupied an empty block of council flats for a year in the East London borough of Tower Hamlets.

They have fought off bailiffs and police and now face a High Court Order for eviction.

Arbour Square has been empty and derelict for a long time. The Labour council had plans to renovate the flats but insisted that the work could only be done while the block was empty.

Tenants were moved out, the council postponed its work and the flats fell into decay. Thirty home-

less families moved in last October to have a roof over their heads and keep parents and children together.

The council, astonished that anyone should want to live in its mildewed property, is determined to throw the families onto the streets. As part of the 'renovation' programme, workmen were sent under

police escort last Saturday to wreck uninhabited flats in order to stop more homeless families getting in.

Talks between the squatters and council spokesmen broke down on Monday. Eviction seems imminent but the families are barricaded in and are determined to stay.

THE ENTIRE labour, trade union and socialist movement must spring into action to over-turn the Tory government's decision to expel Rudi Dutschke from Britain. It is a vicious piece of political victimisation.

The Tories are prepared to offer sanctuary to Russian ballerinas and deposed oil sheikhs. But Dutschke is a socialist and is given two weeks' notice to pack his bags and leave Britain with his wife and children.

Dutschke, a former leading German student leader, was shot and seriously wounded in 1968 by a fanatical Hitler-admirer. He came to Britain as this was the only country which could offer adequate medical treatment for his grave condition.

He is still not fit. He has to take anti-epileptic pills and suffers from half-vision and speech difficulties from the effects of two bullets in the head.

He is at present living at Clare Hall, Cambridge, where he was offered a three-year graduate research course.

#### CONDITION

The Labour government, marginally less illiberal than its Tory successors, allowed Dutschke to stay in Britain on the condition that he refrained from any political activity.

Now Tory Home Secretary Reginald Maudling has ruled that Dutschke must go — and his reasons are solely political. In reply to a letter of protest from Labour MP Michael Foot, Maudling says:—

'Jim [Callaghan] made it a condition of his admission that he should refrain from political activities and I should certainly not be prepared to withdraw any such conditions. But I frankly do not believe that it is a satisfactory condition to make in any but the most exceptional circumstances.

'I think it is wrong in principle that people who come to this country should do so on the basis that they refrain from any activities which are lawful for the ordinary citizen. Nor do I think in practice that such a condition could be enforced.

'I am afraid therefore that I cannot agree that Mr Dutschke should now continue to reside in this country as a student.'

#### OUTRAGEOUS

In other words, Maudling thinks visitors to Britain should be allowed to take part in politics — but not Rudi Dutschke! He is an 'exceptional circumstance' — a socialist.

Maudling is well aware that Dutschke has taken no part in politics since his stay here. In a statement on Wednesday he explained that he intended to devote himself to his studies.

He stressed that he had not abandoned his political convictions but said: 'Political activity in this country is for the people of the country and not for an outsider'.



RUDI DUTSCHKE  
'Exceptional circumstances'

Maudling's outrageous expulsion order has been condemned by Cambridge academics, Labour MPs and even The Times newspaper. The labour movement must make its voice heard.

Flood the Home Office with strongly-worded protests. Be ready to join any protest actions in the next few weeks.

If the expulsion is carried out it will be a powerful shot in the arm for the Tories. They will be encouraged to take tough action against trade unionists, socialists and all who oppose their anti-working class policies.

The old trade union principle 'An injury to one is an injury to all' has implications beyond the boundaries of one country.

Rudi Dutschke is our comrade. HE MUST NOT GO!

DUTSCHKE  
MUST  
STAY!

Assemble  
Charing X  
embankment  
3pm Sunday  
27 September  
March to  
Home Office

Guerrillas spotlight plight of hijacked Arabs see page 5

As miners get ready for a big pay battle, a militant describes pit conditions

# Fewer jobs — but danger and sickness on the increase

FRED HIGGINS is in his early 40s and has been a miner for most of his life, punctuated by service in the Merchant Navy and work in the catering industry. Until a year ago he was secretary of the local Communist Party in Bentley, Doncaster. He left the party after becoming increasingly dissatisfied with its tendency to place greater emphasis on electoral politics rather than the industrial struggle. He is interviewed by John Charlton.

What are the main problems facing the British miner today?

Firstly, job security. Even though the major run of pit closures is probably exhausted, there is a well-justified fear that fewer jobs will be available at the surviving pits.

Even though there is currently a shortage of labour in some areas this will gradually be eliminated by increased mechanisation and by a more intensive use of labour.

Then wages. Increased mechanisation has certainly brought with it a slowing down of wage increases for all categories of miners.

## Ruinous shifts

The faceworker for example now earns £26 15s before stoppages. It will surprise workers in nearly every other industry to learn that a very large number of faceworkers earned as much as that 10 years ago.

If the rate of increase had merely kept pace with national average rate of increase for all industrial workers, the man at the face would be now on about £38 a week. Of course, surface and workshop workers have fared even worse over the period, the surface man earning only £15 and the workshop man only £15 to £18.

Shift work has intensified, from two shifts in the 1950s and three in the early 60s to four at present. This is ruinous to health, social life and trade union organisation.



FRED HIGGINS  
Alarm clocks are obsolete

Increased mechanisation has also brought a rise in 'minor' accidents—loss of fingers, toes, lacerations of arms, etc., and the larger volume of fine dust it creates has raised the incidence of chest diseases—whilst lowering the age at which they become noticeable.

One of my mates says, 'You don't need an alarm clock in Scawthorpe. At half past five every morning the coughing starts!'

The NCB are very cagey about publishing these figures—which proves they aren't falling! All you can get out of the X-ray team which comes round every three years is, 'No appreciable change since last time, Mr Higgins.'

How far do you think the deterioration has been brought about by the swing to productivity bargaining?

It is a bit of a liberty to call it a bargain! For one side in the so-called bargain have got nowt.

Leaving that aside though, I have no doubt that productivity deals have been a very clever strategy sold by the National Coal Board and bought without question by the National Union of Mineworkers for increasing output per

man shift at the expense of wages, work intensity, job prospects, safety health and, most important of all for the future, control by workers on the job.

Can you be more specific about the ways in which the productivity deal has assisted the gaffer?

Well, of course on wages the productivity deal abolished piece work. This got rid of pit bottom negotiations and the pace setters—pits which by aggressive local bargaining pushed wages up and up, thereby acting as an example to nearby pits or other areas.

It also turned the checker (equivalent of shop steward) into a supervisor, pure and simple. Previously elected by his mates to negotiate on price, he is now appointed by management and is responsible for handing out the day's tasks.

(Some pits have succeeded in holding off the management in this area, a fact which needs publicity—JC)

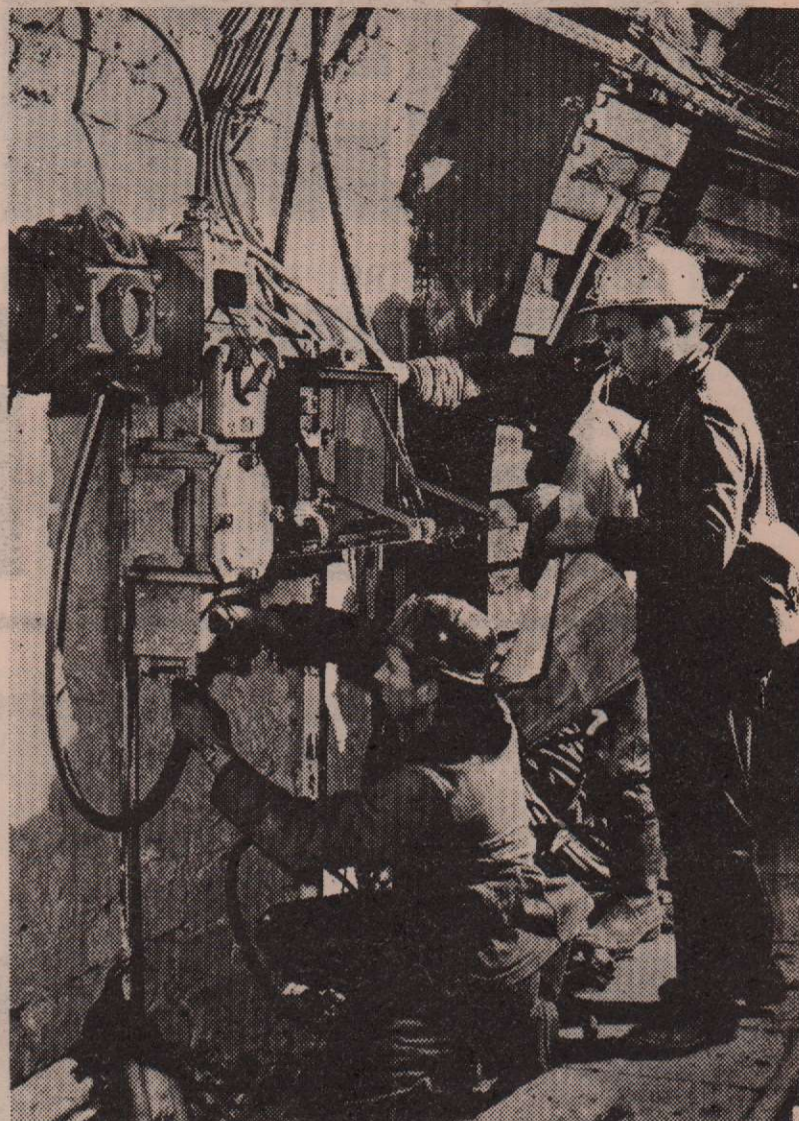
## Pushed around

Supervision has increased a great deal—trebled on the face, and this results in a bloke being pushed around more. They can always find him a job—even when machines break down.

Then the four-shift system also came in with the day wage, although it was not officially part of the package.

What role has the NUM played in these developments?

Most rank and file miners now look at the union as an extension of the NCB. It has, in the main,



Mechanisation: no improvements for miners

been completely won over to the Board's point of view.

If the boss says there is no money in the kitty, in resisting pressure from the rank and file, the NUM leadership, say 'You've got to face up to it lads, there's no money in the kitty'.

One trouble is that there are too many rewards available for good behaviour—seats on the NCB, the area boards, junior management, commissions etc. At local level the branches have practically disappeared. Sometimes three or four months go by without a meeting and at pit level the branch plays no part at all.

You paint a pretty black picture. Is there any way the situation can be improved?

My goodness yes! I'm not pessimistic. We've got to link together, the various rank and file discussion groups which exist in different parts of the country into a national Rank and File Mineworkers' group.

The idea is that local militants should get together and hold discussions regardless of the branch they belong to. They need to draw up a programme which can then be argued for in the NUM branch.

They would also need a paper, in which experience could be exchanged and in which the bosses' strategy could be discussed. We have already made a start in Doncaster and hope to meet inter-

ested people from other areas in the near future.

From chatting to a number of local miners recently I am sure the idea could soon catch on nationally.

What sort of demands do you think a Rank and File Mineworkers group should put forward?

The first principle is that the group must arrive at its own policy as a result of discussions. However my own ideas would be something like this:

## Less control

We would want straightforward, across-the-board pay increases without productivity strings, because the strings mean less job opportunities, more intensive work and less control for the workers.

The six hour day, first mooted in 1919, needs to be taken seriously in all negotiations and so should the four day week and four weeks' paid holiday.

Furthermore all negotiations should be subjected to rank and file approval through mass meetings at which the pros and cons can be properly debated.

Obviously some of these demands would be seen as unrealistic by some miners. Clearly they would have to be argued for from the point of view that people work to live not live to work.

# Socialist Worker

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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.

## LIVELY DEBATES AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

THE INTERNATIONAL conference, called jointly by IS in Britain, the International Socialists of the United States and the French paper *Lutte Ouvriere*, which was recently announced in *Socialist Worker*, has now taken place.

Besides the three sponsoring organisations, there were also delegates and observers from *Avanguardia Operaia* and *Potere Operaio* (Italy), *Accion Comunista* (Spain), the National Caucus of Labor Committees (USA) and Peoples Democracy (Ireland), as well as individuals from Denmark, the USA and the West Indies. Apologies were received from the Socialist Workers' Group of Germany and the League for a Workers' Republic (Ireland).

The main areas of discussion were the prospects for revolutionary socialists in the Western capitalist countries, the Eastern bloc, and the underdeveloped countries, the problems of building revolutionary parties and the possibilities of international co-operation.

There was general agreement among those present that socialism can be created only by the conscious action of the working class. However, when it came to the specific problems of analysing what is going on in the Eastern bloc and the underdeveloped countries, important differences emerged and there was a lively discussion.

Similarly, in the debates on strategy for revolutionary socialists, there was general agreement that the main emphasis must be put on participation in working-class struggles. However, comrades from different countries had varying views on the relation of this work to activity among students, anti-imperialist movements, etc.

Therefore some of the most valuable sections of the conference were those which heard reports on the situation in different countries—the recent strike waves in Italy; productivity bargaining in Britain; the Workers' Commissions in Spain; repression against militants in the North of Ireland; anti-trade union laws in Denmark; the situation in the French trade unions; the black and women's liberation movements in the USA.

While participants were agreed that no international organisation is at present in a position to lay down a line for groups in different countries, they felt it was vital that we learn from each others experience.

The conference did not pass any pretentious resolutions or theses, but proposals were made which, it is hoped, will lead to further meetings, to discussions on how to assist workers in international combines and possibly to some form of international publication.

We hope to publish a more detailed account of the conference at a later date.

# Big Four car bosses

Last week John Setters explained the economic background to the present crisis in the motor industry. He showed how the recent attacks on militancy were a smokescreen for the real assault from the employers on car workers' wages and conditions.

**THE MAIN PLANKS** of the employers' offensive against car workers are: productivity deals, rationalisation, redundancies, anti-trade union legislation and restrictions on the right to strike.

Three of the 'Big Four' motor manufacturers now operate Measured Day Work in their plants. They are Ford, Vauxhall and Chrysler (formerly Rootes).

Measured Day Work is a payments system which pays a daily wage in return for a measured amount of work.

## Secret report

The employers gain tremendous advantages from MDW. Wages are held down under this system and the speed of production is increased.

The 'mutuality' clause that exists under piecework is abolished.\*

The effects of MDW can be understood by studying the secret report that was published by the Coventry and District Engineering Employers Association in 1968 called 'Wage Drift, Work Measurement and systems of Payment'.

This report showed that between 1957 and 1967 hourly earnings for piecework motor workers rose from 7s 11½d to 14s 5d. For MDW workers the comparable figures were only 6s 6d to 9s 6d.

In other words, the piecework system with its 'mutuality' clause and continual negotiations about prices caused wages to rise at more than double the pace than under MDW.

## Speed-up

It was these statistics which persuaded the authors of the report to recommend the introduction of MDW and the elimination of piecework. Since then Chrysler have succeeded in doing just that and British Leyland are trying constantly to get rid of piecework.

MDW not only aims at holding down wages. It is concerned as well

\*'Mutuality' means that any new pay rate or change in work practice must be agreed by management and the workers' representatives.

# out to smash power on the shop floor

## CRISIS IN MOTORS: 2

A four-part series by John Setters

with speeding up production. At Ford no negotiations are allowed on the speed of the track.

In 1968 a dispute occurred at the Chrysler factory in Linwood when the company wanted to introduce MDW. The government set up a Court of Inquiry into the strike and the following remarks are from its report:

'The second main point at issue was the question of mutuality. The AEF insisted that standards established by work study must be mutually accepted and agreed... The company, on the contrary, could not accept that standards established by work study should be the subject of shop floor bargaining.'

In its final verdict the Court of Inquiry supported the company and said:

'Long and abrasive arguments over each new standard are not compatible with the successful operation of a Measured Day Work scheme.'

The whole purpose of MDW is to hold down wages, speed-up production and smash the power of the shop

stewards. The Coventry Employers were quite clear about this. They admitted in their report that workers and stewards would probably oppose MDW and stated:

'In the ultimate, management has to decide whether or not they are prepared to assume control, and having so decided, to impress firmly on the employees and their shop stewards their intention to do so.'

The motor owners want to increase discipline and the Coventry Report explained how valuable MDW would be:

## Important weapon

'With the change from piecework it should be possible for the supervisor to wrest a considerable amount of the initiative from the shop steward.'

Productivity deals are also a very important weapon in the employers'



Badge on a line worker's tool bag at Ford during the battle for parity with Midlands' car rates. Ford has been a pacesetter for MDW.

offensive. These can take many forms, such as job evaluation, method and work study, mobility of labour and long term contracts.

One recent important example of the latter is that of Joseph Lucas Ltd, a vital component manufacturer. In June and July a four week strike of workers at the firm's Birmingham diecasting factory took place.

It was finally settled for a £4 a week increase. Even though they were forced to give the rise by the militancy of the 650 strikers, the Lucas management succeeded in slipping in a clause to the effect that no further pay increase would be given for 12 months.

The settlement was applied to all Lucas production workers and has recently been offered to the staff trade unions.

The purpose of this strategy is clear. If the Lucas workers cannot receive a pay increase until July 1971 then a big wages battle will take place in that month.

When this happens the company will have a number of advantages.

The fight will:

1. Affect all workers — manual and staff — thereby resulting in only one dispute instead of the many which take place at present.
2. Take place at the summer holiday time.
3. Occur when the demand for new motors is reduced owing to would-be buyers waiting for new car registrations and
4. Have given the firm 12 months in which to prepare for a strike by accumulating stocks.

## First plank

The employers are reluctant to openly force a showdown with the militant car workers. That is why they use, as the first plank of their offensive, MDW and productivity deals.

This is a long-term strategy aimed at slowly but surely weakening and finally smashing the workshop organisation.

All car workers must oppose this offensive.

## NEXT WEEK: STRIKES UNDER ATTACK

# GRAPE PICKERS WIN UNION FIGHT

**FIVE YEARS** after the Delano farm workers in California first struck the grape fields, they have returned to sign union contracts with all the growers of Delano.

The contracts, together with those signed in other parts of the state, mean that some 80 per cent of the California table grapes are now picked by union labour of the United Farm Workers Organising Committee.



CESAR CHAVEZ  
Grape pickers' leader

It brought them allies from across the border. Appeals could be made to Mexican nationals who were recruited to come across the border by the growers and work for wages which to them represented far greater wages than they could earn in Mexico. In the name of La Raza these workers walked out of the fields when the union set up picket lines.

When growers in the Coachella Valley recruited Anglo youths to work in their fields from as far away as Arizona, the union in the name of La Causa was able to get thousands of Chicano youths and students to join the farm workers in picketing, rallies and in general terrifying the growers with their brown berets and militancy. A worker-student alliance was put together in this manner.

The strike-boycott was thus a labour struggle, a civil rights struggle, a Chicano movement for self-determination and drew its power from all.

The new contracts mean that there are now tens of thousands of farm workers who have won a union. But nationwide there are some half million of the most exploited workers still unorganised—the migrant farm workers.

The grapes in California are a beginning, and it is wonderful to be able to eat a sweet union grape, but there is a long way to go.

Reprinted from News and Letters, an American socialist paper.

In every major industry the question of productivity deals is of central importance. The recent dock strike over the fight for a basic wage of £20 per week was fundamentally connected to the employers' determination to introduce the Devlin productivity proposals. In strike after strike workers are struggling against productivity deals. At GKN Sankey, Ottermill and Dunlop the central issues of these disputes have been productivity. In the power industry and the mines the employers' attack has been through the threat of productivity dealing.

Tony Cliff's book is of absolute importance to every militant. Order copies now for your union branch and shop stewards' committee.

# The Employers' Offensive

Productivity Deals and how to fight them by TONY CLIFF

6s a copy plus postage. 12 copies or more 4s6d each post free.

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# BLACK IN WHITE BRITAIN

## 3 WEST INDIANS FACE INSULTS AND ATTACKS

**PHIL:** The attitude of the people here is very unfriendly compared with Barbados. There, everyone says 'Hello' to one another. Here you take a blank look as something personal, but you soon come to realise that the unfriendliness is general in Britain.

It's your first let down. Then, for the first time, you realise you're black.

In my first week with London Transport as a train guard I was on the platform at White City. The guard on a train just about to leave closed the doors too quickly.

An old lady who'd nearly been caught in them turned to me and said, 'You black bastard'. I had nothing to do with it. I wasn't even on the train! But none of my five white friends stuck up for me. **Trevor:** I've been in this country for nine years. Four years ago I had to give up my first job.

### Made hell for me

It was only after I was re-employed that I found out my new boss was a member of the fascist National Front. He said that as he paid taxes he considered it his duty to get me out of the country.

He made hell for me. He tried to make me leave the job he had given me by breaking my morale.

I was harassed continually. All day he would insult black people, wearing me down. He really enjoyed it. In the end I had to leave.

**Dave:** Yes, and then there is another type of white man. They always start a conversation by saying: 'I'm not against black people, BUT...', or 'You're alright Dave, BUT it's these others...'

**Trevor:** A bloke at work said the other day 'I like you, but I have never liked other black people since I saw them spitting and picking their noses. Don't whites do these things?' **Dave:** This feller at work will go into a long argument about repatriation. Talking personally he treats you man to man, but as a group he rejects coloured people.

I've said to him 'Is this the way you talk about me when my back is turned?' but he doesn't answer.

**Trevor:** Once at work a white worker asked me where I came from. I told him - Trinidad. 'Oh', he replied, 'I say, Trinidad, isn't that one of our colonies off of Virginia?'

**Phil:** Many workers have to travel on trains. But when white men get on a train and see a black woman sitting, they don't treat her as another person like themselves.

On their faces you can see they are thinking, 'Get up and give me the seat'. This happened to my wife. She was eight months pregnant.

She was about to sit down when a white man pushed my wife out of the way. Another black man stood up for my wife.

**Trevor:** At Forest Gate (East London) I saw a little West Indian girl, about six years old, waiting to cross the High Road at the zebra crossing.

There was a policeman standing on the kerb next to her. The little girl held up her hand to take hold of the policeman's hand in order to cross safely.

He took his hand away, folded his arms, and watched the little girl cross the busy road unaided.

### Nobody cares

**Dave:** The trouble with whites is they don't believe black people are capable of running their own lives. They don't even know we are better at it than them.

Nobody at home in Trinidad would sit down to a meal without first making sure that all his relations, distant relations, had food. Here that is not so.

**Phil:** Yes, over here nobody cares for their relations when they get beyond a certain age. Nobody is sensitive to others' feelings.

**Trevor:** Round about last year I had a lot of trouble from my neighbour. There was a woman and her two daughters who must have been sick in the head.

They used to throw rocks at my friends' cars if they happened to park outside their house. They even got the police round, who told me to move the cars away. I went to a lawyer who told me she had no right to move my friends' cars.

One day the whole affair came to a head. I was burning some rubbish in the garden.

For that she called the police. I told them I was a physical scientist and knew what I was doing when I lit a fire. They ignored me. I decid-

### Talking to LIONEL SIMS

ed to go to the Race Relations Board.

When I got there the next day I walked into this entrance room where some white people were sitting at a desk. They told me to sit down and wait awhile as they were busy.

They were all reading newspapers. Half an hour went by when I was shown into another room, where there was another white man sitting behind another desk.

I started to tell him my story, and when I got to the bit about the police he cut me short, stood up, and said that it was 'most fortunate that they had a police inspector on the Race Relations Board'.

He then walked out of the room and left me there for three quarters of an hour. Then another man walked in. He was obviously a policeman although he had no uniform on. He said he had a conference soon and was very busy.

### Blah, blah, blah

I started the story about my neighbour's conduct. I pointed out that my wife was pregnant and was worried by the police coming to the house three times a day.

As soon as I mentioned police he didn't bother to listen. He just went on, 'blah, blah, blah, for half an hour. Then he got up and went to his conference, leaving me for somebody else.

I waited for 20 minutes and then walked out. That's your Race Relations Board.

**Trevor:** We get it on every front. Not only in word dropping, but in police intimidation and victimisation at work.

It's getting much worse since Powell came on the scene. Even the black people who have been asleep for years now realise this.

**Dave:** It's very difficult to get over to the working people the sort of

Strangers to a cold climate: immigrants face rudeness, hostility and crude racialism

harassment that black people experience. Do they really feel the pressure, the resentment that black people face every day?

A revolution is going to come because of working conditions and Big Brother. The white man is afraid of losing his high standard of living.

But the way things are going this is going to happen anyway. And then there is the police, Big Brother, the people with the dossiers on other people.

Who will they put the blame on? The Irish, the Jews? No, it will be the black man.

The white workers must realise

what we go through. They must realise how the population is divided by the politicians, so that they can rule over us.

White people will have to realise it to free themselves. If not then we'll be like the Czechs, who are tied up in bundles by the big boys in Russia.



# THOSE BLOODY MINDED TORIES

by JIM KINCAID

**DRACULA RIDES AGAIN.** The Tory government is considering a plan to commercialise the blood transfusion service.

Two Conservative economists have put forward proposals that the blood used in the Health Service should be bought from donors and sold to the hospitals, using it.

The details are in a pamphlet called *The Price of Blood* issued by the Institute of Economic Affairs. This organisation is mainly financed by big business.

It employs professional economists to write learned propaganda against the welfare state and in favour of the so-called 'free' market of capitalism. The Institute is dedicated to the expansion of profit-making private enterprise into areas at present covered by social services such as education, national insurance and health.

Hence the proposal to denationalise the transfusion service and set up a trading system for buying and selling human blood.

In the United States, about 20 per cent of the blood used in transfusion is obtained by paying donors and the system is notorious for racketeering. There is an extensive trade in bootlegged blood.

People in need of a few dollars hawk themselves round the hospitals, tell lies about their medical histories and are encouraged to destroy their health by being bled too frequently.

The press recently carried reports of a man in America with an exceptionally rare blood group who auctioned himself off to the highest

of a series of commercial bidders. The system discourages voluntary donors and in the States there is a desperate shortage of necessary blood in the big cities.

The blood transfusion service in Britain is not perfect and occasionally less urgent operations have to be postponed for lack of blood. But considering the general mess the Health Service is in, the blood service is one of the least of its problems.

### HATRED

New surgical techniques have greatly increased the amount of blood required by the Health Service. For example, open heart operations, in which the heart is temporarily stopped, may need up to 20 pints of blood per patient.

However each year more donors come forward, and the number has now risen to well over a million a year. Since the Health Service started in 1948, the amount of blood supplied by donors has tripled.

In view of all this, why on earth should anyone propose to commercialise the British system? Basically because of a doctrinaire hatred for any social service in which people do not pay directly, as consumers, for what they need. The authors of *The Price of Blood* are convinced that any service works better when the profit motive is introduced.

They claim that British hospitals

waste 20 per cent of the blood they get and that wastage would be reduced by making hospitals pay for the blood they use to top up the patients. The evidence quoted for 20 per cent wastage is pretty thin and includes, for example, an anecdote about blood getting spoiled in a particular hospital because the night nurse was keeping ice cream in the refrigerated blood store.

Fresh blood, as any vampire will tell you, only stays usable for 21 days, so some wastage is quite unavoidable.

The pamphlet also expresses concern that the donor system means some blood comes from socially unrespectable sources. A reader's letter from the *Daily Telegraph* is quoted in support.

It describes a transfusion unit visiting Wormwood Scrubs, 'to find a brilliantly organised stream of volunteers—murderers, rapists, common, fraudulent company promoters'.

The Institute of Economic Affairs is obviously not aware that science has long since exploded the old myth that social characteristics are carried in the blood stream. The visit of the blood transfusion unit is one of the few cheerful parts of the routine in Britain's prisons and borstals.

After all, it's not every day you get an hour off work, a cup of tea and a biscuit, and—if the screw isn't looking—the chance to faint into the arms of a dolly nurse.

Note the tone of smug confidence in the 'fairness' of British justice. The assumption is that the prisons are full of an inferior species of human being whose blood might contaminate the virtuous company promoters, landlords, speculators and

economists whose activities are protected by the present legal system.

The commercialising of blood will probably not be high priority for the new Tory government. But the proposal is worth noting because the attitudes behind it are widely shared within the Conservative Party.

So long as the Tories are in power, the social services will be under attack. The Tory contempt for the whole idea of a welfare state is as clearly expressed in *The Price of Blood* as anywhere else. Many blood donors are people without much money they can share with others, but are willing to offer a little blood instead. But there is no room for generosity in the arid world of the market economist:

### 'HEALTHY'

'It is criminally irresponsible to permit the supply of blood to be dependent upon so fickle a source as the public spiritedness of a section of society... Only healthy money seeking on the part of suppliers and healthy profit seeking by competitive collection and distribution agencies... will ensure the efficient supply of enough blood in the best condition demanded by users, evidenced by what they pay.'

Here in full bloom is the classic Tory view of human society. Rooted in greed. Devaluing anything that can't be bought and sold. Terrified to admit even the possibility of any other way of organising human relationships, except via the cash nexus.

It is a nutshell summing up of the kind of values which socialists are fighting to destroy once and for all.

# GUERRILLAS SPOTLIGHT PLIGHT OF HIJACKED ARABS



**THE TORY PRESS** has been filled with outrage at the 'terrorism' of the brave Palestinians who hijacked three aeroplanes and their passengers as hostages for the release of some of the thousands now rotting in Israeli jails.

But the press had nothing to say about the background to the situation: the 'hijacking' by the Zionists of a whole country, Palestine, and the driving out of its people at gunpoint. As the Israelis drag in another 400 prisoners to add to the 3000 Arabs they already hold for the crime of wanting their country back, King Hussein in Jordan gets ready to finish off the resistance of the people Israel made homeless.

All the Arab governments, America, Russia and Israel, support him in this.

The reason is simple. The Middle East is kept poor and drained of its fabulous riches by a handful of massive Western oil monopolies. They prop up any local regime, however rotten, as long as it protects their profits.

## Racial system

The same Western powers stand behind Israel and help it maintain its 'Jews only' racial system at the expense of Palestine's original inhabitants.

Since the six-day war of June 1967 more and more Palestinians are coming to understand that their struggle to return to a free Palestine can only succeed if they carry on the struggle themselves instead of relying on the regular Arab armies.

The Arab governments are propped up by the same backers as the Zionists. They cannot offer any-

## by Stephen Marks

thing worth fighting for to the ordinary Arab workers and peasants and cover up this fact with nationalist language.

The growing strength of the guerrillas has forced the Arab governments to take refuge in the American and Russian-backed 'Rogers peace plan'. This would set up a so-called 'Palestinian state' in a small part of Palestine and leave the rest of the Palestinians without a country.

To get this plan through, Jordan's King Hussein has to eliminate first the threat of the guerrillas. That is why the King's troops are surrounding Amman and the refugee camps and getting ready for a final showdown.

Because the guerrillas' independent struggle raises the threat of revolution not only in Palestine against Zionism but against every regime in the Middle East, Hussein is supported by all the Arab govern-

ments and by America and Russia.

The fight against Zionism cannot be separated from the class struggle of the workers and peasants in the Arab countries against their own exploiters. But El Fatah, the main guerrilla organisation, claims that it can and supports the Arab regimes.

Whenever the King's army attacks the guerrillas, Fatah takes the initiative in patching up a new 'agreement' to co-operate in enforcing 'law and order'. The King's troops then break the agreement and kill a few more guerrillas while they tighten their grip around the camps where the refugees rot in misery.

## Militant action

Other groups, like the Popular Front, whose members hijacked the aircraft to draw attention to the growing crisis, see the need for more militant action. But they do not go beyond the purely nationalist politics of El Fatah.

Others in the Democratic Front see the need for a socialist programme. In the recent fighting they called for the arming of the people

and the election of popular councils in the refugee camps and in the workers' quarters of Amman.

They also point out that if the King's troops attempt to move in for a quick kill, the guerrillas' only hope would be to call for the overthrow of Hussein. This could make it likely that the conscripts in the King's army would refuse to obey their officers.

As the situation in Jordan approaches a crisis, it is not impossible that American troops could be used to help Hussein smash the Palestinians and help keep the Middle East safe for the oil companies and imperialism.

While Jack Jones and Vic Feather added their voices at the TUC congress to the howls of the Tory press on the question of the 'hijackers', socialists must prepare for solidarity with imperialism's victims.

The hijackers seized the planes to draw attention to the sufferings and struggles of their people. Their cry must not go unanswered.

## LETTERS

### Support Carrington

AS A relatively new reader of your paper I would like to say that so far I have felt nothing but admiration for the way in which you try to advise and enlighten both laymen and confirmed socialists in an effort to improve the conditions of all who are regarded as working class.

I feel that it is only through organisations such as your paper that we can have at least the thin end of the wedge into a society in which we face an uphill struggle if we are to obtain a fair deal or standard of living for our fellow workers.

I would like to ask you to publicise the struggle of the 750 workers at the Shell Carrington strike in order to help not only the strikers but countless others to ensure a better standard of social justice. - IAN BROWN, EPTU striker, Salford 6. (see back page)

### Unfair to Atkinson

AS A REGULAR reader I protest against the remarks in Cottons Column (12 September) about Norman Atkinson MP. It is symptomatic of the usual level of sectarian politics.

To take hold of views put forward and criticise is one thing but to impute lack of principle or courage is quite another, especially when, as in this case, it is incorrect.

Two factors defeated In Place of Strife: the swelling opposition in the whole labour movement and the fact that people like Norman Atkinson, with determination, declared they would not vote for it in parliament. - SID BIDWELL, (Labour MP for Southall), House of Commons, SW1.

# COTTONS COLUMN

REMEMBER the World Cup? At long last they're getting round to adding up all the money that was raked in.

A Mexican named Emilio Azcaraga Jnr looks like taking the biggest slice of the profits - £2 million, not bad for a competition which lasts only three weeks.

Emilio isn't a footballer. He just happens to own the Aztec Stadium and Telesistema Mexicana, who bought exclusive rights for televising the cup.

Emilio is so fat he can hardly walk. And he is such a football lover that he spent the three weeks of the cup sailing the Atlantic in his luxury yacht.

## Cheque mate

MILLIONAIRE Aristotle Onassis, believed to be the major shareholder in Mrs Jacqueline Kennedy, recently had a little villa knocked up in the Greek countryside.

To his horror, Aristotle found there wasn't a bank anywhere near to keep his millions in. Quick as a flash, he went straight out and bought a majority holding in a bank chain, called a board meeting and had them build a nice new bank right out in the wilderness.

## Sparks fly

THREE YEARS ago the Electricians Union rammed through a grading scheme for electricians in the construction industry which involved a new and obnoxious principle. Upgrading was to depend upon the passing of the City and Guilds examinations: if an apprentice failed to obtain his A certificate by the age of 21 he was graded as a labourer, despite his five years apprenticeship.

The grade of Approved Electrician, which meant a rise of over £2 a week, required a B certificate, and with a C certificate an apprentice could be classed as a Technician and receive £6 a week more than the rate for Electricians.

The scheme was hailed as a breakthrough by the right wing union leadership and the employers' association. They claimed it was supposed to introduce an 'objective' system of promotion based on skill. Just how objective the examination system on which it is all based can be clearly revealed in this year's results for the City and Guilds B certificate.

Suddenly the national pass rate



'My cigar's gone out - go and buy up Bryant and May'

has been slashed from over 70 per cent to 40 per cent. In one college, the largest in the North East, the pass rate is down from over 80 per cent to 35 per cent.

The depression in the construction industry has hit the electrical contracting firms particularly hard. They are desperately looking for ways to cut costs to maintain their fading profits in the cut-throat competition which characterises the industry. It is embarrassing for them to find so many lads coming out of the labour market with B certificates able to command the higher Approved Electricians' rate of pay. So they have decided to reduce the supply by fiddling the examination standards.

The chief examiner of the City and Guilds in this subject is also secretary of the electrical contracting employers association.

BRITISH RAIL organised a two-week course in Swansea to impress on their employees just how beneficial productivity deals are. When the lecturer arrived for the first session he found that every man on the course was armed with a copy of Tony Cliff's book *The Employers' Offensive*.

The course was abandoned after two days. . .

## Jacked up

BRIGHTON International Socialists were selling Cliff's best-seller (*The Forever Amber of the revolutionary movement*) at the TUC last week. Among the illustrious customers was Jack Jones, gen sec of the Transport Union.

Looking to left and right in case he was spotted and egged on by his lady wife, Jack shelled out six bob. So now he's armed for the struggle

and TGWU members can expect a tough approach to prod deals from their leaders from now on.

## Welfare hate

THE ROAD to jail is paved with voluntary redundancies, an Aberdeen IS member was warned by his friendly Social Security man last week.

The comrade, a married man and newly a dad, had spent the last three months washing, polishing and driving for a car-hire firm. No holes were worn in his pockets by his wages, £10 for 40 hours, and five bob an hour for all overtime—Sunday nights included. Last week, his zeal for subsidising the owner's £29,000 country villa up Royal Deeside gone,

he walked out.

Enter, five days later, the Social Security man. Why did you leave the job? Dissatisfied with the wage, replies our hero. The Ministry man's pen visibly stiffens with indignation in his hand. 'But I must warn you, don't you know you've broken the Ministry's regulations by leaving a good job voluntarily?'

'Now if it happens a second time, my office will send you an official warning, and if a third time, we will have to report you to the Prosecutor-Fiscal, who may charge you with failing to maintain your family. In the meantime, the Ministry blocks all Social Security payments for six weeks to people who become redundant through leaving voluntarily or getting the sack.'

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

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Send to IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

# Socialist Worker

## Brighton - the hot air is lovely

ONE LESSON has long since been learnt by union leaders: militant speeches today win the confidence of the rank and file and make it all the more easy to carry out betrayals tomorrow.

These are difficult times for top union officials. They realise there is a growing feeling of rebellion on the shop floor. They know that, to some extent, they must echo this mood if they are going to preserve their credibility.

by Raymond Challinor

It is essential for them to maintain their authority, not to lose contact with the membership, because otherwise they will not be able to put the brakes on at the crucial moment. Their role is to divert workers' anger into channels harmless to capitalism.

The red-hot rhetoric blown skywards at the Brighton TUC last week was meant to impress workers. But it

also served a second purpose.

Hidden behind the bombast lay a plaintive appeal to the Tory government not to be too tough. They were saying to the Tories: "Don't do anything to make our task of controlling the membership more difficult".

The Knights of the General Council have no desire for a showdown with either big business or the government. For the TUC, which is not a fighting organisation, is unsuited to such a struggle. In 1926 the TUC caved in after only nine days. Now it would not survive a single day.

A timid mouse cannot be changed into a roaring lion. Neither can officials and unions that have for years dampened down militancy suddenly turn round and whip it up.

It is important that we should expose the role of the TUC and show the 'credibility gap', the gulf between what union leaders say and what they do.

### RESPONSIBLE

They talk about unemployment. But when they deplore the figure of 600,000 they do not add that they are partly responsible for it being this size—that they have signed productivity deals which have resulted in large reductions in the labour force.

They do not mention the fact that they sit on government development boards which plan future economic development. These plans almost invariably envisage higher production and less workers — in other words, higher unemployment in the future.

They talk about their members' need for higher wages but when it comes to a concrete case like GKN Sankey, far from fighting the employers, union officials go down to tell the men to return to work. They say that pay increases — some as small as £2 — are all they can hope to get.

When officials of supposedly left unions, such as the AEF and TGWU, bleat the same refrain as the General and Municipal, then the Sankey strikers are perfectly correct to get angry.

These bureaucrats are admitting their own bankruptcy to the Sankey strikers. For if there is any firm that should be slammed for a big wage increase it is GKN.

The company's profits for the past half-year have shot up by a staggering 47 per cent.

Yet union officials say that a miserable £2 is all they can gain for Wellington workers — and then only with productivity strings attached!

### NONSENSE

To let off lightly a firm as affluent as GKN makes nonsense of many of the wage claims now submitted. How can leaders pretend to take their members' claims seriously — some of which are of 20 to 30 per cent — when they are prepared to settle for so much less with a prosperous firm like GKN?

Unions should be placing all their resources behind the Sankey strikers. For if they were to win their demands in full it would set a precedent. It would create a climate favourable for other claims.

But to behave in this way would be to adopt a fighting strategy, one that appears to be as alien to some of the so-called left union leaders as it is to Lord Cooper. They prefer talk to militant action.

In no sphere is this more clear than over the vital question of their attitude to the government's proposed industrial legislation. AEF president Hugh Scanlon told the Brighton Congress that this constituted 'the greatest danger the trade union movement has had to face for the last 50 years'.

These are fine words, accurately describing the position, but they do not answer the vital question: 'What is to be done?' Scanlon gave no hint of how he thought this legislation could be defeated.

### PRESSURE

He definitely made no mention — shudder at the thought — of industrial action. Yet this would be the only effective way.

On numerous occasions industrialists have exerted political pressure through their economic activity. By withdrawing capital from the country, thus producing a balance of payments crisis and a run on the pound, they have prevented Labour governments bringing in even mildly progressive measures.

Now if they can withdraw their capital, why can't we withdraw our labour?

We must rely on our own strength. This can only be increased, not by looking for some saviour up on high, but by creating greater unity and solidarity on the shop floor, forging links with workers in other factories and developing militancy throughout entire industries.

At the same time, since industrial and political problems are intertwined, the militants and the revolutionary socialists must work together. It is the only form of union that can lead to the downfall of capitalism.

# SHELL STRIKERS OUT FOR 8 WEEKS OVER 'STRINGS'

SW Reporter

**MANCHESTER:**— maintenance workers who have been on strike for two months at Shell's Carrington works on Monday attacked vans carrying free food and drink to blacklegs on the site.

Coffee was spilt, tyres let down and sandwiches eaten by the strikers.

Then the strikers raided the works garage where laboratory technicians were doing the maintenance men's work. The lab scabs left after heated discussions.

### DEMAND

The incidents followed a demonstration and picket outside Shell's Manchester headquarters.

The 750 maintenance men on the site are demanding parity with contracted workers on the site, who earn £7-8 more for a 40-hour week.

The strikers have had no straight wage increase since 1965. Small increases since then have all been tied to productivity strings and wages have fallen far behind the rising cost of living.

The strike was caused when the management offered yet another productivity deal in return for the men's call for a straight increase.

Shell has signed productivity deals at all its UK plants. The company is determined not to concede straight wage increases in spite of record profits of £394m in Britain alone.

### FIGHTING

The Carrington maintenance men have taken the lead in fighting attempts by Shell to smash the craft unions and control all its workers through productivity deals.

Strike committee member Ian Brown (Electrician's Union) said this week: 'We appeal for help in this fight. Victory will have repercussions inside and outside the Shell empire.'

At the last mass meeting only five of the 750 strikers voted to accept the bosses' latest offer with strings and return to work. The strike is official.

Donations and messages of support to: J Daintree (Treasurer), 104 Mainwood Rd, Timperley, Cheshire.

### Dave Edwards wins

**COVENTRY:**— Dave Edwards, victimised TGWU convenor at Arden Products, Kenilworth, has been reinstated. Workers came out on strike for five weeks when he was sacked for alleged 'intimidation' of another worker.

Management of the components firm agreed to pay Dave Edwards average piece work earnings—about £25 — while on holiday and during his negotiations for the men at a works conference.

## NOTICES

**RANK AND FILE TEACHER:** day school on 'Restructuring and democracy' Spkrs Eric Porter and Bill Moroney. Sat 26 September, 10-5, Sarah Siddons school, North Wharf Rd, London W2 — Edgware tube, walk under flyover. Everyone welcome.

**CLAIMANTS' UNION:** volunteer workers and organisers needed in all parts of country. Details: Joe Kenyon, 120 Standhill Cres., New Lodge, Barnsley, Yorks.

**FIGHT THE TORIES:** Tottenham IS public meeting. Spkrs: Roger Protz (ed.SW), CP and local trade unionists. Thurs 24 Sept, 8pm, Red Lion pub, High Rd N17.

**PICKET** fishing firms this Saturday in solidarity with Lough Neagh fishermen. Monument station 10am.

**TRADE UNION** race relations conference Sun 11 Oct, NUFTO Hall, Jockeys Fields WC1, 11am. Details: Winston Pinder, 8 Charlton Rd, Kenton, Middx.

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## Engineers share strike pay with sparks

**SWANSEA:**— Strong support continues for the 250 maintenance men on strike for six weeks at the Alcoa metal works in Waunarlwydd. The strike was caused by the management's refusal to honour an agreement to pay mates 80 per cent of craftsmen's rates.

The strike has been made official by the Engineering Union. Militants have suggested that the AEF should impose a complete overtime ban throughout the district.

The firm is determined to resist the small pay increase in order to push ahead with a new productivity deal for the factory. AEF members are receiving strike pay and are sharing the money with electricians whose union has yet to act.

Messages and donations to: Bro H.W. Jenvey, 55 Mynydd-Newydd Rd, Caereithin, Swansea.

**GLASGOW:** Three Scottish militants have been expelled from the Electricians and Plumbers' Union. The executive claimed they had taken part in a demonstration against the Scottish Joint Industry Board — a union-management set-up for grading and disciplining the work force in the contracting industry.

The three men are: Bill Milligan, electrician's convenor at British Rail, Sam Gilmore, another electrician and chairman of the shop stewards' committee at Fairfield's ship-

yard on the Clyde and Bill Armstrong a plumber on the BP site at Grangemouth.

The expulsions indicate that the right wing leadership of the EPTU disregarded the mass demonstration in Glasgow two weeks ago in support of the three men. Marchers bearing coffins labelled 'democracy' paraded outside the local union office prior to the disciplinary hearings.

Further militant action seems likely. Rank and file members are enraged by the expulsions and they

## Mersey dockers enter the ring

by Ross Hill

**LIVERPOOL:**— Two big strike meetings were held in the Boxing Stadium last weekend.

10,000 dockers took the ring in a heavyweight contest with the port employers and rejected a productivity offer.

The dockers' meeting was called by the Transport Workers' Union after a challenge from the Stevedores and Dockers (the 'Blue Union') to say where the stewards committee stood on the port employers' offer.

No vote was taken but the unanimous feeling was that the £35, 37 hours, two-shift productivity deal was an insult and the stewards will no longer discuss it. They will now press on with their demands for £60, 20 hours, no shifts and no sackings.

Even this is a modest set of demands. It will still permit full mechanisation and the rapid turn-round of ships.

### Vicious blacklist

The construction workers from Shell and Burmah sites at Ellesmere Port voted to end their nine weeks' strike by 390 votes to 316. Letters for the meeting had been sent out by Shell at the request of the national union officials!

The men were demanding an end to the vicious 'blacklist' operating in the North West, and for 15s an hour without strings. They have settled for 13s6d an hour, plus a phoney fall-back bonus of 2s10d.

The firms have refused to improve on their offer during the last two months even though the oil monopolies clock up more than £30 profit every week from each worker.

A leading steward, who opposed the return to work from the platform, told Socialist Worker after the meeting: 'We should have stayed out. This is a set-back, but it's not a disaster.'

'What it means is that we're going back to the old 'thick and thin system' — thick wage packets in the summer and thin ones in the winter. I wouldn't be too hard on the local officials, but the national ones have sabotaged us all the way. Anyway we've lost a battle, but the war goes on...'

are anxious to make positive demands for the men's reinstatement.

### Police evict firemen

**ESSEX** firemen this week launched an urgent appeal for funds to allow them to carry on a fight for higher pay and better conditions. Suspended firemen have twice been ejected by police from Hadleigh station.

Donations to Terry Segars (FBU), 4 Stagden Cross, Basildon, Essex. Full story next week.

## EPTU expels 3 militants