

# workers' ACTION

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10p

## Call a special Labour conference now!

### As unemployment tops 1.6 million, POEU rank and file say

# 35 hour week now

THE LABOUR Government reckons the economy is really improving. Yet the latest figures show that unemployment is still rising — and, what's more, long-term unemployment is still rising.

The Labour Party and the TUC have — 'in principle' — a policy that would go a long way towards dealing with unemployment: a 35 hour working week. Yet the Labour government is refusing the Post Office engineers' demand for a 35 hour week, and the Post Office engineers' own union leadership is selling out that demand.

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The reason is shown clearly enough by the argument of the bosses' organisation, the CBI, against the 35 hour week: it cuts into profits. The Labour Government has dedicated itself to boosting profits, and the trade union leadership has dedicated itself to propping up the Government.

But anger is mounting in the Post Office Engineering Union at the sell-out organised by their National Executive.

The NEC has called off the national work-to-rule action for the 35 hour week, and wants the union, at its special conference on September 16, to accept the McCarthy report.

This report concedes only 37½ hours — and that in two stages, tied to 'self-financing' productivity deals.

Branches were not consulted about calling off the action and the NEC kept details of the report hidden till the Post Office decided to release them. The first many members knew of the 'negotiations' was announcements on radio and TV that their action had been called off.

Many branches immediately condemned POEU general secretary Bryan Stanley and the NEC.

Probably most branches were reluctant to lift the work to rule and the many local overtime bans. But they were forced to do so by a 'get tough' policy of suspensions being carried out by local managers on Post Office instructions. The NEC refused to back members against this victimisation.

Despite these attacks some branches have continued the action locally: Central London, Metropolitan West, and Dundee.

How widespread the anger is was shown at a lobby of the NEC meeting at POEU headquarters on Tuesday 22nd August. Branch officers from over 40 branches arrived to condemn the deal and the calling-off of the action.

Several branches, such as Swansea and Liverpool, sent large contingents, and the local Hillingdon branch struck for the afternoon to support the

lobby.

Officers from the Coventry branch went in to ask Bryan Stanley to meet the lobby and were turned down flat. At this, angry members occupied the front entrance.

After failing to keep the members out of the headquarters and then calling the police in against them, the NEC finally agreed to meet a deputation of ten.

At the lobby, Jock Campbell, secretary of the London City branch, called for support for a conference in London on September 2nd. This conference aims to organise the left for the September 16th special conference, to fight to boot out the sell-out leaders and re-start the action for the 35 hours claim.

The POEU militants should get support from every trade unionist who takes the official policy for a 35 hour week at all seriously.

4,000 socialists and Asian militants marched last Sunday from Brick Lane through Hoxton, the National Front's claimed stronghold in East London. Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory placards called for labour movement support to black self-defence, for workers' defence groups to drive the fascists off the streets, and for an end to all immigration controls. Report, page 2.



IF CALLAGHAN gets his way, the coming election will be fought on the basis of his smile, a pack of lies justifying the Government's record, and complaints that Margaret Thatcher's policies would be 'divisive'.

An election victory on that basis — "Praise Callaghan and pass the ballot papers" — would be a political defeat for the working class.

To avoid that situation a campaign must be waged now for a special Labour conference to decide the manifesto. We must demand that no date for an election be fixed that cuts across the possibility of a conference to discuss the manifesto.

Callaghan has already said that there will be a Labour Party conference in early October, and that it won't be called off or compressed into a one-day "Win with Jim" rally. Clearly his word cannot be trusted. In any case the point is not only to have a full conference, but to make its decisions binding — and that's something Callaghan and the majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party are against.

Recent Labour Party conferences "committed" the Party to support for the black liberation forces in Zimbabwe, to a policy of abortion on request on the NHS, to opposition to cuts in social services, to repeal of the 1968 and 1971 Immigration Acts and to the nationalisation of land, banks, and the building industry.

Callaghan doesn't want any of that in the election manifesto, let alone in the programme of the next government. Frightened of any real party democracy, scared stiff that radical ideas might come out of a conference with powers to determine the con-

tent of the manifesto, Callaghan like all his predecessors wants to avoid any real debate.

The last thing he wants is to go to the country on the basis of a programme reflecting the interests of the working class.

He has learned the lesson of 1974, when the election manifesto reflected some of the more radical ideas of the party rank and file. A lot of pressure built up within the labour movement for implementation of those promises — pressure which could have built up a big movement of opposition to the government's betrayals if it had not been for the spineless treachery of the Labour left and Benn in particular.



Worried at the development of any such forces now, Callaghan has set up a series of policy committees on which both the National Executive Committee — supposedly the servants of Conference — and the Cabinet are represented. The aim is to force the NEC members to compromise and then to commit them to these miserable compromises rather than conference decisions.

A campaign must begin now to make it clear: we want a full conference with powers to determine the election manifesto. These are matters for the whole party, not just for Callaghan, a proven traitor to workers' interests.

Alongside the call for such a special conference, every constituency party should set up a manifesto committee, drawing in the rank and file party members to hammer out the basis of a real local campaign — one that refuses to churn out paeans of praise for Callaghan and to defend the criminal record of the present government.

Workers' Action and the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory which it has helped initiate believe that the basis of such a manifesto should be:

- No to wage controls!
- No cuts, but improvements in social services
- End unemployment! Cut the working week, not jobs
- Expropriate firms threatening sackings
- Nationalise the banks without compensation
- Not a penny for 'defence'
- Freeze rents and rates
- No to all immigration controls
- Free abortion and contraception on demand
- Troops out of Ireland now
- Support the black liberation struggles against the racist regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa.

Centre pages — Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory POSTER



OVER 300 Republican prisoners of war are "on the blanket". Refusing to wear prison garb, the uniform of the common criminal, they are forced to go naked except for a blanket.

This particular humiliation is not meted out to the women Republican prisoners in Armagh jail, who likewise insist on prisoner of war status. Apart from this, however, the women suffer many of the indignities and ill-treatment meted out to the men.

These are some extracts from a pamphlet produced by Fr Denis Faul of Dungannon, taken from a recent issue of the Republican weekly *An*

## PRISON OFFICERS BATON-CHARGE ARMAGH WOMEN

Phoblacht.

"Following minor disturbances in A Wing, Armagh Jail, on 7-9 May 1978, severe punishments followed, which, after two months, seem excessive.

Frustration, since strict regulations have been forced since April 1978, was gradually growing among the girls.

The old harmony between prisoners and staff was eroded, the girls say, by a new 'get tough' attitude on the part of the authorities.

They were also annoyed at reports coming from H Block of the intense suffering of the men. This led to a spontaneous protest.

At five to one on Tuesday 9 May, 56 prison officers in

riot gear with shields and batons rushed the girls in the remand wing, threw them into the cells, and locked 25 of them up.

Despite the sweltering heat of those May days, they were allowed out only four at a time to the yard for 10 to 15 minutes. For almost 24 hours a day they were locked up. This was additional punishment to loss of remission.

The situation on 22 May was as follows: 7.30am, allowed five minutes out of cells. Half-hour exercise: 13 at a time allowed out. Choice to take a bath, exercise, or wash clothes.

Sometimes officers allowed them only 15 to 20 minu-

tes. If trades officers were working in the yard they were not allowed out...

The officers tore down holy pictures in the cells the day the riot squad rushed in. Mirrors, curtains, covers for lockers, toys, bedspreads, handkerchiefs for souvenirs, posters, coloured stones for their handicraft Calvaries, jewellery boxes — all were taken away.

They were allowed plastic cups only. No handicrafts in cells. They complained of lack of privacy when speaking to solicitors, that many letters did not reach them, that library books were irregular, and that newspapers were not received".

## 4,000 anti-racists march through the East End

NEW CONFIDENCE is growing among the Asians and anti-racists of London's Brick Lane following Sunday's 4,000-strong march.

Once again the National Front were swept off the streets, unable to sell their paper and only visible cowering in the doorways of a couple of pubs in Hoxton. And anger at the role of the police has fuelled serious discussion of the possibility of setting up permanent defence groups to patrol the area.

The demonstration itself was composed mainly of people organised by the Anti Nazi League. Only one union had a banner there — the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, which is now making serious efforts to organise black workers in the area's sweatshops.

The Labour Party was hardly in attendance, except for a number of Young Socialist branches and a 70-strong contingent organised by the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory.

Asians themselves formed a relatively small minority of the marchers, despite formal support from all the major Asian political groups; local Bengalis explained that this was in large part due to the fact that this is Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, and a long march under a hot sun without food or water all day is an ordeal.

The Front kept their heads down, but had moved some activists to Chapel Market in the neighbouring borough of Islington, where they are now a serious problem.

### Defence

If they are not to be allowed to play a game of hide and seek with the left, it is vital that the impulse given by Sunday's demonstration is channelled into the efforts of the Hackney and Tower Hamlets Defence Committee to build a powerful workers' defence organisation.

The Defence Committee is aware of the need to involve the trade union branches which form the backbone of the local labour movement. And, reflecting the mood of Asians in the Brick Lane area, they preach no reliance on the police.

The first issue of their bulletin puts it like this: "The Defence Committee that pointed out again and again that mere numbers of police will not solve the racial problems of the East End. It

is the attitude of the police and the judiciary which is in question, and experience shows us where their sympathy lies.

"Therefore the black people are justified in having so little confidence in them. They consider that the police are there only to protect the National Front. Time is running out for those who pretend that they are the neutral and impartial custodians of 'law and justice'".

The next few weeks will be crucial in testing whether the Front will be allowed to return to Brick Lane or whether a viable defence organisation will be built. The Defence Committee needs the support of London's labour movement in this task, as well as in maintaining a large presence in Brick Lane each Sunday morning.

### Rally

A RALLY at the end of the march heard speakers from the various supporting groups.

Andrew Hornung of Workers' Action pointed out that the initiatives being taken to set up defence committees were of historic importance.

"It means", he said, "that revolutionary working class ideas have been revealed as the only answer. It means that all the talk about police protection and not taking the law into your own hands is reactionary claptrap. The same goes for Len Murray's sermon last week, when he said that 'the police have a difficult job'".

Referring to a previous speech by Joan Lester MP, in which she sought to defend her own record and that of the Parliamentary Labour left, Hornung made it clear: "Joan Lester has never spoken in favour of the abolition of all immigration controls. And neither have other MPs. As long as the Labour Party and the TUC refuse to denounce all immigration controls, whether they like it or not, they feed the Front".

He pointed out that there were many SCLV supporters on the march, and declared they would be campaigning for a Labour victory but against the spineless capitulation to racism enshrined in the approval of immigration controls: "The SCLV", he declared, "will be fighting on the basis of the need for workers' support for black self-defence, and against all immigration controls".



## Jake Prescott beaten up by NF warders

singled out by prison officers because he stands up for prisoners' rights.

According to Ron Shaheen, released from Dartmoor on July 13th, Jake Prescott was dragged into the segregation block on July 19th, thrown on the floor, and kicked by at least six warders. He said: "I was in the solitary cell when I heard one of the screws shout 'Prescott's coming down'. Through a slit in the cell door I could see a body lying on the floor being kicked". Two days later he met Prescott in the exercise yard and saw his injuries.

Prescott gave his own evidence to a worker from Islington Law Centre just over a week later. He was in the carpentry shop in Dartmoor on July 10th when a prisoner was suddenly taken out to the segregation block.

Together with two other prisoners he approached a prison officer to ask why this had happened and was told, "It's fuck all to do with

you, Prescott". The officer then pressed an emergency button. Twenty officers arrived and dragged the three men off to the segregation block in their turn.

Prescott was thrown down the stairs into the segregation block and kicked by the prison officers. After that, the law centre worker's report continues, "He was picked up bodily, officers carrying him by the arms and legs. He was then carried to the far end of the unit, to the 'strong box'... His clothes were torn from him, leaving him naked. He was then pushed into the box and thrown on the floor... One of the officers, after pulling Jake to his feet, said, 'You've had this coming for weeks. You think you can grass us up to the police. We are the National Front'".

Now, as a result of this incident, Prescott has been charged with 'leaving his place of work without permission, and assaulting two police officers.

## RACE WHITE PAPER LABOUR SLIDES DOWN THE TORY PATH

SAM RICHARDSON analyses the new White Paper on Immigration [Observations on the Report of the Select Committee on Race Relations and Immigration'. Home Office White Paper, July 1978. Cmnd. 7287].

THE CONSERVATIVE Party proposals on immigration of April this year took their cue from the report of the All-Party Parliamentary Select Committee of the previous month. Understandably, the Tory proposals have dominated the issue of immigration for both racists and anti-racists.

Together with the Select Committee report itself, they showed a major shift in policy — 'From Immigration Controls to Induced Repatriation' (as A.Sivanandan's pamphlet describes it).

The official Labour Government reaction, in the White Paper, has received less attention. Yet it tells us quite a lot about how much, or how little, any future Labour Government will resist pressures for even more repressive immigration controls.

Two of the worst of the Select Committee recommendations are rejected outright — 'internal immigration controls' and the lowering of the age limit for certain categories of dependent children wishing to join their parents to 12. But most of the draconian measures

suggested are rejected on the basis that they are either unnecessary, untimely, or already in hand.

For example, the Home Office's observation on the Select Committee's call for more resources for the police and for the Immigration Service Intelligence Unit, to 'tackle all aspects of illegal immigration', hardly amount to a rejection. Indeed, they boast, "The level of enforcement in recent years has been raised substantially, and the number of deportation orders made, the number of successful prosecutions under the Immigration Act 1971, and the number of illegal entrants detected and removed, were all in 1977 between two and three times higher than in 1973". This "high priority in the allocation of resources" is to continue, and will soon include computer support.

Similarly, on the recommendation for tighter DHSS checks (which was raised on the Select Committee as a result of evidence from the DHSS itself), the White Paper states that "increased identity checks at the time of registration for National Insurance" are being planned. There is no need for checks for 'abuse' 'specifically by people who had come from abroad'.

The employment of illegal immigrants, which should, according to the Select Committee, be dealt with by "effective sanctions against employers", is, we are told, also already in hand. The Government, the TUC, and the CBI

are already pursuing consultations 'energetically' on this matter.

The Committee's call for a review of dependents' admissions and supplementary benefit and accommodation provisions in the law is unnecessary because of the recent overall review of the supplementary benefits scheme. On the issue of entry rights for fiancées, "the government is not at present persuaded" that the suggested restrictions by the Committee "would serve a useful purpose, but the matter, which is an important one, will be kept under close review".....

The differences between the Conservative Party and the Labour Government on immigration, at present, are substantial. The Tories have seized on the issue of immigration as a means of encouraging racialism and winning electoral support. However, the Labour Government is responsible for the maintenance of the existing Immigration Acts, and their increasingly harsh interpretation and implementation. Moreover, Labour has shown its ability to move fast, without forewarning, under racist pressure.

This White Paper represents not so much Labour going in the opposite direction from the Conservatives, as following some distance behind them on the same path.



# COPS ON EVICTION RAMPAGE



500 police, led by members of the Special Patrol Group carrying riot shields and dressed in protective clothing, carried out dawn raid to evict 160 squatters from their homes in Huntley Street, Camden, last Wednesday, August 16th.

The massive operation, directed by former bomb squad commander Roy Habershon, involved the use of four bulldozers and cost £50,000.

13 of the squatters, who put up no resistance to the military-style operation, were charged with obstructing the police and remanded on bail the next day to appear in court in mid-September.

**NIK BARSTOW** talked to **KEN LIVINGSTONE**, chairman of Camden Council Housing Committee and a member of the steering committee of the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory, about the police eviction of 160 squatters from Huntley St. in Camden on Wednesday 16th August.

**□□ What happened at Huntley Street?**

■ ■ The Huntley Street property is owned by the Regional Health Authority, which has a development plan involving a number of sites. They want to pull down part of the block, put in a car park, and convert the rest from family housing into single people's flats.

They placed a possession order in the hands of the Sheriff of Greater London, and the police stormed in and carried out the evictions.

Camden Council wasn't consulted, probably because almost every councillor wanted the squatters to stay. We wanted the area to stay on as mainly family housing.

**□□ What did you try to do on Camden Council?**

■ ■ We wanted to know what was going to happen so that we could rehouse people.

A month before, Piers Corbyn (a squatters' leader) came to see me and gave us the names and details of all the families living there, so that we could rehouse them if the evictions came. Camden Labour councillors said publicly that we supported the squatters because they were making excellent use of the block. What's more, local neighbourhood groups supported them. They were part of the community.

Camden council has also been won round to a position that we should have a policy of rehousing single people too.

**□□ What happened immediately before the evictions?**

■ ■ The night before, Camden council and the GLC had come to an agreement with the squatters. Camden would rehouse the families immediately, and the two authorities would each rehouse half of the single people.

The eviction was totally unnecessary. It came just as we had managed to reach some solution.

The Regional Health Authority and the police refused to tell Camden Council officials what their plans were, because they knew I would have found out and told the squatters. We kept in touch with the squatters, but we could find out as little as they could.

**□□ What do you think about the role of the police and the sheriff?**

■ ■ The Sheriff probably looked forward to the trial of strength. It was good practice for methods of civilian control and it dragged the police into a very political role, making people more accustomed to that sort of thing.

It's obvious that the main issue is the way the police operated, the political overtones of them taking away people's diaries and papers, and the way they appeared deliberately to kick people's belongings about and made racial insults to black squatters.

There simply shouldn't be someone with powers like the Sheriff has.

**□□ What about the Regional Health Authority?**

■ ■ It's a supposedly non-political body, which means of course that it's packed out by the Tories and their friends. Ennals, the Health Minister, recently reappointed the chairman of the Regional Health

Authority involved, who is as right wing as they come. Even the local press have attacked this man for being totally unsympathetic to health and the community.

These bodies should be brought under democratic control. What's stopped it is the influential consultants who are afraid that Labour councils like Camden would use the authorities to make sure pay beds and private practice were stopped. And of course they're right. We would!

We've got a Labour Government, a Labour Health Minister, and a Labour council in the area, and we were unable to do a thing to stop the eviction.

Ennals, as well as pushing through the most disastrous cuts in the Health Service, has played a disgusting role in this affair. He refused to use his powers to stop the Health Authority carrying out the evictions, despite an appeal from the Labour leader of Camden council. His commitment to socialism is simply non-existent!

**□□ What can be done now?**

■ ■ The people in Huntley Street were the continuation of a group of squatters who have been shoved around like this fighting all the time and losing out.

Between Camden and the GLC we have agreed to house all the single people as well as the families. Though initially that will be in short-life properties, we will be trying to absorb the single people into our proper housing stock and stop them from being forced to move from squat to squat all.

We looked for a large property to rehouse all the squatters together, because that's what they wanted. We simply hadn't got one in Camden, but we must try to make sure that young single people can get decent housing, not just the old tat.

## SCLV campaign is growing all the time

ALL AROUND the country the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory is growing. Over the last few weeks sponsorships have come in from prominent local labour movement activists in many towns and cities.

Dave Nuttall, one of the victimised Clay Cross councillors, and Hull dockers Tony Fee (president of Hull Trades Council) and Cllr Tony Geraghty (chairman of Hull Central CLP) have sponsored the campaign. The agent for Brent East CLP, and Labour councillors in Brentford, Hackney, Haringey, Hillingdon, Islington, Kilburn, and Northampton are now sponsors, together with many more union branch secretaries and shop stewards.

Jack Collingswood, AUEW convenor at Cannon's, Wolverhampton, and Emlyn Williams, President of the South Wales area of the National Union of Mineworkers, have agreed to speak at campaign meetings.

But sponsorships on paper are no use without organisation. The campaign's supporters have organised local groups in over 15 major cities and London boroughs, and another dozen are being formed in other towns and major workplaces.

Successful meetings of 20 to 30 people have taken place in Manchester and Coventry over the holiday period, and many more are being planned.

Now that many labour movement bodies are restarting meetings after a summer break, and the Tories have begun the election campaign with a splash of expensive propaganda posters all round the country, the campaign must expand rapidly.

The SCLV Steering Committee will be issuing posters — in the first labour movement effort to counter the Tories' campaign. Leaflets are already being prepared on major issues such as the 5% limit, racism, jobs, and women's rights. A new issue of the campaign's bulletin is coming out, carrying reports of local work.



In many constituencies, supporters are putting the pressure on for Labour Parties to be able to decide democratically on the contents of their election manifestos — in the same way that parties such as Norwood, Hornsey, and Hackney North (which sponsor the campaign) are doing.

In a number of areas, such as Northampton and Manchester, the SCLV and the Anti-Nazi League are working together to counter the National Front and the racist Tories, while also campaigning against the Labour government's continued implementation (contrary to Labour conference decisions) of the 1971

Immigration Act.

In Cardiff, campaign supporters have been taking up the case of Mohammed Sharif, a bakery worker who was first jailed and then expelled from the country as an illegal immigrant.

In London, SCLV supporters organised a large contingent on the August 20th demonstration in Brick Lane, and the SCLV is calling for London Labour Party bodies to organise a regular turnout to the area to assist in the defence of the Asian community.

The attack on council direct labour departments being carried out by recently-elected Tory councils have also emerged as a major issue, especially with the massive employer-backed 'Campaign Against Building Industry Nationalisation' churning out expensive anti-Labour propaganda to every household. Local groups in Basingstoke, Birmingham, and Islington are taking up the issue of direct labour.

There will be other campaigns to come, especially on the issue of abortion rights. The anti-abortion 'Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child' will be making a major effort to dislodge Labour MPs who stand by Labour conference policy in favour of abortion rights, and local SCLV groups will be trying to link up with the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign and the National Abortion Campaign in countering this reactionary onslaught.

## SCLV MEETINGS

— LONDON —

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

**HARINGEY.** Thursday 14th September. "Fighting Racism" 7.30pm Tottenham Community Project.

**ISLINGTON.** Wednesday 30th August. "Labour and Ireland" 7.30pm, Caxton House, St John's Way, N19.

**SOUTH LONDON.** Thursday 14th September. "The Need for a Socialist Campaign". Speakers Ted Knight (leader, Lambeth Council), and Patrick Kodikara (Hackney & Tower Hamlets Defence Committee). 7.45pm Lambeth Town Hall.

**ALL-LONDON SCLV RALLY.** 7.30pm, Friday 22nd September. Friends Meeting House, Euston Road.

### SUPPORTERS' MEETINGS

**HACKNEY.** Thursday 31st August, 7.30pm, Hackney Town Hall.

**HARINGEY.** Thursday 31st August. 7.30pm, Hornsey Labour Rooms, Middle Lane, Hornsey.

**OUTER EAST LONDON.** Thursday 31st August. 7.30pm, Newham North East Labour Party Offices, 241 High St North (nearest tube: East Ham)

**SOUTH LONDON.** Wednesday 30th August. 7.45pm, Lambeth Town Hall.

**SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN FOR A LABOUR VICTORY SOCIAL.** Friday 1st September. From 8pm at Caxton House, St John's Way, N19. Live bands.

— OUT OF LONDON —

**TRADES UNION CONGRESS MEETING:** Tuesday 5th September. 7pm, King William IV Room, Royal Pavilion, Brighton

**BASINGSTOKE.** Tuesday 5th September. "The Government's record and Racism". Speakers include Patrick Kodikara (Hackney & Tower Hamlets Defence Committee). 7.30pm Chute House, Church Street.

**CARDIFF.** Friday 15th September. "The Government's Record and the TUC". 7.30pm, Four Elms pub, Elm St, off Newport Road.

**COVENTRY.** Monday 4th September. "No Phase Four". Speaker: Dave Green, Northampton District Committee AUEW, in personal capacity. 7.30pm, Sandwell pub.

■ Monday 18th September. "W(h)ither the car industry?" Speaker: Jim Denham (TGWU, Longbridge). 7.30pm Sandwell pub.

■ Monday 2nd October. "Ireland: Brits out!". Speaker: Richard Chessum. 7.30pm, Sandwell pub.

**LEICESTER.** Monday 11th September. "The Labour Government's record and the TUC" Speaker: Jim Denham (TGWU, Longbridge). 7.30pm, Secular Hall, Humberstone St.

**NORTHAMPTON.** Wednesday 30th August. "The Labour Government's Record". 7.45pm Old Black Lion (opp. station).

**NOTTINGHAM:** Carlton East Branch Labour Party meeting with SCLV speaker. Friday 29th September, Burton Rd Community Centre, Burton Rd, Carlton. All Labour Party members & trade unionists welcome.

**STOKE ON TRENT.** Wednesday 13th September. "The Labour Government's Record". 7.30pm Cartwright House, Hanley.



*Remember the last time:*

**ANTI-UNION LAWS**

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the  
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out**

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**AFTER Peugeot-Citroen's takeover bid for Chrysler's European operations, world competition in the car industry will become even sharper.**

This winter the pay claims at Ford and at Leyland will be two of the most important test cases on the wages front in Britain. The Ford claim calls for a 35 hour week, better holidays and shift pay, and a £20 pay rise — way beyond the 5% limit.

But for the Ford and Leyland bosses, keeping wage rises down will probably be a smaller consideration than enforcing speed-up and pushing up productivity. Leyland is trying to rationalise sufficiently to keep afloat in competition with the far bigger American, European, and Japanese firms; Ford will be making plans to strike back at the threat which Peugeot-Citroen poses by overtaking them as the no. 1 car producer in Europe.

The Counter Information Services 'Anti-Report' on Ford, published earlier this year, shows how all the operations of this giant corporation, the third biggest company in the world, are based on a relentless drive to step up exploitation of its 450,000 workers. **FRAN BRODIE** and **COLIN FOSTER** review the report.

# FORDS- out to crush the workers



**FORD is the second biggest car firm in the world. General Motors outpaces it by a large margin in the US market, but outside the US it is bigger than GM. "With assets of over \$18 billion, the Ford Motor Company is as wealthy and powerful as many dozens of smaller nation states — but its ruler Henry Ford is accountable to no electorate, least of all to those whose livelihoods are affected by his decisions".**

Ford makes cars — about six million vehicles a year. But most of all it makes money. "Between them the three Ford brothers and their families receive \$20 million in Ford dividends each year".

Some years ago 48 top Ford executives were getting over \$10 million a year in salaries and bonuses. In 1976 profits after tax totalled \$2214 per worker. Ford UK made bumper 1977 profits of £246.1 million before tax.

## Profits

With these profits and this scale of operation, Ford is able to set a base-line for exploitation in the car industry.

Ford can make investments — like its \$1 billion for the Fiesta — which would strain smaller car firms. It can realise tremendous economies of scale: the Cortina, according to Ford bosses' estimates, costs £170 less to produce than a competing car simply because it is manufactured in larger numbers.

And Ford can organise its production internationally to give maximum advantage both technically and in terms of ability to outflank workers' actions.

Other car firms — like Leyland — can then compete with Ford only by trying to exploit their workers even more intensely. And thus Ford's immense wealth, political pull, and technological capacity become weapons in the class struggle not only against Ford workers but also against all other car workers.

Ford's cost-cutting takes place, to start with, at the expense of car drivers and passengers. The CIS Report tells the story of the Pinto.

The Pinto was so constructed that it was almost bound to go up in flames after a rear-end collision at anything over 30 miles an hour. Between 1970 and 1977 between 500 and 900 people were avoidably burnt to death as a result of this fault, and many others were burnt or maimed.

Correcting the fault was not technically difficult or even expensive. A \$1 plastic baffle reduces the risk considerably; a \$11 improvement would save many deaths.

But Ford wanted to get the Pinto onto the market quickly. With that in mind, they had gone ahead with tooling before the design had been properly tested. Then re-tooling, they calculated, would be too expensive to be worth while.

When the US government started worrying about the Pinto's safety, they stalled it for eight years, with one objection after another. Maybe car fire deaths were rare. Or maybe rear-end collisions don't happen very often. Perhaps people who die in car fires would have died anyway because of the collision...

Eventually, in February this year, Ford had punitive damages of \$128 million awarded against it in a California court. But in the meantime it had been selling unsafe but profitable Pintos for eight years.

## Shared

To show how Ford uses its international organisation, the CIS Report takes the example of the Fiesta. Two years' initial development work was done in Detroit. Most of the production is shared between Dagenham, Valencia (Spain), Saarlouis (Germany), and Genk (Belgium). Eight other European plants are involved in making Fiesta components.

This international organisation permits not only economies of scale, but also 'insurance' for the Ford bosses against action by workers in a particular plant, because they can shift to another plant in another country. And Ford has been able to locate its plants in the best areas from the point of view of the labour market.

In most of Ford's big plants, the production lines are mostly manned by migrant labour. In Cologne (Germany), 90% of the line workers are Turks, Spaniards, Moroccans, Italians and other immigrants. In Saarlouis, 70% are immigrants. The Genk plant is manned by workers from the same countries. Dagenham employs Irish, Asians, and West Indians.

## Migrant

The migrant workers are forced to work harder, for lower wages, than German, British, or Belgian workers would readily accept. In Germany, especially, where immigration laws are even harsher than in Britain, "The migrant workers work long and unsocial hours and are encouraged to see their wages in terms of their home economy and not of the host country. They live in hostels, often in barrack conditions. In the plant they are intimidated".

The migrant workers have fought back. At Dagenham, they have built up a stronger record of organisation and militancy than most British workers. At Cologne, there was a strike in 1973 when Ford tried to reduce manning levels by sacking Turks returning from holiday.

The Turks demanded 1 DM an hour increase for all workers. But the union, influenced by racist ideas, turned against them. The chairman of the works committee led a group of German workers in beating up Turkish strikers.

Ford goes all out to encourage nationalist ideas among its workers, to divide and rule internationally. "The UK workforce", for example, "is threatened with an embargo on further UK investment unless continental levels of productivity are achieved". Dagenham Ford workers are told that it takes them 75% longer than Genk to produce the Cortina. Halewood workers are told that their record in meeting production targets is abysmal.

Meanwhile German Ford workers are told that their plant is less competitive than the factories in the UK or Spain.

In each country where it operates, Ford puts on the cloak of the 'national interest'; and, of course, each country's Government supports and sustains it.

Each time Ford builds a new factory, it is in an area where there is high unemployment and a decline in traditional industries. Governments and even unions hail Ford as a saviour, and promise state hand-outs and industrial peace. "Ford is bringing prosperity to our area", they claim. In fact, Ford is bringing prosperity to... Ford.

## Lavish

Last year Ford decided to build a new engine plant in Bridgend, South Wales. The decision was made in July. From then until September it was kept quiet while three Governments vied with lavish financial offers to attract the new plant to their countries. In the event the British government will be paying for £70 million of Ford's £185 million investment.

The Spanish government passed a special statute called "Ford's Law", exempting the company from many financial and economic restraints. In 1973 Ford decided to build a plant outside Valencia. By September 1976, tear gas was drifting across

the assembly line and into the press shop, as Spanish police helped Ford resist the workers' pay demands.

The company tried to smuggle parts out to Dagenham. It made an offer and then withdrew it with the excuse that it had been vetoed by Ford Germany and Ford UK. But eventually, after a long struggle, Ford had to concede many of the workers' demands.

In that strike, as in many others, Ford tried to play off one nation against another. Time and time again the trade union leaders for the trade, directing their efforts towards "keeping the work" in their own country rather than towards combining internationally to counter Ford's worldwide manoeuvres. And the result is that the unions do not serve Ford workers well in the basic, day in day out struggle — at the point of production.

The rise of Ford marked an epoch in the history of capitalism because it pioneered the assembly line: the highest expression of the capitalist enslavement of the worker to the machine. On the assembly line, the trends which Karl Marx saw decades earlier reach their full expression.

"In the factory, there exists a lifeless mechanism independent of the workers, and they are incorporated into that mechanism as its living appendages... Even the lightning of the labour becomes a means of torture, for the machine does not free the worker from his work, but merely deprives his work of interest.

## Hostile

"All kinds of capitalist production... have this in common, that in them the worker does not use the instruments of labour, but the instruments of labour use the worker. However, it is only in machine production that this inversion acquires a technical and palpable reality...

"Machinery does not merely function as a mighty competitor, ever ready to make the wage earners 'superfluous'. It is also a power directly hostile to the wage worker, is proclaimed to be such by capital, and... is utilised as the most powerful weapon in the capitalist arsenal".

As a Chicago Ford worker describes it: "I stand on one spot all night. The only time a person stops is when the line stops. We do about 32 jobs per car, per unit. 48 units an hour, 8 hours a day. 32 times 48 times 8. Figure it out. That's how many times I push the button.

"The noise is tremendous. You open your mouth and you're liable to get a mouthful of sparks. That's a burn, these are burns... It don't stop. It just goes and goes and goes. I bet there's men who have lived and died out there, never seen the end of that line...

"I don't like the pressure, the intimidation..."

In this system of production there is a weekly, daily, hourly struggle between the workers, trying to get a breath-



ing space, trying to get more human conditions, and the bosses, trying to speed up the lines, trying to chain the workers more closely to the production line.

The great majority of strikes are about work pace and work conditions, in one way or another.

Often the struggle is a matter of life and death. Up to the late 1930s, Ford operated by trying to bar unions from its plants. The lines were patrolled by a 3,500-strong armed private police, the Ford Service Department. Strikers were shot and beaten up. "The speed-up aged men prematurely; when they could no longer produce they were discarded... Men had ulcers and the shakes. If they talked at all on the job, it was out of the side of their mouths".

## Capitalist

Now Ford has come to terms with the unions, and often tries to ally with the union leaders against the rank and file. But still 16,000 workers die at work in US car plants each year. There are 63,000 disabled, 1,700,000 with lost or impaired hearing.

Just in the Body Plant at Dagenham, 80+ to 140 eye injuries are reported each month. Yet (as of 1975) for their entire British operations Ford have just six medical people, one industrial hygienist, and an assistant.

This is the daily reality of "increasing productivity" and "keeping up with the competition". And as long as production continues to be organised on a capitalist basis, the power of Capital and its rapaciousness increases year after year. The lines run faster, the dominance of the machine over the worker is reinforced. More cars are produced — and, more to the point, more wealth, power, and glory is produced for the Ford bosses.

## Object

While the Ford worker is treated as just an object in the production of cars, Ford himself appears as the producer. It is said that "Ford produces a new model", instead of talking of the Ford workers who actually produce the car — and who could continue to produce just the same if Henry Ford II dropped dead tomorrow.

Within Ford, the worker is completely exposed to the power of the giant car firm, and it appears that he couldn't function without Henry Ford. The workers appear as passive objects of exploitation, appendages of the assembly line; the employers are the active agents, the creators, the producers, the people who "give" work.

Instead of machinery being used to reduce working hours and promote a better life for the worker, it is used against him — and will continue to be so used, through successive drives of 'rationalisation', until the workers take over the means of production and run them in the interests of society instead of Henry Ford, his two brothers, and their class.

SOCIALIST PRESS of 16th August returned to the attack against the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory. Colin Foster of the WORKERS' ACTION Editorial Board has sent this letter to SOCIALIST PRESS:

IN SOCIALIST PRESS of 16th August you denounce the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory as "a 'Socialist' Campaign that accepts Callaghan".

With the same logic, Socialist Press could be denounced as a "socialist" paper that accepts the Labour Government, on the grounds that it does not call for the overthrow of that government!

For SP, we are "accepting Callaghan" if we don't make "kick out Callaghan" our central slogan.

Now the SCLV's literature makes it plain enough that we are hostile to Callaghan, that we campaign for accountability in the labour movement, and that we would support any moves to replace Callaghan by a leader who came nearer to reflecting the wishes of the Labour Party rank and file.

However, a call to replace Callaghan by one of his likely left wing challengers — Benn or

# Alan Thornett for Prime Minister?



Callaghan

someone similar — would have little bite at present as a campaigning slogan, for Benn is not putting up against Callaghan, and in any case history shows that Parliamentary leftists end up very much like Parliamentary right-wingers when they get into top positions.

But SP, it seems, has its own special interpretation of "kick out Callaghan". It doesn't mean replacing Callaghan by

Benn (or someone like that). On the contrary, SP thinks it was a "shameless capitulation" when Workers' Action said CLPs should call on MPs to vote for Benn against Callaghan in the 1976 leadership election (even though WA also warned that "there is an unbridgeable difference of class interest between (Benn's) policies and ours").

slogan against real efforts — like the SCLV — to build opposition to Callaghan on the key class struggle issues.

The SCLV's "chatter about socialism" is "mere phrases", says SP, equating the Campaign with "the 'tame cat' fake Marxists of the Militant group". Yet it is SP's sectarianism which really invites comparison with the Militant's abstract sloganising.

Only the Militant has the advantage that its chosen cure-all — the 'bold socialist programme' — really is an advanced slogan, or at least would be if they had not reduced it to the proportions of Parliamentary nationalisations. SP preaches a slogan which has neither an immediate political cutting edge nor any advanced political content. And out of that preaching it constructs a strained and absurdly slanderous excuse for its abstention from the SCLV.

## Kick out

So what does "kick out Callaghan" mean for SP? Apparently, replacing Callaghan by a revolutionary leadership. Alan Thornett for prime minister?

This makes SP's slogan just empty bluster, a windbag's cure-all rather than a demand based on the logic of the class struggle. And SP counterposes its fervent preaching of this

# AFTER CLASS SOCIETY, TEST-TUBE SOCIETY?

Dear comrades,

WHAT IS WRONG with the family is not that it is based on blood ties, but that it has twisted those ties and relationships through violence, coercion and the rules and conventions of class society. We need to free blood relationships from the oppressive weight of the bourgeois family — not abolish them as a 'short cut' to getting rid of the family, as Colin Foster advocates (*Letters*, WA 113).

Granted that blood ties are the

major lynchpin of property-owning, exploitative societies. But they are also a valuable and important component of the human experience. With the abolition of class society, they will presumably be richer and more valuable. Everything that men and women do and have done has been tainted and distorted by class society — but we would not advocate doing away with people...

Laboratory breeding, says comrade Foster, would free women from pregnancy and child-

birth: but surely a large part of this experience is welcomed and valued by most women. Instead of this rather drastic step, it would be better if the resources were used to abolish the pain and the fear and to make the business safer for mother and child.

But the real 'benefits' emerge at the end of his letter: a benevolent society would take into its hands control of human reproduction and turn out genius after genius from the labs. And he quotes Trotsky to the effect that in the society of the future the average person would be at the level of a Goethe or a Marx.

I had always assumed Trotsky meant that this was what mankind could aspire to, freed of the fetters of capitalism. If indeed he meant the breeding of these perfect specimens, then he was misguided.

A future society may be as benevolent as one might wish, but will it have, in sufficient degree, wisdom, knowledge, and foresight? Will its aims and values really be properly weighted and balanced? Will it have the good sense to breed for us an

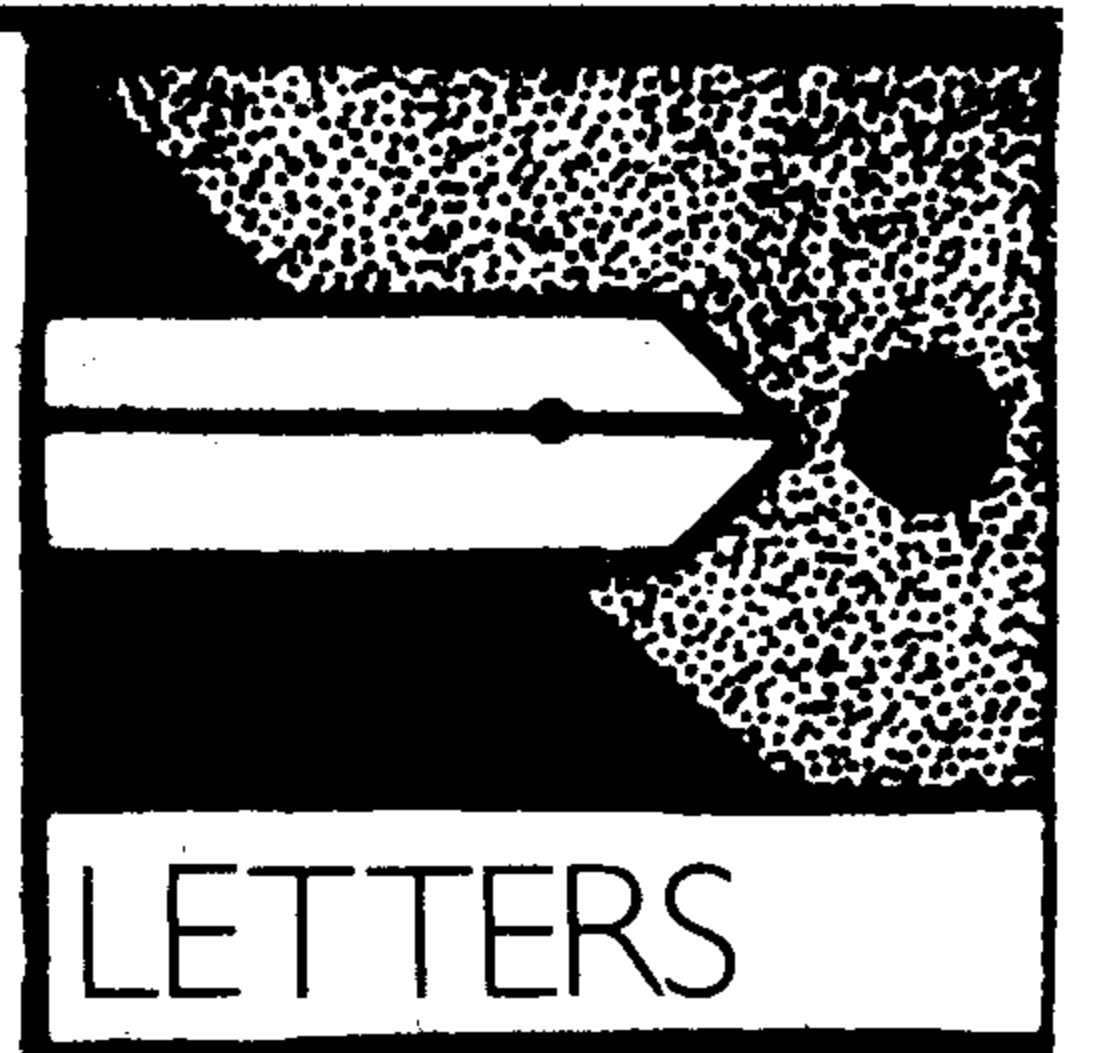
Edward Lear as well as an Aristotle? What will happen to the 'failures' — the throwbacks, the mere Colin Fosters, thrown among the giants?

Would plain old-fashioned child-bearing be forbidden, or so frowned on as to mark the offspring as freaks (to add to their problems of trying to measure up to the giants)? If the practice failed to die out, the laboratory products would inevitably become a social elite, having all the approved qualities, and in a very short time coming to control the breeding labs and to perpetuate their own kind.

This new 'class' society may well have its own version of today's tribute of vice to virtue: yes, it will say, of course we value all of our people equally.

But it won't.

RACHEL LEVER



# BUKHARIN'S LAST TRIP ABROAD

Dear comrades,

IN WORKERS' ACTION no.112 you carried a short article in which you wrote, "He [Bukharin] was allowed out of the Soviet Union for the last time in 1934".

According to Soviet historian Roy Medvedev, whose article on "Bukharin's last years" is published in the current 'New Left Review', this is wrong.

Medvedev writes: "In the spring of 1936, the question arose of purchasing sections of the Marx-Engels archive, principally from the German Social Democrats... The Politburo of the Central Committee [of the CPSU] appointed Bukharin to head the group that was sent to negotiate purchase of the archive... The group headed by Bukharin travelled to Norway, Denmark and other countries, and then based itself in Paris..."

When Bukharin stood trial in 1938, certain charges related to this trip. He was accused of associating with Mensheviks and other counterrevolutionaries. The charge, of course, was true... but all these contacts were made on the instructions of the Central Committee.

He was even shadowed throughout the trip to ensure that no-one was contacted but those that the Central Committee had indicated. Under those circumstances Bukharin was understandably especially careful that no contact was made that might compromise him politically. It didn't help...



Bukharin

One more thing to say that Bukharin took "the NEP not as a temporary retreat but a long-term strategy" rather understates the problem. It is clear from his speech at the Fourth Congress of the Comintern that he saw NEP as a valid and necessary stage of post-revolutionary development in almost every country — certainly and explicitly in the USA, the most developed capitalist country.

This error — which does not seem to have been opposed openly and seriously at the Fourth Congress [though lots of big issues that were raised in key-note speeches went un-discussed without becoming the line of the Comintern] — led directly to the right-wing phase of peasant-worker, farmer-labour alliances.

JAMES DAVIES London

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# WORKERS IN ACTION

## SOCIAL WORKERS DEMAND END TO POVERTY WAGES

**THE STRIKE** by almost 400 social workers in Newcastle and Southwark which began on August 14th is now official and is spreading.

Their claim is for substantial improvements in grading that could mean a £20 a week increase for some workers, and a shorter working week of 36 hours with paid overtime.

On August 21st, strike action began in Tower Hamlets and Ealing, and action is planned in Liverpool and Brent. The Tower Hamlets social workers are demanding a minimum net weekly rate of £60 a week, rising to £100 for qualified social workers with seven years' experience.

Some social workers at present take home only £40 a week, or only £50 a week after five years' experience.

One official of the local government workers' union NALGO estimated that up to one third of the social workers in Britain are preparing to strike or have submitted similar

claims to their own local authorities.

There was a long build-up to the strikes, and those in Newcastle and Southwark were made official only after prolonged attempts by NALGO officials to reach a compromise.

### Distrust

The Tower Hamlets Strike Committee's "Strike News" shows the reason for the deep distrust of the officials that exists among the members. "It was in June 1977 that NALGO Annual Conference overwhelmingly passed a motion calling on our National Local Government Committee to negotiate with the employers for the national social workers' pay scale to be scrapped.

"Now, 14 months later, the meeting still hasn't taken place — the employers have yet to be officially notified of NALGO's intention to establish local pay negotiations for social workers.

And this is in spite of the express dissatisfaction and censure of this year's Annual Conference".

The June 1977 conference instructed local branches to start local negotiations for regrading. Southwark, Newcastle, and Tower Hamlets branches did this, and got nothing. Tower Hamlets voted 124 to 7 in favour of strike action a month ago, having received the support of senior social workers and ancillaries. Under NALGO rules, a secret ballot was taken on the issue at the end of July, showing 84% in favour in Southwark and 81% in Newcastle.

Despite the overwhelming feeling in the branches, NALGO's National Executive put off giving official support for strike action until after a meeting with the employers on the National Joint Council's sub-committee on grading, on August 8th.

That meeting was apparently a ten-minute affair, where the

management side simply read out a prepared statement of policy on their own prescribed scales and then refused to discuss it. The NALGO NEC had no deal they could make.

To make the action bite, the social work offices are being picketed, mail deliveries are being turned back, and the social workers are refusing to provide emergency cover since it could weaken their action.

### Rallying

A demonstration was held on Monday 21st, called by the All London Social Workers' Action Group, rallying hundreds of social workers. At a meeting called by the Group, which has played a major role in pressing the social workers' demands, 300 social workers from other areas called for a one day strike next month in support of the area already taking action.

Send messages of support and donations to: John Pratt (Southwark NALGO), 1 Spa Rd, London SE16; Tower Hamlets NALGO Social Services Strike Committee, 13 Wellington Way, London E3; and Newcastle Strike Committee, Millford House, NALGO offices, Dean Street, Newcastle.

## Talk, but don't negotiate, says Tory council

DESPITE EFFORTS by the Tory Borough Council to 'freeze it out', and a wave of anti-worker hysteria in the local press, direct labour workers of Basingstoke Borough Council are still determined to push their demands that contract labour not be employed for the repair work which urgently needs doing to hundreds of gerry-built council houses.

Council officials have let slip, in private, that they see the justice of much of what the workers are saying — but they have been told by Tory council leaders that they can talk to the workers as much as they like, but there must be no negotiation on any of the points at issue!

The tactic being employed here is clear. In the past the council has been defeated on a number of issues by the determination and solidarity of local dustmen.

The current dispute centres on the builders, who have been very slow off the mark in supporting the dustmen in previous disputes. The few signs of irresolution which have been shown in the last few days have come not from the dustmen, but from the park workers, who have also been reluctant to support the dustmen before.

The council clearly want to have a showdown with the dustmen, who, they hope, can be defeated along with their less determined brothers.

This tactic is failing. The strikers and their committee are still solid in their determination to force the issues at stake:

Contract labour will be no answer to the problems of tenants in the town's crumbling council houses. The contract labour method encourages careless work. The houses in question were built by contract labour, and some are dangerous to live in after only ten years.

Contract labour will threaten the jobs of the council's direct labour forces in an area where unemployment, though still comparatively low, is rising rapidly.

ALISTAIR JAMISON

## Tube staff vote 1-day strikes

UNDERGROUND station staff have voted to strike one day a week from Thursday September 7th.

The decision was taken at two meetings called by the NUR. Some ASLEF and TSSA members were also involved.

The strike is in protest at restrictions on overtime and rest-day working. This has come about after London Transport was instructed by the Tory GLC was cut their expenditure by £8 million this year.

LT have reduced overtime and rest-day working for staff not directly responsible for operating the tube trains: booking office, cleaning, and platform staff. This means a reduction in pay and an increased work load during the normal working week.

The answer that LT workers should be fighting for is: the recruitment of more workers to reduce the work load; more pay, and a sliding scale to protect wages from inflation, so that workers need not rely on overtime for a decent wage; and the reversal of the £8 million cuts.

STEVE GOLDSTONE

# LEYLAND TOOLMAKERS' ANGER RISES

TROUBLE is brewing again in Birmingham's toolrooms.

At SU Carburettors, a Leyland subsidiary, the toolmakers have been on strike since the beginning of this month. They are demanding parity with other Leyland toolmakers in Birmingham. At present, the SU Carburettors men take home an average of only £50 a week.

The strike has not yet led to any lay-offs in Leyland, where bosses say they have plenty of carburettors in stock.

The dispute has received full support from the unofficial Leyland toolroom committee, which has organised a 50p per head weekly levy to pay the strikers £50 a week strike pay. But it has met resolute opposition from AUEW officials, who have fined the strikers £9 per head for failing to attend a meeting with them, and urged other workers at SU Carburettors to scab on the strike.

The Leyland toolroom committee has threatened an all-out strike if any disciplinary action is taken against the SU Carburettors men — and at the same time it is keeping open the possibility of strike action for the committee's own claims: increased differentials and separate negotiations for the toolrooms. These demands are opposed equally by the Leyland bosses and by the leaders of the toolroom workers' union, the AUEW.

The unofficial Leyland craftsmen's committee — which has similar grievances — has already held a one-day strike, and the toolroom committee is due to meet on 2nd September to discuss its plans for action.

There is a chance of sizeable concessions to the toolroom workers in the framework of the new combine-wide pay agreement which Leyland bosses are trying to bring in as from November

this year; but at present the toolroom workers are boycotting the job evaluation procedure designed to work out the gradings for that combine-wide agreement. A major worry, it seems, is that the job evaluation procedure will be used to bring in new, broader job descriptions and greater labour mobility.

Rank and file militants in Leyland, while not agreeing with the toolroom workers' and craftsmen's go-it-alone approach, feel that full support for them will be necessary if they do take action to win better wages.

DD

Meanwhile, 1100 Lucas toolroom workers voted at a meeting in Birmingham on 16th August to start a campaign of selective strikes from the 23rd.

The dispute dates back to the strike in July to September of last year. The Lucas toolrooms had a bonus agreement which paid out more and more each year, finally reaching a total of £7.85 a week. In 1977 the Lucas bosses announced that they wanted to scrap the bonus agreement.

After a long strike, a settlement was reached under which the toolroom workers got £3 increase plus a lump sum payment to 'buy out' the bonus agreement. The bonus would remain 'frozen' at £7.85 a week.

Now the bosses want to take away the £7.85 bonus and give £3 a week on the basic rate instead.

The march, organised by the Glasgow Irish Committee — a united front of the far left and Republicans — was particularly important as it was the first major demonstration on Ireland in Scotland for seven years, since a march against internment was physically smashed up by Orange Order thugs in Glasgow.

The march also showed that a serious start has been made to building a solidarity movement in Scotland.

In February there was a conference on Ireland, in Edinburgh, attended by 120 people, which set up the Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Committee; in May 250 attended a 'Troops Out' meeting in Glasgow.

Proposals for future activity include a film tour, probably with "Home Soldier Home", and an all-Scotland conference in December to coincide with the case being brought against the British Government in the European Court of Human Rights by Irish prisoners.



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## 500 on Glasgow Troops Out march

IN THE pouring rain in Glasgow's Gorbals, last Saturday 19th, over 500 people marched to demonstrate their solidarity with Irish Republican prisoners of war fighting for political status and to demand immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

As the demonstration went past, several by-standers waved their support, and others joined the march. By the end, the organisers estimated, it had swelled to nearly 700.