

'THE TIMES' calls for Tory crash plan to beat unions

By the Editor

UNDER THE GUISE of fighting inflation and preventing another, and more massive, devaluation 'The Times' now calls on the ruling class to crush the developing wages movement with all the weapons at its disposal.

Bonaparte Trudeau turns on CP

TORONTO police yesterday seized one thousand copies of the Communist Party's 'People's Canadian Daily News'.

BY JOHN SPENCER

The paper carried a statement against the dictatorial powers Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has taken under the War Measures Act. When he went to Montreal on Monday, eight armed helicopters hovered overhead until police had time to climb on to rooftops. Security agents with drawn pistols escorted him across the street. Troops, police, Mounties and border guards are mobilized all over the country on an unprecedented scale in an all-out hunt for the separatists who kidnapped and killed Labour Minister Pierre Laporte.

LESSONS

The Canadian experience, as the Workers Press pointed out on Monday, carries crucial lessons for British workers. The Canadian government discarded democracy the moment the oppressed French-Canadian minority challenged it.

LEGISLATION

The Emergency Powers passed through the Canadian parliament in Ottawa yesterday, but there was opposition from the National Democratic Party and the final vote was 190-16.

REFORM

The Communist Party of Canada is calling for far-reaching measures of structural reform directed to overcome the inequality in French Canada—by the adoption of a new Canadian constitution based on the voluntary equal partnership of the two nations which will enable Canada to stay united and regain its independence as a truly sovereign, democratic, bi-national state.

£1,250 Fund 11 days to raise £765 3s 10d

THERE IS no time to relax after the magnificent effort that was made for the Special Fund for the six-day paper. October's fund stands only at £484 16s 2d. We have 11 days left and still £765 3s 10d to raise.

Unlike the 'Daily Mirror', which could demagogically call on the councils to pay up (knowing quite well the Tories wouldn't), 'The Times' does not mince words.

In its editorial 'A Battle Line at 10%', it treats the present and impending industrial struggles virtually as a protracted war of attrition against the unions in which sudden surprise attacks and battles of quick decision will play a decisive part.

Reflecting the desperation of the employers who are fighting with their backs to the wall against the rising tide of working-class combativity and foreign competition, 'The Times' strongly opposes even the highly exaggerated 15 per cent offer to the dustmen.

Devaluation

Unquestionably a progression continuing at this rate would lead to another devaluation before 1975, and this would, like the last one, speed the rate of increase still further—settlements around 50 per cent would be common in 1980.

Police guard at Geismar trial

ABOUT 5,000 policemen, some carrying grenade launchers, ringed the medieval Paris law courts yesterday as French Maoist leader, Alain Geismar, went on trial charged with provoking violence against the police.

Two Indian unionists shot by police

TWO PEOPLE were killed and 70 injured in Bombay yesterday when police opened fire to break up a clash between supporters of rival trade union organizations.

in the belief people have in their currency.

This is certainly an unprecedented situation for the British economy, which confirms with great clarity the extreme polarization of class forces.

It also explains the failure of capitalist regimes—Tory and Labour—to curb inflation by orthodox monetary and fiscal measures.

Beginning

Anti-union laws are but the beginning of a tendency whose end result could be the setting-up of a Bonapartist dictatorship much more vicious than that set up in France in 1958.

If the Tories are allowed to pass their hated laws unchanged, then the road is clear for such a government.

How and when it will come is not for us to speculate, but history has shown, more than once, that the ruling class is quite capable of provoking or using a major industrial strike to implement its plans and strike suddenly against an unsuspecting working class.

Surprise, as is well known, is half the battle.

Nobody should imagine that the Tories are bound by the parliamentary cretinism of the

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Little gain in Paisley return

A STRIKE of 200 workers at J & P Coates' cotton mills in Paisley has ended after five weeks.

At a meeting of No. 1 branch Bleachers and Dyers' Union yesterday morning they voted by 102-64 to return.

The agreement to return brings gain to only about 20 workers. Of these 20, a few will receive £2 14s a week, others will receive graded increases below that sum.

Branch secretary Alex Mayberry said there was strong opposition in the meeting to the union's refusal to make the strike official and from key men in the dye works to a return to work.

During the five-week strike, none of the 4,000 workers involved received any unemployment benefit from the Department of Employment and Productivity and many were refused social security.

Fury on the picket line

STRIKING dustmen and 'scab' refuse drivers employed under contract by Kensington and Chelsea council battled in London yesterday. Violence flared when 20 pickets armed with sticks and stones ambushed a convoy of 'scab' lorries attempting to leave Wood Lane rubbish tip, Shepherd's Bush. In a desperate bid to stop these vehicles leaving the depot, the pickets surrounded the leading lorry—one of whose contracted crew held an iron bar at the ready.



65,000 NOW OUT— SAY UNIONS Tories are out to break council men

A JOINT statement from the three council-workers' unions yesterday said that a strike affecting eight southern councils and 24-hour token actions in Derbyshire and Lancashire had brought the total number of council workers now out to 65,000.

There will be a complete one-day stoppage of NUPE members in NELSON AND COLNE in Lancashire today.

Most of the 60,000 school children in COVENTRY had a day off yesterday because a token strike by 2,500 manual workers closed 150 schools.

In SHEFFIELD, where agreement has been reached between the strikers and the city's Labour-controlled council, a G&MWU spokesman said yesterday that the council had offered to increase the basic rate by 55s and extend a long-service payment—previously payable only on a minimum 35-hour week—to entitled workers irrespective of hours worked.

Talks on improving the supplement are to follow.

Refuse collectors and cess-pool emptiers at FALMOUTH in Cornwall ended a week-long strike yesterday after the council agreed to pay them the £16 10s minimum basic wage demanded on condition that they returned to work and

agreed to amendment of the award in line with any future national settlement. But at HIGHWORTH, a neighbouring authority to Swindon, 24 sewage workers stopped for the first time.

Labour was also withdrawn in the SOUTH from London's borough of Greenwich, Crawley, Bexhill, Hastings, Harpenden, St Albans city and Watford rural district.

Schools were closed in DERBYSHIRE by a 24-hour token strike of caretakers.

Caretakers at OLDHAM in Lancashire were staging similar action.

In the NORTH-WEST, sewage workers walked out at Alsager, Crosby, Golbourne, Glazebury, Lancaster, Litherland, Sale, Sandbach and Warrington.

Refuse collectors stopped work at Blackburn, Prestwich and Worsley. Sewage maintenance men were out at Leigh, Liverpool and Wallasey.

Manual workers at RAMSGATE in Kent closed the harbour there—stranding more than 100 small boats and a car freighter—when they stopped work.

At CANVEY ISLAND in Essex, 20 refuse collectors and sewage workers joined the 'rolling strike'.

SEWAGE WORKERS at Swindon and Reading yesterday defied Tory government threats to move in troops to break their strike.

Strikers at both towns rebuffed a 'return-to-work-or-else' ultimatum from the Home Office and will continue their four-week struggle for a £2 15s increase in basic pay and improvements in holiday and fringe benefits.

On behalf of the three unions involved in the dispute—the Public Employees, General and Municipal Workers and Transport Workers—union negotiators' secretary Derek Gladwin told Environment Minister Peter Walker shortly before noon that there would be no return until their demands were met.

Union leaders were told by Walker and Home Secretary Reginald Maudling on Monday night that the government could not allow untreated sewage to be discharged into the Thames from Swindon and Reading at its present rate.

They wanted to know by noon yesterday whether they themselves would be prepared to take steps to prevent it.

Standing by

Troops have been standing by for the last four weeks and there have been several 'amber warnings'.

Moves over the last two days are a clear indication that Tory plans for military strike-breaking are well advanced.

But in SWINDON yesterday, according to NUPE spokesman Bernard Dix, the strikers' attitude was that 'we have been back twice, we are not going to be bitten a third time'.

Swindon council officials said later yesterday that they were planning to open peace talks today on their own initiative and were concerned that the possible movement of troops might jeopardize the discussions.

The Wiltshire town's council workers, however, remain suspicious of the move.

Five Swindon men went back to work last Monday

Workers Press: 'Very much so!' 'The government has been threatening us with this for a fortnight, but this has added a new dimension', he added.

Offer

The council then made an offer of 40s now and 5s in April and refused to go beyond that.

Yesterday's Swindon 'stay-out' decision, said Dix, 'was unanimous and hard. If the government wants to bring troops in, that is the government's responsibility—but our lads are not going to go back until they get 55s'.

If they do use troops this will obviously solidify the trade union movement. There's always a very serious reaction when a government uses troops in an industrial dispute.

If the government spent more time trying to find a settlement through their conciliation officers rather than telling the authorities how great they are, they might have got a different answer.'

New dimension

Asked if the unions were prepared to fight the use of troops, T&GWU national officer John Cousins told

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