

Red Weekly

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARXIST GROUP (BRITISH SECTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL)

PRICE 5p 19 SEPTEMBER 1974 No 68

FERRANTI BROKE : WILSON BANKRUPT

AFTER COURT LINE, FERRANTI JOINS THE QUEUE OF BRITISH firms going broke.

The hasty Government 'rescue operation'—estimated to cost £12 million—will do no more than paper over the cracks.

The £6 million raised for Court Line, and the money to be paid to Ferranti, are an attempt to help help sell Labour's image in this pre-election period.

This is presented under the guise of saving the workers' jobs, which is arrant nonsense. Labour has no policy to fight redundancies. Its election programme does not include one single, solitary constructive suggestion on how to fight redundancies.

ACCEPT

What Labour is proposing is that workers accept the social contract. This is nothing more than tying the working class to a sick and ailing British capitalism.

Apparently the working class must patiently accept wage restraint so that British industry can take longer to go broke.

The collapse will not stop with Court Line and Ferranti. Hundreds more firms face the same fate. The gloomy forecast of the 'experts' is that the deficit of firms' funds this year will total £3-£5000 million. Even at the height of the 1969-71 recession the deficit was never higher than £900 million.

The chill winds are also blowing through the giant BLMC where the issue is not will it go bankrupt, but when.

Thousands of other firms are simply hanging on by the fraying threads of bank overdrafts.

Redundancies are on the way for Ferranti's 17000 workers. No reliance should be placed on handouts by 'sympathetic' governments. Nor should any confidence be placed in the Ferranti management using the handouts in the interest of the workers.

In 1964 the Ferranti management operated a real fiddle with a Ministry of Defence contract and only after a massive public scandal did they reluctantly re-pay £4.25 million back.

This same 'shrewd businesslike' management woke up the other day to realise that they had exceeded their overdraft limit with the National Westminster Bank.

The demand should be for the nationalisation of Ferranti, without one penny piece of compensation.

That nationalisation should be carried out under workers' control. Workers at Ferranti should make plans to occupy their factory to fight redundancies and make sure these measures can be implemented.

NO ANSWER

The bankrupt policies of Wilson and company offer no answer. If accepted they will divide and weaken the working class.

Workers at Ferranti and hundreds of other factories have to decide

whether they should vote Labour. Our answer to that is an unequivocal yes. Not because we believe Labour has any solution to their problems but because under a Labour Government they will have the best conditions to fight for working class solutions to the crisis.

By occupations of factories and the seizure of capitalist assets the working class can force Labour to ratify these actions.

BOB PENNINGTON

FIRST ANTI- FASCIST JAILED

Peter Cooper, the first of the anti-fascist militants to appear before the magistrates, has been jailed for three months.

His offence—assault—normally carries a going rate sentence for first offenders, like Cooper, of a £40-£50 fine.

Cooper, a NALGO member and shop steward, has been signalled out for 'exemplary treatment.' But this was no aberration, meted out in a hasty moment by some choleric magistrate. It was a calculated decision to crack down on anti-fascist militants.

The magistrates are looking out for what they describe as the ring-leaders. Sentencing one defendant to a £50 fine and £25 costs, another magistrate told him: 'If I thought you were one of the ring-leaders I would have given you six months.'

FRAME-UPS

Repression and frame-ups against pickets, demonstrators and revolu-

tionaries are increasing. The trail stretches from the Stoke Newington 5, the Mangrove 9, the hounding of the Irish republican movement, the Shrewsbury 24, the police rampage at Essex University, the Ford pickets onto Red Lion Square and Hyde Park.

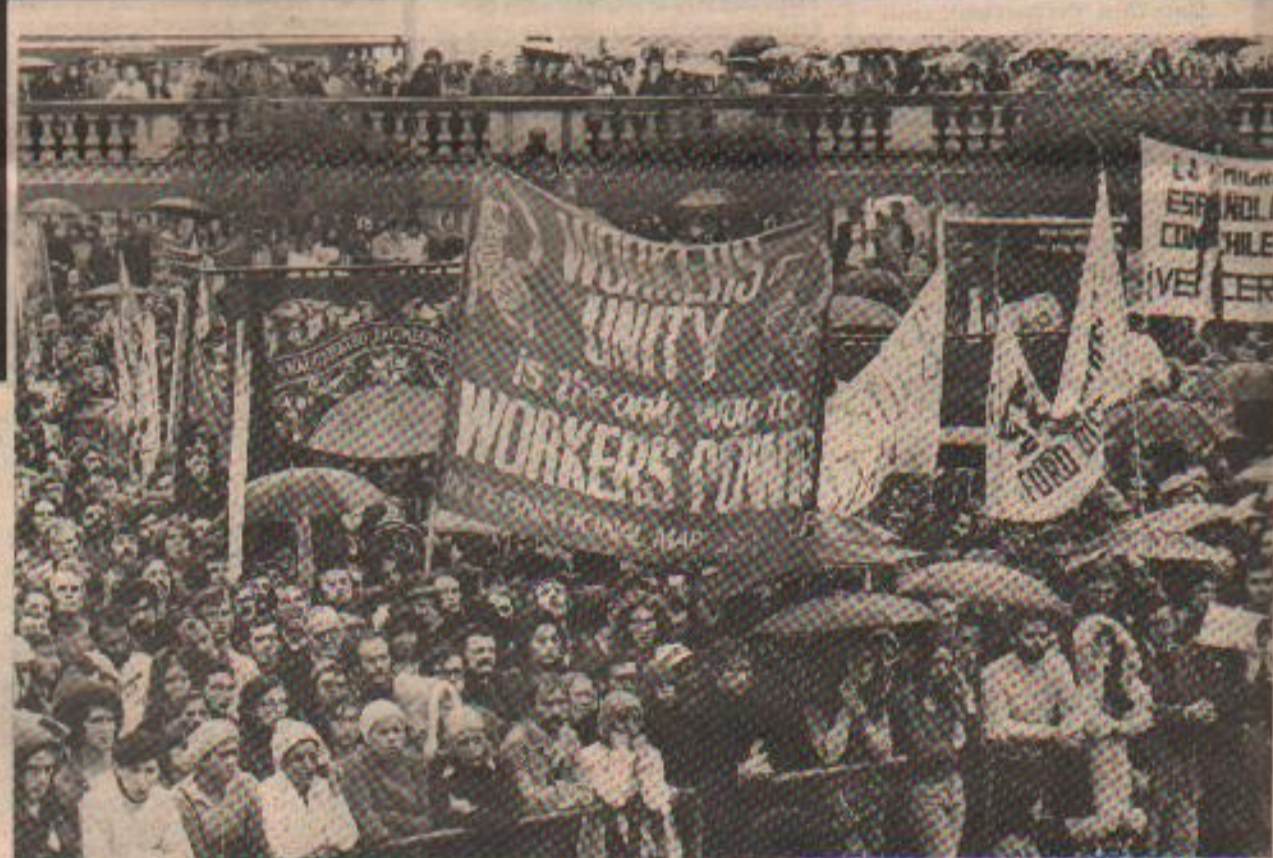
REMAINS

The presence of a Labour Government and the 'liberal' Home Secretary has done nothing to stop this. The 1875 Conspiracy Law still remains on the statute book. The Stoke Newington comrades remain in jail. The Price sisters are still in Brixton. There has been no unconditional pardon for the Shrewsbury brothers.

[continued on Page 5]



Support mass picket of Home Office, Whitehall, Saturday, 21 September, assemble 1 o'clock.
Release all prisoners now.
Drop all charges.
Return all fines.



Ten thousand people marched from Speakers Corner to Trafalgar Square last Sunday to demonstrate their solidarity with the Chilean resistance on the first anniversary of the military coup. Two main themes were stressed by most of the speakers at the final rally: the need to step up the campaign to black all trade with the junta; and the need to learn the lessons of Chile for our own future struggles. With regard to the latter Tariq Ali, speaking for the IMG, stressed the urgent need for the working masses to rely only on their own struggles, and to build their own organisations of political and military power.

A similar, and equally successful demonstration was also held in Glasgow the previous day. A special cheer was reserved for a speaker from Rolls-Royce in East Kilbride, where workers are continuing to black all work on Chilean Hawker Hunter jets despite instructions from the AUEW Executive to lift the ban. Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)

3 pence more, 4 pages more

From next week Red Weekly will be 12 pages. For many months we have felt that eight pages is inadequate to deal with the many issues raised by the national and international class struggle.

Nevertheless, the Red Weekly has played a major part in important campaigns over the summer. In the fight against the fascist National Front, in the solidarity campaign with the workers in Chile, in the struggle for the Working Women's Charter, for the withdrawal of troops from Ireland, and many more, the Red Weekly has been to the fore.

But there has been a problem of resources. Even at a price of 5p we have been producing the 8-page Red Weekly at a loss, relying on support from our readers to keep us going. However, we can postpone the enlargement of the paper no longer. With the election coming up we simply cannot do without that additional space.

But the additional cost, especially with the huge increase in the price of paper over the past few months, has forced us to raise the price of the new Red Weekly to 8p per copy. We realise this is yet another price increase for our readers' hard-earned wages to meet, but even those who are fighting for a working class solution to the crisis have to suffer the anarchy of capitalism until that fight is successful.

Even if we had stayed at 8 pages a price increase would have been unavoidable. We thought 12 pages for 8p would be politically and financially better than 8 pages at, say, 7p.

But we will still need the regular financial support of our readers to keep us going and improve the paper in the future. Help us to build a really good socialist paper by rushing donations for our £2000 FUND DRIVE to 97 Caledonian Road, London, N.1.

IN FOCUS

TORIES TURN AND TURN ABOUT

As a fanfare to rally the ruling class, the Tories' election manifesto fell flat.

It was filched before publication day. This hardly polished Sailor Heath's image as the man to guide British capitalism out of the shoals and reefs of economic crisis.

To rub it in, two leading crew members—Rippon and Keith Joseph—had mutinied. Rippon's army of scabs and blacklegs and Joseph's three million unemployed to beat the crisis, hardly suggested the Tories were serious about 'national unity'.

After this series of bores no wonder the press gave the Tory package a rough time. A *Sunday Times* writer said: "... never before has an opposition party in the short space of six months and with its entire leadership unaltered, felt the need to reverse so many of the pledges it never even had the chance to keep."

SPECTACLE

The spectacle of the Tories on the rack is due to more than bad luck. Their defeat at the hands of the miners left the ruling class without a strategy.

Since then, the economic crisis has got far worse. The working class came out of struggles against anti-union laws and incomes policy with its strength intact. Any Tory Government which churns out the same attacks on the working class as the last one, will be brushed aside.

The Tories are trying to change tack. They have to fight this election with an insoluble problem. They know that any elected government will have to launch vicious attacks on the working class to salvage the situation for the employers. But now the Tories need a soft approach.

With employers facing economic collapse, the prospect of another Tory Government roughing things up again is enough to make any managing director reach for his tranquillisers.

This Tory dilemma explains the

facile 'national unity' approach of their manifesto. It must be the most irrelevant guide to action the employers have ever read. It tries to hide its bankruptcy by promising something for everyone in the ruling class—incomes policy, but of course, more 'considerate' than last time. Control of the money supply, but not, of course, as draconian as the ideas of Keith Joseph.

NO DIFFERENCE

The ruling class know this sort of rubbish will make no difference to the inevitable huge struggles against rising prices and unemployment the working class are going to launch this winter and spring. The Tories admit that none of their proposals for government expenditure can be implemented unless they solve the employers' economic crisis. But this assumes the working class is going to be defeated first—a very unlikely event. Back to square one.

It's no surprise that the Tory manifesto blows kisses in the direction of the Liberals and the idea of coalition government. To take the risk of a Parliamentary love-affair with the Liberals may be the only way out of a complete debacle for the Tories in this election.

Coalitions in Parliament between the Tories, Liberals, Loyalists and Scottish Nationalists will not solve any problems for the ruling class. A majority in Parliament is no guarantee of success. The battles ahead will be decided not in Parliament, but outside it.

That's why the most pathetic line from the Tory manifesto reads like the last cry from a sick dog: "It is in Parliament, not in the streets, that national policies must be worked out and disputes resolved."

The employers, after reading the Tory manifesto, will dump it in the dustbin and roll up their sleeves for the real struggle after the election.

SAM BOYD

Playing with the pieces of the Irish jigsaw puzzle

The agreements reached last week between Wilson and the Social Democratic Labour Party, and the Irish Prime Minister indicate some of the constraints working against the new British policy in relation to Ireland.

The agreements—on some form of power sharing to come out of the proposed Constitutional Convention and that 'enduring arrangements must take account of the special relationship between the two parts of Ireland'—reveal the delicacy which is needed in implementing Britain's new policy of alliances with the Loyalists.

The problem is that this new policy is being attempted before the Catholic minority in the North has been defeated. That is why it cannot come out totally in favour of the Loyalists. To do so would accelerate the growing resilience of the Catholic minority; unite them behind the IRA, and completely undermine support for the SDLP.

Moreover, unqualified support for the Loyalists would begin to have an impact in the South and reactivate the Republican sentiment there. This is the last thing that the Southern Irish bourgeoisie wants, especially as it is on the verge of an almighty economic crisis.

It is the resistance of the Catholic minority which is making the SDLP push so hard for power sharing and the 'Irish dimension'. The Labour Government in its turn has to accommodate to these demands.

But it would be a big mistake to assume that Britain has no policy; that Merlyn Rees is merely bungling through. Although it is responding hither and thither to the various pressures which are exerted on it, the Government's responses are determined by an underlying commitment to an alteration of the balance of forces in favour of the Loyalists. This is the reason for the recent creation of the armed special reserves, which is simply the legitimisation of the unofficial unionist vigilantes.

GREEN PAPER

It is this force which British imperialism has chosen to safeguard its interests after the collapse of the Sunningdale dream and the hope that it could rely on the Southern Irish bourgeoisie. The recent Green Paper which has been produced by Merlyn Rees, which is meant



Long Kesh concentration camp—part of the price for Britain's stake in big business in the Six Counties

to show how much Britain subsidises the 6 Counties reveals also the reason why Britain is prepared to hand over money.

It has nothing to do with the big-heartedness of British imperialism, but the fact that Britain owns 45 per cent of big business in Northern Ireland. Britain is not about to give this up without a struggle. And it is willing to use everything it can to crush those in its way—especially the nationalist population in the North.

This is why the Cosgrave Government in the South has been forced to agree to making a common law enforcement area with the North, facilitating the repression of Republican militants both North and South. It is also the reason behind the agreement to hold a joint security conference. But this power over the Southern Irish bourgeoisie also has its limits—again determined by the impact the struggle of the Catholic minority has in the South. An indication of Cosgrave's fears in this respect is the fact that the Southern Irish army will not be participating in such a conference.

THE LOYALIST SPLIT

In the new scheme of things, the Loyalists will be expected to be very much second fiddle. This, of course, doesn't satisfy the aspirations of the Loyalist politicians Craig, Paisley, and West. But to alter their situation these characters need some real political support in Britain itself.

This is what they hope Powell will achieve for them. At the same time they wish to cut off those forces breathing down their necks—the Ulster Workers' Council which came to the fore in the Ulster workers' strike. They will not share the spoils in the North if they can help it.

It is this which is creating the friction between the Ulster Unionist Council and the forces of the para-military organisa-

tions like the UDA and the UVF. This might well lead to a split among the Loyalists in the general election when competing candidates representing these two groups may stand against each other.

In no sense, however, does this split represent a coming together of the plebeian protestants and the Catholic minority. The protestant working class is not intent on giving up its caste privileges to the Catholics after it has fought so hard against the threat represented by the Sunningdale agreement and the Assembly. The split is by no means along class lines, as some dreamers would like it to be.

REMOVE TROOPS

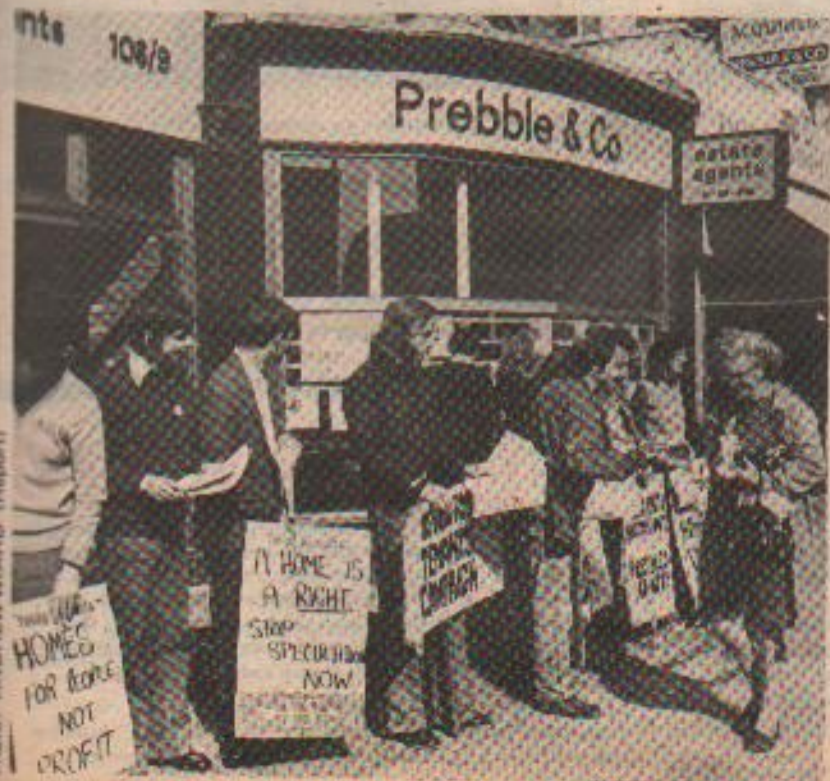
The only time when such a link between Catholics and Protestants might be on the cards is after the possibilities of the Protestants safeguarding their caste position has been removed. This crucially means after their traditional weapon of repression of the Catholics is no longer on the cards.

It is for this reason that the withdrawal of troops immediately is so crucial. This must be effected before the Protestants have been re-armed and before the Catholics are defeated. Before, in other words, the war in Ireland is Ulsterised we need to create a movement to withdraw the troops. Such a possibility has never been more ripe.

BRIAN GROGAN

The TOM/BPC demo has now been fixed for Sunday 27 October. All TUS, student unions and political organisations are asked to give their support. Ad hoc committee meetings take place every Monday night at 8.00 pm, University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1 to which representatives of all these organisations are invited.

Tenant jailed for picketing raises stakes in Islington



There has been a weekly picket outside Prebble's since the tenants' campaign began in February. The jailing last week of Joe Cohen and the writs for nuisance, libel, and conspiracy against the Islington Ten have established the basis of a much higher level of struggle

A mass picket is to be held on Saturday at the Islington office of Prebble & Co., the estate agents who since they moved into this predominantly working class area in 1964 have facilitated the most rampant property speculation, not least by applying considerable pressure on working class tenants to move out.

Saturday's picket, called by the Islington Tenants Campaign Defence Committee, is to draw attention to the role of the speculators, and in particular to the jailing last week of Joe Cohen—one of the campaign activists, who has been thrown into Pentonville for 28 days on a trumped up breach-of-the-peace charge.

Cohen is one of the Islington Ten, all due to appear in the High Court on 10 October to answer writs issued by Prebble's, who are claiming damages for nuisance, libel and conspiracy.

Prebble's are weeping that the campaigners—who have mounted a picket outside the Islington office every weekend since February—have done 'irreparable damage to their business.' Unfortunately, this is not quite the case. One house in the area was recently bought up with 'sitting' tenants for £2,000, and then tarted up and re-sold for £68,000 after the tenants had been persuaded to leave.

RIGHT TO PICKET

What is fundamentally at stake here is the right to picket for a decent home, and this has been recognised by the Central London branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union's white-collar

section, and local postal workers, who are mobilising support for the mass picket.

The campaign is concerned that the defence of the Ten should not detract from the fight against the speculators (which was no doubt Prebble's' motive in issuing the writs), but there are already indications that Prebble's have played a losing card.

The campaign, which was initiated in February with a march on Prebbles led by Labour MP George Cunningham, has until now been based around an extremely moderate 'tenants' code', informing landlords what they need to do to be nicer to tenants. It has been largely ignored by the labour movement and the left.

But the impetus created by the charges against the Ten and by Cohen's imprisonment has established the basis of a much heightened level of struggle around the questions of the right to picket, workers' self-defence, and for united action by workers to put a stop to the speculators' thoughtful property 'developments.'

BIJOU RESIDENCES

This is brought sharply home by what is taking place in Islington. The multi-occupied slum terraces are rapidly giving way to the bijou residences of the petit bourgeoisie, while the former tenants join the housing waiting lists. Over the past ten years, the proportion of private unfurnished tenancies in the area has fallen from 62 to 48 per cent, and the size of the professional classes increased from 4

to 14 per cent. There are 'officially' 651 homeless families in the borough, and predictably—over 4,000 empty dwellings.

Behind these statistics lies the social degradation imposed on those forced to live in slums, and the thuggery of the 'winklers' employed by the speculators and their agents to remove those tenants unfortunate enough to live in a potentially desirable residence.

There is a pattern well-known to the tenants of Islington: the men who call to 'repair' the roof and then absentmindedly remove half the slates and the chimney pots; or the 'builders' who call by and forget to replace a wall or two.

And when these antics are resisted, there are the straightforward threats, 'burglaries,' and wrecking operations. Even George Cunningham felt constrained to inform one of the property millionaires that his constituents were being killed off.

For these services, the winklers collect £60 a week plus £500 for every house emptied. Prebbles itself boasts a profit of £10 million in the past three years, as well as the directorship of 40 property companies.

DICK BRINSLEY

Join the mass picket of Prebbles, 108 Upper Street, Islington, from 9.30 to 12.30 pm on Saturday, 21 September. Send donations to the Islington Tenants Campaign Defence Committee, 196 Liverpool Road, London, N.1.

LABOUR PARTY ACTIVISTS CHALLENGE 'DUNNETT MACHINE'

The election date having just been announced, a storm is about to burst over East Nottingham Labour Party.

Over the last few months opposition to the policies and persons who control the East Nottingham CLP has grown.

The left in the party is in revolt. The right wing have been muttering about an NEC Enquiry to look into the activities of an alleged 'disruptive and dissident minority'.

A number of strands make up the rebellion. The struggle started with three councillors leaving the whip withdrawn for opposing the Tory *Housing Finance Act* in the Council Chambers. The polarisation that resulted led to the refusal of some members of Lenton Ward LP to campaign for Jack Dunnett MP at the last election.

WEALTHY

Dunnett is a very wealthy man, a Lloyds Underwriter—entrance fee £100,000—banker and speculator/landlord in residential property in London.

In Nottingham East CLP what is known as the Dunnett Machine controls the party with an iron grip except for the Lenton and Market Ward Labour Parties.

The use or threat of writs against opponents is a popular measure to try and crack down on the left. Recently a writ was issued against Chris Richardson—Chairman of Lenton Ward LP—for certain remarks made by him at a private LP meeting.

The fight against the apparatus was given a boost by what has become known locally as the 'Theatre Point' issue. The Council's Planning Dept. gave outline planning permission for the development of a 140,000 sq ft office block by a private developer on a Corporation-owned site.

The Council decision came in for widespread condemnation. Various Ward parties, the Trades Council, a UCATT branch and the Tenants and Residents Association passed resolutions condemning the Council's decision. A 'Theatre Point Action Committee' was set up to coordinate the campaign. Apart from large-scale publicity and leafletting, etc. on the housing issue, the campaign organised a demonstration of 150 people under the slogan of 'Build Homes Not Offices'.

POSTPONED

Partly as a result of this campaign and the groundswell which accompanied it, the office block has been postponed for one year. Councillor Steve Evans was expelled from the Labour Group for his part in opposing the office block.

Embarrassed by the Theatre Point issue, the machine men were confronted with a public meeting organised by LP dissident Dieter Peetz, at which Eddie Milne MP spoke against the situation in the North East LP.

The meeting was attended by nearly a hundred people, local activists in the trade unions, the LP and tenants associations, etc. Dieter drew attention to the 'similarities but not identities' in the Nottingham LP to the North-East. *No writs this time he was expelled from the LP.*

Another public meeting was held on 12 September, sponsored by Lenton Ward LP. Considerable pressure was put on the organiser to call off the meeting because of the impending election. Letters from local, regional and national level were despatched to the organisers. The theme was simple—rally around Dunnett.



Eddie Milne MP

This plea was rejected. It was agreed you had to keep the Tories out but the best way to do that was by fighting on issues which affect working class people.

The way to take the campaign forward was debated at the meeting. Should they restrict the fight to the party apparatus, passing resolutions, as argued by the comrades of the *Militant*? Alternatively, should they take up these issues with the

most active and decisive workers in the trade unions and the tenants' associations, etc.?

The latter course, it was argued, would help them to outflank the machine by allying themselves with local activists and wider sections of workers.

Clay Cross set an excellent example here. Without their base in the movement as a whole, the Clay Cross struggle would not have developed as far as it did. To the dismay of the *Militant*, the left have decided to make this fight, from the beginning.

WRITS

It has been suggested that the writs should be taken up in the courts, to fight Dunnett on his own terms.

If this became a central aspect of the struggle it could lead to disaster. The Clay Cross experience shows a completely different approach. They defied the courts and capitalist law. They based that defiance on the mobilisation of the working people of Clay Cross. This is the way in which working class power can be used to break the grip of the bureaucracies and deal with the property speculators.

The struggle in the Labour Party to get rid of Dunnett and company must go on. But it will only ultimately succeed if it is seen by local militants to be linked to fights on important issues that affect the workers' lives and show a way forward to solving their problems.

Taken up in this way it would inevitably spill out of the narrow confines of the Labour Party just as the 'Theatre Point' campaign did.

Dave Hudson
Bert Rothschild

Why women workers' strike must be won

The strike at Wingrove & Rogers in Liverpool seems likely to drag on for a good deal longer than the present thirteen weeks.

Despite a number of mass pickets, the fact that it is a strike of women workers means that they are out in the cold as far as the AUEW leadership is concerned. Only through their own initiatives have they managed to ward off a dismal defeat.

Practically the only thing the AUEW has done for this strike has been to make it official. After eight weeks of sitting outside the gates watching the scabs go through, however, the women began to take things into their own hands. They leafleted building sites for funds, organised blacking on the docks and in other transport unions, and along with the Trades Council and its Women's Committee organised the first mass pickets and a public meeting.

The strike still has a long way to go before victory is assured. At the public meeting the union official responsible for the strike was put on the spot and had to promise an AUEW turn-out for the mass picket on the second day of negotiations. The fact that on the day few AEU contingents were to be seen is a sign that the weight of the women is still very slight as compared to any other strike of engineers in a central section of the AUEW's base.

This will be a pattern in strikes of this nature unless the trade union movement is alerted to the consequences of ignoring the struggles of women workers. At the same time, because the unions are slow to act on questions of equal pay, conditions of work, and the involvement of women in union structures, it is much more possible to lift them out of the control of the bureaucracy and open up new forms of organisation and activity.

As the first signs of the coming wave of unemployment become apparent, women workers along with other weakly organised groups will be the first to go to the wall. Either they will be the first on the dole or they will be among the first to be involved in struggle. This is what makes struggles like that at Wingrove's of such crucial importance to the trade union movement.

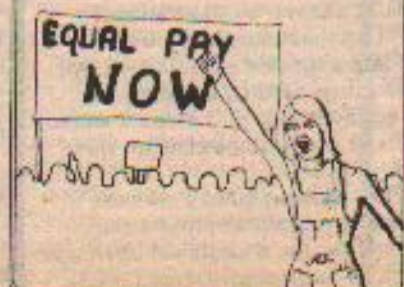
The struggle of women workers is the struggle against the capitalist counter-offensive and the social contract. That is why this strike must be won.



Photo: ANDREW WARD (Report)

Mass meeting backs women's strikes

WORKING WOMEN'S CHARTER



Over three hundred women, mainly white-collar workers and members of women's groups, voted on Saturday to support women workers who are presently on strike at companies in Salford, Liverpool, and Luton.

The meeting, called by the Working Women's Charter Campaign (WWCC), agreed to raise support for the strikers in trade union branches and women's groups, as well as to organise a picket this Thursday at the head office of one of the companies involved.

Opening the meeting, NUT member Liz Knight, who is active in the Hackney WWCC, outlined the nature of the Charter and the development of the campaign.

VITAL STEP

Originally presented by the London Trades Council in March this year, the Charter raises the issues of women's economic exploitation and social oppression as a vital step towards a programme of struggle in relation to women workers.

The Charter has so far been adopted by 18 trades councils, many of which are now actively organising around it, and by branches of at least twelve unions.

Nurses Pam Donard and Sue Spilling spoke about the health workers' struggle, highlighting the problems that have arisen in mobilising nurses, the majority of whom do not belong to a union. They

confirmed the value of the WWCC both in raising demands necessary to enable women to struggle, and in mobilising support from other workers.

Lawyer Tess Galt explained the provisions of the Labour Government's proposed Anti-Discrimination Bill. While no-one at the meeting considered that this legislation would adequately deal with women's oppression since it in no way challenges the material basis of that oppression—it will succeed in raising this issue among broad sections of working class women and men.

With a general election rearing up, the Charter can be used as a means of exposing the inadequacies of the Bill, and a means of organising to ensure that its provisions are met.

Most importantly, the meeting unanimously passed a resolution supporting the women who have now been on strike for four weeks at Salford Electrical Instruments, part of the GEC combine; the women strikers at Wingrove and Rogers, Liverpool; and at Vauxhall in Luton.

The resolution said in part: 'We recognise that these sisters provide an example both to all women workers trying to cope with the problems of inflation, and for all

Gays force real discussion out of BMA

Proceedings at the British Medical Association conference on Psychosexual Problems were disrupted by the arrival of about 100 members of the Gay Liberation Front.

The conference—sponsored by Geigy Pharmaceuticals who manufacture a drug which destroys the sex drive—was to be addressed by various experts in the 'treatment' of 'abnormality'. The intruders arrived with the message that sex is not something to be cured, controlled or directed but to be emancipated by removing the social blocks which act against all forms of sexual expression, including homosexuality.

The conference organisers, alarmed to see the patient climbing off the operating table, and desperate not to spoil their 'liberal' image by calling in the police, agreed to an hour's discussion between the experts and the GLF. Mr. Justice Walker, a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, who was to chair the day's session, had no 'liberal' image to preserve. He made a hasty departure, accompanied by Sir John Peel—chairman of the BMA's Board of Science and Education.

The gay militants pointed to the use of such barbaric 'treatments' of homosexuality as electric shock therapy as indication of the way the medical profession was used to aid social repression. They demanded the doctors take a socially responsible attitude to their homosexual patients.

CONCESSIONS

Two concessions were extracted from the conference. One was a promise from Bradford University to provide room for a conference involving health workers and the gay movement on an equal footing.

The second was the setting aside of a room for continued discussion between GLF and interested doctors. While the other 180 doctors continued to study ways of treating sexual enjoyment, 20 were discussing the use of their skills to help the oppressed.

If the projected conference between the gay movement and health workers does take place, one aspect of it is going to be crucially important. The problems of gay people are social problems and what they actually need are subsidised social facilities in which to meet and come to terms with themselves. This job is currently done in a haphazard manner in doctors' surgeries.

Changing from one to the other means redefining the scope of the National Health Service—having state funds available for community help in all areas. The campaign now going on to resist cuts in the NHS and to extend its provisions so that it is of direct benefit to all workers in ever increasing ways should include the demand for social facilities for gay people.

This is the central political question for the projected conference to discuss.

JANICE MILLS

trades unionists challenging the social contract.'

Apart from a message of solidarity to the strikers, and a collection of £80, the meeting undertook to put forward resolutions of support from trade union branches and women's groups, and where possible to organise local meetings for speakers from the strike committees.

The meeting also voted to hold a picket of GEC's head office in Stanhope Gardens, London, W1, to be held on 19 September from 4.30 to 7.30 pm.

The first-ever Working Women's Charter Campaign delegate conference is to be held in London on Saturday, 26 October. It is extremely important for the success of the campaign that delegates attend from as many trade union branches, trades councils, and women's groups which are taking up the charter. Credentials from: WWCC, 10 Abwyne Road, Hanwell, London W7.

PAT MASTERS



by Brian Clynes

'There is no mass fascist threat independent of the state'



THE ANTI-FASCIST MOVEMENT IS IN A BUOYANT MOOD AFTER THE victory at Speakers Corner on 7 September. Many forces are now gearing up for the next step—the electoral intervention of the NF.

The elections will provoke a most wide-ranging discussion. The bourgeoisie is in complete confusion. The base of the Tory party is scattered into dozens of competing centres. The Labour Party is offering the most meaty-mouthed apology for class collaboration. In the middle of the arena Powell descends by Loyalist parachute to present his vicious anti-working class solution to the ills of the ruling class and British capitalism.

In this situation socialists have to put forward a programme for the working class to prepare it for the coming decisive confrontations. The question of the social compact has to be taken up and dealt smashing blows. The preparation for the fight against inflation and unemployment has to be organised. The responsibility of the Labour government to workers' organisations has to be taken up.

important that we understand what this threat is. It is absolutely useless to base our activity today against the NF on some imagined threat that might occur in 27 years' time. We have to grasp the dynamics of how the NF will grow from today's conditions and base our policy on that.

The National Front is not a simple re-edition of the Nazis or Mussolini's fascists. These organisations presented themselves from early on as goon

again in *Red Weekly*, the threat of the NF is a political one. In today's conditions the NF can play a big role *in tandem with the state attacks*. They can do this by advancing their essential political role. The NF are not gaining support in the workers' movement and elsewhere by proclaiming their anti-trade union strike-breaking intentions. Their aim is to infiltrate workers' organisations and begin to win big backing through their political ideas. The truth of the matter is that the NF articulates the ingrained ideas and practices of large layers of the working class as far as racism and anti-Irish feeling is concerned.

It is under these banners that they can win backing for the need to bash workers' organisations. Whereas the actual state attack over recent years has forced the unity of the working class against such attacks, the activity of the National Front serves to split and divide and therefore weaken the workers' movement.

ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY

The role that the NF play at the moment is to provide an alternative strategy to those elements of the ruling class who want a strong state solution but which have no political formulae to implement such a strategy. The strategy outlined in practice by the NF and now becoming of central importance due to the intervention of Powell in Irish politics is the assault on the working class, centring on its political weaknesses, those on Ireland and racism in particular.

This gives us the key to how the NF should be fought. It enables us to see what is the crucial issue. The working class needs to confront the crisis of capitalism and prevent the solution from being found at its expense. Our fight against the NF can begin to take on the positive aspect of shoring up the weak spots of the working class. We can best do this by showing the crucial links between the issues on which the NF campaigns—notably Ireland and racism—and fascism.



NF thugs hiding behind their union jacks.

Clearly our main resources cannot in this situation be thrown into the physical repression of the National Front. To do that would be to put a message across that the workers should be preparing for fascism. This is clearly crazy. The working class should be preparing for a strong state assault on its organisations; it should be preparing itself to fight the effects of inflation and unemployment. *Fascism is not around the corner.*

Putting it in this way shows how misguided are those people like the International Socialists who argue that merely because of the fascist intentions of the NF, 'Wherever the fascists field a candidate we will be there to confront them'. No! Physical confrontation and emphasis on the repressive role of the NF is not our priority.

SMALL

Despite the massive commitment of forces by the IS to the fight against the NF, last week's *Socialist Worker* informed us that the NF is: 'a small organisation with a handful of trade union members. They are not yet a major threat to trade union freedoms and organisations... At this moment anti-picket police, law courts, government incomes policy, and the treacherous role of the trade union leaders are the chief enemies of the working class.'

This is absolutely correct. But by seeing all this as *counterposed* to the type of danger represented by the NF they render incomprehensible why we should be so vigorously fighting the NF. Indeed such an analysis justified their previous abstention on the anti-fascist front.

It was also for this reason that the IS at first refused to raise anti-fascist slogans and simply concentrated on the demand to disband the Special Patrol Group. It is for similar reasons that the IS refuse to raise the demand for the Labour government to ban NF marches.

The Front is a real threat to the workers' movement right now. It is

squads able to smash up pickets and workers' meetings. It is impossible for the National Front to start off like that. The working class has shown itself strong enough to throw back the attempts of the Tories to use the State to weaken its trade union organisation. No poxy little group of thugs like the NF would get away with open fascist attacks on TU organisation. If there was any real hint of a fascist threat the workers

Kent bent to smash the fash

Last Saturday 14 September over 150 trade unionists and socialists marched through Canterbury in a rally in protest at the activities of the National Front in the area.

The demonstration was sponsored by the newly-formed East Kent Anti-Fascist Committee and was supported by the NUM, AUEW, NUS, Labour Party, Communist Party, IMG and IS.

The rally was addressed by Jack Dunn, Area Secretary of the NUM and John McGeown, President of Kent University Students Union and IMG militant.

Both speakers stressed the necessity of combatting the NF now and of breaking down their 'respectable' cover in an on-going campaign against the fascists.

John McGeown said that 'It is only through the united action of the workers' movement that the fascists can be combatted.' He also stressed the dangers posed by the

NF/Loyalist link-up—it being an attempt to regroup the forces of the right in this country through the UDA clubs and Orange Order.

A collection was held at the rally and a petition circulated calling for action to stop the NF using council chamber facilities.

The rally was agreed that the Anti-Fascist Committee must be strengthened by putting motions through all trade union branches and Trades Councils in the area. The Committee will be meeting soon to discuss further initiatives against the NF and in particular action in defence of 10 anti-fascist militants arrested during a clash with NF members and the police in Canterbury on 8 June. The fascists can count on a 'warm' reception every time they raise their heads in future.

Canterbury IMC

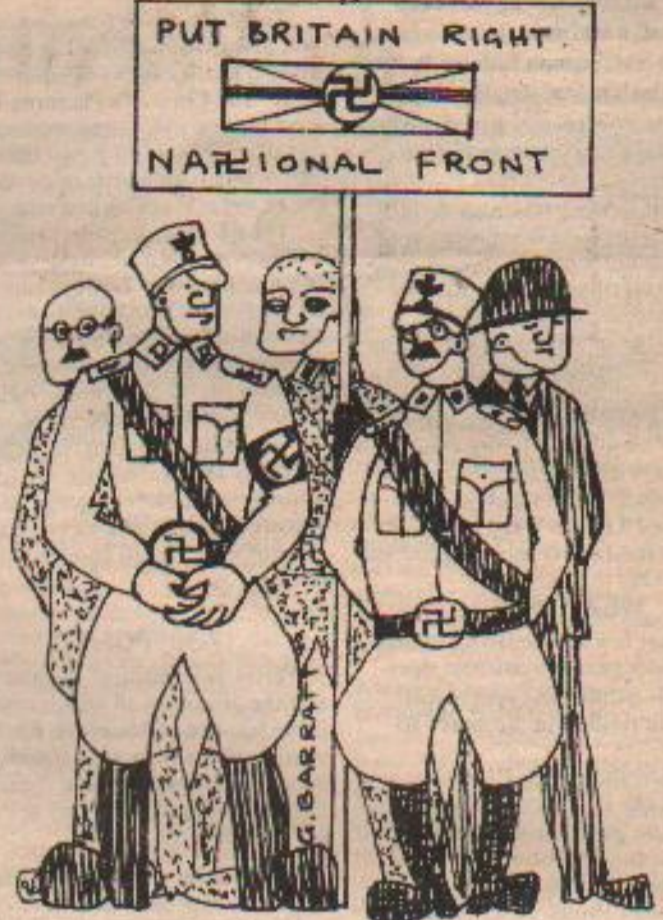
would turn on the fascist organisations and deal them an almighty crushing blow.

The sort of violence we have seen so far would be absolutely chicken feed compared to that. But the practice of the IS operates as if the most important question was to physically smash up the NF. The IS really ought to take their own words seriously. *There is no mass fascist threat independent of the state.*

As we have explained time and

To do this we must show that the NF is indeed a fascist organisation, we must indicate its violent nature in practice. We must use all methods of propaganda to expose it.

This of course is the justification for the call for the Labour government to ban its marches. Given the role of the police clearly seen over the past period, let alone the history of the fight against fascism, no reliance must be placed on the state to deal with the repressive threat of the fascists.



The Front's relation to the state, as seen by a reader in Brighton who sent in this cartoon.

'Well lads, if the Tories get in next month, we can always join Rippon's volunteer reserve army.'



SCARMAN AND THE COPPER WHO LOVED HORSES

As the proceedings of the Scarman Tribunal drone on, the first of those charged after Red Lion Square on 15 June appear in front of the magistrates. Both arms of ruling class 'justice' are trying to close around the neck of the revolutionary left.

So far really only the police have been in the witness box at the Tribunal. And without the incontrovertible evidence of the film from the ITN and BBC they might have got away with it.

The film shown last Friday shows the police mounted charge into the demonstration on Theobalds Road.

As part of the campaign to politically expose the nature of the NF in the eyes of the working class most attracted to it, the call for a ban becomes a useful weapon. Because the IS don't agree with this approach, they see no justification in calling for the ban.

It is only within this framework that we can justify a major intervention in the election against the NF. It is only insofar as it allows us to raise the Irish issue and to link that to a strong state assault as represented by Powell that it can command any part of our energies. What's more, if we can make the link between the issue on which Powell campaigns and those on which the NF campaigns and indicate to broad layers their anti-working class character, a major gain will have been made.

COMING BATTLES

We will have served a genuine function in these elections by preparing the working class for the coming battles. More particularly we will have taken up a problem for the working class for which the bureaucracy have no answer. Indeed, as Merlyn Rees has shown, their actions actually strengthen the opponents of the working class in this case by stoking up Powell's loyalist base. Nor is it enough to rely on strengthening the TU strength of the working class against possibilities of fascist repression, as IS seems to think. The answer is essentially political.

It is this aspect of the question which the IS partially grasp when they insist: 'The fight for socialist ideas is the key that will ensure that such a mass fascist base is not built.'

This fight for socialist ideas cannot be reduced to simply making abstract propaganda about the need for socialism, nor by simply raising socialist answers to the National Front programme, nor by simply building a socialist organisation. All these things need to be done, but the essential task is to prepare whole layers of the working class on these decisive issues.

The task is to build a *movement*, especially on Ireland around the demand for the withdrawal of troops, which has sufficient strength inside the working class to repulse a determined effort from someone like Powell. Simple physical assaults on the NF will never do that.



NF puts fascist thuggery first in Waltham Forest

'Well they've never done anything for tenants round here. I've never seen this Mrs. Page up my street when someone's wanted to complain to the landlord. I think she just uses this tenants' association name so she can go round saying things against the coloureds.'

That's what an elderly resident of Hanbury Road, Southall, where racist Joy Page's London and Counties Tenants Federation claims to have support, told me about the so-called federation. He has asked me not to reveal his name.

Who knows, some supporter of Mrs. Page or her National Front friends whose Conway Hall rally she addressed earlier this year, might start shoving human excrement through his letter box.

These phoney tenants' associations are sometimes invented by the fascists to give their racist propaganda the semblance of organised support. They, and their lies, which aim to scapegoat black people for the housing problem and to shield the landlords and speculators from the anger of a united workers' and tenants' struggle, need to be exposed whenever they crawl out of the gutter and on to the estates.

In his memoirs *Our Flag Stays Red*, Phil Piratin recalls the time in the 1930's when, as Communist M.P. for Stepney, he was involved in combatting the fascists in the East End of London. Mosley's British Union of Fascists, predecessors of the National Front, were

trying to build up support in the area by whipping up hatred against Jewish immigrant workers.

When a family of Mosley supporters at Paragon Mansions were threatened with evictions by their landlord, Mosley's blackshirts did nothing to help them. Like the Na-

have drawn opposition from small shopkeepers and house owners. Failure by the left to take this up effectively has allowed the National Front to move in and play on the understandable fears of people threatened with loss of livelihood or worsening housing prospects.

Partly based in a right-wing Waltham Residents Association, the National Front has thus been busy itself with the stirring up of race hatred in the area. Already a number of Pakistani residents have been assaulted. One, Mr M. Usmani, was savagely beaten and robbed by a gang of six youths, who taunted him with racist insults.

The National Front, which claims it would 'punish muggers', has nothing to say about this. Can anyone guess why? Mr Usmani, who had two black eyes and a broken tooth, said, 'Police have told me there is nothing they can do'.

A local newspaper reporter was told by police, 'Police don't take any action in a case of common assault - we are not allowed to. The only thing you can do is take private action.'

VIGILANTE GROUP

Yes, anti-fascist vigilante groups are needed in every area where attacks have been made on black people. Like the cop said, the only thing you can do is take private action...

And black workers are not alone in the need for organised self-defence. While running a hostel for Uganda refugees, a social worker employed by Waltham Forest Council was assaulted, paint was thrown over the house, and the garage set fire to.

A few months ago, the co-ordinator of Waltham Forest Family Squatters was attacked. In many parts of London, squatters have taken the lead in exposing the scandal of property speculation and the misery suffered by the homeless while houses stand empty for speculative gain.

The National Front, while trumpeting its concern about 'the problems and needs of the British working man', helps the speculators by vicious agitation against homeless people who have taken over empty houses.

HORRIFIC ASSAULT

In Waltham Forest this type of agitation fuelled a horrific mass assault on a house by 30 or 40 youths some with parents in or sympathetic to the National Front. Stones, bricks and bottles were thrown through the windows of a house containing 15 people, some of them children. The occupants were saved from serious injury only by this vicious gang's failure to smash down the door of the house.

Presumably the National Front is not opposed to this kind of stormtrooper thuggery. Its magazine, *Spearhead*, recently awarded the fabulous £1 'Letter of the Month' award to a correspondent whose attitude to these homeless people was 'It is high time we clamped down on these spongers...'

Has any of this sophisticated political strategy helped the cause of tenants in Waltham Forest?

by Louise Jay

tional Front today, they were far more interested in turning one set of workers against other workers than in defending tenants from landlords.

Piratin's local Communist Party branch did however rally to the support of the tenants and physically resisted the eviction. This action, which showed the real anti-working class nature of the fascists, helped to weaken their influence in the area.

In Waltham Forest, the local council's plans for compulsory purchase



Policeman in Red Lion Square 'motioing back the crowd'!

The charge was clearly unprovoked. And even Lord Justice Scarman must have had a difficult time swallowing the explanation of the *Morning Star* photo showing a mounted policeman swinging his truncheon at the heads of the demonstrators. The policeman claimed he was motioing back the crowd!

The pathetic story of mounted Policeman Adams, who struck a demonstrator 'a glancing blow' on the head, to avoid hitting his horse, wrung everybody's heart.

ICING

But all this is really only the icing on the cake. The police want to create the right atmosphere to isolate the IMG, and finish them off in the courts.

The Home Office wants to say that the 'violent' actions of the 15 June demonstrators represent a growing trend within society as a whole. They want 'improved' State powers to bash the workers' offensive. Both the police and the Home Office are trying to find a scapegoat to take the rap for gearing up the State's attack on sections of the workers' movement. And we know who the scapegoat is meant to be...

The broad campaign which must be built in the labour movement in defence of the victims of our 'class' justice, is not aided by the statements from our 'comrades' of the *Morning Star*.

Chris Myant told of staves behind

the Communist Party of England (Marxist Leninist) banner, and a 'wedgelike group' breaking off from the main body of the march and running at the police cordon.

Indeed one of the films shown at the Tribunal does show a wedge-type group cut through the demonstration. They are wearing blue uniforms. They belong to the SPG. And so far the Tribunal has heard little of their role.

One embarrassment for Scarman is the National Front. They - after Webster's outburst at the Tribunal - have decided to get legal representation. The proposals that Scarman will make about tightening up public order may bear remarkable resemblance to those of the National Front.

STRENGTHENED

There is no intention by any section of the ruling class to move to fascism now. But to deal with the growing strength of the working class the State must be strengthened.

The National Front support and encourage such moves all the way. The political job of isolating the revolutionaries, and fingering them as the 'culprits' in a move to take away rights from the workers' movement as a whole, will look a bit sick if it is tarred with the fascist brush of approval.

Paul Smith



Black worker, M. Usmani, beaten up and robbed by young thugs, encouraged by the National Front's racist propaganda. The party of 'law and order' had nothing to say about this, surprise, surprise.....

Eleven of the 15 candidates who stood for the Waltham Forest Residents Association in the local elections have now resigned. They say, 'These candidates cannot agree with the way the association is being run or with the policy of the chairman or secretary of continuing to run the association in an undemocratic way.'

And who are the self-appointed chairman and secretary? Inevitably - National Front member Mick Burrows and his buddy Cyril Brewer.

Resigning member Ron Bateman said, 'One of Mr. Burrows' favourite sayings was that the association would collapse if it was run democratically. I would hate this thing to get that big where you would have these two calling the tune. It could be nasty.'

'GENUINE DEMOCRACY'

This is the same National Front which claims in its manifesto to be 'a party of genuine democracy which belongs to its members' and 'seeks to promote in Britain a genuinely democratic political system.'

Do you think that the National Front in this area is one of the more extreme manifestations of fascist gangsterism? You may be wrong. Waltham Forest National Front branch chairman Roger Adde has recently had his knuckles rapped by the National Front leader Martin Webster. Writing in his 'trouble shooting'

column in *Spearhead* magazine recently, gang leader Webster attacks Adde for being too soft on black people.

'We do not expect in the current circumstances to see National Front officials winning publicity by means of helping the invaders to take over our birthright' he says of Adde's attempt to show that he had no personal hatred of black people.

HOMELESS FAMILY

Adde had been in favour of a homeless black family having a roof over their heads.

Webster will now be expecting National Front Area Council chairman Ron Tier to be keeping a watchful eye on Adde. Tier's qualifications for this seem watertight. He is an old friend of Herr Kerstein, leader of the now-banned German Nazi Viking Youth.

One of the National Front's main racist slogans is the claim that the 'National Front Puts Britons First'. Already black workers know the real meaning of this vicious policy. But Waltham Forest and similar events in other parts of the country indicate something further to all workers.

That in all circumstances, including inside their own party machine, it is fascism that the National Front puts first, against the interests of all the working class both white and black.

ANTI-FASCISTS (from p. 1)

Labour's record and that of Jenkins in particular, is sordid.

Cooper's release and the defence of all the other anti-fascist militants still to face charges lies in the hands of the working class movement.

Action to defend them is vital. As the ruling class reels under the impact of its own social and economic crisis it is more and more forced to use its police and its courts to attack all those fighting its policies.

The left must rally its maximum forces in defence of all victims of capitalist repression. Such a campaign will help to beat back the new repressive laws being planned by the Scarman Tribunal. A failure to do that will weaken the entire movement and leave the left isolated - ready to be picked off at any time.

Firms who employ many of the defendants will see this as an excellent chance to get rid of their 'troublemakers' - these anti-fascist comrades are naturally active trade unionists. Their unions must be forced to take up the defence of any sentenced worker's job and this must get the active support of all the other unions.

ACTION

As Ernie Roberts, assistant general secretary of the AUEW, told *Red Weekly*: 'All trade unionists should be concerned about the penalties being inflicted on their fellow workers for making a stand against the rise of fascism in Britain.' Roberts is absolutely right. Trade unionists and socialists have got to turn Brother Roberts' words into action.

JEFF KING

ORGANISE THE CHILEAN MASSES

UNDER THE BANNER OF SOCIALISM!



We print below a statement by the Liga Comunista de Chile, issued on the first anniversary of the army coup.

The Liga Comunista is a small sympathising organisation of the Fourth International, whose militants are active in Santiago and Valparaiso. In March it held its first conference underground inside Chile.

On 11 September a year will have passed since the bourgeois army, responding to the appeals of the employing class, overthrew the Popular Unity Government and installed in the country a ferocious and bloody dictatorship.

During these twelve months the working class and the mass of the people have been forced to undergo the most arduous and tragic experiences.

The dictatorship, aiming to consolidate its hold, to restore to normal the functioning of the capitalist system and to smash all forms of resistance to the regime, has murdered, tortured and imprisoned thousands of the best militants of the socialist revolution, and has banned all organisations which oppose its criminal plans. It has unceasingly sought to choke even the most elementary forms of opposition, dismantling the trade unions and banning all strikes.

At the same time, the apprentice dictators—having restored to big Capital (both national and imperialist) the factories which remained in the hands of the workers, and in order to assure the bosses of rapid profits—have tolerated and encouraged an unprecedented rate of inflation in the country; while decreasing wage adjustments which fall well below those needed to cover the increase in the cost of living.

Furthermore, they have introduced many other forms of super-exploitation—increasing the hours worked, raising the line speed, etc.—throwing millions of Chileans into misery as they see with despair that their wages are not sufficient even to cover the most basic family necessities.

The military-fascist dictatorship, put in to run a capitalist system in an advanced state of decay, has been able to offer only the alternative of a reactionary, backward and compromised regime.

It is for this reason that one year after the coup the military have almost entirely lost their social base of support. Only the big bosses grouped in the SOFOFA association still offer them any backing. The

stability which the dictatorship seemingly possesses today is more than ever the result of the ferocious and criminal repression against the working masses carried out by the generals in collaboration with the US Government's 'aid' organisations.

It is clear that the dictatorship and the bosses, in a situation where they are unable to satisfy in the least degree the aspirations of the broad masses, will see their position daily weakening. Today signs of opposition and discontent are appearing not only in the working class—which has a long tradition of militancy—but also in the petty bourgeoisie (civil servants, shopkeepers, small businessmen) whose positions are threatened by big Capital, and even among certain sections of the big industrial bourgeoisie affected by the collapse of the internal market.

The traditional political representatives of the ruling class have come to regard with fear and distrust the brutal plans of the military fascists, because of the response they will engender in the most oppressed sectors once the decay of the regime becomes pronounced. This is true of the 'Kennedy'-types in the imperialist countries, and of the Christian Democrats and sectors of the National Party inside the country.

The hate directed against the dictatorship is growing. The objective conditions are little by little being created for a front of workers' organisations to unite around it vast sections of the population, prepared today to struggle for the recovery of the purchasing power of the working masses, the restoration of political, democratic and trade union rights, and the overthrow of the dictatorship.

Revolutionary militants have started to push forward with determination these elementary demands, and are sparing no effort to organise large sections of the population around them.

But we must be careful not to foster any criminal illusions!

The struggle of the masses must not be halted at the level of economic and democratic demands. From the moment that conditions permit it, these struggles must be developed within a perspective of slogans whose

content is ever more demanding. The wish to unite the largest possible sections of the population for the tasks of the resistance against the dictatorship must not make us forget that it will be the triumph of socialism and not the return of the 'progressive' bourgeois sectors which will finally resolve the huge problems of the exploited masses.

Revolutionary militants must not fail to incorporate the struggle against the dictatorship within a global strategy of the destruction of the system and the seizure of power by the proletariat. To forget—or not to

regard as central—the lessons which the past defeat has given us on this would be fatal.

We must be particularly clear on this, above all when the reformist leaderships of the Communist Party and Socialist Party insist once more today on denying these elementary truths, while raising sectors of the bourgeoisie to the level of strategic allies of the working class. They thus make possible new and yet more tragic defeats.

The overthrow of the dictatorship is only a first, big step. The socialist revolution is our central objective and must be present in all our struggles. And the irreplaceable leadership of this revolution is the working class, together with the mass of the people, armed politically and militarily for the taking of power.

It is for this reason that it is of fundamental importance, at the end of this first year of the military-fascist government, to strain every muscle to ensure from now onwards a privileged place for the proletariat and exploited layers at the head of the struggle against the dictatorship.

To assure the development of this process in a decisive way, we appeal

to all the organisations of the revolutionary left resolutely to strengthen a united pole of attraction, capable of drawing together from the beginning of the resistance large sections of the masses under the banner of the socialist revolution.

One year after the tragic days of September 1973, there is no doubt that this would constitute a great step forward.

Organise the workers' and people's resistance!

Set up People's Resistance Committees (CRP) in the factories, the estates, the ghettos, the schools and universities!

Bring into the CRPs the most militant workers, peasants, agricultural workers and students!

Struggle for higher wages for the workers!

Demand the restoration of full political and trade union rights!

Demand immediate freedom for all political prisoners, and the punishment of all the culprits and torturers!

DOWN WITH THE CRIMINAL DICTATORSHIP!

Central Committee, Liga Comunista

Mauritian lock-out challenges government

A nationwide lock-out by the bosses is a rather rare event. But it happened on 16 July in the small Indian Ocean island of Mauritius, the pretext being the Income Tax Bill introduced by the Government of Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam.

The action started out as a 'strike' called by the Mauritius Tax Payers' Association (MTPA), a new middle class pressure group. But on the day all the big businesses—the sugar factories, the docks, the banks, the import and export houses—were also closed, blowing the MTPA's cover and exposing its backers.

The Income Tax Bill, represents the mildly 'leftist' response of the Labour Government to the collapse of its coalition with the right-wing Mauritian Socialist Democratic Party (PMSD) in December 1973. This deprived it of the two-thirds majority in Parliament needed for a further postponement of the elections (the last were held in 1967).

If it is to recapture the earlier popularity it won through the achievement of independence from Britain in 1968, it will now have to tone down its previous reactionary policies (most dramatically expressed in the smashing of a massive workers' upsurge in 1971).

MASS MOVEMENT

On its left, though, stands the Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM). Starting as a student group in 1969, the MMM rapidly became a mass movement with great influence in the trade unions. In one of its documents it claimed to be Marxist-Leninist, and stood for the nationalisation of most forms of private property. It was also anti-electoralist, correctly insisting that the bourgeois state could only be overthrown through mass action by the workers and peasants.

In September 1970, however, the MMM stood in a by-election and won. The effect of this, followed by the subsequent failure of the mass strike in 1971 which it organised, has been to dilute the party's policies so that it now only calls for 'general elections and the achievement of power by a government which will apply a truly socialist programme' (which includes the nationalisation of only four out of the 20 sugar factories).

Indeed, it now seeks to achieve power not through the mobilisation of the masses but through an alliance with the middle classes. This led it to give unconditional support to the MTPA on 16 July



A usually crowded street is left almost deserted as the bosses' lock-out takes effect

while at the same time backing the Income Tax Bill!

NO ANSWER

Such a policy provides no answer to the present crisis. The lock-out on 16 July was a clear Chile-style warning by the bosses of how they will deal with any further concessions to the masses, no matter how 'constitutionally' they may be legislated. And beside the bosses stands the PMSD, which opposed independence for Mauritius and since then has pursued an openly pro-imperialist line, developing close links with South African capital in particular.

These intrigues can only be resisted by a movement which bases itself on the independent mobilisation of the Mauritian workers and peasants.

Such a movement will also require international solidarity, not least against the manoeuvres of British imperialism. It must not be forgotten that the last Labour Government only granted independence to Mauritius in exchange for the island of Diego Garcia—now being transformed into a major US air-base; nor that British influence is still exerted today through the presence of advisers in important posts in the administration and army.

WHAT'S ON

BENGALI FRIENDS In Europe and elsewhere, for Bengali books and *Lal* (Fourth International paper), contact: Bengali, Mullvadens, Box 3274, 10365 Stockholm, Sweden.

LIVERPOOL RED BOOKS: Revolutionary literature—Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Eastern Europe, Third World, Ireland, Women's Liberation, 81a Renshaw Street, Liverpool. Tues.—Fri: 12.30—3.0. Sat: 11—3.0.

NOTTINGHAM RED CIRCLES: Widespread series of discussions based on the politics of the Fourth International. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month at 8 pm in the Lion Hotel, Clumber St.

IMG GAY GROUP: Contact J. Mills, 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds for further information.

SOUTHALL RED FORUMS: Every Friday evening at 8 pm in the 'Featherstone Arms', Featherstone Road, Southall (near Dominion Cinema).

LONDON RED FORUMS: A comprehensive political education series, every Tuesday at 8 pm in the General Picton pub, Caledonian Road, N1.

SPUC vs ALRA debate at Ealing on 23 September. Ring 863 6089 for details.

A LUTA CONTINUA! Public meeting in solidarity with the liberation struggles in Portugal's African colonies, Wed, 25 September at 7.30 pm in Central Colleague Theatre, 25 Gordon Street, London WC1. Organised by CFMAG.

SOUTH SHIELDS Anti-Fascist Committee public meeting: 'Who are the National Front?' Speakers from local trade unions, Arab and Jewish communities, Thursday 26 September at 7.30pm, People's Place, Derby Terrace, South Shields.

'IRELAND: TROOPS OUT NOW?' AUEW/TASS meeting, Thursday 26 September, 7.30pm in Trowbridge Town Hall.

'THRESHOLDS—what happens now' IMG public meeting with speakers from NALGO and IMG, Tuesday 24 September at 7.30 pm in The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road (Warren Street tube).

'IF PREBBLE'S IN, YOU'RE OUT' Mass picket by trade unionists and tenants against wholesale winking. Ten tenants now face court injunctions to stop picketing, one is already in prison. Assemble at Prebble's, 109 Upper Street, London N1, Saturday 21 September, 9.30—12.30. For literature and information phone 272 9445.

WORKERS FIGHT Readers Meeting: 'The Labour Party and the General Election'. Speaker: Clive Bane, Sunday 22 September, 8pm at 'The George', Liverpool Road, Lardon N1.

UP AGAINST THE LAW? If so, why not read the magazine 'Up Against The Law'. Annual sub rates: £2.50 ordinary sub, £6 professional's sub, or monthly send 20p to cover postage, to: Up Against The Law Collective, 66 York Way, London N1 (tel. 01 837 4194).

red books

Hugo Blanco et al—*Coup in Chile* 10p
Hugo Blanco—*On Chile and Peru* 15p
Les Evans (ed)—*Disaster in Chile* £1.25
James Petras—*The Chilean Coup* 15p
97 Caledonian Rd., London N1.
(te. 01-278 9526)

Open 10—8 Weekdays
10—5.30 Saturdays
MAIL ORDER: add 15% to orders under £5, 15p to orders under £1

CHILE LESSONS OF THE COUP WHICH WAY TO WORKERS POWER?

Tauq Ali
Gerry Heddy



NEW IMG PAMPHLET! JUST OUT!
Available from Red Books, 97, Caledonian Rd., N1. (Price 30p inc. p & p)

Spain - Left turn by CP to push the right

Spanish dictator Franco appears to have recovered from his recent illness, but his death cannot now be far off. A frantic scramble by different sections of the capitalist class to get into position to challenge for the succession has ensued.

This has provided an opportunity for the Communist Party to launch a new project for class collaboration - the Junta Democratica (Democratic Council). The aim is to form an alliance with a substantial section of the capitalists, assuring them that as in Portugal this will be the best way to keep the working class under control and protect their profits.

So far only a few insignificant bourgeois remnants have joined the Junta Democratica, however. So the CP is proposing to put pressure on the others through some limited industrial action this autumn. Below, a leading member of the LCR-ETA (VI), a sympathising organisation of the Fourth International in Spain, explains in a recent interview how revolutionaries are responding to this development.

-The Workers' Commissions have raised the slogan of a general strike for this autumn. What is behind it? Is it a tactical turn by the CP to back up its political manoeuvres through a controlled mobilisation of the masses?

The 'general coordination' of the Workers' Commissions, which is essentially controlled by the CP, has launched a call for a general strike for the end of September or the beginning of October, but has not yet set a definite date. It's intended to be a twenty-four hour general strike for limited objectives. There is no question of taking over the work places on that day.

The demands advanced have to do with the struggle against the high cost of living, for amnesty, and against the dictatorship. This initiative by the CP is a response to the real militancy of the workers and an attempt to channel that militancy as a means of pressure not so much on the dictatorship as on the 'central' bourgeois sectors, in order to force them into a political agreement. But in any case, we can expect a real mass mobilisation around the strike one that the reformists will have trouble controlling completely.

A lot depends on the ability of the revolutionary organisations to mobilise the workers' vanguard around militant positions. I think it could be the biggest political mobilisation against the dictatorship since the struggles against the Burgos trials in December 1970.

-What will be the LCR-ETA (VI)'s response to this worsening of the crisis of the dictatorship, to the sickness and impending death of Franco, and to the political offensive of the CP?

Our organisation still has limited force. But in the current situation, our political

influence and our capacity for intervention are not at all negligible.

Obviously, we support the calling of the general strike. We are going to try to convince the workers to organise general assemblies and elected committees in their work places in order to coordinate with the Workers' Commissions and the organs of struggle that have emerged among other sectors (students, teachers, high schoolers) and with the workers' organisations, so as to construct a representative leadership capable of making the general strike as powerful as possible and of carrying out street demonstrations in all the big cities.

We will propose a platform of struggle including demands like:

- across the board wage increases of 5,000 pesetas a month (approx. £9 per week) for all
- forty-hour work-week,
- reintegration of fired workers,
- freedom for political prisoners,
- freedom of assembly, strikes, and organisations,
- self-determination in Euzkadi (the Basque country) and Catalonia,
- dissolution of the specialised repressive corps.

Moreover, we are waging a campaign around the organisation of self-defence of struggles and demonstrations, for the overthrow of the dictatorship through a revolutionary general strike, and for the establishment of a workers' government.

With the impending general strike, a united policy is more than ever necessary, in the first place within the Workers' Commissions, but also among the revolutionary organisations to defend a class struggle position against the reformists. This certainly means fighting for the unity of all the workers' organisations against the dictatorship.

The most remarkable thing about the fall of the Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie last week was that he went almost without a murmur.

It was remarkable ... and yet at the same time entirely in keeping with what had gone before. For every step taken by the military since the original mutiny at Asmara on 26 February has been marked by a cautious determination to avoid any kind of open clash.

There are, of course, very good political reasons for this. What is taking place in Ethiopia today is nothing less than a gradual shift in political power from one section of the ruling class to another, away from the feudal landowners towards the representatives of an emerging bourgeoisie. The last thing either side wants in this situation is an outright confrontation, which could provide a cue for the masses to erupt onto the stage of events and alter their direction.

TRUMP CARD

The fact that the masses, both peasants and workers, are waiting in the wings has indeed been the trump card used by the military to force the old regime slowly up against the wall. After all, it was a series of militant demonstrations by striking workers and students in Addis Ababa in mid-February which finally persuaded the Asmara mutineers that the time was more than ripe to issue a first cautious challenge to the crumbling regime.

Until then it had seemed from the outside that the elaborate and impressive State apparatus built up over so many years by Haile Selassie might still be able to cope. But in reality its base of support had been largely worn away: by the unsuccessful attempts to put down the revolt in the province of Eritrea, where the Eritrean Liberation Front claimed to

control two-thirds of the territory in 1972; by the effects of world-wide inflation, particularly on the urban masses; and most recently, by the totally inadequate official response - characterised mainly by its corruption and mismanagement - to the widespread famine which hit large areas of the country in 1973.

On 26 February the military made its first move. Just two days later the Cabinet headed by Aklilu Habte Wold resigned after fourteen years in office. The instability of the regime was plain for all to see.



US IMPERIALISM

Yet the military had to tread delicately. On the one hand, the most enthusiastic backer of the feudal order has always been US imperialism: Ethiopia receives 50% of all US aid to Africa, and US interests control 75% of coffee exports as well as important holdings in the mining and industrial sectors. So while quietly arresting individuals of the aristocracy, the army was careful not to make any outright attack on their position, or to challenge the feudal system of land tenure.

COMMUNIST PARTY UNDER FIRE FROM MILITANTS

It's back to sleepless nights for the Portuguese ruling class.

Events of the past few months have without doubt been reassuring for them. The Government, resting heavily on the armed forces, has made clear its intention to try and stabilise the Portuguese economy on a strictly capitalist basis.

Workers' wage demands have been toned down - sometimes through the direct action of the military; the press has been seriously muzzled; left-wing demonstrations are banned and demonstrators beaten, arrested and even killed; and a strike law has been adopted that makes the 'right to strike' virtually a joke.

Moreover the leading political force in the workers' movement - the Portuguese Communist Party - has been quite content to go along with all these reactionary measures and sit contently in the coalition Government which enacted them.

FIGHTING SPIRITS

But recent weeks have not been so reassuring. Several groups of Portuguese workers have displayed a real fighting spirit, and the Communist Party is coming under increasingly heavy fire from a growing layer of class-conscious militant workers.

The first major struggle to turn the tide was the strike and occupation launched by the workers of the leading Lisbon daily newspaper *Jornal do Comercio*. The *Jornal* workers took action to force the sacking of their company's top manager, Carlos Machado, because of his fascist sympathies.

The Communist Party agreed that Machado was a fascist, but insisted that the purging of reactionaries from the political life of the country was a strictly 'secondary' question, and therefore opposed any action on it. Even after the *Jornal* workers were forcibly evicted from the premises of the paper by the army, the Communist Party opposed the call for 24-hour general strike of newspaper workers.

But despite the opposition of the CP and the sabre-rattling of the Government, the strike went ahead, and almost every Portuguese daily paper was stopped by its workers.



Safety helmeted workers from the Margueira shipyard marched through the streets of Lisbon last week in defiance of a Government ban on their demonstration, called to demand tougher action against reactionary political elements, and to protest against the recent strike law and other anti-working class legislation.

Since this major display of working class solidarity and determination to rid Portugal of all the vestiges of the fascist regime, there have been several attempts by the Government to get the *Jornal* workers to compromise. But they have stood firm and their strike goes on.

by Chris Balfour

Their latest step has been to produce 25,000 copies of a 24-page information bulletin on their struggle. Half of the proceeds from the sale of the bulletin are going into the strike fund, and the other half is going to be made available to newspaper vendors who suffered hardship as a result of the 24-hour strike.

In the introduction to the bulletin the *Jornal* workers say: '...our strike began as an internal conflict between 305 workers of a firm and its management and their representatives. It was already a struggle between capital and labour, between exploiters and exploited - but it was confined to a single administrative body. Today it is no longer that.'

DETERMINATION

'Since the 24-hour solidarity strike supported by almost every daily newspaper ... since the practical demonstration of our political consciousness and determination ... the real power and significance of the struggle of the *Jornal do Comercio* workers has been publicly revealed. In the final analysis, it is a struggle between all revolutionary workers and all reactionaries, whether they are capitalists properly speaking, administrators or party bureaucrats.

'And so there grew up alongside the movement we had launched two more or less clearly distinct forces: on one side the Borges monopoly, the Government institutions (especially the Ministry of Labour), and the political parties (especi-

ally the Communist Party); on the other side, the workers of the *Jornal do Comercio*, and other workers who were struggling independently to transform their lives.'

SHIPYARD WORKERS

Even while the *Jornal* workers' bulletin was coming off the printing presses, another group of workers was taking up the fight against the reactionary forces - again opposed by the Government and the Communist Party. Workers from the Margueira shipyard, part of the giant Lisnave group of yards, decided to hold a demonstration in Lisbon demanding more thoroughgoing action against reactionary political elements, and protesting at the recent strike law and other anti-working class laws.

HOSTILITY

The Government banned the demonstration, and the Lisnave cell of the Communist Party issued a statement denouncing it as 'a demonstration of hostility towards the Government and disrespect for democratic order'. Soldiers from the special COPCON units were moved into the shipyards to prevent the demonstration from taking place, but at the last minute the Ministry of Labour had second thoughts and pulled them out.

As a result thousands of shipyard workers descended into the streets of Lisbon under banners that read 'Death to the PIDE' (the former fascist secret police), 'Death to Fascism', 'Democracy for the Workers', 'Repression for the Reactionaries'. As they said in the leaflet they distributed: 'Our struggle for the purging of reactionaries is not a secondary struggle, it is a struggle of first-rate importance, because it unites us in a permanent and often vigorous struggle against all the manoeuvres and manifestations of fascism, which are constantly reborn from the rotting corpse of monopoly capitalism.'

CHRIS BALFOUR

The 'Lion' goes out like a lamb

US imperialism in turn acknowledged this deference to its interests with a carefully-timed statement on 26 August that it intended to step up its military aid to Ethiopia in the coming year.

But on the other hand, the military are faced with a growing mass movement - also supported by many in the ranks of the army - which wants to go much further in terms of land reform, trade union rights, and political freedoms. Just over two weeks ago, thousands of demonstrators ran through Addis Ababa chanting 'Hang the Emperor'. The response of the military was not to break up the demonstration - which could simply have provoked a larger outburst - but instead to issue a declaration afterwards banning future such actions.

MASS EXPLOSION

It is clear that such a situation cannot last indefinitely. The expectations of the masses have been increasingly aroused by the events of the last few months, and cannot be satisfied except by the complete overthrow of the present order and the establishment of a workers' and peasants' government to take forward the struggle for socialism.

In the current absence of any organised workers' party to lead this struggle, the regime will perhaps be able to achieve a very brief stabilisation of the situation. But in the long term the most likely development is from the whimper of the emperor's fall to the bang of a mass explosion.

John Marston

FORD PICKETS UP ON TRIAL

'Our central line has been to agitate against specialised anti-picket squads and to point out the threat to future struggles'

On 8 May, during the official AUEW strike against the NIRC, four Ford workers were arrested by the Special Patrol Group outside the Body Group, Dagenham.

This was a totally unprovoked attack. Only two of those arrested were pickets. Two had arrived for work not knowing of the strike, and were arrested for obstruction while pickets turned them back. The trial of three of the four takes place on 23 Sept. at Barking Magistrates' Court.

Steve Harper, one of the arrested pickets and a member of the International Marxist Group, told *Red Weekly*:

These were the first arrests off a Ford picket line since the 1950s. There was confusion; many men, even some militants, hadn't heard we were out. There was a lot of shouting, but no bother. It was the same as always. At first there were only the ordinary police there, the ones we see every picket. Suddenly a mobile snatch squad descended on Gate 20 and arrested me. They then drove around to the front gate and pulled in the other three.

Are you sure it was the Special Patrol Group?

Yes. They acted in a very highly trained and determined way. They knew what they were after. The one who arrested me sat in the van and took out a book, *Facts and Myths About Joseph Stalin*, a hack, hysterical, anti-Communist work. It's not a book from within the movement of the sort someone interested in socialism would read. It's not even the thing a *Daily*

Express reader would choose. I think it reflects ideological training. It's the sort of book Kitson would hand out and SAS members would read.

How is the campaign going?

Our central line has been to agitate against specialised anti-picket squads and to point out the threat to future struggles put on the agenda by inflation. Through the campaign we've pushed a lot of related points.

At the beginning of the campaign we pointed out how the arrests themselves, and Donaldson's sequestration of union funds, which caused the strike, showed how the bourgeoisie's legal and physical agents could act independently of a Labour Government which was trying to cool things down.

We've also argued that Labour's failure to stop the SPG activity and the failure to end legal proceedings against the Shrewsbury building workers show the emptiness of Foot's promises to defend the right to picket. *The working class must organise picketing pools to defend itself.*

What support have you had?

Mainly the Barking and Dagenham Shrewsbury Defence Committee, some militants from Fords and the North East London Poly, Barking Precinct, Soc. Soc. Body Group stewards picketed the court on the first day we came up, probably because of a minority strike in my shop and a picket on the gates.

Jo Richardson, secretary of the Tribune Group and MP for Barking, spoke at our public defence meeting on 29 August. She's attacked the SPG in the local press, but the Labour Party could do so much more.

Imagine the impact of a withdraw-

al from Watch Committees by Labour Councillors in areas where pickets were arrested. Imagine the impact of a Labour Council committed to encouraging the workforce to participate without loss of pay, etc. in such activities. These are the actions you'd get from a real working class party.

What do you want to see on the 23rd?

Ford workers are either out over shift allowance or laid off, as you know. If we were at work, I would fight for a strike. But in any event, a demo and a picket of the court have been organised.

**DEFEND FORD PICKETS
PICKET BARKING MAGISTRATES COURT (nr. Barking tube)
MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER from
9.30 onwards.**

WORKERS IMPOSE CONTROL ON STAFFING

The local machinery of the NHS is beginning to evolve ways of 'streamlining' the existing workforce to meet its ever-increasing workload.

Given the (relatively) declining budget worked out by the Area Health Authorities, local hospital units are obliged to impose productivity deals of varying descriptions on their workers.

At King's Hospital in South London, this has taken the form of adopting the nationally agreed regrading of ward orderlies. At the Whittington hospital in North London it has taken the form of cutting off ancillaries - especially porters' overtime, whilst expecting the same work to be done. In practice this meant doubling two jobs or more for one person to do in the same time.

In response to this provocation, the portering staff held a mass meeting - in

work time - and elected a delegation to go to the management with a demand that unless full staffing coverage for all departments, blocks and shifts was provided (hence of course restoring overtime), industrial action would be taken.

The delegates also informed the Nurse Action Committee of the likely action and repercussions for nursing staff. In response the nurses voted to back, if necessary, all porters' work in solidarity with our demands. In the face of this, management restored all overtime thus temporarily sweeping aside the Area budget!

Management then claimed not to know what full staffing coverage meant as far as portering ratios were concerned. The porters then decided to draw up their own ratios and in the event of further industrial action being necessary, work according to those ratios - not those dictated by management's budgets.

At the Whittington, the overtime cuts foreshadow much bigger 'pruning' efforts. It is only a matter of time before ward orderlies re-grading is forced onto an unsuspecting and intimidated domestic staff and more overtime and staffing cuts enforced.

The GMWU branch secretary has just been sacked for a trivial misdemeanour - what a coincidence! The portering staff are perhaps prepared for future management attacks, and having beaten them once they have shown a way forward for other sections of staff.

DAVE WOOLF (Whittington Hospital - GMWU)

Journalists challenge police thuggery

An action committee has been formed by members of the National Union of Journalists to press for a union commission of inquiry into police and State interference in the media.

This follows the intimidation, harassment, and assault of several press photographers by the police during the National Front demonstration on 7 September, as reported in last week's *Red Weekly*.

Thirty journalists met at the NUJ headquarters on Tuesday to consider what action should be taken against the mounting repression of the media.

Examples cited include: the application of the sub judice rule and contempt of court proceedings to stifle newspaper investigations; the prosecution of journalists for refusing to reveal sources of information; and increasing discrimination by the police in favour of Metropolitan Police press card holders against those who 'only' hold an NUJ press card.

COMMANDOS AT WORK

Evidence has just come to light that the C13 (commando) unit at Scotland Yard receives copies of the agendas of the NUJ's Magazine Branch. One copy which was discovered in the unit's possession had the

names of four branch militants underlined.

The main proposal put forward at Tuesday's meeting was for the setting up of a commission of inquiry, to collect all available evidence of activities by the police and the State in relation to the media, and to make recommendations for action by media and other workers to confront these developments.

The commission would be composed of elected branch representatives, members of the NUJ executive, and representatives of other media unions.

In order to present an immediate focus of activity, and publicise recent police assaults on journalists, the action committee was asked to organise a picket of the Home Office, to which journalists will be invited to bring their Metropolitan Police press cards and burn them.

Another matter brought up at the meeting was the present prosecution of *Socialist Worker*, and the persistent harassment of left-wing newspaper street sellers. Unfortunately, with one exception, members of the International Socialists in the NUJ did not consider the meeting worth attending.

DICK BRINSLEY



Supporters of the Elgin Avenue squatters outside the court last week

Squatters move from courts to streets

Mass pickets of up to 100 people greeted the Labour GLC's court applications last week to evict 250 squatters and licensees with 30 children from Elgin Avenue, Paddington.

Supporters came from as far away as Harrow Housing Action Campaign, Loughton in Essex (a former tenant of the houses in Elgin Avenue before squatters moved in) and a telegram from Guildford squatters. Labour Party members joined in too, encouraged by support given by Westminster Trades Council at a recent public meeting.

The presence of two busloads of police in plain clothes in the court-room and building - indicates the importance the State places on this struggle of the homeless.

ABSURDITY

The squatters and their lawyers used the case to show supporters and the press the absurdity of the GLC's 'redevelopment' plans. The GLC has failed to build on derelict open space in the area, failed to discuss the plans with local tenants, and failed to provide more than token rehousing. And, they've only agreed to provide for families because of mass

pressure. Redevelopment with mass evictions is no solution to the housing problem.

The GLC and Judge Leslie, presiding, were unable to ignore the determination of this cross-section of London's 'new poor' - the 2½-year old Elgin Avenue community. Families, old people, cripples, young single workers, former 'drop-outs' who had sorted themselves out in Elgin Avenue, put in an appearance.

The Court gave some concessions. There is to be no eviction before 30 September (though of course the GLC will actually have to wait till after the election) and the GLC will have to take out separate court actions for some basements in Elgin Avenue.

The GLC is now offering council houses to Elgin Avenue families. A year ago they offered nothing; now they are offering a choice! The families, seeing the GLC's manoeuvres to divide up the street, have said they'll accept suitable places, but won't move into them until everyone in the street is satisfied - 'Housing for all, or no-one goes.'

The court cases for the 20 houses took three whole days. The GLC, like the *Daily Telegraph* when it goes into frenzies about squatters, maintained a vindictive attitude and asked for costs against one

person only - Piers Corbyn, IMG member and spokesman for the street. He does not intend to pay the £20 asked for. An interesting coincidence was the sabotage of the squatters' office phone for the week of the court case.

The occupants and supporters of Elgin Avenue are now stepping up their campaign - which is moving from the courts to the streets. The implications of the GLC's decision, backed by the courts, to use squatters' summary eviction proceedings against licensees-tenants in Elgin Avenue jeopardises the legal position of thousands of such licensees - including certain types of service workers in London.

A campaign is being mounted which will probably include an appeal to the High Court for no evictions in Elgin Avenue and that Labour increases rather than undermines the legal basis of licensed squatters-cum-tenants. Will Labour show their true colours and contest an appeal?

The campaign includes demonstration, leaflets, pamphlets, a benefit concert, meetings of tenants, trade unions, etc., and an exhibition and film, all via 19 Elgin Avenue, London W9 (01 286 2186). Organisations are invited to send for speakers and send resolutions to GLC County Hall, London, SE1.