

RED WEEK

5 May 1977

No. 197

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NO TO ORANGE RULE NO TO BRITISH RULE

IAN PAISLEY has made it quite clear what the Loyalists in the North of Ireland are after:

'The security forces must go into IRA territory, their very breeding places, and root them out lock, stock and barrel'.

He has also made it clear what he means by the 'IRA'. On 15 April he said:

'There is no difference between a full-blooded Sinn Féiner and an SDLP man'.

Paisley is calling for massive repression of the Catholic population; he makes no distinction between supporters of the IRA and those of the reformist Social Democratic and Labour Party. He calls for the destruction of all their 'breeding grounds' — the

Catholic ghettos.

This is what is behind the Loyalists' attempts at a general strike. This is why only the most right-wing fanatic in this country can have any sympathy with the Loyalists.

A general strike can be a 'socialist weapon', but in

this instance it is being used for the purpose of the most massive repression of one section of workers — the Catholic workers.

The Loyalists' other stated aim — a return to the old Stormont parliament — has the same motive: a demand for unhampered Unionist rule.

Roy Mason pledged the British Army to break the strike. It is in the interests of both workers here and in Ireland that such strikes be broken. But the Catholic population cannot trust the British Army to do so. It was only last month that

Mason and the rest of the Labour Cabinet were offering the Loyalists all sorts of deals if they maintained Labour in power.

It was only two weeks ago that the lawyer representing the British Government at the Strasbourg Court of Human Rights gave that Government's opinion of Loyalism when he 'laid the blame for destruction on the IRA. In comparison Loyalist terror was small'.

When the troops first went in to the North of Ireland in 1969, then they too were meant to 'defend' Catholics. Today as the troops have Bloody Sundays chalked up in their record, as they stand in-

dicted of the torture of Catholics, who dares talk about such 'defence'?

In the latest edition of **Republican News** the Provisionals said they were confident the mobilised population will fail in behind the (Republican Movement's) co-ordination and in the event of mass defence it is known that the entire auxiliary section of the Irish Republican Army will be on stand by.

They have also called for the formation of street committees, area committees, with a large degree of spontaneous leadership.

All support must now go to this Republican resistance against the threats of Paisley and his friends.

Only determined hostility should greet this cause of the Protestant workers.

Most of all the latest crisis of British policy in Ireland make it more urgent than ever that militants demand Britain takes up the one option it has never tried — that it gets out.

- ★ Self-determination for the Irish people as a whole!
- ★ Troops Out Now!
- ★ Solidarity with the Republican resistance!

Turn to page 7 for what lies behind the strike threat.

All Out Against Renyon Bill 14 May

Evening Standard

- a fight for real press freedom needed

Despite the bewildering parade of board-room resignations, secret negotiations, on-off deals, denials and rumours in Fleet Street this week, we should not lose sight of what is at stake in the London Evening Standard-Evening News crisis. Whatever the outcome, some 2,000 or more jobs are likely to be lost for ever and the monopoly of the media by a smaller and smaller section of the ruling class intensified.

The present merger talks must be seen in the context of a long-term crisis on Fleet Street. This is a result of falling circulation, lower advertising revenue, competition from TV and an astronomical rise in the cost of newsprint (240 per cent since 1970).

be the staff on the News who bear the heaviest brunt of redundancies, because their redundancy terms are far inferior to those negotiated recently on the Standard! Nevertheless, 'golden handshakes' totalling between £9-13 million are being talked about.

LOSS

In the case of the Evening News, owned by Associated Newspapers, this led to a £4 million loss last year and a drop in daily circulation from 1.7 million in 1950, to 573,000 today.

However, the main motivation for the merger talks comes from Beaverbrook Newspapers, owners of the Daily Express and the Evening Standard, who unlike Associated rely almost entirely on the press for capital. Their scheme is to sell the Standard, which has been making a small profit recently, for around £5 million; they can then use this to shore up the ailing Express, the blue jewel in a rather tarnished Beaverbrook crown.

Ironically, it is likely to

The picture has been further complicated by the possible intervention of city financier Jimmy Goldsmith, best known for his ruthless and single-minded attempt to crush the satirical magazine Private Eye in the courts — obviously a man well-suited to play the role of 'press defender'. Waiting in the wings also for their chance to pounce are Lorrho's 'Tiny' Rowland, plunderer of half of Africa, and Robert Maxwell, fresh from his abortive 'rescue' of the Scottish Daily News.

FROZEN

Whether a straight merger is on the agenda, or some form of financial support for Beaverbrook, the whole deal has now been frozen for four to six

weeks, ostensibly for Goldsmith to consider the situation. Doubtless, too, the threat of immediate strike action by the print unions, on announcement of any merger, has had some influence on this decision.

CUTS

However, one thing is clear — whatever scheme is dreamt up at the end of this period, it will be one which best serves the interests of the employers and press barons. Merger or 'phased reconstruction' of the Beaverbrook press can only be achieved by cutting jobs.

So how have the 7,500 workers on the News and the Standard responded? Apart from the strike threat their response has been minimal, centring mainly on a futile appeal to Roy Hattersley, Prices Secretary, to intervene, an advertisement by Standard workers in their paper demanding that 'the public' have a say in the paper's future.

On the journalistic side, the first joint meeting between the two NUJ chapels never even took place, due to the Standard journalists' refusal to participate.

At the level of the bureaucracies, Joe Wade of the NGA and Bill Keys of SOGAT have put forward nothing resembling a strategy for their members — as far as they are concerned it doesn't matter who takes over so long as these jobs are saved.

Unfortunately they don't

answer the question of what will happen when any merger or financial aid is made conditional on jobs being cut.

In addition, it is likely that the month's breathing space will be lost, while the workers allow the employers to cobble together the most profitable deal for them.

Central to any strategy for dealing with these problems is the question of workers' control of editorial content — unfortunately the long-standing Achilles heel of all media workers. The myth of 'press freedom' still prevails on Fleet Street.

It is clear that printers and journalists cannot fight alone. However, no other section of the labour movement is going to lift a finger to preserve the News or the Standard in their present form. They are both anti-working class newspapers, which consistently attack and denigrate trade union action.

OCCUPY

What then could be done? A tactic which could begin to put the workers in control of the tempo of events would be an immediate occupation of one or both papers by the printers and journalists.

The papers could then be opened up to the views of the broader labour movement; community groups and other bodies normally denied access to Fleet Street papers.

Workers on the two papers could use the press to campaign in the broader labour movement for a solution which did not involve redundancy. For example, they could demand that the Government supply

finance — possibly levied from other sections of the media — to maintain the two London papers.

DIVERSITY

In the process they would then be seen as the best fighters for that much-valued, but little practiced democratic principle — the 'maximum diversity of press ownership'.

Let us be clear what should not be attempted. Socialists are opposed to any solution of the 'workers co-op' variety. No worker should take the responsibility for the running of a capitalist enterprise. The Scottish Daily News experiment showed the disastrous results of such a policy.

Neither does the solution lie in a state-controlled press — the question of financing via the state must be separated from that of editorial control of such newspapers. Such control must rest firmly in the hands of the producers, whose responsibility is to ensure access and accountability.

Given the current state of the Fleet Street unions and the large amount of redundancy money which will be floated to divide and carve up the workforce we should be under no illusion that such proposals will be taken up.

However, only a strategy which pre-empt the press barons' wheeler-dealing through direct action, relies on the labour movement for its defence and takes up the vexed question of editorial content can begin to provide a socialist solution to the chronic problems of the 'consciousness industry'.
Carl Gardner & Geoffrey Sheridan.

Hornsey JOURNAL

Forty years on: the evil march..



..of fascism fouls our streets

This is the superb response by journalists on the Hornsey Journal to the terror march of the National Front through the newspaper's circulation area on 23 April.

On two inside pages, the journalists document the response of local anti-fascists to the fascists' threat, record the violence of the NF thugs and the partiality of the police, and draw the lessons in an editorial which would not be out of place in the socialist press.

Journalists on the newspaper have played a leading role in the campaign to strip racism from the media. Two years ago most of the staff refused to work on an issue which carried an advert for an NF march. Last week it was the turn of journalists on the Hackney Gazette, who took a unanimous decision to strike for four days when the editor

refused to remove an advert for an NF election meeting.

Both newspapers are part of the National Union of Journalists' North London branch, which held a special meeting at the start of the local elections to discuss how journalists should deal with racist candidates and the general issue of racism.

The guide-lines adopted were strongly supported by a speaker from the Campaign Against Racism in the Media (CARM), and have evidently infuriated the fascists. Last week The Times published a 500-word letter from NF gauleiter Martin Webster, detailing the branch's recommendations and denouncing such an 'outrageously subversive concept of a free press'. Incitement to race hatred is, of course, a 'freedom' we should cherish.



DON'T VOTE FASCIST

ANTI-FASCIST CAMPAIGN ANTI-F

WEST COUNTRY

Paul Chamberlin, leading member of the Transport and General Workers building workers in Bristol and delegate to the Trades Union Council was viciously kicked, dragged and punched by fascist National Front stewards at a meeting in the Speedwell School in Bristol on Tuesday. Outside, demonstrators mounted a militant picket, including students who came to protest the use of their schools by the National Front.

Eight NF heavies moved against Chamberlin when he tore down racist posters at the front of the hall. The amount of force used to eject him from the meeting — including banging his head on the floor — provoked protest even amongst the 50 people attending the meeting, according to local press reports.

Philip Gannaway is the chairman of the Bristol NF. He is also a delegate from the electricians' union on the Bristol Trades Union Council. He supported the violent assault on a 'fellow' TUC delegate.

'I don't regret what happened. The degenerates, the loafers and the wasters, drug addicts and immigrants — they are the people with the most to lose if the National Front came to power'.
The meeting ended with a

police attack on demonstrators involving four arrests. Comrades from the Socialist Workers Party were amongst those arrested. One way to ensure they are defended and an end put to any inroads already made by the fascists in the Bristol area is to set up an ongoing anti-fascist committee. At present this does not exist.

The Bristol labour movement must take its responsibility in fighting the reactionary ideas of the fascists. Local trade unionists will be demanding the local TUC take the initiative in setting up such a committee.

Gloucester was the scene of the following evening's fascist rally. In an attempt to avoid the demonstrators, the speakers and audience were ushered by the police out of a rear exit. Demonstrators then marched through the town.

* Three of those arrested on Tuesday in Bristol have been charged with 'conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace'. The other faces an obstruction charge. The Defence Committee which has been set up is calling for a picket of the Court on 18 May. Please send money or statements from witnesses of the arrests to: Defence Committee, 5 Brent Road, Horfield, Bristol.

CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND'S newly formed Anti-Fascist Campaign mounted a picket at a National Party election meeting held at the Darlington library last Monday.

The picket was one of the first actions of the Campaign, which was launched after the National Front announced that it was standing a candidate in Hartlepool's Brus ward. The Campaign's first inaugural meeting was sup-

ported by the Teeside Polytechnic Students Union executive, most of the left groups as well as several activists from the local Women's Action Group.

Since then, anti-fascists have been busy leafletting in the town centre and amongst residents of the Brus ward. They have decided to campaign for a Council ban to prevent fascists from using Council premises in future.

Anti-fascist activity is hotting up in the West Country. Two successful anti-fascist pickets were mounted there last week. Each attracted over 100 militants determined to counter the racist propaganda of the National Front.

send in your reports!



National Front thugs beat up anti-fascist militant Paul Chamberlin.

PORT TALBOT:

Support grows despite union leaders

FRANK CHAPPLE sent a personal letter to each of the Port Talbot's 560 striking electricians last week.

Instructing the strikers to go back to work, he states that there will be no negotiations while the strike continues. His intention was clearly to use the full weight of the national executive committee of the EETPU to split the strike, but the reaction was less favourable than he expected.

Many members, now entering their seventh week of unofficial strike action, threw the letter away in disgust. And at last Friday's mass meeting there were many angry words condemning the union's shabby role. It is now EETPU's leadership which is the main obstacle to negotiations taking place.

RULES

Chapple also wrote letters to the stewards committee informing them that if they did not recommend a return to work they would be in contravention of the union rules and policies.

The mass meeting trumped this threat by endorsing the stewards committee's conduct of the strike.

The reaction was so hostile that many strikers are talking of leaving the union, tearing up stewards credentials and joining another union.

SUPPORT

This dangerous talk is countered by the flood of support for the strike and the wave of critical resolutions to the NEC from other EETPU branches showing the real groundswell which must be built up in opposition to the Chapple leadership of the EETPU. But the real demoralisation with the union is a big problem.

The scepticism about Chapple's recent call for more democracy in the union is shown in the comment of one of the strike leaders who said, 'I don't know of one member

who voted for Chapple in the last election yet he got in by a landslide'.

What Chapple fails to mention in his letter was the agreement made between the craft unions and the BSC at Shepcote Lane in Sheffield last February.

A copy of that agreement signed by the BSC management and national negotiators of the AUEW and the EETPU has come into the hands of the strike committee and has been circulated to the media. It states that an extra 8p an hour will be paid to craftsmen due to 'the changing environment at Shepcote Lane' and the 'advanced technology requiring new and specific skills'. It also agrees to talks on further increases.

POCKETS

This money is now in the pockets of the Shepcote Lang craftsmen. It is exactly the sort of deal that Port Talbot electricians are

BOB FERGUS

looking for and makes nonsense of the refusal of the BSC and the EETPU to negotiate due to the Social Contract. But as Wyn Bevan, convenor of the stewards committee, said: 'Deals which break the Social Contract have been made the length and breadth of the Country. We are going to get the same.'

ISOLATE

Despite the strength of the strike — and it is very strong — these manoeuvres by the EETPU bureaucracy to isolate the strike must take their toll. That is why last week's public meeting, called by the strike committee with the active support of Red Weekly supporters and attended by over 250 local people, was so important.

After hearing all sides of the arguments, with many of the decisive contributions coming from rank and file members of other unions in the works, a vote on a press statement from the strike committee resulted in only 3 votes against and 26 abstentions.

This opportunity for those hostile to the strike to make their presence felt was completely stifled by the overwhelming validity of the strikers' case.

BROADSHEET

Red Weekly supporters have argued that this case must now be taken, in the form of a broadsheet, to the rank and file of the other steel unions and to pitheads and factories, with a direct appeal for active support. That is the key to breaking down Chapple's isolating tactics.

The stewards committee is now producing such a broadsheet, and Red Weekly readers throughout Britain are urged to send for copies and make every effort to maximise the support for the strike. The left has an enormous responsibility here.

Many strikers are highly appreciative of the active support of Red Weekly and other left groups. The task is to counter the lack of coverage in the media by turning this strike into a national campaign.

ADVENTUROUS

Be adventurous! If you are short of ideas get the IMG's excellent support leaflet and distribute it to local workers, especially electricians.

This strike is now the most outstanding struggle against the Social Contract. It demands the maximum support of every socialist.

Further information and collection sheets — plus resolutions and money — to Bill Curtis, Secretary of the Stewards Committee, 23



FRANK CHAPPLE

RED WEEKLY

IN FOCUS

All out for women's abortion rights on 14 May

OF ALL THE SOCIAL ISSUES exacerbated by the present crisis, it has been abortion which has provoked the broadest and deepest response in the working class. This issue has also been the focus of activity for a wide range of reactionary forces — many of whom have seized on the issue in their drive to re-introduce some 'stability' into British society. For them, women tied to the family is an essential element in maintaining the status quo.

Just as the Labour leaders have failed to give the lead on other social issues — like racism — they have miserably reneged on the abortion question. They have failed to mount an effective fight against persistent legislative measures and they have never challenged the cuts in abortion facilities which have resulted from the NHS cutbacks.

The crisis of leadership in the workers movement has been laid bare in the fight to defend and extend women's abortion rights. The Labour Abortion Rights Campaign has put the Labour leaders under the spotlight. This campaign has vigorously taken up the fight to force MPs to abide by labour movement policy on abortion, for 'free abortion on request on the NHS'.

The picket at MP Michael O'Halloran's Labour Party offices in Islington last month will be followed this week by a similar picket at MP Tom Cox's surgery.

Both these MPs have flouted Labour Party Conference decisions and consistently ignored the interests of women, and of the working class as a whole. In the case of Cox, bodies of the local labour movement have been drawn into action. Cox is sponsored by the electricians' union, the EETPU. Now the local Wadden branch has censured him, demanding that he attends the next meeting to account for his views on abortion.

The Labour Abortion Rights Campaign also demands that the Government enforce a three-line whip on the abortion issue. This happens in every other issue of vital concern to the working class. Abortion is no different. If the door is left open to the right wing or the Catholic Church imposes its views, then the workers movement will be divided on this issue. Divisions on issues like abortion will weaken the ability of the working class to fight back against Labour's attacks.

The National Abortion Campaign has policies to ensure that every sector of the British working class is drawn into the fight to defend women's abortion rights. It is committed to fighting for free abortion on demand and the right of women to choose, through mass, independent activity.

NAC recently put out an appeal to the labour, women's and student movement at its annual Conference for each to take its responsibility in the fight. The Women's Liberation Movement responded immediately. 2,000 women gathered at its national conference unanimously pledged their support for 14 May.

Every socialist should follow the lead of the Women's Movement. A powerful demonstration on 14 May against William Benyon's anti-abortion Bill; for free, safe, legal abortion; and for the right of women to

ASCIST CAMPAIGN

AFTER THE APRIL 23rd DEMO.



Photo: JOHN STURROCK/Report

Black youth arrested on 23 April action is frogmarched in and out of the National Front column.

THE BEST form of defence is attack. This is the unanimous position of all the organisations involved in planning the 23 April demonstration against the National Front which ended with the arrest of nearly 70 anti-racists due to police action.

Meeting on Sunday night, representatives from Tottenham and Hornsey Labour Parties, Haringey Trades Council, the Indian Workers Association of Great Britain, the International Marxist Group and the Socialist Workers Party and anti-racist and anti-fascist groups from throughout London, decided to go on the offensive about Saturday's arrests. So much so that we decided not to call ourselves a defence committee but the 23 April Committee Against Racism and Fascism.

Phil Marfleet from the Socialist Workers Party pointed out that the counter-demonstration had a tremendous impact on both the Front and the anti-racist forces and explained the success of the anti-

racist picket of the Front's major election meeting in Hoxton on Saturday.

Bernie Grant from Tottenham Labour Party announced that his Union of Post Office Workers branch would be affiliating to the committee and he wanted to see it built into a broad London-wide (at least!) anti-fascist movement which would go on calling actions against the fascists.

A representative from Haringey Trades Council said that they would be organising a trade union enquiry into the Front's march and police action on 23 April. Their decision followed discussions at an 80-strong meeting called by Reading Trades Council whose Vice-President was arrested and roughed over by the police.

The organising committee for the 23 April Committee Against Racism and Fascism, including representatives of all the major organisations involved, was appointed at the meeting. Its first job will be guaranteeing the largest possible trade union and labour movement representation at a mass defence

meeting called for 3pm on Sunday 8 May at Tottenham Trades Hall, Bruce Grove, N15. At that meeting we can start to assess the support we've got and the steps that need to be taken to build the defence campaign.

Collection sheets have been produced, a bank account opened in the name of the 23 April Committee Against Racism and Fascism and now we're waiting for the money to start rolling in. All cheques and monies should be sent c/o Hornsey Labour Party Rooms, 28 Middle Lane, London N8. Telephone enquiries are being handled by Kev Skinner on 800-8880, particularly co-ordination of legal defence and witnesses.

But the main thing is to stay on the attack. We want speakers invited to trade union, student union and Labour Party meetings, not just to discuss what happened on 23 April, but to discuss how a broad-based anti-fascist movement committed to action against the fascists can be built.

MICK GOSLING

Over 200 hospital workers and supporters took part in a Day of Action on 28 April organised by the newly-formed Wandsworth, Merton and Sutton Area Health Authority Joint Trade Union Committee Against the Cuts.

The action was organised against the impending closure of the Weir Maternity Hospital in Balham, South London. It is the first of several small hospitals in the area facing the axe.

Striking hospital workers picketed the Weir during the day. Then they marched through the streets of Balham and Tooting for a mass meeting at St. George's Hospital.

Ron Keating, Assistant General Secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, explained that the planned closure of the Weir was a direct result of Government policy. This is a policy — he said — to which NUPE was opposed. He also said that the Weir was part of the national fight back against the cuts.

He failed to mention, however, the Day of Action on 11 May — an action which NUPE is supposedly building. Angry workers therefore demanded to know why NUPE continues to support the Social Contract and why it refuses to plan a nationally co-ordinated fight back against the cuts. These questions remained unanswered by Keating. He remained silent for the rest of the meeting.



Over 100 marchers demanded 'A Woman's Right to choose' in a march in Catford, South London last Saturday. This local action was a build-up for the national demonstration called by NAC on 14 May.

Ernie Taylor, NUPE shop steward at the Weir, described the anger felt by the staff there. He said that all but two wards had been closed down and converted into carpeted AHA offices. Some of these wards had been converted only months before into day rooms at a

cost of tens of thousands of pounds — never to be used for their original purpose.

Speaker after speaker rose to demand a fight back. Unfortunately no clear plan of action came out of the meeting. It broke up amidst some confusion. The Committee of

Area Stewards in the Health Service (CLASH), in co-operation with the Hounslow and EGA stewards, is hoping to organise a mass meeting of Weir workers this week to discuss further action. Moves are also afoot to set up a Defence Campaign Committee. This

will extend support for the Weir workers in the local labour movement.

All donations and messages of support to Ernie Taylor, NUPE shop steward, Weir Maternity Hospital, Weir Road, Balham, London SW12. CATHY ADAMS

ALL OUT 11 MAY

THE LONDON Region of the National Union of Public Employees has called a one-day strike and demonstration against the cuts. Support for the demonstration has so far come from six other unions — NALGO, UCATT, CPSA, SCPS, NAFHE, and the Tailor and Garment workers — and from the No. 8 Division of ASTMS.

The Greater London As-

CUTS KILL AGAIN

FOR THE SAKE of saving a measly pound per person, the cuts of the mad-axe-man Healey have killed at least 35 people in the last few months in the North of England.

This is what lies behind the recent deaths in old peoples' homes caused by the flu epidemic which has swept the region. Influenza virus, which causes breathing problems, vomiting and deadly chest infections, has attacked homes and elderly patient wards in Northumberland, Tyne-side and West Yorkshire.

Such deaths are predictable. As a Department of Health circular reminded health authorities last September over 70 per cent of

sociation of Trades Councils and the South-East Region of the TUC have also supported the day of action.

The way to reverse the cuts is not by dividing public sector workers fighting for better services from industrial workers fighting for better pay. Hounslow hospital is threatened with closure. The hospital workers responded by occupying

to keep it open. Heathrow workers have given their full support to the work-in. They have shown in practice how to fight back.

It's not by Alan Fisher's wheeling and dealing, trying to exchange wages for jobs. It's by building a united movement of all workers against the cuts, unemployment and the Social Contract.

The demonstration's organisers plan to march to the Temple for yet another lobby of Parliament. The Committee of London Area Stewards in the Health Service (CLASH) have called for the march to go to the TUC.

This must be supported as a way of demanding that the TUC break off talks over wage restraint and turn towards building national action in defence of jobs, services and living standards.

Demonstrate 11 May
Assemble Speakers Corner
12 Noon

* Members and supporters of the IMG's GLC election campaign have distributed ten thousand leaflets arguing the case for a massive turn-out on 11 May and the fight for socialist policies.

DEMO BOOSTS 38 WEEK-OLD GRUNWICK STRIKE



Part of the lunch-time march in solidarity with Grunwick workers, organised by the SE Region of the TUC.

FIFTEEN HUNDRED demonstrators showed their solidarity with the 38-week old strike of Grunwick workers last Wednesday lunch-time. At the rally following the march through Willeaden in north west London Jack Dunn — executive member of the National Union of Miners — called on the TUC to cut all power and postal services to Grunwicks. This is the kind of action needed to put a successful end to the fight of Grunwick workers for basic trade union rights and the recognition of their union, APEX.

The march was supported by many trade unionists, including APEX, UCATT and the AUEW. There were also contingents from the Kent miners, the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, local trades councils and Labour

Parties. An especially large contingent from Trico joined the march.

From the ranks of demonstrators from ASLEF, the train drivers' union, came the chant of 'Stop the mail, cut the power. Decent wages within the hour' was taken up with great enthusiasm.

The TUC has not taken one step that could aid the struggle. The bosses and the National Association for Freedom have not been so hesitant. It was the NAFF which applied for the injunction preventing the postal workers union from boycotting the mail service to the firm. The challenge to this court action has not yet been forthcoming from the UPW leadership or the TUC.

The TUC and postal workers' leader Tom Jackson are prepared to compromise through the Social

Contract with the bosses. They put their faith in the same laws that allow police to harass and arrest pickets at Grunwicks. The lessons of Saltley, the Pentonville 8 and the Industrial Relations Act showed that workers in struggle must rely on their own strength, not on the bosses' laws nor on the state's industrial 'conciliation' machinery like ACAS.

The Grunwick struggle has now reached an important stage. The summer period is when Grunwicks are busiest. There is no need for the strikers to spend another winter on the picket line if workers organise to force the TUC into action now.

★ Donations to: Strike Committee, Brent Trades and Labour Hall, 375 Willeaden High Road, London NW10.

New from Red Books

Antonio Gramsci. Selections from Political Writings 1910-1920 (Lawrence & Wishart, £3).

This volume is the first of two containing a selection of Gramsci's political writings from his first entry into Italian politics to his imprisonment under Mussolini's fascist regime. The present selection of political articles culminated in the 'Red Years' of 1919-1920, and includes additional texts by Bordigha and Tasso.

It follows Gramsci's development as a revolutionary socialist through the First World War and the impact of the Russian Revolution up to the General Strike in April 1920 and the occupation of the factories in August/September of that year.

Complete with introductory material and explanatory notes, this volume of Gramsci makes available to English readers a profoundly original and practical body of thought which remains centrally relevant to contemporary Marxism.

Special offer for Two Weeks Only — post free, from Red Books, 182 Pentonville Road, London N1.

war, the Asiatic mode of production and the parallels with Stalinist society, replies to Solzhenitsyn's religious views and an article on vodka consumption. All this plus Medvedev's discussion on democracy and the institutions of the Soviet state. Now in paperback.

Hamburg at the Barricades by Larissa Reissner £4.80. Thanks to the excellent translation by Richard Chapple the history of the German uprising and its bloody aftermath is now available. Reissner was an on-the-spot observer and sketches the full horror of the stabilisation of the Weimar Republic.

Inside German Communism, Rosa Levine-Meyer £4.80. For those who have read her memoirs of life with Eugene Levine (already published by Pluto) this second volume takes up the story of the KPD in the years of the Weimar Republic. Her viewpoint is not, however, one of despair and bitter Stalinophobia but sober documentation of the capitulation of the German Party when it was the only hope of defeating Hitler.

TERMS: Under £2.50 include 25p for postage and packing; £2.50-£8 add 10% for p&p; over £8 post free unless limited stocks.

Latest issue includes: a major article by Ernest Mandel on 'Three facets of Eurocommunism'; document by the Portuguese Trotskyists on 'Three Years After the Fall of Caetano'; and articles on Spain, Zaire, the SALT talks, Tunisia, East Timor, and Belgium (including a detailed report on the Trotskyist state in the elections). Price 30p plus 10p p&p from: Imprecor, 97 Caledonian Road, London N1. Subscriptions £7 p.a. (25 issues) or £3.75 for six months from same address.

On the Pablo Tendency. E. Mandel (1964). 25c + 11p p&p. Previously unobtainable, this document is a first step in clarifying one of the most mythologised areas of post-war Trotskyism. Mandel deals with the real history of 'Pabloism' and central questions: de-Stalinisation; the colonial revolution; peaceful coexistence; Sino-Soviet dispute; roads to socialism. limited stocks.

Articles by Chris Arthur on the Materialist Theory of Law; The Crisis of Francolin; The debate in the Soviet Union on the causes of the crisis in WW2 by George Haupt; A. Carlo on Trotsky and the Organisational Problem.

Samizdat Register 1. Ed. Roy Medvedev £2.50. The register includes eight essays from the journal 20th Century covering the history of the

IMG Notes

National WWCC Fraction, Saturday 7 May. Further details to follow. School on Eastern Europe. Sat/Sun 7/8 May in London.

S. Africa Campaign/Caucas. Sunday 15 May. At National Centre.

IMG International School. 4/5/6/7 June. For members and sympathisers. More details to follow next week. Candidates to note date for keeping free. Watch the space for further details.

National Branch Organisers' Aggregate. Saturday 15 June. Further details to follow.

'Labour Focus on Eastern Europe' The IMG has purchased a bulk order of this journal so all IMG branch orders should be sent to: Headquarters, 97 Caledonian Road, London N1.

IMG International Bulletin. No. 1 of this new bulletin is just out — for IMG members and sympathisers. Includes Roussel on Vietnamese CPs & the Guinea Revolution. Branch orders at 50 each to International Bureau. Nat-

Deadline: 5pm, Saturday before publication. Rates: 2p per word except for general movement events.

MODEL GERMANY. Conference on the current situation in West Germany. Organised by Campaign Against Repression in West Germany. Speakers from West Germany. Background documents available from The Campaign (West Germany), 35 Wollington Street, London WC2. Send large SAE and 40p. 7 May, North London Polytechnic, Holloway Road, Islington, London N1. 10.00-6.30. Further details from the Campaign.

MANCHESTER International Forum. On Regroupment: For a Unified Revolutionary Party. Speaker: Brian Grogan (IMG National Secretary), Wednesday, 8pm, Council Chamber, Bames Wallis Building, University of Manchester, Institute of Science and Technology Students Union, Adm.20p. Organised by IMG.

COVENTRY TOTE. Winning numbers for last three weeks. RW183 No.007. £1.70/RW194 No.041. £3.00/RW195 No.010. £2.50.

COVENTRY Debate on 'The British Road to Socialism'. Speakers from the Communist Party and the International Marxist Group. Friday 10 June, 7.30pm Room 014, Lancaster Polytechnic.

AGITBIT DIARY. This poster diary is available for use by all progressive and alternative groups. 500 copies posted throughout London. Copy in by 20th of the month previously. For rates and further details contact AGITBIT, 31 Regatta Road, London N4. Phone 272 3910.

SOUTH LONDON Public Meeting/Film on ZIMBABWE. 7.30pm Wednesday 11 May. Vauxhall Training Centre, Walnut Tree Walk (at corner with Kennington Road). Speakers from Anti-Apartheid Movement and Zimbabwe. Organised by South London AA Group as part of Zimbabwe Week of Action.

ISLINGTON Gutter Press. Benefit Red Hot Iron Mayfair Jubilee. Sunday 8 May, 1-11pm, Caxton House, St. John's Way, N18. Karaoke Klondike, Disco, Tamtame Hotel, Food, Films, Drinks, Croche ... £1 (incl drinks 50p, children free).

IRAN Bulletin of the Committee Against Repression in Iran. Just out. 5p plus postage, or £1 for 6 issues from CARRI, Box 4, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, London N1.

MAY 28 A Socialist Festival of Music. Over a hundred musicians will be taking part including Carol Gimes, Red Squares, Henry Cow, People Liberation Music.... Tickets available in advance, at £1.50. Postal orders to Battersea Arts Centre and sent to May 28 Bookings, Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, London SW11.

HALF MOON Theatre requires Press/Publicity Officer. Write to 27 Alle Street, E1 or ring 480-6468.

ALL LAMBETH Anti-Racism Movement. Social 7 May, 36, St Nicholas Road, Clapham Common SW4. 9pm onwards. Entrance 30p.

LIVERPOOL Socialist Alternative in Elections. IMG Big Flame joint meeting. Friday 8 May, 7.30pm Turf Pub, Paradise Street. Speakers: Brian Heron (IMG) and Paul Thompson (Big Flame).

WOLVERHAMPTON Meeting. 'Stop the Beynon Bill: Abortion on Demand' Sat 7 May 2-5pm, Gunpsall Avenue Community Centre, Wolverhampton. Speakers include: Renee Short MP, Dr. Betty Beaumont (NACI), Prate Jany Theatre Group.

MARXISM AND MEDIA Forum. 'The Mass Media in Socialist Society'. Speaker: Tariq Ali. Sunday 15 May, 7.00pm, London Film-makers Co-op, 44 Fitzroy Road, London NW1 (Chalk Farm tube or Primrose Hill BR).

RUSKIN History Workshop 1977. 'History of Rank and File Movements'. 21/22 May. Tickets for weekend £2.50 from History Workshop Collective, Ruskin College, Walton Street, Oxford. Further details please Gordon Williams (0865-53748).

RELEASE Political Prisoners in South Africa. A one day conference at Ruskin College, Oxford on Saturday 14 May. Conference discussion and Workshops on South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Ex-political prisoners and freedom fighters. Registration fee £1. Full details from Ruskin Kitson Committee, Ruskin College, Oxford or Oxford Anti-Apartheid Group, 106 Cardigan Street, Oxford (tel. 0865-53756).

REMEMBER SOWETO! 16 June 1976. Demonstrate 16 June 1977. In London. Assemble Speakers Corner, 1.00pm. Rally Bulding (Loop County Hall), 3.00pm. Called by the National Union of Students, supported by the National Union of School Students and the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Contact NUS International Dep., 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1. 01-387 1277 for details and publicity material.

ACTSS Legal Workers Branch on 13 May at 7pm at Transport and General Workers Union Headquarters, 230 North Goswell Street, near Warren Street tube station. All workers in solidarity! off-ees welcome.

'ZIMBABWE — Who are the Real Terrorists?' Public meeting organised by Southampton Anti-Apartheid Group — speakers from Zimbabwe. St Matthew's Church Hall, 7.30pm, 11 May.

THE CRISIS and the struggle for a tranquil party. Speaker: Frank Richards. Friday 6 May, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square. First public meeting of the Revolutionary Communist tendency.

'STALINISM' a school organised by Brighton IMG, 7/8 May. Sussex University. Registration 80p. Comprehensive documentation for school 10p. Registration and reading £1. Registration, reading and further details at available from 'Weekend School' 15 Dean St., Brighton, Tel: 0273-202760.

NORTH WEST Gay Weekend. 7/8 May in Oldham welcomes all gay women and men. For details ring 061-624 1310 or 061-682 7468, or Littleborough 70482.

Sacking of Tyndale six - attack on right to strike

THE SIXTY DAY hearing into the case of the six Tyndale teachers has resulted in a sentence of instant dismissal. The charge was that the teachers took strike action.

The finding of the Disciplinary Tribunal is subject only to ratification by an Inner London Education Authority Sub-Committee. As it was the Labour majority of the ILEA who insisted that the grounds for dismissal be the teachers' strike, only strong solidarity action on the Tyndale teachers behalf is likely to change their mind.

The original basis of the moves against the Tyndale teachers was their teaching methods in the classroom. Both the Auld Inquiry, originally appointed by ILEA to look into the case, and the Disciplinary Tribunal agreed that the Tyndale approach favoured the advancement of the deprived working class child.

should be allowed to continue teaching without harassment from the press, the ILEA bureaucrats and the managers of the school. They demanded the right to work in a way specifically beneficial to the working class child.

PAPER POLICY

The Labour-controlled ILEA have a paper policy of discrimination in favour of the deprived child.

The Auld Inquiry and the Disciplinary Tribunal were set up by the ILEA. The charges were brought by the ILEA. The Tribunal judges were all members of the ILEA with the exception of Gary Flather, the chairperson, who was an employee of the ILEA.

The manner of the 'trials' was a farce. Before the Tyndale teachers stood in the 'dock' they were branded 'guilty' by one of the most unbridled press campaigns of recent years.

On an Open University programme to be broadcast this month, Max Wilkinson, former staff writer on the *Daily Mail* and leader of the witch-hunt, admits that 'the press were out to get



Headmaster and teachers at Tyndale picket against a management inspection

them' and 'they succeeded'. The chances of a fair hearing were nil.

Nevertheless the sacking decision came as a shock. Terry Ellis, as headmaster, thought that with the ILEA obsession about the 'power of the head' he would have to take the brunt of the responsibility. But the imminence of the GLC elections probably persuaded the ILEA to show that they wielded a strong hand over the schools.

In a time of massive cut-backs which constantly raise the threat of industrial action by rank and file

teachers trying to stop their imposition, the Tyndale sackings represent the throwing down of a gauntlet which socialist teachers must take up nation-wide.

But the issue goes beyond the teachers' unions. The right to take industrial action must be defended by other trade unionists in the public sector. The Tyndale teachers are calling on all teachers and trade unionists to aid them in their fight for reinstatement in a teaching job.

A mass meeting will be held at Friends Meeting

House, Euston Road, NW1 on Monday 9 May at 6.30pm.

The main object of the meeting will be to set up a defence campaign and to work out the policies and tactics for such a campaign.

Dorothy McColgan, one of the teachers, will chair the meeting. The platform will include Terry Ellis and the rest of the six, Jeff Hurford from Rank and File Teachers and Margaret Ford of the Socialist Teachers Alliance, both of whom are members of the original defence committee.

Socialist Feminists meet in London

SOCIALIST FEMINISTS met in North London on 24 April to discuss female sexuality — including abortion, contraception, lesbianism, feminist therapy, children and sexuality, and psychoanalysis. The Conference was part of a series of four, entitled 'What is a socialist feminist practice?'

A large number of papers written both by individual women as well as women's groups prepared the discussion in advance. Most of the contributions looked at women's sexuality in relation to women's role as the reproducers of the species. Everyone agreed that analysing female sexuality is not easy. Ideas about sexuality have changed, partly according to the economic situation.

The so-called 'permissive' society of the 1960s and 1970s, for example, is contradictory. On the one hand, contraception is much more highly developed. This means that in theory — insofar as it is accessible — women have more freedom to enjoy and define their sexuality. The links binding female sexuality exclusively to child-bearing are somewhat loosened.

On the other hand, however, women have become the targets for selling and advertising the products of the new 'consumer' society. And, in this way,

women's sexuality becomes almost a commodity in itself! Limited freedom is allowed woman is taught, still very much with although maybe in more subtle form.

Finally, some of the workshops and papers discussed how female sexuality relates to other aspects of women's society and what the discussion has political practice women's movement significance of the campaign was at the right of women genuine control over own fertility begins to challenge the prime women as wife and in the family. It is respect to the family women's oppression lesbians was discussed.

The series of conferences organised by socialist feminists is important for the women's movement as a whole. The new Women and we will be well worth listening.

* Papers from the Conference on Sexual Information on the Conference can be ordered from 13 Maitland London SE5. JUDITH ARKWRITH

ISSUE

Unwilling to raise such a clear class issue as the reason for the sackings, the Tribunal reverted instead to anti-trade unionism and a frontal attack on the right to take industrial action.

The main reason for the teachers' strike action was the demand that they

Playground workers take action against cuts

Ninety per cent of all of London's Adventure Playgrounds went on strike for the first time ever on Monday 18 April. This action was taken when Francis Prideaux — a playleader and community worker at the Notting Hill Adventure playground since 1969 — was made redundant.

If cutbacks are accepted at Notting Hill — one of the most well-known playgrounds in London — workers realised that this would be the start of further cutbacks in play facilities. The decision for official strike action was unanimous. Extensive negotiations with the management committee of the playground had proved to be an utter failure.

The strike was called on short notice. Yet hard work from the Strike Committee resulted in lots of local publicity. The day began with over 400 people picketing the playground, petitioning in the locality, and making banners, stickers and placards. All the children supported the action and helped to ensure its strength.

Monday ended with a well-supported march from Holland Park to the playground. Over 200 marchers represented such bodies as the Hammersmith and Ken-



Children in Notting Hill nursery demand reinstatement with their hand-made placards.

of NUPE, the public sector union. The march was followed by a rally and a picket of the Notting Hill management committee's regular meeting, where calls for the reinstatement of Francis Prideaux were made.

But management has not budged. The next step in the playground workers' cam-

Meeting scheduled for 15 June is also planned. There will be an attempt to change the committee, which presently includes such local personalities as Richard Fleck, Chairperson of London Adventure Playground Association, and Philippa, Viscountess Astor.

One danger confronting playground workers is the tendency

Labour's overall policy of cuts in the social services. The only way to avoid the second danger — the isolation of playground workers and the children and parents who support them — is by winning the support of other workers who are up against the same attacks from the Labour Government.

one-day stoppage on 11 May. The most immediate way it can establish links with other workers is to turn out in force on 11 May. This will be a good opportunity to raise a strong appeal for support in the fight against redundancy at Notting Hill.

...and Europe

* Support is growing for the European Socialist Feminist Conference according to reports given at a national planning meeting in London on Saturday. Women from the National Abortion Campaign, the Rape Crisis Centre, Women's Aid, the Lesbian Left, the Psychoanalysis Study Group, and from local women's groups are preparing written contributions for Paris. And the photography collective — Hackney Flashers — are taking a display.

In other countries, equally optimistic reports have been received by the Paris Planning Group. Irish women will be travelling to Paris in a mini-bus. Women from the workers commis-

sions in Barcelona written to say that in Paris. Papers struggle for women's liberation have already from the Swiss movement — a several national movements in Luxembourg, Italy, Austria and women are also preparations to contribute. The Paris Conference 26-30 May will be of its kind. The exchange of ideas will help strengthen socialist current in and to build the liberation movement whole.

Further information from the Planning Group c/o Ruth Beshall, 11a Road, London

SCOTTISH RALLY FOR WOMENS RIGHTS
Saturday, 7 May 12-5.30pm
Strathclyde University Union, John St, Glasgow
Called by the Working Womens Charter Campaign
Supported by bodies of the student, labour, and women's movement in Scotland.

Socialist Students rally

140 militants attended the conference of the Socialist Students Alliance last weekend. The conference adopted a resolution mapping out the priorities of the organisation for campaigning activity in the coming term. The demonstrations against victimisations in the less campaign and two conferences called to discuss the future of that campaign were agreed as priority initiatives.

The SSA will also be involved in building for the NAC demonstration on 14 May, the conference of the Student Movement Campaign on Ireland on 15 May

Discussion on the activities of how to campaigning activity form part of a plan the SSA was through the inside some groups and als that the SSA a more a revolution anisation than an of socialist students committed to organis left wing in NUS alternative platform Broad Left politicians.

If the SSA is to overcome its base the coll edly has in the coll to be organis

Photo: JOHN STURROCK (Report)

Photo: ANDREW WILARD (Report)

Election Action LONDON



Walking by the streets of Bethnal Green and Bow, Islington North, Lambeth Central and Southall, the uninitiated would be forgiven for thinking that the Socialist [International Marxist Group] candidates were standing unopposed in the 5 May GLC elections.

The truth is rather different. Communist dependency grips Labour supporters and the Labour Party itself is widespread in many constituencies. In Islington North not a single Labour candidate has been seen in three

years. The few Labour Party posters that have been pasted up over posters of Mick Sullivan, the Socialist (IMG) candidate for Islington North, have been torn off — apparently suffering from the same apathy as the Labour vote! A vote of only 26 per cent in the constituency in 1973 threatens to be evened further.

One thing is certain. After the votes counted on Thursday night the Labour Party will be back in control at County Council with a thumping majority. And in the Ashfield by-election result even the prospect of Labour seats are threatened.

Only in those seats with relatively left-wing Labour Party candidates — who have identified themselves however weakly with struggles against Labour's policies — is the swing against Labour likely to be reduced. In Hackney last Saturday evening Labour candidate Ken Livingstone led a spontaneous march of 500 people through the supposed National Front stronghold of the area. This followed a mass picket

of the National Front's major election meeting in the area. About 100 people attended the NF meeting — the stewards imported for the occasion.

In Hornsey and Tottenham, the Labour Parties who helped build the magnificent united front demonstration against the National Front's 23 April march, the agents are reporting improved canvassing returns this week, especially from the black, Asian and Cypriot population.

It was to help develop the fight back against Labour's policies and build a socialist opposition in the labour movement that the IMG decided to stand in these elections. That's just what our candidates have been doing. On Thursday 28 April an IMG loudspeaker van joined the picket of the Weir Maternity Hospital in south London.

In the evening Piers Corbyn, the Socialist (IMG) candidate for Lambeth Central, spoke at a public meeting called around the hospital's closure. He lashed Ron Keating, the Assistant General Secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, for not even mentioning the day of strike action against the cuts called by London NUPE on 11 May. He called for London-wide support for the Weir hospital struggle. Campaign supporters are hoping that both a united housing campaign and a

great strengthening of the All Lambeth Anti-Racist Movement will result from the election campaign.

In Islington North Mick Sullivan has also been concentrating his fire on racist housing allocation. He attacked a front page headline "Homes shock for 'born and bred'" in the *Islington Gazette* as 'nothing but a piece of thinly disguised racism to try and pit the housing needs of people 'born in the borough' against the needs of blacks, Cypriots and other ethnic groups in the area.' Labour Chairperson of the housing committee, Margaret Watson, has admitted the truth of recent reports detailing racist practices in the distribution of homes.

Local hospital workers are distributing a leaflet calling for a vote for Sullivan. The workers include three stewards, a doctor and Joe McKensie, the Chairperson of the General and Municipal Workers branch that organises the bulk of workers in the Royal Northern and Whittington hospitals. McKensie spoke at a meeting in support of Mick Sullivan on Tuesday night along with Dave Burns, a member of the executive of the local branch of the National and Local Government Officers Association, and Brian Haddow, one of the victimised teachers from the William Tyndale school.

In Southall on Sunday 80 people attended an anti-racist rally organised in support of Gerry Hedley's campaign. It was chaired by Suresh Grover who introduced all speakers in Punjabi and English. Hedley announced that he had joined nearly 70 other anti-racists on the inside of north London police stations on 23 April. Hedley called for support for a mass picket of a meeting to be addressed by Enoch Powell in neighbouring Hounslow in a few weeks time. It is also hoped to commemorate the



Hedley was joined on the Southall rally platform by Tariq Ali [centre] and Bob Singh [sitting far right] a worker from the Trico factory.

Carl Brecker [far left], the chairperson of the Hounslow Joint Shop Stewards Committee took up the racism suffered by overseas workers when authorities cut jobs. As proof, he read a letter from local health bosses which blatantly announced that such discrimination was to take place.

murder of Gurdip Chagger, whose death sparked the uprising of Asian youth last summer.

In East London the campaign for Claire Weingarten has featured in the local press and prominently in *Time Out*. She and Tariq Ali addressed a meeting called to fight racism on Sunday afternoon. Just before the East London meeting, at least five fights had broken out between fascists and Bengalis in Brick Lane. The meeting discussed the morning's events. Although one Bengali youth had been arrested, the fascists had been chased off the streets.

The IMG's campaign has had some small successes in unifying the left. Supporters of Big Flame in south London and the Workers League in west London have been helping the IMG campaign. They understand that it is being used to promote a united fight back against Labour's policies.

Finally, the IMG's campaign is getting to the youth. A young kid was walking along Holloway Road in Islington when he spotted the IMG's election posters. Turning to his dad he said: 'That's Mick Sullivan isn't it? What's he wanted for?' We will see on 5 May!



Asian women at last Sunday's anti-racist rally in Southall.

SCOTS POLL BATTLE

THE SEVEN Scottish Socialist League candidates have campaigned hard in the fight against Labour's attacks and against the nationalist policies of the SNP.

Whatever the outcome, the stamp of the SSL will be left in the workers' movement in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Falkirk.

In Glasgow, unemployed workers on the dole queue have been regularly leafleted. Everyone who signs on will be aware of the SSL's policies on unemployment — and how to join the campaign to fight for them.

And the airport workers on strike listened to the message of support when

candidate Matt Montgomery, a former Chrysler steward who now works at the Knightswood bus depot, went out to the struggle. Weekly campaign meetings have been held throughout the election — with an open and successful invitation for militants to join in.

In Edinburgh, the SSL campaign was launched when candidates and supporters joined a 4000-strong march for higher pensions called by the miners and the Transport and General Workers Union. The fight for women's rights has been placed to the centre of the campaign. In Leith, the candidates have been busy collecting signatures for a petition against attempts to resist abortion. And a local meeting is being organised to help build the Scottish Women's Rights Rally on 7 May.

In Aberdeen, the Government's cuts have hit hard. Candidates have campaigned against the recent loss of 142 local teaching posts. The Grampian Regional Council's refusal to finance the staffing of its new nursery schools is another target for the anti-cuts militants.

In Falkirk, hospital worker Dave Fowler has joined with students to defend the Callendar Park College which remains in danger of closure, despite a recent reprieve from the axe.

HULL - SOCIALISTS AGAINST THE CUTS

SSL has just received Area Development status and plush jubilee celebrations are underway. But for most of the working class cuts and unemployment continue unabated.

At a successful election meeting of the Hull Socialists Against the Cuts slate, candidate Keith Russell explained how the campaign can begin to organise the fight against the policies of both the Labour Government and the local council.

Despite the differences of many left groups, this campaign is a genuine united front. It has the support of the Hull Working Women's Charter Campaign, as well as individuals in the labour and student movement. It is the only slate in the election which is clearly fighting for women's rights and against

the Social Contract', he said.

He called on trade unionists who wanted to fight unemployment but were sold out earlier in the year by the bureaucracy when the Hull general strike was called off to join in the campaign.

Martin Shaw, a local member of the SWP, spoke at the meeting in a personal capacity. He stressed the need for revolutionary socialists to intervene in elections along the lines of Walsall and Stechford. 'To do otherwise', he argued, 'is to allow the National Front an opportunity to put their scapegoat alternatives to the electorate unchallenged. The recent municipal elections in France have shown the possibility of such a strategy'.

The speakers disagreed on some points. But they were together in recognising the need to support the election campaign. The local campaign helps prepare the general election. It also marks the first step in an on-going campaign against the cuts and the growth of the fascist parties in the area.

The future of the campaign after the elections will be discussed at a special meeting. As Eddie Wright, a hospital worker and one of the candidates said, 'The Lib-Lab pact means that workers are starting to look for an opposition to the policies of unemployment'. It is that opposition which SAC hopes to help organise.

JOHN MUNSON

* Martin Shaw, a member of the SWP who spoke at a SAC election meeting, was suspended from membership the following day by the Central Committee of the SWP.

The whole Hull SWP branch had previously decided to give 'passive support' to the SAC campaign.

But on Wednesday last week the day before the SAC meeting, Jim Nicholl, National Secretary of the SWP, informed a member of the local SWP district committee that the SWP did not support any other electoral candidates except those of the SWP and the Labour Party.

Martin Shaw decided to follow the local line until a full district meeting of the SWP. His own branch on Friday voted not to take any disciplinary action against him. But the same evening he was informed that the Central Committee had suspended him.

A meeting of the district SWP on Sunday voted by a majority to approve the suspension, but also passed a resolution by an overwhelming majority calling for Shaw's re-instatement. They also voted to apply the national line and back the Labour Party in preference to the SAC candidates.

BRUM ASIANS-

'It's about time we organised ourselves.'

A RALLY organised by the Asian Socialist League and the IMG in Birmingham attracted nearly 200 people on Saturday. The Saitley rally was one of the largest meetings ever seen in Birmingham during local elections.

It marked an important step forward for immigrant organisations in the area. The Asian Socialist League now has 60 members and 200 copies of the first issue of its journal, *Asian Socialist*, were sold.

Speakers at the rally included candidate Ahsan Raghbi (ASL), a shop steward at Rover Solihull, and John Khan (IMG), a shop steward at

Direct Works Department. Brian Haron and Tariq Ali were also on the platform.

The meeting was chaired by Jahangir Iqbal, a local bus driver. He explained to the meeting that:

'We Asians have been living in this area a long time — a good 20 years. We have always supported Labour, and they've always turned around and made bad laws for us. It's about time we organised ourselves and made our own organisation. It's time to tell the Labour Government and the National Front that we can fight back. This is why we have formed the Asian Socialist League. The Labour Government made laws

Government has introduced the Nationalities Act. It is a racist Act. Asian people always thought that a Labour Government would help them. They thought that a Labour Government is for Asian people, for working people, but it's not — it's for the racists.

'We are all members of trade unions, we've always been paying into the unions and they've done nothing for us. It's about time they did, and that means us organising inside the trade unions. This is just the beginning. We started in Saitley, we'll go into other parts of Birmingham. We're organising a paper, *The Asian Socialist*, which people will



New issue of *Scottish Socialist* now out. Contains reports on the Scottish Socialist League's founding conference, the local elections in Scotland, and full coverage of the STUC. Also — interview on Equal Pay in Scotland, Repression in Ireland, Charter 77 and a review of the new Labour Party economic policy document on Scotland.

Make sure your local bookshop or socialist bookstall puts in an order. And get a copy yourself, 25p [including p&p] for single copies; 15 per copy on orders of 10 or more. Subscription rate: £3 per year. To: *Scottish Socialist*, 85 Queen Street,

Paisley's power play- A STRIKE FOR ORANGE PRIVILEGE

It was almost exactly a year ago that Ernest Baird's United Ulster Unionist Movement and Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party set up the United Action Committee which has called the latest Loyalist strike.
The UAC's demand was to implement the Loyalist 1975 Convention Report — a return to the old days of Stormont and monopoly Loyalist rule.
MIKE PINTER and GEOFF BELL explain.

Their first campaign, 'end direct rule', fell flat on its face. Their second attempt was an even bigger farce. Back in September they set up the Ulster Service Corps, a motley collection of ex-B Specials and RUC Reservists who were supposed to replace the British Army in operating road blocks and check points.

No more than a couple of hundred of these thugs turned up for the first day of 'drilling' and for a while no more was heard of them. But a few months later reports began to filter through of a few of these individuals on lonely roads late at night in County Armagh and County Antrim.

The only people to take serious notice of these reports were the SDLP who always look for ways of taking people's minds off the more serious matters, and for ways of showing a disgruntled membership that despite appearances they could still extract concessions from the British. Roy Mason duly obliged and 35 USC members were picked up and charged under an 1851 statute for 'unlawfully and wilfully interrupting free passage of traffic'.

On 19 April 2,000 Loyalists assembled in protest outside the court house in Portadown where five of the arrested USC were supposed to be on trial. The case was adjourned until 5 May.

The Loyalist paramilitaries announced their support for the Action Committee and on 26 April an advertisement appeared in the Belfast Newsletter warning Mason that he had seven days in which to change 'security' policy and start implementing the Convention Report. The SDLP demanded immediate action by Britain in the event of such a strike, and if not, withdrawal. Mason announced contingency plans had been drawn up.

COALITION

Such are the events which led to a coalition of Loyalist hardliners attempting a repeat of 1974 when the Ulster Workers Council-led strike toppled the power-sharing executive. This time things are different. In 1974 the aim of the strike was relatively simple — the bringing down of a power-sharing government which had little support anyway. Now the aims are more abstract and are easier for Britain to resist. But it is possible that a lot more is at stake than either side is prepared to admit: the Irish Times, for example, has speculated that the Loyalists are out to set up a provisional government.

As with most other events over the last nine years the Unionists are

divided on the advisability of the strike.

At one level it is a clash of the Loyalist leaders, each of whom wants to be the undisputed head of the Orange cause. Harry West, for example, believes that his chief contender for the Loyalist crown, Ian Paisley, is isolating himself through his threats and deadlines.

But it is not simply an issue of political dog-fights between the various bigots who make up the Loyalist leadership. In many ways the clash represents the same divisions which have existed within Unionism since 1968.

The upper and middle class Protestants, while hankering for the 'old days' as much as the hardliners do, accept that the type of sustained challenge to British policy which Paisley and Baird are mounting could have the most damaging consequences. Britain's economic control of the North of Ireland makes the game Paisley and friends are playing a very dangerous one for those in Ireland who benefit most by the imperialist relationship — the Protestant upper and middle classes.

For their part the Protestant workers have less to lose by challenging British policy, and relatively much more to lose by any reforms Britain gives to the Catholic workers. Any attempt at 'reforming' the North or at allowing the 'Catholic agitation' to continue directly threatens the only privileges the Protestant workers have — the better housing, jobs and employment prospects they have been given in comparison with Catholics as a reward for supporting Unionist monopoly control.

REVOLT

Behind all this lies the steady re-assertion of the anti-Unionists revolt. It is the struggle of the anti-Unionist masses which has been responsible for forcing wide open the cracks in the Unionist camp, and the divisions among the Unionists and Britain on whether to go for a 'hearts and minds' solution or a military one.

The tensions have increased lately because the revolt is now stronger than at any time since 1972. The Turf Lodge Catholic ghetto has become a virtual 'no go' area for Britain, and literally tens of thousands have taken to the streets in the last few months to demand both



British withdrawal and political status for Republican prisoners.

For its part Britain would like to crush the revolt as much as Paisley, but it recognises the massive political dangers — dragging in the South, a massive international solidarity campaign with the Provisionals — if the type of drastic measures Paisley is demanding are followed.

But one thing is certain. The troops now being flown to the North of Ireland represent a far

greater threat to the Catholic masses than to the Protestants. The last eight years in the North of Ireland have shown time and time again that it is Catholics who are shot down by the British Army on Bloody Sundays, it is Republicans who are tortured by the army and police.

The British troops have nothing to offer the anti-Unionists masses, just as Britain has nothing to offer the Irish people as a whole. Not now, not ever.

PLAN ACTION!

• The latest developments in the Irish war bring to the forefront the need for workers and students in this country to take positive steps to intervene on the side of the oppressed Northern minority. Three initiatives are already being planned.

* A Student Conference on Ireland due to take place on 15 May at Middlesex Polytechnic. The sponsors of the Conference, the Student Movement Campaign on Ireland, see the conference as planning activity to expose the continued use of repression by the British Army in Ireland. For more details contact Von McClary at the Enfield Site of the Middlesex Poly Students Union. (Tel: 01-804 1958)

* A Troops Out conference open to all individuals and groups who support the demands 'Troops Out Now, Self-determination for the Irish people as a whole'. For

more details contact Troops Out Conference, c/o Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, London N1.

* Six Labour MPs have agreed to sponsor a forthcoming conference on Ireland organised by the British Peace Committee. The conference is planned for the Labour movement in particular, open to all organisations concerned with working for a just and peaceful solution to the present impasse in Ireland. It is centred on the theme 'British involvement in Ireland and the consequences of British withdrawal'.

All readers of Red Weekly are urged to raise the conference in their labour movement bodies. More details of this initiative, planned for 28/29 May, can be obtained from British Peace Committee, 84 Claverton Street, London SW1V 3AX.

3
Years
Ago



IT WAS IN MAY 1974 when the Ulster Workers Council called the last general strike. Then it was successful in achieving its stated aim — the downfall of the power-sharing Executive and the scrapping of plans for a Council of Ireland.

A number of important lessons were learnt from that strike about the nature of the Irish situation.

* THE ARMY — The British Army, despite orders from Harold Wilson to break the strike, refused to do so. The Army allowed Loyalist gangs to erect barricades, they told Wilson that it 'wasn't possible' for them to work in the power stations, and they made no attempt to prevent the widespread harassment which at least at the start of the strike made it possible.

* THE UNIONS — The Irish Congress of Trade Unions and Trades Union Congress were bitterly opposed to the strike, as they are this time. Len Murray even tried to lead a 'back to work' march aimed at smashing the strike. Less than 200 people turned up. The strike showed the complete ineffectiveness of the unions in

Protestant workers.

* THE PROTESTANTS — As with the latest attempt at strike action, the UWC strike began with very little support from the Unionist politicians. It was only after it became clear that it had a chance of succeeding that they jumped on the bandwagon.

* THE STRIKE WEAPON — The UWC strike was the only successful general strike in the history of Britain and Ireland. But it was for completely reactionary aims. As with this time the lesson is that simply because workers are on strike, it does not mean that that should be automatically supported.

* REFORMS — The power-sharing Executive was an attempt to 'reform' the North of Ireland. The hopelessness of such a solution was clearly exposed. The Loyalists showed their determination to reject any moves to give Catholics a share in government.

In 1974 and both before and since, the majority of Protestant workers have shown that attempts to 'reform' the northern state will meet their resistance.

Letters

Message to cops - Leave now!

Photo: G. M. COOKSON (Red Weekly)



WHILE Val Graham and Chris Roseblade were correct to criticise Richard Carver's article on the cops (Red Weekly, 28 April), their alternative was even worse. First, what are the British cops? They are the state's day-to-day defence of private property and thus play a repressive role against the labour movement. Ask the Islington 18 or those arrested on the 23 April anti-fascist demo. Ask the Grunwick or Trico strikers. Cops are used to break picket lines and smash strikes, protect fascists, harass black youth, evict squatters and sit-ins, etc. The question is, how do we prevent this? Regrettably Graham, Roseblade and Carver all end up in the same (wrong) boat. They think that cops joining an existing or new union will suddenly acquire a political consciousness that will ally them with the working class. Carver goes to the absurd extreme of saying, 'The dramatic implications when police are ordered to break a picket line or a demonstration

against policy are obvious.' Oh how frightening for a cop to have to take a mouthful from his branch secretary rather than from his sergeant! We will not stop cops being a repressive force by supporting their wage demands, etc. We can leave that up to the Tories and fascists, who'd love to see them armed to the teeth against us soon. If the comrades had taken more time in looking at the history of the labour movement rather than the specificity of 1970s Britain, they might have found the answer. The most recent example was the '72 miners' strike when there were numerous incidents where the cops were left powerless. The most famous was the Salfley Gates episode. At the start the cops as usual were wading in and arresting miners. But as soon as they were joined by thousands of striking Birmingham engineers, the cops became totally powerless and frightened. There are many other cases —

Cable Street, Minneapolis Teamster strikes, May '68. The common feature was not support, past or present, for the cops' demands, but the power of the working class. As the capitalist crisis deepens the conflict between the working class and the state will intensify. The police, like other wavering sections of society, will be neutralised or won over through bold and decisive action by the working class. If we are seen by cops as not just having the answers — for example, a workers plan for the economy, defence of living standards, etc — but also have the organised power to resist the state (bodies of workers power, and workers militias) then we shall win them. It is in this arena, the cauldron of the class struggle, that people's ideas and allegiances are changed. Thus our only message to cops today is — LEAVE NOW! MARK TURNBULL (London).

'Fight Racism' campaign needed

I FEEL THAT the two most important areas of the present attack on the working class are racialism and unemployment. These are the people who are being hit most by the crisis and are least able to fight back. Consequently the main strategy of the left should be around these issues. Stachford showed the success of the strategy of prioritising a campaign against racialism among the other issues of a revolutionary socialist alternative. It also highlighted the need for a national campaign led by a revolutionary party. This is the main reason why I suggest that the party should prioritise this issue and lead a national campaign comparable to the Right to Work Campaign. The best slogan I can think of is 'Fight Racism', perhaps a better one should be found. The other reason I suggest this strategy is that one of the main problems facing the revolutionary left is sectarianism between the IMG and the SWP. This campaign would complement the Right to Work Campaign and be another step to unite the revolutionary left. MARTIN GOLDSCHMIDT (Wales)

Students - IMG replies

THE SUCCESS of the Socialist Students Alliance at the last NUS conference, and the growing base that it is organising in the colleges, has rattled many of its political opponents. The Broad Left, Tories and NOISS all predicted that the SSA would be short-lived and irrelevant and they have been proved wrong. The latter in last week's Red Weekly from Warwick University NOISS reflects this frustration and expresses a most negative attitude to the tasks facing the far left in the student movement. With the Broad Left mis-leaders continuing to aid the growth of the right wing, the task of winning masses of students to alternative policies and leadership is worthy of more serious discussion than the Warwick NOISS warrant it. Using methods of personal abuse that merit the Broad Left is no answer. Neither were the political objections raised by the comrades. Their most serious charge is that the SSA has no class perspective. By implication, NOISS's links with the SWP mean that it has. Dismissively it pointed out that the SSA is an 'exclusively student organisation', a fact not disputed by anyone, but equally applicable to NOISS. Contrary to the view of Warwick NOISS that revolutionary 'class perspective' credentials are a simple matter of affiliation to the SWP, the SSA holds that it is a question of an alliance in action with the working class. That means that the SSA seeks to further students' interests through organising students in alliance with all workers, of whatever political affiliation, who are prepared to act in opposition to the Government's attacks and impose solutions which advance the common interests of students and workers. If the logic of Warwick NOISS is adopted, the conclusion should be to all join the National Organisation of Labour Students, since the Labour Party has a far larger base in the working class than does the SWP. The programme of the SSA is a basic statement of commonly held positions which can be the basis for such an advancement of

common interests. The comrades point out that the basic position of NOISS are not so very different. So why then refuse to participate in building such an alternative? The stumbling block arises from a complete misunderstanding of the links between the promotion of a class struggle perspective amongst students and the need to build a revolutionary party. The ability to show the best way forward for the struggle is the crucial test in building such a party. Proclaiming the party while turning your backs on the very programme and organisational forms to take the student movement forward not only hinders the fight against the right in the NUS but also hinders the building of a revolutionary party. In practice many NOISS members recognise this. The joint campaigns waged by the far left in many colleges which have managed to draw in and politically win over past supporters of the Broad Left and the reality which Warwick NOISS have to confront. Predictably the letter finished with the statement that 'we are all in favour of unity in action'. If that is meant seriously and not just as a platitude then there is no reason for NOISS's refusal to join the SSA. If NOISS are still worried about the motives of the SSA then the least one could expect is serious joint work on a national level in campaigns. Unfortunately NOISS's refusal so far to build seriously for the Student Movement Conference on Ireland being held on 15 May at Middlesex Poly, does not raise my hopes about this occurring. 'IMG front', 'one-off electoral alliance', 'short-lived'. These predictions have already been disproved. Warwick NOISS's prediction that 'at best the SSA will serve as some kind of clearing house for those who will eventually commit themselves to revolutionary politics', will no doubt be equally disproved and probably more rapidly. PAUL BRODKE (IMG Student Organiser)

Ireland - role of Officials

I WISH to make a strong criticism of the article 'Republicans and Sectarianism' (Red Weekly, 21 April). The article failed to put into correct context what happened in Belfast on Easter Sunday. In fact the article fell firmly into a sectarian trap. Its main emphasis was criticism of the leadership of the Irish resistance struggle, instead of highlighting British crimes and popular resistance. There are three important points to be drawn from Easter Sunday. The first is that the huge turnout for the Provisionals' parade showed their continued massive working class support indicating that the war is certainly not lost. The second point is that either the British Army or a Loyalist gang carried out the Beechmount bombing in an unsuccessful attempt to provoke a feud between the Provisionals and Officials. Since the erosion of the truce the military power of the Provos has been increasingly directed at the British Army, the UDR and the RUC. Through the use of Kilson's counter-gangs the British state is trying to divert the national liberation war into inter-factional strife and sectarian counter-assassinations. The Beechmount bombing of the Official's Easter parade and the fatal bombing of a Provisional funeral in Ardoyne ten days later both fit into this pattern of imperialist provocation. The third point is the latest evidence of the continuing degeneration of the Officials into a reactionary hysterical sect. For

REPUBLICANS & SECTARIANISM

Thankfully the murder last week of John Short in Belfast did not lead to the Official/Provisional feud many had feared. But the incident did raise a number of important questions about the politics of both the Official and Provisional Republican movements.

THE POLITICS of the Official Republican Movement — which has now retained their 'Sinn Fein' — 'The Workers Party' — are counter-revolutionary and pro-imperialist. As such those politics may be fought by all republicans and socialists in Ireland who have any interest in taking the anti-imperialist struggle forward. But there is one tactic which will not defeat the Officials' politics, and that is — the assassination of republicans.

Before Easter commemorations following scuffles between members of the two organisations, Officials fired into a crowd of Provisional supporters. The bullets in the gut were blanks, but a bullet in the first series of any description that the Officials have fired in recent months. It is understandable that members of the Provisionals reacted angrily. The murder of John Short was the answer to this.

them, it is the Provos, not British imperialism, who are the main enemy. It is in this light that Provisional attitudes to them must be judged. Last autumn the Officials' support for the Peace Movement marked their open conversion to the camp of reaction. Not only this, but in the past five years, the only people killed by the Official IRA have been republicans and socialists — members and supporters of the Provisional Republican Movement and the Irish Republican Socialist Party. Such activities have bred an intense hatred for the Officials in republican areas. On Easter Sun-

day the sight of them cynically marching up the Falls Road to commemorate Republican dead was too much. Angry young people hurled abuse and stones at the Officials' parade. The Official IRA then opened fire with live rounds [not blanks as reported in Red Weekly]. They shot a boy in the neck and a woman in the ankle. Meanwhile they issued false and provocative claims that the Provisionals had bombed their parade at Beechmount and fired on them at Milltown cemetery. The truth was that the only 'republican' military activity had been the Official IRA firing on the

supporters of the Provisionals and IRSP. The Provos therefore placed their units on defensive alert whilst initiating reconciliatory machinery. Meanwhile the Officials began further aggressive activity and in the ensuing tension an Official was shot. A feud was only averted by the cool reaction of the Provos Belfast Brigade in calling for calm, pointing to British provocation and negotiating with the Officials. The Officials played straight into British hands by blaming the Provos for the Beechmount bombing. In sharp contrast the Provos refused to fall for British dirty tricks. They immediately blamed both the Beechmount and Ardoyne bombs on either the SAS or on British-infiltrated Loyalist counter-gangs. In no way can the Officials and Provisionals be bracketed together. They stand on opposite sides of the barricades both with respect to imperialism and political sectarianism. The Red Weekly attack on the Provos' Belfast Republican News was quite unjustified. Republican News has consistently fought to divert any tendency to religious or political sectarianism into an anti-imperialist direction. It has also consistently sought to explain that the Officials are not just a bunch of nasties, but that their pro-imperialist actions follow logically from their politics of accepting partition. PETER STEWART (London)

Serious error

WE WERE PRESENT at the events of Easter Sunday in Belfast and would like to take issue with the article you carried recently on this subject which contained errors both of fact and interpretation. You placed the main emphasis of your article on the 'sectarianism' of the Provisionals. We feel that this resulted from a mistaken reading of what actually happened. We also consider that it was a dangerous error of emphasis in a paper that in theory supports Irish freedom. The shooting of John Short cannot be interpreted as a sectarian response to provocation. This shooting came at the end of a day in which the Officials had, firstly, denounced the Provisionals for planting a bomb which could only have been planted by the British Army or loyalists, exploding as it did in a place where there were, predictably, Provisional as well as Official supporters. More significantly, the Officials had also shown themselves to be armed and

put round after it became known that there was photographic evidence that the Officials were responsible for the shooting. There was universal horror that the Officials had fired into a crowd, and when some time later four known Officials drove into a strong Provisional area, the local unit assumed they had come in to attack the area and fired at the men, killing John Short and wounding another man. We questioned a number of people about this incident and all of them saw it as a defensive response to a genuine threat. We ourselves found the Provisionals to be the reverse of sectarian. Members of Sinn Fein at all levels were despondent that the Beechmount bomb had had the planned effect of stimulating the Officials into attacking the Provisionals, and everyone was only too aware that the British Army had everything to gain by standing back while the nationalist community tore itself apart. Consequently all steps were taken to

attack it was doing the job already ably done by the British Government and the Official Movement, but because our conclusions from Easter weekend were so different. These were: that the Provisionals have massive support in West Belfast — witness the tens of thousands who came out to pack the streets and join in the Easter parade, that the British Army and its sympathisers will go to any lengths to divide and defeat the movement, and that the Officials are all too quick to play into the hands of the British Army in their anxiety to discredit the Provisionals. We were also impressed by the interest in socialism expressed by many Provisionals at all levels, and the desire for discussion about, for example, how socialism and nationalism can be integrated. We have no doubt that British socialists have a contribution to make to this discussion, but that they will be welcomed only when they show firstly that they are making a determined and

Alastair Renwick & Liz Curtis (London)

* We are grateful to the comrades for supplying us with more detailed information about these events, information which was not readily available to us at the time. However comrades Alastair and Liz are incorrect to say we put forward a 'perspective' in this article. In the previous issue of the paper we had a long full page article which reflects the general analysis of Red Weekly on Ireland. If the comrades wish to address themselves to our perspective they should refer to that article. One of the points made in the article was that while defending unconditionally the struggle of the Provisionals against British imperialism we reserve the right to criticise certain tactics which the Provisionals adopt. The first reports of the shooting of John Short — which as the comrades point out were not fully

'Battle for control'

TO OVERCOME any confusion, I would like to explain the objectives of 'the report' referred to in John Graham's article 'Car Workers — aim is Workers Control' (Red Weekly 6 April). The Committee of Enquiry involved is in the process of producing an eventual report developing a more coherent national workers' strategy for the industry. The Committee have rejected the concept of writing, in isolation, a blueprint for such a strategy which inevitably would have little mass support or even mass bases in terms of substance. Rather it believes we must extract the minimum amount of information, experience and knowledge from the widest possible range of workers in the industry in order to produce anything representative of a workers' strategy. The document referred to, entitled 'Battle for Control' is therefore intended as a lead into the generation of debate and support for the concept of a workers' strategy for the Motor industry as we believe the process is equally if not more important than the end product. In practical terms the Committee want to go through the exercise of 'taking evidence' from groups of workers throughout the industry and the document has been designed purely to initiate that process. Consequently it deliberately does not contain the definitive demands for the types of measures that John refers to — these we would hope would be derived from the response of the comrades, such as John, to the questions posed. Instead it presents brief general comments and a series of probing questions on the various features of the attacks on carworkers, not exhaustive, broken into three sections — what is happening at plant level, why capital is being reorganised and production rationalised in the motor industry internationally, and thirdly, and most importantly, how we are responding as workers to the

important steps forward, in general for car workers, in the coming period? We would welcome response to this and the rest of the document from any group of carworkers related industries that are Red Weekly supporters. JIM SHUTT (AUEW/TASS; Chairman, Coventry and Chaimms Committee of Enquiry).

* Copies of 'Battle for Control' available from Jim Shutt, 85, St Henry Parkes Road, Canley, Coventry.

Hull meeting

I WISH to protest at the advertisement in Red Weekly, 28 April, the 'Socialist Against Cuts' meeting in Hull University. In the first place I was informed of the intention to advertise this meeting in Red Weekly at all, let alone in such a prominent manner. Secondly, I made it clear to Shutt I was not speaking as representative of the Socialist Workers Party, but in a personal capacity, and was assured that this would be made clear in leaflets issued in Hull University. MARTIN SHAW (Hull).

'Rouge' lessons valuable for success of Socialist Challenge

INTERVIEW WITH ALAIN KRIVINE

Krivine was in London to speak at a rally of the IMG at which the launching of the new revolutionary socialist weekly *Socialist Challenge* was announced.

For *Socialist Challenge* one particular experience of *Rouge* was especially relevant, as the new weekly intends to open up its pages, as has *Rouge*, to organisations, groups and individuals who do not necessarily share the overall positions of the paper.

Krivine outlined how *Rouge* had progressed in this regard:

'We declared publicly that there was this "free tribune" facility available — especially for other organisations of the revolutionary left. We had many problems with it at first. The other groups told us they did not want to reinforce our paper. It was a kind of sectarianism.'

Krivine explained that a major factor in helping to break down such attitudes was the recent electoral agreement between the far left organisations which saw striking advances for the far left in the French municipal elections.

'Our conception was to use the paper not just to present our line but to use it also as a tool of

debate. The election campaign itself gave spur to this process. Now we have had this type of unity in action there is much more willingness to use the "free tribune" columns.'

INCREASE

There has also been an increase in the use of such columns by organisations associated with particular issues. As Krivine explained, 'we give pages to the women's groups, the ecologists, the soldiers groups and so on. Again at first there was some hesitation, they were suspicious of helping *Rouge*, but now we have such contributions almost every day'.

Krivine stressed that what *Rouge* was attempting was part of a general struggle for revolutionary unity and regroupment:

'There exists in France today, to the left of the Communist Party, hundreds of thousands of workers and students who perhaps in a very confused way are attracted by revolutionary socialist perspectives, but do not see themselves as being in the extreme left organisations. Most do not understand the divisions

of the far left, and in a sense they are paralysed by them. It would be irresponsible of us not to make any attempt to try and heal these divisions'.

It was such thinking which led to the election agreement around the French municipal elections, and Krivine pointed to other successes — for example the joint revolutionary left contingent on the French May Day demonstration was the first of its kind. There are also moves to have even closer co-operation with *Lutte Ouvriere*. As Krivine explains:

'We have had talks about fusion with LO before, but they broke down. Now they have started again and we are making some real progress.'

COMMON

'There have of course been many difficulties, but it is probable that the next step will be four common pages — in their weekly and in our daily. These will be written together and will have a joint editor. Again, this would be a major step forward.'

The experience of the French comrades cannot be directly translated to this country. That



Photo: LAURENCE SPARHAM (IFL)

Rouge was a daily paper gave it an attractiveness which *Socialist Challenge* will not have. It is also notable that there was a greater willingness to participate in *Rouge* after major steps to unity in action had been taken.

But in Britain particular developments such as the rise of the National Front make similar attempts to forge unity in action not just a 'good idea' but a concrete need of the anti-fascist struggle.

Krivine and the new *Socialist Challenge* are at one on this:

'It would be irresponsible if we did not make an attempt to heal the divisions'.



Speakers at last Friday's rally to launch *Socialist Challenge*. From left to right: Alain Krivine, editor of *Rouge*, Bob Pennington of the Political Committee of the IMG [Chairperson] and Steve Potter, editor of *Red Weekly*.

Build the new paper

ALAIN KRIVINE was the main speaker at the 300-strong 'Trotskyism Today' rally in London's Hammersmith Town Hall last Friday. The other main speaker was Steve Potter, Editor of *Red Weekly*. He used an example from Lenin to explain the IMG's views on the new paper *Socialist Challenge*.

Lenin compared the paper of a revolutionary organisation to the scaffolding around a building. In Lenin's analogy, the building represents the party. He said that the scaffolding 'marks the contours of the structure and facilitates communication between the builders, permitting them to distribute the work, and to view the common results achieved by their organised labour'.

Comrade Potter explained that although *Socialist Challenge* can not be the paper of the unified revolutionary party in Britain, it could provide the scaffolding. Its other aim is to fight for a socialist opposition at every level of the workers' movement in the face of the attacks levied by the bosses, the fascists and the Labour leaders themselves.

Increasing the journalistic and technical resources for the new paper. And we are moving to larger premises. This is essential if its goals are to be achieved. But we can do this only with help from our readers.

If every reader gave us a pound we could easily achieve our Fund Drive target. Unfortunately,

not everyone will. This means some readers must give us more. If you are committed to the project of *Socialist Challenge*, rush your money off today.

Norwich IMG £4.84
Bradford IMG £12.40
RW Supporter

London SW17 £5.00
BB £5.00
TD £100.00
Anon £10.00
Watford IMG £30.70
London Railway Workers £5.50
Coventry Fund Drive tote winner donation £1.70

SOCIALIST CHALLENGE

TOUR

* LEEDS Fri. 8 May

* SHEFFIELD Sun. 9 May

* M'CR POLY Tues. 10 May

* WIGAN Tues. 10 May

* EDINBURGH Mon. 15 May

* HULL Wed. 18 May

* B'HAM Thurs. 19 May

* WORCESTER Fri. 20 May

* NOTTS/

LEICESTER Sun. 22 May

* OXFORD Mon. 23 May

* BRISTOL Tues. 24 May

* SWANSEA Wed. 25 May

* CARDIFF Thurs. 26 May

* READING/ BASINGSTOKE Fri. 27 May

* M'CR Sun. 29 May

* LIVERPOOL Mon. 30 May

* SO'TON Tues. 31 May

* BOLTON Wed. 1 June

* BRIGHTON Wed. 1 June

* CANTERBURY Wed. 1 June

* LONDON Fri. 3 June

For details of all meetings

phone 01-278 9526

World Outlook



★ Turkey

More than 35 people were killed and some 200 wounded as a May Day Rally in Istanbul ended in violence.

5,000 trade unionists gathered in Taksim Square in the centre of Istanbul for the rally organised by the DISK, the Confederation of Revolutionary Workers Unions. About 2,000 Maoists carrying placards calling for Kurdish independence were separated from the main body of the demonstration. As Kemal Turkler, the DISK leader, addressed the meeting firing began from

nearby rooftops. And, some reports claim, bombs were thrown into the square.

Police claim that the shooting was started by Maoists whom DISK refused to allow on the demonstration. In fact Turkler was inviting the Maoists to join the rally at the very moment when the firing started. There has been considerable fascist violence in the past week orchestrated by the Nationalist Action Party, led by the deputy Prime Minister. If it was these people who carried out the Taksim Square murders, that would explain the desire of the police to cover up the whole business.

★ Spain

Despite the recent legalisation of three trade unions the Spanish Government persisted with its ban on all May Day demonstrations. The police were determined that this was going to be enforced.

So determined, in fact, that they horse-whipped and beat picnickers (including children) rode their horses into the Metro stations in pursuit of demonstrators and repeatedly harassed journalists. They smashed the car windows of a German television crew, whipped a Reuters reporter and threatened many others.

At the end of the day the toll was 200 injured in Madrid alone and many more in Bilbao, with at least 50 people arrested. One man was reported to have had part of his head blown away by a smoke bomb.

★ May Day

May Day demonstrations in Italy were banned by Interior Minister Francesco Cossiga. A series of bombings took place, with leftists attacking public buildings and fascists attacking left-wing party offices.

Twenty-five demonstrators were injured by police during the Athens May Day Rally.

In Manila police with water cannon and para-police thugs armed with truncheons broke up the largest anti-Government demonstration in the Philippines for a year.

Police used tear gas and metal-tipped canes to break up a demonstration against the Bhutto Government in Rawalpindi.

★ Wales — Spain

About 80 people marched through Cardiff town centre last Saturday to demonstrate their solidarity with the workers of Spain. Though the march was small it was seen as a success because it was the first May Day march in Cardiff for years.

Organised by the Cardiff Spanish Solidarity Campaign, it was supported by Cardiff Trades Council, the Communist Party, the International Marxist Group and supporters of the Militant. The demonstration demanded a lifting of the ban on May Day demonstrations in Spain, the legalisation of all democratic parties and self-determination for the national minorities.

Adding colour to the march was a contingent of Spanish exiles and a number of former International Brigade members. Particularly memorable was the first meeting of an International Brigader and a Spanish exile from the CNT. Unknowingly they had been in the same concentration camp during the Civil War.

A successful meeting was held after the march. There was a lively discussion about the Civil War and future tasks in building the campaign. The march arose out of an all-Wales Spanish Committee Trade Union Conference two weeks previously.

The next steps in the cam-

local solidarity committees in other areas, the building of a large Spanish presence at a forthcoming Miners' Gala and the building of a large demonstration and meeting in Aberdare.

The tradition of the South Wales miners in the 1930s is being steadily rediscovered.

★ West Germany

The three 'Baader-Meinhof' defendants, Andreas Baader, Jan-Carl Raspe, and Gudrun Ensslin have been sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of 'terrorism'.

The verdict was the outcome of a two-year trial in a specially-built court at Stammheim top security jail. In that time one of the defendants, Ulrike Meinhof, died under mysterious circumstances in her prison cell. Another defendant, Holger Meins, had already died after a hunger strike against the conditions he was being held in.

Legal action and officially backed persecution has been levelled at defence lawyers throughout the hearing and their attempts to mount a political defence stamped on by the judge. Conversations between the defendants and their lawyers were bugged — a practice which has been publicly endorsed by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt — and the defendants judged as guilty by the press years before the case ever came to court.

★ Zaire

As expected the last week in the Shaba province has been one of defeat for the anti-Mobutu guerillas. Economic and military aid from a number of imperialist powers and their clients has proved too much for the Congo National Liberation Front in an open battle. However armed strength alone will not defeat the opposition.

One of the main reasons for Mobutu's swift military success has received little coverage. 160 French paratroopers of the 2nd Battalion spear-headed the attack, backed by 1,500 Moroccans. The Zairean army was hardly to be seen. This was at the same time as French President Giscard's denials of any military involvement.

★ South Africa

SALARY R28; RENT R22, FOOD R10, CLOTHING R20, LUXURY?

That was the message of a placard carried on a demonstration in the Soweto townships last week. The march was against rent increases of up to 40 per cent. Only two days later the increases were suspended for a month.

The actions were organised by the Soweto Students Representative Council. High schools throughout Soweto were deserted and police used tear gas to prevent some students assembling for a meeting. In another incident three blacks were taken to hospital with gunshot wounds. But the students succeeded in holding a mass meeting at the Elkah stadium in Rockville and 5,000 rallied outside the Soweto Urban Bantu Council of-

Workers' Jubilee 1917-1977



Leon Trotsky boarded the Norwegian ship, Christianiafjord, in New York harbour on 27 March. His journey back to Petrograd, after years of exile and imprisonment, was just beginning. Trotsky had not yet seen the last of the imperialist jails.

When the Christianiafjord anchored at Halifax, Nova Scotia, British naval police took Trotsky off the ship. For the next 26 days he passed the time with German sailors at the prisoner of war camp at Amherst. Not one to let the sands of time slip through his fingers, Trotsky began discussing

viks, and the, then, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miliukov, had been forced, by the outcry within Russia, to demand the immediate release of Trotsky.

Having arrived in Europe, Trotsky travelled by train from Finland to Petrograd. At Beloostrov on the Russian-Finnish border Trotsky was met by a group of members of the Mezhrayonka (Inter-Borough organisation), led by Uritsky. The Bolsheviks were represented by Fyodorov, a member of the Central Committee, a metal worker and later Chairperson of the workers' section of the Petrograd Soviet, but not a central leader, reflecting the tensions that still existed between Trotsky and Lenin's party. In Petrograd a large crowd awaited the return of the 1905 Soviet's leader.

Leon Trotsky arrived in Petrograd on 4 May (17 May by the new calendar). The revolution was 10 weeks old, making Trotsky one of the last emigres to return. He wasted no time in making up for this loss. On 5 May, both Trotsky and the new socialist ministers in the coalition Government, were presented to the plenary session of the Soviet. The formalities over, Trotsky addressed the Soviet.



LEON TROTSKY

the war, the Zimmerwald conference and anti-war position taken by the German revolutionary Karl Liebknecht. The British and German officers decided to put an end to this agitation. 500 sailors signed a letter of protest. When Trotsky continued his travels he left Amherst to the strains of the Internationale.

During his enforced stay both the Executive of the Soviet, dominated politically by the Menshe-

DANGEROUS

'I consider this participation in the Government to be dangerous...The coalition Government will not save us from the existing dualism of power; it will merely transfer that dualism into the Ministry itself...I think that our next move will be to transfer the whole power into the hands of the Soviet. Only a single power can save Russia...three revolutionary articles of faith; do not trust the bourgeoisie; control the leaders; rely only on your own force.'

Trotsky's first speech to the Soviet, like Lenin's, caused something of a stir. Both had the same content. Sukhanov wrote: 'Rumours were already going around to the effect that he was worse than Lenin.' On this occasion Trotsky failed to convince the Soviet. They voted confidence in the coalition government.

WHO IS A TROTSKYIST?

Public appeal
In the article 'Who is Dr F. Kriegel — a programme from the Czechoslovak radio station in Prague' printed in *Peoples Democracy* of the 4th of this month it is stated that Artur London is a Trotskyist and a Zionist.

It is well known to the public that Artur London was condemned to life imprisonment in 1952 in a trial in which the Czechoslovak Communist Party, led at that time by Gottwald, and the officials of the state administration dealing with criminal proceedings allowed 11 murders, 3 criminal acts of deprivation of personal freedom and other crimes to take place.

The testimony of Artur London, like the testimonies of hundreds of other people in those years, was extracted by bestial methods of a kind unknown even to the Middle Ages and which the present power elite, which claims for itself the 'legacy' of Gottwald, suppresses, coyly talking about the 'mistakes and errors' of the 1950s.

It is this very testimony of Artur London that official propaganda now uses to imply that Frantisek Kriegel is also a Trotskyist. The quotation in the article is dated as a verdict from 1951, from which it can be inferred that Artur London's imprisonment began on 28 January 1951.

Because such methods of official propaganda often in the past created an atmosphere which facilitated the crimes which party and state officials committed against

their — in the majority supposed or artificially fabricated — political opponents and other citizens. It is in the interests of the whole of society that such methods of propaganda should be exposed and condemned as criminal. Calling people by the labels 'Trotskyism' and 'Zionism' is one of these methods.

I know the histories, the political opinions and tendencies of Artur London and Frantisek Kriegel sufficiently to be able to affirm with certainty that neither is a Trotskyist or a Zionist — which anyway are mutually exclusive — and never were. My certainty on this point flows from the fact that I am myself a Trotskyist, or, better, a revolutionary Marxist.

As far as Zionism is concerned, what the author of the article wants to say is that

Artur London is a Jew, as he openly says about Frantisek Kriegel. In the propaganda of the Czechoslovak bureaucracy, therefore, Jew = Zionist. Since, however, I have a number of Jewish friends, the great majority of whom are incidentally opponents of Zionism, I can knowledgeably refute the idea that Jews are automatically Zionists.

I know that Artur London is not a Zionist. With regard to my connections and the resultant anti-semitic attitudes, it would perhaps be best if I were considered by the relevant authorities as a 'white-Jew' (= crypto-Zionist), or, as they used to say, a 'Jew lover'. I do not in fact understand why the official propaganda has denied me this well-earned and suitable designation.

The fact that Frantisek Kriegel and Artur London are not

Trotskyists is certainly a loss for the international workers movement and its revolutionary Marxist component grouped in the Fourth International or those organisations which are fighting to build it. Despite this, however, all partisans of socialism recognise that these comrades always were and still are a great example for the international workers movement of communists who have given all their strength and capacities to the service of the movement.

Neither the anti-semitic campaign, nor labels, lies and slanders from careerists and enemies of socialism and the workers can change this fact.

Petr Uhl
Prague 5 March 1977
Translated by Mark Jackson

Letter from Eastern Europe

Petr Uhl, now under arrest by the Czech authorities, speaks against the witch-hunt of Charter 77 supporters.

'I know... Artur London and Frantisek Kriegel sufficiently to be able to confirm with certainty that neither is a Trotskyist or a Zionist... My certainty on this point flows from the fact that I am myself a Trotskyist...'

Oiling Racism

The Labour Government has finally called an enquiry into the sanction busting of British Petroleum and Shell to Rhodesia. The only problem is that it has come ten years too late. For a decade these two oil giants, along with Mobil, Caltex and the French Total have oiled the economy and war machine of the racist Smith regime.

The Haslemere Group and the Anti-Apartheid Movement last week published their submission to the enquiry. They provide evidence of sanction-busting, some of which has been known for some time, which Shell and BP have not refuted.

In 1973 Shell and BP catered for 56.1 per cent of Rhodesian oil needs. This oil is supplied from South Africa. The Vorster regime, in turn, imports the bulk of its crude oil from another bloody dictatorship, Iran. The jointly owned Shell-BP refinery at Durban deals with 40 per cent of the imported Iranian oil.

Haslemere and the AAM make a series of documented points over the involvement of the oil companies. Firstly that they ensured that when Smith made his Unilateral Declaration of Independence Rhodesia had six months stocks of oil. Secondly, they set up road networks to maintain supplies from South Africa. 40,000 gallons a day flowed in through oil tankers.

Thirdly, by March 1966 a rail connection had been established from South Africa but via Mozambique. Over 140,000 gallons a day arrived on this route — ample to supply the needs of the Rho-

Africa and Rutenga in Rhodesia. Opened in September 1974, it is now the crucial link following the closure by PRELIMO of the Mozambique-Rhodesia border. Fifthly, the workings of Freight Services are exposed.

Freight Services, one of the largest shipping and forwarding companies in southern Africa, has offices in South Africa, Rhodesia and Mozambique. It is controlled by the Anglo-American Corporation of the Oppenheimers. The South African subsidiaries of the oil giants do not wish it to be known that they trade with Smith. The simple solution is to find somebody else to do the dirty work.

PROOF

The authors of the report claim to have been given definite proof of both Shell and BP supplying Rhodesia via Freight Services. They say, 'it is not possible to name this source'. Another multinational that features in the report, attacking BP and Shell, is Lonrho.

'Tiny' Rowland, Chief Executive of Lonrho, claimed in a letter of July 1976 that: 'Over 50 per cent of these petroleum products were

to Bulawayo and Salisbury.'

WRIT

Rowland went as far as to hand to the Foreign Office the chassis numbers of 300 Shell-BP rail tankers that crossed into Rhodesia from Mozambique. In 1967 Lonrho seriously discussed taking legal action against the Labour Government over the sanction-busting of BP. A writ was prepared. The idea was dropped when it became clear that Angus Ogilvy, then a Lonrho director and relative of the Queen, would have to leave the board. It was not the done thing to take the Government to court!

Rowland, in the *Sunday Times* of 10 April this year, revealed that he was considering civil action against BP over their breaches of sanctions. It can be safely assumed that Lonrho, with their substantial interests in Rhodesia, have the proof.

Rowland is getting so excited about the profiteering of the oil firms because he feels they are pinching the profits that are by rights his! Lonrho has a 62 per cent share of Companhia do Pipeline Mocambique, which in turn owns

1965. The agreement between CPM and the oil firms stipulated that they would only use the pipeline. Since its closure, needless to say, that arrangement has been broken. Lonrho is proposing to sue for between £50 and £100 million.

NO MOVES

Despite all the evidence, available for several years, the Labour Government acts only now. The Government themselves knew about the sanctions busting immediately after UDI. According to Robert Good, then US ambassador to Zambia, the British Embassy in South Africa kept a round the clock surveillance from a parked car a few yards from the border gate. They could hardly have missed four tankers crossing each day!

The submission states 'we are not accusing the head offices. They rather put the blame at the door of the South African subsidiary. But it is evident that the head offices in London could stop this trade. Likewise in the case of BP, the Labour Government has a 68 per cent holding and through Tom Jackson, leader of the Union of Post Office Workers, a director on the board with a right to veto any decision. No such moves have been made.'

SANCTIONS

The Haslemere-AAM contribution finally speaks of stepping up sanctions through the United Nations. The ineffective nature of the UN has been seen before.

It will be through international trade union action that these supplies can be halted. The campaign against Labour Government complicity with the racists has to be stepped up to ensure that all trade with South Africa and



Angus Ogilvy [right] — no law suit against the Government — and Tiny Rowland — protecting his own interests.

Zimbabwe Week of Action

* Tuesday 10 May: 9.00-10.00am. Picket: NATO Conference, Lancaster House (off the Mall). 'End NATO Links with Apartheid'. Organised by the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

* Thursday 12 May: 6.00-7.00pm. Picket: Foreign Office. 'End hangings in Rhodesia. Protest against all forms of oppression. Support for liberation movement.' Public Meeting, 7.30pm. Westminster Central Hall. 'Zimbabwe: What Now?' Film and speakers. [Before the meeting an exhibition, 'Mozambique-Zimbabwe: One Struggle' will be opened for press and public viewing.]

* Friday 13 May: SHELL/BP Pickets. [Organised by Zimbabwe Ad-hoc Campaign.]

Venues listed below. Phone 01-607 1270 for additional pickets.
Lunchtime
London: Shell-Mex House, Strand. BP Picket Victoria

Aberdeen: Allens Farm Road, Nigg.
Birmingham: Alpha Tower, ATV Centre, 1.
Bristol: 20 Wins Street
Cardiff: 24 Newport Road
Glasgow: 123/127 Bothwell St., G2
Ipswich: Lonslee Road
Leeds: Town Centre House, Merion Centre
Manchester: 7 Oxford Road
Newcastle: Newgate House, Newgate St., 1.
Southampton: 14 New Road
Warrford: Star House, Cleardon Road.

* Saturday 14 May: 'To a Free Zimbabwe'. Poetry reading by the Zimbabwean poet, Mudereri Kadhani, who has published 'Quarantine Rhythms'. Films — refugee camps in Mozambique. Liberation — on Zimbabwe in particular from a wide variety of organisations. Poster displays and sales. Discussion — with members of the liberation movement.

* Organised by Zimbabwe

ITALY - Communist Party and the Crisis

There were no mass marches through Italian streets this May Day. The Interior Minister had banned them.

Almost every measure taken by the Government to limit democratic rights and cut working class living standards has been enthusiastically backed by the Communist Party, the largest of the Italian workers' parties.

Last week the Government offered to come to a deal with the Communist Party over a 'plan to beat the crisis'. RICHARD CARVER examines the proposed agreement and the growing opposition to the Communist Party in the trade unions.

Drop in support for PCI as 'historic compromise' approaches

The leaders of Italy's Communist Party reckon that the 'historic compromise' is about to become a reality. Last week the governing Christian Democratic party agreed to seek a common 'programme of government' with other major parties including the Communists (PCI).

The programme negotiated would be a series of measures to deal with the Government's major problems such as public order and the economy. Announcing the proposal on 27 April Benigno Zaccagnini, the Christian Democrats' general secretary, explained that: 'It does not seem possible to constitute a majority in the traditional sense in this legislature'. He went on to say that the only alternative was

elections — and no major party feels confident in putting its policies to a vote.

For Christian Democracy the preferred solution would have been a revival of the old centre-left coalition with the Socialist Party. But the latter has been doing very well by steering a course which is independent of either of the two main parties. In particular they were the main beneficiaries of a drop in the

PCI's vote in the municipal elections a fortnight ago.

Until then the furthest the Government had been prepared to go in broadening its support was the proposal to admit to office 'independent technicians', mainly elected on the Communist Party slate. Things were speeded up when Aldo Moro, the president of the Christian Democrats, declared himself in favour of a 'programmatic' agreement with the PCI.

Many commentators saw this as a bid for Giulio Andreotti's job as Prime Minister. Whether or not that is so, the pressure on Andreotti was too great to resist. Despite a deep-seated fear of the



Italian riot police on the rampage

participation of 'Communists' in government it is only the PCI's support for Andreotti which has kept the Government alive since last June. The logic of the Christian Democrats' position is to come to some more formal arrangement.

They certainly have little to fear from the policies which the PCI will put forward. PCI deputies have abstained in the Chamber on every important issue, hence giving tacit support to the Government. In recent weeks the party leadership has become increasingly aware of opposition among the party rank and file, particularly in the unions.

SUPPORT

In less than a year the PCI has backed increase of up to 50 per cent in basic goods and food-stuffs, reweighting of the cost of living index and a freeze on the wages of higher paid workers. It has refused to support free abortion on demand for fear of alienating the 'Catholic vote'. Most recently it has given fulsome support to the Government's attempts to restore 'order', that is, to use police violence against student struggles. The Interior Minister has threatened that police will open fire on violent demonstrations.

The PCI supports him.

Disillusionment with these policies came to a head with the 10 per cent fall in the party's vote in the recent municipal elections. PCI candidates tried to explain how the decline in public services in the municipalities was the result of cuts in Government spending over which they had no control. When it is considered that the party has tacitly supported every economic measure and has even extolled the virtues of 'austerity' as an agent of 'social change', it is hardly surprising that voters were not convinced. After all, if you are going to have Christian Democratic policies why not vote for the Christian Democrats.

The promise of a programmatic deal therefore comes as a lifeline to the PCI general secretary Enrico Berlinguer. There is no doubt that millions of workers voted for his 'historic compromise' — joint government with the Christian Democrats — because they genuinely saw it as the first step towards socialism. Much of the recent discontent has been because they think that the PCI is giving too much support to the Government with nothing coming back in return.

Workers have seen their party

policing the Government's attacks on wages, conditions and employment in the Chamber and in the unions. Many workers are beginning to see this as an inevitable product of class collaborationist policies. But a greater number continue to believe that the problem is that the historic compromise has not been properly carried out.

APPEASE

It is the latter group that Berlinguer hopes to appease by the latest deal. But he still has two big problems. The first is that the new agreement will not mean a change in Government policies in favour of the working class. On the contrary it will give the capitalist parties even greater leeway to resolve their economic crisis at the expense of working people.

The other problem is that many workers who still accept the historic compromise will nevertheless see this 'advance' as a signal to step up their own militant action in defence of their jobs and pay packets and attacks on their democratic rights. And that, of course, is not at all what Signor Berlinguer has in mind.

Workers' delegates meet for union democracy

MORE THAN 2,000 workers' delegates met in the Lirico Theatre in Milan on 6 April to endorse a call for a national assembly of factory councils to fight for trade union democracy.

The meeting is part of a growing opposition to the union leaders' collaboration in the latest round of Government austerity measures. Communist Party militants wishing to oppose the national line of their party are choosing the unions as the arena for their fightback.

A few months ago defence of the 'sliding scale' was a touchstone of Italian trade unionism. This system of index-linked wage rises is far from perfect. The price index by which the rises are calculated is controlled by the Government, not the workers' organisations themselves, and the delay in payments after the price rises take place means that pay packets still lag behind inflation.

But, even when Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti introduced his austerity package last October, union leaders were making no secret about their readiness to make concessions on the sliding



Austerity-monger Giulio Andreotti

workers (which is true), Luciano Lama, general secretary of the CGIL, the Communist Party union, found himself 'substantially in agreement with the President of the Council of Ministers, since his proposal is not very different from the one which we have formulated'.

Then, on 24 March this year, union leaders announced that they were prepared to accept a revision of the 'basket' by which the pay rises are calculated. This ruled transport, electricity and newspapers out of the index — a real wage cut in plain language.

The following day a group of metalworkers began circulating a letter opposing the line of the

union-Government deal was signed, a number of factory councils in Milan took up the call for an assembly. More than 300 factory councils in the Milan area endorsed the appeal after discussion in the factory assemblies.

The appeal argued that the deal was a 'challenge to democracy and the class nature of the unions'. Representatives of the factory councils explained that: 'This is not an initiative against the unions but, on the contrary, a protest movement inside the unions to tell them that the base is being listened to less and less'.

The leaders of the FLM, the metalworkers union, also stood their distance from the CGIL

the recent student struggles. Now they support the call for a national assembly of factory representatives.

One FLM official explained: 'The leaders of the confederation (the CGIL) cannot presume to impose their unity from the top down. Either they respect the line worked out in the assemblies or we, as intermediary leaders, will not consider ourselves bound by the decisions made at the top.'

These themes were repeated at the Lirico Theatre meeting. But there were dangers in such positions. It remains to be seen how far the FLM leaders will commit themselves to a fight against the CGIL bureaucracy. At the moment they are calling for little more than 'consultation' and 'protest'. And the perfectly healthy call for the independence of the unions from political parties too easily becomes an excuse for not fighting the political betrayals of the union leaderships.

INADEQUATE

But if 'protest' is not adequate the insistence of the Lirico delegates on a fight inside the unions was correct. They rejected the arguments of the 'autonomous' delegates that the union leaders could simply be ignored and by-passed. As long as these bureaucrats carry on as the policemen of the Andreotti Government's attacks, any fight to defend living standards will run up against them.

It is too early to tell what will be the impact of the call for a national assembly of factory councils. But an important political movement is underway. After the 1969 strike wave the unions retreated from the openly political role they had played in that struggle. Now disillusionment with the Communist Party

Giscard totters

THE 'WAIT AND SEE' policy of the French Socialist and Communist Parties may not last much longer. The Government only survived last Thursday's vote of confidence by the personal intervention of Jacques Chirac — its main right-wing opponent. Legislative elections may be called sooner than 1978.

The vote was over the latest instalment of Prime Minister Raymond Barre's austerity plan. The package included a job creation scheme for young people which was strongly opposed by the Gaullists. The attack on Barre and the Giscard strategy of a 'Government of technicians' was led by former Prime Minister Michel Debre. Chirac, the Gaullist leader and new mayor of Paris and himself a former Prime Minister was called from the town hall to bring about some semblance of order.

The vote went in favour of the Government with only a handful of Gaullists rejecting Chirac's advice and abstaining. But the point had been made. Giscard's 'political' Government now rests on the support of the hard-line right.

The rift between Giscard's Independent Republicans and the Gaullists has been widening for some months. At a time when the economic situation is worsening and French society polarising under the impact of the Government's various 'solutions', the Gaullists offer a better prospect to the capitalist class than the liberal-talking President and his faceless Prime Minister.

It is no coincidence that the crisis came at the moment when

were published — 0.9 per cent. Barre's claim that there would be only 6.5 per cent inflation by the end of the year was shown to be worthless. Judging by the sharp rise over recent months it will be well into double figures once again.

Equally it is no coincidence that the result came on the same day as the biggest national strike since 1968. The nationalised and public sector was brought to a halt by workers demanding a restoration of cuts, wages and jobs. They were under no illusion that Barre's 'job creation' would do anything to fight joblessness in a country where 926 workers join the dole queue every day.

EMBARRASSED

More and more workers feel that the Government must be swept away, but the parties of the Union of the Left are likely to be as embarrassed as they were after their recent victory in the municipal elections. For more than a year their slogan has been: 'Wait for the legislative elections in 1978'.

The Communist Party must be unique in actually playing down its election gains. The Left accentuates its advance' stated a small and modest headline in the party's daily paper the day after the Union of the Left's massive gains! Socialist Party leader Francois Mitterand continues to emphasise that: 'It is up to Giscard and only Giscard to dissolve Parliament if he considers it necessary'.

The reformist leaders are worried that this new parliamentary situation will only hasten the moment when the working class will ask them to present their alternative to the Barre plan — and they will be unable to do so.

VICTORY AT LINTON LODGE!

RED WEEKLY

The strike fought by Linton Lodge hotel workers for six months ended in victory last Saturday. All of their demands were met.

Their union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, was recognised. The management agreed to reinstate the shop steward and three other workers. And three workers who did not want to return to Linton Lodge were given financial compensation.

But the fight at the Birmingham club — Night Out — is still going on and is in its eleventh week. The obstacles faced by the workers are enormous. First, the scabs have been especially active. Last Monday the management organised a demonstration of them to Transport House in Birmingham. The majority of marchers weren't even from Night Out, but from other Trust Houses Forte establishments in the city.

The march wasn't enough for management. They led their protestors back to the Night Out. Instead of going through the side entrance, Mr Preston, the manager, called on his staff to go to the picket line and 'get rid of the rubbish'. A gang of thugs, headed by the scabbing bouncer, tried to intimidate eight pickets. Several women on the picket line were assaulted.

SCABS

Four days later, a similar anti-union crusade was organised in London. Night Out scabs marched to the headquarters of Equity, Transport House, and finally on to Downing Street.

Another obstacle to the Night Out staff has been the leadership of the TGWU. They have displayed the same unwillingness to

But fight against THF goes on

mount an effective fight on a national scale. This is especially important because — in contrast to Linton Lodge which is privately owned — the Night Out club is part of the Trust Houses Forte establishment.

For all these reasons, the fight for trade union recognition at the Night Out club must be organised nationally. The Randolph Hotel workers in Oxford — now out for 3 months, the Grosvenor House Hotel in Sheffield and the workers at the services areas on the M1 and the M62 motorways are all fighting the same battle.

The measures taken by the TGWU to date are utterly inadequate. The blacking of two Blue Star Garages on its own will do little to bring a successful end to the dispute. But the complete closure of the two petrol stations is a step in the right direction. It shows the strength of the unions when confronting even the giant companies.

It is up to every TGWU militant to demand their leaders sanction the organisation of national blacking action throughout the country now. And when Tory MP Robert Adley puts his question to Callaghan

in the Commons concerning a suspected ban on the civil services using THF facilities, he should stop hedging. Labour MP's must call for such a ban and that every effort is made to enforce it.

Fifty workers at Ostlands Park Hotel in Weybridge, Surrey, have joined the struggle of low paid workers. One thing which Linton Lodge demonstrates is that once broad support throughout the workers' movement is organised, even the weaker sections of workers can win their struggle. But THF will be a

harder nut to crack. And that's why national support is crucial now.

★ On Saturday evening, a large successful picket was mounted outside the Night Out — normally one of its busiest evenings. Business dwindled on Saturday and only a few people went in, accompanied by chants of the pickets. There was heavy police presence and one militant was arrested.

Support to: The Night Out Strikers, c/o Transport House, Broad Street, Birmingham.



These victorious Linton strikers will now be lending their support to the other hotel workers battling against Trust Houses Forte.

'The strike has been an eye-opener'

JO TOSTI, shop steward at Linton Lodge Hotel, told Red Weekly what the lessons of the strike were and how the Lodge workers intend to support the continuing fight against the Trust Houses Forte management.

The strike has been an eye-opener. None of us had previous experience. We now see that everything is set up in society to help people with money. The role of the police on the picket lines made it obvious. They arrested pickets for minor offences but took no action when management assaulted the pickets. And it was the Courts who fined pickets, while a customer who punched a picket in front of a policeman got free.

But we think the trade union leadership was one of the main obstacles. Two weeks ago Jack Jones said we couldn't win. After 6 months, we proved he was wrong.

In the very first week it was clear that we would have to fight the union before we could get at the bosses. The TGWU was very reluc-

tant to take any action. In fact, besides being on the picket, most of our time was spent lobbying union meetings and fighting the bureaucracy.

We made a mockery of the industrial tribunal as well. It went against one of us who used it, and ruled in support of management.

We won our case on the picket line. The state's 'conciliation' machinery, ACAS, said we should accept the compensation offer. They advised against holding out for the reinstatement of the shop steward.

We hope our struggle will give other hotel workers the determination to carry on. Our struggle is an example for people who want to join a union — but only if they are prepared to fight for it. The struggle against Trust Houses Forte is continuing. We will help them as much as possible. Our victory will be a great morale booster for them. We will join them on the picket line.

We have decided to donate our strike fund to the Randolph Hotel.

Petr Uhl arrested in Prague

Latest news from Prague indicates that Czechoslovak revolutionary Petr Uhl has been put under house arrest, along with Venek Sihan and Milan Huebl, also supporters of the Charter 77 human rights manifesto.

A few weeks ago we published an appeal by Uhl to the Western revolutionary left, urging them to support Charter 77. The further letter which we print on page 10 is a reply to the bureaucracy's attempts to smear oppositionists as 'Trotskyists' or 'Zionists'.

The fight to rehabilitate the victims of the show trials of the '50s formed one of the major political battles that prepared the way for the Prague spring in 1968. The regime of Antonin Novotny placed every obstacle in the way of those trying to set the record straight about the nightmare of extorted confessions and bizarre accusations of the show trials. It was only in 1968 itself with the overthrow of Novotny that serious investigations into the trials could be carried out, only to be suppressed again after the Soviet invasion.

In the aftermath of that invasion and now again in confronting the challenge of the Charter 77 movement, the Husak regime has resorted to the type of slanders and innuendoes used in the '50s, reminding oppositionists of the profound underlying continuity between the regime that staged the 'monster trials' and that in power in Prague today.

One of the themes running through the Stalinist response to challenges to its power is anti-semitism. In the Slansky trial

the show trials of the '50s in Czechoslovakia, the majority of defendants were Jews, and links with international Zionism were among the crimes they were accused of.

In the indictments for the trial, the old Nazi method of putting the 'original' Jewish name after the real name of the defendant was used — thus Slansky (alias Salzman) or Andre Simone (alias Otto Katz) — was used, thus implying that the defendants were in some way sinister outside infiltrators of Czechoslovak society. Artur London, mentioned by Uhl in the letter printed below was a defendant at this trial.

Now the anti-semitic note has been struck again. In particular, Frantisek Kriegel, a former member of the Party Politburo under Dubcek, has been singled out for treatment. He has been described as a Zionist and an international adventurer — the latter accusation presumably referring to his participation in the struggle against Franco in Spain in the '30s. Members of the International Brigade were also prominent amongst the defendants in the Slansky trial.

Kriegel has been the object of particular venom on the part of Husak and his Soviet backers since he refused to sign the Moscow protocols in August 1968 which effectively surrendered the Dubcek reform programme.

Kriegel had confronted the dirty prejudices of the Soviet leadership even before the invasion at a Soviet-Czechoslovak summit meeting on 29 July 1968, when Kosygin said to Kriegel's face, 'what is that Jew from Galicia doing here?'

Official anti-semitism, as its persistent re-appearance shows, is something deeply rooted in the bureaucratic regimes of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The bureaucrats themselves cover over their own acute feeling of insecurity with comforting fantasies about the work of agents — Zionists and Trotskyists — while of course the use of the age old popular prejudice of anti-semitism is a way of

attempting to rally support around the isolated and deeply unpopular regime of Gustav Husak.

The struggle to get rid of anti-semitism is inextricably linked to the struggle to get rid of that regime.

MARK JACKSON

Second Letter from Petr Uhl page 10



NAME..... SUBSCRIPTION RATES
ADDRESS..... DOMESTIC: £2 per year
£3.50 for six months
FOREIGN: £8 per year surface mail
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