

Socialist Worker

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MILITANCY WAY TO BEAT UCS SACKINGS

by our Industrial Correspondant

THE TAKE-OVER of the Upper Clyde Shipyard is now in its second week. It is a vital struggle. The Tories have deliberately 'butchered' UCS in order to please their shipbuilding friends and add to the present appalling level of unemployment.

They hope that by acts such as these—together with the backing of the Industrial Relations Act—that wages will be driven down, militancy curbed and the trade unions weakened. It is, therefore, a struggle which affects every trade unionist in Britain.

The Tory proposals in UCS are savage. Two of the four yards are to be closed and at least 6000 workers sacked. It is estimated that more than 10,000 other workers who supply UCS will also become unemployed as a result.

Conference

Unemployment in and around Glasgow is already 10 per cent and if the sackings occur, the figure will increase sharply. It will be, as one shop steward has already said, like 'the return of the horrors of the 1930s'.

On Tuesday a huge conference of shop stewards met and decided to support the UCS workers in their fight against unemployment. They agreed to hold a huge all-Scotland demonstration on 18 August and pledged themselves to give financial aid.

This tremendous movement can save UCS and defeat the Tories. To do so, however, requires a much more militant programme than is being fought for at present.

The current work-in policy has many dangers, as does the continual boasting about productivity. Firstly, the work-in could easily result in people working themselves out of a job, and secondly, it has been 'increased productivity' that has caused previous redundancies in UCS. In 1969 for example 3000 workers were sacked.

It will not be responsibility, detailed agreement, boasts about productivity or pleading for work that will defeat the menace of unemployment.

The only force that can do that is the strength and power of the organised working class. That is why the yards must be occupied and a sit-in strike begun.

The £30 million worth of unfinished ships are a vital bargaining asset for the UCS workers. If the work-in continues and more ships are completed, the value of this asset will decline.

On Friday the first 400 redundancies will be announced. If the work-in continues after this date there will be serious problems.

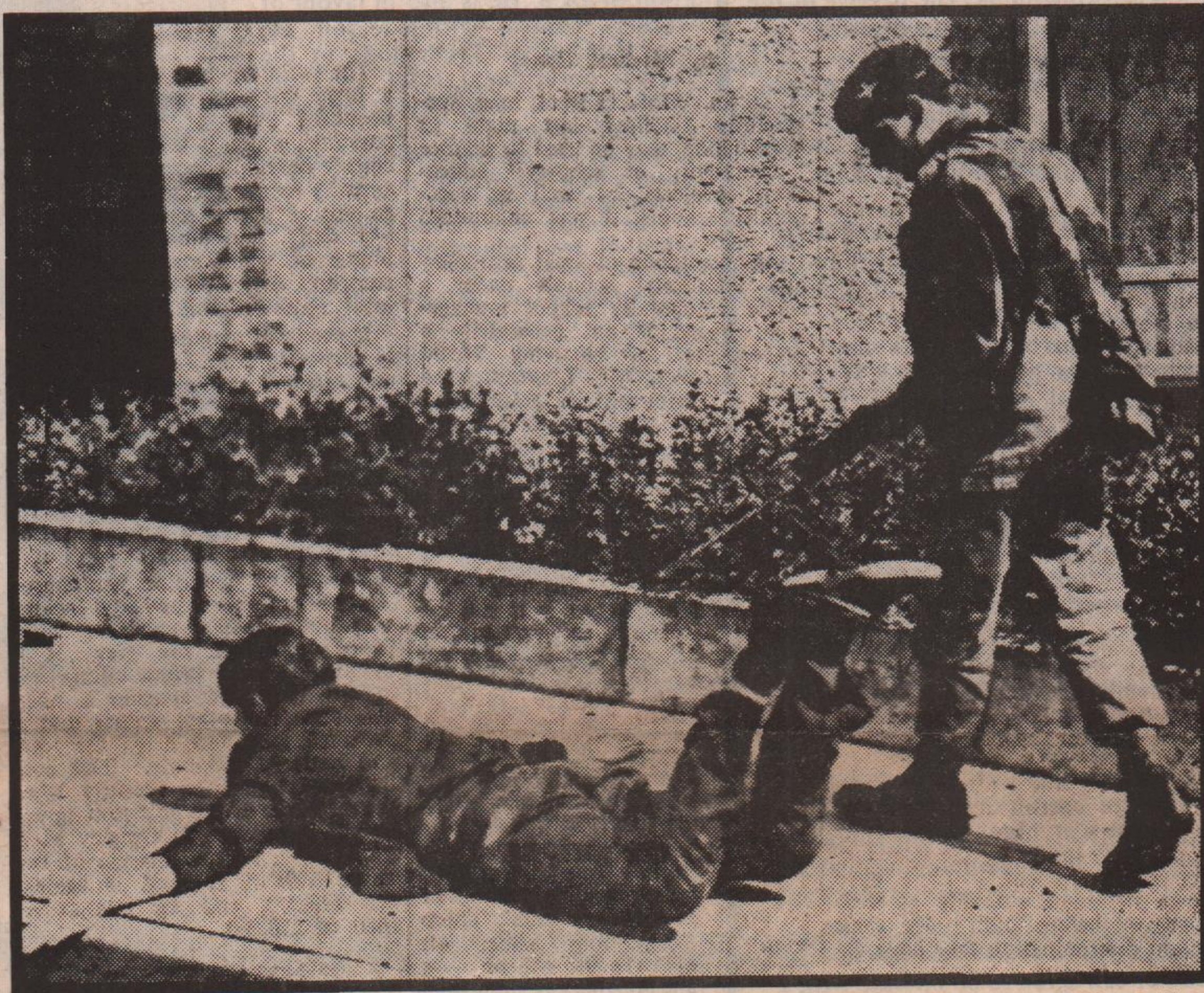
Sit - down

The UCS shop stewards have said that the 400 should refuse to be sacked, report for work as usual and that other workers will pay their wages. But then other workers will be paying the men to work themselves out of jobs. The Tory-appointed liquidator will have his work done for nothing.

This is why a sit-down occupation of the yards is so necessary. It should, of course, be democratically controlled by daily mass meetings. Unfortunately there has been a serious absence of meetings so far.

But no matter how hard the UCS workers fight they can't win alone. The whole labour movement must rally to their support. This means:

1. Financial aid to the UCS fighting fund.
 2. Resolutions of support to UCS and support for 18 August demonstration.
 3. That the Scottish TUC and the British TUC call a one-day general strike in support of the UCS workers and against unemployment.
 4. The occupation of other factories that are threatened with either closure or redundancy. The movement must spread.
 5. The nationalisation of the yards under workers' control with the guarantee of no loss of jobs or lowering of living standards.
- Cash and messages of support to Mr R McKenzie, convenors office, Clydebank division, UCS, Dunbartonshire.



A British soldier threatens a civilian in West Belfast

Support the fight against internment—

MANY readers of Socialist Worker can only have a vague idea of what internment means. Possibly a few are even prepared to accept the argument that nothing else can be done in the extreme circumstances of Northern Ireland. After all, soldiers have been killed, bombings have taken place, property destroyed.

But the Faulkner/Heath alliance are not concerned with the lives of soldiers. They lose more sleep over the loss of property. Soldiers can be replaced at less cost to the system.

AN APPEAL FROM BERNADETTE DEVLIN

But who are the terrorists at present incarcerated in army camps? When dragged out of his home at 3am, John Bavey, who was a constituent and friend of mine, was engaged in no less a terrorist activity than looking after his four year old daughter while his wife worked on night shift.

At 10am the distraught mother finally discovered the whereabouts of her child, but not her husband. The army does not leave a forwarding address when raiding working-class homes and interning four-year-old terrorists.

The question of internment can not be seen solely in terms of individual suffering, intimidation and repression. The steps taken by Brian Faulkner in full consultation with the Tory government in London are an example of the lengths to which the ruling class will go to protect its power when it has finally crumbled and to maintain a system that has been proved to be unworkable.

Today Belfast is a burnt-out shambles. Within 24 hours, at least 15 people in Northern Ireland have been killed.

Newry smoulders in flames fanned by 50 years of political repression, unemployment and slum conditions.

Derry continues to vent the wrath of a people treated like dirt on the symbol of its oppression—a factory containing, not workers but the army of British imperialism.

The responsibility for every stone, every fire bomb, every death, lies on the shoulders of the four men who met last week in Downing Street—Ted Heath, Lord Peter Carrington, Brian Faulkner and General Tuzo.

They met and callously planned the internment campaign and the banning of all marches. Their decision was a choice between peace—which meant accepting that Northern Ireland was ungovernable and that system could not be supported—or power, their power, and that of the class they represent.

They knew the consequences of internment and opted to maintain their power.

THEY are the terrorists, the hypocrites, the murderers. Let them not forget, however, that WE are the people.

We cannot be intimidated and will resist this last vicious act of repression as we have resisted all others in the past. We cannot do it on our own.

Our only friends are our fellow working class in Britain. You must come to our aid. Organise, educate, act. And if for no other than our sake, bring the government down.

It is not your government, it is not your army. It is your class which is under attack in Northern Ireland.

Stop Internment! British Troops out of Ireland!
RALLY at Speakers' Corner, 2pm Sunday 15 August
ALL London IS members must attend

Continued on back page

Tories and army unleash Belfast terror

THE British government has shown that it is prepared to use laws even more repressive than those in South Africa to safeguard its rule in Northern Ireland.

And the press, which normally cannot overreach itself in proclaiming its devotion to 'freedom', has given it near unanimous support.

300 men have been imprisoned. They face no charges. They will not be given the opportunity of even a rigged trial.

At present their wives and children do not know when they will see them again or even where they are. The government intends to keep some of them in prison for years, rather than months.

The press has used deliberate lies and distortions in its attempts to justify such actions. The Daily Mirror, for instance, has written that 'any government must act against indiscriminate murder in the streets'.

Two years ago the homes of ordinary working-class families in the Falls Road and other areas of Belfast were attacked by crazed mobs of police and members of the bigoted Orange Order.

More than a dozen people were murdered. A young child was killed by a bullet from a police heavy machine gun. In Derry a man called Devenny died after being assaulted by the police in his own house.

Every newspaper reporter and every government minister in Belfast and London knows these facts. Yet no-one has been put on trial for such 'indiscriminate murder', let alone been interned without being charged.

Protect

Instead the authorities have seized men who in their speeches and their action have been explicitly against wanton killing.

The leaders of both wings of the IRA have repeatedly made it clear that while they will use arms to protect the republican areas of Belfast against attack, they are absolutely against attacks by republicans on the Protestant people.

Contrast this with the behaviour of the British army. Look at the figures for those killed. At least three civilians from the republican section of the population for every soldier.

On Monday night British soldiers were rampaging through the ordinary working-class streets of the Lower Falls, breaking windows, kicking down doors and generally terrorising the population. They seized one young boy, put a gun up against his head and fired a rubber bullet at him at point blank range.

What is at stake is the continuing attempt of the ruling class of Britain to keep control of a chunk of Ireland. They can only do so by terrorising a massive section of the population and destroying the most elementary civil rights. And their rule offers nothing to the workers of the north, whether Catholic or Protestant, than poor housing and rising unemployment.

The political nature of the repression is further shown by the act of arresting people it cannot pretend have anything to do with the republican movement. People like Michael Farrell, Gerry Rudd, John Murphy and Cyril Toman and 18 other members of the Peoples Democracy—a socialist group who believe that social agitation rather than military force is the best way to fight in Ireland at present.

In mid-Ulster seven members of the Independent Socialists, of which Bernadette Devlin is a member, have been seized.

In Belfast a number of well-known trade unionists and the chairman of the Civil Rights Association, Ivan Barr, have suffered in the same way.

Only in Derry has the toll been less heavy. And that has not been due to the

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Defiance necessary now Bill is Law

THE INDUSTRIAL Relations Bill is now an Act. The bosses have got their law. The question now is whether they can operate it. That depends on how much co-operation they can get from the union leadership.

As Socialist Worker has repeatedly pointed out, the legislation is not designed to smash the unions as such. It is designed to cripple shop floor organisation, to strengthen the right against the left in the unions and to use the union bureaucracies as unpaid policemen for the capitalist class. The object of the operation is to increase profits at the expense of real wages by checking 'wage drift', increasing the pressure to accept productivity deals and weakening the defence of conditions.

It can work only if union co-operation is forthcoming. The passage of the Bill, is, of course, a defeat for the working class, but it is not a decisive defeat. The real test will come in the months ahead. In September or October the Tories will start handing out licences to the 'good boys' on condition of continued good behaviour. This is called 'establishing the provisional register'. The rest of us will not be trade unionists in the eyes of the law but members of 'organisations of workers' that are liable to unlimited fines imposed by the new Tory labour courts.

That is the law but in fact most employers will only take action if they are reasonably sure that the fines will be paid. Outright defiance will put the courts in the situation of having to imprison trade unionists for maintaining well established practices like blacking and the closed shop.

Now imprisonments will make it difficult for all but the right wing extremists in the movement to co-operate with the bosses and the Tory government. And the co-operation of the trade union bureaucracies is absolutely vital to the employing class. This is why the law can be killed stone dead by outright refusal to comply with it.

Refusal to register is the first and essential act of defiance. The TUC is formally committed to it because the majority of the general council had to put some militant proposals at the Croydon Congress in order to head off the movement for a real fight to kill the Bill before it became law.

The same leaders, or most of them, who urged delegates to accept the Croydon resolution will now try to slide out of implementing them. They can and must be stopped.

Massive non-registration will create immense difficulties for the government. So will maintenance of the ban on trade union nominees sitting on the labour courts—the NIRC and the industrial tribunals.

The Tories are worried but they have other strings to their bow. Last week Victor Feather was persuaded to agree to a series of meetings with Campbell Adamson of the Confederation of British Industry, Sir Douglas Allan of the Treasury and Sir Frank Figgures of the government-sponsored National Economic Development Council. What is going to be hatched out here is a new version of the incomes policy swindle. Again trade union co-operation is indispensable.

It may seem incredible that even Feather can agree to co-operate with a government that has produced the highest unemployment since the war and rammed through the anti-union law. It may seem so but it isn't. The trade union chiefs want nothing so much as to resume the cosy 'consultative' role with the government that rank and file opposition to the anti-union legislation disrupted.

The Tories want the same thing—on their terms of course. Hence the pressure to register and co-operate. It is of the most vital importance to working people that these intrigues are frustrated and that a solid front of non-co-operation is maintained.

There is no possibility of enforcing either the anti-union law or an incomes policy fraud in the face of mass working-class opposition. Feather and co will do their best to sabotage resistance. That is their role in society—labour lieutenants of the capitalist class. In this tricky situation they are walking a tightrope. They can be pushed off.

OPPOSE INTERNMENT

THE CONTINUED existence of the Northern Ireland state depends upon the use of crude force and the encouragement of religious bigotry. That is the message behind the government's reversion to imprisonment without trial.

Two years ago the British government was forced to promise reforms to do away with the worst elements of religious discrimination. These reforms never meant much to the mass of Catholic workers who were still faced with massive unemployment and bad housing. And they enraged the sectarian elements from the Orange Order who had previously run the state. The result is that the Northern Ireland government has so little support that it is doubtful if it could win an election.

The arrests are a desperate attempt by the government to win support from the bigots and at the same time to knock the stuffing out of the various republican and socialist organisations.

Every socialist and trade unionist in Britain must oppose the use of such dictatorial and oppressive methods by the Tories of London and Belfast as they try to smash opposition to their rule.

The sordid record of Wedgwood Benn

by PAUL FOOT

SINCE more than one newspaper commentator has tipped Anthony Wedgwood Benn as the next leader of the Labour party, many socialists may like to know where he stands on various issues.

The following glossary may be of some assistance:

Upper Clyde Shipbuilders

Mr Benn is in favour of nationalisation of UCS. He is also in favour of workers' control 'within reason'. He was Minister of Technology in the Labour government from 1967 onwards, and as such was responsible for shipbuilding.

He set up the Shipbuilding Industry Board under Sir William Swallow, then managing director of Vauxhalls.

The board was democratically comprised of two industrialists and a trade unionist.

Explaining the Board's role in the House of Commons on 9 March 1967, Mr Benn said it would encourage mergers of privately-owned shipyards with the help of public money.

'There is no question of compulsory acquisition of the shares involved' he said.

'It would not be right', Mr Benn went on 'to interfere in any detail with the work of the board. It wants to get on with its job with the minimum of political interference. I do plan to keep in very close touch with Sir William Swallow and his colleagues.'

'We ought to accord the Board enough room to operate and give them the sort of commercial privacy for the negotiations which will be necessary to make a real success of this job.'

Encouraged by the non-interfering minister, the SIB turned its attention to the Upper Clyde where the old shipyard families were fighting a grim struggle with the newly-formed Fairfield.

Fairfields represented new, idealistic, Labour-government capitalism. It was founded on government money and even had £150,000 from the trade unions (not to mention Sir William Carron of the AEU and Mr Andrew Cunningham of the GMWU—the two most right wing trade union officials available—as directors).

It was based on cutting wages and bonus rates with the constant threat of closure and unemployment.

From the Fairfield bosses' point of view, it was working. But it was too much for the old gorgons at John Browns, Connells and Stephens. 'Having tea with the shop stewards!' they cried. 'Disgusting!'

The shipyard families did a deal with Sir William Swallow and the SIB. The five yards on the Upper Clyde (Browns, Yarrow, Fairfields, Connells, Stephens) were merged into UCS.

The old families sold their loss-making yards for a stake in the new merger, and a few million pounds into the bargain. Fairfield management was gradually eased out. The gorgons were back in charge again,

and the man who put them there was Anthony Wedgwood Benn.

It was he who pumped out taxpayers' money to the stocking manufacturers and former coal owners in charge of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders.

Racialism

Mr Wedgwood Benn is against racialism. At the last election he made a stirring and moving speech attacking Enoch Powell.

At a Skegness Young Socialists rally in 1963 he got a standing ovation for advocating 'revolution, nothing but revolution' in South Africa.

In 1968, as Minister of Technology in

biggest investment yet in South West Africa. The contract with the government-owned Atomic Energy Authority for mining and supplying uranium there was signed and sealed before Benn saw it.

Even so he still had a chance to stop it and denounce the businessmen who were scheming behind his back. He chose to let the matter drop, and co-operated with Wilson in keeping the project quiet until the General Election.

The Rossing project has gone ahead with fantastic speed. Before long it will give South Africa the uranium potential for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. The project could never have been sustained without the case and expertise of the AEA.



UCS workers jeering Benn (then Minister of Technology) when he made 3000 redundant

the Labour government, he was asked by the Atomic Energy Authority for permission to sign a contract with Rio Algom (Canada) for the supply of uranium from Canada.

The contract contained a clause allowing Rio Algom to switch the contract to Rio Tinto in South Africa. The contract and the enabling clause was recommended to the Labour Cabinet by Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, and passed.

Rio Algom could find no uranium in Canada (as could have been predicted) so the contract was switched to Rio Tinto who started negotiations with the South African government for mining rights in Rossing, South West Africa.

South West Africa is the 14th richest country in the world but its black people are among the poorest anywhere. Its apartheid system is even more barbarous than in South Africa, which controls it.

South African rule there is illegal, and has been declared as such by the International Court. Accordingly even the American government bans large-scale investment there.

The Rio Tinto Rossing project is the

Concorde

Concorde is the biggest waste of money in the history of British 'aerospace'. Its purpose is to get rich business executives to London in time for lunch. It has already cost the British taxpayer some £600m and its makers, the British Aircraft Corporation not a penny.

It will be, if it flies, an environmental disaster. Mr Benn is one hundred per cent in favour of the Concorde.

Rolls Royce RB211

This engine is intended for the Tristar jet which will ferry businessmen between American cities.

It has bankrupted Rolls-Royce and its losses have been taken on by the taxpayer, who has already funnelled out some £100m. It is absurdity and waste on a high scale. Mr Benn is one hundred per cent in favour of it.

In its present state, the Labour Party deserves a leader like Anthony Wedgwood Benn.

OZ: turning point for the underground?

Dave Widgery (one of Oz's new editors)

THE VICIOUS sentences dealt out to the OZ editors show how seriously the Establishment takes the increasingly political nature of the underground press.

OZ Issue 27 was produced mainly by schoolchildren and was a savage and bawdy attack on the tyrannies of parents, school and police. The kids were out to shock certainly. But none of the editors had realised that pungent criticism of the authorities would lead to jail sentences.

However, the crisis in British society is not merely economic or industrial; those who take the decisions are also worried about the breakdown of their authority, particularly in schools.

They are terrified by the prospect of school kids and teachers refusing to 'grow up' as unquestioning workers, consumers and supporters of capitalism.

The OZ editors had more confidence than most socialists in the tolerance of the authorities. They saw society as being corrupt, cynical and joyless but were prepared to work within it to change its values by example.

They wanted to use OZ as a way of bringing information to young people about other possible ways of living besides

school, work, marriage, beer and TV.

The society to which they offered their recipe of utopian proposals answered them in the Old Bailey last week.

Behind the studied politeness of Court No 2 lay a symbolic castration by the prison barber, jail sentences which would have shocked professional crooks and deportations.

The advocates of a 20th century paradise of love and peace were rewarded with 18th century Botany Bay-style justice. While the porn merchants prosper, OZ rots.

For some years the underground has been increasingly political. Papers like IT and Friendz have long since got over the 'beautiful people's' obsession with themselves, their drugs, clothes and music and have begun to talk seriously, if usually hysterically, about imperialism, the industrial struggle and the growing power of the Tory state.

The sentences will force the whole underground to take its own politics more seriously.

The tolerance during the relative social calm of the first 20 years after the Second World War is no longer possible. As the crisis deepens, the capitalist state is obliged

to take away freedoms it could once offer. Anyone who stands up against the dominant political system is now fair game for the courts.

If the authorities get away with the OZ sentences, who is next? The fight to defend OZ is a vital one to all socialists who want to hang on to those freedoms of expression that the working class has won.

We should be unashamed to argue that the real obscenities are the violence which guts the Third World, which condemns the bulk of the working class to factory labour, crowded lousy housing and an education of evasions. A world promising its young a vision of the future consisting of wars, dole queues and moon walks.

The Tories speak of concern for 'the wellbeing and protection of innocence'. Yet it is they who have cut school milk, priced a million kids out of school dinners and have re-introduced rickets.

They are the people who build such poor housing that some kids get their sex education because they have to sleep in their parents' bedrooms. They are the people whose army wakes up 4 year old kids with bayonets in the spot searches in Ireland.

Nor should we be too proud to listen to the underground. Its vivid revolt against the authoritarianism, sexual hypocrisy and cultural barrenness of urban life adds much power to the more orthodox socialist criticism of capitalism.

The socialist future starts in Clydeside rather than in Notting Hill Gate. But there are important connections we should not be afraid of making. Perhaps we should thank Judge Argyle for forcing them on everyone's attention.

I would like more information about the International Socialists

Name

Address

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INSIDE THE YARDS MEN DETERMINED TO FIGHT

by Roger Rosewell

IN 1853 a shipyard was opened on Clydeside. Today I walked in. But in contrast with the previous 118 years of its history shop stewards guarded the gate. It was they who met and admitted me—not any policemen or manager.

As I was shown around the grey and wet yard of the Clydebank Division of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, I felt the determined mood of these workers to fight the Tory-imposed sackings.

For years foremen have swaggered authoritatively about. Their discipline has dominated the yard. Now they have almost vanished. In the whole three hours that I spent in UCS I only counted four foremen—and one was confined to sulking in an alleyway.

SHOCKED

There is a quiet feeling of resistance among the workers. They know that a battle is coming and most of them are ready for it.

The government declaration that two of the four UCS yards are to be closed and 6000 workers sacked has shocked Scotland.

Unemployment in and around Glasgow is already 10 per cent and no one can foresee an improvement. Redundancies are announced frequently and the whole area is being crippled by the despair and misery of unemployment.

The town of Clydebank is facing disaster and if the two yards close, it will be shattered.

37 years ago, another Tory government behaved just as viciously. The town of Jarrow on Tyneside was brutally selected as the victim and Palmers Shipyard was closed down in 1934.

Many protests were made but the minister of the day—a man called Runciman—ruthlessly ignored them and said: 'Nothing is to be gained by giving Jarrow the impression that its shipyard can be revived. The best thing is to make a clean sweep of the premises, and throw open to purchase one of the best sites in the world.'

In the time that followed Jarrow suffered. Hunger marches were organised, books were written and parliamentary debates took place. But work did not reappear. The town had been murdered.

TAKE OVER

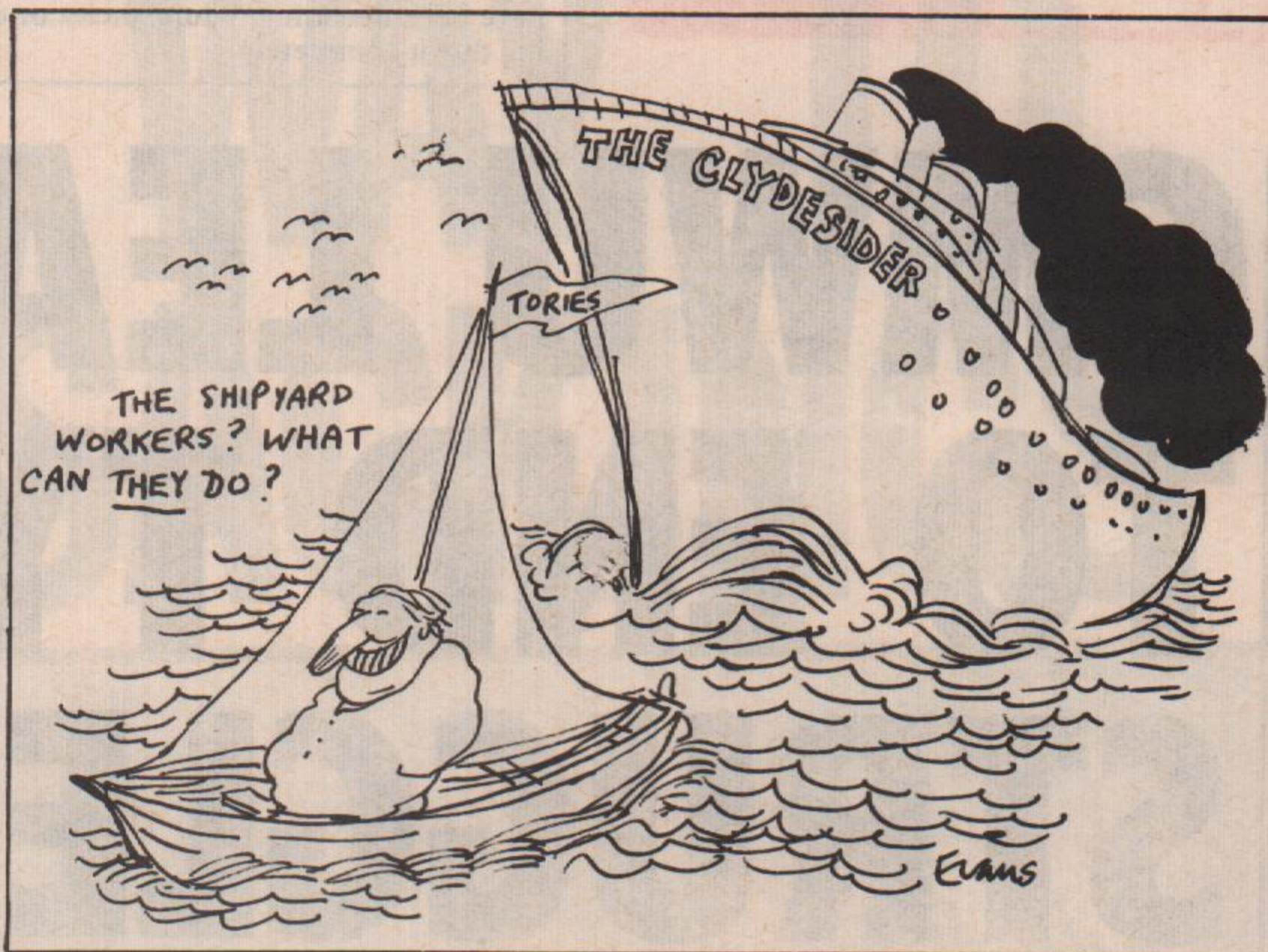
Now the wealthy Mr John Davies, Tory Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and former boss of the Confederation of British Industry has followed in Runciman's footsteps and condemned Clydebank to a similar fate.

The workers, however, are not prepared to accept it—they are determined to fight.

The takeover of the yard began at 10.34am on Friday 30 July when the Boilermakers' convenor told the security man at the gate:

'By the authority of the Shop Stewards Committee and the Co-ordinating Committee of the trade union movement of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, the workers hereby take over this yard. You will now take orders from the shop stewards only.'

With these few words, the fight began. Since then, the UCS workers have captured the attention of millions. Support is pour-



ing in. The Scottish miners have already given £1000 and NATSOPA, the printing union, £500.

Invitations have been received to speak at meetings and rallies all over Britain and Europe. The stewards announced that they have accepted an offer to send a speaker to Amsterdam.

Throughout the yard continual discussion is taking place. Workers desperately want to talk about what should be done. They want and need daily meetings to ask questions and decide policy. So far, there has been a distinct lack of these—this unsatisfactory and harmful situation must be changed.

Last week the top politicians came to Glasgow. The first to arrive was Davies. Surrounded by armed bodyguards and Special Branch detectives, he said that he had come to 'clear up any misapprehension.'

He didn't; nor was it really expected that he would. It was just a rather shabby publicity stunt.

Unfortunately no demonstration of shipyard workers had been organised, and

Davies, needless to say, didn't dare visit the yard.

The next day Wilson turned up. Only about 100 workers bothered to watch his arrival at the yard and even fewer exerted themselves to applaud.

TO BLAME

When he entered the dining hall, most workers carried on eating while some shouted 'go home'. Their lack of enthusiasm was obvious. After all it was his government that demanded 3000 redundancies in 1969.

No one in the yard was impressed by the politicians. Workers I spoke to were convinced that it was the successive governments that were to blame.

The next few weeks will be crucial for the UCS struggle. Their refusal to accept redundancy must be supported by all sections of the labour movement. The government can be defeated providing that a massive working-class movement acts in defence of the UCS workers and against unemployment.

COULD IT HAPPEN HERE?

by Chris Harman

Fascism came about in Italy, Germany and Spain because the ruling classes of those countries could no longer maintain themselves in power without completely smashing workers' organisations.

Such was the scale of economic crisis and such was the discontent of the mass of people that profits could not be kept up while the workers still had some means of self-defence.

In Britain in the 1930s the ruling class did not find itself in quite the same desperate straits as it did in Germany. The slump was slightly less catastrophic than elsewhere because the empire still existed as a valuable economic asset.

Arms boom

Although sections of the upper classes admired what Hitler was doing for Germany—Winston Churchill, for instance, expressed admiration for both Hitler and Mussolini as late as 1936—they did not feel the same medicine was needed here.

Their favoured economic position (and the weakness of the working class after the defeat of the General Strike) meant that they could still afford the 'luxury' of independent trade unions.

What was true in the 1930s was even truer in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. World capitalism underwent a continuous boom, based upon massive arms production.

Although British big business did not do as well as its competitors, it was able to afford to make many concessions to the workers.

Profits and wages rose simultaneously. The employing class relied upon right-wing trade union leaders to stop the workers demanding too much.

This situation is beginning to change.

Big business can no longer afford to let wages rise. Instead it is trying to force down living standards. That is why it has to resort to wage freeze, anti-union legislation and now large-scale unemployment.

But it is not yet turning towards fascism as a means of solving its problems. The employing class still believes that it can control the working class by using the trade unions. The Industrial Relations Act, for instance, would be totally inadequate if it were meant to smash the unions.

It just does not measure up to the strength of the organised labour movement.

What it is intended to do is something rather different—to put pressure on the union leaders to do what the government wants them to do.

The policy of big business is still to rely on trade union leaders to discipline the working class, not to turn to fascist bands to smash it.

But the left cannot just sit back and ignore the question of fascism. If big

HERE?

ent problems are not to be blamed on our rulers, but on 'alien elements' such as blacks and unofficial strikers.

The extent of racialism among workers was shown in the support that Enoch Powell received three years ago.

But racialist ideas are not the same as a fascist movement. Fascism requires that the elements accepting such ideas be organised into a mass, continually active force. Such movements only develop when social crisis drives people to extreme desperation, so that they are prepared to make enormous sacrifices in the attempt to solve their problems.

Fascism grows when people, particularly

CONCLUDING FASCISM BIG BUSINESS'S KNUCKLEDUSTER

business fails to solve its problems by using its present tactics, it will change them. Then it might begin to consider the fascist alternative.

At present the fascist groups are only a minute, lunatic fringe. They do not receive massive funds from big business. Nor do they have mass support.

But this does not mean that there could not be a rapid growth of their following in certain right circumstances. In the 1930s Mosley's fascists were supported for a time by motor millionaire Lord Nuffield and press baron Lord Rothermere.

Among wide sections of the middle classes, and even among many workers, the idea has existed for a long time that cur-

from the middle classes, want to struggle against their miserable social conditions, but have no faith in the ability of the socialist movement to offer them an alternative.

Only then can the fascist leaders find the hundreds of thousands of supporters they need to terrorise racial minorities, break strikes and smash workers' organisations.

In Britain today we are witnessing the first beginnings of mass discontent among ordinary people. But even among the middle classes, the tendency is not yet for this to express itself in a turn to fascist groups, except in odd isolated areas.

Quite the opposite has been happening

so far. There has been a substantial growth of anti-Tory feeling. And people are turning towards the trade unions for a weapon to fight back with.

This has been shown in the large strikes among previously non-militant sections such as postal workers, council workers, and teachers as well as in the one-day strikes against the Industrial Relations Bill.

But if, in the coming years, the left in the working class movement fails, as it did in Italy and Germany before the war, to lead a struggle for social change, then a drift in the opposite direction can begin.

Could flourish

Workers will not go on striking for ever to defend their wages against inflation. Eventually they will get tired out and lose heart, unless the capitalist society that produces inflation is challenged. The unemployed can easily turn against those with jobs unless the labour movement leads them in a real struggle.

If the working class movement allows itself to be defeated and demoralised then fascist groups could really begin to flourish. Vast masses of people could begin to see their programme as offering a way out. Big business would begin to pump money into them. The ground would be laid for a rebirth in Britain of the monstrous barbarities that grew up in pre-war Europe.

There is only one way to prevent such an eventuality coming about. That is to fight to build a revolutionary socialist movement to lead the working class struggle.

Of course, we must do our best to stop fascists put forward their insidious and obnoxious doctrines. But the major task is to ensure that the employing class and the trade union bureaucrats do not tire out the labour movement by isolating struggles, and defeating them one by one.

It is a task that can only be carried out successfully by building up a revolutionary socialist organisation that can offer to people who might otherwise be attracted to fascist ideas, a real, rather than a phony, solution to their problems.

FIS - new Tory means test fraud

WHEN the Tories pushed up school meal charges and cut free school milk they tried to sugar the pill.

They claimed that their new Family Incomes Supplement would deal with poverty in a completely novel and effective way.

How thin the layer of sugar is was revealed when the scheme came into effect last week.

77 per cent of those thought to be eligible for the income supplement are not getting it.

The government claims that this is because people are not yet aware of their rights. They claim this will improve as a result of fresh advertising campaigns.

But a close look at the government's own figures would seem to cast doubt on such statements. To get the benefit you have to pass through a rigorous means test.

Many people are just not prepared to suffer all the indignity and bother associated with a return to the methods of the thirties.

The means test is no mere formality. So far more than half those who have undergone it have had their claims rejected—23,302 as against 23,152 who have been successful.

A few examples from London show the meanness with which the applications are treated.

Anyone who doesn't work a full 40 hour week is rejected automatically. So most women bringing up children on their own get no help, no matter how great their need.

Even men who do work a full week are having their claims dismissed. The social security officers demand that they work overtime to push up their pay..It seems as if the Ministry of Social Security has not heard of growing unemployment.

In West London last week a caretaker with three dependent children earning a mere £18 was refused aid on the grounds that the children were not living with him—he was paying other people to look after them.

It is quite clear that the new scheme will, in fact, do next to nothing to deal with the problem of poverty resulting from low wages.

The problem of low wages will continue to depend on workers' ability to push up their basic through shop floor struggle.

The scheme has exposed one aspect of hypocrisy—a special department has been set up to deal with claims from civil servants for the new benefit.

While pretending to be concerned about poverty, the government is not even paying its own workers enough to keep them above the poverty line.

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Socialist Worker

Employment office occupied

CUMBERNAULD: Unemployed young workers in a Scottish new town protested at their situation and proclaimed their solidarity with UCS by a token occupation of their local youth employment office.

Cumbernauld is a new town, north of Glasgow, built 12 years ago and proclaimed a 'triumph of modern planning'.

People who were persuaded to move there to live, have found the reality to be rather grimmer over the last few months.

Most of the factories in the town have been declaring redundancies or closing down completely.

1190 workers have been sacked in the last six months alone. The biggest employer, Burroughs, whose profits last year totalled £11.5 million, have been responsible for 1000 of these.

Jimmy Flanagan, the AUEW convenor at Burroughs, recently described the feeling among the population at large: 'Opinion in the town seems to be divided. Some say it is dying. Others believe it is already dead.'

The fifteen youths who occupied the employment exchange on Friday last felt that the time had come to start fighting back.

With the assistance of the local Inter-

national Socialists, they barricaded themselves in and hung a poster protesting at unemployment and declaring solidarity with UCS, from the windows.

An hour later, police managed to enter the building through a fire escape. The demonstrators then left without any arrests. Their protests received wide publicity in the Scottish press and on television.

One of the leaders of the group, Kerr Douglas, who has been jobless for six months, made it clear that this was only the start of militant activity by the unemployed of Cumbernauld.

Steelmen demand full rise

by ROB CLAY

THE National Union of Blastfurnacemen have given notice of a national strike from 5 September unless their full claim of 35 per cent is met.

The union has rejected a 6.6 per cent pay offer from the British Steel Corporation.

The union's general secretary, Mr Hector Smith, said this week that he was prepared for a 'long strike, if that is the way that BSC want to play it.'

The pathetic offer of 6.6 per cent was recently accepted by BISAFTA, the main steel union, and the craft unions. The fact that the Blastfurnacemen are to carry on their fight is a fine example to other steel workers.

The 'rise' has meant a take-home increase of less than a pound per week for many steel workers, and others have actually found themselves worse off due to loss of welfare benefits and rebates.

At recent union meetings the BISAFTA executive members have been openly sneering at the Blastfurnacemen. They claim that it is impossible to get anything more from the Steel Corporation and that the strike action taken by the NUB earlier this year was rash and irresponsible.

In fact most steelworkers recognise that if it were not for the action taken by the Blastfurnacemen, BSC wouldn't even have offered 6.6 per cent.

If the Blastfurnacemen come out again on 5 September maximum unity of steel workers at rank and file level will be needed. The right wing leadership of BISAFTA will make every effort to encourage their members to ignore and isolate the Blastfurnacemen.

The 'left wing' leadership of the AEF, which has quietly accepted the same rise, will also be extremely embarrassed to see the fight continued by another union.

It is clear that the strike has been threatened in order to placate the increasing frustration of rank and file blastfurnacemen. All but a handful of men faced with redundancy came out during the last strike and feeling ran very high.

Many union members expressed bitter disappointment at the way in which the union executive called off the strike without getting a satisfactory offer from the management.

At the annual conference of the union last month a resolution calling on the executive to organise further industrial action if the claim was not met was passed unanimously.

If the Blastfurnacemen are to break through the pay barrier laid down by the Steel Corporation they will have to mobilise for the strike at grass roots level.

This means: Democratically-elected strike committees at every centre of production to organise picketing etc.

Mass meetings attended by executive members and officials to prepare for the strike.

No return to work unless decided by mass meetings.

An open appeal to all other steel unions to unite in the fight for better pay.

GMWU LEADERS PLOT TO END TYNE STRUGGLE

by SW Reporter

THIS WEEK the leaders of the General Municipal Workers Union have been showing again their opposition to attempts by the members to fight for decent conditions.

At a special meeting of the executive on Monday they decided not to back workers at Swan Hunter, Newcastle who have been out on strike.

The strike shut all five shipyards on the Tyne for the first time in 10 years last week. The general workers at the yards had been for too long the forgotten men

at Wallsend, their plight overshadowed by the militancy of their skill brothers in the Boilermakers and the AUEW. Now they have shown that they are determined to change that.

But once again the GMWU has shown that it is not interested in fighting for lower paid workers. It recommended that the men accept the offers made by management.

When the men rejected this offer, the management upped the ante. The correctness of those who argued against the GMWU officials' militant action was proved.

Ignored result

By Sunday's meeting, however, the officials had been able to persuade the men's stewards to call for an end to the strike. But once again, they were to receive a shock. By 462 votes to 417 it was agreed to stay out.

The GMWU has shown how much it believes in democracy by now completely ignoring the result of the vote.

The difficulty facing the 500 militants is that the majority at the meeting was a small one and that the GMWU is now doing its utmost to get the decision reversed.

If the officials cannot do that at a mass meeting, the rumour is that they will copy their tactic at Pilkington last year and use a secret ballot.

The Swan Hunter workers face a difficult situation. They are isolated from the union and even the stewards against them.

They are fighting in an area of high unemployment. But if they do not get a decent living wage they have to keep on struggling.

Without tearing up their union cards, they must build up a rank and file organisation that they can counterpose to the officials of the GMWU.

FOUR PAGE PAPER

Socialist Worker will contain only four pages again this week because of the summer holidays. We return to eight pages next week, 21 August.

NOTICES

IS UPW members meeting, Sunday August 11am, Digbeth Civic Halls, Birmingham. Details from National Secret.

TOTTENHAM IS public mtg on U Friday 13 August 8pm. YWCA, Tottenham High Rd (junct Lansdowne Rd) Spence Tony Cliff.

WANDSWORTH IS special public mtg on the UCS occupation. Thursday 19 August 8pm. The Spotted Dog, 72 Garrett Lane SW18 (near Wandsworth Town Hall).

HORNSEY & CAMDEN IS public Solidarity with UCS. Monday 16 August 8pm. Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters N7. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

IMG Public mtg on Fascism: What it is How to Fight It. Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq, EC1. Tues 17 August 7.30pm. Speaker: Charles Van Gelderen.

International Socialists autumn weekend, Derbyshire Miners Holiday Centre, 15, 16, 17 October

Perspectives for Western Capitalism: Towards a Revolutionary Socialism Party; The International Movement Book now. Write to Jenny Davison, 6 Cottons Gardens London E2 8DN. Adults £4.50, children at reduced prices.

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From Page one

humanity of the British army, but the preparedness of the inhabitants. As soon as troops tried to enter the Bogside, the whole population was roused by the banging of dustbin lids and the sounding of car horns to jam the streets, build barricades and keep out the intruders.

A member of the Peoples Democracy, who just managed to escape from his house before being interned, Neill Valley, summed up the situation at a joint meeting of the Sinn Fein and the Socialist Labour Alliance in Dublin on Tuesday:

'Virtually the entire left has been taken in, except for the professional compromisers, Gerry Fitt and the SDLP and the Green Tory Nationalist Party.'

Those under attack in Northern Ireland are not prepared to accept a loss of their political rights lying down. They are determined to stand up and fight. That is why they are using all the weapons at their disposal to stop British troops moving in to make more arrests.

The call has gone out for a complete ending of payments of any kind to the government—rates, rents, electricity bills and so on.

And in Derry socialists and republicans have been trying to get support for a general strike as from next Monday.

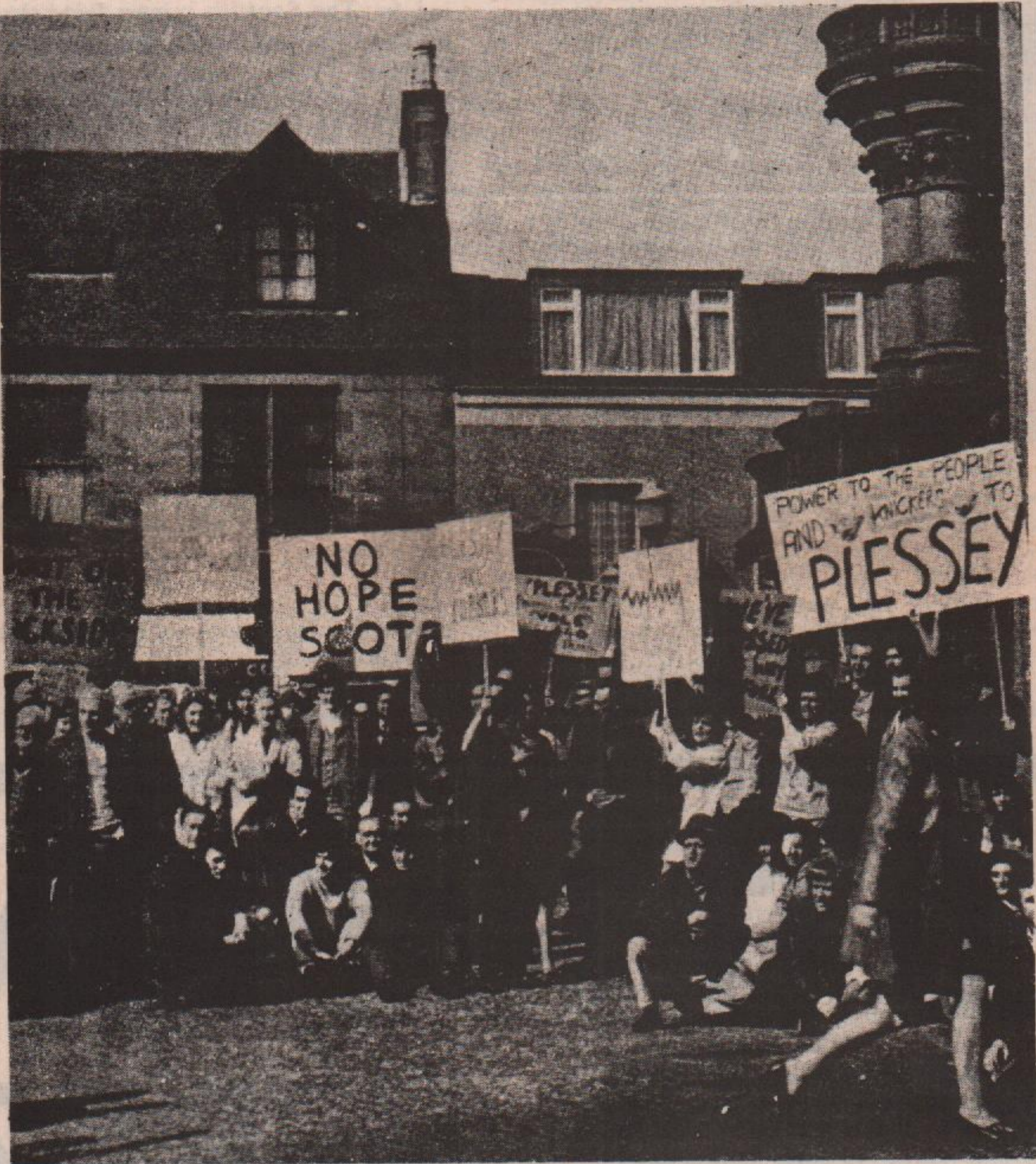
It is absolutely essential that socialists and trade unionists in both Britain and Southern Ireland give full support to those fighting oppression in the north.

In Dublin the Prime Minister Lynch has reached the height of hypocrisy by criticising the action of the Northern government, although he has long been preparing such measures himself. He has followed a policy of collaborating with the British ruling class for a long time. But his rule is not very stable.

It is essential that his role be exposed, and that real action be taken in support of those imprisoned in the north. The call for strike action made by republican organisations must be supported.

In Britain action is no less vital. We have to explain to the mass of British workers what is really happening in Belfast. Trade union bodies and shop stewards' committees should make known their opposition to the resort to dictatorial, arbitrary rule.

Every demonstration and protest against the repression in Northern Ireland must be given full support. For until Britain's ruling class and its army are driven out of Ireland, there can be little hope for the Irish working class.



Workers from Plessey's Alexandria factory protest at redundancies.

WORKERS AT PLESSEY PROTEST AT CARVE-UP

by SW Reporter

THE threatened UCS closure has dominated the news. It is not, however, the only scandal in Scotland. In the small town of Alexandria, the Plessey factory is due for closure.

500 workers will be sacked on 3 September. Already unemployment is excessively high and the shutting of this factory will only worsen the situation.

The factory used to be the Royal Navy Torpedo Works until last year. Then, following the failure of the Mark 24 Torpedo, it was sold to Plessey.

The government has refused to disclose just how much was paid for it, but leading Scottish papers have said that it was a 'bargain price'.

Plessey officially took over last January and were initially very optimistic. Their managers forecast that at least 1000 jobs would exist at the end of this year. Everyone was delighted.

On 14 May a new wages structure was agreed and backdated to March. Four days later the shock came. The company announced some massive redundancies and since then have declared their intention of completely closing the factory.

This decision is being bitterly resisted. Many workers have accused the company of a 'carve up'.

Since buying the factory for a bargain price, Plessey have been removing its new

and modern machinery down to their Ilford establishment in Essex.

Shop stewards there have claimed that their management were clearing space for machinery as early as October of last year.

The Alexandria workers are convinced that Plessey never had any intention of developing the Scottish factory and only bought it in order to get their hands on a large amount of modern and cheap equipment. This is why they call it a 'carve up'.

In the last few weeks a further shock has been delivered in Alexandria. The government have announced that Plessey have been awarded an order for the Mark 24 Torpedo.

The firm has said that this will be built in Ilford and have refused to allow it to be built in Alexandria.

Despite the fact, therefore, that work is available for the Scottish factory, the company are deliberately forcing 500 workers into unemployment.

Ever since the first sackings were declared, the workers have fought the company. Demonstrations have been organised and a sit-down in the town centre has taken place.

Threats of immediate closure, if the workers' ban on the transfer of machinery was not lifted, have been ignored.

Now the stewards have said that they 'will consider anything', and the tremendous events at UCS might well spread.

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