

Workers' fight

5p

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**Food prices up 30% in a year;
750,000 parents go short of food
so that their children can eat;
1,000,000 below the poverty line!**

NO

WE WON'T BE THE VICTIMS

WHAT THE BOSSSES ARE SAYING

The Financial Times quotes stockbrokers Phillips & Drew as saying: "Mr Denis Healey's aim of reducing the inflation rate to 10% by next September implies the biggest cutback in living standards since records began". They estimate the cut in living standards at 9% — and that's the bosses speaking!

Campbell Adamson of the Confederation of British Industry, the big bosses' organisation, seemed almost dazed with delight after Healey's statement. He emphasised that big business "could not afford" strict price restraint. He announced that firms would need to push up prices to counteract the effect of price control over the last three years. And food magnate Lord Sainsbury added his piece: "I do not think anyone can look forward to any early slackening of the rate of increase in the price of food. There is something like six months in the pipeline to work through."

The Financial Times' Grocery Index has risen 30% already in the last 12 months. If Sainsbury is right, food prices are likely to rise no less over the next year.

Price controls will not work. The only reason why the TUC advocates this policy is because it is one of not relying on the efforts of the working class — the only

WHEN Denis Healey announced a 10% ceiling for wage increases in 1975-76, he was speaking, not for the ordinary workers who elected him, but for the bankers and big businessmen.

In Labour's manifesto the two clearest election promises were the introduction of a rent freeze and no statutory incomes policy. The rents freeze

expired in April and since then we have been 'promised' huge rises in council rents. And now the Government plans compulsory wage cuts.

The Chancellor announced that wages would not be allowed to rise more than 10% during the next year, while he "hoped" that the rate of price increases would be down

to 10% by the end of 1976.

Healey's effort to demonstrate 'equality of sacrifice' by limiting dividend pay-outs to 10% is a sham. This silly dodge was tried by the Tories and adequately answered by the unions then: a restriction on dividends simply means that they will be paid out later while a wage rise lost is gone for good.

— GET MOVING NOW! —

Rank and file bodies like the National Rank and File Movement, the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, the Building Workers Charter and the National Ports Shop Stewards Committee should plan meetings immediately on how to fight the freeze, be it 'voluntary' or statutory, and should raise the demand for an emergency TUC Conference.

A centralising, unifying strategy will be necessary to move against the freeze. To maintain living standards, our demands should include the return of threshold deals — with a zero threshold. Thresholds provided, at least, some protection against rising prices. But they were inadequate. They did not start until prices had risen considerably. They did not allow for tax rises and cuts in social

estimates the effects of rising prices on working class families. What we need is an automatic 'zero threshold' (as soon as prices rise, wages do too) with payments of at least 70p for each 1% rise in the cost of living. This index should reflect the real movement of working class living costs. In some areas trades councils have set up price committees, and these could be developed to co-opt working class housewives and carry out the job of compiling a realistic index.

Another key demand is the fight for a 30 hour week without loss of pay. The cause of unemployment is not wages, but the world recession and the collapse in trade. The solution is not lower wages, but shorter hours. We should fight back against redundancies, with a policy of work or full pay, no covering for

workers' control and forcing nationalisation without compensation.

Local Labour Parties and Labour councils should unreservedly condemn the government's plans. Instead of making things worse by raising rents and rates, they should be uniting with trade unionists to fight the cuts in social spending, and should throw open their facilities for the use of workers in struggle.

Healey's words are not our command. The rank and file of the trade unions will certainly not quietly watch as their living standards decline. Whatever their general ideas about the economy, the real condition of their lives will force them into militant action — whatever the Labour 'leaders' do or say. And the test of all socialists, in or out of the Labour Party, will be whether they side with that

**SPEAKER FOR TROOPS OUT
MOVEMENT MEETING STOPPED
AT THE AIRPORT UNDER
JENKINS ACT...**

**JOAN MAYNARD SAYS:
JENKINS ACT
DENIES LIBERTY**

"I WELCOME the demonstration against the Prevention of Terrorism Act. This Act is an infringement of civil liberties. I personally opposed it on both occasions when it came before the House of Commons. On the first occasion there were only two MPs against it. Last time, there were 12. So the message is getting through. For years we have denied liberty to Irish people. You cannot deny liberty to others and retain it yourself.

We have created in Ireland a monster we cannot control. He who rides the tiger can't dismount. The violence and now the loss of civil liberty has arrived here. This Act can be used against British workers defending their rights. Every freedom we have has been hard won and hard fought for. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

We must get this Act off the Statute books!"

**...WHILE KU KLUX KLAN
LEADER IS ALLOWED IN TO
ADDRESS FASCIST SECT**



These Argentinian workers are not going to submit peacefully to an attack on their living standards. Despite a recent round of wage increases, their leaders are calling for a two day general strike on top of the many industry-wide and city-wide strikes going on now.

That is the Argentine working class's answer to a wage freeze that is almost a carbon copy of Healey's plans for us:

a wage ceiling that amounts to less than half the inflation rate. 25%. But what are our leaders doing about it? They are looking for ways of accepting Healey's plan and of stopping us fighting back.

The Argentinian working class has a traditional loyalty to a Peronist Government — much the same as Jack Jones says we have for Labour. But they know you can't live off loyalty.

Now we see in its full glory the basic concept of the 'social contract' — the idea that workers should help capitalists through their crisis, in the hope that we may get a few crumbs when 'we've pulled through'. At first it was supposed to be a matter of restraining wage increases for the sake of social reforms. Then the promised social reforms disappeared and it was to be a matter of keeping real wages static so that social service cutbacks and unemployment would not get worse.

NOTHING

Now we are asked to take both wage cuts, and social service cuts, and more jobs lost, in return for... nothing.

No! We should not sacrifice one penny for their crisis! Our only concern should be how to use the bosses' crisis to hasten the day when the working class clears out the whole gang of exploiters and replaces their irrational, unjust system with a planned economy regulated by democratic workers' control.

The Labour government should be told: break with the bosses and the bankers! Scrap the wage-cut plans and instead impose punitive measures on wealth and profit. As long as the Labour government stays on a course of Tory policies — policies worse than the Tories, in fact! — it can be no concern of socialists, trade unionists, or rank and file Labour Party members to protect or defend that government.

What about Benn and

What about Eric Heffer, Judith Hart and the other MPs of the Tribune group? Will they now set aside their ridiculous schemes for a "siege economy" in Britain and start organising at grass roots level for a real fight against the right wing leaders of the Labour government? Will they use their majority on the National Executive Committee to mobilise the Labour Party against compulsory wage cuts?

Jack Jones, leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union, claims that there will not be statutory wage curbs. At most he is playing with words. Healey has just said to the trade union movement: I won't have you beheaded — as long as you cut your own throat first! And all Jones' pay policies and "six point plans" have had no purpose but to lead up to this. Jones' plans could never have worked — but they helped to soften up workers for the idea that we should pay for the crisis.

TEST

The first hard test for the trade union leaders could be the 33% claim which 1 1/4 million local government manual workers and hospital workers have submitted. These low paid workers have an urgent need for solidarity.

Both miners and engineers have major claims going in. They should stick to them. The miners should reject attempts which Labour politicians will make, and which Gormley is making, to pressure them into abandoning

PRISONS ARE FULL BUT BELLIES ARE EMPTY

ON A rostrum, speaking to a huge crowd of hired demonstrators paid for out of the illegally gathered 'secret' Congress Party funds, Indira Gandhi repeated her election slogan "Abolish Poverty". The well rehearsed crowd gave its well rehearsed approval.

But a few days after this speech the Prime Minister of India was to announce measures which did not go one jot toward abolishing poverty but went a long way towards abolishing the entire gamut of civil rights of the Indian people.

After rounding up 900 prominent political leaders (mainly from the opposition, but including also some troublesome members of her own party) in a dawn swoop, Gandhi went on to enact a series of decrees suspending every fundamental right of a citizen guaranteed under the Constitution, bringing in stringent press censorship, forbidding slogan-shouting and the gathering of more than five persons at a time, and allowing for imprisonment without trial for periods up to 12 months, with arresting authorities empowered to make arrests without giving reasons other than that the detention is necessary for dealing with the emergency declared by Mrs. Gandhi.

POVERTY

The suddenness of last week's lurch into absolutism can clearly be put down to Gandhi's fear of losing power after the combined blows of the defeat of Congress in the Gujarat elections and the guilty verdict against Gandhi herself in the Allahabad court for minor instances of corrupt electioneering practice.

But the general police state tendency has been well in evidence for a long time before. And what lies at the root of these developments is more fundamental than electoral defeat or a court decision: it is the growing desperation of the government with the economy and its firm intention to solve its crisis at the expense of the working class, and to the neglect of the rural poor.

In India poverty defies description. The official figures — which surely underestimate the situation — put the percentage of those below the poverty line in 1973 at 66% of the entire population. Five years earlier the figure had been only 40%. At the estimated rate of growth of "official poverty" some 70% of the population — around 400 million — are now living under the poverty line.

This means that each year, millions are crippled by malnutrition and millions succumb to disease. Any blow struck by epidemic or shortage or poor distribution takes its toll in hundreds of thousands of lives.

And the situation grows worse. In fact the only consistent growth is that of poverty itself. Targets set for economic growth are never met and in some cases industrial output has been falling.

Over the last five years India's annual compound rate of growth was about 3.9%, but the target had been set at twice that. Less than half the target for basic



goods was achieved; and less than one third of the target for production of capital goods. Last year steel production actually dropped; cement production fell by 9% and the production of cooking oil plummeted by 18%.

The miserable performance of the fourth Five Year Plan was most starkly reflected in the unemployment figures. There are over 50 million unemployed in India. Sharp decreases in real social expenditure will add millions to these probably understated figures.) The hardest hit area is eastern India, where unemployment figures have doubled over the last two and a half years. In Bihar unemployment jumped by 156% and in West Bengal by about 75%.

JOBLESS

Commenting on the rise in jobless in the states of Punjab and Haryana last year (90% and 75% respectively), the Indian *Economic Times* pointed out that "with wealth concentrating in the hands of the few, a large number of people have swollen the urban labour market from the rural areas." With this influx from the most poverty stricken areas into the towns the chaos and squalor of the cities grows unchecked.

In almost every area of India there have now been food riots. Even in the more conservative states like Gujarat and Maharashtra mass struggles against corruption, hoarding, speculation and rising prices are taking place. The old political

alliances are being severely tested; the harijans ('untouchables'), particularly the youth, are breaking away from their traditional representation, the Republican Party, and engaging in mass actions.

BURDEN

Meanwhile, the prices of food grains have almost doubled in a year, while incomes remain static. The poorest peasants are often forced to eat seed meant for planting or sell their tiny parcels of land for seed or food.

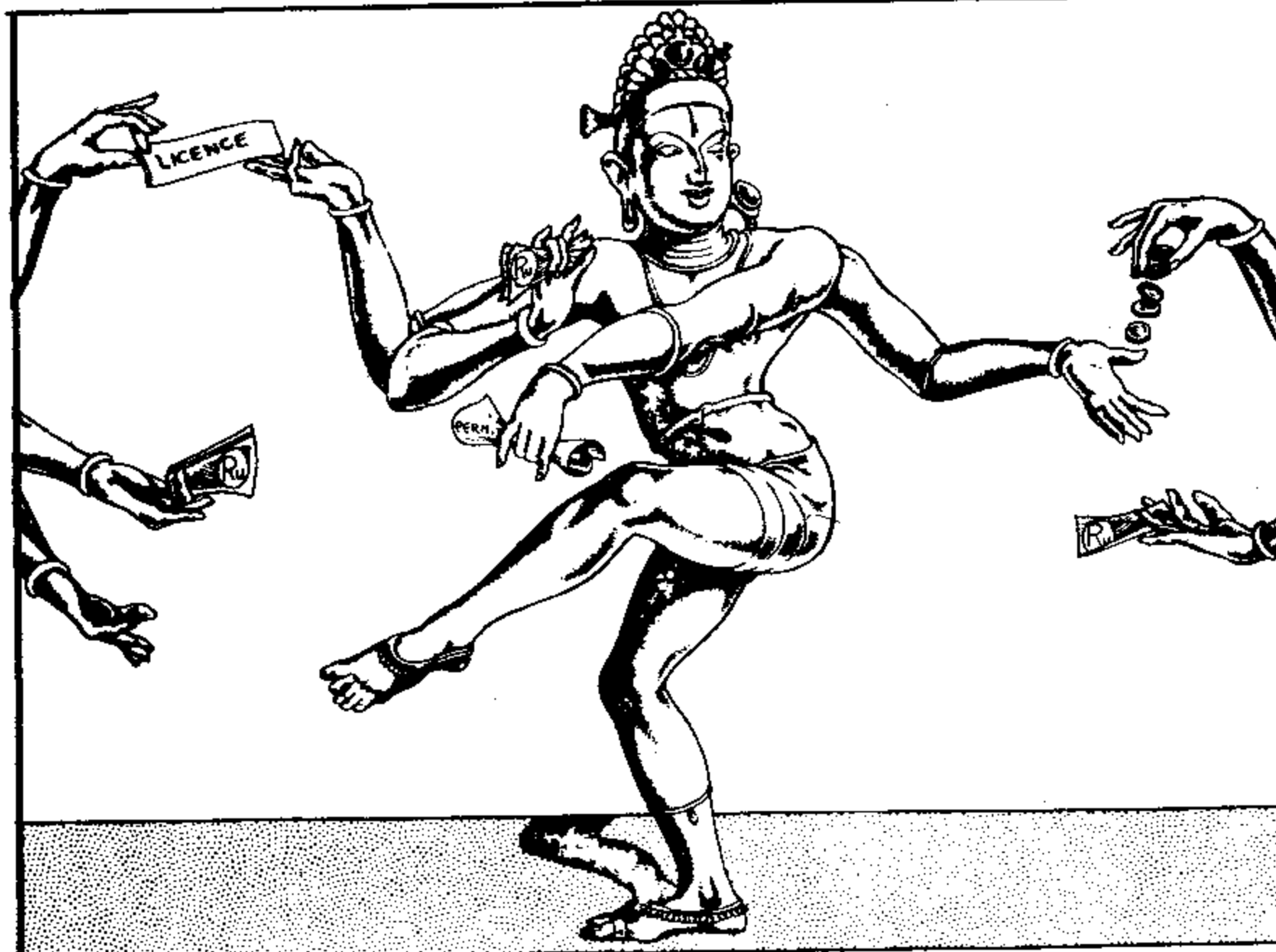
These landless or poor peasants comprise 80% of the rural population of about 420 million, but they own only about 20% of the land. Working the landlords' land means turning over between 50%

and 90% of the harvest as rent.

Such poverty stricken peasants will not be much helped by Gandhi's announcement of the annulment of rural debts. The poorest peasants have little debt as they can get no credit. Such measures benefit the middle peasants — the 'kulaks' — more than anyone and are clear evidence once again that the Prime Minister seeks to buttress her regime more firmly with the agrarian bourgeoisie and petit bourgeoisie.

The city workers bear the main burden of the Government's fight against an inflation rate dramatically accelerated by the rise in oil and wheat prices on the world market.

On June 6th the government enacted a statutory "partial" wage



FOR SALE: permits, positions, licences, cops and politicians — and even immunity from anti-corruption campaigns. That's how corruption works — for those with money to spend. British and US firms are among the biggest spenders.

freeze, by which all increases for one year were impounded in compulsory "savings accounts" to be paid back in five annual instalments. (Having meanwhile been eroded by inflation.) The same law applied to half of all cost of living allowance increases for two years.

Whereas curbs on the working class have been high priority on Congress's agenda there has been no curbing of the huge profits of the major corporations and only the most derisory, token efforts to do anything about the "official" corruption, widespread smuggling and manipulation of accounts.

The most decisive action taken against the working class was the massive wave of arrests, intimidation, assault and even murder used to crush the railway workers' strike a year ago. The chief factor in the strike's defeat, however, was less the open brutality and police terror than the miserable sell-out organised by the Communist Party of India led by S.A.Dange.

STERN

While the present wave of arrests of politicians includes Maoists like Jyoti Basu, populists like Jayaprakash Narayan and even Congress Party dissidents, the CPI has been left alone. While suggesting that Gandhi's actions have been somewhat drastic, the CPI supports her present stance, referring to the "swift and stern measures" and echoing Pravda's approval for the "resolute actions" that swept civil liberties into jail; it now spends most of its time denouncing those who have been jailed.

Nor did the CPI ever take a stand on the rest of the 50,000 political prisoners in India's jails; or on the exercise of the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) and the Defence of India Rules (DIR) which have been invoked against countless militants and oppositionists, and which give the state the right to cart anyone it doesn't like to jail for six months without even a charge. Needless to say, many never return from prison.

The announcement this week of "measures" to "combat the crisis" will impress no one. It is the usual list of good intentions — 'action against speculation', peppered with a few genuine reforms like the establishment of a minimum wage for agricultural labourers, whose present wage is about 6p per day. It can in no way alleviate the impact of the economic crisis on the working class and the multi-million rural poor. On the contrary, these groups will be the chief targets of attack in an India where the bourgeoisie is increasingly relying on direct military force against the poor.

LEBANON: RIGHT WING FAIL TO SPARK A 'BLACK SEPTEMBER'

Nearly 300 people have been killed in the past few weeks' fighting in Lebanon. The main combatants are the right-wing Falangists, led by Pierre Gemayel, and based on the Maronite Christian population of southern Lebanon, and the armed groups of the Palestinian resistance together with other leftist and Nasserite elements.

The battles have been the latest stage in the series of actions initiated by the extreme right to stampede the army into taking power, and to stampede the Christian population into supporting the resultant junta.

So far this year, the Falangists have staged a number of demonstrations designed to show the army that should they take power there would be a willing civilian shock troop at their command. The principal target of these demonstrations has been

group of them slaughtered a bus load of Palestinians, killing twenty seven. For the right wing the action had an importance beyond the number of dead. It was a provocation designed to arouse the military opposition of the Palestinians and possibly other sections of the Muslim community, and thereby to give the military the opportunity and excuse for a coup and the declaration of emergency powers.

The Falangists hoped that such a situation would lead to a Lebanese version of Jordan's Black September of 1971 when Hussein massacred thousands of Palestinians and decimated the armed resistance.

If this could be done the US would be in a much stronger position at the opening of the Geneva Conference on the Middle East. Once again, the party of Gemayel was used as the open

as the shops, factories and businesses of Falangists.

But the army still refused to be pushed either into intervening openly on a large scale on the side of the right wing or into staging a coup. The refusal of the bourgeois liberal government to declare a state of emergency inhibited the army from this as did its composition — of its seventeen thousand men about half are Muslims who, in what would in fact have turned into a Christian versus Muslim civil war, could not be counted on not to defect.

UNITY

The crisis which broke out in April with this fighting was provisionally resolved at the end of the month by Rashid Karami's return to power. Realising that the assault on the Palestinians was only one aspect of the attempt to introduce a strong state, the Left made common cause with those directly under attack. The Lebanese unions launched a general strike which had a lot of backing, and a Front, the Progressive Parties' Front, was formed by the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, and the Lebanese Communist Action organisation.

Lebanon is a so-called 'confessional state': its parliament has 99 seats (it used to be 66) in which the proportions of six Christians to five Muslims must be maintained. The tradition is that the seats are distributed so that the Maronite

and another three seats are divided between the Protestants, the Syrian Catholics, the Latin Catholics, the Syrian Orthodox and the Chaldeans — thus making up a house of 54 Christians to 45 Muslims of which the president is traditionally a Maronite, the prime minister a Sunni, and the speaker is a Shi'ite.

LEFTISH

The displacement of the Christians as the largest group by the Muslims in recent years has given the Muslim movement a democratic and not merely 'confessional' character, while the fact that they are the poorer section of society and ideologically under the sway of Nasserism has further endowed the Muslim movement with a leftist character.

In Lebanon as elsewhere in the Middle East, the Palestinian struggle has radicalised the Muslim masses, who see the Christian community as politically privileged, economically privileged, pro Western and anti Palestinian. A government wishing to dampen down that radicalisation is forced to act against the Palestinians.

BACKING

Having failed through provocation to dislodge the government, the Falangists, whose militias are composed almost entirely of Maronite youth, resigned from the Solh government, forcing it to

nationwide situation of widespread armed actions, strikes and barricades forced the generals out. The Muslim population had won an important victory and developed a significant unity in action against Christian reaction. By May 26th the army leaders, faced with a possible confessional division in the rank and file, resigned.

Unfortunately the continued successful frustration of the plans of the Falangists never rose above the level of substantially altering the political leadership of the Muslims.

The politicians set about to 'restore order' in the wake of the fighting — which has not yet stopped! — are none other than the politicians of 1958, when an insurrection toppled the Chamoun government. Chamoun himself will, if Rashid Karami succeeds in forming a government, become deputy prime minister. Other pro government leaders of 1958, like the Druze leader Jumblatt, are also likely to be prominent. These were the leaders the Muslims revolted against nearly twenty years ago as being pro Western!

Karami hopes to use the offices of Yassir Arafat and the Syrian Government to get the Palestinians to call all 'hostilities' to an end on their side, and, of course, Arafat, relying as he does not on the political and military organisation of the Palestinian masses but on deals with the heads of Arab states, is likely to agree.

Beirut is therefore likely to see

IT ALL started with the founding conference of the BIG SIX (Rover, BMC, Rootes, Ford, Standard and Vauxhall) in September 1955 at Oxford.

This was a Communist Party controlled car-workers' organisation formed as a response to growing victimisation and redundancy threats in the car industry. The main resolution passed was in opposition to any sackings and to fight for a 40-hour week without loss of pay, to be progressively shortened to prevent mass sackings due to new techniques. That is, what is often called a 'sliding scale of hours'. It was resolved that where automation did displace people, they should be retained and re-trained by the company on full wages — that is "work or full pay". Another resolution called for the nationalisation of the motor industry.

The unity of the BIG SIX gave a tremendous boost to the confidence and fighting spirit of rank and file carworkers — as can be seen from this resolution.

Suez

The first policy pamphlet from the BIG SIX, *All say Aye*, was issued at the time of the Suez Crisis, 1956. The Suez Crisis caused a squeeze on home demand for cars — Income Tax was raised and credit was restricted, hire purchase restrictions were brought in, and the bank rate was raised three times in less than two months. At the same time, Britain's three largest customers abroad, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, all had balance of payments problems.

Management took advantage of the recession to instal new



By Eric Harrison, then shop steward, No.1 machine shop, Banner Lane Standard works.

transfer machines and other automated techniques. For example, at the engine block line at Banner Lane, the new machine with two operators did the work of 132 workers!

BANNER LANE:

19 years after

the Standard strike



Banner Lane 1975: Massey Ferguson workers occupy

The second conference of the BIG SIX, held on April 22nd 1956 at Birmingham, had to face the very immediate problem of sackings. After hearing a delegation from the APV works at Crawley, Sussex, who were in the second week of their strike against sackings (which they eventually won) the delegates resolved: "To give full support to workers in any factory taking strike action against redundancy". In sharp contrast to today, they also passed a resolution correctly

attacking any barriers to free trade.

Just four days after the conference, Standard Triumph announced the sacking of 3,700 workers. These jobs were to be lost through the introduction of a vast £4 million tractor manufacturing plant.

The whole labour force of 12,000 came out on strike.

Four days later, on April 30th, Norton Motorcycles announced the sacking of 26 workers. Norton's 400 workers came out in support of the 26. Norton had a Trotskyist leadership with Harry Finch (of the then SLL) as convenor, and carried on a principled struggle for seven months. The fact that this group of workers came into prominence meant that the ideas of militants not under the control of the CP were in the spotlight. The tremendous response in a whole number of factories from the rank and file also seemed to threaten to go outside and beyond the Stalinists' control. Instead of using these energies to defeat the bosses, the CP therefore started to put the brakes on to contain the movement and isolate the revolutionaries.

dockers agreed to black all goods. Lists of contacts were compiled from all over the country: people prepared to lay on meetings, accommodation, and so on.

The Advisory Cttee. helped with financial and personal problems.

Every delegate had to report into a tape recorder for the Press and Publicity Cttee. The dossier compiled was to be lent to any workers on strike. But it was never seen again after the strike.

The AEU National Committee had now decided on its own 5-point plan to fight redundancy. But the Executive Committee, while paying benefit but keeping the Standard strike unofficial, sent Les Ambrose (Midlands EC member and prominent member of the Communist Party) to Coventry with orders to secure a return to work for negotiations to take place.

Les Ambrose first met the CP cell at Standard, which was very large and which dominated the Shop Stewards' Committee. He claimed that the 'point had been made' and attention had been focussed on redundancy. He inferred that it was more important to retain the CP base at Standard than to have a big battle that they might lose.

A mass meeting was called on Hearsall Common, and Bill Warman, SSC Chairman and prominent CP member, is reported to have moved for a return to work. I say "is reported" because all the leading militants were spread out all over the country mobilising support for the strikers (eg London dockers had promised £1,000 a week) and were not present at the meeting.

The meeting, having full confidence in the CP leadership, voted for a return.

After three weeks of negotiation, the 3,700 redundancies were cut to just over 3,000, who were then sacked on £15 redundancy pay. All but a tiny number of the CP members were sacked. Many of these workers were blacklisted for well over a year. Never had Coventry seen so many revolutionary window cleaners!

Lesson

The attempt to 'reserve the CP cell' in fact backfired in a bigger way. There can be no doubt that the BIG SIX fiasco disillusioned many workers with the CP and this, coupled with the Hungarian Revolution of the same year, destroyed much of their industrial base.

Harry Finch, the convenor of the Norton works, was to write a short time later in a pamphlet summing up the experience "We believe, and from discussions with the Standard shop stewards we know that they also believe, that the following lesson has come out of the strike: Never, never give up the weapon you have in your hands on the basis of promises of talks and negotiations with the employers in the absence of concrete concessions being available before the resumption of work."

The militancy of the recent Banner Lane strike recalls this good advice. This time the banner Lane workers ('under new management') took on Massey Ferguson with very militant tactics. The occupation of the works and the widespread picketing had the management worried. Yet once again they gave up their



Flexitime, a fake freedom

When we find members of the CBI and top management attending courses on 'job enrichment', 'motivation' and 'men and their work', we can be sure that none of this bonanza of goodwill has to do with anything but increasing the bosses' profit at its source — by intensifying the work process.

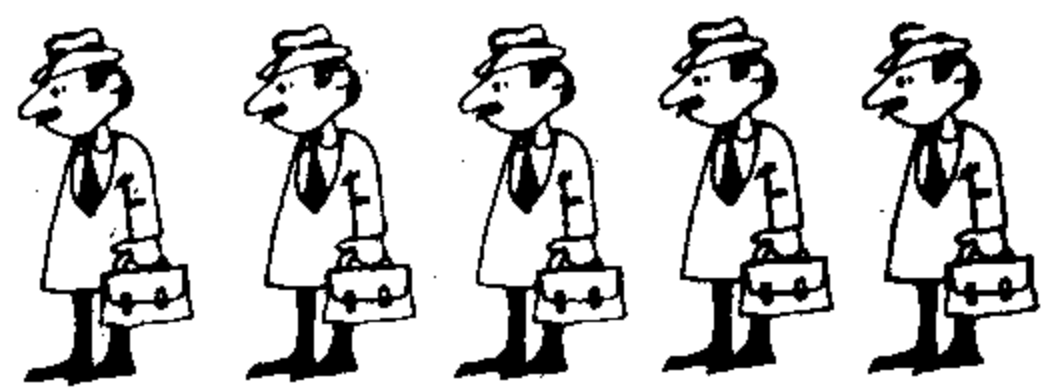
While the Government labours over reports of Job Satisfaction, sociologists chip in with surveys, statistics and questionnaires. Behind it all sit the bosses, trying to have their cake and eat it: to maintain the rigid disciplines they have had to develop for getting ever more intensive production out of a workforce that is alienated by the whole system of production in our society; and at the same time to devise schemes which they hope will overcome that alienation, giving them that bit extra profit where interest and involvement is added to discipline.



One thing is for sure: the thrust for making work "more interesting", touted as a pure, disinterested device for making workers happier, is never one that comes out of rank and file workers' own initiative. We have even witnessed how the Chrysler management took up

experts come up with scheme after scheme to make us happy in our work, we must ask: what's in it for them?

The scheme that now applies to nearly a quarter of a million office workers, with the snappy adman's name of flexitime, is a particularly cynical manipulation of workers' personal needs for employers' profit.



Under flexitime you can come and go when you like — as long as you do the work and put in the hours.

The most obvious con in this scheme which can combine piece-work, bonuses, measured day work, group technology and other incentive schemes, is that any time taken up by minor illness, dental appointments, a hold-up on the way to work, going home early with a headache, is taken out of the worker's own time, not the boss's. Under the guise of giving workers more freedom of movement, it extends the rigid time-keeping of the factory floor to the previously more liberal office regime.

But it is also more insidious than that. Every individual, having made out "his own" timetable (which isn't his own at all, of course) will then be isolated from the sort of group pressures for relaxation, for easing up, that

each will finish the job in hand, work harder, go home when tired. Just like overtime — only the beauty of the system is, it costs the employer nothing. The bosses' paper *The Economist* summed it up: "The principal advantages for employers are that the system tends to increase productivity, reduce labour turnover and give workers a greater sense of responsibility."

Flexitime also, no doubt, serves to reduce the kind of friction that comes of petty inquisitions over timekeeping. But it cannot change the basic aggressive relationship between workers and management when it is itself a product of that relationship: a cynical incentive scheme playing on people's desire to escape the rigid harness capitalism itself has devised.



The process of production will not be enjoyable, despite all the gimmicks, until it becomes the creation of freely associating men and women and is consciously regulated by them in accordance with a settled plan aimed at production for social need, not for private profit. Until such time, participation, co-operation, collaboration in production, flexibility — whatever name it goes by — will be another con-trick, threatening



FORBES BURNHAM.
Britain was grateful to the CIA for its activities in 'British Guinea', where after backing Burnham's split from Cheddi Jagan's Peoples Progressive Party in 1953, the CIA fomented two general strikes and rigged an election in Burnham's favour.



SALVADOR ALLENDE
William Colby, director of the CIA, has admitted that the Nixon administration authorised more than \$8m between 1970 and 1973 to finance forces plotting to overthrow the Chilean government headed by Salvador Allende.



NGO DINH DIEM
The Ngo family were drafted in by the US in 1954 to run South Vietnam — which they did with unexampled viciousness until Diem was murdered in a CIA backed operation in 1963.



PATRICE LUMUMBA
The CIA drew up plans to assassinate Lumumba, then prime minister of the newly independent Congo, in 1960. That plan was then switched to one of supplying arms to the Kasavubu - Mobutu followers and helping them stage a coup cum civil war.



SHAH OF IRAN
The Shah of Iran jubilantly greeted the 'Royalist revolt' of 1953 which toppled the Mossadeq government. Not long before Anthony Eden had asked Dean Rusk to get the CIA to oust the prime minister whose nationalisation policies attacked British oil interests in Iran.

CIA: The Great Greywash

One twentieth of the truth exposed

For nearly three decades, middle class America has watched with equanimity as its monstrous creation, the Central Intelligence Agency, has stalked the world, rigging elections here, toppling governments there, installing tyrants, liquidating opponents and giving lessons in torture. US public opinion and its leaders in Congress wanted no part of it, and just so long as they could sleep soundly in bed at night they were happy to look the other way whenever the bloody doings of their grisly servants came to light.

Everyone always knew the CIA was vile. No hypocrisy was wasted on awarding it medals or dressing it up. And the more vile it was, the less anybody wanted to know about it. Until they realised that it was among them — and not just in the black ghettos or on the campuses or among the Reds, where they always half-knew it was lurking.

At its hatching out, it had been specified that the CIA was to keep out of US domestic politics. Like plague germ packed for delivery to distant continents, there had to be adequate safeguards against contamination of the home soil. But over the years these safeguards were seen to have broken down. The revelations around Watergate, the publication of a couple of revealing books by CIA defectors, and a number of damaging articles in the New York Times, led to calls for a full disclosure. The report submitted by CIA chief William Colby was rejected, and a big-name, prestigious commission of inquiry was set in motion under Vice President Rockefeller, with instructions to report on what the CIA had been up to on the home front.

WIRETAPS

Predictably, the 'checks and balances' in operation seemed set to stymie the Commission, particularly the fact that it had a mere four months to comb through an obvious mass of evidence. And then, too, Rockefeller himself (as one of the heads of a vast oil empire) has always had close links with the CIA. Still, in order to convince anyone at all, some evidence had to be produced — since Watergate, the American Congress and press is a whole lot less gullible than it used to be! Thus, though the report is defensive and apologetic, and bearing in mind the several years' evidence they can't have looked at in the time, it is more of a greywash than a whitewash.

As well as the expected mail tampering, wiretaps, infiltration, bugs and burglaries, the report revealed that a super-secret outfit called Operation Chaos had computer-indexed 300,000 names, kept files on 7,200 Americans (many of them totally innocuous members of groups like the Ethical Society) and had 1,000 files on different organisations. More sinister was a

by Sue Lane

shock and psychology. This is all passed off as "techniques the Agency feared might be used on its own people by the KGB": but every single project involving chemical or bacteriological warfare is also always explained in terms of 'looking for an antidote'. We'd have to be totally green to believe the CIA wasn't perfecting them for its own use. In fact, as we reported in WF100, things like 'behaviour modifying drugs' are now in use in some US prisons to tame militants.

The other eyebrow-raiser in the 299-page report has been the admission that for 20 years there has been an arrangement with the Justice Department



John Roselli (above) and Sam Giancana were Mafia men working with the CIA to assassinate Castro. Roselli is now 'helping the Senate Committee with its investigations and Giancana isn't... Within hours of having been "located" he was assassinated.

that the CIA itself, unilaterally, should decide whether agents committing "crimes in the line of duty" should be prosecuted. This 'outlaw's license' predictably led to not one single prosecution.

The Report is undoubtedly incomplete: it is also vague on names, details and specific incidents; many witnesses were not called, and those that were, weren't pressed too hard. Big gaps are put down to simple forgetfulness. Yet it contains enough 'new material' for Ford and Rockefeller to avoid the charge of a

deep complacency which which they view the CIA's vastly more gruesome 'foreign' operations — that is, those it was explicitly set up to carry out. However frank the Rockefeller report might be, it covers no more than one twentieth of the CIA's activities.

Under the impetus of a spate of rumours in the US press, the Commission also briefly peered into one corner of this vast, murky sewer, producing an 86-page supplement on murder plots against major political leaders (Castro being a favourite target), which has so far not been released.

Such plots, successful or not, are in themselves only one element in the almost routine work of making and breaking governments around the world, using provocateurs to discredit enemies, creating, training and equipping secret police outfits well versed in the latest torture and dirty tricks techniques. In fact there has been a proliferation of mini-CIAs all over the "Free World" (ie the world in which they are free to operate): they have created in their present form the brutal SAVAK in Iran, the KOMKAMTIB in Indonesia, the South Korean CIA and the notorious CODI in Brazil; and they continue to support and liaise with them.

They have, too, mounted full scale military operations. The Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba was one, where they used right wing Cuban exiles as a cover for what was actually a straight US Government action. They have been running their own private army in Laos; and they created the Green Berets, originally intended as a permanent 'roving counter-insurgency' force for South America.

In case it all seems very remote, we shouldn't forget that the CIA does its work with the full co-operation of (and sometimes directly on behalf of) the USA's allies, including Britain. Thus Britain was party to vote-rigging and manipulated strikes in British Guyana which deposed Jagan, and installed Burnham, by courtesy of the CIA.

The CIA has, too, set up phony trade unions and a mass of organisations that range from cultural fronts to death squads for picking off socialist and trade union militants.

PLOTS

Little wonder, given this vast scope, that a serving CIA man recently interviewed complained that "they have painted us as ramshackle James Bonds". For there is nothing ramshackle about the CIA as a whole, even if some of its recently rumoured plots (poisoned handshake for De Gaulle, lethal cigars for Castro, 'slow death' tablet for the drink of a "middle rank Third World politician") are a bit bizarre.

The Rockefeller supplement on murder plots apparently only mentions failed plots (better to look silly than own up to 'rubbing out' a number of



'Assassinate? Oh, please don't use that awful word!—Say, rather, we act with extreme prejudice.'

'we've found all the evidence that was available', but he was soon contradicted by another member who said "there were horror stories coming in every day", and it turned out that in fact there were so many leads that they had neither the time nor the inclination to follow them up. Newsweek claimed to have "learned that (the Commission) may have at least considered a far longer hit list than any to reach print thus far", and amid a welter of further rumours Ford passed the evidence on to the Senate's Democratic Party dominated Select Committee (which is also investigating the CIA) for its embarrassment — knowing that the plots in question were hatched during the Kennedy and Johnson Democratic administrations.

Though the Senate Committee's chairman boldly proclaimed "I don't regard murder plots as a minor matter", a more cautious Democrat remarked "They want us to foul our nest up here with that assassination stuff".

AGENTS

Predictably, the Rockefeller report smothers the stinking evidence in a profusion of sweet smelling excuses, and its conclusions for action amount to the formula 'now we've come clean, it's all OK'. They don't even ask the CIA to say "sorry, we won't do it again". Instead, they suggest that if the CIA has been breaking the rules, then ... the rules should be changed!

One recommendation which has positively delighted CIA chief William Colby is that disclosure of the Agency's present or past secrets should be a criminal offense! This would save it the sort of trouble it had when it fought paragraph by paragraph to have Victor Marchetti's book on it censored by US courts. It would save it the trouble of bumping off potential witnesses. And it would save it the kind of newspaper revelations like those of the New York Times which landed it in its present mess. Like the Official Secrets Act here, it would draw a heavy and impenetrable curtain over the CIA, taking it out of the public eye, and making further investigations politically unnecessary and very difficult anyway.

An alternative strategy for the US ruling class, if the Congressional Committees do press on with the matter and if US public opinion refuses to be soft-soaped into dropping the matter, is to use the CIA as a scapegoat, winding it up and

(Already of course US imperialism has other spying and dirty tricks outfits which, lacking the CIA's notoriety, can simply be expanded to take in whole areas of CIA activities that have ostensibly been wound up.)

Another danger lies in the image that is emerging of certain 'phases' of the CIA: tampering with governments and arranging coups in the 1950s, plotting assassinations in the early 60s, and domestic surveillance in the late 60s and early 70s. The anonymous Station Chief from an unspecified Asian country that the CIA put up last week to do a PR job in an interview with Newsweek, objected to newspapers "perpetuating an image we have long outgrown", and claimed that "paramilitary roles are behind us" and that when it came to putting "people in and out of public office abroad or supporting friendly movements", "the heyday of that has passed". It's enough to set one wondering what they're doing at all these days and how they go through \$750 million every year...

No — the CIA hasn't changed its spots, and it won't. If it didn't do much about the American left in the 1950s, it was because others (such as the McCarthyite Un-American Activities Cttee, which kept nearly three times as many files as the CIA) were doing it instead. (And because the left was very small anyway. In fact, the story goes that the CIA went to some lengths to preserve the US Communist Party; and while there is no objective reason why it shouldn't have done so, given the hysterical witch-hunting atmosphere at the time it seems more likely that the story itself is one more of the CIA's fabrications!) The disruption of Allende's regime, and the probable murder by the CIA of Chile's pro-Allende General Schneider, are well outside of the supposed "heyday" for such acts.

MURDER

It is clear that no confidence can be placed in those who created, financed, directed and benefited from the CIA (such as Rockefeller himself on a grand scale, or Lucien Nedzi, the Democratic Congressman nearly unseated as Chairman of the House Select Committee because of his CIA connections) to put a stop to its terror, trickery, manipulation and murder — because imperialism finds such things indispensable to its financial, commercial, political and social domination. We will only be rid of the CIA, what-

Families flee their homes as

Racist terror stalks a London estate

by Jan Wilde

TERROR reigns in a GLC estate in the East End of London. A series of violent attacks against Indian and Bengali families by gangs of thugs in the Canada Housing Estate have resulted in two families having to flee from their homes.

"Things became so bad that my wife became a prisoner in her own home, fearing to step outside the door even for a moment. For fifteen days she did not leave our home. And whenever any of us did go out, to work or to shop, we had to travel by taxi to keep off the streets because of these thugs."

Serious allegations have been made against the local police in Limehouse. They have been accused of behaving in a racist manner and of being negligent in investigating the assaults.

Attack

The four Bengali families recently moved to the estate and all list an appalling record of violent assaults, in some cases starting as they were moving in. And they tell how after these assaults the police were unwilling to act, even when the attackers were identified to them. In some cases the police have turned up hours or even days later, and ignored information identifying the thugs.

"A friend of mine had come to help us move in and was with me in the main room putting down some lino. We heard a crash and shouting from the next room where the baby was asleep on a mattress. We rushed in and saw three white youths outside the window, tearing down the boards that were still up on the windows. I

sent someone quickly to phone the police and then my friend and I went outside to talk. As we stepped out, four more youths came up. They were shouting, 'We don't want Pakis here. Why don't you go back.' Things like that. I tried to keep them talking till the police came. What more could I do? Then someone hit me in the face. It was a hard blow and I fell down. They began to kick me in the face and in the back. No-one came to help us. The next thing I remember was my friend helping me up. The police hadn't arrived. But we saw the gang running away..."

Pregnant women and young children as well as men have been the victims of the attacks. One immigrant father gives a report of his 13 year old son who was left on the ground unconscious after a gang



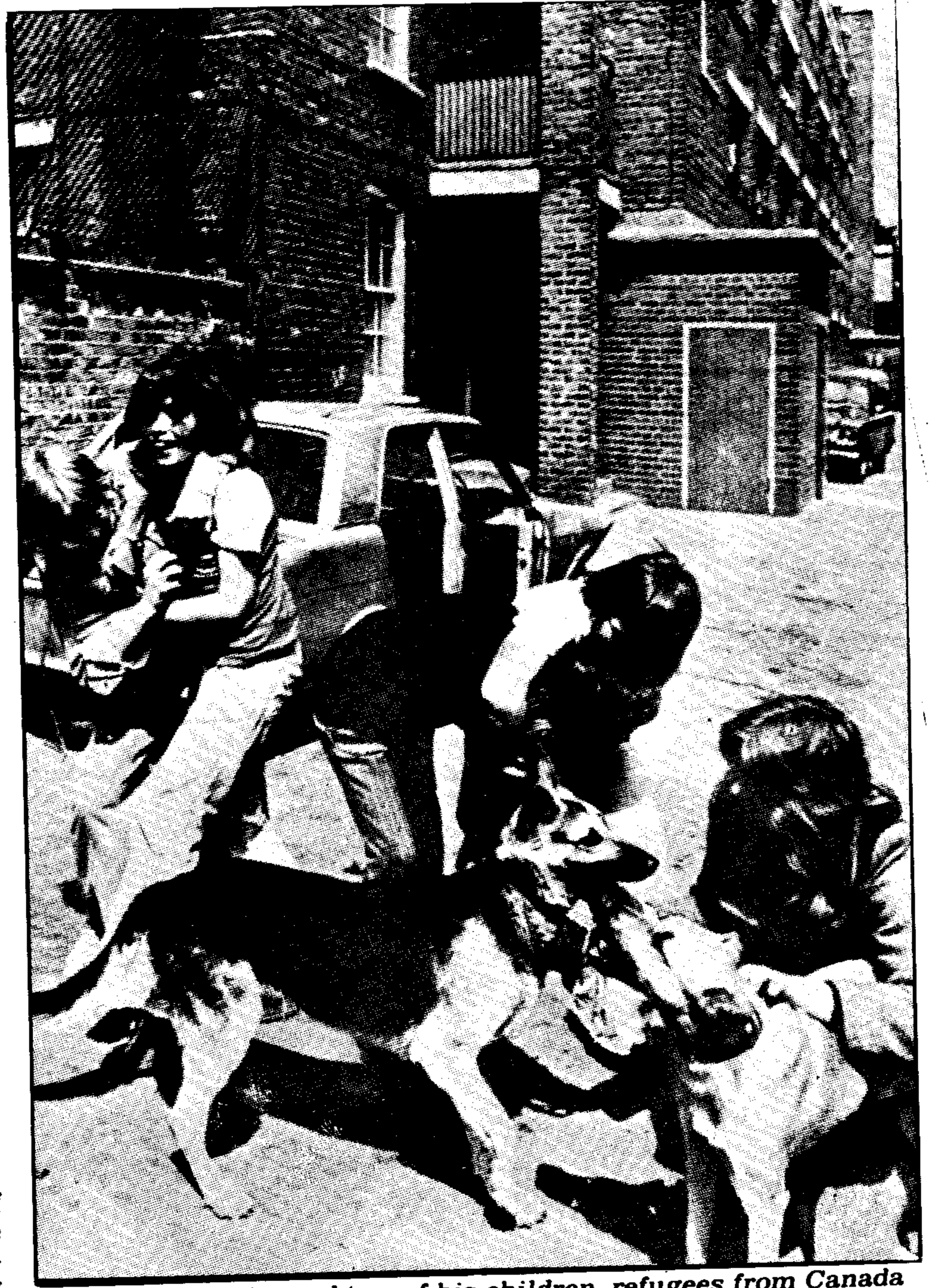
punched and kicked him. On reporting to the police, the boy's father was told not to interfere in "children's fights", accused of being a troublemaker, and was threatened with arrest.

Sympathisers and members of the National Front have been identified in these attacks. And a letter written to a woman living a short distance away from the estate, who has a mixed race child, accuses her of "disgusting, degrading and obscene preference for 'blacks' and contributing to the crime of bastardisation of the white Caucasian peoples"! It continues "...the purity of the 'race' is being polluted with the full and deliberate co-operation of your kind". This sick fascist letter ends "We therefore solemnly swear that the future will bring retribution and cleansing process."

Transfer

The Canada Estate is acknowledged by the GLC as being as bad as any of the worst in London. There are no shopping or recreation facilities, it is badly laid out and too big. It is used by the Council as a dumping ground for homeless and 'problem' families (rent defaulters, one parent families etc), who are only offered accommodation in such old, mouldering estates. Virtually every family is on the transfer list, and since transfers from such a place are virtually nil (certainly nobody wants to swap to go there), the tenants of these estates become demoralised and feel victimised.

In such an environment, hostility and bitterness against the authorities transfers to a scapegoat



Left: Fazal Karim and two of his children, refugees from Canada estate. Above: a view of the estate, one of the most depressing in London and a breeding ground for racism.

attack on immigrant families. Nurturing and directing such feelings is the NF speciality.

A GLC spokesman, asked about the Bengali families who were driven out (though they are still paying rent in the hope of a transfer) said "the GLC are aware of the problem and are trying to help these families. We will transfer them, but this may take a little time."

Meanwhile, the GLC continues to offer flats on this estate to Bengali families!

Troops Out Movement

We have received two replies to our article reporting the Troops Out Movement Labour Movement Conference which took place on May 24th; one from P.Prendiville (IS) and another from Alan Hayling (Big Flame) — both officers of TOM. Each reply is the length of a sizable article. Our response would have to be an appropriate length. It is therefore impossible to publish the material in WORKERS FIGHT. We do not feel inclined to devote a substantial part of an issue of the paper to these two apologies, both of which are in our opinion evasive, and both of which require a reply which would deal with the nitty-gritty of the internal situation in TOM. This is not of general interest to our readers and from the point of view of TOM, it is far better to have these questions discussed within TOM.

We are concerned to build the TOM, without sacrificing either our politics or a clear appreciation of the TOM. A full public recital of the problems of the TOM at the moment would not, in fact, help in this work.

The articles, together with a reply, will appear in No.2 of the Solidarity Bulletin which will circulate amongst people who are both interested and involved and therefore able to judge the issues on their merits. E.B.

SOLIDARITY BULLETIN

produced for activists in the Troops Out Movement by the Solidarity Caucus. This bulletin aims to provide discussion and information on issues of interest to those already committed — more or less — to the two demands of the Troops Out Movement. The title makes plain our orientation, and our belief that to call for self determination means solidarity with the Catholic republican community and armed forces against the British army and/or the military forces of Orange reaction. Supporters of the Caucus are mainly though not exclusively supporters of Workers Fight: our general agitation and propaganda aimed at those in the British labour movement who are not in agreement with TOM's minimum programme can be found in the weekly paper Workers Fight and the journal Permanent Revolution.

Issue no 1: A reply to the Communist Federation of Britain on The fight for self determination for the Irish people as a whole. From 98 Gifford St, London N1 0P. Price 2p.

Parents fight on after McDaniel verdict

The people who formed the Black Parents Movement two months ago don't look like militants. They are ordinary people, not specially political, still shocked by the police brutality against their kids that propelled them into action, and surprised by the verdict of three North London magistrates who convicted young Cliff McDaniel of assaulting a policeman — when they know it was 17-year old Cliff himself who suffered the assault as he was returning to school one dinner break.

At a press conference a few days after the hearing, they described how the Hornsey police do twice daily patrols around the schools — at the dinner break and at the end of school in the afternoon. Their very presence affects how the kids feel about school, and their manner and attitude is calculated to provoke incidents.

Shocked

The police in fact seem to have taken it upon themselves to regulate the behaviour of the black kids in the environs of certain Hornsey schools. Not long ago, for instance, they brought one youngster to court for using 'annoying language' which was supposed to have distressed bus passengers — although there is no bus route near the street where they said

threw the charges out. And Cliff McDaniel, they say, made an offensive sign which was supposed to have shocked passers by. But the passers by who came to court in some numbers to testify had seen no such thing, and what had shocked them was the sight of PC Ryan David and six other police officers laying into Cliff. Not one passer-by gave evidence for the police.

Scene: a corridor in Tottenham Magistrates' Court. A barrister, Mr. B.B.Mitchell, has just successfully defended a young black girl on a shoplifting charge. In court, Mr. Mitchell has cross-examined the three detectives who had brought the charge, obtaining conflicting and contradictory accounts from them. Enter Mitchell. Enter one of the detectives who, in the presence of onlookers, starts shouting hysterically at the barrister who had just tripped him up in court. In an 'uncontrollable rage', the detective shouts (to the embarrassment of several police colleagues nearby) "I'll get you for this. If I don't get you I'll get somebody else." A black girl passes (she has nothing to do with the case the court has just heard), and the detective violently elbows her aside.

This alleged scene was the subject of a complaint filed with Scotland Yard by Mr. B.B. Mitchell, against the detective who is alleged to have shouted at him, allegedly hysterically, allegedly threateningly. Scotland Yard will investigate the incident. Allegedly...

But the three white magistrates — a civil servant, a factory owner and a shopkeeper — were quite satisfied to take the evidence the police gave for each other, rather than that of Cliff's two school friends who were with him; a student who was passing; a white onlooker; two white welfare workers who came to the scene from the school; and the boy's head

master, Mr. R.D.Baynes, who gave character evidence

Cliff McDaniel was so badly hurt he had to be taken to the Prince of Wales Hospital (but medical evidence wasn't available as the hospital had ignored a solicitor's letters asking for it). Now he also has a conviction for assaulting a policeman "in the execution of his duty and for insulting

behaviour, and is bound over for a year in the sum of £10 (not a year's suspended sentence as we stated in our Stop Press last week). The Black Parents Movement is organising appeals through every channel they can find, including lodging a complaint with the Lord Chancellor about the conduct and conclusions of the three magistrates. The verdict, they rightly say, is completely unacceptable. Even an acquittal would not have put the police in the dock where they belong — but it would at least have established them as liars and thugs.

In fact, to add outrage to insult and injury, PC Ryan David who led the attack on Cliff is due to receive a medal for gallantry...



A black youth is attacked by a policeman.

The RANK & FILE group was founded in 1969 and since then has grown to around 1000 supporters. It is probably the strongest militant rank and file group in any union, but over the last year or so it has marked time. At its annual conference, on 26th-29th June, 200 delegates discussed the reasons for this and the way forward. Ivan Wels and Ian Hollingworth report:

Mary Pearson set the tone at the beginning of the conference by putting forward the perspectives of the *International Socialism* group (which has the dominant influence in Rank & File). "We are not a political organisation, we have overestimated the attitudes of the mass of teachers towards such things as the Social Contract, the Shrewsbury 2, fascism, etc... we must now organise in the schools, form links with other schools, fight for the Single Salary Scale etc". The reason R&F's fortunes are flagging, she implied, is because we are going too fast. First we must go for the 'little things' and then when we have gained 'credibility' we can go on to the 'bigger things'.

pipes

In reply, John Bangs of the Anarchist Workers Association argued effectively for the case which Workers Fight supporters have also put in R&F. Teachers do not have to go through a fight over broken water pipes, he said, before they can be considered ready to move on to wider issues. In fact many teachers may be more interested in the issues like fascism or women's rights which IS considers "too advanced" for them than they are in the broken water pipes.

Far from R&F being "too political", the problem is that simple bread and butter militancy, in the absence of wider political purpose, cannot be a sufficient basis to keep people permanently involved. To say that we should 'fight in the

schools' is an empty commonplace: unless it means 'don't fight anywhere else', in which case it is downright reactionary.

However, it was the IS view which generally dominated — with two exceptions. The conference voted to support the Working Women's Charter, thus reversing the November 1974 (IS-sponsored) R&F National Committee rejection of a motion from Workers Fight supporters arguing for the Charter. And the R&F policy on 'democracy in schools' was finally changed.

For years, but with increasing embarrassment, IS has been arguing a "workers' participation" line for schools. The notorious 'Democracy in Schools' pamphlet billed 'true democracy' as schools being run as cooperatives, with 25% representation from the Local Education Authority, and 'within the framework of national education policy'.

According to estimates recently made by the National Union of Teachers, some 6000 to 7000 final year teacher training students have not yet got jobs to go to. It looks like hundreds or thousands of these will still be jobless come September: only 7 out of 144 Local Education Authorities (LEAs) in England and Wales still have vacancies in nursery, infant, and junior schools.

But at the same time schools are still understaffed! Several LEAs are employing less than

their 'quota' of teachers set by the Department of Education, and there are few signs of any progress towards cutting pupil-teacher ratios so as to reduce over-size classes.

This situation is caused by the current cuts in public spending, under which many LEAs are cutting their numbers of teachers. It underlines the need for unity of public sector and other workers in the fight against the public spending cuts, and for a militant policy for teachers of no covering for non-existent teachers.

Counterposed was a struggle for flat rate interim payments

between yearly settlements. (These too, of course, would, despite Chanie Rosenberg's horror of such things, be the subject of negotiations between bureaucrats!) No one would deny that interim award fights can be important. But it is quite clear that a policy of chasing after price increases through interim award after interim award is far inferior to winning an automatic cost of living clause.

On the salaries issue, the IS policy secured a majority. And just how much practical effect the changes of policy on the Working Women's Charter and on democracy in schools will have is doubtful, given the IS clean sweep of the R&F Executive Committee elections.

At the end of the conference, the chairperson read out the number of votes cast for the EC, and asked, flippantly, "Has anybody got House?", as if it were a Bingo session. Quick as a flash someone shouted out: "Yes — IS!", and there was laughter all round.

IS had claimed that they were putting up 'the best people for the job without regard for political group'. Beth Stone of IS even opposed the proposal (supported by WF) that all candidates for the EC be asked to present a policy platform. "This would turn conference into a morass of sectarian

discussion instead of discussing resolutions" and "would not give the 'real' Rank & File a chance in the face of competition of political groups". In the end, 'biography' was substituted for 'platform'.

Yet at the same time many delegates were looking at the 'secret' IS circular which gave the names of the IS slate and which — no doubt much to the horror of the IS Central Committee, which had instructed IS members not to bring the circular to the conference — had leaked out to the conference.

cover

The cry "keep politics out of trade unionism" is only a cover for the politics of the current leadership: this is as much so when the cry comes from IS in Rank & File as when it comes from the right wing of the TUC General Council.

Finally, however, the conference nominated Dave Picton as candidate for vice president of the NUT, to stand on a platform of defending Rank & File against the slanderous attacks in 'The Teacher' and the attempts at suppression by the NUT Executive, and for a real fight against the cuts in public spending. It is to be hoped that Rank & File will be able to sustain this campaign in spite of the attempts at further demagogic watering-down by IS.

PAMPHLETS FROM WORKERS FIGHT

Available from 98 Gifford Street, London N1 0DF. Please include 5p to cover post & packing.

"For a Rank and File Movement" — Why a Rank & File Movement, 'A Programme for the Rank & File', 'Lessons we have to learn', and 'Leading from behind'. 10p.

Articles on Women's Liberation — Equal Pay, Abortion, the Family, the Working Women's Charter, Wages for Housework, etc. 15p.

Racialism and the Working Class. A series of articles exposing the 'reasonable sounding' arguments that back up racist ideas. 10p.

James Connolly and Ireland's Struggle for Freedom. The background to the situation in Ireland, the missed chances of the past, and the way forward now. 10p.

"The EEC: In or Out the Fight goes on". Arguing that the alternatives "in" or "out" are both alternatives of capitalist policy, neither of them offering any serious advantages to the working class.

Workers Fight: What We Stand For. Brief outline of the basic policies argued for by Workers Fight supporters on some of the questions of controversy on the left. 10p.

Also: Permanent Revolution no. 1 still available — articles on the Permanent Arms Economy, Transitional Societies; translations of Rosa Luxemburg on the General Strike.

Out of print: Workers Fight and the Fourth International; The Industrial Relations Act and the fight for a General Strike; Permanent Revolution no. 2.

If you want more information about the ideas expressed in Workers Fight, or the activities of the supporters of Workers Fight, please write to 98 Gifford St, London N1 0DF.

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PORTUGUESE 'REPUBLICA' WORKER TO SPEAK IN LONDON

The Western Press has built up the dispute between printworkers and editorial staff of the Lisbon daily *Republica* as yet another example of Portugal's slide towards dictatorship. It has misrepresented events and accused the workers of attempting to restrict freedom of the press.

Here in Britain printworkers have also been under attack by the bosses over the problem of over-manning and closed shops. They too are accused of threatening freedom of the press.

In both cases it is the newspaper bosses who are worried about their exclusive right to manipulate public opinion against workers and trade unions.

The *Republica* workers are fighting for working class access to the media. A delegate of the *Republica* printworkers committee will be in London and will address a

PUBLIC MEETING

V. Correia, delegate from *Republica's* Workers Committee, will speak at St Brides Institute, St Brides Lane, London EC1, at 7pm on Tuesday 8th July.

Organised by the Portuguese Workers Coordinating Ctee.



NUPE Gay members organise

The recently formed Gay Group in the National Union of Public Employees is holding its first national conference in Manchester on the weekend of July 5th-6th.

The group — one of the first trade union gay caucuses — is already facing a number of struggles. Peter Gibbins, Brighton Area Officer of NUPE, has recently resigned his job after newspaper reports of his court appearance on a homosexual charge brought demands for his resignation from a number of branches in the area.

NUPE Gay Group has commented: "his surrender has not helped him, nor has it helped any other gay member of the Union who might find him/herself in the same situation in future."

At the same time NUPE Assistant General Secretary Bernard Dix is refusing to carry even a mention of the gay group in the Union journal, justifying himself on the grounds that the group is not officially recognised.

But it is an important step in breaking down anti-gay bigotry that gay Union members are beginning to organise to confront that bigotry, rather than — as too often in the past — conceding to it.

WHY WE MUST GET RID OF THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT

UNDER the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act, over 40 people have been deported to Ireland on the say-so of the Home Secretary. The victims of these 'exclusion orders' are allowed to appeal, but the appeals are often farcical since no definite reason has to be given for the exclusion order, and therefore the victim has no set charges against him which he can disprove.

In practice this has meant that many people have been deported simply for being Irish and having some sympathy for or connection with the cause of a united Ireland. They need not necessarily have any links at all with the armed liberation struggle of the Irish people, which is what is normally referred to as 'terrorism'. For example, several leading figures of Clann na hEireann have been deported, even though Clann is a strictly civilian

organisation and has opposed the military campaign of the Provisional IRA in the most vehement way.

Thus a very large proportion of the Irish population in Britain are potentially at risk under this Act. This risk, of course, will tend to deter trade unionists of Irish origin from militant action of any sort, and as such it is a direct blow against the organised working class.

DIVERT

A recent report from Cardiff seems to indicate another new form of the anti Irish discrimination which is a logical product of the anti Irish propaganda with which the British press tries to divert the blame for the failure of each successive 'British solution' to the 'Irish problem'.

John Donoghue and James O'Brien have both submitted statements to the Race Relations Board. On seeking social security benefit when unemployed, they

were told they would receive no benefit, but they could have a free ticket back to Ireland. According to the local Claimants' Union, another Cardiff Irishman, John O'Brien, and his wife, have recently returned to Ireland after having been refused social security benefit and offered a free passage home.

A spokesman for the Claimants' Union is quoted in the 5th July *Irish Post* as saying: "Irish people constitute only a tiny fraction of the 7500 who are unemployed in the Cardiff area at present. Clearly efforts are being made to discriminate against the Irish — and on the basis of their national origin."

Such policies of discrimination can only be condemned by the labour movement as weakening and divisive. That is one more reason why the 5th July demonstration against the Prevention of Terrorism Act is so important.

THE W.R.P. AND THE I.M.G.

"ON Thursday 22nd May, two members of the International Marxist Group attended a meeting of the Workers Revolutionary Party in Basingstoke. They were physically attacked by members of the WRP and had copies of *Red Weekly* torn from their hands and ripped up. Prominent in this attack was Mike Banda — a leading member of the WRP."

This incident is described in an Open Letter which the IMG has sent out to all groups on the revolutionary left. The only 'cause' for the WRP's thuggery was that the IMG members had made two contributions during the discussion period in the meeting.

The IMG has sent a letter to the National Secretary of the WRP, demanding that the leadership of the WRP take disciplinary measures against those responsible. As yet no reply from the WRP has been made public.

Such incidents are unfortunately not unique in the history of the WRP. In 1967 there was a particularly scandalous case, when Ernie Tate was so badly beaten while selling literature outside a meeting organised by the SLL (as the WRP was then called) that he had to be hospitalised. As we said at the time, "The right of free speech is a prerequisite of a civilised working class democracy. Its suppression by violence is always the expression of a deep malaise... With the SLL it signals the gap between their activities and reality, and the sectarianism which drives the leadership to acts which they know are indefensible before the labour movement".

REVOLUTIONARY MARXIST CURRENT reply to Workers Fight Open Letter for Revolutionary Regroupment is now publicly available. Copies from Red Books, 81a Renshaw St, Liverpool 1. Send stamp with order.