

LPYS SPANISH CONFERENCE

Saturday 3 November
Time: 10am - 5pm
Place: NUFTO Hall
Jockeys' Fields
(off Theobalds Road,
Holborn)

Militant

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NO FINES! NO SCABS! NO WAGE CONTROL! WORKERS DEFY PHASE 3

Faced with renewed attacks on their living standards, engineering workers, firemen, miners, power engineers and the other heavy industrial battalions are coming back into the fray.

The anger of working people at the crippling effects of a year of Tory wage controls could make the great strikes of the last three years look like Sunday school picnics!

On 20 October the Daily Mirror reported "the biggest number of grocery price rises ever recorded in one week". Food prices rose by 2.1% between August and September - an annual rate of over 25% - at a time when according to seasonal fluctuations food prices normally fall.

One week later (27 October) the "Mirror" Shopping Clock recorded another rise of 2½p. Groceries that cost £5 in June 1970, when the Tory government returned to office, now cost £7.15½p.

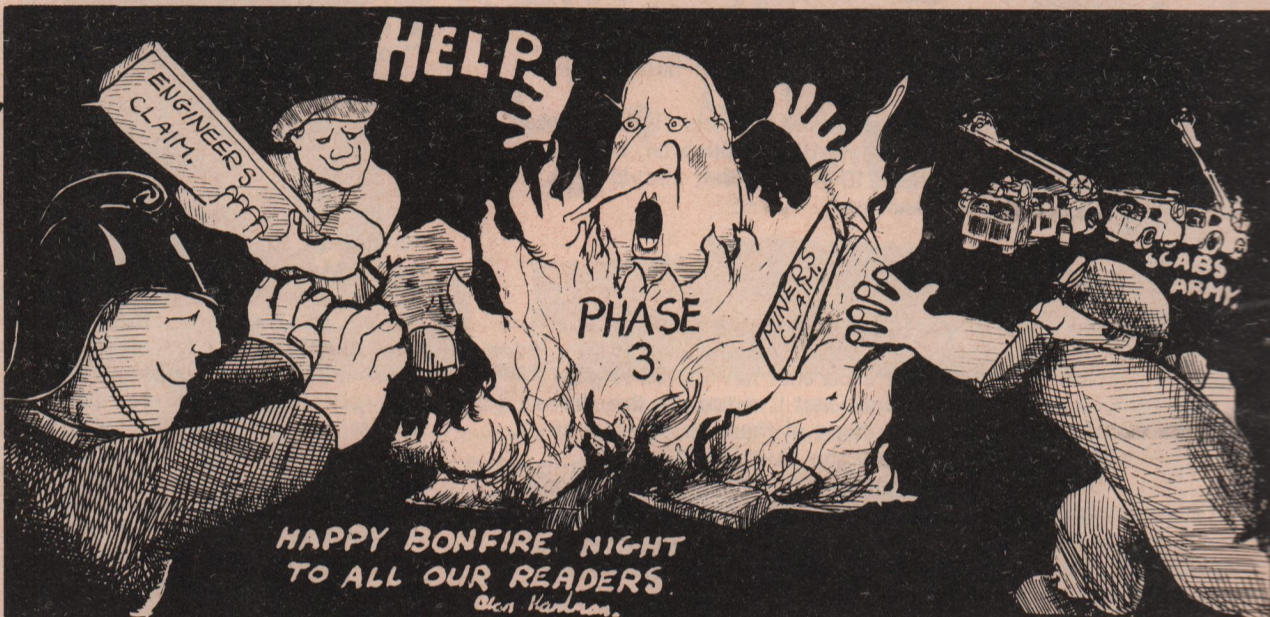
The infamous Housing Finance Act is eating away another 50p a week out of the weekly wages of millions of working class families. Big increases are due in the price of steel, dictated by the European Community, which will work through the whole economy.

And the oil crisis, aggravated by the Middle East war, will affect every branch of industry and trade. Import prices generally have risen by 30% in the last year, and a large part of this increase still remains to be passed on to retail prices.

SEE BACK PAGE FOR ARTICLES ON ENGINEERS AND MINERS

Phases One and Two inflicted real wage cuts on the workers. Who can believe Heath's hollow promises that Phase Three will be any different? The "threshold agreement" confidence trick only legalises wage cuts, by granting 40p once the phoney Retail Price Index has topped the 7% mark - after the worker has lost

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Support Glasgow Firemen! WHY WE ARE STRIKING

Brother Brian McGuire, Branch Secretary of Govan Fire Brigades' Union, talks to Sarah Gatehouse, Rutherglen LPYS.

On Friday 26 October, despite moral exhortations not to strike from the media, the TUC and their own union leaders, the Glasgow firemen came out on strike. The decision to strike was unanimous. This is the first firemen's strike ever.

Glasgow firemen work a 48 hour week, of which 8 hours is

compulsory overtime. The basic rate is £24 to start, going up to £32 after 4 years' service. They receive no rent allowance, no travel allowance and no shift allowance.

The men have been dissatisfied with the wages and conditions for several years, but have always been hampered in their negotiations by the weakness of their union. The Firemen's union has never taken industrial action before. The nature of their job, like that of the hospital workers, has always made them easy prey to the moral blackmail of the press. The union leaders,

instead of combatting this, by exposing the rotten pay and conditions of the firemen and placing the blame for this on the shoulders of the local authorities have accepted and even encouraged such propaganda.

The Glasgow Fire Service is 200 men short and the men were receiving an undermanning allowance of £1. However this allowance was removed under the Cunningham Report. It was to be removed in 2 stages: 48p was removed last year and 48p was to be withdrawn on 1st October 1973.

Meanwhile the men were demanding a Glasgow allowance of £5 a week. After 6 weeks of negotiations the men were offered £2 a week and the retention of the 48p. This was to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

FROM A GLASGOW WORKER

Dear Comrades,
What a welter of criticism has come down upon the heads of the Glasgow members of the Fire Brigades Union, following their momentous decision to embark on unofficial strike action! The reactions of the hypocrites of the capitalist press and other media have been predictable.

Their panegyrics are only reserved for dead firemen, of whom Glasgow has had more than enough. Less predictable, however, were the reactions of the TUC, the STUC, the FBU executive.

These brave firemen have thrown out a direct challenge to the government's incomes policy and are entitled to the full T.U. support.

Instead, Len Murray and James Jack issued immediate statements of condemnation. One wonders whom these gentlemen consulted before issuing such statements. I have discussed this subject over the past few weeks with factory colleagues and friends of varying political hues and I have never known such universal support for a strike!

The issues are the abysmally low wages and long working hours of Britain's firemen; these are indicative of the failure of the executive themselves to negotiate realistic wages and conditions for their members. The actions and messages of support from brigades up and down the country bear out this point.

The role of the Labour-controlled Corporation has been one of total inconsistency. On the one hand they are refusing to implement the next stage of the Housing Finance (Scotland) Act. Yet they are hiding behind the government's legislation on incomes, as an excuse for withholding an increase from the firemen!

Can't they take a lesson from the Clay Cross Council who are defying both of these pieces of anti-working class legislation?

This attitude of Glasgow Corporation makes one wonder how far their present militant stand on the Housing Finance Act will go. Will we witness another Grand Old Duke of York act? hope not.

Yours fraternally JIM FRIEL
(Glasgow Typographical Society)

Nixon's desperate gamble

Richard M. Nixon, author of "Seven Crises" will have several chapters to add to his book as a result of the events of the past few weeks.

The new chapters, however, will not reveal the cool, calculating "Lone Ranger" of the previous chapters and recent press conference, but a panic-stricken "tricky Dicky" from whom no-one will buy a third-rate war scare.

Nixon's actions have been those of a desperate man. His sacking of Cox, despite his earlier assurances about the independence of the special prosecutor, must have been made with the calculation that the pressure for impeachment was dying down. The outcry at what was a blatant attempt to place himself above the law forced him to release the tapes.

It seems likely, however, that after all this time the tapes have been "doctored"; even Judge Sirica, who will listen to the tapes has taken expert advice on the possibility.

The fact that the tapes were eventually released may also indicate that Cox was sacked because he was getting too close to the truth on other scandals directly implicating Nixon.

The most recent allegations are:-
* that the Nixon administration

decision in return for a massive \$422,000 donation to Nixon's campaign funds.

* that \$100,000 was paid by multi-millionaire recluse Howard Hughes to Nixon's close friend Bebe Rebozo to hold for Nixon in return for a reversal of an anti-trust ruling against Hughes' purchase of another casino in Las Vegas.

BY MICK BARRY (Brighton Pavilion CLP)

* that Nixon ordered the then Attorney-General to drop anti-trust charges against the ITT corporation.

On top of this is the fact that in 1969 and 1970 Nixon, earning \$200,000 pa, paid a total of \$1600 in taxes. The legality of the exemptions claimed has yet to be determined, but the bitterness of millions of workers on the poverty line who discovered they pay as much in taxes as the President, earning 25 times as much can be imagined.

These allegations when taken with the earlier scandals and Agnew's history of bribery and extortion amount to a crushing indictment of the corruption of American

a desperate domestic political situation Nixon should make the gambler's last throw in an attempt to appear the "world statesman". The placing of overseas forces on alert was a squalid attempt to bolster Nixon's credibility at the expense of world peace if necessary.

Whatever was put in the secret note handed to Kissinger by the Soviet Ambassador can scarcely have warranted the threat of nuclear war implicit in Nixon's alert. Nixon was clearly trying to convince the world of his statesmanship as he plaintively asserted at his press conference that he, and he alone, had averted a world crisis.

It is ironic that the Russian bureaucracy should complain that the secret deal was broken and that the Israelis took advantage of the ceasefire to cut off the Third Egyptian army. Had Brezhnev carried out a foreign policy in the spirit of Lenin and Trotsky there would have been no secret diplomacy or power politicking, but a policy based on proletarian internationalism. Whatever the eventual outcome of the fighting and any negotiations which follow the war will hasten the far-reaching changes taking place in the relations between America Europe and Japan.

Europe and Japan are no longer politically and economically

Arab oil supplies. The US is interested in maintaining a powerful military stooge. This is why the Germans for example refused to allow the US to ship supplies to Israel from German bases.

Even more significant was the lack of consultation or even warning of the imposition of a nuclear alert in bases in Europe supposedly under NATO control. The "Atlantic Alliance" no longer takes into account the divergent interests of the imperialist powers.

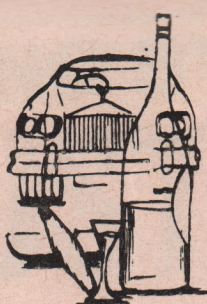
SOCIALIST PROGRAMME

In a crisis such as the Middle East war the inter-connectedness of the world becomes plainer than ever, and the need for a socialist solution on an international scale more pressing. In the Middle East the Jewish and Arab workers have nothing to gain from war. Only a Socialist Federation of the Middle East with autonomous Israeli and Palestinian communities within it, with the right to return for all can meet their vital material needs.

In America an independent party of the working class fighting on a socialist programme must sweep away Nixon's corrupt government and the class it represents. Throughout the world the working class must demand an end to secret deals carving up the world into spheres of influence, instead the resources of the planet must be put to use



FROM LEFT
AND RIGHT



HOW TO LIVE ON A PENSION

It has often been said that the rich will do anything for the poor except get off their backs. We see plenty of examples of their charity in these days of dear food, in their readiness to give "helpful hints" on how to scrimp on your diet even more. For instance, the *Daily Express* has been kindly running a competition for the edification of its readers, on "how to beat Mr Rising Price". On 24th October it gave star billing to a letter from 84-year-old Mr John Wickson of Northampton, who manages to keep himself and his wife on a total weekly food bill of £3.95½. The weekly consumption of each of them amounts to:—

- 1 lb of beef brisket
- 3/8 lb of best end of neck mutton
- 1 portion of chicken
- ¼ lb of streaky bacon
- 3 eggs
- ¼ lb of Cheddar cheese

plus small quantities of tea, bread, milk etc. Mr Wickson proudly announced that on two days a week they eat Yorkshire pudding, and on another two days, suet dumplings, so their hunger pangs are stayed!

Mr Wickson was rewarded by the *Express* for his fine example in refusing to lash out extravagantly with his pension, like so many of his generation ... with a £10 prize. That should give the Wicksons a week of riotous feasting!

CHILD LABOUR

The case of a 13-year-old boy found working as a packer in a factory highlights the Victorian situation developing in the London education system. David Burpitt's parents have tried to get him into seven schools in Newham, East London but they have been told that "there is not much hope of there being room at high schools in the area". He told the *Evening Standard* (23/10/73): "I am missing out on my education. I don't want to be a packer all my life, I want to study and I should be given a chance to do so. I just want to be back at school".

At the last count there were 247 children of secondary school age in the Inner London area who were not at school. In addition part-time learning has spread to 33 Inner London schools.

Among its other crimes — capitalism is responsible for a monstrous squandering of humantalent.

A FINAL TRIBUTE

Vic Feather should have been a little disturbed by the illustrious gathering who attended the *Financial Times* dinner given in his honour. They included:

- Campbell Adamson (Director General of the Confederation of British Industry)
- Sir Douglas Allen (Permanent Secretary of the Treasury)
- Robert Armstrong (Private Secretary to the Prime Minister)
- Sir Arthur Cockfield (Chairman of the Price Commission)
- Sir Alec Douglas-Home (Foreign Secretary)
- The Earl of Drogheda (Chairman of the *Financial Times*)
- Sir Frank Figgures (Chairman of the Pay Board)
- Maurice Macmillan (Secretary of State for Employment)
- Sir Richard Powell (Director-General, Institute of Directors)
- Gordon Richardson (Governor of the Bank of England)
- Peter Walker (Secretary of State for Trade and Industry)

This is a list of the trade unions' deadliest enemies. What an indictment of Vic Feather's career, that it can end up with such people drinking toasts to his health! And what a scandal that *Left* trade union leaders like Jack Jones, Hugh Scanlon and Dick Briginshaw could sit wining and dining in such company.

SLAUGHTER IN SPANISH FACTORIES

As we point out on the opposite page, the Spanish police have shot down twelve workers in the last couple of years. But they are not the only victims of Spanish capitalism. Last year there were over two million industrial accidents in Spain, in which about 2,500 workers died. One worker out of every six or seven can expect to be injured at work over the next year, seriously enough to keep him off work at least for a time. And one accident out of every 800 proves fatal.

The cost of these accidents to the state is equal to 7% of the national income, or a staggering 45% of the government budget. The cost rose from £300 million in 1960 to £900 million in 1970, and has continued to rise at the same rate. The government was not worried about the loss of life and limb to Spanish workers — after all, it climbed to power on the corpses of one million workers and peasants in the Civil War of 1936—39 — but such a waste of money is something that it cannot regard without anxiety.

The carnage and slaughter in the factories of Spain can only be ended by the full victory of the workers and the creation of a socialist workers' republic.

GET THEM BACK TO WORK

In the year ending June 1971, a total of 314 million working days were lost through sickness — about 20 times as many as were lost in strikes. Since the Tories' attempted remedy for the latter is to make nearly every strike technically illegal according to the Industrial Relations and Counter-Inflation Acts, how long will it be before they tackle this far more serious problem by making illness a punishable offence?

Semi-skilled and unskilled manual employees were off sick about three times as much as professional workers, employers and managers. No doubt the Tories will soon be telling these layabouts to stop moaning about their low wages, insanitary and dangerous conditions, and slum housing, and take an example from

IRISH LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE:

BREAK THE COALITION!

The annual conference of the Irish Labour Party held in Cork two weeks ago was basically a holding operation by the leadership.

A Coalition Government has been in power since March. Many of the nearly 200,000 people who voted Labour then are waiting to see what is going to happen. "Nothing could be worse than Fianna Fail". That was the general line put forward from the platform to the 900 delegates in Cork. In the main it was accepted.

But the unreadiness of the delegates to accept everything the leadership was saying was obvious from the first night. The leaders, who had earlier suspended from the Party the Howth branch, because of its opposition to the coalition, tried to pay a hypocritical tribute to the late Brendan Scott who had been a member of that branch.

Some delegates roared their disapproval with cries of "salve your conscience" as Roddy Connolly, director of the ESB and chairman of the party, gave a eulogy.

Since the coalition came to power no major bill has appeared before the Dail. Prices, rents and mortgages continue to rocket. Inflation in the 26 counties is amongst the highest in the countries of Western Europe. Yet there is a confused hope, expressed continually during the conference debates, that something will at last be done.

LEFT RESOLUTIONS DEFEATED

Carlos Parra, a fraternal delegate from the Chilean Radical Party, was enthusiastically received. To a hail of cheering, he told the delegates how the Popular Unity government had nationalised the mining industry in his country.

Less than four hours later Justin Keating, Minister for Industry and Commerce, explained in reply to a motion calling for the nationalisation of the mines in Ireland, that such a measure would jeopardise the continued existence of the coalition.

A motion calling for a 95% state share of mining profits to be a condition for the Labour Party remaining in coalition was referred back. The leaders even tried to drop the word "nationalisation" from the composite on mining.

Carlos told the delegates that his government had taken over the banks and finance houses in Chile. The delegates roared their approval. However the motions on the agenda dealing with nationalisation of the banks and finance houses were, due to clever manipulation by the leadership, not discussed in Cork.

Carlos Parra called for the abolition of the standing army in Chile and the establishment of an "armed people" to defend the gains of the working class. £500 was collected at the conference to aid the struggle against the junta. The following day, when John Throne proposed a motion calling on the Trade Union and Labour movement to take upon itself the task of defending the working class areas in Northern Ireland against sectarian attacks and from the British army, the full might of the leadership was thrown against him.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, in opposing the motion, spoke of his abhorrence of violence and his admiration for the SDLP. "I do not think we have

of this kind" he said.

Frank Cluskey, another TD, said "The policy of the Labour Party is to take the gun out of Irish politics". He dutifully failed to criticise the guns of the British army or of the 26-County army. Barry Desmond, too, made a prolonged and one-sided speech, full of vile innuendo and slander against Johnny Byrne, one of the supporters of the motion. The motion was heavily defeated.

BY FINN GEANEY

All in all the mood of the delegates was fairly clear. They wanted change, radical change. But the parliamentary leadership, happy in their new positions of power in a Fine Gael cabinet, attempted to confuse the conference by continual references to the horrors of Fianna Fail rule. The Coalition, they argued, must not be put in jeopardy by attempts to carry out Labour policy!

But what is the point of having a Labour Party at all if the only policies it can carry out are those agreed by a capitalist party? The 14-point manifesto issued by Fine Gael and Labour before the February general election promised "to stabilise prices, halt redundancies and reduce unemployment". None

of these can be achieved without carrying through Labour's programme in full. By taking over the "commanding heights" of the economy the basis can be laid for a planned economy. Any other path to an egalitarian society is an illusion.

It is not Labour but Fine Gael which will gain from the present coalition. In the general election, Labour received 184,656 first preference votes, or 13% of the total. This was a major drop from 1969's figures of 224,500, or 17%. "All these losses resulted in Fine Gael gains", as the Party's annual report 1972/73 declared. In every single working class constituency in Dublin, the vote for Labour fell.

Michael O'Leary, because of his experience in the Trade Union movement, is the Minister for Labour. He is more acceptable to the working class movement than somebody like, for example, Garrett Fitzgerald, and so he will be more effective in holding down wages. That is his job. A motion calling for a national minimum wage of £30 for a 40 hour week for adult workers was opposed by O'Leary and defeated by Conference.

Justin Keating, as Minister for Industry and Commerce, is responsible for prices. Since he first introduced so-called price restrictions, prices (especially food prices) have continued to rise at an unprecedented rate. Regardless of the figures which he produced in Cork, any housewife can testify to this.

As John Throne pointed out in the debate on this issue, it is impossible to limit price increases seriously in a capitalist society except by causing hardship for the working class.

So the Labour Party will be blamed for holding down wages and allowing prices to rocket. Is this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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SPANISH WORKERS RISE TO THEIR FEET!

The Trade Union delegate conference on Spain and the trade unions taking place this Saturday at Nuffield Hall in London is intended to raise the need for internationalist working class solidarity in the British Labour movement. The whole history of Spain is pregnant with lessons, warnings and calls to action.

Though the capitalist class use appeals to nationalist feeling among the workers (like the "Backing Britain" and "Working Together" campaigns) to cover up the class struggle in society and protect their profits, in reality they are internationalists!

The British ruling class, for instance, had no hesitation in throwing over its imperial connection and re-orientating towards Europe when it felt that markets and profits were to be captured there. For profit is the driving force of the system and that demands free movement of capital and migration of labour in search of the holy grail of capitalist production.

That is why Franco's attempt after 1939 to build capitalism up in splendid isolation was bound to fail. Since the war, we have seen an enormous movement of capital into Spain and an equally startling exodus of an oppressed people. Franco has been forced to depend on NATO bases and tourism to create even the illusion of prosperity.

BY MICK BROOKS
(Acton LPYS)

The Spanish Bonaparte has sucked capital in with a guarantee of a cheap and malleable labour force, and with every kind of subsidy and concession.

Cheap labour is secured by the Fascist sindicatos, the so-called "vertical trade unions" in which the workers are always outvoted by the bosses and the bosses' state. Any attempt at independent organisation is greeted with repression.

Free speech and the free play of ideas are non-existent. The Fascist ideology purported to resolve the struggle between labour and capital through the submission of both to the state.

In reality it meant the crushing of every atom of independent workers' organisations, accomplished by the mass movement of the middle class, deluded by Fascist demagoguery into serving as a battering-ram for big business reaction.

The rule of the petty bourgeoisie is an illusion — they are "human dust" buffeted between the two decisive forces in society contending for power, and incapable of remoulding society in their own interests.

Inevitably when frenzied members of the middle class

state through the Falange Party, the big monopolies reasserted their control by indirect means.

There were a whole series of corruption scandals in the 1940s and 50s. The middle class saw their savings gobbled up by inflation, their small businesses squeezed out by the great landowners.

In a word, they were being hurled down into the ranks of the working class, expropriated not by "the Reds" but by the development of capitalism itself, and forced to join the revolutionary opposition they served to crush.

Spanish business hardly exists — it is British capital, US capital, West German capital, international capitalism that rules.

Thus, all the props are knocked from under the Franco regime. The army and police are his only supports. In the 1960s he was forced to turn to "Opus Dei" ("work of God") — a secret society of liberal Catholic industrialists and bankers, often

IN FRANCO'S SPAIN

- * The average wage is £10.50 for a 58 hour week.
- * Inflation runs at about 15% per annum.
- * No trade unions exist to help redress grievances
- * Strikes are illegal.
- * 12 strikers have been shot by police and army in the last 3 years.
- * There are over 1,000 political prisoners, many of whom are trade unionists.

called "Octopus Dei" because of its ability to take control of all aspects of Spanish society.

These technocrats, not a whit less venal or unscrupulous than the Falange, have forced the Fascists, the only legal party, into a series of oppositional demonstrations.

Similarly, in April of this year a building worker, Manuel Fernández, was killed by the police during a strike in Barcelona. So explosive was the reaction of the Spanish workers that when there were huge demonstrations on May Day, the police were forbidden to use their weaponry. This provoked a street demonstration among the police and open threats of mutiny.

Thus Spanish society is polarising to the left and right. The mass of the workers and middle class want fundamental changes in society. The Falange and the police want intensified repression. Franco cannot repress the movement as even



London Building Workers and Spanish Youth on a Protest March in 1970 Following the Death of Three Spanish Building Workers During a Demonstration — Workers' Solidarity in Action!

Their bosses are our bosses

British workers are everywhere faced with the threat to their wages and even their jobs. The CBI has claimed that profit rates have fallen from 18 to 5% since 1950. They wring their hands — how can they maintain production without an increase in the rate of profit? This is the root of the crisis of British capitalism.

Profits are nothing but the unpaid labour of the working class. It is an urgent necessity for the bosses to depress labour costs to the minimum. Because their profits are inadequate they cannot invest, cannot make more profits.

But there is an easy way out. £1 invested by a capitalist yielded 58p in Britain from 1961-71, but investment abroad yielded £1.58. Spain is a particularly lucrative field for super profits. Because of cheap labour, ensured by a mountain of repression, and because of 95% investment grants and munificent tax concessions, there are rich pickings to be made.

A few months ago *Militant* reported Perkins' management in Peterborough bringing in highly-paid blackleg thug squads. But in Spain the set-up is even easier — for the whole Franco

police-state apparatus is nothing but a goon squad in the hands of management. The strikers at Motor Iberica were confronted by armoured cars in Pamplona. And both Perkins and Motor Iberica are controlled by the Massey Ferguson complex.

Also involved in the Pamplona general strike were the Authi workers. Authi is controlled by British Leyland. As Britain becomes a net car importer and Stokes strives with every fibre to hack back on jobs, where else should he choose but Spain to cheat his intractable labour force. Leyland has a £265 million investment programme for the next five years — but £60 million is funded for Spain.

WORLD T.U. SOLIDARITY

It is the same with Fords. £140 million is earmarked for the new Almusafes plant. The Spanish Minister for Industry recently bragged that Spain would be producing 1.3 million cars by 1977.

British workers have two choices. They can either compete with the Spaniards by reducing their own wages to starvation levels, or they can take action to link arms and fight for international parity. It is the same choice internationally as has been made at factory level — cut each other up or use the strength of combination to secure real improvement.

Now the whole world is one great factory as far as the multinationals are concerned. The workers must take up the challenge.

It is the same with jobs. Since the GEC-EE merger, Weinstock has made 70,000 men redundant. In the case of Woolwich 6000 were laid off and the plant moved to Spain.

35 of the top 100 companies have Spanish subsidiaries. Between them they have 83 subsidiaries — GEEC has 13, ICI has 8.

The multinationals can play workers off in one country after another. What is needed is international trade union solidarity. Inevitably the aim must be a socialist Britain and a socialist Spain, and an extension of co-operative production throughout the world.

are in revolt!

He cannot grant concessions, as the appetite grows with eating and soon the one real 'concession' the Spanish working class will want is his head!

GENERAL STRIKES

The driving force of the Spanish revolution is the working class. One of the noticeable phenomena of the area-wide general strikes which have taken place in El Ferrol, Vigo and Pamplona over the past year has been the solidarity of small shopkeepers and the middle class with the workers in action against the regime. Given that strikes are illegal, the fact that

place in Spain is second only to Italy, which is in a pre-revolutionary ferment, is an index of the indefatigable militancy and power of improvisation in the Spanish working class.

For this is the class which, in 1934, defied artillery fire with sticks of dynamite in the Asturian miners' commune, which in 1936 held back Fascism despite the conspiracy of its leaders, armed itself and re-started production under workers' control to fight the civil war. This class is again rising to its full magnificent height.

At El Ferrol last year, a shipyard strike brought the death of two workers from police bullets and a city general

This year the Pamplona events threw up alternative organs of workers' power and schooled the masses in all the fundamental lessons of revolutionary politics. It was only because of the geographical isolation of these areas, and the consequent ability of the regime to cordon off the struggle, that Franco survived.

The development of city and region general strikes flows towards a national stoppage which will be the downfall of the state apparatus. Whether the movement waits for the death of Franco or not is irrelevant — his regime is doomed. This is a working class movement and real power must rest with the masses.

But the policies of the

the puppet generals...and th

CHILE:

JACK BOOT CRUSHES WORKERS HOPES

BY BOB REEVES
(Norwood CLP)

the teachers and lecturers who have been kicked out in their hundreds.

Action like this might get short-term results for the troops now by ensuring a quiet life now, but in the longer term it will add to their problems because it will spread disaffection into the middle classes, the very section of the population on which they hope to rest for support.

But most sinister of all is the report of 107 arrests for "gossiping against the regime" (FT 17/10/73). Clearly the junta is trying to turn worker against worker by openly encouraging "neighbourly" denunciation. They want to create terror and fear where no one is prepared to speak out for fear of an informer down the road.

A network of spies and informers loyal to the regime is their aim. No wonder that special congratulations were handed out to those who denounced these 107. It is hailed as a patriotic duty to do so. So much for the self-proclaimed saviours of "freedom" in Chile!

Hand in hand with repression has gone a wholesale onslaught on workers' living standards. Some weeks ago a national wage increase was due, to keep pace partially with the 30% inflation over the last year. That has been cancelled. In its place, the fixed prices of many staple goods have been raised or completely freed. Bread has gone up from 11 to 40 escudos per kilo; cooking oil from 36 to 240; sugar from 25 to 120.

It is true that this only regularises the previous black market prices, but it is a calculated blow against the workers in the cities who had utilised the "Distribution Committees" to ensure a reasonably equitable share-out of food channelled through co-ops etc, by ad-hoc forms of rationing at fixed prices.

BLACK CHILEAN TRADE

The rich and the middle class screamed aloud at the time about this "unfairness", but under conditions of shortage the workers and the poor of the shanty towns ate better than before.

The exchange rate for imports has been "freed" by as much as 1000%! All this has already led to what the *Observer* described as "a massive drop in purchasing power" (14/10/73).

The miserable sops of guaranteed monthly minimum wage of 12,000 escudo, family allowances of 40p per month per child and bonus payments of 2 months' pay at last April's levels, will go no way towards compensating the working class. The original threats of austerity are being put into practice already.

Chile's Generals have continued their reign of terror in the last couple of weeks. No definite numbers of dead in the first wave of resistance after the September 11th coup are accurately known, but it is reported to be as many as 20,000 out of a quite small population — translated into British terms that would be well over 100,000 workers killed.

At least 7,000 prisoners have been herded into the national stadium in Santiago, most of them still there since the first days of the coup, and the same is true in numerous provincial towns. Daily the beatings, torture and murder of Socialist, Communist and trade union workers continue, as the junta attempts to carry out its threat of "wiping out Marxism".

The victims are overwhelmingly working class — the *Guardian* correspondent reported a visit to the mortuary where he could see by the calloused hands of the bodies that they were nearly all manual workers, and mainly young too.

So appalling is this savage ruling class revenge against a working class that dared even to begin to make inroads into its property, that the rulers of Chile have come under fire from organisations like the "International Movement of Catholic Jurists" whose General Secretary condemned the torture and repression as "close to genocide" and "a violation of human rights" (*Financial Times* 17/10/73).

HEROIC RESISTANCE

The immense majority of companies nationalised by the "Popular Unity" government are to be returned to their former owners.

The Generals have the dream of establishing a fully-fledged Fascist regime, along the lines of Portugal's corporate state. There is a small middle class group of "Gremialists" who call for employers and workers in each industry to join together in one "gremio" or guild, but their basis is far too small to succeed. Even the most reactionary of the old politicians are pressing the Generals to set

weeks ago is clear proof of the will to struggle of the Chilean workers — a will which is not yet broken. Beaten back and driven underground it may be for the moment, but the workers will recover from this defeat and throw off their chains within a few years.

At the same time, the former General Secretary of the Communist Party, Luis Corvalan — who, again and again, before the coup, praised the "neutrality" and "loyalty" of the Generals — is to be put on trial in what will almost certainly be a judicial mockery. His life, along with countless other militants and even former ministers in the Popular Unity government, is in acute danger. "Moral pressure" won't induce the generals to save them if they think it necessary to set such an example to the workers. Only international class action such as put forward by the Hull dockers when they called for a blacking of all trade with the regime can do that.

An atmosphere of fear and suspicion is being deliberately created. Numerous foreign correspondents of quite "respectable" European newspapers have been severely harassed, and critical reports are "looked upon unfavourably" by the new military censors. A French reporter was interrogated for six hours. Foreign journalists, it is claimed, are to be "put through a sieve" and several have been expelled. But for Chilean journalists, no such easy way out is possible. Hundreds have been sacked and many more only kept on on condition of subservience and reporting to the liking of the regime.

Students too have felt the weight of the jackboot. In every university and college, students have been obliged to re-register with the authorities, which will



General Pinochet — head of the military junta.

cut back. Malnutrition of over half the children and a terrifyingly high infant mortality rate, are still to be their lot. Massive redundancies are in store for the workers.

Plans have even been suggested to remove the masses of urban unemployed, the shanty town dwellers, to the country. To do what? They have been flocking into the cities for a generation because of the starvation conditions on the land. No doubt the generals hope they will cause less trouble by starving in the quiet of the country than in the capital!

This vicious military regime can hold out for the masses of Chile only the prospect of increasing toil and misery. The workers are being forced to pay with their lives for the abysmal bankruptcy of the capitalist system on their continent. There is no hope for Chilean capitalism.

Even the most savage austerity on the part of the workers will not enable real development, industrialisation, modernisation, etc. Since the coup, the cold winds of the world market have forced up the prices of imports enormously, leading to a whole series of lay-offs in the factories. Even the hoped-for handouts from American Imperialism will alter little.

Yet Chile is a potentially wealthy country in a potentially wealthy continent. Rich in war materials and cultivable land, it was once a massive exporter of food to the world! Capitalism

the people and created an insoluble crisis. Only when the Chilean workers take control into their own hands and reach out to their class in the Argentine, Brazil and other states in Latin America, will a start be made to tackling these problems.

The government of Allende only took half-measures, granting significant reforms to the workers but leaving economic and state power in the hands of the old ruling class and its military representatives (for a full and exhaustive analysis see *Militant* No 173)

The coup has set the movement back in Chile and throughout the world. But we must learn the lessons for the future. Once again the Chilean workers will come back to struggle, many of the most advanced criticising the class-compromise of "Popular Unity" politics. The creation of a Marxist vanguard, rooted in the working class will take on an even greater urgency.

RUSSIA & CHI

The leaders of the world's Communist Parties have expressed their horror at the coup. But the actions of the governments of both the USSR and China since then reveal a callous, narrow, nationalistic attitude.

Two recent news items pose this clearly. One is the fact that

The men who pull the strings

ITT—PORTRAIT OF A CAPITALIST MONSTER

A REVIEW OF ANTHONY SAMPSON'S "THE SOVEREIGN STATE" BY PETER GREATREX (Full Central LPYS)

However deeply Nixon and the US state department was involved in the downfall of Salvador Allende, one thing is certain: this terrible blow struck against the workers in Chile will be welcomed in Park Avenue, New York, by one Harold Geneen, head of ITT.

Every help will be given to the new Military dictatorship by Big Business, despite their facade of believing in capitalist democracy. Relations between the Chilean government and ITT were not the same when Salvador Allende was elected President!

The full extent of the role played by ITT, this corrupt capitalist giant, in the attempted overthrow of Allende leading up to the 1970 elections, is shown in Anthony Sampson's new book *The Sovereign State* (Hodder and Stoughton £2.95).

This book, however undramatically written, deals not only with Chile but gives a wealth of information to confirm the validity of the Marxist analysis of capitalism on a world scale.

The essential weakness of the author in drawing any conclusions is illustrated by the fact that after all the information that Mr Sampson has uncovered he "ends on a note of bewilderment".

ILLUSIONS SHATTERED

This is typical of the dilemma that the liberal finds himself in when all his illusions about the sovereignty of Parliament, the state etc, are cruelly shattered by the reality of capitalism.

The realities of capitalism, as represented by ITT, are shown in the book. ITT was founded by Sosthenes Behn in 1920 and grew rapidly as Behn recognised the enormous potential of telecommunications. Companies were taken over in Spain, the UK, France, Germany and many other countries.

It is here that we see the way that capitalism wears the clothes most suited to a nation or a particular form of government. ITT were equally happy dressed as liberal democrats or fascists!

Their activities in Germany and Britain illustrate this point with devastating clarity. When the Nazis seized power in Germany in 1933, ITT were quick

to realise the potential for profit making.

The workers were disillusioned, having received no clear class programme from their leaders for fighting Fascism. This position could be exploited by ITT. However, they had to be careful when Hitler threw off the control of the other capitalists who had helped to put him in the Chancellor's seat.

Nazism then became almost a force in its own right. ITT changed its own directors for notable Nazi sympathisers.

The company then persuaded the Third Reich to categorise ITT as a German company. Behn's main dealings before had been directly with the Fuhrer, but as this became more and more embarrassing, contact was maintained via Dr Westrick and the ITT offices in Spain.

ITT were then manufacturing Focke-Wolfe aeroplanes in Germany which were used to bomb US submarines equipped with ITT radar equipment for detecting planes. Messages were sent around Europe for both the Allied and Axis powers on ITT equipment.

ITT had started producing this radar equipment for the US navy to dispel rumours that the company was not being patriotic because of their world-wide investments. However the real crunch was to come 25 years later. In 1967. Then ITT obtained \$27 million compensation from the US government on the grounds that Focke-Wolfe was an American company damaged by Allied bombing!

If we now turn to Great Britain (here ITT own Standard Telephones and Cables, Avis Rent-a-car, Sheraton Hotels, Creed Electrics, KB Televisions, Rimmel Cosmetics and Speedwriting) we can see the superimposed British character of the company. STC was an

old British firm founded in 1883. Many people today, including some of the work-force, believe it is still a British company.

This "satellite" of ITT supplies a great deal of the "nationalised" Post office equipment.

Facts like this can dispel the belief that we have a really nationalised telephone service. As with all the public sector, the supply side (the unprofitable sector) is nationalised, but the equipment side (the profitable sector) is controlled by the capitalists.

To facilitate this parasitic role, the board of ITT (UK) Ltd contains stalwarts of the English aristocracy. The chairman is Lord Caccia (former ambassador to Washington and now Provost of Eton). Also on the Board are Lord Glendevon (Ex-Tory Minister of Works); Sir Thomas Spencer, Sir Frank Gill and Ken Corfield.

DIRT AND CORRUPTION

The Board meets only six times a year and for this the directors are paid £2,500 per annum each. Their hourly rate given a four-hour board meeting, would be £1000 an hour! However, their apparently high salaries are justified by ITT because these men can:

- 1 give ITT a great deal of "secret" information;
- 2 make representations to Government and stock exchange departments that an American director cannot;

An example of the infiltration achieved by using the "old-boy's" network was in 1954. ITT wanted a transatlantic telephone cable contract, but faced competition from the British-owned Cable and Wireless Company.

To try and win the contract, they recruited none other than Harold Macmillan! The process was started by the following letter by Ellery Stone, a high ranking ITT official:

"I know Sir Roger Makins, your ambassador here, very well and also Sir Harold Caccia (now head of ITT (UK) Ltd) ... Caccia was my political adviser in Italy for a year. Also (I know) Harold Macmillan, who is being mentioned here as a successor to Eden if and when Winston Churchill retires. I served with General John Harding in Italy when we served under Alex (Lord Alexander) so I am

we run into serious trouble".

Many liberals consider these realities as a bad dream. What Anthony Sampson's book reveals is that multinational companies are the reality of monopoly capitalism.

In the last analysis it is the "democratically elected" assemblies that will be swept away as the crisis of capitalism deepens, to be replaced by the "Iron Heel" of Capital, unless the working class of each nation seizes first the opportunity to take over society in the interest of all. Tragically, we need look no further than Chile to see the confirmation of this.

All over the world, dirt and corruption can be exposed to reveal the tentacles of ITT, let alone all the other huge corporations. The attempt to prevent the election of Allende in 1970 is only one example.

Liaison between ITT, the US State Department and the CIA has always been close. John McCone, now a director of ITT, was previously head of the CIA. Even now he remains as a "consultant" to the CIA. When other attempts at subversion had failed, Bill Morrian (Geneen's assistant) sent a memo to Pete Peterson, a White House aide with responsibility for the CIA, containing the following:

"everything should be done quietly but effectively to see that Allende does not get through the next six months".

The main points, of which there were 18 in all, were:

- * All loans to Chile to be stopped.
- * Discontent should be caused in the Chilean military.
- * There should be disruption of Allende's diplomatic plans.
- * There should be a six month economic squeeze.

At this time Geneen was talking of "freedom dying everywhere" and the need to "stop the spread of world Communism". Let us examine what is really meant by these statements.

Firstly the freedom Geneen meant was the freedom of the capitalist class to exploit and plunder the globe at will. He gave the impression of solidarity with all the other capitalists. However, at that very moment, he was negotiating with Allende secretly for compensation, provided that ITT re-invest some of this money in Chile!

Events overtook the discussions and no agreement was reached. Besides betraying his own class, Geneen was making approaches at that time to the Eastern bureaucracies, which need the technology of the West because they are stifling development in their own countries.

ITT and its ugly sisters need new markets in which to invest, new areas in which to prevent the otherwise inevitable stagnation of monopoly capitalism.

which was in turn facilitated by the early recognition of the "Communist" countries by De Gaulle. There is now an ITT office in Moscow and considerable interest has been shown in modular housing, car-hire, and of course telecommunications.

Where now is the fighting call to "stop the spread of world communism"? Profits come first for the capitalist!

Every worker and socialist should read this book to acquaint themselves with the facts. However, the reader will be sadly disappointed if he hopes for any clear programme by Anthony Sampson to deal with monopoly capitalism. Apart from being "bewildered", he says weakly that "the nation state is the only unit capable of standing up to the multinationals, and to instil comparable loyalties for the foreseeable future, ... and it is only the nation that can redress the imbalance".

If Mr Sampson means the state, then he is asking the Executive Committee of the ruling class to act against its own class.

MASS ACTION

What lessons must be learnt from the information in this book? Mention is made of the campaigns against ITT of John Anderson (of the *Washington Post*) and Ralph Nader. These men are liberals with pens.

Ultimately they are rendered helpless. Either they will be subtly bought off and will upset no-one; or they will face the smear campaigns of ITT, which will eventually end their careers.

There are other liberals, liberals with guns, who believe they can change society by obliterating its most hideous features. Just recently a bomb was planted in the Zurich offices of ITT causing £50,000 worth of damage.

This will not bring down ITT but could stampede the middle classes into the arms of reaction.

It is only by mass action of the working class that the multinationals can be crushed. Capitalism's existence is intricately woven into national and multinational aspects. Therefore the overthrow of the Capitalist order must be undertaken both on a national and international basis.

The situation of monopoly capitalism today makes the relation between national and international perspectives of absolute importance. That is why the *Militant* gives so much space to international questions. This is why the establishment of the joint Dunlop-Pirelli unions; the action of dockers in boycotting Chilean cargoes and the LPYS Spanish campaign are so vital to the British Labour movement.

Only on this basis - that of an international Marxist perspective - can we rid the world of capitalism and the multi-nationals once and for all!

IA:WHERE THEY STAND

prisoners within a few days (and we know how the Generals do that!) so that the Chilean football team can play against Russia. Apparently sport is "above politics" for the Kremlin leaders.

The other is the withdrawal by the Chinese Government of

he had remained loyal to Allende. The junta has been represented at official banquets in Peking by other diplomats who have given it their allegiance. For the Chinese leadership, even relations between states must not be affected by "political" considerations.



375, Cambridge Heath Road London, E2 9DA

FIGHT NOW FOR A LIVING PENSION!

BY DUDLEY EDWARDS (Retired Engineering worker)

If the recent decisions voted for unanimously at recent TUC and Labour Party conferences mean anything, then the question of really adequate old age pensions has now become a central one in British politics.

For the next Labour government immediate action has become a priority issue and one upon which Labour workers will judge that government.

As Jack Jones has said, every retired worker must be provided with an income which will give him security and dignity, but which will also give all old workers freedom — a freedom they cannot have on the present miserable pittance doled out by a capitalist administration.

These sentiments have now been endorsed by the whole Labour movement. At all the conferences the will of the rank and file has been made clear. Therefore the immediate issue, for every organised worker, is, *how are these resolutions going to be implemented?*

Those motions carried at Labour Party conference not only commit the Labour Party and the TUC to *fight now* for £10 for a single person and £16 for a married couple. They go much further than this. Indeed, like most other working class incomes, the £10 and £16 are rapidly becoming inadequate as a result of the ever-increasing inflation of prices. It is for this reason that the Labour Party Conference resolution continues as follows:—

"Conference emphasises that this immediate demand must

be regarded as only a first step towards ensuring that retirement pensions provide a proper standard of living, related to a percentage of national average earnings and to increases in retail prices by annual and quarterly review, and with a pension for women equal to men".

This represents a programme of social advance which must now be fought for by every means available to the working class movement.

It is not enough that the next Labour government is now committed to put this programme into operation. It must be fought for now. The £10 and £16 is literally a *matter of life and death* for thousands of old people. Unless they obtain this immediate short-term relief, many will die this winter of hypothermia because they cannot afford the nutritious foods and adequate heating which could prevent the appearance of this deadly cause of death among the aged during the winter months.

1-DAY STRIKE

Neither will the Tory sop of a £10 "Christmas bonus" take the place of a substantial weekly advance in the amount of pensions. We cannot therefore wait for the next Labour government to implement the Labour Party conference resolution. The organised workers must prepare to act upon the resolution put by the Transport

and General Workers' Union and passed by the TUC, calling for a really effective one-day protest strike on behalf of their older brothers and sisters.

It is time that a date was set for this day of action. Jack Jones has already called for an emergency conference of all organisations concerned to prepare such a plan of action. This should be called before Christmas and every working class organisation should be invited to attend. There is little doubt that there is no other national issue which will receive greater support from the workers on the shop floor and if properly organised can become the greatest demonstration of working-class solidarity in this century.

Such a well-organised mass movement of all the forces of Labour could then possibly win some concessions even from that hard-fisted representative of capitalism — the Tory government.

However it is necessary to sound a more realistic note than appears in some of the rather complacent speeches of those most well known as leaders of the pensioners' campaign and of the Labour movement.

At a meeting organised by "Age Concern" during the Blackpool Labour Party Conference, Jack Jones said, "The Tories say they can't possibly meet the cost of the

£10 plus £16 which would come to £1400 million. This, they say would cause further inflation if the old people spend it". Jack's comment on this was: "Well, let the old people have the money and spend it"

TAKE OVER THE WEALTH!

Certainly a straight-forward and popular answer, but to be honest we must point out to the working class that the financial implications of the Blackpool resolutions are much greater than this. If the goal is a pension of only 50% of average earnings (Still leaving Britain behind the level of Germany, France, Holland and Scandinavia) then the cost of such a programme would be more like £3000 million.

Will British capitalism be able or willing to meet this Bill? Especially in view of the other proposals for the redistribution of wealth adopted in Labour's Programme?

Unfortunately these aims were left vague and unspecified; assuming honest intentions on the part of the Labour leaders, what is the ruling class going to do while the programme is "rolled on", to use an expression of comrade Mikardo?

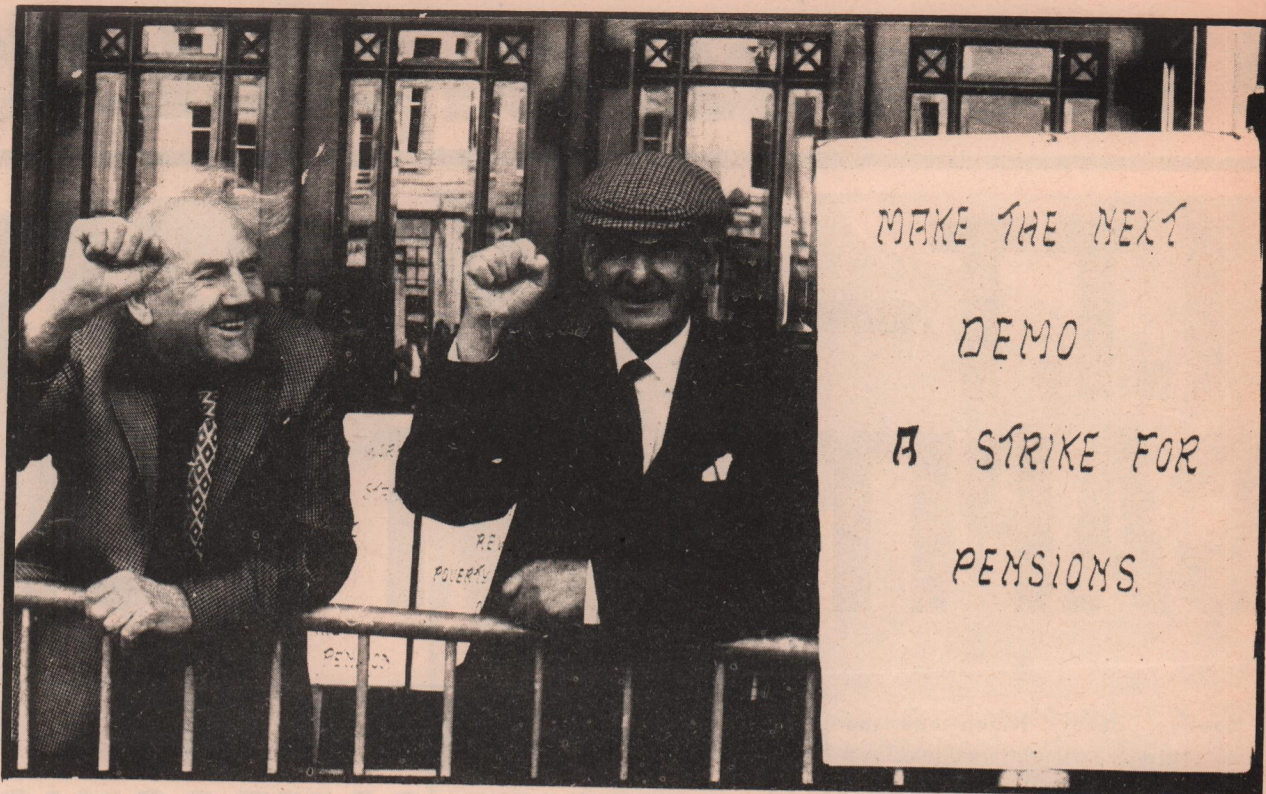
British capitalism will resort to every means, Parliamentary or extra-Parliamentary (including "Chilean" means) to wreck it.

that BP should be nationalised. It was about time that some profitable interests like ICI, were taken over. A collection was taken at the end of the meeting for the William Press Strikers.

The blatant provocations by the management are an insult to the trade union movement. They have rejected all procedure previously agreed on and deliberately provoked this strike.

The convenor, John Berry, said to a *Militant* representative: "You wonder if it is the policy of this firm to adopt the policies being carried out by the Tories nationally. You pick up the national press and you find that everybody seems to be facing the same problems that we are fighting. Ever since the plant opened on 22 December 1972, the management have never tried to make a go of it. We think this could be a long, hard, fight, but we are prepared to fight to the finish".

Donations and messages of support to—
William Press Strike Committee
c/o D Milne
A 3 B
2, Park View,
Jarrow.



OIL RIG WORKERS DETERMINED TO WIN

What seemed to be a simple straight-forward strike for an "Inclement weather" payment at an Oil Rig construction site at Howdon Wallsend, has now dragged on for 11 weeks. The strike began when inclement weather money previously paid by the management and agreed on with the workers was withdrawn.

In the opinion of the Shop Stewards, the management deliberately provoked this dispute. Having provoked it they then refused to discuss the matter. All the shop stewards could get out of them were derogatory remarks such as when the Head Industrial Relations Officer offered the Shop Stewards jobs in Israel.

The first action taken by the management after the strike was called, was to cancel a contract they had with BP (it almost seemed as though they didn't want it). Their second action was to hire a fleet of lorries to move 1500 tons of specialised

steel worth over £1 million out of the plant in the middle of the night, at a cost of £10,000. This £10,000 would have paid the agreed rate until the dispute was sorted out!

All along, the management's policy has been to try to demoralise the workers with the intention of getting them to submit to massive redundancies — 60%, if not a complete closure. These redundancies have been deferred "generously" for the time being, until 4th January, 1974.

BY TERRY MULVANNA (Wallsend LPYS)

When interviewed, a shop steward pointed out that government money had built the plant, the government had given the company £13 million subsidy originally and then William Press had asked for, and obtained, another £3 million for steel and machinery. And this

for an international monopoly like William Press making massive profits!

The Shop Stewards have contacted many other firms in the area. Railwaymen and dockers have agreed to black the steel transported out, and many financial donations have come in from neighbouring factories.

Also, the haulage company which transported the steel, Siddle C Cooke of Consett, have had all 27 of their wagons blacked.

Last week Wallsend Labour Party Young Socialists held a public meeting at which Mick McVeigh (Boilermakers Shop Steward) outlined the William Press Claim. Keith Dickenson (*Militant* Editorial Board) also spoke from the platform at the meeting, outlining the way forward for the trade union and labour movement, and the need for the Labour movement to fight on a clear socialist programme.

This means that such a programme, including the establishment of a permanent new deal for the old can only be part of a socialist transitional programme. This in turn means the immediate operation of a socialist plan to re-organise the total economic resources of Great Britain. If it is left to a so-called "rolling programme" of many years, monopoly capitalism will block it by economic and financial sabotage.

The first step therefore for those serious about carrying through a really effective Old Age Pensioners Bill (and indeed any of the other major reforms) is to call for the introduction of an Enabling Act to take over the 80% of the nation's wealth still in the hands of some 200-300 corporations.

Any other approach is to see the situation in capitalist Britain today through "rosentinted spectacles".

SPAIN FROM PAGE 3

workers' leadership by no means marches in step with this perspective. They still strive to build a "freedom pact" with "liberals, capitalists, progressive monarchists and Falangists".

This programme subordinates a workers' struggle to the political shadow of the capitalist class — the capitalist Republicans — as happened in the 1930's, while the bosses lined up solidly behind Fascism. This programme cut the heart out of the movement in the 1930's. It will have the same disastrous consequences today.

If these leaders retain their hold after the fall of Franco, power will be handed to the capitalist class and a new period of intense class struggle like that after the fall of the monarchy in 1931 will open up.

What is imperatively demanded is a rearming of the Spanish working class with the programme and perspective of Marxism.

The future for Spanish capitalism is bleak. The "miracle" growth rate of the post war period has done nothing to satisfy labour's demands. On the contrary, insofar as growth has not been based on tourism, exactions from American bases and remittances from emigrant workers, it has developed a flow of backward peasants to the now dominant urban areas and created a powerful new working class.

Spain is tied to the future of European capitalism which is now facing crisis. Thus, the balance of class forces has swung mightily in favour of the exploited and oppressed. They are rallying their ranks ever more closely and learning to gauge the measure of their successes. They are stealing their forces and growing irresistibly.

DOWN WITH FRANCO!
FOR A SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

LPYS BACKS TRIUMPH WORKERS

Dear Comrades,
The "work-in" at Triumph Meriden has now turned into a "sit-in". The reason is that on 16th October Poore sacked the 1500 manual workers because of their refusal to open the gates and let out the 2000 bikes that are stored there.

Obviously they would not - this was their bargaining power to keep the factory working. Poore could not understand why they were objecting to the closure of the factory. In fact, he said to the men on the picket that he was worried because he had thought there would not be any trouble.

He was worried!! What about the men who had put 20 or 30 or 40 years of their lives into that factory? They have made the name Triumph - nor Poore or any other property speculator!

The workers of this country should tell this man and others like Weinstock, etc that they are dealing with people's lives. He should not be allowed to get away with it!

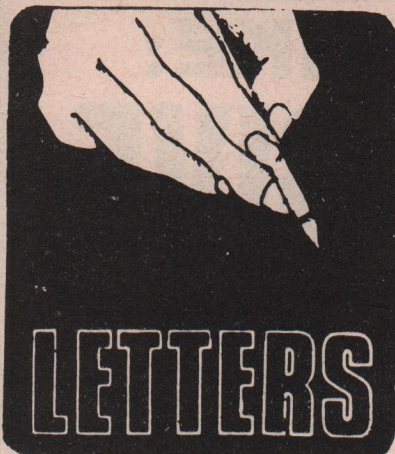
When I first got in touch with

Bro Johnson (TGWU convenor) he said that of all the left-wing tendencies, the only one he would speak to was the LPYS.

It is now up to the LPYS throughout the country to back this man's trust in us. We must put through our Union branches, shop stewards' committees, shop floor, Labour Party meetings, YS meetings, in fact use every avenue possible, the need for these men to be supported either by collections or letters of support. These men must not be left on their own. They will fail if they are.

A shop steward said that he would keep the LPYS informed of everything that happens, because the LPYS had done more to help than anybody. Let us keep this respect we have won and increase it, not just at Triumph Meriden but all over the country.

Yours fraternally
STEVE FERGUSON
(Coventry LPYS)



CHILE-TORIES RECOGNISE JUNTA

Dear Comrades,

At the fortnightly meeting of the Ammanford 6AW branch of the AUEW, the following resolution was unanimously carried:

"We, of the Ammanford Branch 6AW (AUEW) view with grave concern the overthrow and murder of the democratically elected President and government of Chile by a military Junta.

"We also protest most strongly against the daily killings that are taking place since the coup

"We would like to register our disgust at the British government for their hasty recognition of these murderers, this can only be deplored, when we in this country pride ourselves on the democratic nature of our society.

"Recognition should only be given to the elected representatives in Chile and demands should go out from our government for the release of all those elected representatives, in order to restore to the people of Chile, the democratically elected government of their choice."

Yours fraternally SAM WILLIAMS
(Branch Secretary)

SUPPORT STRIKING ELECTRICIANS

Dear Comrades,

We appeal to you to support our just struggle which started on the 11th February 1971.

We as electricians are proud of our trade. We have served our time and like all apprentices were paid low wages, but we always had the thought that once we were qualified we would receive a decent rate of pay. This was not to be. Below we show where we stood in the IRO wage table:

	Gross	Hours	wages
Scaffolder	55 1/4		£62
Joiner	52		£55.25
Labourer	44		£48.35
JIB electrician	44		£25.52

Nobody in the country can justify this differential.

Our strike has been 100% effective. The site is now closed down and falling into disrepair, before it is even opened. We have returned to work on three separate occasions to allow negotiations to take place. On each occasion the JIB and employers refused to negotiate.

No firm on site has offered us a wage increase.

Tremendous solidarity has been shown in our strike. Snatch

squads were organised from sites in the Merseyside area. This enabled us to defeat every attempt of the employers to man the job with scab labour. There have been 5 marches around the site, with a minimum of 500 workers involved. The Society of Civil Servants, Data Processing Services, have threatened to black the site should the electrical contractors be successful in breaking the strike by the use of scab labour.

Our demands:-
1 Decent wages. A working man should be able to feed and clothe his family in a decent manner. He should be able to pay his rent, rates and fuel bills, be able to take his wife out at least twice a week and to save enough money for a decent holiday each year.

2 An end to the blacklisting and the unemployed - to be started on the basis of the longest man out of work.

3 The right for stewards to negotiate at site level.

We are confident that as long as we have the support of the

rank and file our victory is certain.

Finally, let us not forget that there are wives and children involved in this struggle. They need to be fed and clothed. Finance is urgently required. Please write to:

J BYRNE
44 Sidney Road
Bootle 20
Lancs
L20 9LD
(Tel 051-922-9736)

SIR PHILIP NOT WANTED

Dear Comrades,

Readers of the Militant might be interested in a small incident involving the CPSA membership in Hull. We were told at work that Sir Philip Rogers, the Permanent Secretary in charge of the DHSS, would be paying a visit to our office.

Now, Sir Philip Rogers is meant to represent Civil Servants on the Whitley Council but, judging by his comment on the recent civil service strikes, that he is incapable of doing. At the time he said the strikes were "stupid and irrelevant". Well, they might be irrelevant to a man on £15,000 a year, but for the ordinary clerical workers in the CPSA they were neither stupid nor irrelevant. They were the only way to obtain a decent standard of living.

Well, Sir Philips words have not been forgotten by the membership and now anytime he

visits any offices, meetings are held to organise walk-outs. My office was no exception and the union meeting that voted for a walk-out gave an indication of the bitterness. Ill feeling was increased by the fact that this man, who presumably was meant to be interested in staff conditions, did not even eat his dinner in the staff canteen. He had a slap-up lunch in the best hotel in town, which as the branch chairman remarked, cost more than a CO's wage for a week.

Well, Sir Philip paid his visit to Hull but he was met by almost empty offices and, judging by the meeting which decided on the walk-out, it will by no means be the last time that civil servants go on strike for better conditions.

Yours fraternally
ROY BENTLEY
(Hull Central LPYS and CPSA)

GOOD MEDICINE

Dear Comrades,

I have, in the last three months, been out of a job because of ill health, but never too ill to read the Militant. It is a far better medicine than any doctor could prescribe. The cartoons of Alan Hardman have been truly superb (one picture equal to a million words).

But now it is back to work, a new job, more people to meet, more people to organise, and more people to read Militant. In appreciation of Alan Hardman's work and the tremendous contribution the Militant made at the Labour Party conference, I enclose a donation of £5 (in anticipation of my first week's wage).

Yours sincerely, Mrs ED Holt
(Liverpool)

NEW READER

Dear Comrades,

Please find enclosed my cheque for £5 in payment for 52 issues of Militant, the additional £1 to go towards the Fighting Fund.

Being a new reader (13 issues) I would be obliged if you would supply the following information:
1 Is there a group of Militant supporters in the Teesside area?
2 Would members of the Editorial Board be willing to speak at branch or divisional meetings?
3 Reminder when subscriptions are required.

Trusting that your paper continues to be printed in this superb style.

Yours fraternally
J R McGee
(Teesside)

CONTRADICTIONS?

Dear People,

"The article they refused to publish" raised some very good points, but have you not considered the contradictions in which socialist argument of that type steep itself? I agree that the "smashing and destruction of the ready-made state machinery" is a top priority, but the Labour Party is part of that machinery just as much as capital or the Tory Party is part of it.

Why try to "smash" the Tories but "reform" the Labour

Party?

The whole basis of your argument seems to be summed up in the last paragraph of the article. You are afraid of being "swept aside by history". Will the Party continue to exist after the revolution? If so, what will be its purpose? The danger of ALL political parties is that they exist in order to preserve their own existence.

Whose side are you on? The Party's or the People's? By all means smash the state - but smash all of it!!
Love and Peace C R HUGGINS

INVEST IN MILITANT

Now we are past the £6,000 mark we have to mount a fierce assault on the next obstacle in our path: the £7,000 mark. But that will only be a battle in the war to get £10,000.

It will only be a matter of months before we obtain new premises and can then guarantee a veritable explosion in the amount of new material we will be publishing.

We recognise as much as anybody that the seething international situation needs much wider coverage and analysis than we can provide at the moment:

this is entirely dependent upon the success in building the Fighting Fund.

After last week's £317.16 we plunged down this week to £123.23 This is disappointing. It is true that it largely consists of smaller donations which are the mainstay of our fund building and this must be expanded.

But it is also necessary that we obtain the larger donations as well. Up to now we have collected a grand total of £6,131.68. We only have two months in which to collect £4,000.

It will still need a lot of hard work to reach the target. As we

stressed last week, money raising schemes such as the Tyneside folk night, which raised £17.10 and the Woolwich Social which raised £4, must be repeated all over the country. An energetic drive must be mounted to get every reader of the paper to make a donation, however small. This week was particularly good for £1 donations from our readers. Every penny you collect must be sent in right away: don't hoard it: success breeds success.

The future improvement of the Militant depends upon this success. Next week we want to report that we have collected at least £300, and preferably £500 to put us bang on target.

Thanks to the following for their donations:

- Sussex £1.40 Southampton £22
- London £4.40 Eiland 50p
- Basildon £3.30 N Ireland £14.50
- Coventry £2.50 Wirral £9.50
- Birmingham £1.52
- Wakefield LPYS 60p
- Tyneside Folk night £17.10
- FROM LONDON: -
- Mr & Mrs Wobey 50p
- Bob Faulkes £1
- M Cossar £1
- J Philips £1
- P Collins £1
- P Gilman £1
- Doris Holt (Liverpool) £5
- Brian Keman (Leicester) £1
- From Leicester LPYS:
- Eddie Beattie £1 Pete Lee £1
- Pat Brosnan £1
- Paul and Anne Howe £1
- Llanelli supporters £1.60
- R Mason (Prestatyn) 30p
- J McGee (Stockton) £1
- Woolwich Social £4
- Stuart Shapro (London) £1
- Anon (London) £2.50
- T Hayes (York) £5

IRELAND

the purpose for which the Labour Movement was founded?

The Amendment to the Offences Against the State Act passed through the Dail on December 1st last year. The Fine Gael party voted for it and all the members of the Labour Party voted against it. Not only is this Act still on the statute books, but it is being used daily in imprisoning without proper trial members and sympathisers of the Republican movement.

In the future this vicious piece of class legislation will be used against the Labour movement. A motion calling for its repeal was pushed off the agenda in Cork.

But regardless of the backsliding of the leadership, the Labour Party is still the party of the organised working class in Ireland. All the major industrial unions, and about 15 unions in all, are affiliated. The inexorable dynamic of the class struggle propels the workers towards the Labour Party.

The passing of motions in favour of coalition or the victory of the right wing at an annual conference does not portend the collapse of the Party, far from it. Just as surely as the supporters of coalition have been enabled in this period of relative economic upswing to introduce minimal reforms, so within a year or two, when unemployment and redundancy again begin to climb, the Labour Party will be compelled to reflect the fighting aspirations of the working class.

It is then that Fine Gael will become more overtly the party of big business and will seek to overthrow its working class appendage. The task of socialists now within the Labour Party is to campaign for the breaking of the

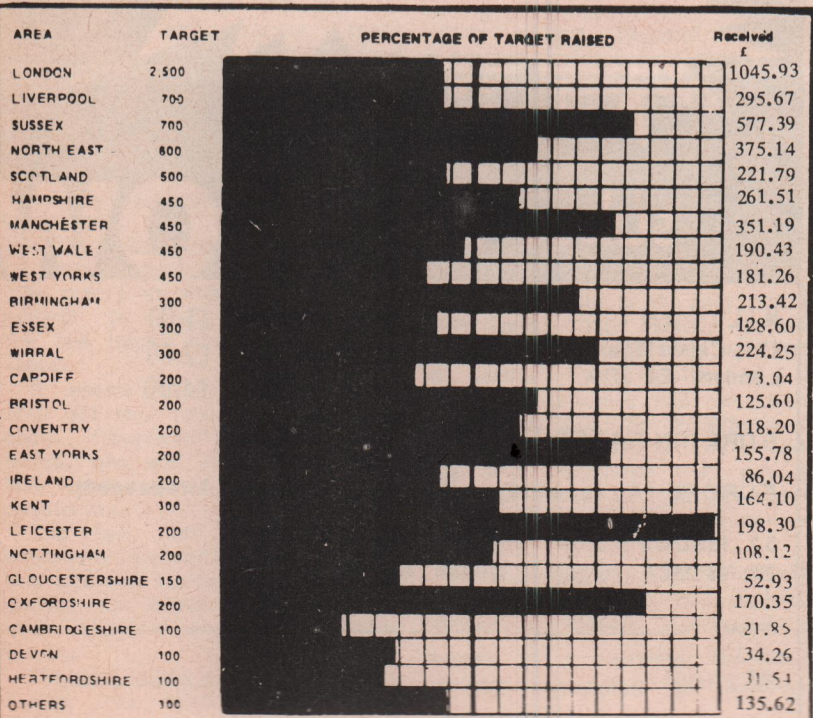
movement through this alliance with the capitalist parties.

Let the capitalist parties take the responsibility for their system. The task of Labour is to change society in the interests of the workers, through an independent party.

The ideas of Marxism, of the Militant Irish Monthly, are gaining a strong foothold within the Irish Labour movement. Being the only tendency on the left with a perspective and a programme to meet the needs of the Labour movement, we were enabled to make important interventions at the conference and to sell a large number of papers and other material. The Liaison Committee of the Left, though representing an influential body of opinion within the party, nevertheless fail to put forward consistent demands and a worked-out policy.

It is difficult to understand the euphoria expressed at conference for Corish's new health service reforms. Apart from making free hospital service available to people in the middle and higher income brackets he has done nothing. Doctor's fees still have to be paid for: prescriptions still have to be paid for: all at exorbitant rates. Justin Keating said to thundrous applause that if Brendan Corish is remembered for nothing else in politics, he will go down in history for the reforms he has introduced in the health service.

The irony is that Brendan Corish will be remembered alright, but not for his work as Minister of Health! He will be remembered for once again leading the Labour Party into a Fine Gael government without preserving its independent programme. He and his colleagues must bear the responsibility for the events of the



ENGINEERING STRIKE: AUEW MUST GIVE FIGHTING LEAD

November 5th should mark a day in every trade unionists' calendar when the final nail is hammered into the coffin of the Industrial Relations Act.

Three years ago, the philosophy of "Selsdon man" reigned supreme in Tory thinking. Like Victorian schoolmasters they were to discipline recalcitrant trade unionists as never before.

"Selsdon man" was to make the leaders of the trade unions discipline their own ranks, as was the case in the 1950's. But things have changed since then.

The response of the organised working class to this deliberate attempt to ensnare its organisations had a two-fold effect. First, it roused the trade union movement. The greatest march since the days of the Chartists took place on the streets of London, and the institutions of the Act have been ignored.

The second effect was to sow confusion in the bosses ranks. A sub-committee of the CBI has recommended such fundamental changes in the Act as to make it a dead letter. Even Sir John Donaldson, the NIRC judge, has called for amendments such as the declaration of the use of blacklegs as an "unfair practice".

A mere flexing of the trade union muscles has reduced the Act to worthless pieces of paper.

But to all those on strike today, this Act must be seen in the context of the general attack on living standards. Britain's decline as a world power has forced the ruling class to abandon the mask of 'consensus' politics and make inroads into the workers' gains of the last 30 years. The attack on living standards had to be accompanied by an attack on the workers' organisations.

What has been the response of the leaders of those organisations? Militant has ceaselessly campaigned

for the Labour leaders to explain the nature of the disease, and mobilise organised Labour to resist its symptoms.

The body of capitalism is beyond repair. It must be replaced by Socialism. Every struggle should be seen in that context, to involve the maximum number of workers and raise their understanding to a socialist consciousness.

The TUC has offered its "support" to the AUEW in relation to the latest fine. But words are not enough!

The Executive of the AUEW Engineering section has thanked its members for supporting union policies and in a roundabout way has called for protest action through the District Committees and from other trade unions. Brothers, what was needed was a clear lead. We have begun to bury the unofficial industrial strike. Now we must bury the unofficial political strike. That is the basis for mass support.

BY BRIAN BAKER (AUEW, TASS)

Ken Gill, speaking on behalf of the TASS Executive Committee of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions said that "the leadership are prepared to lead when the troops are prepared to follow".

The response from many members that I have spoken to in the past few days is "We are prepared to follow when the leadership is prepared to lead". The membership have a better understanding than the leaders.

Statements that "We do not wish by our public pronouncements to incur further contempt" is an abdication of responsibility.

If 3,000,000 workers in response to a strong fighting lead were to show their contempt for this court and the government, there is no power on earth that could inflict sentence.

must be recalled immediately to organise a concerted fight for all workers against the NIRC, against Phase Three, and against the Tory government itself. The use of troops to break the Glasgow strike is the thin end of the wedge. The cant about "protecting lives" is trotted out every time hospital porters, gasmen, power workers, miners or dustmen raise a finger to defend their living standards.

The only way to protect the inhabitants of fire-swept Glasgow is to create an efficient well-paid Fire Brigade. Only the organised Labour Movement cares about the plight of the old and sick, the children without a decent education, the slum tenants, and the other victims of capitalism.

Joe Gormley, NUM President, has warned about the effects of a big national strike. "Ted and his lads might go to the country... We would be castigated by the whole trade union movement for having given them the opportunity".

How little faith he has in the power of the mighty Labour movement. Armed with a socialist programme, Labour could sweep Toryism from history. Let the Tories call an election! That is just what the workers want: a chance to rid themselves once and for all of this government of big business.

RECALL THE TUC!

If we learn nothing else from history, we must learn the failure of unofficial dissipated action (see Militant no 170 on the 1922 engineering lockout). Leaders are there to provide leadership and co-ordination. The purpose of the Labour movement is to make the whole working class aware of the real nature of capitalist society and lead the movement to overthrow it.

The issue of the fine is being allowed to grow cold. Members are asking: what have we gained by our strikes against the IR Act and our boycott of the court? It is up to the leadership to involve the rank and file in a campaign, instead of merely passively with-holding co-operation from the NIRC.

The call by CSEU Division 8 representing the Greater London Area for November 5th, should have been taken up in all areas.

If we do not adopt such a policy of mass involvement then the writing is on the wall. Donaldson's nit-picking will eventually win through without the mobilisation of our entire membership by the executive.

Our struggle is for the basis of trade unionism. All unions should be involved in the fight to maintain the right to organise.

Our union is the only one to have faced such heavy fines - this is because we have had a consistent contempt of the court and its trappings. This policy is now in danger. What is needed now is a fight to remove that court and all that it represents.

Any further fines must be met by a call by the NEC of the AUEW for immediate action. That is the only way to bury this Act.

STOP PRESS

Glasgow engineers have called a 1 day strike for November 12th and have warned of "unlimited industrial action" if there are any further attacks on the AUEW.

FIREMEN

be subject to Pay Board approval and would be absorbed into the next national pay award.

This offer was not acceptable to the Glasgow membership.

About four weeks ago, they started to work to rule. This included an overtime ban, no detached duties, and no undermanning of appliances.

Several meetings with the Fire Brigade and Establishment Committees brought no improvement.

As a result of this the Firemaster introduced a central controlled system for operating alarms and stations. One week later, no offer had been made. A secret ballot of the membership voted by a large majority for strike action in support of the claim.

The National Executive of the Union met the Glasgow Area Committee. There they were told that if they took strike action the whole committee would be removed from office.

A mass meeting of the men was held and it was agreed to postpone mention of strike action for a further week. Last week, a further meeting of the Establishment Committee brought no increased offer.

On Wednesday morning a mass meeting of the men voted unanimously to withdraw labour from 8 a.m. on Friday.

Late on Thursday night the area officials were contacted and asked to accept an offer of £2 travel allowance across the board and the retention of the 48p.

On Friday morning the entire Glasgow Fire Brigade was out on strike. A mass meeting was held at 11 a.m. to discuss the new offer. It was overwhelmingly defeated with 600 voting against and only 64 in favour of the offer.

Throughout the negotiations and the strike the Area Committee has been hampered by the intervention of the

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MINERS CALL FOR OVERTIME BAN

The National Executive of the N.U.M. was authorized at a special national conference last week to call for an overtime ban, if the N.C.B. didn't improve its pay proposals to the miners.

The N.U.M. have called for £35 a week for surface workers, £40 a week for underground workers and £45 a week for men on the Power Loading Agreement. The miners argue that since the Wilberforce Pay Award of 1972, their wages have fallen to 22nd place in relation to other earnings. The Board, on the other hand, have offered the miners a basic increase of £2.25 for surface workers and £2.50 for underground workers, an increase of 17p in shift allowances for the 1500 men on night shift giving them an increase of £6.80 plus other 'benefits' including better holidays; while hanging over this offer is the proposal for a Productivity deal.

The 17p shift allowance for night shift workers is in line with the Tories' Phase 3 policy regarding 'anti social' working hours, but, as a Committee member of Graig Methyr Lodge stated: "The most anti-social shift is the 2-10 pm afternoon one; anyhow, what the miners really want is a pay increase for all miners, to regain what's been lost since 1972".

In the same way as the N.U.M. must say no to shift allowances, to make up the miners' wages, they must say no to any productivity deals. Any such deal would be a step back to the pre-1966 situation of the old piece work system. Whether the productivity deal would be on a national or area basis, it would destroy any gains made by the Power Loading Agreement of 1966, which did away with piece work and the additional dangers that the miners were prone to because of piece work.

The offer of a productivity deal is seen by some miners as the first step in the return to the disparity of wages due to differing levels of productivity in different areas, a disparity that

successfully divided the miners up until 1972, when parity of wages was achieved throughout the coalfields.

The proposals of the N.C.B. will be discussed this week by the N.U.M. and the N.C.B. and a report of this meeting will be put to the N.U.M. executive on November 8th. Meanwhile, the proposal for an overtime ban will be discussed in the various areas, to be decided upon in pit head meetings. The decision will be taken back to the area executives and then passed on to the national executive. Already the Yorkshire area council of the N.U.M. has called for a total overtime ban.

Any overtime ban must be seen as the first offensive in what will probably be a long struggle with the N.C.B. and the government. The tactic of the overtime ban will be to bring the existing coal stocks down in advance of any action which will take place after the present settlement with the N.C.B. expires in February next year. This could effectively mean a 4 month go-slow, which may take some time to be really effective, despite the forecasts of Joe Gormley the N.U.M. president, who stated that 'it could bring the industry to a standstill in a few days'. The actual amount of coal mined in overtime amounts to just 12% of the total mined in Britain. Therefore what the overtime ban will do will be to prevent safety and maintenance work being carried out outside shift hours.

DAI HIGGON LLWCHWR L.P.Y.S. Based on interviews with a number of Lodge officials and committed men from collieries in the Gorseion area.

Humphries, who has made provocative statements concerning the integrity of the Glasgow membership. Such behaviour is strongly condemned by the Glasgow Firemen.

We as Trade Unionists regard the use of troops as an attack on the working class movement, and another face of this Tory Government which is just coming to the fore. Since the strike began a constant flow of support has been coming in from

firemen in other areas. We have received support from Fire Brigades all over the country and every day more firemen have voted to start a work to rule in support of their Glasgow brothers.

This strike and the support it is receiving from other areas represents yet another example of how previously unmilitant sections of workers are being drawn into struggle by the actions of this Tory Government.



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