FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM 237 11 SEPTEMBER 1971 2½p

Plessey and BAC workers show the way to defeat Tories

THE TORIES and the employers are deliberately boosting the unemployment figures towards the million mark as part of their policy to divide and weaken the labour movement. But a magnificent fight back is under way.

Following the UCS 'work-in' has come a more militant and potentially explosive factory occupation of Plessey's at Alexandria (this page) while British Aircraft Corporation workers in the Bristol area have launched a series of one-day strikes against massive redundancies (back page).

This determination and fighting spirit show the way for the whole trade union movement. A united struggle, linking up workers across the country, and including strike action and occupations, can defeat the Tory plans.

Barricades at Plessey

as workers occupy

to stop machinery

being moved south

From Roger Rosewell

ALEXANDRIA, Dunbartonshire:-Last Friday the flag over the Plessey factory was hauled down and dumped on the manager's desk. With it came the words: 'We have taken over.

The company had intended to close the

factory. Instead the workers occupied it. The day began with Plessey's paying off the last 200 employees. Then the workers held a mass meeting, marched through the works, locked the main gates and made their shock announcement,

Since then they have slept in the factory and maintained a 24-hour guard on the gates. Managers have been admitted only after agreeing to have their cars searched and giving certain satisfactory assurances to the workers.

Any boss refusing this has been locked out. Posters and placards have been put up and a squad of workers has erected barbed wire barricades as a defence against any sudden police swoop on the plant, Food and blankets have been supplied by wives and a few local tradesmen.

Both management and police have warned the workers that they are 'acting illegally' and an attempt at a forced eviction is expected shortly. Other workers from nearby factories have been picketing the factory in solidarity and as a precaution against any attacks.

The factory used to be the Royal Naval Torpedo Establishment until it was bought by Plessey. They took control in January and immediately promised that more than 1000 workers would be employed by the end of the year.

Now, with unemployment well over 10 per cent in Alexandria, they have closed it.

The reason is brutally simple. Plesseys bought the factory for a mere £640,000. Inside is several millions pounds worth of machinery and metal. Plesseys are now transferring this to their Ilford, Essex, factory.

Blacking

this get-rich-quick operation. They have announced that they intend to occupy the factory until it is re-opened. They are refusing to allow any machines to be moved and the Ilford workers are co-operating by blacking any plant that is transferred to their works.

Eddie McLafferty, the shop stewards' convenor, told me: The Alexandria workers are not prepared to allow Plessey's to reduce the factory to four bare walls."

The Tories and the employers are terrified that the idea of factory occupations will spread. This accounts for the almost total press blackout of the Alexandria struggle.

The workers need support desperately. It is the responsibility of the entire labour movement to give that support and to ensure that this vital struggle is won.

Messages and donations to: Eddie McLafferty, Plessey Works, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire, Scotland.



Locked gates, anti-Tory feelings at Plessey's occupied Alexandria factory

New threat to UCS jobs

GLASGOW:-The UCS work-in continues-and so do the redundancies. More than 700 men have now been sacked.

Last weekend Danny McGarvey, the Boilermakers' leader, announced that while his union would demand the nationalisation of the shipbuilding industry at this week's TUC, the trade unions were prepared to be 'flexible' about the future of UCS.

He said the unions had no objections to The Alexandria workers are victims of any 'restructuring'. This means the government will be allowed to form its proposed Govan/Linthouse division and then will agree to the sale of the other two yards to big business.

> This means the break up of UCS, the acceptance of sackings and a victory for the Tory policy of butchering the yards.

McGarvey has also said that if the yards are kept open the unions will be prepared to discuss the introduction of double-day and three-shift working.

Sacked

Inside the yards no real evidence of a workers' take over exists. Workers are being disciplined by foremen and managers and one foreman sacked a worker for alleged misconduct. He has since been reinstated but the shop stewards have failed to explain how-in a yard they claim to have taken over-such a sacking was even possible.

Considerable and dangerous confusion exists about the nature of the takeover and the work-in. An example of this appeared in the Morning Star last week. It said:

'All UCS workers are determined to do their best for 'their' yard. Now it really is team work. The feeling 'you are letting the side down' is one experienced by the very few latecomers-yes, even time keeping has clocked new records of precision. It is summed up by the fact that the lunch time pint is downed minutes before the horn goes and the time-clock bell rings every second.

But the yards clearly don't belong to the UCS workers. If they did, no sackings would be able to take place, no managerial discipline would be allowed and a 35 hour would have been introduced, have been

This is due to the work-in policy. It has failed to stop redundancies and must be changed urgently.

1. The yards must be occupied and a sit in strike started. The liquidator should be sacked and all the ships confiscated and build more houses. Efforts are being until the Tories guarantee no sackings and made to raise other issues, such as wages, redundant.

2. The struggle must be spread and links the 26 Counties. formed with the Plessey workers who have occupied the Alexandria factory. Instead of working for the liquidator those UCS men already sacked should go to Plesseys British organisations. While continuing to and help defend that factory against any attempted police action. Other factories threatened with redundancy and closure should be occupied and regular conferences of Scottish shop stewards held to plan and unite the fight against unemployment.

3. The TUC should call—as a first step—a a way forward. one-day general strike against rising unemployment and in solidarity with the UCS and Plessey workers. The TUC should overthrow of both Irish states and for demand also that both plants are nationalised under workers' control with a guarantee of no sackings.

by EAMONN McCANN

AS A GIRL of 14 was shot dead in Derry and 20,000 Protestant workers cheered the bible-and-thunder rhetoric of Ian Paisley in Belfast, Heath and Lynch held 'friendly' talks at Chequers and agreed to meet again in October.

The Westminster and Dublin governments want to do a deal. This would almost certainly involve internment in the South and some way to lock the Catholic 'moderates'-Fitt and Hume's Social Democratic and Labour Party-into the machinery of government at Stormont. It will not work.

The massive solidarity of the rent and rates strike within the Catholic community and the continued mobilisation of Protestant workers behind Paisleyism make it clear that there can be no neatly negotiated re-arrangement of government that will 'solve the Northern Ireland problem.'

And if Faulkner releases a few internees this week as a gesture it must not stop the campaign for the release of ALL prisoners and the withdrawal of British troops.

Many Catholics have shown by their actions that they will settle for nothing less than an end to Unionist rule. Fitt and Hume would lose the little credibility they have if they accepted office in any 'Community government', such as is being canvassed by liberal commentators and by sections of the British Labour Party.

For their part, the Protestants fear incorporation into Lynch's 26 counties. Not surprisingly, since Fianna Fail represents 'Rome Rule' in the schools, a woeful level of social services, massive emigration and a generally lower standard

Bombing campaign

Furthermore, the Protestants are being alienated by what appears to them to be an indiscriminate bombing campaign by the Provisional IRA.

Socialists who are now forced to work almost exclusively within the Catholic community are beginning to face up to this reality. In Derry the Socialist Resistance Group, fearing an SDLP sell-out, is forming street committees that could take over direction of the rent and rates strike.

They are also trying to drive home the point that the essential justification for the strike and for the 'no-arrears' policy is that the rents were always a fraud, used to pay the bankers' interest, not to maintain reinstate those workers already made and unemployment and thus challenge the social systems of both the Six and

We have been heartened in the weeks since internment by support received from the International Socialists and other expose the role of British Imperialism in Ireland and offering aid to all those fighting against it, British socialists must also make clear to British workers the fact that NEITHER Faulkner nor Lynch and his adjuncts-such as the SDLP-offers

The only forces capable of 'solving the problem' are those fighting for the socialism in Ireland.

Labour Committee: back page

PUBLIC MEETING Labour Committee Against Internment

Speakers will include BERNADETTE DEVLIN, MP Labour MPs, leading trade unionists and Irish Socialists

> FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 8pm Camden Town Hall, assembly rooms (near Kings Cross, St Pancras and Euston stations)



2 SUCIALIST WUNKEN IT SEPTEMBER 1971

Social State of the Social

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rising toll of blood and misery

NORTHERN IRELAND's toll of misery conditions. continues its relentless upward climb. Shootings and bomb explosions claim further victims with every passing day.

The British press has a very simple explanation of what is happening. It talks of 'evil and vicious gunmen' spraying bullets at everyone in sight in order to create general terror. Typical was a Daily Mirror headline last week which screamed 'Baby Killers'.

But such a standpoint can in no way explain why the IRA organisations now have the support of the majority of Catholics in Northern Ireland. Tens of thousands of ordinary men and women sympathise with the republicans. They do so not because of blind and irrational emotion but because of their own very real experiences.

They know that for 50 years the Stormont state has depended for its survival upon deliberately stirring up religious hatred. The big landowners and industrialists who have made up its governments have been able to get support only by offering Protestants marginal privileges in jobs and housing. And that has meant systematic discrimination against the Catholics.

This 'Orange' alliance between the ruling class and some sections of workers has been cemented periodically with blood. Crazy bigots have been allowed to carry guns freely and use them against the inhabitants of the Catholic ghettos.

Meanwhile, the situation for all sections of workers has deteriorated. Capitalist control has gone unchallenged and resources have flowed out of the province in search of higher profits in Britain and elsewhere. The result is rising unemployment and atrocious housing

Against such a background those who have borne the brunt of the hardship, the Catholic section of the working class, started to fight back three years ago. At first they turned to peaceful and passive forms of protest-organising demonstrations, holding meetings, standing untouched. in elections. They did not step beyond the bounds of what official commentators like to call the 'democratic process'. At that time the IRA was a very small organisation.

New mood

But the response of those in power was far from peaceful. Unarmed demonstrators were beaten to the ground by baton-swinging, guntoting police. Those who resisted were imprisoned. In August 1969 mobs of police and armed civilians invaded the Catholic areas of Belfast, shooting and burning indiscriminately.

At that point the Catholic population decided that they had had enough. They saw that arms were necessary if they were to protect their homes and families. The growth of the IRA was a reflection of the new mood.

The British government has claimed that it sent troops to Ireland to 'keep the peace'. That is just not true.

Britain's rulers did try, for a certain period, to restrict the amount of bloodshed, but only because they feared that the reaction of people IRA can win the struggle, neither are we neutin the South might damage very profitable interests there. But the British government has been determined to keep control of the North as well. And that has meant propping up a state machine built on the basis of religious sectarianism. Every time that the organisations of the extreme Protestant bigots have made

demands on the government, it has conceded to them.

The introduction of internment was typical. Socialists and republicans were herded into concentration camps while the armed thugs of the Orange Order were left

For the anti-unionist section of the population the choice is now between fighting back or giving up any hope for the future. Most are choosing to fight. But they do not always see clearly the path that will lead them to success. Many who support the Provisional IRA seem to think that merely blowing up buildings or shooting individual soldiers will end British

Things are not that easy. The Catholic section of the population are outnumbered two to one in Northern Ireland, and, in any case, many of their middle class leaders support the Southern government of Jack Lynch which for many years has worked hand in glove with the British. The Catholic workers workers of Ireland. will never be successful until they throw off such middle class elements and win allies among the workers of the South and from some of the Protestant workers in the North. They cannot do either without developing a socialist programme on a clear working-class

ral in the fight between it and the British army. Heath's Tory government is using the violence of the British army to defend the power of British big business. Those who command the Provisionals are trying to end that power by inadequate means. The two things are in no way the same.

Again, it is not true that both sides are equally to blame for the misery that results. Members of the IRA do on occasion. carry out actions that lead to needless casualties. But they do so because they see no way out of a desperate situation. The real responsibility for such casualties lies with the system that drives them to such desperation—the system the British army is defending.

Of course, individual soldiers can hardly be blamed. They are, for the most part, workingclass lads who join the army because they see little opportunity for themselves in civilian life. At a time of rising unemployment they are offered a decent wage and the chance of learning a trade if they join the 'professionals'.

Keep down

But the job they do is determined not by them but by the Tory government that gives the orders. And that job is to keep down the

The republican section of the population has no choice but to resist the army. In the process individual soldiers are killed. But the burden of guilt lies not with the IRA, but with the government that has sent the troops to Ireland to do its dirty work for it.

For all the workers involved-Catholic But if we do not believe that the Provisional workers who suffer repression, for the Protestant workers who face rising unemployment and for the British workers in uniform who face a mounting casualty toll-there is only one solution to their problems. That is for the rule of British big business in Ireland to be ended and for its army to be withdrawn. That is why we support those in Ireland who are fighting for that goal.

Purdie and Prescott: new victims

FOR SOME YEARS now 'liberal' and 'left' intellectuals and academics have been puzzled spectators of Britain's drift toward right-wing corporatism. On the whole, they have left the struggle to others; to their students, to foreigners, to workers, to women, to blacks, to kids prepared to demonstrate and squat.

This struggle has a cost: in sackings, in fines, in rustication, in censorship, in harassment, in imprisonment, in deportation. This cost is mounting.

Already the political situation in this country is critical. The authorities, with the new government in the vanguard, are pursuing an open campaign of heavy repression in all areas of life: Industrial Relations Act, Immigration Act, The Special Powers Act, Deportation of Paul Hoch and Rudi Dutschke, the Cambridge Demo decision, Stepney Words, Oz, The Little Red School Book.

Our rulers' position is insecure. They need to create the illusion of being in command of events. 'The government', it was once said, 'will govern'. If society's enemies can be presented as a handful of lunatics and publicly devoured, respect-

and time-are won.

of the backlash from the right



The next to be offered at the state's multi-course dinner party are Jake Prescott and Ian Purdie, two libertarians charged with the Angry Brigade bombing of Robert Carr's house. The point is not just that the evidence is thin. The point is that the government and especially the police need a guilty verdict, if only to validate the arrests. The court will give the police every advantage.

Our committee lacks wealth. It is having to spend thousands on printing and posting leaflets and pamphlets, on legal

expenses (not all of which by any means are covered by legal aid), on cigarettes and books for Jake and Ian, each of whom spends 23 out of 24 hours in solitary. (They aren't even allowed to exchange their books, which have to be new).

The committee is handicapped by constant harassment and intimidation. Last week 700 leaflets were seized in a raid, no doubt to be subjected to a break-down by boot-print experts.

The defence campaign needs publicity. Sympathetic people with access to a pen or a press can help. The campaign also needs money. If you would risk putting your name on a cheque it would be appreciated. If you are anxious, a postal order guarantees anonymity.-Ian Purdie

and Jake Prescott Defence Group, 6 Mayola Road, Clapton, London.

Beleagured

YOUR MEALY-MOUTHED finger-wagging at the IRA Provisionals ('cannot really help'-4 September) blurrs the point.

If capitalism holds no solution for Ireland North or South, then surely the only hope is to build a revolutionary movement across ghetto boundaries. You agree that Protestant workers must be won from Orange to Red? Yet you push this hope even further away-by appearing to leave socialists with worse than nothing to say to them.

Our solidarity for the beleaguered Catholics forbids us to be silent when some of those they find defending them do things which leave them all the more beleaguered.

Our solidarity is more necessary than ever? Then so is our socialism. Not either /or, but both. Stop tailing.-JOHN BAIRD, London SW.

Emotion

I MUST strongly warn you about producing covers such as last week's (Join the Professional Terrorists). The totally gratuitous exposure given to a very emotive poster came close on at least one occasion to producing a very serious situation for one of our sellers.

I have no idea what the situation is in London but you must realise that in areas like this such front pages can inflame

To put it at its most basic, would you have sold that issue in an Orange workingclass district? It is one thing to try and persuade by reasoned analysis, another to provide instant images which will produce

Please realise the responsibility which bespeak abomination. you have towards your sellers: if they have to have their heads put in let it be for something of more substance than an advert for a poster.-FRANK ROBERTS, Liverpool 24.

hatred which cannot possibly be overcome by argument, can alienate at a glance individuals who because of an accident of birth will respond to what they think is cheap Orange-Green tribal chauvinism.

instant and violent-responses.

Strategy to fight the Act

THE FIGHT against the Industrial Relations Act must go on, but not on false grounds. You say in your leading article (4 September) that the government and the employers do not want a stand-up fight with the entire working class.

No doubt. But it would be dangerously false to assume that they are unprepared for such a fight or that they will simply abandon their whole anti-working class policy if such a fight turns out to be the only alternative.

The architects and proponents of the Act are not so naive as to suppose that the battle in industry, unlike the phoney one in parliament, can necessarily be confined within constitutional

Of course they hope to pick off the weaker sections of the workers without any bloody confrontations and to isolate and frighten the stronger sections into submission without a struggle. But the stronger sections are the real target and if they defy the Act, refuse the register and organise strike action that is now illegal, the government must be planning to starve, bludgeon and jail them into submission with all the power of the state if necessary.

If the unions go into a fight unprepared for such opposition they will be courting defeat and disaster and it will need a great deal of very hard thinking indeed to determine how much solidarity they need to beat off the government attack and how much they can rely on.

If this thinking is not done and the best of the trade unions join battle insufficiently prepared and supported, the resulting defeat will inflict damage upon the entire working-class movement which could require decades to repair. And sufficient preparation involves establishing political objectives which are both realistic in terms of power relationships and which, once attuned, would mark a real and maintainable advance for the working-class movement.

The lack of such objectives and the political organisation, leadership and will to achieve them was a major factor in the tragic fiasco of the General Strike of 1926. Confrontation is not the only possible strategy in industrial struggle and the tactics of guerrilla warfare may offer greater prospects of success than battle on a field chosen by the enemy .- ANTHONY D WOOLF London SE5

THEIR WEEK-

IN THE US writes Michael Stewart of the American International Socialists, the Nixon 'freeze will be kept in effect until a new policy of a more permanent nature can be worked out. Thus the freeze will be replaced by some form of wage and price stabilisation boards...with one added factor, they will also engage in productivity deals as well as wage restraint'. He goes on to predict that 'wage increases will be tied to increases in productivity; if not initially, then that is what they will aim

It's not news in Britain where Wilson tried it openly and Heath is trying it not so openly. It's also not news

IN RUSSIA where the economists are using more and more of the employers' iargon more and more openly. One of them put their version of wage freeze simply enough: 'The economic competition of socialism (for that's what they call it-TW) with capitalism can only be successful...on condition that the enterprises of the socialist countries operate not only on the level of world labour productivity but also on that of world production costs'. So, comrades, if the competition gets away with a wage freeze,

so must we. The economist in question is I Tyul'panov, writing in Ocherki politicheskoy ekonomii (Essays in Political Economy), published two years ago in Moscow by Mysl.

WHEN GHANA'S PRIME MINISTER, K A Busia lunched with E Heath, Prime Minister of Great Britain and (?) Northern Ireland a couple of weeks ago, he probably felt hungrier when he left than when he arrived. But then he must be used to that sort of treatment here. At a recent 'aid' signing ceremony in Accra, his Finance Minister, J H Mansah, cried above the popping of the champagne corks: 'I personally regard this ceremony as one of the most uncongenial I have had to take part in during my term as a member of the government of Ghana. And this is entirely because, as you know, the agreement we are signing not only threatens to sanctify, with the concurrence of our government, the principle of RELIEVING debts by INCREASING them, but also embodies a particularly harsh application of that principle...

'Mr High Commissioner,' he continued, turning to a purple-faced H S H Stanley, '\$89 million (the increase in debt due to moratorium interest-TW) is a lot of money to us. It is the equivalent of one-fifth of Ghana's...budget for one year. It is three times as much as we spent on our agricultural services in the past financial year...It is a debt payable in foreign exchange, our scarcest commodity, which arises entirely from a paper transaction."

IN BRITAIN the best commentary on the recent Schoolkids' Oz and Little Red School Book trials was written 151 years ago by William Hone. In a satirical pamphlet lampooning the Prime Minister of his day, he wrote:

'But pray My L..ds and G..tl..n, don't shrink From exercising all your care

Here, and at home, TO CHECK THE CIRCULATION OF LITTLE BOOKS.

and skill,

and libels

Whose very looks-Vile 'two-p'nny trash,' Oh! they are full of blasphemies

And people read them oftener than their bibles."

essons of the battle at Nine Mile Point.

The lengthening shadow of the dole queue hangs over the organised labour movement. 940,000 people without jobs condemn a government that boasts empty slogans about 'equality of opportunity' yet within a year of office has brought back a grim reminder of the poverty and misery of the 1930s. Unemployment spells hardship and demoralisation for those without jobs. It is a serious threat to those with jobs, as well. It says, in effect, if you don't like your wages or conditions, there are plenty outside the gates ready to take your place.

A militant and determined fight, linking jobless and employed, is needed to beat back the Tories and the employers. The 'work-in' at Upper Clyde and now the occupation at Plessey's torpedo factory at Alexandria, show a growing determination by workers to save their jobs. A discussion on the tactics to be used by trade unionists in every sphere of their activities—against closures and redundancies, the Industrial Relations Act and productivity deals, as well as unemployment—is needed urgently. In this article TONY WILD recalls the bitter struggle of the Welsh miners in the 1930s to defeat company unions aimed at breaking their strength and reducing the number of jobs. It was a struggle that involved sit-in strikes. A further article will deal with the historic struggle in America in the 1930s to establish the right to belong to a union, a struggle which again included sit-in strikes and occupations.



Tears and smiles as the miners come to the surface after their occupation

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Nine Mile Point pit-head: waiting for news of the sit-in

million members. A particularly troublesome feature of the times was the growth of company unions. They had various names. To active trade unionists they were 'yellow organisations of social peace' consciously modelled on the government-run unions of

ion and apathy set in. The

managements were able to vic-

timise many thousands of mili-

tants. The TUC lost several

defeat of the Gen-

brought all sorts of

trouble for the British

working class. Disillus-

Strike in 1926

Italy. They would certainly have become one of the mainstays of British fascism, if Sir Oswald Mosley and his allies had not been driven off the streets.

In South Wales one of these so-called 'unions' grew under the leadership of a man called William Gregory and had a small but definite foothold during the early 1930s. The Industrial Union, as it was called, was thoroughly undemocratic and devoted to 'co-operation with the employers to try to make the industry successful'.

The Industrial Union did not have an easy time. There were occasional riots over blacklegging. The scabs had to be transported by a special train, called the Ghost Train by the local people.

The South Wales Miners' Federation launched a campaign in 1934 to recruit miners from the Industrial Union's stronghold at Taff Merthyr. They were faced with organised violence, but nevertheless recruited most of the miners.

BOYCOTT

The height of the campaign was a walk-out by miners singing the Red Flag. The pit was shut for six weeks, and the employers ended their agreement with Gregory to organise the whole mine, although the Miners' Federation was not fully re-established.

The main feature of the campaign at Taff Merthyr was the mobilisation of the entire mining community against the blacklegs. Wives boycotted the shops of those with blackleg relatives. Children were kept away from classes that would have to be shared with blacklegs'children.

The boycott reached out to ban the blacklegs from buses and exclude them from organised sport and social life. The total menace they presented to the way of life in the coalfield was met by a total mobilisation of the working class in the

Gregory complained bitterly about the 'tyranny' of the Miners' Federation, which would be overcome in his own words 'with the assistance of the government. There is sufficient legislation for the protection of our members in the Trades Disputes Act of 1927, which we are demanding the government put into force'.

Taking courage from the victory at Taff Merthyr in 1934, the Miners' Federation brought 14,000 men out on strike on 1 October, 1935. All the men worked for two mining combines, the plan being to pick the combines off one

of the first day. So were the people of a huge bodyguard of police. Cwmparc, but there a hundred police

blacklegs home.

'keep the peace' at Gelli. The Chief Constable of Glamorgan took charge and large reinforcements were called in.

there but at Nine Mile Point colliery, at the village of Cwmfelinfach near Newport.

In the rest of the dozen pits of the Nine Mile Point. two mining combines, only 33 men were outside the Federation by Wednesday evening. It was at Nine Point that William Gregory, the leader of the Industrial Union, and the employers plotted their counter-attack.

At the start of the strike on Tuesday, Nine Mile Point had only five nonunionists. By the Friday, between 20 and 30 had been moved in. By the second Wednesday, 55 scabs were working down

IMPOTENT

The regular miners turned out to jeer the blacklegs' special bus. But, as the blacklegs' ranks grew day by day, it dawned on the strikers that their position outside the mine, with more of their jobs disappearing each day, was an impotent one. The Industrial Union had promised that all blacklegs would retain their jobs

The men returned to work on the Thursday, but by Saturday 88 'independent spirits' were working with only 12 local men down the East Pit. The West Pit retained all local men.

It was the 78 men of the West Pit who sent up news with the boys at dinner time on Saturday that they were occupying the pit, on hunger strike, until the men were sacked.

Sunday passed off peacefully in Cwmfelinfach, but when the people turned out to jeer the blacklegs' buses The inhabitants of Blaengarw were on Monday they were confronted with able to cheer in new recruits at the end the reappearance of the Ghost Train and

The most honoured servants of local

were needed to escort a handful of capitalism were escorted below first. The men of Rock Vein pit followed after, met The policemen had to move on to help at the bottom and decided unanimously to stay down. The afternoon shift was not allowed below.

The spark of resistance at the West Even so, the centre of trouble was not Pit spread further. 300 men began a stay-down at Rica and 500 more at Cross Keys, both in the same valley as

> The next day brought the return of the Ghost Train. No violence occurred. But, a reporter wrote 'All along the valley as the Ghost Train approached, they could hear a crescendo of shouting and cursing. You could hear the cat-calls when the train was a mile away'.

> The flame of solidarity was fanned into a fire that day. Six more pits staged stay-down strikes: another 1,690 men were involved. Nearly 10,000 came out on sympathy strikes. The railwaymen of Merthyr banned the manning of the hated Ghost Train.

> On Wednesday, a brief stay-down of a day and a half was begun at Taff Merthyr. But there the officials put up violent opposition, forcing one small group into their cages after a two-hour battle and turning the cold compressed air on to those who remained.

> It was on Wednesday that the owners announced the 'indefinite' closure of Nine Mile Point. The Western Mail mented that 'The local workmen will never forget the lesson that the abuse of opportunities for wage-earning results in the cancellation of those opportunities, and it is to be hoped that the lesson will be thoroughly learned in all other parts of the coal-field as well'.

> The tune never changes! Wednesday also brought the real crisis of the strike. A special delegate conference of the Miners' Federation adopted an executive recommendation to return

> reopening of Nine Mile Point. After a debate lasting until 4 a.m. on Thursday by those at the surface, the

> to work pending negotiations for the

recognised the stupidity of chasing a redherring thrown in by the owners, and sent back the message: 'We're stopping down till we have it in writing that the non-Federation men are sacked.

Most of the men in the coalfield returned to normal working on Thursday. But two other sparks of resistance were left at Parc No. 2 Pit with 174 men and at Dare with 134 left below.

At Risca, where the men surfaced because they thought the Nine Mile Point men had come up, the employers had to close the mine to prevent them resuming the sit-in. The spark of resistance was still alive. On Thursday evening it was fanned ablaze again by a demonstration begun by the people of Cwmfalinfach.

TRIUMPH

They marched first to Risca, then to Cross Keys, picking up people all along the route. They headed on to Newbridge, thousands strong, for the Calymen collieries to bring them out on strike.

A lodge official was laughed at as he tried to turn the crowd away. They simply waited for the appearance of the nightshift men, gathering their eloquence. They came and were dissuaded from going below. Triumphantly the demonstration turned for home.

The next day, Friday, 34,000 men were on strike. And it was their solidarity which proved decisive. That final burst of militant unity was as much as the bosses could take. On Saturday afternoon an official

union deputation went below ground at Nine Mile Point. The miners emerged from the West Pit after 71/2 days below ground.

The Industrial Union was banished from Nine Mile Point and all the local men reinstated by the discussions that followed.

The lessons of Nine Mile Point are important for us. The first is that militancy, unity, discipline and organisation are vital to the winning of such important struggles. The second is that complete democracy and rank and file control are essential in guarding against a sell-out.

The other lesson is that ordinary

matter was put to the men below. They working people are capable of organising themselves, and are capable of exercising democratic control over their own lives.

What happened in South Wales 36 years ago should provide us with the evidence on which to base our belief that the struggle for socialism can be won.

> Vital reading for all socialists and trade unionists

by MIKE CAFFOOR

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SCAB EORE 10 FEG STEEL NOWS



by Peter Hitchens

THE LUMP is the curse of

building workers throughout

Britain. It wrecks trade union

organisation before it has a

chance to start and forces

thousands of men to work in

wretched conditions with no

ployers agreed with the unions to

abolish the lump by 7 June 1971,

it looked as though the battle was

The Lump is still very much

It comes under a new name-

Labour Force. Birmingham build-

ing workers uncovered Labour

Force a few months back, and it's

of a folder issued by Labour Force.

On the cover there's a picture of a

woman in unlikely working

clothes (kinky boots and a black

bikini) shovelling cement. Under-

neath the folder announces a

that men aren't employed on time

or piece-rates. They are paid a

RECIPE

supervised by a foreman, that

they have to complete the job

within a set time and that they

unorganised labour. As well as this,

a lump sum payment means a man

In short, it is a recipe for cheap,

are isolated from other workers.

This means that they are still

The principle of the Lump is

'Unique System'. It certainly is.

lump sum for a sub-contract.

The Birmingham men got hold

When the building trades em-

chance of a fight back.

over. But not for long.

alive-and kicking hard.

not a pretty sight.

Pictures courtesy Buildin

WHAT WE STAND FOR

THE International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations.

We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism.

Capitalism is international. The firms have investments throughout the world and owe no allegiances except to themselves and the economic system they maintain.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multi-national firms.

The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A single socialist state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international independent of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organisations through-



out the world.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist theory with the dayto-day struggles of working people and therefore support all genuine demands that tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight: For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials.

Against secret negotiations. We believe that all settlements should be agreed or rejected by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.

Against anti-trade union laws and any curbs on the right to strike, whether the strikes are 'official' or

'unofficial'. Against productivity deals and job evaluation and for militant trade union unity and joint shop stewards' committees both in the plant

and on a combine basis. For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

For a minimum wage of at least £25 a week.

Against unemployment, redundancy and lay offs. We support the For all workers in struggle. We

days' pay.

seek to build militant groups within industry.

demand: Five days' work or five

Against racialism and police.victimisation of black workers.

Against immigration restrictions. For the right of coloured people and all oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Against secret diplomacy.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally give support to and solidarity with all genuine national liberation movements.

For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation and under workers' control.

We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers' party in Britain and to this end support the unity of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers' power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing of men's power over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly worth fighting for.

It is no use just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it.' If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.

is officially self-employed. So the employer is exempt from National Insurance and PAYE. So the worker is unprotected

against injury or sickness, and, as often as not, on the run from the Inland Revenue.

Inside the brochure, Labour Force offers employers men for hire on conditions like these:

No strikes No overtime rate

No holiday pay No staff shortages No go-slows

No notices

No severance pay

No extras One flat rate

All the hours you like.

... plus one-No SET. When you add the other conditions-'It is a refined modification of two systems: (a) the old labour only method, (b) direct employment"-the whole thing is an accurate description of Lump

labour. Labour Force claim to have 150,000 men on their books. They screen every one of their workers to make sure they don't get any 'troublemakers'.

And employers have to pay transfer fees of up to £1,000 if they want to keep a Labour Force



Top: Birmingham building workers demonstrating against Above: Labour Force's unusual addition to the site gan

worker permanently. The aim of all this is to set up a monopoly of Lump labour. They want all building workers registered-with them. To make the job easier, Labour Force has its own 'Security Department' full of guard

dogs, security men and spies. There is no doubt that the activities of Labour Force are a hundred miles outside the Joint National Working Rules for the

But building workers can't rely on signatures, or pieces of paper to protect them from building industry sharks like Labour Force.

building industry.

In Birmingham, a campaign has already begun against the firm. Earlier this year, 150 building workers from eight Birmingham sites demonstrated outside Labour Force's Midland offices.

CONTRADICTS

They forced a curious statement out of Labour Force's local manager, a Mr Atkinson. Atkinson told the Birmingham Mail that his firm was 'against the Lump'. But he said 'If they (the demonstrators) are against the right of an ordinary working man to be selfemployed, we do not agree!

He went on to say that 'Labour Force meets all the employees' income tax and National Insurance contributions', which contradicts what Labour Force tells

employers in its folder. The trade in cheap, unorganised labour is a threat to all workers in the building industry. Together with the Industrial Relations Act it is a powerful attack on the right to organise and fight. It can and

must be stopped. All building workers should work for the demands set out by

the Birmingham men: 1. Have nothing to do with the

Labour Force it exists on site 2. Not toracce Lump labour employers rem 3. Demand th ced to pay all tax from the profits.



DURING ITA bank holiday people were interrogated, Their crime?

The Minis formed those nate enough the operation inal activity a while the Itali been carrying paign against icts'. Beneath people fies s repressive mor

For the st wing and the outs' but mili lutional y left factories. The pies' is a mean in which the activity can powers of the

Since the when Italian wage rises against the em real wages ha inflation and measures, the 1970. At the ers have laund in the factori they sustained

THERE ARE IS BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

SCOTLAND Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Fife/ Glasgow N/Glasgow S/Stirling

NORTH EAST Durham/Newcastle upon Tyne/ Teesside (Middlesbrough and Redcar)

NORTH Barnsley/Bradford/Derby/Doncaster/ Grimsby/Huddersfield/Hull/Leeds York/Selby/Sheffield

NORTH WEST Lancaster/Manchester/Oldham Bolton/Merseyside/St Helens/Wigan/ Potteries

MIDLANDS

Birmingham/Coventry/Leamington/ Leicester/Oxford/Nottingham/ Northampton/Redditch/Telford

WALES and SOUTH WEST Bath/Bristol/Cardiff/Exeter/ Gloucester/Mid-Devon/Plymouth/ Swansea

SOUTH

Ashford/Brighton/Canterbury/ Crawley/Folkestone/Guildford/ Portsmouth/Southampton

Basildon/Cambridge/Harlow/Ipswich/ Lowestoft/Norwich/Colchester

GREATER LONDON and HOME COUNTIES

Acton/Bletchley/Camden/Chertsey/ Croydon/Dagenham/Enfield/Erith/ Fulham/Greenford/Havering/Harrow/ Hemel Hempstead/Hornsey/Ilford/ Kilburn/Kingston/Lambeth/ Lewisham/Merton/Newham/Notting Hill/Reading/Richmond/Stoke Newington/Slough/South Ealing/ Tottenham/Walthamstow/ Wandsworth/Watford/Victoria

would like more information about the International Socialists

Send to: IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Workers Charter

t Labour Force

and expose it where

t employment on a asis and to demand ove it from the site. it employers be foroutstanding income ir rich harvest of

Russia and East Germany aid Mrs Bandaranaike

ALL THE GREAT POWERS rushed to support Ceylon's Prime Minister Mrs Bandaranaike when she claimed she was threatened by a revolt in April. The Russians, the Americans, the British, the Pakistanis and the Indians gave arms and military equipment. And the Chinese congratulated her on putting down the 'rebellion' and provided an interest-free loan of \$30m.

Now Mrs Bandaranaike is planning, with Russian and East German collaboration, to turn Ceylon into a police state. A high-ranking government mission is currently in East Germany and Ceylonese are being trained in security and intelligence work by the East Germans.

The notorious East German identity card and registration system is to be introduced into Ceylon. Students who cannot produce identity cards will be refused state grants at universities and institutes of higherlearning. Small farmers and peasants will be denied government loans at People's Banks and produce will not be bought under governmentguaranteed schemes unless they too produce identity cards.

This will greatly extend the already excessive powers of the police. Ceylon's force is probably the most hated in South Asia, with the exception of South Vietnam's.

Writing in the French paper Le Monde, Jacques Decornoy said: 'The police have always been detested in Ceylon. Deployed with frequency by a so-called progressive government, they are now being openly compared with the late Haitian President Francois Duvalier's "Tonton Macoutes".'

Mrs Bandaranaike's police and army have been massacring ruthlessly

hundreds of young prisoners belonging to the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (National Liberation Front). A letter from a political activist in Ceylon says:-

'Medieval tortures have been used. Rape, forcing children to commit incest, attacking private parts, assaulting parents, burning down houses, etc. For example, Mahinda Wijesekera's house has been burnt down [he is a leading JVP leader | and in many other places these incidents were a common feature.

Raped

'Some of the worst atrocities are coming to light. A girl in Matara [a large town in southern Ceylon] was captured by an army unit and was raped by the whole unit and then paraded naked in the streets and thereafter shot. As a result of mass pressure. a Colonel Wijesooriya has been arrested in connection with these incidents.'

Jacques Decornoy takes up the story of atrocities in Le Monde. 'In the village of Kataragama in the south, two young persons were shot in public and left for dead but they died only later when their bodies were set on fire.

Tortured

'At Kosgoda, two bodies were strung up for public view for several days. An assistant lecturer in geography of the University of Ceylon was so badly beaten up that he died in a Kandy hospital and a history student was tortured for two days.

'A young man was beaten up at Bandaragama (20 miles south of Colombo), the soles of his feet cut open and the wounds filled with chillie powder. Another man, picked up on a road outside Colombo, was tortured and thrown into a nest of giant red ants.

'The rebel JVP has minted a



Mrs Bandaranaike: Aid from East and West

new slogan: "The police are dogs, the soldiers are comrades". It may be an attempt to drive a wedge between the two forces of repression, but it is generally true that the Ceylon army has been behaving in a less beastly fashion.'

Mrs Bandaranaike is using the emergency powers to introduce a series of new measures to suppress militants. She is also attacking the living standards of the masses by cutting welfare expenditure in order to pay for the arms she has bought.

Bus and train fares are being jacked up, militant trade unionists are being sacked and overtime in the Port of Colombo has been banned. The Cabinet, which includes pro-Moscow Communists and socalled Trotskyists, has decided to

Police state fears in Ceylon after end of revolt

by Ranjith Mendis



Chou En-lai: Congratulations and a loan

cut the rice subsidy although it came to power on a promise to increase it.

Education is to be slashed drastically. One university, the Vidyalankara, is to be closed permanently and another, the Vidyodaya, has been 'temporarily' turned into a concentration camp for JVP prisoners.

Pitiful

There are more than 10,000 prisoners at Vidyodaya alone. The and should call for the suspengovernment has admitted that 14,000 prisoners are being held ties are restored. but political observers in Colombo put the figures at 20,000 to 25,000.

The conditions in these camps are pitiful. The food is inadequate and the sanitary conditions primitive even by Ceylon's standards.

There have been several hunger strikes and troops have made bayonet charges to 'restore order' on a number of occasions.

Home Minister Felix Bandaranaike, nephew of the Prime Minister, announced recently that political trials will soon be held, but he warned that the trials will not have juries and will be heard before three judges under an old system known as 'trial at bar'. This is clearly a move to deny the prisoners a free trial.

The JVP is not the only party whose members are behind bars. The pro-Peking Communist Party's general secretary and a large number of members have been arrested and tortured.

Suffered

The paradox is that Peking itself has cynically given support to Mrs Bandaranaike. Like the Russians who sent MiGs and vast quantities of arms, China gave a loan 'for reconstruction' and Prime Minister Chou En-lai, in a letter to Mrs Bandaranaike, told her 'not to hesitate to call for material assistance'.

A small, but highly active group of Trotskyists have also suffered at the hands of the police.

British workers, students and left-wing organisations can play a decisive role in bringing pressure to bear on the Ceylon government to end this repression. British organisations must demand that no British arms are sent to Ceylon sion of aid until democratic liber-

Demands should also be made to end the emergency regulations and press censorship, release all political prisoners and allow trial by jury for those brought before

the courts.

The great rent racket

THE SCANDAL OF RENTS is not properly understood. Otherwise it would not be tolerated. Most council tenants are not aware of financial intricaciesin other words, what happens to their money once they have paid the rent man.

Take the typical Lancashire town of Wigan. To every pound collected from tenants, the borough adds a further 31p and hands the whole lot over to the moneylenders. £1.17 is to pay interest. Only 14p goes to pay off the principal.

Or, to put the matter another way, a modern house costs nearly £5000 to build. This includes wages, materials, buying the land and the builders' profits. But for it local authorities, borrowing for 60 years, will eventually pay back the grand sum of £29,970.

Ask the average young couple, just occupying a new council house, if they know they are living in a £29,970-house and they will probably laugh at you. Tell them that it is government policy to obtain the full £29,970 from them as tenants and they will certainly cry.

Tighter screw

High interest rates represent a vast re-distribution of wealth. Money is taken from the poor and given to the rich. The screw is turned tighter. In 1960, Wigan tenants paid

£283,536 in rent. By 1970, the figure was £1,209,840-more than a four-fold increase. Rising rents during Wilson's six

years in office explodes the myth that the Labour government had anything socialist about it. Had the least steps been taken to curb the unholy trinity-rent, interest and profit-then tenants would have been paying less each week, not

Rent rises nail another lie. Capitalist newspapers are constantly telling us that wage increases cause price increases.

But this cannot be so with houses already constructed. Once a property has been built, building workers have received every penny they will get. If subsequently there is a rent increase, then they cannot be held responsible.

Beyond pockets

Exorbitant property prices aggravate capitalism's problems. While there are families homeless and a big need for more houses, the largest single section of the community unemployed is building workers.

More than 120,000 men who could be building houses in Britain today are signing on at the dole. They do so not because people don't want houses, but because they can't afford to pay for them.

Of course, as land speculators, moneylenders and profiteers increase their takings they push house prices beyond the pockets of increasing numbers of people. High rents, homeless families and unemployed workers are interconnected,

In the past, when capitalism was expanding at a faster rate, the contradictions were less discernible. It was possible, for example, to introduce quite appreciable rent advances without encountering largescale resistance.

However, once the prospect of increasing income to pay the rent collector no longer exists, then there is a different situation. Every rent rise is a wage decrease. People are likely to react strongly to cuts in their standard of living.

Since against this background the Tory government intends to introduce its new policy, which plans to bring in massive rent increases over the next three years, it is unlikely these will be accepted with the same docility as before.

And when wondering what to do, a lesson can be learnt from presentday Northern Ireland. The magnificent way the people of Belfast, Bogside and Newry are now withholding their rents shows how powerless local authorities are when faced by a united opposition.

Ray Challinor

Wave of arrests rocks Italy

Y's week-long August more than 85,000 etained by the police, led, and then released. ney all wore long hair. er of the Interior in-Italian citizens fortuot to be arrested that was 'to neutralise crimd hooliganism'. Meanan right-wing press has onyan hysterical camhippies' and 'drug addthese attacks on young mething deeper than

alstarget of the rightpolice is not the 'dropant workers and revoroups active within the campaign against 'hipof creating a climate repression of left-wing e intensified and the active increased.

urtyav

autumn of 1969 was won significant violent struggles and the police, maken eaten away by of vicious tax and of October the employmuse counter-offensive mecoup the losses the hot autumn

by Mike Balfour

Productivity has been stepped up in many factories through arbitrary use of speed-up, flexibility, mass redundancies, even closures. But the main aim of the counter-offensive is to smash the unofficial rank and file movements which led the struggles in 1969 and 1970.

This has meant the persecution of the unofficial rank and file committees, the Comitati di Base. Militants have been denounced, imprisoned, hounded out of factories.

Attacks

To smash the resistance of workers, the employers have resorted to lock-outs, suspensions, victimisation, organised blacklegging, and violent truncheon attacks on picket lines.

Many Communist Party trade union officials have collaborated in the witchhunt of militants. They have been active in victimising 'extremists' in organising blacklegging to break unofficial strikes.

The present government is a 'Centre-Left' coalition of Christian Democrats, Socialists and Republicans. The collaboration of the Communist Party in the counter-offensive has been won with the threat of a swing to the right and of shelving the parliamentary social reforms on which the party has based its electoral campaign.

The growth of fascist violence in Italy has also helped to create a climate of lawlessness in which repression can be stepped up. Although the fascists do not amount to a powerful political and economic force, they are part of a broad right-wing front rooted in the state apparatus and the parliamentary right-wing parties which represent major economic interests.

The violence and bomb attacks of the fascists are aimed at discrediting the present government by showing its inability to maintain law and order, preventing any move towards Communist participation in the government and paving the way for a right-wing coalition government.

Hardly a day goes by without new fascist violence. Squads of right-wing vouths, armed with iron bars and dynamite, attack workers and leftwing students, and bomb the local headquarters of revolutionary groups, the Communist Party, and trade union

branches. Not even trade union officials are spared. A few weeks ago, the secretary of the Modena Trades Council, who was active organising the strike of farm labourers in the region, was beaten to death by the fascist son of

a local landowner. While militant workers and members of revolutionary groups are arres ted and sentenced to outrageous terms of prison, fascist and rightwing crimes go unpunished and the police do little to prevent the street violence of the fascist squads. There is a huge backlog of 'unsolved' crimes (such as the bomb explosion in a bank in 1969 which killed 16 people) which were clearly fascist inspired.

Compete

The Italian Communist Party, with 1½ million members and at least eight million votes, has the strength to lead a mass political fight back against fascism and police violence. Instead, it chooses to compete with the preachers of repression, calling itself the party of 'democratic law and order' and calling for increased state protection against fascist violence.

But the legal code of the Italian state is partly based on fascist laws dating from the time of Mussolini and a large section of the state apparatus, especially the police, have shown their tolerance of right-wing violence.

The fight back against repression in the factories and streets has taken place largely outside the Communist Party and the unions. In some places of work, the Comitati di Base have won over large sections of workers and have successfully resisted the employers' attempts to worsen work-



Milan police in action

ing conditions and keep down wages. In several small factories, workers have tried to counter closures and redundancies by occupying the factories.

But more is needed. To counter the ruling-class attack on workers' living and working standards, to organise self-defence against right-wing violence, an independent revolutionary movement must grow, uniting the different struggles and exploited classes of Italy. Only in this way can the workers challenge the power of the Italian ruling class and the fascists who hide up their sleeve.

Catholic and Protestant unity that England had to smash



The volunteer militia: an Irish print of 1782

'We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal.'

THE AMERICAN Declaration of Independence had a powerful effect in Ireland. The American rebels were fighting the same ruling class that exploited Ireland and very soon an Irish movement led by the same sort of people as the American one, lawyers, merchants and smaller landowners, came forward with similar demands.

It soon gained the support of the bulk of the middle class, Catholic and Protestant alike. The government could count on no support from the peasantry.

The government and the great landowners could only preserve the old order by naked force. But they were very short of troops.

The bulk of the garrison had been shipped off to fight the American revolutionaries. After the first British defeats in the American colonies, France, Spain and Holland declared war and the British lost control of the sea.

Free from control

Afraid of a French invasion of Ireland, the London and Dublin governments were forced to authorise the raising of an Irish army-the Irish Volunteers. There were 100,000 of them by 1780.

Though exclusively Protestant (Catholics were still forbidden to carry arms) this force could not be relied upon. Both officers and men were anti-government and pro-American.

The parliamentary opposition, all Protestants of some wealth and social standing, aimed to create a genuinely Irish ruling class free from English domination. They wished to 'broaden the base of the property interest represented in parliament by including Catholics as voters, and among those qualified for sitting in parliament.

But above all they wished to free themselves from the control of the English parliament. Led by the barrister Henry Gratton, they forced through, in less than three years, a series of measures that came near to destroying English rule.

The Dublin parliament could not pass any law except by the permission of the English Privy Council. But all government rests, in the last resort, on force and the English government no longer disposed of the real force in Ireland. So, for a time, it was forced to make unheard of concessions to preserve the semblance of rule.

England's weakness

First to go were the restrictions on Irish trade and industry, then the economic restrictions on Catholics were abolished. Finally, in 1782, the right of the English parliament to legislate for Ireland and the right of the English Privy Council to veto legislation of the Dublin parliament were abolished.

The country had, temporarily, secured virtually complete self government. But these concessions had only been granted by the English ruling class in a moment of extreme weakness.

In 1783 the English government gave up the hopeless struggle against the American colonists, recognised American independence and made peace with France, Spain and Holland. It was now in a position to reassert its authority in Ireland.

To revoke the concessions outright would spark off massive resistance from a considerable army. Therefore the work was done slowly. The first need was to

split the Irish movement. Gratton and his wealthy supporters were content with what they had. They feared that further changes might threaten their own power and this fear became very influential among the wealthier sections of the middle classes after the French revolution broke out in 1789.

At the same time the more radical sections of the middle class were inspired

by the French example to move further to als to protect tenants. the left. In 1/91 the Society of United Irishmen was founded in Belfast, then an

almost wholly Protestant town.

Theobald Wolfe Tone, its best-known leader, summed up its object as 'the establishment of the Rights of Man in Ireland'. This phrase, with its associations with the French revolutionaries, was enough to alarm the wealthy. Gratton's men began to lean more and more on the clique around the Viceroy.

The United Irishmen were not socialists-socialism was then unheard of and the industrial working class in its infancy. They were revolutionary democrats like the French Jacobins.

Their programme came to include universal suffrage, equal electoral districts, no property qualifications for MPs, annual parliaments and payment of MPs, as well as the abolition of all political discrimination against Catholics and Dissenters, disestablishment of the Church of Ireland, abolition of tithes and rather vague propos-

IRELAND'S HISTORY

OF REPRESSION

by JAMES WALKER Part two

Ireland was for the time being the freest part of the British Isles. The United Irishmen were able to operate openly for four years during which they became a nation-wide organisation. The Tories could not behave in Ireland as they could at home until the Irish Volunteers had been disarmed, the propertied classes rallied behind the government and the peasantry turned against each other by carefully fostered religious bigotry.

Driven underground

The disarming of the Volunteers was the key. It was achieved by the help of Gratton and his friends in 1793 after substantial British forces had been sent to Ireland. The reward offered to the moderatereformers-as Gratton still regarded himself-was a Catholic Relief Act which gave Catholics the vote on the same basis as Protestants, though not the right to sit in parliament.

With the Volunteers disarmed the banning of the United Irishmen was only a matter of time. They were driven underground in 1795 but their influence continued to grow.

In the same year the Orange Order was established. This was a deliberate act of policy. Religious antagonisms had been declining in Ireland, as elsewhere, in the previous decades.

Protestants had played a large part not only in the parliamentary opposition, which was of necessity Protestant, but also in the revolutionary opposition. Wolfe Tone, Napper Tandy, William Orr and Robert Emmet were all Protestants. The United Irishmen were at least as strong in Ulster as in any other part of Ireland.

'The Orange Order became an organised conspiracy of all the most degenerate social strata-an instrument whereby the lumpen strata were used as tools to break up the solidarity engendered by the United Irishmen, and to replace the struggle for democratic advance by disintegrating it into an embittered war of sect against sect.' But first the United Irishmen had to be crushed. They were now planning a revolution.

Warned by preliminary clashes and its numerous informers, as well as an unsuccessful attempt at a French landing in 1796, the government launched a reign of terror, starting in Ulster and then spreading to the rest of the country. They now had plenty of troops and, armed with martial law, let them loose on the population.

'To extort concessions of concealed arms they resorted to flogging. . . . Picketing, a variety of crucifixion, crowning the

victim with a linen cap filled with hot pitch, roasting the soles of the victims' feet at a turf fire-these were the methods fashionable with the troops engaged in dragooning Ulster.'

A special Act of Indemnity guaranteed against the prosecution of anyone commiting crimes in the repression. As the terror spread south the United Irishmen were forced, in 1798, into a premature rising.

Savage repression

It was widespread but the rebels, most of them peasants, were badly armed and poorly directed. The expected French assistance did not arrive in time. Even so the rising of 1798 terrified not only the London government but the Irish property owners as well.

The repression that followed its defeat was correspondingly savage. The British Commander in Chief, Abercromby, himself described his auxiliary troops as 'A licentious and brutal banditti'.

The London government was now able to reverse Gratton's success. The Dublin parliament was persuaded to vote itself out of existence (1801) as the Scottish one had done a century before. British rule was fully restored.

The Catholic peasants were thoroughly terrorised into the proper state of abjectness before their landlords and Orangeism was systematically fostered in Protestant areas. The chance of an independent Ireland which could go through a 'normal' capitalist development was gone for good.

Why the white racialists greet Banda

by W. Enda

DR HASTINGS BANDA, the life president of Malawi, has been shaking a lot of white hands lately, the same white hands used to strangle any African opposition to white supremacy in South Africa.

Banda's visit to the bastion of apartheid has been on the cards for some years. The week he spent there last month was hailed as a great victory for Vorster's 'outward' or 'dialogue policy' designed to bribe reactionary black leaders into friendly relations with his country.

Such was the feeling of victory that died-in-the-wool white bigots were willing to sit next to a black man at banquets, a hotel took only three days to prepare for the unprecedented event of allowing a black man to sleep between its white-only sheets and, to cap it all, the rabidly racist students at the Afrikaaner University of Stellenbosch cheered Banda onto their campus where normally no blackman is allowed.

Star turn

They heard the black head of state say what he had been brought to South Africa to say: 'I reject the idea of force. I reject the idea of isolation'. Banda got a sta ding ovation.

Banda is the star turn in Vorster's policy, which has a two-fold purpose. Firstly, to reverse South Africa's isolation in Africa and instead to isolate Zambia and Tanzania.

These countries have led the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to take up a militant anti-apartheid I stance. Tanzania calls Banda's visit

'the insult of the century to the OAU'. They also provide the territorial base and training facilities for the African freedom fighters who are battling to liberate their countrymen in Angola, Mozambique and Rhodesia.

The Tories' arms sales to South Africa as well as their current talks with Smith in Rhodesia, plus South Africa's success with its dialogue with reactionary black African politicians are causing Zambia to hesitate. Kaunda's government is beginning to clamp down on the freedom fighters based in his country.

Complete capitulation by black African heads of state would disillusion black militants in the USA who are pressurising the companies in which they are workers to withdraw from South Africa. Partial successes have been gained in the Polaroid and General Motors companies.

Secondly, the dialogue policy is a expansionism. South Africa wants to its manufactured goods, textiles, as dictator of Malawi. tinned foods and steel.

trade, after it had left the 'family', four occasions. prepares to enter the Common Market. the nationalist leaders were forced by officers happy. the people to mouth anti-imperialist was always an exception.

Mr Tembo, the Malawi Minister of banquets.



Too close for comfort? M.C. Botha, Vorster's Minister for Bantu Affairs, listening as Banda makes a speech during his tour

Trade is always at pains to point out that South African subsidiary companies operating there are able to export to the rest of Africa, something which the parent firms are unable to do. Malawi acts as a stepping stone for South African economic imperialism in Africa.

Banda's crisis

The reasons for Banda's complete piece of straightforward economic surrender to white supremacy in Southern Africa are not hard to find. open up markets in black Africa for He is worried about his own security

Opposition parties have been This becomes more urgent as banned but opposition forces do Britain, who continued to give South exist. These have forced Banda into Africa Commonwealth preferences in a serious crisis situation on at least

Zambia is providing a base for During the early 1960s, in the days them. Combined with this threat is when one African country after the the constant fear of an army take-over. other was gaining independence and Banda needs money to keep his

South Africa is well-versed in and anti-apartheid sentiments, an keeping soldiers occupied and sees embargo on South African goods the small Malawi army as a friendly was practically automatic, Malawi force. Portuguese ministers are regularly invited to presidential

The opposition in Malawi has the combined might of the armies of the white minorities against it. South African aid as an insurance against left-wing rebellion at home is high in the minds of collaborating African heads of state.

Straight financial bribes are also attractive to Banda and his kind. Banda is having a status symbol in the form of a new capital city built for him. It is costing Vorster £20m. It will include a military airstrip for the South African airforce.

South African engineers have just completed a railroad which cost them £4m and South African 'advisors' are well entrenched in the civil service.

Only revolution in the black African countries where the heads of state are preparing to collaborate can prevent the grotesque march of South African racialism northward. The cynicism of these black traitors in befriending those who enslave 13 million people in South Africa, outwardly because of the colour of their skin, but in reality for the super profits their cheap labour produces, cannot be tolerated.



Raw look at gangland-but no solutions

'KRAY WITNESS shot in an attempted murder bid,' reads the evening paper headline. This is the supposedly fictionalised world of 'Villain'-London's East End with suitably grey surroundings and foul language. In fact, Richard Burton comes as close as the libel laws allow him to portraying one of the supposed bosses of London's underworld.

Villain bears all the marks of the modern, amoral, tough post-1970 gangster film. There is violence-aplenty, homosexuality, Cockney slang and plentiful smatterings of four-letter words. As such, the film is both topical and exciting and Villain will doubtless be a very successful commercial venture.

The trouble is that try as hard as they can, films like Villain cannot avoid some confrontation with the moral problems raised by violence and gangsterism in our society. Villain's way out is to hide behind a mask of toughness and cynicism.

Society is in some vague, unstated way a nasty sort of place and so we get gangsters. The gang leader is shown to receive and also crave for the very same 'respect' that Members of Parliament and the leaders of society are accorded. More than this, the Members of Parliament are shown to be just as nasty, dirty and degraded as the worst of the gangsters.

The moral? Easy, the world is a terrible, dirty and festering place and only the toughest characters ever get anywhere.

Gentle hints

All this is fine and good, but goes nowhere near far enough. As always in such films, Villain gently hints that MPs and respectable society are involved in gangsterism but there is nothing more than the hint. We are never given any analysis of such involvement and so inevitably the film collapses into more or less romanticised close-ups of gansters, the 'villains' or if you like, the mugs, the front-men.

This enables the director to give us lots of violence, lots of scenes shot in East End pubs and even the statutory shot of a naked woman. We are shown the power, the romanticism, and finally the downfall of men such as the Kray Brothers.

We also have policemen who swear and threaten violence against their clients, such is the unfettered realism of this courageous film. But what we don't get is as much as a hint that while all this takes place, capitalist society keeps merrily rolling along, fattening upon its ill-gotten gains and robberies, maintained by law and order.

Twenty years ago, this situation produced films like The Blue Lamp, eulogies of the heroic policeman. Today, the focus has changed to the anti-hero, the gangster. But the endresult is exactly the same-namely a refusal to handle the real complexity that is our actual society.

Both attitudes are equally irrelevant-'The Life and Times of the Mad Axeman' is just as bad an approach as 'Britain's National Hero -PC 49'.

In short, Villain is an exciting but trivial film. Its excitement is largely fraudulent, stemming from an artificial dramatisation of the life of an East-End gang leader. Unfortunately, the triviality is all too real-Villain neatly avoids all the dilemmas posed by the existence of men like the Kray Brothers and will doubtless be watched with great glee by the Krays of the next generation.

Martin Tomkinson



THE ZIONIST LOBBY has chalked up another victory for freedom of discussion. A chief sub-editor in BBC radio news has been demoted following howls of protest from the Zionists following an article he wrote in the Spectator.

The luckless sub, Mr Fergus Mackenzie, wrote a satirical letter in 18th century style to Mrs Golda Meir, the Israeli premier. It included the remark 'you have proved yourself... indefatigable in driving miserable wretches off your lands or reducing them to their proper status as hewers of wood and drawers of water.'

Mackenzie was accused of 'antisemitism' and a Mr David Spector (!) of the Brighton Israel Friendship League has demanded from the BBC a written reassurance that it will adequately supervise its staff to maintain its 'reputation for integrity'.

The BBC has already bowed to the Zionist frenzy by demoting Mackenzie and docking his salary by £300 a year.

Apart from hiring Mr Spector to oversee any references to Israel, it is difficult to see what further steps the Corporation could take to toe the Israeli line. In most countries of the world, the BBC has its own handpicked correspondents, their pukka English voices homing in on the wavelengths. But the BBC has departed from this time-honoured policy where Israel is concerned.

It has no resident correspondent there. Instead, two local Israeli journalists, Michael Elkins and Ascher Wallfisch, send despatches whose partiality for the Zionist settler state is understandable if distinctly unpalatable.

A BREAKTHROUGH against apartheid? An all-white school in Pretoria has agreed to enroll a black pupil. Before you reach for the champagne, hear this: the pupil in question, Chipo Kachingwe, is the daughter of the newly-appointed Malawi Ambassador to South Africa.



Withering

THE private morals of the Royal Family are beyond description. According to the Sunday Times' suitably hyphenated equestrian correspondent, Miss Pamela Macgregor-Morris, Princess Anne's patriotic victory in the Burghley horse trials on Sunday was due to 'her brilliant little chestnut horse-which was bred by the Queen by the Argentine thoroughbred, Doubtless II out of an Argentine polo pony who was formerly played by the Duke of Edinburgh.'

We though there were stringent laws against bestiality. Call in Lord Longford!

Mutiny on top

CHARITABLE readers will shed a tear for the plight of our captains of industry. The latest issue of the Directory of Directors bemoans the fact that the directors' lot has never

been unhappier. What makes them unhappy? 'The frustration of running businesses in a

country torn by industrial anarchy and with a labour force activated to a large extent by a desire to get as much as possible for doing as little as possible.' Those three-hour lunches in the canteen, golfing afternoons and Bahama holidays are getting a bit much.

The remedy put forward by the Directory says: 'Perhaps it is time directors started going slow or even going on strike now and again. What an amazed outcry there would be from the car workers if Lord Stokes went on strike with the safe keys in his pocket and the employees of British Leyland Motors could not be paid their wages in consequence!' Go on, Stokesy, try it, please.

WHAT is the world coming to? A

Zurich gnome complained this week about the traumas shaking even quiet old Switzerland. 'Things are changing so fast and upsetting the calm of our lives. High prices. Foreigners. Women voting. Why, the other day, a banker here was arrested for embezzlement.'

Take a tip

RESIDENTS of Craigcefnparc, South Wales, have raised a petition with several hundred signatures, complaining about a local council refuse tip which they consider unhygienic. They say in their complaint: 'It is disgusting that council tipping should be allowed in a place where flies, rats, smoke and dirt plague ordinary householders. We consider that the tip should be removed and placed where it can cause no harm or inconvenience.

Councillor J. D. Maunder told a meeting of the local council that the residents should think themselves lucky. But for the tip, which had filled in a former swamp, they would be plagued by mosquitoes not flies and rats.

'If the protesters could be patient for three or four years this place will become a virtual paradise,' he said. The council accepted his advice.



TWO American comedy programmes of some quality are being shown on TV. They are All In The Family (Thursday, BBC1, 7.50) and The Odd Couple (Sunday) ITV).

All in the Family is an adaptation of Johnny Speight's Till Death Us Do Part and Alf Garnett is turned into Archie Bunker. The Odd Couple is based on the film of the same name, but it too resembles a British TV programme-Steptoe and Son.

Both these series are streets ahead of other recent US humour that has been on TV here.

American TV is even more respectable than British TV because it is directly under the control of the various advertisers who sponsor and have a decisive say in the content of each programme. This presumably explains why All in the Family is less offensive to rightwing opinion than Alf Garnett. Garnett was grotesque, with his patriotism and racialism.

Frustration

Archie Bunker seems much more reasonable. However Family still succeeds in having a go at Archie Bunker and his views. For instance, last Thursday a black youngster calls at the Bunker's house and mentions how well his parents are doing in business. Then we see an extended shot of Archie's face suggesting his frustration that any black person could be better off than him.

Carroll O'Connor, playing Archie, does this superbly with the minimum of facial movement. Much of the humour is like thisquite slow and quiet but effective, even if it had to be created this way to please the sponsors.

The real trouble is that certain areas are taboo for Family which were possible for Alf Garnett, like swearing. Speight often had to fight for his script not to be cut to make it less offensive, but he was allowed 20 'bloodies' in each programme.

The Odd Couple is about two divorced men, Felix and Oscar, who share the same flat. Like Steptoe it shows two people in a trapped relationship. At the same time as tremendous conflict, there is also a mutual dependence between the two. In this dilemma human frailty and a deep pathos are shown.

Demands

Like Family, The Odd Couple is very funny, finely acted, but also less hard-hitting. Felix is like the old Steptoe, a hypochondriac who limits what the other person can do by making too many demands on him. Oscar, in similar fashion to the young Steptoe, resents the hold that Felix has over him.

But the old Steptoe is much worse than Felix. The old man is really mean and selfish, Felix is a hypochondriac and obsessively finicky about tidiness, which is more tolerable. Similarly Harold, the young Steptoe, is much weaker as a person than Oscar and more given to ridiculous ambitions and illusions in himself.

The conflict between Steptoe and son is therefore much sharper than between Oscar and Felix. Harold is frequently trying to leave home for good. Oscar merely rages ineffectively about how he would like to do something violent to Felix.

Recommended in the film column recently and now being shown on TV is The Sorrow and The Pity which shows many a middle class Nazi collaborator in German occupied France. (BBC2, Friday, 8pm).

Phil Hall

'Sparks'

fight the

unholy

alliance

in the recruitment of labour.

as solid as ever.

Board.

available.

By DAVE PEERS

THERE is a new notice on the main

gate of the Alcan aluminium smelter

site at Lynemouth, Northumberland.

letter from Don Edwards, regional secretary

of the Electricians and Plumbers Union,

which states that there is no dispute at the

site, and promises the union's co-operation

of members of Mr Edwards's union. For

the last seven weeks 396 electricians em-

ployed by N.G. Bailey and Company have

now escalated into an open confrontation

with the body which determines wage

rates and conditions in the electrical con-

tracting industry-the Joint Industry

union officials prevents any on-site negotia-

tion of wages and has the power to fine

and discipline workers. Since it was intro-

duced three years ago the pay of electrical

workers has fallen further and further

Profits

90 to 100 per cent more than the highest-

paid electricians, and I was told that

labourers employed by other contractors

were earning more than 80p an hour

compared to the electricians' rate of 53p.

the JIB has done the job it was designed for.

N.G. Bailey recorded a bumper 28.6 per

cent profit in 1969-the latest figures

rates in line with those of other workers

on the site. But right behind Baileys stands

the JIB, and both will have to be defeated

the JIB the board would be finished,

striking a body-blow at the right-wing

ETU-PTU leadership whose brainchild it

Blacked

well enough what is at stake. Last week

Bailey sacked the strikers, and with union

approval, announced a nation-wide recruit-

the electricians-all work is blacked and

weekly contributions are collected for the

£4.30 for the strike and are trying to get

financial support for the Alcan men in the

area. More financial and moral support is

Committee, c/o Brian Walls, 67 Julian

The employers and union officials know

Other workers on the site are backing

Newcastle International Socialists raised

Send donations, etc., to Shop Stewards

if the men are to win their claim.

ing campaign to replace them.

needed to keep up the struggle.

Avenue, Newcastle upon Tyne 6.

For the employers, on the other hand,

The Alcan sparks are demanding wage

If the Alcan workers succeed in defying

On the Alcan site other tradesmen earn

behind that of other trades.

This unholy alliance of employers and

been on unofficial strike, and the strike is

A few yards away stands a picket line

The dispute began over wages but has

It is an enlarged photostat copy of a

TUC: sham battle on the Act

'A SHAM BATTLE', was how Vincent Flynn, General Secretary of SOGAT, the paperworkers' union, described the TUC meeting in Blackpool on Tuesday. True the Congress ordered member unions not to register under the Tory Industrial Relations law. But it did so in a confused and halfhearted manner.

SW Reporter

unions not to register. Yet the same leaders, with only three exceptions, opposed motion 14 from SOGAT that would automatically have expelled from the TUC any union that

broke the line.

In many unions secret and not-sosecret preparations for registration are already going ahead. While the General Council has officially given advice against registration, even its own chairman, Lord Cooper, has openly told his union to ignore

that advice. If a few large unions do cooperate with the Act, then many others will rapidly do the same.

Harry Irwin, deputy secretary of the Transport Workers, virtually admitted as much. 'Non-co-operation can only work,' he said, 'if all unions accept it and act the same.' In other words, should the General and Municipal Workers break TUC policy, then the TGWU will feel justified in following suit.

The so-called left leaders refused to close the door to such a progressive collapse before the government by voting for the SOGAT motion. Instead they did their utmost to persuade the SOGAT delegation to withdraw it.

Among those acting as a messenger boy for the left union leaders in this enterprise was the industrial organiser of the Communist Party, Bert Ramelson, who personally begged Vincent Flynn to withdraw.

'Conspiracy'

Even Vic Feather had to recognise how close together the so-called left and the right at the Congress really were. 'If people are going to stand up and be counted,' he argued, 'it is motion 14 which is the hard line one, not composite number 3. The composite is so much in line with the General Council report that it ought to have been withdrawn.'

But it was up to Vincent Flynn, moving the SOGAT resolution, to sum up what was really happening:

There is a conspiracy at this conference to suggest that some sort of battle is taking place between the General Council and the movers of composite motion number 3. It is a sham battle. If you look at composite motion number 3 you will see that they are trying to do what they did before...Mr Irwin made it quite clear that the composite leaves a get out.'

He described the story of the TUC campaign against the Bill as 'a mixture of tragedy and farce'. 'The so-called leaders of the trade union movement, left as well right, see the ordinary workers as a stage

army to be used only for theatricals.'

The Blackpool TUC voted for nonregistration. But the attitude of most of the leaders makes it clear that the fight is far from over. Rank and file militants in all unions are going to have to struggle hard if they are to prevent one leader after another capitulating to the Tory

SUPPORT **FLOWS IN** FOR ULSTER INQUIRY

by Jimmy Grealy

THERE has been a further flood of signatures this week in support of the campaign launched by the Labour Committee Against Internment. The commit-

tee's five demands are: 1. Immediate publication of the names of those being held without trial in Northern Ireland.

2. A statement of the reasons for the

arrest in every case. 3. An independent inquiry by MPs and

trade unionists into allegations of brutality against prisoners. 4. Inspection of places of confinement with right of access to all detainees by

British MPs. 5. Release of all detainees or right of

trial for all not released. A full list of signatories will be published next week. Among those declaring their

support for the LCAI this week are:-Reg Birch, executive member AUEW. Kath Kelly, convenor, shop stewards committee, Plessey, Ilford.

Alan Sapper, general secretary ACTT. Lawrence Daly, general secretary NUM (personal capacity).

Ernie Roberts, asst general secretary AUEW.

Jessie Stevens, president Bristol Trades

Council. Jim Murray, president Tyne and Blythe

District AUEW. Norman Atkinson, MP. Stevenage Trades Council.

Dave Thomas, president Harlow Trades Council.

C.M. Chambers, regional secretary, TGWU, NE region.

Joe Black, chairman Clyde District Confed, EETU/PTU official.

Stan Orme, MP. The address of the LCAI is c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Labour Party Conference

Public Debate

How to Fight the Tories Stan Orme, MP and Norman Atkinson, MP (Tribune) versus

Paul Foot and John Palmer (IS)

7.15pm. Thursday 7 October, The Dome, New Road, Brighton. Davison, London busman, on Public

Transport. Thursday 16 September 8pm The Spotted Dog, 72 Garrett Lane SW18— near Wandsworth Town Hall. KINGSTON IS public mtng: The Struggle in Ireland. Speakers John Gray (PD) and Jimmy Grealy (IS and LCAI). Friday 10 September 8pm Congregational Church Hall, Eden Street, Kingston.

Union leader after union leader went

to the rostrum to explain the iniquities of the law and to argue for full nonco-operation with it. Most of them supported a composite motion that instructed

STREET ER 600 SACKINGS

By SW Reporter

BRISTOL:-Lightning strike tactics have been workers on Monday. chosen by British Aircraft Corporation workers fighting against the 1600 sackings announced suddenly last week.

This move was decided after a mass walkout-the third in five days-by more than 3000 manual and staff

They voted overwhelmingly to carry out a series of lightning strikes, and to refuse to accept redundancy notices or severance pay.

On the shop floor the ETU, the electricians' union, has been badly hit by the sackings. In the main aircraft assembly hall they are threatened with 40 per cent redundancy-

including all their stewards except the chief steward.

Most workers listed in the Commercial A Division sackings at Filton and Fairford are in the design section-so DATA has been badly hit.

Refusal

Five thousand workers held a 'spontaneous' walk-out of the factory last Friday. The local Engineering Employers Federation was invaded by more than 1000 angry workers, who demanded negotiations with the Joint Trade Union Committee over the redundancies.

The bosses were still trying to play the

old game of 'divide and rule'. The first refusal to talk to the committee was an attempt to set staff against shop floor, but last Friday's demo forced them

to meet the committee. In a last ditch stand to keep the men divided they insisted that only stewards from the Commercial Aircraft Division, and none from the recently set-up Guided Weapons Division, would be allowed to

negotiate redundancies. The BAC workers are continuing their overtime ban and Lew Gray, the works convenor, told the meeting on Monday that any overtime by non-union workers would not be recorded by the time-keeper.

Selective

DATA looks like adopting the effective tactic of a work to rule in conjunction with the shop floor.

BAC workers have, as well, two good bargaining weapons: at Fairford the 002 prototype Concorde can be quickly grounded while at Filton, since the preproduction Concorde has not yet left the main assembly hall, it should be easy to keep it within the factory and stop it flying.

The sackings are the first of a series. They are selective and include apprentices just out of their time. One worker who had been with BAC for 37 years was kicked out, while others new to the same department were retained.

The local Confederation of Unions, worried by increasing redundancies in Bristol, have resolved to call demonstrations against the redundancies at BAC and other engineering factories in the city.

The fight by BAC workers is a focus in the city for opposition to redundancies in the engineering industry.

and social.

FIGHT REDUNDANCIES—is UCS the way forward? IS public meeting Sunday 12 September Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham, 3pm. Speakers include UCS shop steward and Tony Cliff.

IS TEACHERS meeting Sunday 12 Sept. 11am, 2 Albany Terrace, NW1. SWANSEA IS meeting at Red Cow pub

Thursday 16 September 7,30pm. LAMBETH IS public meeting: The Dollar Crisis, speaker John Palmer. Wednesday

15 September, 8.15pm. Tulse Hill Tavern, corner Tulse Hill and Norwood Rd. SE24. HARLOW IS Socialist Day School: Nigel Harris on Imperialism and the Third World. Ross Pritchard on Industry, Roger Protz on the Revolutionary Socialist Party. Saturday 18 September, Poplar Kittens, Bush Fare, Harlow 11am-5.30. Followed by barbecue

BOLTON IS public meeting on UCS and the fight against unemployment. Speakers George Harrison AUEW convenor Vulcan Works, Stan Banks Senior ETU stewards Hawker Siddeley, Thursday 12 September, 8pm, The Spinnes Hall, St George's Rd.

WANDSWORTH IS public meeting: Chris!

Last week's mass meeting of Coventry engineering workers

One-day toolrooms strike hits 140 firms

By JOHN WILKIN

COVENTRY:-The first of a series kers brought factories to a halt on Monday. They are demanding the continuation of the 30-year-old Tool Room Agreement, which affects

An estimated 140 firms in the city were hit by the strike. Chrysler and

The eight-week-old overtime ban and

of one-day strikes by toolroom wor-10,000 engineering workers.

Jaguar laid off a total 1000 workers.

work-to-rule has also seriously affected production at Coventry car factories. In several, dozens of machines have been blacked. AUEW leaders have described the dis-

pute as 'the greatest onslaught on organised labour by employers in Coventry since the war.' The agreement gives an hourly rate

based on the average piecework earnings of production workers, and now stands at just over £1.

No Strings

It includes the principle of pay increases without strings-which has a crucial role to play when British Leyland replace piecework with Measured Day Work in their Morris and Triumph plants soon.

Though Chrysler have had measured day work for two years, their tool room is still on a tool rate agreement, renegotiated every two years to keep to the average-so defeating the object of Measured Day Work by giving a wage increase with no strings.

No wonder the new Chrysler agreement, just negotiated, ignores this clause.

With the prospect of measured day without strings must be firmly established. The fight to defend the Coventry Tool Room Agreement is vital to meet the Tory attack on the living standards of the

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work at British Leyland factories in Coventry, the principle of pay increases

working class.