

workers' ACTION

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GRUNWICK
Be there
October 17th
Mass picket
all day



THE POLICE AND THE NATIONAL FRONT: HOW MANY SECRET CONTACTS?

THE CHIEF Constable of Greater Manchester, James Anderton, has felt obliged to make a public apology for conniving and conspiring with the National Front to pull off a fascist demonstration in Manchester last Saturday. But, he says, he had no choice — and he might have to do the same thing again!

The police collaborated closely with the organisers

of the march. They kept the route a closely guarded secret. They concealed facts from the public and from Stockport Council on behalf of those planning a provocative fascist demonstration. They set up 'diversion' road signs to block anti-fascists making for the site of the fascist march.

5,000 police protected one march, in Levens-

hulme, Manchester, of a few hundred racists. 2,000 police marched in serried ranks in Hyde — where demonstrations where supposedly banned — around the lone figure of NF organiser Webster. In all over 7,000 police were needed, at an estimated cost of £250,000, to make Manchester safe for a demonstration of the weakness of the NF.

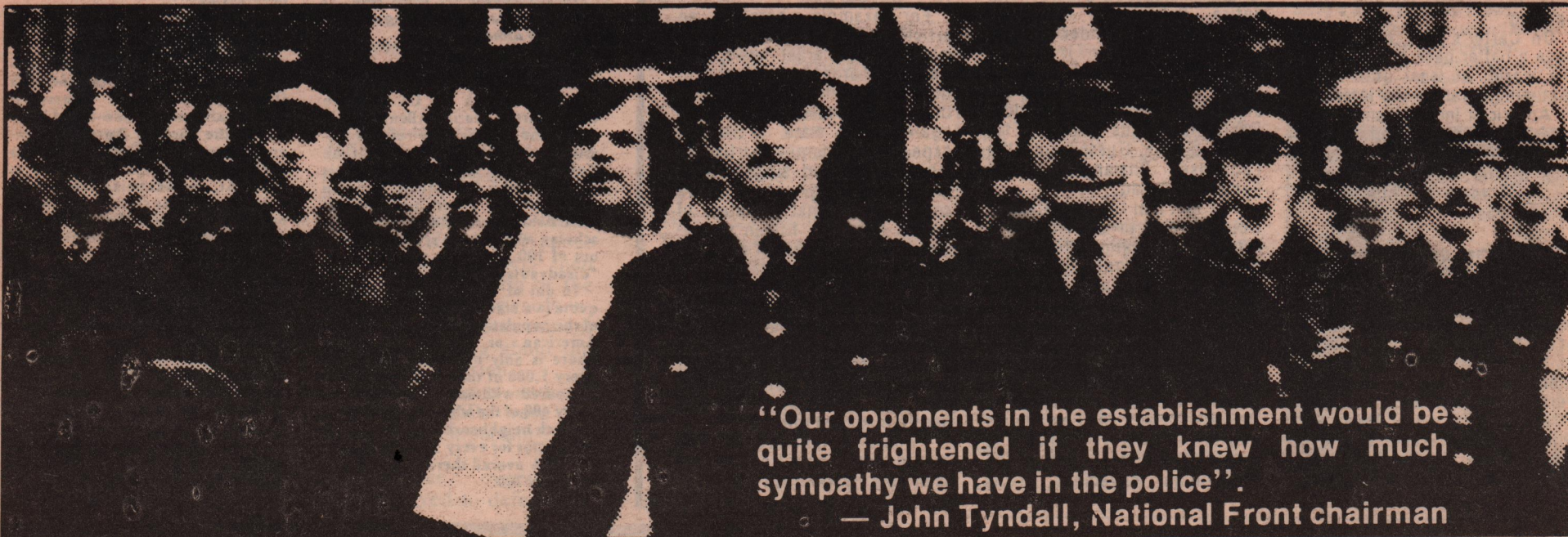
In August, in Lewisham, an anti-fascist demonstration escalated quickly into action against the police who are hated by local black youth for their active racism.

In Manchester, the police felt that the only way they could ensure the safety of the NF racists was by organising them, shepherding them, and finally by sub-

stituting themselves for them!

How many other secret contacts have the police got with the fascists? How much longer will many anti-fascists allow themselves to be fooled with the idea that the fascists can be dealt with through state bans implemented by the police?

SP



"Our opponents in the establishment would be quite frightened if they knew how much sympathy we have in the police".

— John Tyndall, National Front chairman

Targets of Vorster's weapons — militants at Steve Biko's funeral



WHO ARMS SOUTH AFRICA?

WHO ARMS SOUTH AFRICA?

The first 'nuclear cooperation pact' between the United States and South Africa was signed in 1957. It was reaffirmed in 1974, and extended to the year 2007. It includes provisions allowing South Africa to buy "enriched uranium", the basic fuel for atomic weapons, from the United States.

Enriched uranium sales from the USA to S. Africa began over ten years ago, in 1965. And that was the same year that South African scientists first announced they had the "capacity" to develop nuclear weapons. From Lyndon Johnson to Jimmy Carter every American Presid-

ent knew that the US was supplying the material for a South African atom bomb.

■ To date, the US has sold 229 pounds of enriched uranium to South Africa.

■ The US government set up a private corporation called "US Nuclear Inc.", based in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to handle uranium sales abroad so that the government would appear less directly involved.

■ American and German-based firms built the South African nuclear plant at Pelindaba.

■ Three years ago the US Foxboro Corporation supplied essential computers for the

South African Atomic Energy Board.

South Africa's racist rulers have an atomic weapon today for one reason: their American senior partners wanted them to have it.

But it isn't something the USA wants to advertise. So the CIA failed to spot an atomic test site in the Kalahari Desert that showed up on US satellite aerial pictures. And soon after the news last month that South Africa possessed an atomic weapon, rumours were put about that it had been developed by Israel.

Israel is indeed a prime supplier of arms to the Apartheid

regime.

Since 1973, trade between the two countries has risen from \$30 million a year to \$100 million; and they weren't swapping Jaffa oranges for Outspans!

Among other things Israel has sold South Africa rifles, mortars and electronic equipment; the Israeli Uzi submachine gun and the 65-foot Dabur-class patrol boat are made in South Africa under license from Israel. South Africa is said to be ordering at least a dozen Reshef class gunboats armed with Gabriel missiles.

Last year, S.A. Premier John Vorster on a visit to Israel signed a pact calling for more 'econ-

omic and scientific cooperation' — which in real terms focuses on South Africa's desire to buy Israel's British-made Centurion tanks and Israeli-made Kfir jet fighters. There is a slight problem with the latter, as their US-made engines are not supposed to be re-exported. If the Centurions end up in South Africa, they certainly won't be the first British-made arms to get there: re-export is a common trick to beat the official arms embargo against South Africa.

However, if the Israeli government itself organises such a thing, it will certainly be with the collusion and approval of the British Labour government.

Why Israel even has to ban songs

The press is full of talk about the differences between Israel and the USA. The people who do not come into the picture are those on whose backs all the negotiations are taking place — the Palestinians, and anti-Zionist Jews in Israel. In this excerpt from an interview in Intercontinental Press, an Israeli Trotskyist shows the real meaning of Begin's policy.

■ ■ ■ Many commentators in the American press predict a sharp increase in tensions, or even a rupture, between the Carter administration and the Begin government over Washington's verbal opposition to the creation of new Israeli settlements on the West Bank. What do you think?

□ □ □ I don't think it would happen. First of all the Begin government couldn't afford such a break. Most of the military, political and economic assistance for Israel is based on Washington's unconditional support. Israel would not be able to survive without that backing.

On Carter's part, he doesn't have a better base any place in the world, at least until now, that will guarantee the interests of American imperialism in the Middle East. What South Africa is doing for him in the southern part of the African continent, Israel is doing for him in the Middle East.

■ ■ ■ What do you think the prospects are for Geneva talks?

□ □ □ Everybody keeps talking about Geneva, all the rulers of the Middle East, all the rulers of the world. I think each of them has a somewhat different version of what they mean by "Geneva". But all of them are thinking in one direction: how to stabilise the Middle East; how to eliminate every independent

movement of the masses, in particular the independent Palestinian organisations.

To accomplish that aim is Begin's version of Geneva. Assad's is different sometimes. But I don't think Carter has many disagreements with Begin. They have some differences on how to deal with the Arabs, but make no mistake — they both agree that the attack against the Palestinians should continue.

■ ■ ■ How is the PLO responding to this attack?

□ □ □ It is clear that the PLO is under heavy pressure. The entire Palestinian resistance movement is under heavy pressure, because it is so dangerous to the order that the Americans and the Israelis are anxious to keep in the Middle East. Dangerous not only for them, but for Hussein and the Lebanese Phalangists, and Sadat and Assad.

The fact that the PLO Central Council voted in late August to reject United Nations Resolution 242 (which recognises the legitimacy of the Israeli state) indicates that the Palestinian masses still have the force to reject this pressure.

The Palestinian movement suffered a setback in the Lebanese civil war, but it is very clear that the Syrians, the Phalangists and the Israelis were unable to destroy the independence of the Palestinian movement. It is

still living. This was very clear in the demonstration in Beirut on May Day, in which 100,000 people participated.

For the PLO leadership to agree on the United Nations 242 resolution — to accept the existence of the Israeli state — would not give the Palestinians an independent state on the West Bank. It would not give the Palestinians any real status. It would be a blow to the Palestinian movement, a blow to the resistance movement.

■ ■ ■ There has been an increase in attacks on Trotskyists in Israel. The police have warned that you might be in violation of Israel's 'sedition law'. Is this connected with a rise in the Palestinian struggle?

□ □ □ The Zionists are coming down harder now because they face both a radicalisation of the Palestinians and a sharpening of the contradictions in Israeli society.

So the anti-Zionist ideas that are being expressed are becoming a political force; they can be visualised more and more concretely. In addition, the government sees those ideas spreading among those the Zionists used to call "our Arabs" — that is, Palestinians who live within the borders of the state of Israel.

The government is trying to stop this process as soon as possible, whilst it is still small. And they are going about it in a very ruthless way.

For example, here is an article in the August 28th 1977 issue of the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot. It says: "In the Arab towns in the Galilee there were cases of sedition against the state of Israel, especially in family parties at which poets and singers were invited to sing songs whose content is against the state of Israel. Recently, fifteen youngsters were detained for participating in singing against the state. Last week alone, fourteen members of a theatre group from East Jerusalem were detained for participating in a parade sponsored by their theatre in the town of Shefaram. Parts of their play constituted sedition against the state."

I would say that a regime that has to stop people from singing is in a very bad way.

More Charter 77 jailings



TWO Czechoslovak dissidents, Vladimir Lastyuka and Ales Machacek, have been sentenced to three and a half years in prison for distributing copies of the Charter 77 manifesto.

Four other supporters of Charter 77 — Vaclav Havel, Jiri Lederer, Ota Ornest and Frantisek Pavlicek — are due to be tried on 17th October, on charges of subversion. Another, Marta Kubisova, was taken by the police for interrogation on Thursday 29th September and has not yet returned home.

Charter 77 simply calls on the Czechoslovak government to honour its commitments to civil rights under the 'Helsinki agreement'.

A new political party has been launched in Northern Ireland — the Irish Independence Party. It is in fact the old Nationalist Party under another name. The Nationalist Party faded out after the foundation of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, which was able to get government posts in the 'power sharing' administration of 1973-74. With power-sharing looking more and more a remote prospect, and with the victory of Fianna Fail in the South, the Catholic bourgeois politicians of Northern Ireland are looking more to the 'Irish dimension'.

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ON October 12th the US Supreme Court started hearing Allen Bakke's complaint that he was refused admission to the Medical School of the University of California at Davis through unfair discrimination. Some students with lower qualifications than Bakke were admitted under a scheme whereby the school keeps 16 out of 100 places for students from "disadvantaged minorities".

16 out of 100 is a small enough quota in a state where over one third of the population are black, Mexican American or Native American. There is only one black doctor for every 5,000 of the black population, compared with one white doctor for every 400 of the white population.

Black neighbourhoods have about one doctor for every 3,000 people; in the USA overall there is one doctor for every 700.

11% of the population of the USA is black, but only 7.3% of the students in the big universities are black (and this percentage is declining), while only 1.6% of doctors are black.

The California Supreme Court upheld Bakke's complaint against the positive discrimination scheme. A brief from the government Justice Department, though cautiously worded, effectively does the same. Unless the American left can mobilise to defend positive discrimination for oppressed minorities, and also to demand expansion of facilities so that higher education can be freely available to all, the relentless super-oppression of the black community in the USA will be further consolidated.

THE Spanish Communist Party and Socialist Party are joining with the Spanish government to draft laws for "the defence of democracy against terrorism". This move comes after the Basque nationalist movement ETA shot dead a provincial administrator, Augusto Urceta Barreschea.

At the same time the Government and all the opposition parties are discussing a common economic programme.

AT AN extraordinary Central Committee meeting on 5th and 6th October, the French Communist Party reaffirmed its new-found hostility to the Socialist Party. CP General Secretary Georges Marchais declared that the SP had moved to the right, and was being used by the French capitalist class as a political tool. No surprise, either, when only 5% of the delegates at the last SP congress were workers.

Not many people will believe that the SP has suddenly changed nature, but Marchais' agitation may help to boost the CP's image as "the workers' party". Despite the fact that no agreement has been made for resuming the broken-off negotiations for a "Common Programme" of the "Union of the Left", revolutionaries in France generally expect that the "Union of the Left" will reach some agreement before the legislative elections next March.

"Parliament can do anything — they cleared Maundling in six hours" was one message that came out of Brighton last week. And another: "You read it in the papers, 'The TGWU, two million strong'. Let's see them use some of that strength!"

It was a voice from the labour movement, but it didn't come from the Brighton Conference Centre where the TV cameras were gathered to record the oratory of cabinet ministers for the nation. This voice came from a meeting whose purpose was to mobilise for a mass picket of Grunwicks on October 17th.

Dennis Skinner summed up "Let's pass a resolution here. A simple one — 'Be there on October 17th'." Arthur Scargill stressed the need to mobilise "at the grass roots" (and since then it has been promised that 400 Yorkshire miners will be there); Frank Hansen, for Brent East Constituency Labour Party (which had organised the meeting) condemned the leadership of the labour movement for their failure to mobilise for a victory at Grunwicks.

Gallons

So too did Archie Sinclair, of the Cricklewood postal workers, who said he had heard hundreds of speeches in support of Grunwicks from MPs and trade union leaders but when the Cricklewood sorters had taken action, they had been isolated. "We got nothing from the TUC", strike committee chairman Kamlesh Gandhi told the meeting; Jayaben Desai told the 200 Conference delegates "We are drowning in sympathy, but thirsty for action."

Back at the Conference itself, however, it was as if the militancy voiced by so many delegates in the Grunwick 'fringe' meeting had been diluted in gallons and gallons of water. It was a very quiet conference, made docile by the prospect of a spring election and by the weakness brought on the Labour left through successive capitulations by MPs and trade union leaders to the Government.

At the end of the debate on racialism, delegates gave a round of applause for the Grunwick strikers. But the conference failed to indict the NEC and the Government for defying the decisions of the last conference, which called for the repeal of the Immigration Acts and for an anti-racist campaign on that basis.

Bans

Despite the growing evidence last week of the harm done by state bans on fascists, the Conference favoured such bans in preference to direct action against fascism. Only Richard Knight, a Militant supporter from Liverpool Wavertree, spoke against an emergency motion from Lewisham East CLP demanding that "all necessary steps are taken immediately to amend the

Labour conference drowns the voices of militancy

Public Order Act (1936) so that the Home Secretary is able to make a political decision to prevent violent confrontation situations being 'set up' by the National Front..."

Knight argued that any political ban would eventually be turned against the labour movement, and for mass mobilisation to drive the fascists off the streets. But the Lewisham East motion was carried by a large majority.

The high points of the Conference did not rise much above the general flatness.

The platform was defeated on two issues: Southern Africa, and Clay Cross.

The Dewsbury CLP resolution calling for the Government to "give material and moral support to freedom fighters in Zimbabwe" and to "impose sanctions against South Africa" was carried, against the NEC's advice, after a strong speech from Dennis O'Flynn of the AUEW Foundry Section, who condemned "pussy-footing with Smith and Vorster". But straight afterwards Foreign Secretary David Owen declared that as far as he was concerned Conference had approved his policy!



Dennis O'Flynn urged support for Zimbabwe fighters

On the last day Conference defied the NEC to demand legislation removing the disqualifications on the 21 Clay Cross councillors who defied the Tory Housing Finance Act. Labour ministers then joined in the singing of the Red Flag, and afterwards indicated that the Government would do nothing about the Conference decision.

Abortion Rights and re-selection of MPs were the other two important disputes.

Conference overwhelmingly resolved to defend the

1967 Abortion Act and to campaign for "freely available abortion on request" — but rejected the motion that would have given this resolution some teeth. The Socialist Medical Association and Birmingham Selly Oak CLP had moved that "all Labour MPs should be mandated by the PLP to vote against any restrictions on abortion."

The move to make MPs subject to regular re-selection was deflected by the NEC into a decision that the NEC should prepare proposals on this issue for next year's conference.

Deflecting militancy, deflecting moves for greater democracy and accountability — that was what this Conference, and the supposedly Left-wing NEC, did generally. Not only on re-selection, but throughout this Conference, democracy and accountability were crucial issues.

"Back us or sack us", James Callaghan told the Conference. Yet the Conference has no practical way of "sacking" the Labour Party leadership, nor even of calling the Labour Government to account on its policies. Where resolutions were passed against Government policy, the Government simply said it would ignore them; where an issue was considered too hot, there was no debate [on Ireland, for example] or scarcely any debate [on economic policy, for example].

Tories

Now the Labour right wing is building up a campaign against the very limited move for some democracy at local level by making MPs liable for re-selection before every general election.

The right wing argument used to be that MPs represented the whole electorate, and not just Labour Party members, and therefore it is wrong for Labour Party members to replace them. They seem to have dropped that now — which is lucky for them, because Reg Prentice's move to the Tories demolishes that argument.

Reg Prentice was elected MP for Newham North East, not because he was Reg Prentice but because he was the Labour candidate. Now he has joined the Tories: but he won't have to submit to re-election. So much for the democratic rights of the electors of Newham North East!

The new right wing argument is that the whole

constituency Labour Party membership, not just the General Management Committee, should decide on re-selection.

What would that mean? Flocks of inactive members,

or newly-created members with their dues paid and a membership card thrust into their hand by some well-heeled right winger, being ferried to Party meetings in order to vote down left wing activists.

The alternative is not just to leave matters up to the GMCs, but to fight at all levels of the labour movement for frequent re-election (why should GMC delegates be elected for a whole year?), accountability, and recallability.

Why should we believe those who tell us that we can overthrow capitalism with votes in general elections and Parliament, when it is very difficult even to get rid of one MP — let alone any of the Labour leadership's policies — through votes in the Labour Party?

IN BRIGHTON

AMONG the lobbyists at Brighton was Lord Longford, who had come with his flock of supporters to urge delegates to protect the "unborn child" against the 1967 Abortion Act.

But the Labour Abortion Rights Committee insisted that such lobbying would in practice hit not abortion as such, but abortion for the working class. The rich have always been able to pay out a hefty price and get safe abortion for their money.

80 people came to the LARC meeting at Brighton. The conference resolution it was campaigning for would end the freedom of Labour MPs to vote against abortion rights.

No other major issue is left up to the individual MP's "conscience". Yet many Labour MPs have not only voted for abortion restrictions, but have actively campaigned for the anti-abortion cause.

Undoubtedly, another Private Member's Bill against abortion will be launched in the next parliament. Already more than 40 Tory MPs are backing such a Bill, and on past form it won't be lacking in support from Labour MPs either.

Lena Jeger, for the NEC, persuaded the Conference to reject the move to mandate MPs. If we support women's right to choose then logically, she said, we should be for MPs' right to choose! What logic! A woman's right to choose is for herself and her own body. An MP, given the right to choose which way to vote, is allowed to affect laws which bind everyone.

On a card vote the resolution to mandate MPs was lost by 3,882,000 to 460,000. But on a show of hands, voting was about even. The resolution was killed by the trade union block vote.

LARC had expected this defeat. Speakers at the LARC meeting stressed that the aims of LARC should not be restricted to campaigning at Labour Party conferences. The fight for abortion rights must be carried into the constituencies and, to chip at that block vote, into the Unions. And it should be linked with the struggle against the cuts in the NHS.

THERE was one moment during the Grunwick strike support meeting on Thursday when the enthusiastic applause of the audience was replaced by murmurs of discontent. Dennis Skinner was speaking about the mass picket on August 8th, when he was the only MP present.

"I went out early in the morning" he said "without telling my wife, and I got back by 10.30, so she never really knew I had gone". It seems he never thought to suggest to Mrs. Skinner that she should come on the picket too. [Or is it that she's never awake before 10.30?]

THERE was no great protest from the audience at the TRIBUNE fringe meeting when Michael Foot defended the Lib-Lab pact. But there was loud booing and heckling when ex-Liberal Peter Hain rose from the platform to speak. The general feeling in the meeting was anger at the star treatment given to a trendy careerist.

But what does that say about the Labour Party as a would-be socialist party, when you have to assume that any politician joining it must be doing so for the lowest motives...

THE Labour Party, as we all know, is a tolerant party. Very tolerant, in fact... as long as you're right wing.

The week before he left to join the Tories, Reg Prentice had an article in "Time and Tide" magazine entitled "Why Labour Should Lose". Before that he had said he would stand in Newham North East as an independent against Labour at the next election.

Woodrow Wyatt has made himself a keen advocate of a Tory victory at the next elections. He is still a member of the Labour Party.

When Paul Johnson departed the Labour Party a couple of weeks ago, the only surprise was that he was up to then still in it — so obviously distasteful was it to him to be in any sort of association with workers. He had launched several hysterical diatribes against the Party and its trade union base.

Prentice, Wyatt and Johnson could all wield their pens in support of the Tories, and not a voice was heard to say they should be thrown out of the Labour Party. Yet often left wing activists need only the shadow of association with another party in the labour movement, or ideas a bit beyond the Labour mainstream, to find themselves refused admission or up for expulsion.

Yes, there's toleration in the Labour Party — if you're right wing. It probably helps to be rich as well...



Reg Prentice

Why my children hate the police

Three weeks ago, Workers' Action told the story of Tony Anderson, a 21-year-old black youth who is now in Norwich jail after three and a half years of persecution by North London police.

Last week, MARY CORBISHLEY went to talk to Tony's mother, Mrs. Memzie Kiffen, about his case and her fight to clear him.

UNTIL four years ago, the chief concern of Memzie Kiffen was keeping and bringing up her 6 children. She was a seamstress in a small clothing workshop, and in the evenings sat at her sewing machine making the family's clothes. Her oldest son Tony helped out with household chores and was almost a father to the younger kids.

Then everything changed. One Saturday night Mrs. Kiffen woke to the sound of Tony arriving home together with two friends. She went into the living room to find Tony slumped in a chair.

"His friends told me that Tony had been punched in the kidneys by a policeman who had stopped him in the street" At first she didn't believe them. "It was the sort of thing I'd read about in the papers, but I never really thought that someone completely innocent could be picked on like that and really badly beaten, for nothing."

When she realised that Tony was badly hurt, indignation took over. She bundled him down to Tottenham police station to lodge a complaint. The police doctor prescribed some pills, while the sergeant in charge apologised "my officers have been under some strain since this morning."

Mrs. Kiffen wasn't prepared to leave things at that. "I still believed the police were fair. I thought justice would be done". She decided to go ahead with a summons against the officer who had beaten Tony.

A Superintendent Parkes was put in charge of the investigation into her complaint. He gave her the name of the officer so she could take out the summons, and she trusted him completely.

Parkes asked what was Tony's description of the officer who had punched him; "I told him the lads remembered Y195 had a beard".

When Y195, PC Bates, finally appeared in court to answer her summons, his beard was gone, his hair was cut shorter and he seemed to have developed a stoop. One of the witnesses was unable to identify him. Suddenly, Memzie Kiffen realised what she and Tony were up against: "The court-room was a sea of blue uniforms." It might as well have been a police court. "I thought then, they'll all remember Tony's face for a very long time."

The Magistrate dismissed the case, and Mrs. Kiffen had to pay £20 costs.

One Saturday morning not long afterwards, Superintendent Parkes turned up again at her door. He had brought a form with him for her to sign, agreeing not to take any further action. "He warned me that if I didn't drop the case, I would have the combined forces of Wood Green, Tottenham and Hornsey police against me." Reluctantly, Mrs. Kiffen signed. But Tony was still marked out for their attention.

"The next three years were like a nightmare for me and Tony. I soon changed my ideas about the police. I used to think they were fair, that they treated black and white the same". For Tony, there was the constant knowledge that

everytime he went out at night the same group of policemen were ready to pick him up, to get their own back because his mother had dared to complain.

Incidents with the police were now so frequent that, Mrs. Kiffen says, she used to lie awake at weekends when Tony was out with friends, unable to sleep expecting the sound of police bringing her son home.

Tony was in and out of court. Twice charges against him fell. Other times, there were fines for offences like "insulting behaviour". If Tony was anywhere near trouble, he'd be the one police went for — though once at a dancehall he was one in 300.

Bit by bit over the three years, Tony had now acquired a 'police record', and in May this year the loaded dice were played against him.

There was a fight at the Noreik Club in Seven Sisters Road. As Tony stood outside

the club, a man was thrown through a shop window on the other side of the road. Police arrived and arrested ... Tony.

"He was found guilty of having thrown that man through the window. The evidence was quite strong: his hand was cut with glass. Even I believed he'd done it. But it turns out that pieces of glass were thrown across the road. And since we've been campaigning, I've been contacted by new witnesses that say Tony definitely had nothing to do with it."

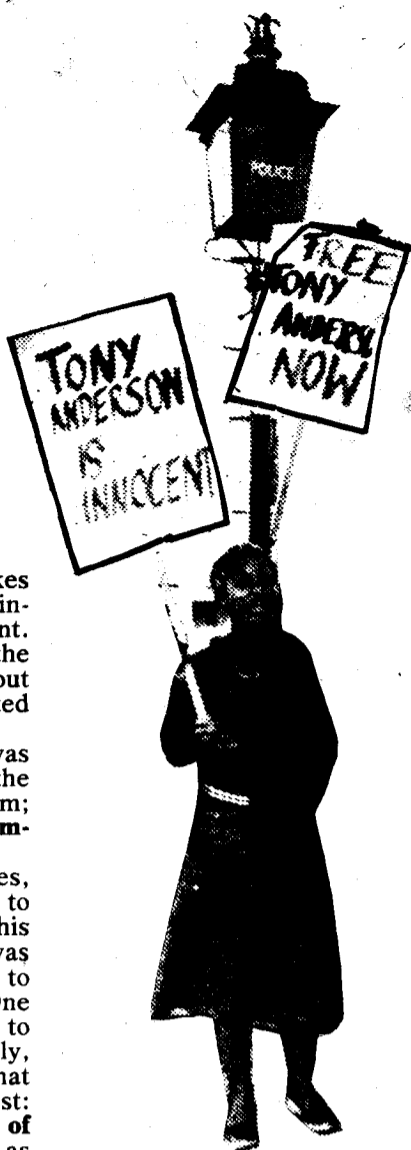
The policemen's statement claimed they had found Tony "hiding" in a nearby alley. He was charged with assaulting the two policemen. Mrs. Kiffen says "There just isn't such an alley in that area. Tony had a bad hand at the time — and he's supposed to have attacked two policemen. What a story!"

So Tony is now doing nine months in Norwich Jail, which, he writes home, is at least peaceful.

The last three years have taken their toll of Tony and the family. Tony himself used to be confident and easy-going, but he had become nervous and depressed and sometimes drank heavily. His brother Trevor, after suffering some of the same police harassment, avoids going out now.

"I still can't hate the police even after all they have done" she says "But I understand why my children do. But I'll never trust the police again, and I'm sure I'm not going to let them go on walking all over us. Who knows what more may happen to Tony after he comes out if we don't clear his name and get the police off his back."

Together with other mothers in the United Black Women's Action Group, she's fighting on for "an outside body of the people" to look into the conduct of the police in this case. "What's different about this group is that they will stand by their children and fight for them. Too many mothers do nothing. Some are afraid of the police, while others think — like I used to — that the police must be right. They take their boys for criminals because the police say they are, and push them out of home."



'We're but Hi

"The National Front is a racialist Front" is their proud boast, but, they promise 'we're not fascists like the German Nazis'.

Like hell they're not!

A couple of years ago there was a minor sensation when the *Observer* revealed that a pamphlet entitled "Did Six Million Really Die? The Truth At Last" had been sent to schools as a 'teaching aid' and was in use in a number of London schools.

The pamphlet claims to 'prove' that the German Nazis never exterminated any Jews in the concentration camps of Auschwitz or Belsen or anywhere else. Cheery pictures captioned "concentration camp inmates on their way home in 1945" show us what happy places these camps were. The whole "myth of the six million"

Richard Harwood

Signatures from Richard Verra mysterious "Richard Harwood"

LAST SATURDAY a military-type parade marched through Manchester. The 'troops' all wore blue-black and they were supported overhead by two helicopters. That police strength, several thousand drawn from nine divisions, was used to defend the fascists of the National Front and intimidate anti-fascist demonstrators.

With this kind of protection laid on, in secret negotiations with police chiefs, the nazis of the National Front were able to strut through Manchester. At the same time, their 'national activities organiser', Martin Webster, had a personal 'honour guard' of two thousand policemen as he marched through Hyde following the route of the planned but banned Front demonstration.

Regrettably it must be said that these four marches, the two in Levenshulme and the two in Hyde, were successes for their two joint organisers, the police and the nazis.

All this makes those who a few weeks ago were calling the Hyde ban a victory for the left look pretty silly. As we pointed out then, the whole plan behind the ban was not to stop the Front but to stop the anti-fascists from smashing the Front. The ban was thus not a victory for us, but a successful attempt (as it turned out) to deny us the sort of victory we chalked up at Lewisham, and Ladywood, and at Wood Green.

That in itself should make those who urge reliance on the police to stop the fascists think again. Predictably, however, the Communist Party and the Labour Left have not learned the real lessons. Instead, they shift away from the general argument about banning the fascists to the idea that this must be done under the Race Relations Act (rather than the Public Order Act).

Home Secretary Merlyn Rees, who was probably in on the planning of Saturday's marches, agrees with them. That part of the Act has only been law for three months, he says, let's give it a try.

This is nonsense. Firstly the offence defined by the new law is the use of "threatening", "abusive", or "insulting"

HYDE: SO FOR THE

language which incites race hatred. By this standard the march through Wood Green in April which deplored immigration was not an offence (the government deploras it too Nor, for those who administer the law, would Martin Webster's chant "The National Front is a racialist front!" be an offence. The march through Lewisham against "Blasphemers" would not be an offence either. They may be offensive, but that, for the law and those who operate it is something else again.

In fact, on those grounds the march through Hyde would never have been banned at all. It had, after all, been called under the slogan "Against Red Terror". As the *Time* admitted: "Any competent rabble-rouser can make a point without overt threats or insults".

What anti-fascists must understand is that the very growth and freedom of movement of groups like the National Front constitute a "threat". In fact, the black community is well aware that these organisations are a threat whatever words they use. And the majority of black youth will add that the same goes for the police too, though in a different way.

When the fascists march under slogans other than the related directly to the race question they are not concealing their true colours. On the contrary — by concentrating





'not Nazis - Hitler was right'

is, says the pamphlet, a mammoth Zionist fraud to keep down the Aryan races.

A particularly obscene piece of Nazi propaganda? Quite so. And it has now been proved that the author of the pamphlet — supposedly "Richard Harwood, a writer and specialist in political and diplomatic aspects of the Second World War ... with the University of London" — is in fact Richard Verrall, number three in the National Front hierarchy and editor of its magazine *Spearhead*.

Suspicion about the origins of the pamphlet was first aroused when it was discovered that "Richard Harwood" didn't exist, that the format and printing of the pamphlet were exactly the same as *Spearhead's*, and that the publishers, "Hist-

orical Review Press", were also somewhat hard to track down.

The proprietor of HRP then turned out to be one Robin Beauclair, formerly a member of Mosley's Blackshirts and of the Racial Preservation Society and currently in the National Front. 5,000 copies of the pamphlet were also found in the basement of the Heidelberg Hotel in Brighton, which is run by a self-confessed Nazi named Alan Hancock.

But Beauclair refused to disclose the author's real name,



Richard Verrall

[pictured right] and the



and the NF denied all knowledge of the pamphlet or its author.

Mr. Beauclair has more recently had differences with the Front, however, and has started to sing. This is what he told the London "Evening Standard": "A group of people with similar views went to Richard Verrall saying you are the suitable sort of person to do the pamphlet in the right-minded manner ... After he did the pamphlet they (the NF) saw that he was right. They realised his potential and took him on." He added later "I'm surprised the Jew boys haven't slit his throat by now. We need more people like him — one of the standard-bearers of the right."

NF leader John Tyndall obviously felt the same about Verrall. In fact, Tyndall had been looking for such a man for quite some time.

Back in 1973, when Tyndall was less careful about his public image, he was a leading member of the National Socialist Movement of Great Britain. He edited the May 1963 edition of their paper, which carried an article using the very argument which later appeared in the Verrall pamphlet, adding "The National Socialist Movement plans soon to publish a booklet which will expose the whole great Lie of the Six Million in detail". This booklet didn't materialise — until they found Verrall in 1974.

In fact, apart from this pamphlet which they disown, the National Front have been more and more overtly peddling their anti-semitism. The latest edition of *Spearhead*, for example, can find nothing else to say about their hammering at Lewisham except firstly that it didn't happen, and secondly

that the Socialist Workers Party are all Jews.

Meanwhile a series by Martin Webster discusses "The Jewish Problem", which turns out to be that "Zionists" are organising a conspiracy for world domination. He goes on "A knowledge of this ... strategy was nearly extinguished in the hysteria which attended the end of the Second World War." We're left to assume that the hysteria he's talking about was the mistaken idea that the Nazis exterminated Jews. And in case we're in any doubt, the facing page of this (August 1977) issue of *Spearhead* carries an interview with one Arthur Butz, author of "The Hoax of the Twentieth Century" (publishers: Historical Review Press).

"Professor" Butz proves to the world that "there were no gas chambers in the camps" and that "at the very outset you had this Zionist motivation behind the propaganda."

Hitler, in short, was a far-sighted politician who never laid hands on a Jew.



The question that remains is whether the Front dare become openly Nazi at the present time.

Ever since the Front was formed it has zig-zagged between two methods of coping with the general hostility to the sign of the swastika — either denying that they have any connection with Nazism or trying, gingerly, to rewrite the history of the Nazi regime. For the moment, neither strategy on its own is entirely satisfactory for them.

And there still remains one further step Tyndall will have to take before he can get it all off his chest, and before he feels ready to put those jackboots back on. Saying there were no gas chambers is one thing, but it doesn't really prepare your members for the tasks "compulsory repatriation" of aliens is going to set them, or "flushing out the red rabble".

There's nothing like coming clean. And this is what Tyndall had to say a few years ago, when *Spearhead* was the organ of the Greater Britain Movement: "It is very probable that last month's screams against the American use of gas in Vietnam on the part of Messrs. Shinwell, Mendelsson, Mikardo and co. were in fact none other than atavistic wallings over the fate of Grandpoppa in Treblinka in 1943, of Aunt Sadie in Ravensbruck in 1944, of Brother Hirschel (Dachau 1945) and again Grandpoppa (Sachsenhausen 1942)".

That is the true voice of the National Front.

MUCH BAN



the question of race and trying to appear the champion of the little Englishman, the National Front is concealing its real policies.

For when we say that the National Front is a fascist organisation, we mean that it is an organisation directed above all against the working class. Yes, they attack blacks — but that is only the beginning of it.

Committed anti-fascists must learn the real lessons of last weekend. The only way to stop the fascists is by tirelessly explaining the truth about fascism and racism, and combining this with open warfare against these vermin. **Workers' Action** is committed to driving the fascists off the streets, denying them any platform for their views, driving their racist allies out of the labour movement and the trade unions, and supporting black self-defence against violent attacks.

The National Front is virulently racist. But that is not the essence of it. The Tory Party is racist, in a quieter way. The police are racist. The Labour Government which supports immigration controls is racist. What defines fascists is that they set out to mobilise the scum of society into gangs to crush the black communities and the labour movement. They cannot be stopped by the feeble laws which a racist state enacts to regulate its own racism.



SEAMUS COSTELLO, leader of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, was murdered with a sawn-off shotgun at point-blank range as he sat in a parked car in Dublin last Wednesday, October 5th.

He was a man high on the British Government's lists of its opponents in Ireland. Four years ago the Littlejohn brothers — two gangsters who had infiltrated the Official Republican movement — testified in a Dublin court that they had been instructed by the British Secret Service to get close to Seamus Costello — and then to murder him. Though Costello had many enemies, republicans have accused the British Army of responsibility.

Costello joined the Republican movement in 1955 when he was 16. Very active in the IRA Border Campaign of the late '50s, he was interned for a time in the South. He was a central leader of Republicanism for 15 years, from the early 1960s.

Costello was foremost in advocating a less purely military orientation for Republicans, and he opposed the Provisional breakaway in 1969 — yet the IRSP, which he formed at the end of 1974, worked closely with the Provisional IRA and on the eve of Costello's death it was reportedly negotiating a closer alliance with them. Costello's career

Costello's career exemplified and embraced the complex realignments of Republicanism since 1962.



than the Provisionals do, and tries to link those struggles with the struggles in the North against Britain.

The especially savage repression with which the 26 County state has treated the IRSP testifies to the alarm which was felt at even an attempt to create an all-Ireland political organisation, concerned to fight on both sides of the Border with whatever weapons appropriate.

But the pressure from the military and police north and south of the Border, together with the fact that the Provisionals were the established Republican force in most of the North and were often no less radical, has meant that the IRSP has remained small.

Doctrine

The 26 Counties has seen not only police repression, but a thoroughgoing onslaught on Republican ideas, with the intention of completely eradicating them. For decades the 26 County bourgeoisie has presented its state as the legitimate result of centuries of struggle for Irish independence. The principal ruling party, Fianna Fail, have presented themselves as Republicans; and in a sense the Provisional leaders in 1969 (like the entire Republican movement for quarter of a century) could rightly have been described as *Fianna Failers with guns*.

The existence of a general diluted Republican sentiment, overlapping with the sentimental nationalism of Fianna Fail, has been a source of support for the Republican movement, for example aiding the Provisional IRA in its rapid growth in 1969-70. It has also been a source of Republicanism's weakness as a revolutionary doctrine capable of defining the present conditions of real Irish liberation and independence. The political battles between Republicans in the last 15 years have been concerned with just this problem, with separating out a revolutionary way forward for Republicanism.

Now the 26 County bourgeoisie, troubled by the struggle in the North, are denouncing the entire revolutionary nationalist tradition as irrational and harmful.

Fury

And indeed if the existing Irish state and the Six Counties are the legitimate outcome of the historical struggle of the Irish people, then much of that history is 'a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing'.

More necessary than ever for Republicans is James Connolly's understanding that the centuries-old struggle could only be brought to a successful conclusion today through workers' power, and that anything less would be a mockery of the past struggles. What bourgeois politicians like Conor Cruise O'Brien now say about the nationalist struggle, restates Connolly's opinion from the bourgeois angle.

Costello's death is not only a grievous blow to the IRSP — as it was no doubt intended to be. It has removed from the scene at a critical period a committed revolutionary of immense experience, whose political history is one of tenacious effort to create a Republican movement that was socialist as well as revolutionary.

Others will take up the fight to build a revolutionary socialist-republican party. In Costello's activity they will not find the answers, but they will find all the major questions posed and grappled with.

Crusade

In the '40s and '50s Republicanism had shrunk into a single issue crusade for a united and independent Ireland — which it proposed to achieve by armed struggle only. The economic and social concerns of workers and farmers on both sides of the Border were held to be no business of pure Republicanism.

After the failure of its Border Campaign, and the declaration of a ceasefire by the IRA in 1962, the men and women who had inherited the Republican tradition — the living revolutionary tradition in which waves of Irish social revolt and protest have been expressed since the end of the 18th century — attempted to re-define that tradition in modern terms.

They reflected on the weaknesses of Republicanism. To the question, why had the Republican movement been unable to rouse the Irish people, Costello and others were soon to offer the answer: because it did not have a revolutionary social programme, and because it stood aloof from class politics. The reality of the 26 County state was sufficient evidence, for those willing to see, that imperialist exploitation did not depend on having a foreign army in occupation, but could just as well operate by capital investment protected and guaranteed by the 'independent' 26 County government. Socialist Republicans like James Connolly had understood this many decades earlier, and his writings now helped re-educate a new generation of Republicans.

Turn left

The Republican movement began to turn left under the leadership of Cathal Goulding, Thomas MacGiolla, and Seamus Costello. It began to concern itself with housing conditions, working class problems, and the denial of civil rights to the Six County Catholics. It became interested in using elections to advance its politics.

The turn provoked dissent and much suspicion. Old-line Republicanism had elevated the gun and abstention from 'politics' into a principle, and the charge of 'treason', 'Free

Seamus Costello and

The dilemmas of Republicanism

by John O'Mahony

State-ism', and 'reformism' was voiced by many old Republicans (and also by some Irish Trotskyists). In fact there was reason for suspicion, and some truth to the charges. By the mid-60s there was heavy Stalinist influence within the Republican leadership.

Provos

In August 1969 anti-Catholic violence erupted in the Six Counties — partly triggered by the success of the Republicans' housing and civil rights agitation in mobilising the Catholics. The situation found the Republican movement unprepared and almost disarmed, incapable of defending the Catholic ghettos. Impatient Republicans blamed this on the turn towards politics, and denounced the Stalinist influence. In December 1969 the Provisional IRA split off.

Formally this was a right-wing political trend, anti-communist and militarist. It was to move far to the left after 1971.

The Provisionals recruited on a policy of simple opposition to British imperialism — especially the British Army, present on the streets of Northern Ireland since August 1969. They rapidly organised and gave military training to hundreds of Six Counties youths.

After internment in August 1971 and the creation of no-go areas following Bloody Sunday in 1972, the radicalisation picked up where it had broken off in 1969. Many of the young

radicals of 1969 joined the Provisionals.

The social reality of the Six County Catholic communities, the logic and power of the ideas of the socialist Republicanism of James Connolly, and the example of revolutionary movements like those of Cuba and Vietnam radicalised the Provo rank and file in the North. Under the formally right wing platform staked out by the Provisional leaders in 1969, militant left wing currents developed.

The split, however, proved irreparable. After mid-1972 the majority of the Officials began to veer towards abandoning Republicanism. The radicalisation within the Provisionals has remained confined to segments of a politically unclear movement, essentially bound together by commitment to the military struggle against the British Army in the Six Counties.

Bombing

Costello opposed the Provisionals, and especially their bombing campaign against economic targets in the Six Counties. He believed that the 1960s' moves to the left and out of the straitjacket of political abstention were major gains for Republicans.

In 1970 the armed wing of the Officials was reorganised, and from the gun battles with the British Army in the Falls Road in July 1970 to July 1972 (when it declared a ceasefire which has lasted

since) it combatted the British Army and defended the Catholic areas. Costello found himself in opposition to the Goulding-MacGiolla faction after 1972, as the Officials began to move to the right, eventually opting for reformism. Though he had been one of the foremost advocates of a 'political turn' Costello opposed and fought the drift of the Officials to exclusive reliance on the ballot box and their abandonment of the goal of Irish national independence.

At the end of 1974 he led a split from the Officials, which became the IRSP. It was the second hiving-off of people wanting to preserve the revolutionary side of Republicanism, and its all-Ireland nationalist goal. Since the split the Officials have moved rapidly along the road to explicit abandonment of Republicanism. They believe that the Provo campaign in the North has proved by its failure to force British withdrawal that traditional Republicanism is bankrupt — and instead they opt for reformism.

Today the Officials — 'Sinn Fein the Workers Party' — support majority rule (that is, Protestant rule) in the Six Counties. Thus they completely accept Partition.

Not so Seamus Costello. The IRSP (despite its eclecticism) has set out to create a revolutionary socialist Republican movement opposing both British imperialism and Irish capitalism on a day to day basis, both sides of the Border. It concerns itself with the workers' struggles in the South much more seriously

Leyland at crisis point

Given half a chance

THEY'LL SOON SEW UP CORPORATE BARGAINING

AFTER AN important shift in the T&GWU's position, and a slight shift in Leyland management's position, it looks as if Leyland's "corporate bargaining" could be more or less sewn up at national level very soon.

Meeting at Eastbourne on 7th October, 70 TGWU senior stewards adopted this resolution:

"This delegate conference representing the majority of manual workers in Leyland cars reaffirms its policy determined on 15th September 1977 [i.e. opposition to corporate bargaining — WA];

"would however be prepared to discuss the principle of corporate bargaining

in 1979, provided full satisfaction is achieved on:

"a) mutually agreed plant incentive schemes on November 1st, 1977;

"b) full staff status;

"c) comparability of wages".

The resolution is a masterpiece of "it means what you want it to mean". Most stewards reckon "in 1979" means "discussions in 1979"; Moss Evans of the TGWU reckons it means discussion now about corporate bargaining in 1979.

Meanwhile Leyland bosses have dropped their insistence on negotiating a single agreement for all of Leyland cars as from Nov-

ember 1st 1977. Now they say that they will negotiate plant agreements within the context of corporate bargaining being started as from November 1979.

It looks like a big shift on the bosses' part, but in reality it amounts to very little. Plants retain their freedom to negotiate only within the narrow limits set by Leyland's plans for 1979 — and by the 10% limit. Leyland are offering wage increases within the 10% limit, parity increases when government policy allows, and self-financing productivity increases — all adding up to rather less than the "£25 increases" trumpeted by the press

at the time of the abortive Longbridge strike. It is not a penny more than we would get under the corporate bargaining proposals.

Leyland obviously feel confident that they can force plants to settle within these limits. But we are still strong enough to show them that they can't! The toolmakers are due to strike for October 28th, and the unofficial craftsmen's committee is threatening similar action. The policy we need is for every section of Leyland workers to set October 28th as the strike date for their demands.

Our major problem is lack of information and organisation on the shop floor. Nowhere were shop floor TGWU members consulted before the Eastbourne conference, nowhere have they received a report-back. Many workers have the impression that the Leyland bosses have made major concessions.

To start to tackle this problem, Workers' Action supporters in Longbridge have launched a regular Workers' Action factory bulletin.

JIM DENHAM

Inspectors demand regrading

IN ADDITION to the sheet metal workers' strike, there is another dispute which could shut down the Longbridge works. Strike notice for 200 inspectors expired on Monday 10th October. At a mass meeting at 8.30am Monday they voted to return to work pending a conference at national level on Wednesday.

The inspectors are demanding that they all be put in grade 6 (£63 per week, which is slightly less than the production workers). At present they are scattered over grades 3, 4, 5, and 6. Their claim for regrading has been in procedure for two years, but in that time all they have gained is the regrading of a few sections from grade 4 to grade 6.

At Wednesday's conference it seems that management will offer to put the 'skilled' inspectors in grade 6, leaving 'unskilled' inspectors on a lower grade. This fits in with the proposals in the Leyland corporate bargaining scheme.

The inspectors reject this skilled/unskilled division. All the inspectors have to be able to read drawings and fill in quality control cards, which was not part of the job two years ago.

The inspectors have never been a militant section at Longbridge, partly because 200 of them are scattered over a factory of 20,000. As a result of the nature of their work, some of them (not all) end up cooperating with the foremen, and shop floor support for their dispute is not strong. Nevertheless it is vital that production workers do support the inspectors, and reject any attempts which may be made for foremen and supervisors to do the inspectors' jobs.

The strike has been made official by the main union involved, the T&GWU. The other unions involved are the AUEW and the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers.

PETE LEYDEN

LONGBRIDGE AT A STANDSTILL

THE LONGBRIDGE works of British Leyland was brought virtually to a halt on Tuesday 11th October by a strike of 800 sheet metal workers.

For some time management have been trying to push down manning levels and impose speed-up. Vacancies have been left unfilled — according to one senior steward's estimate, there are currently 3,500 unfilled vacancies in the 20,000 strong factory.

This issue came to a head on Monday 10th October when management unilaterally closed down one Allegro track. Of the 40 sheet metal workers on the track, 18 were

sent to another track [where they will have to work at a higher speed] and 22 were sent back to training school.

The sheet metal workers declared that if management did not agree to a meeting by 1.30pm, then all the sheet metal workers in the West Works would stop work. Management refused to negotiate, and work stopped.

The night shift walked out at 10pm. Tuesday's day shift refused to start work unless management agreed to negotiate. The bosses stood

firm. From 1pm pickets were put on all gates of the factory, effectively stopping supplies. Lay-offs have already begun.

Although the strikers have not called on members of other unions to refuse to cross their picket line, support is strong. In fact there were as many members of other unions as sheet metal workers on the picket line! Longbridge workers see this dispute as a chance to hit back on the general issue of manning levels and mutual-

ity. Not so for the Works Committee. So far they have made no move to support the strike or to generalise it into a factory-wide struggle to defend mutuality and manning levels.

PETE LEYDEN

Jail threat in Newham

AS REG PRENTICE departs to the Tory party, his right wing backers in Newham North East Labour Party are trying to get some of their opponents in the Party jailed for contempt of court.

Julian Lewis and Paul McCormick had got High Court injunctions served to stop a General Management Committee scheduled for September 28th. When the meeting was held, they arrived with bailiffs and police to stop it. Since then they have, according to press reports, threatened to take proceedings against the Labour Party members named in the injunctions for contempt of court.

The Labour Party National Executive Committee, meeting immediately before the Party Conference, decided to organise a full inquiry into Newham North East.

This is what happened on the night of the 28th, as described by a local Party activist:

THE GENERAL Committee of Newham North East CLP met on September 28th, despite attempts by Julian Lewis to have it cancelled. Lewis, realising that he had lost political control of the GC, tried to cancel the meeting by resolution at an irregularly convened executive committee meeting.

The Secretary, Jack Hart, correctly took the position that the GC meets on a specified day of the month, according to its own resolution, and that no group of officers or members could over-rule that decision.

Nevertheless, delegates arrived to find that the locks on the Labour Party offices had been changed (by Lewis). They therefore broke into the premises in order to hold the meeting.

The General Committee immediately endorsed the Secretary's calling of the meeting by an overwhelming majority. It further resolved to allow Ray Massey, the Party's chairman, to withdraw his resignation, and removed three of the most fanatical right-wingers, including Lewis, from the Council Panel.

During the course of the meeting Lewis arrived, and informed delegates that injunctions had been granted against five of the members present, and that therefore the meeting was out of order.

He was ignored, and at once left the meeting, which continued.

At 9.20pm the injunctions arrived, which named five delegates, including Hart and Andy Bevan, who was chairing the meeting, and which attempted to restrain them from participating in the meeting.

All but Hart confirmed that they would ignore the injunctions, and the meeting proceeded.

However, at about 9.45pm the police arrived, partly to investigate the holding of an allegedly 'illegal' meeting, and partly acting on Lewis' allegations of assault.

At this point the meeting was rapidly wound up.

SNATCH SQUAD SEIZES HOUNSLOW PATIENTS

AFTER the physical removal of 21 elderly patients — three of them in their nineties — from Hounslow Hospital by a raid in the pouring rain on October 6th, workers at hospitals in West London will be striking for a protest demonstration officially called by NUPE for Wednesday.

Backed by their unions, NUPE and NALGO, workers at the Hounslow hospital have been "working-in" from August to stop the closure of the hospital.

Privately-owned ambulances were driven through the picket lines [NUPE says that the London Ambulance Service employees were not involved] and the old people were bundled out without warning, with their per-

sonal belongings left behind. At Heathrow airport, two ambulances, said by sister Stella Rowe of NUPE to have been used in the evictions, have been blocked.

Sister Rowe, who works at the West Middlesex Hospital, rushed to Hounslow to find "lockers had been abandoned with all their possessions". Nurses say workmen were already taking the beds apart as the old people were waiting in the corridors. NUPE assistant general secretary Ron Keating said the wards looked afterwards as if "a Gestapo raid had taken place", with beds dismantled and bedding strewn across floors.

NALGO general secretary Geoffrey Drain has called for a

government enquiry into "the most disgraceful incident in the history of the health service". Southall MP Syd Bidwell has called for Health Minister Roland Moyle to investigate the "vandalism and assault on patients". And NUPE has reaffirmed its support for its members who are continuing to occupy the hospital.

Yet the real 'disgrace' is not this incident, but the Government programme of cuts in the health service — and the unions' failure to organise adequate action against them. The Hounslow occupation committee has called on the executive committees of NUPE, NALGO, ASTMS, and CoHSE to organise national strike action to stop hospital cuts

WORKERS IN ACTION

Will Fords be a special case?

THE FORD pay claim hit the headlines last week after the management's second offer was rejected by the unions.

For Ford workers, the offer was clearly inadequate. It was divisive, offering 8 to 10% for production workers, and up to 12½% for skilled craftsmen. It still left wages well down against inflation. It ignored the claim for a shorter working week (37½ hours) and for 80% lay-off pay for both internal and external disputes.



Nevertheless, the offer met with opposition from another direction, too. It is marginally over the Government's 10% ceiling, and Employment Secretary Albert Booth said "No special cases!"

It is a centrally important dispute. If Ford workers break the Government's attempt to keep wages down, it will provide tremendous confidence for other workers, especially in the car industry. Vauxhall workers have recently rejected their latest offer of 9.6%, and an all-out strike is possible there.

The Labour Government's efforts to serve capitalism have brought it to a dilemma. If they insist on a strict 10% limit, they will come into conflict with the Fords bosses. With a backlog of orders of over 100,000 cars, and 1977 pre-tax profits likely to exceed £200 million, Fords want to buy their way out of expensive strike action. They can offer even 15% wage increase

and still leave British Ford workers among the lowest paid in Europe.

And Fords are important for the British capitalist economy. For their new European engine plant, they demanded and got over £60 million worth of handouts from the Government to build the plant in Britain (near Bridgend, South Wales). But against the risk of losing this new Fords investment, the Labour Government has to balance the overall interests of British capitalism in maintaining a wages ceiling.

In all the press speculation about which way the Government will jump, little attention has been paid to the needs of the Ford workers. About the only mention they have had was in an Opinion Poll where a majority thought they were 'greedy'. 'Greedy', in this case, means complaining about a 25% decline in your real wages since 1974!



For Ford workers there are problems whichever way the Government goes. If the Labour Government does try to police the 10% ceiling, there will be the political problems of taking on the Government.

If the Government allows Fords to go a little over the 10%, there will be a lot of pressure on Ford workers to accept an inadequate offer and be thankful that they have been considered a 'special case'.

In rejecting Fords latest

offer, Moss Evans, chairman of the union side of the National Joint Negotiating Committee, said: "The present offer does not meet what we consider to be a socially responsible claim. It is without precedent that we are asking for less than the current increase in the cost of living". All the indications, however, are that he, along with the other union leaders involved, will try to sell a deal at the earliest possible opportunity — perhaps leaving the rest of the 'socially responsible claim' until 'later'. The arguments of the 'special case' and 'saving the Labour Government' will be to the fore.



Moss Evans was reported last week as saying that a settlement would be "near the 10% guideline". The 'Economist' earlier reported rumours that unions would recommend acceptance if another £2 or £3 were added to the original offer. AUEW Engineers executive member Reg Birch said after the last offer: "All else pivots on more money on offer". In other words, it's very likely that the shorter working week and lay-off pay demands will be let drop, with the other so-called 'fringe' benefits.

Any attempt to sell a straight money offer would be supported by most of the convenors. Their unwillingness to organise a fight was most clearly shown when the Dagenham convenors vetoed a

previously agreed recall Coventry conference (national shop stewards conference) set for September 25th.

But at shop floor level, the feeling about the latest offer was shown when the welders in the Body Plant at Halewood walked out in disgust on hearing the details. This feeling exists not only on the wages issue, but also on lay-off pay — but it has not been organised either nationally or within the plants.

The dangers have been underlined by the events of the last few days in the Body Plant at Dagenham. As a sop to rank and file pressure, the Joint Works Committee called a one-day stoppage for this Monday (October 10th), two days before the re-opening of the national negotiations. While the proposal was carried in section meetings on the day shift, a number of sections voted against it on the night shift, and the JWC finally called it off.

The one-day stoppage was not a very serious militant proposal. But for the call to be made and then reversed could only be demoralising.



During the last two weeks, management haven't been slow to organise. In the Body Plant in Dagenham, they have increased the pressure on the rank and file (for example, suspending workers), while carefully avoiding an explosive lay-off situation over the whole estate. A lay-off, however, now exists in the Paint, Trim, and Assembly plant, over a dispute concerning the removal of a foreman.

The feeling for the claim still exists, but it needs to be properly organised, or it could quickly turn into demoralisation and fragmentation. This need is urgent, because Wednesday's negotiations will probably produce a 'deal'.

If any individual plant strikes for the claim, the demand should be made to spread the strike. A recall Coventry Conference should be called in any case, to coordinate national strike action. Shop and mass meetings must be called to exercise rank and file control over the struggle and over all negotiations.

JOE MACAULAY

CP says 'keep it in Britain'

FORD MANAGEMENT recently announced that, to meet the backlog in orders, they will start importing 130 finished Cortinas into Britain — 100 from Genk, Belgium, and 30 from Cork.

The cars will be assembled from kits supplied from Dagenham. For the sub-assembly section in the Body Plant, this has been the main reason behind management's attempts to get extra production without any extra manning. Management's demand has been for 10 extra 'plenums' an hour for Genk.

The Communist Party's reaction to this situation in the plant was immediate — the work shouldn't be done because it was work going abroad, away from British workers. It's just another side of the coin of import controls.

The workers on the section concerned, however, stopped the work for much better reasons. They said they wouldn't do it until there was extra manning.

The criminal nature of the policy of import controls, and its different variations, is seen most clearly when applied inside a multi-national company. The policy of British workers competing against workers in Europe can only help what management want, to play worker against worker. The policy is the opposite of building international unity between workers, which alone provides a real weapon against the international giants of capitalism.

ANTI-RACIST MARCH and FREE FESTIVAL

- No Free Speech for Fascists!
- Defence against racist attacks
- End all racist laws. All the Immigration Acts are racist — especially the 1968 and 1971 Acts

11am, Sunday October 16th. Assemble 11am at Shoreditch Park, Poole St, New North Rd, London N1. March to Victoria Park. Organised by Hackney committee Against Racism, Hackney Community Relations Council, Stepney and Bethnal Green Trades Council, and Tower Hamlets Movement against Racism and Fascism.

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RALLY to launch the Manifesto of the INTERNATIONAL-COMMUNIST LEAGUE

THE FIGHT FOR WORKERS' POWER

• Debates and discussions on the main issues of a revolutionary strategy for today, with all the tendencies of the revolutionary left.

• Workers' struggles, Ireland, women's liberation — how today's battles relate to socialist perspectives.

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2pm to 8pm at the Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road, London N4. SATURDAY OCTOBER 15th. Tickets 15p

The I-CL Manifesto, "The Fight for Workers' Power", can be obtained from left bookshops or from I-CL at 35p. International-Communist League, 96 Gifford Street London N1 0DF

EVENTS

Small ads are free for labour movement events. Paid ads (including ads for publications) 8p per word, £5 per column inch — payment in advance. Send copy to *Events*, 49 Carnac St, London SE27, to arrive by Friday for inclusion in the following week's paper.

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER. Midlands Socialist Feminist Conference, 10am to 6pm at Lanchester Poly, Coventry.

FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER. Seamus Costello memorial meeting, with a speaker from the Irish Republican Socialist Party and a tape recording of a speech by Seamus Costello. 7.45 at the Small Hall, Camden Centre, Bidborough St. Organised by the Seamus Costello memorial committee.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY 21-23 OCTOBER "Critique" conference on "The 60th anniversary of the Russian Revolution and the World Crisis". Registration £2.50; contact Critique, 9 Poland St, London W1.

SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER. ASTMS Rally on Women and the Unions. From 1pm at Unity House (NUR), Euston Road. Tickets from Janet Maguire, ECG Dept, Guys Hospital, London SE1.

TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER. Lambeth Trades Council support meeting for Grunwicks. At Lambeth Town Hall.

SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER. Midlands conference on Ireland. Details from 7 College Street, Leicester.

SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER. Working Women's Charter day school on women and the trade unions. Friends Meeting House, Church St, Reading. Details from Anita Turnbull, Flat 2, 3 Coleridge Road, London N8.

SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER. "Rank and File" delegate conference. 11.30am at the New Century Hall, Corporation Street, Manchester. Credentials for delegates from trade union bodies, 50p from the Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Rd, London N4.

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Coming soon: *International Communist* no. 7.

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