For workers control and international socialism

124 29 May 1969 every Thursday 3d

As Lancashire dispute enters second week-

LEYLAND STRIKE CAL AGAINST UNION LA

SHOP STEWARDS AND CONVENORS representing 200,000 workers in the giant British Leyland car plants have called for a strike throughout the combine on the day the government's anti-union legislation becomes law.

The unanimous strike decision was taken at a meeting of the Leyland combine committee. Present were stewards and convenors from the mid-Lancashire plants which are now in the second week of their strike for equal pay with the rest of the group.

All five factories, with 8500 workers, are at a total standstill.

The strike is so solid that there is no need for pickets after nine o'clock in the moming. The workers are determined to stay out until their demand for £24 a week for skilled men is met.

The dispute — the first at the mid-Lancs plants for more than 40 years — is likely to affect other sections of the motor industry this week. Leyland supply cylinder this week he is praying about this week he is praying about this week he is praying about

their demand for £24 a week for skilled men is met.

The dispute — the first at the mid-Lancs plants for more than 40 years — is likely to affect other sections of the motor industry this week. Leyland supply cylinder blocks to Jaguar, Rolls-Royce, Albion and AEC.

Stokes stunned

Jaguar will be the first to Union. be hit and may start laying off workers at the end of the

week.

Lord Stokes, £45,000 a year chairman of the Leyland group, has been stunned by the strike and the militant determination of the workers to stick out for victory.

He wandered forlornly through the empty works last week before leaving for a holiday in Spain — where Franco has been recently rounding up and jailing trade unionists. Perhaps Stokes is on a fact-finding mission for Barbara Castle.

on a fact-finding mission for Barbara Castle.

The management has also been staggered by the support of women workers for the strike. They are demanding the same increases as the men to bring them up to the rate for the rest of the group.

Forty per cent of the workers stand to gain nothing from the strike. They are not piece workers, but they are detemined to stick by their mates.

Bad conditions

Convenor of shop stewards Len Brindle said this week: 'If the White Paper In Place of Strife is correct then these works, which have been trouble free for so long, should have the highest pay and best conditions.'
But the opposite is the

case. The management have abused good labour relations and the workers have bad pay

and conditions.

Even if they win their demand for £24 a week they will still be as much as £10 a week behind Midlands car workers.

Stewards say the management has pursued a tough policy towards piece workers. National agreements have been broken and the normal channels of management-union

channels of management procedure ignored.

If the strike continues the stewards plan the stewards plan

LEYLAND LAUGHTER

this week he is praying about the strike. He claimed authority to speak on the strike as a 'fully blown up member of the gas workers division' of the General and Municipal Workers'

Students occupy art school

SW Reporter

STUDENTS at Guildtord Art School voted overwhelmingly last week to occupy the college for seven days in support of their demand for a full ministerial public enquiry and re-instatement of the 40 sacked staff who last summer supported the students' right to discuss their education.

The sitin culminates with

The sit-in culminates with the May 28 day of action for Guildford and Hornsey art

On the move

SOCIALIST WORKER's print-shop is in the process of moving to the new head-quarters of the International Socialists. Until the move is completed and the editorial staff also move, both business and editorial matters should be referred to 657a High Road, London N17 (01-808 2879). Printing enquiries only should be made to the new number, 01-739 1878.



Leyland convenor Len Brindle speaking at a mass meeting of strikers last week

Troops and police besiege Berkeley students

BERKELEY, California; The university has been in a state of steep since a police and the university has been in a state of steep since and policy and the state of steep since and the city plus least 3000 National Claradisments that one of the diversity domitories, which are least 3000 National Claradisments and the city plus large numbers of outside police.

By May 20 there were at least 3000 National Claradisments that in the University and the city plus large numbers of outside police.

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The crisis stems from two assembles, and the growing national pressure for repression of the lance and the growing national pressure for repression of the Lance and the growing national pressure for landers and the growing national pressure for landers

Lobby TUC June 5

IS members assemble **Fairfields Hall** Croydon 9am sharp next Thursday

WITH THE RECALL TUC conference only a few days away it is necessary to stress the two-fold nature of the present attack on the working class.

Firstly, there is the proposed government legislation of legal restraints with penalty clauses. The TUC have counterposed their own proposals for control. What they mean to militants is analysed on page 2 of this week's paper.

Secondly there is the ideological attack. Workers are blamed for the problems of British capitalism.

Every effort is made to undermine workers' confidence in themselves and their own organisations. In particular, it is the militants who are most attacked it is the shop stewards' organisations which are most bitterly condemned, it is the 'unconstitutional' action which is greeted with horror by every boss or Labour minister.

In accepting responsibility, even to a limited extent, for the problems of British capitalism, and coming up with their own plans for policing their own members, trade union leaders, particularly the 'left' ones like Hugh Scanlon and Jack Jones, are sapping the will to resist.

FIDDLE

Had these 'lefts' been serious in their opposition, they could have worked for strike action to defeat anti-trade union legislation. Instead, they fiddle around with 'alternative' proposals.

Legislation against the right to strike will be a huge blow against the working class. But events in Australia in the last week show clearly that the law is not independent of society, impartially meting out justice.

Its use depends on the halance of alexanta.

The TUC conference should tell the government Hands off the unions and the executive council Hands off the rank and file.

To those delegates going to Croydon on June 5 who are not already committed by their union machines we say: oppose all attempts to limit the power and organisation of the workers, support all strikes, official and unofficial.

Krivine speaks in London

ALAIN KRIVINE, revolutionary socialist candidate in the French presidential election, will speak in London this Saturday, May 31.

Krivine, a member of the Trotskyist Communist League, is standing on a militant programme of workers' control of the Head and the same squared to the control of the Head and the same squared to the control of the Head and the same squared to the control of the same squared to the control of the

Latest opinion polls indicate that he may score as high as two per cent of the votes in Sunday's first round ballot. Support of that proportion for an anti-parliamentary candidate could mark a major breakthrough for the revolutionary movement.

paper, Rouge. The meeting will be at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1, starting at 2.00 pm,

*Page two: France today, by Ian Birchall.

THE BATTLE FOR SHOP MOVEMENT. movement.

recould mark a major breakough for the revolutionary
vement.

Rouge editor
Speaking with Krivine will
addition of the
shop steward Tom Hillier.
Order extra copies now.

NASTY MEDICINE

The TUC council's proposals for the June 5 conference accept that it is the workers who must make all the sacrifices in

'the national interest'. The TUC's only problem is:

who should spoon out the medicine, the

government or themselves?

WITH ITS REPORT to the special conference of the ruc at Croydon on June 5, the General Council will seek to exchange the straitjacket of government legislation over trade unions for the harness and tight rein grasped by the General Council itself.

In their document Progamme for action, they seek extended powers to deal with unofficial strikes and inter-union disputes.

They propose that there be model rules for all unions covering membership, discipline and expulsion and suggest the need to alter rules covering the calling of official strikes.

On the basis of their roposals, they will put hee recommendations to be conference:

Accept demands for discipline

opposition to the proposed legislation giving the covernment powers to impose ines on workers or unions; support for those propos-als made by the govern-ent which the General incil considers could help ustrial relations and motetrade union objectives; seeking powers for the General Council to take arther action, on the lines of the report, and to submit the necessary changes in the rules to the 1969 Congress

There is no questioning in the document of the basic notions set out in the Donoran Report and the White Paper In Place of Strife that noustrial relations ought to be reorganised to impose a control is a system of control.

PETER OSBORNE

Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs

that workers must make the sacrifices, accept the restrictions and work all the harder, so as to solve economic problems in the 'National Interest', like so much nasty medicine which must be taken to make us all better.

The only question is: who should spoon out the medicine, the government or the

ine, the government or the TUC leadership?

TUC leadership?

It is a Battle of the Bureaucracies. It has little to do with the workers' fight against the attacks being launched and everything to do with sorting out the details of how the control of workers and their organisations is to be institutionalised.

ations is to be institutionalised.

The government, says the General Council's report, appears to have ignored the damaging effect of an attempt to enforce the payment of fines. The use of punitive measures, such as putting in the balliffs, would embitter rather than alleviate industrial difficulties.

difficulties.
Given its position, the General Council has cause to be concerned. Certainly the heightened awareness and

Socialist Worker

Editor Roger Protz

Editorial Committee Paul Foot Richard Kuper Laurie Flynn Sabby Sagall

Business Manager Barry Hugill

the light of the Donovan Report. The Donovan Report, of course, is based on a belief and trust in the consensus and the need for workers to subordinate their interests to the demands of business and and industry.

On 'unconstitutional' strikes: they argue that these are bound up with inadequate procedures. The report seeks reform of the procedure and suggests co-operation with the Confederation of British Industry to solve the difficulties.

Unions would be required to notify the TUC of stoppages and to do all in their power to get men back to work. The General Council or its appointed committee would investigate and make an award or recommendation.

Threats of

Such union leaders as Jack Jones of the TGWU have already spoken in favour of the TUC having power to intervene and arbitrate, though Jones himself favours such work being in the hands of the full-time officials of the TUC. 'They are not the movement's back-room boys', he says.

Gen eral

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Bureau-

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with

A union not accepting the findings of the committee, or not enforcing its own rules General and Municipal Work-(see below on 'model rules') against the workers involved could be suspended or expelled, under an amended Rule 13 of the TUC.

Such union leaders as Lork

Call in the bureaucrats

There is no questioning in the document of the basic of the sort would make the aper In Place of Strife that dustrial relations ought to reorganised to impose a thrailsed system of control discipline on workers.

It accepts the argument of the basic of the document of the basic of the industrial situation in the document of the basic of the document of the basic of the document of the basic of this sort would make the also must be made to work if extended to allow the TUC leadership's attempts to direct and control industrial relations on behalf of the reorganised to impose a thrailsed system of control discipline on workers.

It accepts the argument of the basic of the industrial situation in an official strike.

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The reorganised to impose a trail to the proposal state even more difficult.

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consider recommending new criteria to be included in union rules for calling strikes.

On model rules: there would be new model rules covering the admission of members, discipline, THE THREATENED clos- by the merger and with the ion and the procedure use of Upper Clyde Ship, Co-operation of the unions

Put squeeze on stewards

On the status of shop stewards: the report emphasises the union's overall strategy, but with attention to the role of the shop steward. It recognises that shop stewards' committees have authority and responsibility and cannot be excluded from the bargaining process.

It suggests that there should be some machinery for putting the details of joint negotiations to shop stewards' committees before they are signed.

enforce their rules against employer, while acting indepupset is unofficial stoppages at the endently of full-time officials causes present time.

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The closer contact between the hierarchy and the shop stewards, with a more trimming and bartering has closely defined position in nothing to do with the fight to extend more detailed control from above to the shop floor.

Faced with the report its proposition in the union, would be intended to extend more detailed control from above to the shop floor.

Faced with the report its proposition in the union, would be intended to extend more detailed control from above to the shop floor.

floor.
Faced with the report and its proposals, many union delegates at Croydon on June 5 are going to be stampeded into accepting them in order to avoid the government's legislation at any price. The leadership, both 'left' and 'right', will present the report as the lesser evil.

upset if AEF opposition causes the government to throw away the TUC's homemade shackles in favour of

on our lives

Let them know that we cannot challenge the demands of the financiers and indus-trialists to have an ever tighter control over our lives

report as the lesser evil.

The executive of the committee would be binding, for the General Council by coming out against the report.

The alled in by any union affected by an unofficial tidispute through its workers being laid off, for example, even though not otherwise involved.

On rules for calling official strikes: the report is not sure that the ballots of the membership are a good idea, but the General Council wants to have an ever tighter control over our lives tighter control over during for the General Council wants to be successful in the CBI.

The executive of the TUC is confused with the CBI.

If the TUC is to be very divible on a dread with the CBI.

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On the Clyde: hug bosses, threat of

for elections. Unions would have to include them if they were not already there. ure of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders has ripped away
the superficial appearance
of boom conditions for Clyde.

Co-operation of the unions,
UCS moved in accordance
with the Geddes Report proposals for one group on the builders has ripped away

osals for one group on the Clyde.

British shipbuilding.

The roots of the crisis are in the serious situation confronting shipbuilding on a world-wide scale.

Since UCS was formed in February 1968, Socialist Worker has constantly stressed the essentially short-term nature of the shipbuilding boom. We have warned workers against the bosses' plans to eventually achieve large-scale cuts in the workforce by flexibility, interchangerability, work-study and job evaluation.

The five companies who amalgamated to form UCS agreed to the merger because they recognised the intensity of what Fairfield's former productivity director called the 'terrifying competition ahead' for British ship-building.

With the promise of govern-successions. authority and responsibility and cannot be excluded from the bargaining process.

It suggests that there should be some machinery for putting the details of joint negotiations to shop stewards' committees before they are signed.

This has been hailed as a gesture of recognition and the handing of power to shop stewards! It is nothing of the sort.

Rather, it is a belated attempt to do away with the present ambiguous situation, where stewards are often able to use their status in the union machine against the bosses' plans to eventually achieve large-scale cuts in the workforce to eventually achieve large-scale cuts in the workforce to yflexibility, interchange-scale cuts in the workforce by flexibility, interchange-scale cuts in the workforce to yflexibility, work-study and job sevaluation.

The five companies who amalgamated to form UCS agreed to the merger because they recognised the intensity of what Fairfield's former productivity director called the 'terrifying competition ahead' for British ship-building.

With the promise of government successions of the employers and to squeeze further concessions from those who remain.

Since the employers and to eventually achieve large-scale cuts in the workforce further rationalisation to cut costs. It knows the world ocsts. It knows the volucions of u

or we close' ta fields 3½ yea workers have be with the same manoeuvre on occasions, Iain Stewart chairman at th since stated, workers over a

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since stated, workers over a barrel's owners changed, but un ership of the fu officials, the wionship to it has Anthony He present chairmathat the companted to 'drastic the General Co Scottish TUC, wopposing closure dancies, have pledged the full of trade unionist As well as

As well as unpaid overtim tea-breaks have as the workers to the crisis ca of mismanagen ment demands fo

OCIALIST WORKER is the paper International Socialism, a moveent of revolutionary socialists no believe that the present form society, with its blatant in-qualities, its periodic crises, ars and racialist hysteria must e replaced by one based on a saned economy under full criters' control; those who prontrol the means of production. ternational Socialism is opposed any incomes policy that seeks restrict the wages of the workers order to boost the profits of the mployers. We unconditionally upport all shop stewards and and file trade union members their struggles for better wages nd conditions and oppose all re-ctionary laws that threaten the

berties of the labour movement.

workers' interests with the de-

mand of no victimisation of trade is to join workers in their struggles unionists. Redundancy should be with socialist ideas that will link opposed with the demand: five up the various sections of the days work or five days pay. Shop stewards organisations should a force that will lead on to workers' e support all strikes in defence

fluence by linking up on an in-dustrial and ultimately a national

doi: 1417 telephone 01-808 2879

We are opposed to racial discrimi nation, 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 de-mand the immediate recall of British troops from abroad as the first step towards ending colonial exploitation.

strengthen and extend their in- power and international socialism,

nce today: almost as EAR AGO the climax to general ory. that the was on though May 68 lapse and y, working was round had never happened. lemonstratnthusiastic

But a united revolutionary movement could issue a fresh challenge

The most obvious example is the theory of the role of students as a 'detonator' for a revolutionary situation. Students did play a vital part in the May events, but not a part that can be translated into other situations.

French higher education is, purely and simply, worse organised, worse provided for and more irrelevant than in most countries. Hence the particular sharpness of the student struggle.

To imagine that similar crises could be provoked at will is worse than an illusion. There are no short cuts to revolution.

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France since the Second World War has provided an example of the trends of modem capitalism in their most developed form. Fiveyear economic plans (after d greatest is that des-'prosperity', 'stability', 'ss is still g to fight. titute for it change the

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between students and workers, the possibility for the Communist Party to capture the leadership of the movement.

It is important to recognise that June was neither victory nor defeat. There was no question of another all-out general strike. In May a whole generation of workers lost their political virginity—something that no one does

The events of the last year, from the devaluation crisis to the elections, show two important processes.

Firstly, the strike seriously affected France's international economic situation. The luxuries of Gaullist foreign policy are no longer available. France will have to be a bit more orthodox — back up american imperialism in Vietnam and elsewhere, be nice to Ismael and, probably, let Britain into the Common second World War, despite some increases lately.

But at the same time the nature of modern society is such that workers increasingly come up against 'political' questions — that is, questions affecting control and decision-making.

Hence the paradoxes of the movement in May — on the one hand its refreshing spontaneity, its direct concern with workers' control, its elaboration of direct democracy on the shop floor and in the locality.

Capture leadership

On the other hand, the absence of political direction in the strike, the divorce between students and workers, the possibility for the Communist Party to capture the leadership of the movement. It is important to recognise that June was neither victory nor defeat. There victory nor defeat. There to anyone (except those who

a right face to reassure its supporters, sometimes a left to delude its opponents.

With de Gaulle, a flood of rhetoric about the national tradition combined with a firm appeal to order, With Mendes-France, the trappings of a watered-down, modernised socialism. For Rocard of the United Socialist Party (PSU) even a bit of marxist jargon—but he is not a serious competitor.

It is important to recognether victory nor defeat. There was neither victory nor defeat. There was nother victory nor defeat. There was nother victory nor defeat. There was nother victory nor defeat. There was neither victory nor defeat. There victory nor defeat. There was neither victory nor defeat. There was neither victory nor defeat. There was neither victory nor defeat. There victory nor defeat. There was neither victory nor defeat. There victory nor defeat. There was neither victory nor defeat. There victory nor defeat. There was neither victory nor defeat. There victory nor defeat. There was neither victory nor defeat. There victory nor defeat. There victory nor defeat. There was neither victory nor defeat. There was neither victory nor defeat. There victory nor defeat. There was neither victory nor defeat. There victory is not have well-paid jobs in it). The argument of a return to a more 'liberal' regime is laughable. Press censorship, for example, has been lighter under socialist Guy Mollet, a provate well-paid jobs in it). The argument of a return to a wore 'liberal' regime is laughable. Press censorship for example, has been lighter to a myore 'liberal' regime is laughable. Press cens



May 68: Danny Cohn-Bendit speaks to mass meeting

refers Gaullist foreign policy, but because a clearly right-wing figure allows them to campaign for the unity of the left'. Without an electoral alliance with the socialists, the CP have no hope of becoming a serious force in parliament.

The property but because a content to be on the decline, naturally renough, since it is essential. But carried steady and to the left'. Without an electoral alliance with the socialists, the CP have no hope of becoming a serious force in parliament.

Damping down

While they are still very strong in industry (they have actually increased the num-

yet, met with little success. and constant invocation of Maoism, which played a Che Guevara do not indicate

While they are still very strong in industry (they have actually increased the number of factory cells during the 60s) they have no industrial strategy, but only a parliamentary one; thus they are damping down strikes during the election period.

In the long term, the CP are in a dead end. Hence the revolutionary left can grow, if it develops constructively beyond the positions of May.

Unfortunately, it is still hopelessly divided. The call made by the comrades of Lutte Ouvriere for a united revolutionary organisation has, as yet, met with little success.

Maoism, which played a thirties when the immortal J.V.Stalin was alive and well.

The PSU contains many good revolutionaries, but its politics are still technocratic and it talks in terms of alliance with the CP and Socialists. A thorough-going faction fight is necessary to clarify the issues.

The presidential candidature of Alain Krivine offers a chance for the revolutionary be reservations about the line of Krivine's organisation, the Communist League (affiliation to the moribund Fourth International and constant invocation of Che Guevara do not indicate

a concern for roots in the French workers.)

But if the campaign is carried on in parallel with steady work in the factories and with serious unity in practice between the Communist League, Lutte Cuvriere and other groups, a small but substantial advance may be made. If so, the next few weeks may be the most hopeful period since May last year.

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Brambles Farm Middlesbro
TOTTENHAM Laurie Flynn
374 High Road N17
WATFORD Paul Russell
61 Carpenders Avenue
Carpenders Park
WIGAN Ray Challinor
34 Whiteside Ave Hindley
WOLVERHAMPTON Dave
Spilsbury 274 Penn Road
YORK Bob Looker 22 Hobgate
VICTORIA Tony Dunne 14
Carlisle Mansions Carlisle
Place SW1

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's and Allied Technicians' Association

LEIER RAIN

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ion and a world-wide surplus
for building capacity.

The employers have been
their way all along
the lime. Irrespective of what
happens now, it has always
been their intention to run
down the workforce to 7000
in the next couple of years.

By then, they hope, conditions will be ripe for a
merger with Scott-Lithgow
(the lower Clyde group).
Further closures will then
take place in UCS as shipbuilding is concentrated in
the lower reaches of the
river, leaving Yarrow's as
the only other yard still in
business.

Ooo workers to fight redundancies and closures with all
a start and the pressure must
be kept up.

contribution It's time that Danny McGarvey, the Boilermakers' leader, and other union spoked by years rationali sat-

esmen were told not to conserve all their militancy for conference speeches. If they are serious about fighting for a socialist society they should stop attacking workers for absenteeism and pledging their co-operation with the employers and campaign now for socialist demands.

The shipbuilding bosses made huge profits in the war and post-war period and chose not to modernise their yards. Now they demand further concessions from the workers.

RESPONSIBLE

The government made available £400m in cheap loans and grants to the shipowners and grants to the shipowners and grants to the shipowners and £37½m to the shipowners and £37½m to the shipowners and government are responsible for the present situation.

Workers should demand:

Workers should demand:

The smip building bosses made huge profits in the war at and post-war period and chose not to modernise their yards. Now they demand further concessions from the workers.

The government must be defeated on this issue. Success for them now would encourage them to make further attacks. The government's role must be clearly understood. Whether it is demanding sand helping the GEC-AEI merger leading to 10,000 redundancies, freezing wages, or insisting on productivity deals, it clearly lines up with the bosses.

Socialists in industry must answer the government-employer offensive by starting to

for the present situation.

Workers should demand:

that the government provide work or full maintenance

the unions should have access to the Clydeside shipbuilders' accounts over the last 30 years

no secret negotiations submitted to the govern
deals, it clearly lines up with the bosses.

Socialists in industry must answer the government-employer offensive by starting to campaign now for the demands made above and linking isation under workers' control—the only ultimate solution to the problems confronting the working class.



Please send further details of the meetings and activities of the international socialists to

Name

Address

PAY FREEZE THREAT AT FORD AS UNIONS RETREAT

Jim Lamborn

UNION OFFICIALS on the Ford national negotiating committee backed down last week and agreed to recommend to their executives that the present pay agreement should be terminated from

May 18.

If this recommendation is accepted, as shop stewards
made cynical by a long histcry of betrayal expect, there
will be no pay rise for Ford
workers for a year.

At the last mass meeting
before the end of the Ford
strike, union officials accepted the workers' demends for

ted the workers' demands for an open-ended wage agreement. The company also accepted this demand and the men returned to work.

SWALLOWED

But once the lines were working again the company inserted a clause in the new agreement that there should be no more pay demands until July 1970. The union side of the NJNC have now swallow-ed this.

Another demand raised by Another demand raised by the strikers was for parity with Midlands car rates. This was bandied about with fervour by the officials on the platform at the final mass meeting but following last week's retreat the parity demand is just a sick joke as far as the rank and file are concerned.

Some of the national offic-

Some of the national officials who kidded the men back to work on a promise of an open-ended agreement were parties to the May 18 recommendation.

CONTROVERSY

At a meeting of the trade union side of the NJNC proposals were put forward by one of the bigger unions for the reconstitution of the committee. One delegate for every 4000 members was

every 4000 members was suggested.

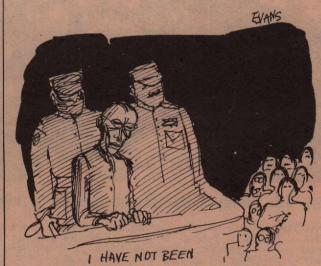
Another big union proposed to have two full-time officials and two convenors. The proposals will be discussed at a meeting on July 24 where there is bound to be considerable controversy.

Reform of the NJNC is badly needed but it will be no remedy to have two nubberstamp convenors to share the responsibility for the next sell-out.

The only real remedy is for decisions to be taken by mass meetings of workers and for rank and file control of the unions.

Clyde bosses' sackings plan

GLASGOW:- Upper Clyde Shipbuilders' plans for the Shipbuilders' plans for the future of the group were announced on Tuesday and amount to massive redundancies and a total wage freeze in a bid to save the bosses' profits. The proposals, to be put to the Shipbuilding Industry today, include provision for a drop in the workforce from 10,500 to 7200 by 1970 and as low as 5700 by 1971. The plan clearly envisages the closure of one yard, John Brown's. For the background see Peter Bain's report on see Peter Bain's report on



TORTURED BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, AND I FREELY CONFESS TO ALL THE CHARGES AGAINST ME INCLUDING THE CHARGE THAT I AM A LIAR ...

'Ragbag' sparks shake Cannon's hold on ETU

SW Reporter

LAST WEEK's conference of the recently merged electricians' and plumbers' unions saw the resurgence of the Left for the first time since the ETU ballot-rigging scandal of 1961 enabled the rightwing leadership of Les Cannon to be installed by the High Court. High Court.

The tight control of the

The tight control of the Cannon executive was so shaken at Douglas last week that the rules revision section of the EETU/PTU conference had to be abandoned. According to both President Cannon and secretary Frank Chapple 'a ragbag of communists and Trotskyists' had attempted to wreck the conattempted to wreck the con-

The fight was on from the start. Discussion on standing orders was turned from a two-second formality into a two-hour siege of the executive.

CHALLENGED

Speaker after speaker challenged standing orders, claiming that the last confer-ence had been forbidden from changing union rules on the grounds that a rules revision conference would be held in 1969. But at the last minute this had been changed and rules revision was kicked into the mists of 1971.

The executive offered

The executive offered instead the opportunity to vote only for or against amendments to the rules which it was putting forward. Delegates did not have the right to propose their own amend-

SIEGE OF BERKELEY

from page one

or call off the attempt. The businessmen are agitated about the continuing loss of profits if we keep the central district closed and the National Guardsmen are extremely unhappy and want to go home.

The National Guard is a reserve organisation and is filled with draft-dodgers and malcontents, including former

filled with draft-dodgers and malcontents, including former students who were battling with police at San Francisco State College last autumn. Widespread fraternisation between troops and students adds up to an uncomfortable situation for Reagan.

To make matters worse for him, students have occupied Los Angeles and Santa Crus campuses of the University in solidarity and there have been near-riots in Oakland secondary schools.

The authorities nave responded by cracking down on the militants with a wave of several hundred random arrests and by discovering in the dusty archives of the city government a plan to 'someday' build a park in the area of the vacant lot. They hope this two-pronged attack will force the moderates to cave in and merely engage in cave in and merely engage in a little handwringing as the 'irresponsibles' are rounded up wholesale and carted off

Teachers and clerical workers on the campus are calling for strike action and several branches outside the Several branches outside the University are supporting us. At San Jose State College, the flags of the administration building were flown at half-mast in mourning for dead student Jim Rector after students threatened to chop down any flagpole carrying a flag at full mast.

Is Housing sub-committee meets on Monday at Crown and Sugar-Nrst tube Mansion House. Send branch delegates.

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Although the initial challenge on standing orders was defeated the conference went on to give the executive such a hiding on the three major proposals for rules changes that the executive was forced to withdraw them.

The proposals were:

to liquidate the plumbers'

The proposals were:

1. to liquidate the plumbers' district committees. This victory for the Left should encourage electricians to fight to get their area committees back.

2. to give the executive power to ballot the membership to change union rules. Such ballots would take precedence over conference, thus relegating the power of collective decision-making.

3. to abandon the appeals commission and make the executive the court of appeal for expulsions. The executive expels you — then listens to your case!

Defeated on these moves, the executive used the executive used the excuse of time and cost to close the rules section of the conference.

But the leadership now plans to ballot the membership to overthrow the conference decision. Unionmembers must organise to defeat the executive on the ballot.

COMMITTEES

COMMITTEES

But when In Place of Strife was discussed they did not dare ask conference to accept penal clause sagainst strikers.

The Left's victories at Douglas must be carried on bouglas must be carried on through the formation of action committees of rank and file members who should base themselves on a clear and principled socialist programme to defeat the right-

programme to defeat the ngnt-wing.

Already one such committee has been formed since Douglas. After the attacks of Cannon and Chapple, it is appropriately called the 'Ragbag Committee'.

NOTICES

BERNADETTE DEVLIN, MP speaks tonight (Thursday) at Leys Hall, Ballards Rd. Dagen-ham, 7.30pm

IS Housing sub-committee meets on Monday at Crown and Sugar-Loaf, Garlick Hill, EC4 at 8pm. Nrst tube Mansion House. Send branch delegates.

Busmen tace new prod deal

Chris Davison SHOULD PRODUCTIVITY be banned as a dangerous drug? Danned as a dangerous drug?
An increasing number of
London's busmen must be
asking this question as they
find their negotiating committee locked in talks designed
to add another dose to the
deal that clobbered us last

This time London Transport are offering a miserable 17s, not even enough to pay for the increased cost of living. In return they demand productivity concessions designed to cram even more into

igned to cram even more into the working day.

With the vast majority of the Transport Workers' Imion officials committed to selling more conditions for money, the pressure to accept this deal will be powerful. But with this second visit to the trough the choice before busmen becomes very clear

men becomes very clear.

Either we accept productivity as part of all future deals as the government, employers and union leaders want, and see our conditions sold for pennies year after year or we stand and fight for a better basic and for better

year or we stand and light for a better basic and for better conditions.

The employers' technique in these negotiations is the same as the one which fooled us last time. First they offer a miserable few shillings and want a whole list of productivity concessions in return.

Then in the face of outrage from the rank and file and 'hard bargaining' by the union leaders the employers 'reluctantly' agree to pay a few more shillings and withdraw some of the productivity.

Will it go that way this time? Not if the membership are determined to fight and instruct their negotiators to throw out any productivity and demand a straight rise

NOBODY COULD DESCRIBE the journal The Economist as an organ of revolutionary sedition. So when it calls the Italian paper La Nazione 'rabidly right wing', one must assume that it errs on the side of understatement. Nevertheless, it is interesting to read what Signor Enrico Mattei, the editor of La Nazione, writes.

CHALLINOR's

CHOICE

In a letter to The Economist (May 10), Signor Mattei outlined his paper's policy: 'Even considering the unrest and disorder which today disturb Italian public life, it has never thought of advocating as severe a law as the British one against persons who attack the police; nor of approving as harsh a law to regulate strikes as the one proposed by Mrs Barbara Castle.'

So here, in a nutshell, we have it: the Labour government is even more conservative than a 'rabidly right wing' paper. As one poster on an anti-trade union legislation demonstration put it: 'Hitler is alive and well and living

And Eva Braun appears to be round the corner at the Department of Employment and Productivity.

Action, not words

THE MOST EFFECTIVE answer to those who talk about 'going through the official, constitutional channels' is that usually it achieves nothing. It was George Woodcock who talked at the 1963 TUC congress of moving from Trafalgar Square into Whitehall, from the demonstrations to the corridors of power.

But in the same year's General Council report he showed how powerless the TUC was in influencing ministries. It mentioned the repeated attempts to get the government to provide specially adapted motor cars instead of a motor-tricycle for those who have lost both legs. 'The TUC has pointed out tricycles are less reliable than cars,' the report continued, 'and in cases of breakdown disabled men have been stranded for long

But the government remained unmoved. Despite the injustice and hardship caused ... and the trifling cost involved, the representations of the TUC have had no effect.' Nor have the sweet words of the General Council had any effect on this issue right down to the present day.

A more recent case, illustrating the same principle, comes from the Fire Service. If any man is killed on a fire-call, then his wife and dependents receive a pension. On other emergency calls, however, they are not protected. A few months ago, a Bolton fireman was killed while trying to rescue two children trapped in a disused coalmine. So his next-of-kin receive nothing.

The Fire Brigades Union have had repeated talks with Jim Callaghan, the Home Secretary. They have pointed out how anomalous the position is. They have shown that to extend existing protection for those killed in fires to other cases would involve the government in spending a trifling sum of money. But Callaghan adamantly refuses to budge.

Terry Parry, the FBU's general secretary, is an exceptionally talented gentleman. He is the only trade union leader I know who has a British Empire Medal and at the same time defends Mao Tse-tung in the columns of Tribune! So if he can't persuade Callaghan, who can?

The answer is less talk and more action. Only if the firemen down tools will the Home Office listen to their argument seriously.

RAY CHALLINOR

Irish Tories call election in bid to attack unions

THE SOUTHERN PART of John Bull's other island will go to the polls on June 18 to vote in a general election. The 16th Free State Dail was dissolved on May 21 and the new assembly will meet on July 2.

on July 2.
With nominations due to close on June 3, the three main parties finished the majority of the constituency conventions last weekend.

Both Tory parties, the ruling Fianna Fail and the Fine Gael, will each have about 130 candidates while Labour will increase its total by about 50 per cent to field 100.

More seats

The election will be fought under the proportional representation system. Despite some minor attempts at gerrymandering, alterations to constituency boundaries following shifts in population will mean more seats in working-class areas. This time 144 Deputies will be elected in 42 constituencies against 38 last time.

In the 1965 elections FF won 72 seats, FG 47, Labour 22, and there were three 'independents'. Since then there has been one defection from Labour to FF and an unusually large number of byelections, which under proportions of the government party

representation tend ortional oftional representation tenuto go to the government party. This, plus the high death rate in the ranks of Labour's vintage Deputies has shifted the balance of parliamentary

The strength of the parties at dissolution was: FF 74, FG 46, Labour 18, 'independents' 2, with three byelections pending.

The increase in the number of Labour candidates reflects the swing to the winter, their field for man-ocuvre is reduced and the pressure for a showdown greater.

It seems clear that FF, if returned to power, would time this showdown for the summer holiday period when, they hope, it will be difficult

Sean Reed

North and South, in the last five years.

Irish Labour is way to the left of what passes for a Labour Party in Britain but, despite a vague commitment to Connolly's ideal of a Workers' Republic, the party remains basically a reformist organisation. Party leader Brendan Corish reminds one of a younger, better looking, version of pre-64 Harold Wilson.

Corish's problem for the

to the country now. The government must get the election out of the way to allow the introduction of its anti-

union laws.

The key to these laws is the jailing of 'unofficial strikers'. Each time this happened in the past the state has been forced to back down.

state has been forced to back down.

This time, with the economy certain to be affected by the British squeeze this winter, their field for manoeuvre is reduced and the pressure for a showdown greater.

to organise solidarity actions. In the past it was such solidarity which forced the govern-

left which has marked Ireland, North and South, in the last five years.

Irish Labour is way to the left of what passes for a Labour Party in Britain but, despite a vague commitment to Connolly's ideal of a Workers' Republic, the party remains basically a reformist organisation. Party leader

Back campaign

of a younger, better looking, version of pre-64 Harold Wilson.

Corish's problem for the last six months has been to contain the more militant socialist elements who make up a large part of the new influx of members.

The most likely outcome of the election will be a statemate, with FF remaining the major party and Labour standing a good chance of becoming the main opposition instead of FG.

Despite this, FF has to go to the country now. The gov-

special showing

PARIS PULLMAN Sunday 1 June 11 pm

including

Paris - May-June 1968 Not a Penny on the Rent End of a Tactic Lincoln Centre Cine Tracks on the White Paper

tickets 10s in advance from Lucia Films, 17 Sheperd St., HYD 3341.