

# Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

**N. IRELAND  
TORIES  
SPLIT  
WIDE OPEN**

From SEAN REED

THE RESIGNATION of Brian Faulkner and Billy Morgan from the Tory cabinet in Northern Ireland is part of the Faulkner conspiracy to oust Prime Minister Terence O'Neill.

The power struggle, which is now out in the open, dates back to 1963 when O'Neill pipped Faulkner at the post for the leadership of the Unionist Party.

On Monday January 6, following the civil rights march from Belfast, while the barricades were up in Derry, Faulkner in fact won a majority in the parliamentary Unionist Party. O'Neill was saved by two factors:

First, the anti-O'Neillites, although they could agree on Faulkner as Prime Minister and on the policy to be pursued—putting the boot in on the civil rights movement—could not agree on the members of the new cabinet.

Second and more important, Harold Wilson vetoed the move and made it clear that any attempt to ditch O'Neill or to use mass repression before the basic demands of the civil rights movement had been granted would lead to British intervention.

## NO NEED

Faulkner, by far the most capable of the Unionist leaders, knows that the British government no longer has any need to boost the Northern Ireland regime which it sees as an embarrassment to its attempts to reintegrate the economy of Southern Ireland with Britain as part of the plans for entering the Common Market.

The Unionist Party knows that if the civil rights campaign is not brought to heel soon there is every danger that it will rapidly go beyond the boundaries laid down for it by the present middle-class leadership and transform itself into a movement capable of threatening the very existence of Ulster unionism.

So Faulkner resigned, stating that his difference with O'Neill is on the question of one man, one vote and the need for strong government.

He hopes that with this line, Westminster will allow him to replace O'Neill.

## UNITE PARTY

Then, as a known strong man who holds the confidence of the extreme right of the Unionist Party, he could hope to unite the party, grant one man, one vote and ruthlessly crack down on a divided civil rights movement.

The irresponsible 'moderate' leaders of the civil rights movement will use O'Neill's troubles as yet another excuse to call a truce with Toryism.

This danger must be countered by a programme to keep the civil rights movement on the streets.

The class content of the civil rights demands must be made clear and the movement must acquire its own means of publicity to end the need of relying on the Tory press, whether Green or Orange.

see Paisley jailed, back page

# LSE STUDENTS SAY OPEN COLLEGE, REMOVE POLICE



LSE students marched to their college on Monday to demand its reopening

From MARTIN SHAW: LSE

STUDENTS AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF Economics, locked out since Friday, are fighting a national campaign to reopen their college without victimisation or police measures.

The authorities, their prison gates removed, have installed the police on the campus. Staff are prepared to collaborate in sending their students to jail.

The press has prepared a witch-hunt against socialist students, just as it has against industrial militants on the shopfloor. The students' only allies are their fellow students and all those in industry, on council estates and in the schools who are feeling the whip from government, bosses and local councils.

## Train small elite

Why have LSE students been fighting on so many issues in recent years? At universities and colleges, taxpayers' money is used to train a small elite to be the bosses and officials of tomorrow. The quiet 'well-behaved' students the press adores are those who do not question what they are being trained for and what they are taught. But some do.

These are the students in and around the socialist societies. They question the relevance of their education to the real problems they see in society.

They take practical action to help those fighting the bosses and the government in defence of hard-earned wages and conditions. They aid tenants fighting rent rises. And they support the working people of Northern Ireland against the Tory police state and the Vietnamese people against US bombs.

At the LSE it became clear that socialist ideas were becoming increasingly dominant among the students. Students occupied the building in support of the Vietnam demonstration last October, and a socialist candidate for union presidency, Martin Tomkinson, lost by only 39 votes in more than 1400.

## Bosses crack down

Afraid of challenges to their power, the authorities started to crack down. A repressive disciplinary code for staff and students was introduced. At the same time they started to fortify the school. Locks were reinforced, doors strengthened, and nine sets of steel gates appeared throughout the buildings.

Students are generally in a very weak bargaining position. The sit-in has proved the most effective weapon they have devised yet for challenging the power of those who run colleges and universities. The authorities were trying to take this away.

The barriers in students' minds were crumbling. The authorities replaced them in steel—as symbols in the students' imagination and as weapons against any student action in future.

Against this provocation the students acted. First, on January 17 by voting to demand the removal of the gates. Then, when the authorities did not act, by forcing immediate negotiations on Friday January 24. And when these negotiations failed, they voted to remove the gates.

The gates were removed that evening, with a minimum of fuss and a minimum of damage.

Hours later, when the students had split up, the Director closed the school and brought in the police. Students in the LSE bar, many just enjoying a quiet pint, were forced to file between rows of police and professors and other academics who stood there to inform on them.

Three were arrested there, and more than 30 more in the street outside LSE and later in Bow Street, where they marched to demand the release of their comrades.

Turn to back page

# GPO solidarity shakes Labour

Socialist Worker Reporter

OVERSEAS telegraphists who are striking over a five per cent pay claim have been treated with contempt by the Labour government for the past seven months.

Alone among civil servants, the 3,500 telegraphists have been without a pay increase for two years and seven months—and there is no bonus system to boost their meagre earnings.

The government have offered them two per cent (and five per cent back-dated to last July). They will only allow the five per cent if a productivity deal is accepted which would add about five per cent to the industry's output with no increase in staff.

Overseas telegraphists are not allowed to negotiate productivity deals on a local basis, unlike telephonists who are more in number and therefore more dangerous to exports.

## Lose jobs

The Post Office insist that the complicated and incompetent 'semi-automatic equipment' at Electra House, London, will not result in any productivity payments—although the new equipment will mean that 167 men will lose their jobs and the GPO's wage bill will drop by eight per cent.

The government banked on the historic weakness of the Union of Post Office Workers and the supposed reluctance

of postmen to take solidarity action.

They underestimated the growing resentment and solidarity of UPW members.

The decision for bans on overtime in support of the Telegraphists were near-unanimous, and the Post Office workers, after many years of bullying and bad conditions, are not averse to a long fight.

More and more of them are prepared to show the government that small groups of workers cannot be picked off without involving their entire union in open struggle.

## Iraq display of bodies barbarous

THE PUBLIC DISPLAY of the bodies of the alleged Israeli spies in Iraq this week was a sickening and barbarous act.

The Arab countries have a just case to argue against the aggressive and expansionist Zionist state, but the Iraq hangings only play into the hands of the millionaire press, which supports imperialism and its Middle-East buffer.

Arabs fighting for the restoration of their homeland must appeal to reason and avoid the cesspool of anti-

The unity of all workers and peasants in the Middle-East, regardless of religion, is vital if imperialism and its puppets are to be defeated.

# Heath's new race bid

By PAUL FOOT

TORY LEADER Edward Heath made another bid in the new political game which is fascinating commentators at Westminster: The Immigration Auction Game.

There are no rules. The prize—estimated at approximately one million votes—goes to the man who can declare the strictest control of coloured immigration as the policy of his party by the next election.

There was, before 1968, a 'gentleman's agreement' in which no one could overbid by too big a margin.

This agreement was broken by Enoch Powell.

Now Heath is hopelessly trying to keep up by demand-

# Pensions plan leaves wealthy untouched

By COLIN FALCONER

THE GOVERNMENT'S long-term plans for pensions were announced in a White Paper on Tuesday by the Secretary of State for Social Services, Richard Crossman.

Reform of the social security system was a major election promise in 1964 but it has been repeatedly postponed.

This is in sharp contrast to the government's rush to introduce legislation to curb wages, reorganise industry and control the trade unions.

The pensions scheme is intended to come into effect between 1972 and 1992. It is based on the provision of a new earnings-related pension, ranging from about £5 to more than £12 a week.

This compares with the present flat-rate pension of £4 10s. There are also plans to raise unemployment and sickness benefits—but the government is opposed to pensions for the disabled.

The plan—hailed as 'revolutionary' by some supporters of the Labour government—does nothing to redistribute wealth from rich to poor, for example by a 'wealth tax' or a tightening up on tax avoidance.

## RECOUPED

The increased benefits will be largely financed by the workers themselves—employers' contributions are added to 'labour costs' and recouped in the form of lower wages or higher prices.

The only redistribution will be from better-off workers to the lower paid, through the introduction of earnings-related contributions. Thus at £15 a week, the contribution will be reduced by exactly 2s 4d. At £25 a week, a worker will be paying 7s 9d more.

The plan leaves untouched the astronomical 'top hat' pensions and tax-free lump sums enjoyed by company directors.

In 1967, the National Turn to back page

**MARCH AGAINST  
N. IRELAND  
POLICE STATE  
Sunday Feb 2  
2.30 Speakers  
Corner Hyde Park  
to Ulster Office**

TONY CLIFF (IS)

debates with

GERRY HEALY (SLL)

Northgate Hall

St Michael's Street

Oxford

8.15 pm Sunday Feb 2

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# Steel: rank and file

THE CAMPAIGN by leaders of the manual unions in the steel industry to stop white collar unions recruiting staff members has angered bosses and government—but the dispute has overshadowed the news that 50,000 steel workers stand to lose their jobs in the next six years.

Predictably the press and television seek to present the dispute as an example of the irresponsibility and disregard for the 'national interest' of the trade union movement and as concrete evidence of the need to introduce stricter legal controls over the workers.

In the usual press fashion, the dispute is shown as a dramatic clash of personalities playing out an episode of the Power Game.

There is an urgent need to look at the dispute in a more serious manner, to place within the context of industrial change the more immediate and superficial causes and to show how thousands of steelworkers are being used as the scapegoats for capitalism in its campaign to smash the power of the rank and file.

# unity vital to fight threat to jobs

by HARRY JONES

a Scunthorpe steel worker

## Spectacular

New fuels, new forms of transport and improved technology have resulted in spectacular reductions in the labour forces of the coal and railway industries and in corresponding falls in the membership of the industrial unions attached to them.

According to the latest report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies in 1967 the mineworkers' union lost 32,000 members and the rail union 30,000.

This is a continuing process in which power in the trade union movement is passing out of the hands of the older, so-called 'closed' unions and into those of the general unions—the 'open' unions such as the Transport Workers, Engineers and Electricians-Plumbers and, so far to a lesser extent, the white collar unions.

The leaders of the old industrial unions watch this process stupefied as they see their mass bases eroded.

## Coronets

Because of their bureaucratic method of working and thinking they do not respond by trying to protect their members' interests by fighting for immediate and suitable alternative employment or by mobilising them into struggles against the state.

Instead they acquiesce in the process and line themselves up with the state, helping it to demoralise the working class and hoping they will be rewarded with coronets and state jobs.

They seek to hold on

tight to their positions of strength in the TUC, where they tend to become its most conservative element.

It is not surprising then that the leaders of the two unions based solely in the steel industry, the British Iron and Steel and Kindred Trades Association (BISAKTA)—also known as the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation—and the National Union of Blastfurnacemen (NUB) panic when they see, at a time when they are faced with large-scale redundancies, two white collar unions successfully recruiting thousands of members under their very noses.

## Reluctant

Neither is it surprising that the TUC recommended to the British Steel Corporation that only the old industrial unions, together with the craft unions should be recognised after nationalisation.

The Clerks' union (CAWU) and the Supervisors' (ASTMS) were understandably reluctant to submit their case to the TUC Disputes Committee and preferred to leave the question to a Court of Enquiry which, in line with the Donovan principle of one union for each grade of work in one plant, came down on their side.

As one BISAKTA district officer put it to me in defence of his unions' official policy: 'There are going to be less and less manual jobs and more and more technical jobs and if we do not fight then Clive Jenkins (ASTMS general secretary) will get those jobs.'

You can sympathise with this sentiment until you

examine the qualifications of the respective unions.

Most members of BISAKTA and the NUB cannot remember the last time they received a call to action from their leaders.

Many local officials despise their full-time officials, who they see going along with management in the most servile way.

Many are extremely critical of the democratic procedures within their unions.

BISAKTA and NUB chiefs claim a long experience and intimate knowledge of the industry. This is true but it is no guarantee that that knowledge will be placed at the service of their members.

The recognition issue has been in the air for two years now. The white collar unions have demonstrated their militancy by a series of guerrilla stoppages which won them recognition.

During this period there has been only a half-hearted attempt by BISAKTA and the NUB to start internal discussion of the issue.

## Relinquished

Steel staff workers know that in the past the manual unions have shown precious little interest in them. In some parts of the country staff are reasonably well organised in the manual workers' unions and this dispute does not involve them.

CAWU and ASTMS have relinquished all claims to recognition in those areas.

But in the areas where the white collar unions are strong and in other areas with negligible staff unionism the general feeling among all grades is that the whole affair will end in anti-climax

with the great majority of manual workers ignoring the instructions of their executives.

There is overwhelming cynicism. BISAKTA and NUB members are very conscious about the gap which exists between them and the bureaucrats. It is too long since any dialogue took place for a strike call to be effective.

A quote from a normally conservative BISAKTA shop steward illustrates this point: 'I don't like Clive Jenkins, in fact he makes me sick every time I see his fat face on television, but he has achieved something for his members. I think we ought to go on strike for our lower paid workers. This is just damned silly.'

## Pleased

An NUB member put it like this: 'We have told these staff people for years that they ought to be in trade unions. Now that they have joined their own unions we ought to be pleased.'

And another BISAKTA steward said: 'Dai Davies (ISTC secretary) ought to make sure his troops are behind him before he orders them into battle.'

Industrial commentators seem to be placing a large portion of the responsibility

for this dispute on the shoulders of the British Steel Corporation's Personnel Director, Ron Smith, former General Secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers.

But many of the rank and file think Ron Smith has been very clever. For 18 months since nationalisation he has managed to keep the unions preoccupied with the recognition issue.

## Resistance

This has given him the opportunity to push through several far reaching productivity deals which, over the years, will involve thousands of redundancies.

The unions have not had time to study fully his general productivity proposals or to organise resistance to them. He has been able to delay, time after time, the setting up of new bargaining and consultation machinery.

If these initial problems had been dealt with swiftly and effectively then the unions would have been in a very strong position today, especially as the industry is currently breaking records in production and the order books are full for months ahead.

All workers in the steel industry should say they will not be diverted for any longer.

Let us work together to ensure workers' control over the industry and our rightful share in its profits.

Neither Clive Jenkins nor Dai Davies are going to achieve this. The solution to the workers' problems lies with the men on the shop floor.

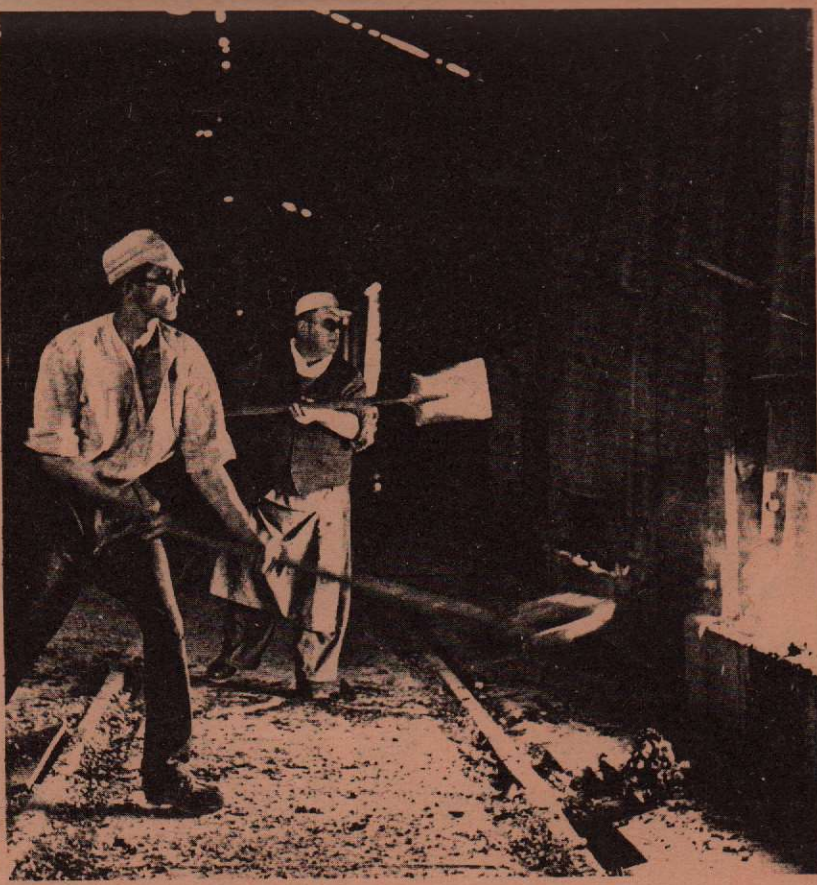
The Donovan Report shows that only a very tiny proportion of all disputes are caused by inter-union disagreements. Of course when these do take place—as in the Girling Factory at Bromborough—they are the subject of widespread attacks in the capitalist press.

There can be no justification, even within the perspective of managed capitalism, for using a dispute such as the current one in steel as a pretext and a cover for introducing anti-union legislation.

## Exploit

But unless the issue is made clear then Barbara Castle and Harold Wilson will think their prayers have been answered.

They will exploit the situation to the full, surrounded by a cheering press and Conservative Party, by introducing the most reactionary legislation since the Combination Acts.



workers' control is the demand that can link up all grades of steel workers

# The

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# VOTE, VOTE, VOTE FOR...

## LETTERS

### Half-baked theory

MAY I MAKE two comments on Mike Heym's article on state capitalism (December 14)?

1. He first defines capitalism as subordinating labour to the accumulation of capital.

By this definition Russia is clearly not capitalist because it is not capital that is accumulated but use-values—eg the national plan expresses its aim not as a profit of x roubles but as the production of certain quantities of materials.

The irrationality of the system is not expressed by a law of falling profit but, among other things, if a manager is given a target in weight he produces a small number of over-heavy items; if in numbers a large number of fragile, flung-together items.

The reference to stress on heavy industry is irrelevant for even a representative government may choose this option.

2. He then defines capitalism as production in response to competition and appeals to the world market as the source for this.

This argument is invalid, for even if one assumed production for the world market was directed at accumulating capital, the USSR's external trade is a small part of the Gross National Product and trade with capitalist countries negligible.

When Stalin's terror was at its height in 1938, the USSR was practically autarchic.

In his book Russia: a Marxist analysis, Tony Cliff sees the absurdity of basing

IF SOCIALIST WORKER is to give a lead in British politics then one thing it will have to give consideration to is its attitude to the Labour Party.

The next General Election will soon be upon us—perhaps spring or autumn next year. What will SW be urging its readers to campaign for?

Organised abstentionism? Voting for 'Left' Labour candidates? Or voting for International Socialist candidates?

The latter would, I trust, be ruled out, in view of our whole perspective in relationship to the decline of parliament as a centre of power and a fountainhead of reforms.

Nevertheless, it would appear that the Socialist Labour League are seriously planning to put up their own candidates.

After quite rightly hammering the Labour traitors regularly in its columns, is SW just lamely going to finish up in its pre-election issue by saying 'Make your own minds up'?

I believe we should urge people to abstain—which plenty are doing already—and urge trade unionists to opt out of the political levy to the Labour Party.

If this government is the handmaiden of big business, which it has proved itself to be, then let big business pay to keep them in power. After all, there are enough Labour millionaires in Parliament to prop up their government.—ROSS HILL, Merseyside IS.

## Not answered

I HAVE NO DESIRE to vilify Sid Bidwell (January 25). My aim is to make a political—not a personal—point.

So far he has failed to answer my question. Does

Sid Bidwell support the government's policy imposing restrictions on coloured immigration?

Or does he still accept the position he advanced in his Socialist Review article, namely, that workers should be free to leave or enter Britain at will?

Internationalism is an essential part of socialist principles. Workers, as Marx said, have no fatherland.

We have to translate the slogan 'Workers of the world unite', into a reality.

But how can MPs who support restrictions introduced by the capitalist state possibly assist towards this end?

You can't sincerely sing, 'So comrades, come rally, the last light let us face' when you believe some comrades should be kept at arms length—indeed, out of the country.—RAYMOND CHALLINOR, Wigan.

## The Castle curse

YOUR INDUSTRIAL reporter states that miners want a one-day general strike to rid us of Barbara Castle's White Paper (January 18).

Why just the White Paper? Let's go the whole hog and get rid of Barbara before she dreams up more damage.

I have always thought an all-women government would make a really worthwhile job, but since Madam Castle was let loose I take it back and say, let's get all men back and get back to sanity.—Mrs B.M. WILSON, Baleswood, Liverpool.

# Socialist Worker

EDITORIAL 657a High Road Tottenham London N17 telephone 01-808 2879  
BUSINESS Paxton Works Paxton Road London N17 telephone 01-808 4847

Editor Roger Protz  
Editorial Committee Paul Foot Richard Kuper Constance Lever Laurie Flynn  
Business Manager Jim Nichol

SOCIALIST WORKER is the paper of International Socialism, a movement of revolutionary socialists who believe that the present form of society, with its blatant inequalities, its periodic crises, wars and racialist hysteria must be replaced by one based on a planned economy under full workers' control; those who produce the wealth should own and control the means of production. International Socialism is opposed to any incomes policy that seeks to restrict the wages of the workers in order to boost the profits of the employers. We unconditionally support all shop stewards and rank and file trade union members in their struggles for better wages and conditions and oppose all reactionary laws that threaten the liberties of the labour movement. We support all strikes in defence of workers' interests with the de-

# WHERE WE STAND

mand of no victimisation of trade unionists. Redundancy should be opposed with the demand: five days work or five days pay. Shop stewards organisations should strengthen and extend their in-

fluence by linking up on an industrial and ultimately a national basis.

We are opposed to racial discrimination, a weapon used by the ruling class to divide the labour movement. Immigration control must be ended, ensuring the free movement of peoples regardless of race and colour. Black and white workers must unite and form their own defence organisations to fight fascism and racialism. The labour movement must demand the immediate recall of British troops from abroad as the first step towards ending colonial exploitation.

The task of revolutionary socialists is to join workers in their struggles with socialist ideas that will link up the various sections of the labour movement and help create a force that will lead on to workers' power and international socialism.



# The way to a quick profit is through a man's stomach

TIME GAGS are the easiest of the national fun-not the govern-ther-in-law, or e. that television eaten into our ss, to the ext-ting new words ) and certainly ts and criteria g powder that is whiter than rtly amusing orrific. need saying that in the twilight eating prev-istent needs, ashing powders

that, owned by the same company, vie monthly to transcend their 'competitors' and their own perfection. But the machinery the ad-men use for their work is usually well codified: colour high income-bracket gloss for Punch and factory chim-neys for the Mirror.

## Fantasy

It's on the telly that the adman has to be all things to all men. He doesn't, of course. So, side by side, we see heavily regional accents in Toffo ads, and sugary Belgravia advert-ising the noxious After Eight Mints. After Eight is fantasy, not created for people who drink

# TV

coffee out of silver, smoke Havanas and have crates of Napoleon Brandy in the cellar. After Eight is, like so many ads, an attempt to impose values of 'unashamed luxury' on people who neither can afford it nor really want it. It's an extreme example. Not so Katy and Philip, Oxo's soggy soap saga, carefully

trendifying itself as the years go by. Philip and Katy are not top executive class. Philip seems to be in oil on some sort of low managerial level. But their accents are im-peccable, and, although money can be tight, they eat 'dinner' (the name of the evening meal being the most effective class thermometer). Katy is what every petty-bourgeois would like to be; not rich, but with class. She, like Mrs. Dale, is a notch or two higher up the social scale than her audience, and presumably the use of Oxo will help her fans along the class clearyway that little bit that makes all the difference. Philip and Katy are a coup-le, not a family. They are

extraordinary in that respect. Kids don't get repeat fees for ads, that's why they even advertise cars and insurance late at night .

## Repulsive

Kids vary from the nauseat-ing (that repulsive child in the Fairy ads—the prime creator of the myth that a washing-up liquid's most important characteristic is its effect on the hands of the user) to the cheerfully irrepre-ssible, as in the Smarties ad where the sky rains the stuff, falsetto American kids repeat their diabolic refrain, and be-jeaned and be-sweat-shirted youth indulge their exercise in consumer orgasm

in a sea of multi-coloured chocolate buttons. Persil is another typical family ad: 'When they go out you don't go with them. Or do you?' Yes, apparently, in the fact that their white shirts look whiter than the shirts of the kid next door, or presum-ably, the kid next door's dirty mother, who uses another leading brand and so doesn't care. Thus the appeal to the bourgeois conscience (Stork is tested on Selfridges staff: 'success' pitted against 'success') is intertwined with the appeal to make YOUR family just a little bit more bourgeois than the next one. Sex is not a great influence

on telly; telly is 'family viewing' and as such must be wholesome. And when pass-ions so virile and competitive can be achieved by a golden-haired child in a white dolly-dress mouthing tinsel platit-udes into the ear of a just-hip-enough Mum (who if she feels the strain is usually given a working-class accent along with her patent pill), then who bothers? The sink's the thing, wherein to keep the money rolling in.

**DAVID EDGAR**

Greater London Council threaten tougher measures against tenants refusing to pay rent increases, an activist takes a critical look at the movement on the estates

# Only class politics can break down isolation of militant tenants

by **JOHN PHILLIPS**

Chairman of the Southwark Federation of Tenants Associations

UNUSUALLY eventful year work. Government squ- worsened the acrous housing stration is also spot-growing crisis and political in the tenants'

## PLING

London Coun- Action Committ- to overcome this ncy to run from is now moving hands of tenant cannot take the ward politically. stration on Feb- Housing Minister ouse is a more of fertility than demonstrations

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From its inception the political policy was clear—that the whole problem stemmed from the control of land and capital by the capitalist class who use it for profit and that the problem required political solutions which would expose the vicious class nature of capitalist society.

In detail the ideas put across to tenants were to expose the parasite financiers in the City of London, who year after year suck millions of pounds profit from local authorities (tenants and rate payers) in interest charges, and the landowners who, because of the system, are able to dispose of much needed building land in big cities at enormously inflated prices.

The Action Committee also warned of the bankruptcy of the parliamentary political parties which, caught in the straitjacket of attempting to reform the situation through parliament and local councils, inevitably delude the tenants into wasteful activity and eventual defeat.

## HOSTILITY

Quite rightly, the Action Committee insisted that the only hope for the tenants in the short term was to organise estate committees on the basis of self-activity, maximum involvement of the tenants and a clear hostility to parliamentary political parties which attempted to use the movement for their own advancement.

It was also made clear from the very beginning that the policy of rent strike would be the only real alternative to the policies of persuasion and petition advanced by the parliamentarians. Correct though these policies were, it has become clear that the whole situation needs to be reassessed both from the angle of government policy and from the situation the movement is in. The government's attack on working-class living standards is sharpening and over the next year or so will become increasingly severe. Wilson's administration, with no room to manoeuvre between the world bankers and the investment needs of the British capitalist class has no alternative but to crack down on the most unorganised sections of society—and tenants are one such section. Local authority housing revenue accounts are now running up such huge deficits—because the financiers demand their pound of flesh—that housing programmes

throughout the country, and in particular the big cities, are grinding to a halt. In some cases, councils are only building so called 'luxury flats' for those tenants who can afford £7 to £8 per week, thereby reducing still further the amount of living accommodation available to lower paid workers. The whole process is an ever increasing problem being dumped on tenants through rent rises and lower standards all round.

## VULNERABLE

Neither the Labour government, nor any other parliamentary party, will stand out against the legalised Ratchmans in the city. Only the tenants, assisted by the revolutionary Left, can do this, provided they are aware of the issues involved.

The tenants' movement is in many senses one of the most democratic and at the same time the most vulnerable of organisations. This is not intended to be a condemnation of democratic methods but rather to point out that democracy without a clear perspective and programme of action is of little value. Revolutionary socialists must aid the tenants in coming to this perspective. The Action Committee has shown what can be done in a short space of time in terms of pure 'organisation'—many thousands of tenants still refuse to pay the October increase and dozens of estates have committees where none existed before—but has there been any real advance?

## FRINGE

Are the tenants who started out 12 months ago any wiser about the mechanisms that enmesh the housing problem firmly in the structure of capitalist society, and that

to solve their problem they have to change this society? As long as tenants remain on the 'fringe' of the socialist and working-class movement, these lessons will be harder to learn. What is needed?

First, a clear condemnation of the 'anti-political' ideas that run riot among tenants.

It is good that many tenants have developed a healthy cynicism towards the reformist political parties. It is good that they want to do things for themselves. It is bad that this cynicism turns into opposition to all politics. Revolutionary socialists must constantly ram home the political issues and solutions, regardless of causing offence to some people who would rather discuss bingo or who still have faith in the Labour Party.

## EXTENDED

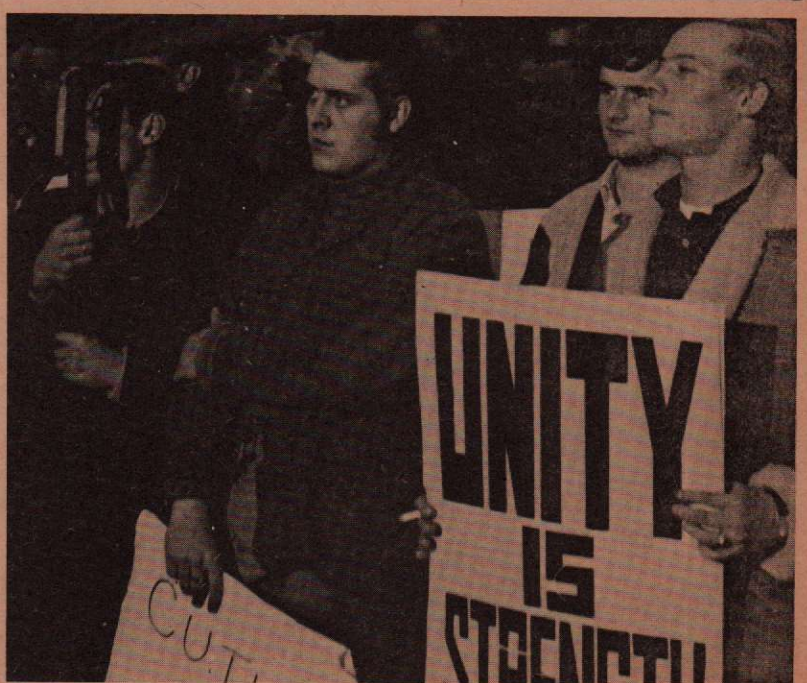
Second, tenants' organisations should attempt to become more closely attached to the trade union movement. It is good to see the Action Committee maintaining close contact with sections of the London trade union movement—dockers, market porters and Ford workers, for example—and this should be extended where possible.

Without the strength and support of the organised working class the tenants' success will be extremely limited. Third, and most important, the movement must begin to generate its own political demands. These should develop into immediate short term demands that will give credence to the movement as a whole and break down some of the barriers between tenants and the revolutionary Left and between tenants themselves.

The Left should take the lead in promoting demands for:

- Nationalisation of the land, abolition of all interest payments to the moneylenders and for interest-free loans to local authorities from state funds.
- Abolition of rent rebate schemes as being divisive for the tenants.
- The placing of council properties under the provisions of the various Rent Acts to ensure proper security of tenure against victimisation.
- Radical demands for tenants' control over the management of their estates.
- Local authorities to have their financial transactions and housing revenue accounts

Tenants must win wider support from organised workers. These TGWU, Covent Garden porters supported last November's rents protest march to GLC headquarters.



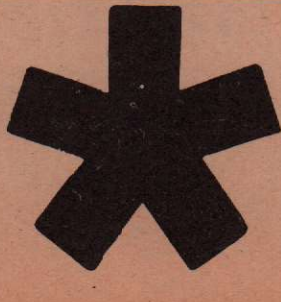
open to public scrutiny. Municipalisation of all rented property. No doubt there are other similar demands that can be put that will weld the tenants' movement into an effective

entity with the socialist and working-class movements. Until this is done it will continue to be a movement condemned to sporadic protest with little chance of the

right lessons being learned. For revolutionary social-ists working with tenants and the tenant militants them-selves this should be the immediate task.

## Join the International Socialists

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
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# Ivy Bridge men to occupy site

## Socialist Worker Reporter

**LOCKED-OUT WORKERS** at the Ivy Bridge site Isleworth, Middlesex, are planning to link their struggle to the plight of homeless families by taking over the site.

The workers say that enough flats are completed to provide accommodation for more than 100 families. Unless the management give a definite date for a resumption of work, the men will move in homeless families and defend the occupation.

## ICI blast: was factory safe?

By an ICI shop steward

**TESSIDE:-** January 21 is a day that will long be remembered at ICI Wilton. At 7.50 pm a vast explosion shook not only Wilton but the whole of Teesside and left the Polythene No.2 Plant a tangled mass of wreckage with three of its workers dead and another six seriously injured, one of whom has since died.

Why was a tragedy of this magnitude allowed to happen? Could it have been foreseen and what steps taken to prevent it?

It has been the proud boast of ICI that their safety record is second to none, but it is suggested by Wilton employees that the local management have sacrificed safety in the interests of production.

## Key workers

The level of overtime at Wilton is well above the ICI national average. And the Wilton management have recruited large numbers of key workers, most of them from outside the Teesside area.

The majority of them have little or no experience in the petro-chemical industry and there has been no training programmes to acquaint them with the dangers involved in the industry.

The local factory inspectors have neither the staff nor the time to carry out the necessary inspections which a works such as Wilton urgently needs.

Safety committees have done nothing to highlight the dangers involved. Investigation shows that there are safety committees functioning but these are under the control of the Works Council, a body on which only the Transport Workers and Electricians unions are represented.

## Halt production

It is clear that the whole trade union movement at Wilton must face up to its responsibilities and insist that proper committees be set up which have the power to halt production if the safety of the workers is involved.

ICI may set up courts of enquiry into accidents of this nature, but whatever the findings of such courts the management cannot lose, as they are heavily insured against accidents.

All the money in the world can never compensate the families of those who died, nor ease the suffering of the injured. What is urgently needed now is government legislation to ensure that there is an adequate supply of factory inspectors, and that the local authorities which licence plants producing polythene should have the power to close down plants if there is the slightest danger to the life and limb of any worker.

## Support grows for one-day strike

**MERSEYSIDE:-** Shop stewards representing large construction sites agreed on Monday in Ellesmere Port to recommend that their sites should support the one-day strike on February 27 against the White Paper on trade union law. The sites include Shell Star Warrington gasworks and Fiddlers Ferry power station.

**TYNESIDE:-** Opposition to the White Paper has come this week from the Tyne and Blythe Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Workers, Newcastle Trades Council and the AEF Tyne District

The workers, fighting for trade union recognition, have been locked out by the Turriff management for 15 weeks and the half-completed blocks of council flats stand deserted in an area of acute housing shortage.

But for the lock-out, the first families would have moved into flats last December.

Workers are prepared to put finishing touches to the flats to make sure that families moved in are comfortable.

The men on the picket line know only too well the hardship that Turriff's action is bringing to working people living in squalid rented accommodation.

## BIG PROTEST

Russell Kerr, Labour MP for Feltham and Michael Barnes, who represents Brentford and Chiswick, are to press the Minister of Housing, Anthony Greenwood, to intervene to get work restarted.

At a big protest meeting in Hounslow last Saturday, a resolution was carried unanimously condemning the lock-out.

It was disclosed at the meeting that Turriff has approached the Tory-controlled Hounslow Council and asked to be released from the contract. This may well be a move to get an extra £500,000 from the council to complete the work.

## OFFENSIVE

Workers from the site are giving Turriff another two weeks to give a date for restarting work. Turriff obviously hoped that a long lock-out would weaken the workers' resistance, but now the men are going over to the offensive.

The dispute has been virtually ignored by the national press. Reporters have turned up at the picket line but when they discovered that it was a lock-out and not a strike, their enthusiasm for the story suddenly vanished.

## LSE

From page one  
Since then LSE students have been organising. A meeting of 500 on Monday adopted the following demands: **RE-OPEN LSE—NO GATES—NO VICTIMISATION—NO POLICE, INFORMING BY LSE STAFF.**

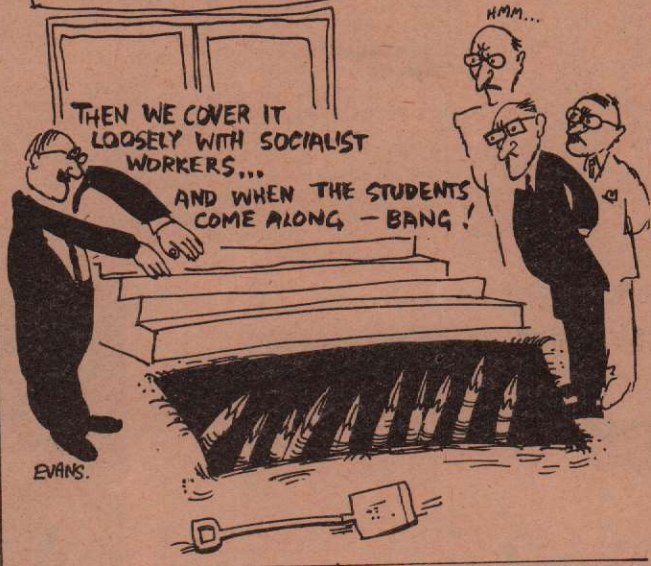
They have occupied the university of London Union as an 'LSE in Exile' while they fight for their demands which were presented to the authorities in a peaceful march of 1500 on Monday. They planned a national march on LSE on Thursday, whether the college was reopened or not, to ensure that demands were met.

The struggle will not end until all gates remain down and all charges are dropped. Students all over Britain are supporting their LSE comrades. It is hoped that working-class organisations will also give their support. We are all fighting the same enemies.

## Support

Messages of support to the LSE students have come from workers at CAV and Injection Mouldings and the SOGAT chapel at the Sunday Times. Students at Warwick, Sussex and Aston (Birmingham) universities have demonstrated in support. The GLC Tenants' Action Committee have also declared their support. Socialist Worker printed 15,000 copies this week of two penny specials on the LSE lock-out. The print order for this issue has been increased by a third and extra copies are going to IS student branches.

## LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS



## Rootes car men in long battle against MDW

By Bernard Ross

**THE FIGHT** against Measured Day Work at the two Coventry factories of Rootes Motors has reached a new stage.

The struggle goes back to 1966, at the time of the firm's American takeover by the Chrysler Corporation. Management's decision to introduce MDW on the new Arrow range was resisted by a majority of stewards, with the half-hearted backing of local union officials.

In the face of this opposition, the company was forced to water down many of its proposals. But though the issue was taken through union procedure to York, no agreement was reached on the new system which is still technically in dispute.

Last year, following the entry of the new American management, Rootes toughened its line. Proposals were announced for the introduction of MDW at the Stoke engine plant, and for the further tightening of management control at Ryton.

These proposals meant the abolition of all established job rights and custom and practice, a major increase in track speeds and work loads, and an attack on existing shop steward rights and organisation.

In the face of resistance from the shop floor, management adopted wildcat tactics, disciplining workers who refused to accept the new controls and stopping production in the face of defensive action by sections of workers.

## Spread rumours

In an effort to get its way, management has also resorted to an expensive public relations campaign among its workers. It has called in national union officials over the heads of local representatives, and has spread rumours that the factories may close if resistance continues.

Despite management's tactics of bribes and blackmail, it shows little sign of breaking the workers' resistance. International Socialists have been active in pointing out the dangers contained in the

company's proposals, and publicising the recent spectacular increases in its profits.

The opposition of Rootes workers has also been strengthened by the experience of what MDW, even in a diluted form, means at Ryton. Within the last few weeks, the workers' growing militancy and determination has been shown in their shop steward elections.

The situation at Rootes has now reached boiling point. Engine assemblers at Stoke submitted a pay claim several months ago, but management refused to discuss this until the whole factory accepted MDW.

After taking their claim through procedure, the engine assemblers last week began a series of guerrilla strikes, halting production at both Stoke and Ryton.

## Showdown

This week, the company's MDW proposals for the Stoke plant go to a local conference to be followed by its new proposals for Ryton.

Next month, failure to agree on both issues is likely at York. At this point—if not before—a showdown will be inevitable.

After management's previous wildcat tactics, it may well decide to shut down production yet again in an effort to break the workers' resistance.

If this happens, Rootes workers will need the backing of militants everywhere in their fight. The earlier struggles have shown the length to which management will go in order to divide and demoralise its workers.

If Rootes wins this fight for higher profits through MDW, every car firm in the country will take this as the cue for an attack on the conditions of their own workers.

But if the Rootes workers stand firm and MDW is defeated, no other employer will be anxious to face the same struggle.

Never have the common interests of all car workers been so clear. Never has the need for links between militants in the industry been so obvious.

## Gentle rap for Paisley

**THE PATHETIC** sentences of three months in Armagh this week on the Rev Ian Paisley and the chief of his bully boys, Major Ronald Bunting, show the real face of O'Neill's government.

The charges of unlawful assembly were the least of several charges that Paisley and Bunting could have faced.

The Northern Ireland Society of Labour Lawyers believe that evidence exists for charges to be made against Paisley and co of sedition, treason-felony, armed conspiracy, incitement to murder and attempted murder.

But the Northern Ireland Unionists, while wanting to

## Sit-in strike by York workers

Socialist Worker Reporter

**YORK:-** Last Friday 2,100 workers at Armstrong Patents, a key components factory in the car industry, occupied their factory.

They were protesting against a management attempt to interpret a national engineering pay award as a maximum and not a minimum wage scale. The bosses alleged that the workers were already getting more than the newly agreed minimum.

They were trying to treat the extras in the pay packet (merit-money, bonus and productivity awards) as included in the minimum earnings level.

The stewards told me that the interpretations put forward by the management will mean that all incentives will be lost and each worker will be losing between £2 10s-£4 10s per week.

## SENT HOME

The shop stewards' committee decided that if the management paid minimum earnings, they could only expect to get minimum production in return. On Friday morning the management decided to send some workers home.

Many live a two-hour bus journey away and this decision meant that some workers would have had to travel back to the factory later the same day for their week's wages.

The workers responded with a mass sit-down in the works and in retaliation the bosses cut off all essential services—heating, lighting and the canteen. The bosses' intimidation backfired and the mass meeting in the afternoon, lasting for just three minutes, decided unanimously not to report to work for a week.

## ATTEMPTS

The ambiguity of last year's engineering award leaves the way wide open for various employers to engage in this kind of crude attempt to alter the traditional basis of bargaining. At Armstrong's the stewards' lack of information on the agreed guidelines of the settlement was used by the bosses to try and force a settlement contrary to its terms.

Prompt action by the stewards to secure this information enabled them to expose the company's tactics to the rank and file who reacted explosively. The factory will clock in again this Friday and see if the bosses have changed their tune.

## Halewood rejects Ford pay plan

From ROSS HILL

**LIVERPOOL:-** A mass meeting of TGWU members from Fords, Halewood has unanimously rejected the package deal offered by the company.

Instead, the meeting called for not less than a shilling on the present 8s 9½ rate (or about 10 per cent), a guaranteed week, and for improved fringe benefits to be negotiated separately.

Before the vote, one speaker from the floor reminded the meeting that, in spite of all the crying about strikes, Halewood had churned out 39 per cent more cars in 1968 than in 1967.

The real danger is that the jailing of Paisley will be used as a cover for a crackdown on militant socialists in the civil rights movement. contain the Paisleyites, also want to maintain them and hold them in reserve as an extra-parliamentary, paramilitary organisation.

The real danger is that the jailing of Paisley will be used as a cover for a crackdown on militant socialists in the civil rights movement.

## JOHN GOLD

**JOHN GOLD**, aged 17, of Woodberry Grove, North London, died last Saturday after a stabbing incident at a dance. John was a member of a very active political family and had recently attended local meetings of the International Socialists. The editorial board of Socialist Worker extend to Mr. and Mrs. Gold and their sons Peter and Michael their deepest sympathy at the tragic loss of a fine young comrade.

## 'No rent rise' tenants to march on Greenwood

By SEAN DUNNE

**THOUSANDS** of Greater London council tenants will march on Sunday to the Hampstead home of Anthony Greenwood, Minister of Housing.

They will demonstrate to him their determination to continue withholding the rent increases imposed last October by the GLC and their equal determination not to pay any increases in the future.

Mr. Greenwood approved last October's GLC rent increases, and the council will soon put before him proposals for another rise in October.

Last week's panic-stricken decision by the GLC to send out letters to 9000 tenants, threatening to take them to court for debt if the accumulated arrears are not paid within two weeks, has not scared the tenants. Quite the reverse.

## Resolve

Reports from estates indicate a firm resolve to continue the struggle to victory. The GLC Tenants' Action Committee, composed of delegates from all the active GLC tenants' associations, has declared it will fully support any victimised tenant.

The campaign is growing in strength, and support from working-class organisations is flowing in.

More than 50,000 tenants are withholding the rent increase. Trade union branches, in particular Transport Workers Union branches in the London meat and vegetable markets, have pledged support and contributed to the Action Committee's fighting fund.

**Sunday February 2: Demonstration to Downshire Hill from Highgate Road gate, Parliament Hill Fields at 3pm. Bring your tenants' and trade union banners.**

Get your organisation to send a donation to the Fighting Fund: GLC Tenants' Action Committee, 18 Lithos Road, London NW3.

## Pensions from page one

Provincial Bank was paying £12,766 a year towards its chairman's retirement pension, and United Dominions Trust £18,468 towards pensions for its chairman and deputy chairman.

The rapidly-growing private pension scheme—a major source of inequality—are also left intact, and negotiations are still continuing with the insurance companies and other interests involved.

The White Paper itself has been described as 'leaning over backwards' to the insurance companies. This is at the insistence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Roy Jenkins, as the flow of funds through private pension schemes makes up one-third of the supply of new investment capital.

As the right-wing Financial Times has commented: 'It is difficult to see quite where the Conservative Party will be able to catch hold of these proposals'.

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**STOP PRESS**

LSE vote to

From Martin St... The 'occupatio... ersity of Lond... building has be... The occupatio... on Monday nig... consisting larg... students and o... many LSE mili... The decisio... was taken by th... Committee and... by 'ultra-revolu... Maoists. ULU... centre for da... 11 am for lect... inars and as th... point for Thurs... stration at 6 p... It now seem... will not open fo... Right-wing str... mobilising to s... Director and th... students are st... their demands o... and no gates.

They will ne... support in com... Messages to... ULU, Malet Str... London WC1.

**Ford call to fight pay of**

**DAGENHAM:-** at Ford's plan... sday night in... trial action ag... 'no strikes' p... call for a one... amended in... prolonged acti...