

THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Bring down the govt or it will be worse than 1926

The only road for the working class

Welsh miners to strike from Monday

LEADERS OF 40,000 Welsh miners voted overwhelmingly at Porthcawl yesterday to back all-out official coalfield strike action from Monday.

But the S Wales area council of the National Union of Mineworkers refused to allow discussion of militant demands to call for an immediate walk-out on the coalfield.

After the meeting, however, delegates felt that the vote would persuade more men in the Welsh pits to strike from today.

I can't see many men going back now', Cwm colliery delegate Bryn Williams told Workers Press.

We have to give an immediate lead to the miners in England and Scotland and this means coming out now. Though we are quite satisfied with the decision to strike en masse on Monday.

Vote

The vote showed 545 lodge delegates in favour of strike action out of a total of 674. Only eight lodges—representing 6,440 miners—voted against.

From Stephen Johns Porthcawl, Wednesday

The 80 lodges who voted to come out have in membership 27,250 miners.

A special meeting of the NUM's S Wales area council has been called for today to discuss appeals to other coalfields to support the Welsh miners.

Approaches will be made to the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Railwaymen—who could be involved in transporting the National Coal Board's meagre stocks—to ask for their support.

Stormy

The Porthcawl meeting was a stormy one.

Delegates called on the platform to sanction the 12,000-strong unofficial strike that has already paralysed 53 pits of the Welsh coalfield's 22 pits.

They also demanded that the council back their call to make the stoppage complete and official from today.

But Welsh miners' president Glyn Williams ruled the appeals out of order.

We made it quite clear at last week's meeting that the lodges already out on strike should go back until today's meeting which discussed the resolution for an official stoppage next Monday', he told the delegates.

Lodges voting against strike action have agreed to observe the union's call.

After yesterday's decisive vote, the strike in both Wales and Yorkshire is likely to escalate before Monday—when every miner will almost certainly be out on strike.

Miner after miner expressed complete support at Porthcawl yesterday for the claim for £5 on the minimum rates.

Half out

The miners have already voted by 83 per cent for a strike. There are already almost half of the pits out on strike, there can be no question of the feeling of the men on this issue—it is very, very strong indeed,' Dai Davies, also from Cwm colliery, told Workers Press.

Arafat 'concern' over Jordan position

PALESTINE commando leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Cairo un-announced yesterday morning for talks with Egyptian, Libyan and Sudanese leaders over the Jordan situation.

The appointment of extreme right-winger Wasfi El Tell as the new Jordanian premier is high on the agenda at the talks.

Last week Egypt withdrew its ambassador in Jordan as an expression of concern about Tell's appointment.

Clashes between the Jordan Army and the guerrillas have continued sporadically despite the sell-out truce agreed between Arafat and King Hussein.

Now Arafat is clearly concerned that Hussein and Tell—strengthened by a stringent truce conditions imposed on the commandos—will take the opportunity to spring another surprise attack on the Palestinian revolutionaries.

This is the logical outcome of Arafat's sell-out.

Now he is trying to rally support against Hussein from the Arab nationalist states which refused to help the guerrillas during the earlier fighting.

NALGO rejects

BRITAIN'S fourth largest trade union, the 400,000-strong National and Local Government Officers' Association, says today that the majority of the government's union-law plans are 'repugnant'.

A policy statement opposes 'as a whole' the government's consultative document, though some parts, it says, would be quite acceptable if amended.

42,000 miners out at present

ABOUT 42,000 miners were on strike and over 50 South Wales, Yorkshire and Scottish pits wholly or partially shut down.

Besides the 12,000 on strike at 23 of S Wales' 52 collieries, 30,000 YORKSHIRE miners closed 29 pits.

Five of the county's pits were partially stopped and at another five, miners were operating overtime bans.

THE WORKING CLASS is getting ready to fight the Tories.

Car workers, miners, council men and housewives are all swelling a vast and growing army of hundreds of thousands who now see clearly where the main enemy is.

No one with a wage claim can fail to get the Tory message. If you want more wages then you must fight the government, because it is they who are backing the employers to the hilt in refusing it.

The wages fight has been transformed into a political conflict and there can be no real victories without a struggle to bring down the Tory government.

Millions of workers are also beginning instinctively to realize that it is this, more than the issue of wages in itself, which is beginning to radicalize them.

A swing to the left inside the trade unions is now well under way.

But what is to be the future of this swing? This is the key question.

Brutally

If it is defeated, then the working class will be driven back even more brutally than in 1926.

This will undoubtedly happen if it remains under control of the treacherous leaders who at present dominate the trade unions.

These men do not want a showdown with the Tories. They fear the growing militancy from their own members more than they fear the government.

This is especially so, since they can see that many of their members are now more concerned about getting rid of Heath and company, even more than wages.

It is not the wages issue as such that frightens the union leaders, but the development of political interest. They know that this takes the struggle far beyond the wages issue.

A growing desire to fight the government poses the problem of power. In turn, the fight for power poses the end of reformism, opportunism and class collaboration. It spells the end of trade union bureaucracy.

The Communist Party, Labour 'lefts' and revisionists single out the anti-

Defeat

The defeat of the 'liberal, radical' Senators, such as the once incumbent Republican Goodell, by the arch-conservative Buckley in New York, and the rout of Democrats, like Gore of Tennessee and Tydings of Maryland, as well as the defeat of 'liberal' Republican George Bush in Texas by the conservative Democrat Lloyd Bentsen, indicate that Mr Nixon would get a working majority on foreign policy issues and national defence debates such as the anti-ballistic missile system.

It would also enable Nixon to continue his genocidal war in Indo-China without the kind of constitutional brake applied by the Democratic 'doves' in Senate and Congress this summer.

Nixon's strategy to win the 1972 Presidential election and carry through his policy till then is to woo the ultra-reactionary Southern Democrats, like Gov. Wallace, who romped home unopposed by the Republicans.

At the same time he plays on the worst racist and patriotic prejudices and fears of sections of the working class and middle class.

By utilizing labour fakery like George Meany he hopes to try and close the ever widening credibility gap with the trade unions and the working class.

Officer

Under this scheme rent is fixed by a rent officer who is supposed to take into account a property's age, state, character and locality.

In practice, more than half the tenants who have gone before rent tribunals since the Act have had their rent raised.

The effect on council tenants will be very marked. In London, tenants have suffered rise after rise, and the Greater London Council—Tory-controlled—has still not reached its fair rent targets.

In places like Merthyr Tydfil where council house rents are well subsidized,

US ELECTIONS Dire need for labour party

REPUBLICANS failed to demonstrate the power of Nixon's much-vaunted 'silent majority' in the mid-term elections.

But there is little doubt that a sinister and powerful coalition of ultra-reactionaries in both parties is being forged as the economic crisis deepens and the class struggle intensifies throughout America and the world.

In this sense there is a direct relation between the US elections and the British General Election.

Because of the absence of any political challenge from the working class and the reactionary trade union outlook of American labour leaders the most reactionary segments of US monopoly capital are strengthening their grip on the legislature and executive under the cloak of 'law and order' and 'anti-pornography'.

When Mr Agnew stated that the Nixon regime had won an 'ideological majority' in the Senate, even though the Republicans got nowhere near the seats they expected, he was correct—by once.

Convence

Tottenham, N London, branch of the Amalgamated

SCAMP FINDINGS ARE OUT THIS AFTERNOON

BOTH sides involved in the council workers' strike will meet on the National Joint Council to discuss the recommendations of Sir Jack Scamp's inquiry into the dispute. The employers and the union leaders received the report yesterday, but it will not be made public until after today's NJC meeting.



'Chelsea' rents for all will bite into workers' pay

CHELSEA rents—some of the highest in London—are intended to become the national norm under Environment Minister Peter Walker's plans announced in parliament.

The enormity of the Tory government's assault on private and council house tenants reduced even the hardened Labourite opposition to stunned silence.

More to the point, it will rouse the anger of every tenant who will be forced to dig deep into his wage packet to put a roof over his head.

Main plank of the Tory proposals is the extension of the misnamed 'fair rent' scheme to all tenants—council and private.

In the Tory dictionary, a 'fair rent' is a high rent, and for many tenants—in fact for all those tenants not already suffering under 'fair rent' schemes—it will mean stiff rises.

The 'fair rent' principle was established by the Labour government in its 1965 Rent Act—a measure which has proved the launching pad for the Tories' new round of attacks. The principle was extended in 1968.

Organize

They call on the trade union leaders and the trade union movement as a whole to organize for December 8 in order to force a Tory resignation.

The city's No. 2 AEF branch has carried a similar motion.

In Birmingham, the Transport and General Workers' automotive and engineering district committee is to approach other unions to seek co-ordinated action against the government's legislation plans.

Officials have been instructed to report to the committee's next meeting on December 1 with an organized plan of campaign.

Official

Croydon's No. 6 AEF branch has called on the executive to make December 8 an official stoppage of all members to defeat the Tory legislation.

'This,' says the branch, 'should be the start of a campaign by the whole

Tense scenes on council picket line

TENSE councilmen's pickets had to stand by yesterday as large forces of police escorted contractors clearing rubbish compounds in the London borough of Hackney.

Each contractor's lorry working in Defoe Rd, Stoke Newington, was preceded by a police motorcycle while about six police cars were closely supervising the work.

The contractors were called in by the Tory-controlled council whose leader has made witch-hunting attacks on the strikers.

Among those on the Defoe Rd picket line was Public Employees' union official Mr Nick Wright.

The Hackney councilmen's strike was made official on Tuesday after most of them walked out on their own initiative last week.

Hackney council tenants have blocked streets on several occasions with rubbish from the compounds after conferring with the dustmen that this would put pressure on the Council to concede the 55s claim.

On Tuesday night scores of police converged on the barricades being built at the tower block estates of Kingsland and St Mary's.

Early yesterday morning at least four Hackney streets were effectively barricaded with rubbish.

B-Leyland stewards adopt

Anti-Tory action policy

BY DAVID MAUDE

A FIGHTING five-point programme to beat back the Tory attack on workers' rights was unanimously adopted in Birmingham yesterday by senior stewards representing 200,000 British-Leyland workers—the most powerful car-combine committee in western Europe.

Like the similar policy recently decided by the Swindon district committee of the Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers, it does not stop short at challenging the employers' drive for speed-up and unemployment.

It throws down the gauntlet of struggle to the government-sponsored assault on the working class on all fronts.

And the Leyland combine's trade union executive backs up its programme with plans for:

- An all-stewards' combine conference later this month.
 - A massive day of action and lobby of parliament by carworkers on December 8.
 - A demand that Labour MPs fight the proposed 'wage' legislation line by the...
- Here is the full text of the resolution moved from Oxford's BMC Service plant and endorsed by everyone present at yesterday's Birmingham meeting:
1. Fight Measured-Day Work! No intensification of working conditions!
 2. Full support for any group of workers engaged in the wages struggle!
 3. Fight sackings! Any firm which cannot give security to its workers should be nationalized under workers' control in line with the national policy of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions!
 4. Full support for equal pay for women workers!
 5. Complete rejection of any proposals for anti-union legislation!
- At this combine committee executive adopts this policy because it believes that this is the only programme that can stop the Tories taking back the gains that the working class has made.
- Furthermore, this combine committee executive pledges itself to work in all the trade union organizations for the adoption of this policy.

LINE-BY-LINE

Labour MPs are to be invited to the all-stewards' conference—to take place on or about November 29—and asked to begin line-by-line opposition to the planned Industrial Relations Bill so as to give as much time as possible for the fight in the unions to build up.

The Leyland combine executive is to become the action committee for co-ordinating the fight against the law in the combine.

It was decided that the officers of the executive should attend the November 14 conference on the law called by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.

Yesterday's meeting refused to accept 'leaflet or letter raids' by the management of Leyland's 9,000-strong Birmingham Pressed-Steel Fisher plant threatening closure if proposals for a new Measured-Day Work pay system were not accepted.

The stewards warned the company that transferred work could not be touched by any other plant without the agreement of the unions, and would be 'black'ed.

See page four story, 'No MDW in Oxford!'

