

# Socialist Worker

for workers control and international socialism

## NO RETREAT! ENGINEERS CAN SMASH PAY FREEZE

by ROGER COX (AEF)

AS ENGINEERS IN BRITAIN'S KEY INDUSTRIES prepare for a show-down with the government's wage-freeze policy, their union leaders are already back-peddalling on their call for a national strike.

The strike vote last Friday by the engineering union was greeted by a barrage of criticism from right-wing leaders of other unions. Instead of standing firm, president Hugh Scanlon and the other leaders of the AEF have now postponed the start of the strike from September 23.

### Strike call at TUC to win equal pay

From JAMES ROBESON

BLACKPOOL, Wednesday  
SIDNEY GREENE of the NUR succeeded in rallying support for the General Council of the TUC against George Thomas of ASLEF who moved a resolution that accused the government of putting forward Tory economic policies.

But Greene conceded that there should be import controls and said there was a need for presenting alternative policies to the government.

He expressed concern at the prospect of 700,000 unemployed by next spring. "We need the government and they need us" he appealed.

It was Clive Jenkins of ASTMS who gave the facts and figures of economic failure. "The incomes policy is as irrelevant as the blush on a dead man's cheek" he said.

### REJECTION

A call for equal pay for women within two years was carried by delegates.

It was a decisive rejection of Mrs. Castle's promises of a seven year programme and it acknowledged the example set by the Ford women workers.

A DATA amendment ensures that the new TUC general council must call for full support for those unions taking industrial action to achieve equal pay.

The general council itself has some new faces to whom more militant unions will look for support. Hugh Scanlon replaces Lord Carron.

Fraternal delegates abounded in this centenary year, from everywhere but the Warsaw Pact countries. Their invitations were swiftly withdrawn after the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

When the general council's report on the Czech situation came up for discussion such violent anti-communists as Les Cannon of the ETU were able to set the tone of the discussion. Only Ralph Bond of the Cine Technicians and E. Gill of DATA were able to differentiate themselves in their condemnation of the Russians before chairman Lord Carron cut short the debate.

And on Monday they will come face to face with their critics at the key meeting of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

The right-wing will put tremendous pressure on Scanlon and company to either abandon the strike or ballot the members of the AEF before calling for a showdown with the arrogant engineering bosses and their backers, the Labour government.

But there is no need to hold a ballot. In the next few days, engineers should flood AEF offices with messages of support for the strike.

The bosses final offer was an insult and was rejected out of hand by the AEF, Britain's second largest union. The bosses offered a three-year "package" deal with a 12s increase, two days extra holiday and a minimum skilled rate of £17.10s.

The bosses plead poverty, but they are doing well. In the first three months of the year, their profits rose by 3.3 per cent. When the effects of devaluation are felt, profits are expected to rise by a phenomenal 20 per cent.

Behind the employers stands the Labour government, determined to stamp out wage demands in order to boost profits still further at the expense of the working class.

Engineers must ignore the siren song from bosses, government and right-wing unions. They have the power to wreck the reactionary alliance that seeks to save the economy at the expense of the workers.

Rank and file committees should tell Mr. Scanlon: No messing around. Honour your pledge. We want an all-out stoppage for a straight £2 increase - and we want it NOW.



TOP: Czech students jump onto a Russian tank to argue with the soldiers. BELOW: Chicago police brutally attack a demonstrator

EAST AND WEST, TANKS AND COPS DEFEND 'FREEDOM'

by CHRIS HARMAN

THOSE WHO RULE on both sides of the Iron Curtain have once again proved how hollow are the words they use to apologise for their positions.

In Chicago, police, supported by troops with fixed bayonets, mercilessly beat up peaceful and unprotected demonstrators.

In Prague, tanks patrol the streets while the Russian rulers openly boast of their intention to "liquidate 20,000 counter-revolutionaries".

Few people defend such action. But many try to find excuses. While some see what is happening in Prague as a "mistake" made by those who are basically still "socialists", others see Chicago as an unfortunate upset in the normal democratic process introduced by Mayor Daly.

But neither events were accidental.

### 'MISTAKE'

The behaviour of the police in Chicago was far from being an "aberration". Those without power in American society - the negroes in the south and in the ghettos of the north, the white poor, workers manning picket lines - experience such violence as a matter of course.

The "mistake" in Chicago was that this time the police went to work on a few of the wrong people in front of a huge television audience.

The illusion of American "democracy" should have been shattered, in any case, by what went on inside the convention. Despite massive evidence from primary results and opinion polls that at least 40 per cent of US voters would support a "peace candidate" (as McCarthy at least pretends to be), they are to be offered a choice in November between identical policies from identical war-mongering candidates.

### CRUDE

Similarly, the Russian occupation of Czechoslovakia is merely the latest in a history of the use of crude force to put down those who begin to question absolute control from above. The imprisonment of writers and intellectuals in Russia and the fire power let loose on Budapest in 1956 are only the best known examples.

There are important differences between American and Russian society, between the "free world" and the "socialist third". But both have in common this much: they are controlled by small ruling classes that will use all the resources of modern technology to keep down the workers who may threaten their rule.

The fact that they need to do so should not unduly disturb us. It proves that they at least recognise the power that will be exercised when the mass of working people begin to take control of their own lives.

### Police raid Black Dwarf

POLICE raided the offices of the socialist paper Black Dwarf on Tuesday, searched files and desks and photographed a recipe for making Molotov cocktails which an unknown person had chalked on a wall. The police are reporting to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Socialist Worker protests vehemently at this disgraceful intrusion and we declare our complete solidarity with our comrades and friends of Black Dwarf.

## Docks leaflet slams invasion

From ALAN WOOD

РУССКИМ ДРУЗЬЯМ  
Советские воюса  
Ваше правительво  
условиями дальн  
демократии.  
Братья! Положе  
потернит пораж  
Передали по ра  
в ответ на прси

Excerpt from the Russian leaflet

HULL:- Thousands of leaflets in English and Russian attacking the occupation of Czechoslovakia were produced on the day of the invasion by the Hull branch of International Socialism. They were given out to Russian seamen at dock in Hull.

Headed "Hands off Czechoslovakia!", the leaflet was written and translated by members of the IS group. It rejected Russian news agency explanations that the military action represented "urgent aid" in response to a request

from Czechoslovak leaders" and that the attempts at reform in Czechoslovakia were a "threat to socialism".

The Czechoslovak workers," ran the leaflet, "are as one behind the struggle for national independence and democracy. Brothers, Czechoslovakia is now in the thick of battle between the workers of the world and their exploiters, bureaucrat or bourgeois. We have not kept silent about American barbarity in Vietnam... We cannot be silent now. Support the Czechoslovak people!"

Dock workers in Hull, who were not allowed personal contact with the Russian seamen, took wads of leaflets on

board ship and scattered them among the cargo.

One docker working on a Yugoslav vessel said that some Yugoslav seamen "screwed up" the leaflets which he had handed out on their ship. He was not able to say what the Russian response had been.

But there were rumours that a one-day strike is being called in protest against the continued presence of Russian and other Warsaw Pact troops in Czechoslovakia.

Eye-witness report from Prague - see page 3

The press has condemned the Pope's attitude to contraception

— but he is just a scapegoat for the real merchants of hunger

# The starving masses — they need guns, not the Pill...

IN RECENT WEEKS, the Pope has been promoted to scapegoat number one in the press. As one letter-writer to *The Times* said:

"In 1965 world food production increased by one percent, but world population increased by two percent. Every day twice as many people are born as die. Our eyes are perpetually assailed, and our hearts torn by press photographs of starving children. Yet the Pope forbids any method of contraception except one which is notoriously unreliable. I should not be able to sleep easily at night if I had his latest edict upon my conscience."

That writer is a victim of the big lie that the monopoly press has been drumming into our heads for years — that most of the troubles of the world are due to the poor Indian not knowing one end of a contraceptive from the other. Yet the Pope himself gave the start of an answer to this argument in his Encyclical:

## LACK OF WISDOM...

"Neither can one, without grave injustice, consider divine providence to be responsible for what depends instead, on a lack of wisdom in government, on an insufficient sense of social justice, on selfish monopolisation, or again on blame-worthy indolence in confronting the efforts and the sacrifices necessary to ensure the raising of the living standards of a people and of all its sons."

Absolutely correct! If millions starve today this is not because of a so-called "population problem", it is because of an economic, social and political problem called imper-

by **CHRIS ARTHUR**

ialism — the giant world powers that bleed the smaller nations dry for profit.

The Pope's statement of the solution is still abstract. If you spell out the kind of change which would "ensure the raising of living standards" the answer can be shown to be only revolutionary socialist politics. And here the Pope's hypocrisy is exposed, for the Church has always been an implacable enemy of socialism.

But the Pope's hypocrisy is preferable to the imperialist spokesmen who self-righteously lecture their starving slaves for their ill luck.

Imperialism has discovered the most staggering alibi in history. It blames for its crimes — its own victims!

The arguments are quite fascinating. In the Tory-owned press you never read that **not enough people are being fed**, you always read that there are "too many mouths to feed."

In this way the accusing finger is shifted away from a system that will not or cannot, feed its people, to the starving themselves, who have the insolence to exist, and disturb the sleep of good citizens who have other things to worry about — such as obesity.

This attitude underlines the

anti-human character of the capitalist system. It has only one God — Profit — and this is the measure of all things, including human beings. Human needs enter into the system only in disguise, as demand.

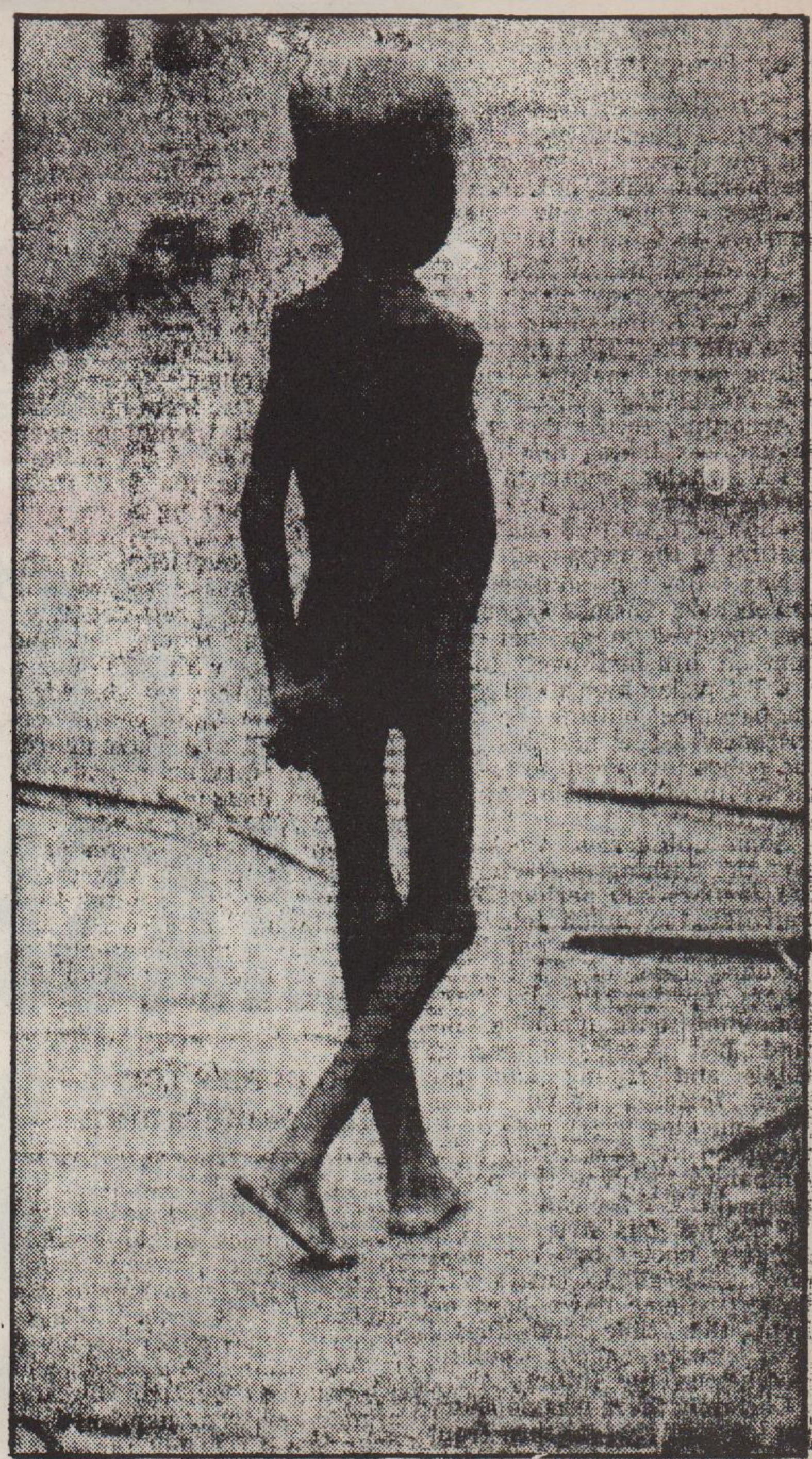
If you are a pensioner who **needs** a bucket of coal but haven't got the cash to clothe this need with dignity and respectability, to make it into the **demand**, then capitalism does not recognise your need. It even makes you ashamed to draw attention to it.

## BUNDLE OF NEEDS

If you are a starving miner in Kentucky, USA, you may wonder why you can't be given some of the billions of dollars worth of "surplus" food stored in caves by the American government. The answer is "Let's see the colour of your money friend. Are you a man, a fully qualified member of the market society? Or are you a population problem, a mere bundle of needs, a workless lay-about who should be ashamed of himself?"

If you are a hungry Asian who wonders why the US government doesn't stop paying farmers to take millions of acres out of cultivation, you will be asked, "and knock the bottom out of the cereals market? Where is the profit in that? What are you — a communist or something?"

A world socialist order could easily support many times the present population. There are



This Biafran boy died a few hours after this picture was taken

millions of acres of uncultivated land in the underdeveloped world, as well as the millions withdrawn from cultivation in America.

Even with present techniques the productivity of the land could attain staggering levels, and new methods such as sea farming can extend the horizons.

It is just a question of organising to do the job. But four square in the way of such a reorganisation and rationalisation of the world's material and human potential, stands the re-

actionary imperialist class whose power and privilege depend on the present set-up which they will defend with all the diabolical weapons at their command.

Yes, imperialism has a population problem all right, but for that population to begin to solve its problems, it will have to smash the system.

To do this the starving millions don't need the pill — they need guns.

Chris Arthur is co-editor of the *Bulletin of Marxist Studies*.

## In London's grimy hell for working-c

A GAP of centuries divides the archaic splendour of the Vatican and the overcrowded tenements of Kilburn, Notting Hill and North Kensington. The Pope speaks and millions of Roman Catholics — working-class Irish and South American peasants are told that artificial contraception is a mortal sin.

The encyclical has provided new hells — some private and intellectual for the parishioners of Father Weir at East Cheam and some public and very material for the crowded slum dwellers of North London.

Many were unwilling to discuss the issues with strangers but some were equally willing to pour out their own experiences and fears.

"The Holy Father obviously doesn't understand our position", said one young Irishwoman newly married and determined to plan her family. "We get about £13 per week after stoppages and a third of that goes on rent. How can we afford children now?"

She said she would not confess during mass while she was using the pill which was a matter of "private conscience"

An older woman with six children who had been taking the pill said she was praying for guidance as she felt that to bring more children into an already overcrowded flat would be a sin in itself. The rhythm

her and the prospect of more children and unwanted pregnancies was too much for her to face.

Another woman intervened to say that the Pope was undoubtedly right to uphold what had been the Church's teaching on contraception. She was past childbearing and had married late.

## Shrugged

I tried to contact the priests who work in the strongly Catholic areas but they were rarely "available". A few of the younger clergy shrugged their shoulders in resignation but the senior members of the faith had no doubts.

For them the ruling had clearly come as a relief. Asked about the problems of their poorer members they smiled at such gross materialism. "God will provide" was their slogan.

The large families, sleeping four or five in a room, condemned by the medieval ideas of Paul VI to increasing misery, seemed a devastating comment on Christian values. But many Catholics had clearly made up their own minds on the matter and were not going to face the unwanted pregnancies and reinforced hardships which the Encyclical demanded.

Many working-class Catholics were withdrawing from the Church not formally but were

## Socialist Worker

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Editor: Roger Protz Editorial Committee: Paul Foot, Richard Kuper, Peter Osborne. Business Manager: Jim Nichol.

## WHERE WE STAND

SOCIALIST WORKER IS THE paper of International Socialism, a movement of revolutionary socialists who believe that the present form of society, with its blatant inequalities, its periodic crises, wars and racialist hysteria must be replaced by one based on a planned economy under full workers' control; those who produce the wealth should own and control the means of production.

International Socialism is opposed to any incomes policy that seeks to restrict the wages of the workers in order to boost the profits of the employers. We unconditionally support all shop stewards and rank and file trade union members in their struggles for

better wages and conditions and oppose all reactionary laws that threaten the liberties of the labour movement. We support all strikes in defence of workers' interests with the demand of no victimisation of trade unionists. Redundancy should be opposed with the demand: five days work or five days pay. Shop stewards organisations should strengthen and extend their influence by linking up on an industrial and ultimately a national basis.

We are opposed to racial discrimination, a weapon used by the ruling class to divide the labour movement. Immigration control must be ended, ensuring the free movement of peoples regardless of

race and colour. Black and white workers must unite and form their own defence organisations to fight fascism and racialism. The labour movement must demand the immediate recall of British troops from abroad as the first step towards ending colonial exploitation.

The task of revolutionary socialists is to join workers in their struggles with socialist ideas that will link up the various sections of the labour movement and help create a force that will lead on to workers' power.

If you would like to join IS or would like further details of our activities, fill in the form below:

Please send further details of the meetings and activities of International Socialism to:

Name .....

Address .....

Send to Socialist Worker, Paxton Works Paxton Road, London N17

# 'Everywhere, slogans and posters... Russian tanks came trundling through with Viva Dubcek and Svoboda,

## which is also the Czech word for Liberty...'

by ERIC PORTER



A Russian tank with Nazi emblem set ablaze by Czech demonstrators.

**'WE WILL NEVER SUBMIT'**  
-Czech youth leader

IVAN SVITAK, one of the leading representatives of revolutionary youth in Czechoslovakia, was expelled from the Communist Party during the Novotny regime and sacked from his job at the Philosophical Institute.

When the Russians marched in he was on holiday in Vienna, and the next day he made the following appeal to his comrades over Austrian television.

Today we are living the second day in an occupied country, in a soviet protectorate. We must see the reality of this occupation without any distortion. The occupation regime is a police regime and nothing else.

We are living in an occupied country and we know that we must struggle; one doesn't discuss or negotiate with occupiers, one struggles against them. Aggression is aggression.

The forms of struggle against the occupier are many and varied, but one thing is certain: we will never submit.

Is there a counter-revolution in Czechoslovakia? Are there counter-revolutionaries there? Yes, there are; they are those who order the movements of Warsaw Pact tanks and those who prepare concentration camps.

What will oppose them? The people and the ideal of liberty, this irresistible ideal against which many powerful armies have marched in vain in the past. It is the people who are the bastion of resistance against the occupier. The people are the factory workers, soldiers and intellectuals determined to defend sovereignty, liberty and socialism.

What is the aim of our struggle? We are struggling for a free and sovereign state, for the rights of man and the citizen. We are rising against Soviet neo-colonialism.

Eric Porter, a member of the National Union of Teachers, was in Czechoslovakia with the London Cooperative Youth Choir at the time of the Russian invasion.

WE DID ONE CONCERT in Czechoslovakia on August 20 and as we were close to the Polish border they said come up and have a look.

While we were there the Polish customs people were very friendly and invited us over. There were a crowd of people and the choir on the bridge gave a little impromptu concert.

This was at about 6 o'clock and the Russians came over at 12. They must have been chasing us home as we did not get back to Prague till gone midnight.

### Speaking, crying

The next morning people were crying and speaking volubly in Czech. One man said "Occupation Russia". I thought it was a bit wild, that he must have had a nightmare.

Then our interpreter came and said in rather stilted English: "A terrible disaster has befallen our country. The Russians have invaded us".

Many Czechs had had grave doubts about the agreement signed in Bratislava. There was a general feeling of complete distrust of Russia and East Germany.

The people were solidly behind Dubcek and to mention his name was almost like magic. We didn't meet a single critic of the new line but most people had doubts that the Russians would let them carry it out.

The local radio station was taken over very quickly and, almost as quickly, the free radio started operating. The suggest-

ion that the CIA had fitted this up is absolute nonsense. They were Czech army transmitters for the most part.

Aerials were thrown up. You would see them from houses and the next day they were gone, they were somewhere else. Until the Russians got tracking equipment, it was very difficult for them to see where they were broadcasting from.

There were lovely stories of how the railway workers were hindering supplies. Free radio workers asked for one train to be delayed because it was carrying radar detecting equipment.

They would say on the radio: "The train only proceeded five miles today comrades! Hurrah!" Everywhere you went you saw Czechs with transistors squashed against their ear.

The Russians looked youngsters, 18 or 19, and were quite bewildered. The wife of one of our interpreters heard that the Russians were in her village. She rushed back and found tanks in the square.

With absolute indignation she asked why they were there. They said they did not know they were coming. They thought they were still on manoeuvres and they did not know why they had come.

She wasn't content with that and searched around until she found an officer, who said they had come to save them from the West Germans. The insinuation was that "the reactionary group" or whatever they called Dubcek's government were actually going to open the doors to the West

Germans. This really insensed the Czechs. They of all people!

Their memories of the Nazis will take a long time to fade and this made them think that the Russians were up to a much dirtier game than they had ever imagined.

### Chalking, daubing

Everywhere, slogans and posters, every tree, every lamp-post, every shop window, private window, on the sides of buses. Every single bus, even in the big towns was smothered in slogans - our bus too!

There was chalking and even daubing on the tanks. Russian tanks came trundling through with "Viva Dubcek" and "Svoboda" which is also the Czech word for "liberty".

They equated the actions of the Russians with the Nazis. They painted the red star with the swastika in the centre instead of the hammer and sickle, with "Brezhnev - Hitler" and "1938 Nazis, 1968 USSR."

To a people receiving invading troops, viewed at this stage, it was exactly the same. They were using the slogans to impress the Russians rather than themselves.

A student from Swansea who

was staying in Prague asked to come back with us. She was staying with a doctor of law who was a member of the district Communist Party committee.

They were meeting secretly. They disguised themselves in ordinary workers' clothes and went along to the factory and met in the canteen. He thought it was only a question of time before he was arrested.

We went to pick the girl up and the Russians made no attempt to stop us. We were smothered in Czech flags and we also had one of those carrier bags with a Union Jack. Someone must have had a premonition that it would come in useful! We tore this up and stuck it on the window as well. I didn't feel particularly secure behind a Union Jack, but it consoled the youngsters.

No-one we spoke to felt able to return to the pre-January days of Novotny. But now they could see no end to the intense restrictions, the restrictions on travel, on speech, on censorship.

They made speeches and talked in almost identical terms in condemnation of what had happened and the complete lack of justification for it. They appealed to us to tell the truth when we got back. It was very moving.

## tenements, a new mass Catholics

their own private compromises. "I don't see that it's any of the Pope's business," said one defiant woman, "how many children we have as long as we bring them up Catholics."

The four-storey tenements looked blankly down on the grimy children playing in the wrecks of abandoned cars. The Pope had said that no solution was acceptable "which does violence to man's essential dignity."

No socialist could disagree. Nor can any socialist fail to recognise that birth control is just one facet of making a better world. There is room for new low-cost housing, higher basic wages but the Encyclical does not make this any easier.

For the old, the Pope's words are sufficient and will be obeyed, but for the young they will in the majority of cases be ignored. Prematurely aged working-class housewives working to bring up huge families in desperate circumstances would be the logical result of this doctrine which itself reduces, not reinforces, man's essential dignity.

The middle class are split, some are in open revolt, others accept the Pope's ruling for fear of questioning the faith itself. The working-class tends to ignore the ruling and increasingly uses the Church merely as a social convenience which

But for some there is a real agony of miscarriages, large and unmanageable families in an environment that has scarcely changed since the 19th century.

Catholicism in Britain has taken a heavy knock from which it will never recover. Those who revered both James Connolly and the Pope will begin to see the contradiction in being a revolutionary socialist while accepting the edicts of a feudal Italian regime cut off from the realities of 20th century society.

### Suffer

The intellectuals have risen in vocal opposition but the working-class opposition while less articulate, is just as strong. A minority will suffer immensely for their religion and the blindness of their leaders; but the majority will quietly plan their families and drift out of the Church.

This won't in itself overcome the terrible social problems created by capitalism but it will make their solution easier when socialism comes.

Let the last word come from the wife of a labourer earning £14 a week of which £4 goes on rent: "If the Pope had to bring up a family on this money in this hole he'd soon learn that sin isn't trying to bring up a small family decently."

TERRY

## Join International Socialism - for a real alternative to capitalism and stalinism

ABERDEEN: Janet Kennedy, 94 Bankhead Road, Bucksburn.

ACTON: John Deason, 148 Rusthall Avenue W4.

BIRMINGHAM: Sue Harvey, 96a Church Lane, Handsworth, Birmingham 20. (021-554 6346)

BRADFORD: Bob Kornreich, Flat 1, 7 Oak Avenue, Bradford 8.

CAMBRIDGE: Mike Cowen, 11 Brookside, Cambridge.

CAMDEN: Chris Barker, 36 Gilden Road, NW5.

CHERTSEY: Chris Wickenden, Langmead, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey.

CROYDON: Jenny Woodhams, 26 Braemar Avenue, South Croydon.

DURHAM: Graham Atkinson, 1 Medway Avenue, Hebburn, Co. Durham.

EAST LONDON: John Metcalfe, 61 Wolsey Avenue, E17.

EDINBURGH: Jim Smith, 13 Union Street, Edinburgh 1.

FULHAM: Nicki Landau, 1a Phillimore Terrace, Allon Street, W8.

FOLKESTONE: Dave Cowell, c/o 18 Station Road, Folkestone, Kent.

GLASGOW: Ian Mooney, 4 Dalcross Passage, Glasgow W1.

HAVERING: Dave Rugg, 8a Elm Parade, Hornchurch Essex.

Dickinson Road, N8.

HULL: Norman O'Neill, 104 Park Grove, Hull.

ILFORD: Lionel Sims, 99 Belgrave Road, Ilford (01-SEV 6991)

ISLINGTON: Roger Cox, Flat 1, 37 Queen's Drive, N4.

KENTON: Kevin Simms, 56 Salisbury Road, Harrow.

KILBURN: Sean Dunne, 18 Lithos Road, NW3.

KINGSTON: Roger Crossley, Flat 2, 6 The Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey.

LAMBETH: Andy Smith, Flat 6, 126 Streatham Hill, SW2.

LEEDS: Alan Bailey, 26 Bagby Road, Leeds 2.

MANCHESTER: Jack Sutton, 11a Rowan Avenue, Walley Range, Manchester 16.

MERSEYSIDE: Ross Hill, 11 Broad Square, Liverpool 11 (051-226 7074)

MIDDLESEX: Barry Slater, 14 Briardene Avenue, Acklam.

MORDEN: Malcolm Roe, 22 Elmhurst Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

NEWCASTLE: Dave Peers, 106 Holly Avenue, Newcastle on Tyne 2.

NORTHAMPTON: Bob Dean, 4 Alderley Close, Duston, Northampton.

NORWICH: Gerald Crompton, 220

OXFORD: Harry Goode, 24 Stockmore Road, Oxford.

POTTERIES: John Whitfield, 5 Grosvenor Road, Newcastle under Lyme.

RICHMOND: John Watson, 20 Sydney Road, Richmond, Surrey.

RIPLEY & ILKESTON: Clive Burnett, 75 Heage Road, Ripley, Derbyshire.

SELBY: John Charlton, 12 Thatch Close, Selby, Yorkshire.

SHEFFIELD: Nick Howard, 15 Raven Road, Sheffield 7.

SOUTHAMPTON: Mel Doyle, 67 Empress Road, Itchen.

STEVENAGE: Michael Downing, 57 Trumper Road, Trots Hill.

STOCKPORT: Barry Biddulph, 10 Foliage Crescent, Brinnington.

STOKE NEWINGTON: Mike McGrath, 28 Manor Road, N16.

SWANSEA: Pete Branston, 33a Uplands Crescent, Swansea.

TOTTENHAM: Phil Hall, 1 Pelham Road, N15.

WATFORD: Paul Russell, 61 Carpenders Avenue, Carpenders Park.

WIGAN: Ray Challinor, 34 Whiteside Avenue, Hindley, Wigan, Lancs.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Dave Spillbur,

274 Penn Road, Wolverhampton.

# Morris men vote down bosses' 'mobility' plan

SOCIALIST WORKER REPORTER

OXFORD:- Workers at Morris Radiators last week voted down management conditions for the discussion of a local claim. But the terms had previously been accepted by the local engineering union official, who urged them on the men.

The Oxford management's terms included major concessions of flexibility, mobility and loss of control over overtime, as well as acceptance of job evaluation.

## LET BATTLE COMMENCE

THIS IS THE FIRST issue of the new weekly Socialist Worker.

Producing a socialist paper is a hard job. The big boys who run society and who own the millionaire press have fantastic resources at their command — machinery, offices, staff, plus huge sums of money made from advertising.

We have none of these advantages.

But we think the struggle is worthwhile. We think we have an important job to do and unlike the bosses' press we intend to tell the truth...

The truth about your fight, the workers' fight.

That's something you never read about in the Fleet Street giants — whether they are unashamedly Tory or pose as the "friend" of the working man.

## BIG LIE

And we plan to provide you with facts and figures to aid those struggles — facts about the Big Lie called the incomes policy that is directed to squeeze more profit out of you to give to the bosses.

Facts about all the fiddles and dodges that the tiny class of parasites who control our society get away with day after day — while your wages are frozen and prices in the shops go shooting up.

We hope you'll like our paper. We hope you'll grow to think of it as your paper. Write to us. Your ideas, comments and suggestions will help to produce a better paper.

## BIG SALE

There's one other way you can help us: take a bulk order for the paper for your factory committee, or union branch, or tenants' committee, or wherever you are active. We need a big sale to pay our way.

And if you and your mates can send us a small donation, then you will make our business manager a very happy man indeed.

As we said, this is the first issue of the weekly Socialist Worker.

Let's hope it's not the last...

If the terms had been accepted, even for a trial period, it would have been a great boost to BMC Leyland boss Donald Stokes' attempts to get Measured Day Work and job evaluation accepted in other Oxford car plants.

This would open the way to fresh attacks on workers' wages and conditions.

The reasons for picking first on Radiators are plain. In the disastrous 1966 strike against redundancies, when the management named the workers to be sacked in advance, the men were divided — and the militants were isolated and forced back to work.

Since then, Radiators has been on short-time working with frequent threats of closure and the usual claims that the factory was "uneconomic". Fear of these threats made many workers ready to accept Stokes' terms, especially when they were supported by the local AEF official.

## REAL MEANING

The other side of the case was put in a leaflet distributed last Wednesday by Oxford International Socialists. The leaflet pointed out the real meaning of the words in the management proposals.

Flexibility meant that trade demarcations would be scrapped, leading to redundancies.

Mobility would mean that militants could be shoved around the factory at management's whim to try and break them, and the scrapping of the "one in, all in" overtime rule would make overtime a perk to be given to favourites as a tool to split solidarity.

Job evaluation, like MDW, is just a fine phrase for removing bargaining over piece prices from stewards responsible to the shop floor, and fixing them instead by "experts" hired and paid by the bosses.

In spite of a clumsy management attempt to divide the men by taking separate votes of flat-rate and piece-workers, both groups turned the plan down by over three to one. Within hours the management proposed that negotiations should be reopened at national level.

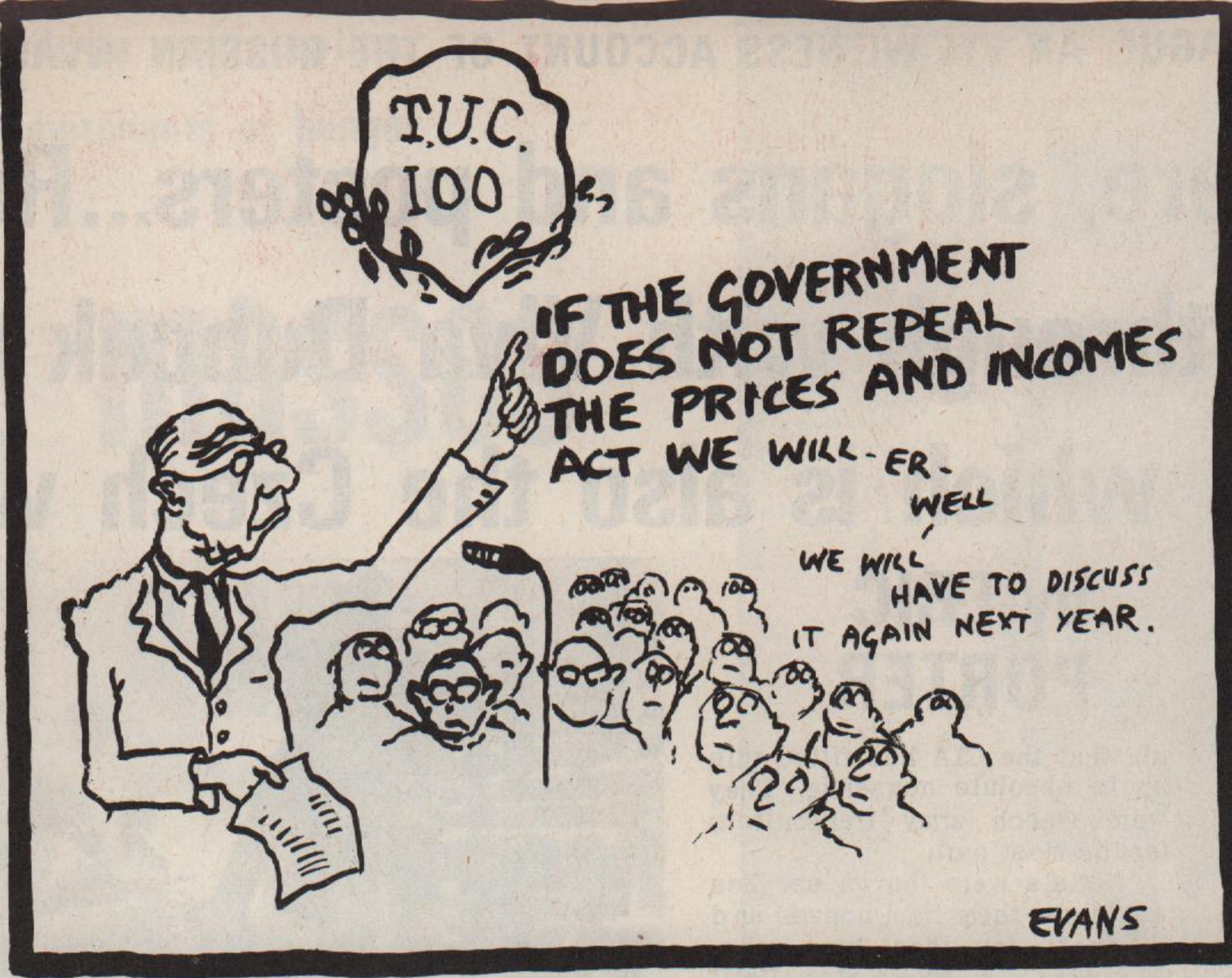
But the role of the local union official points up the danger nationally as well as in Oxford of relying on union leadership and shows the need for the rank and file to keep up the struggle at both levels.

## TENANTS' CHILDREN DEFEAT COUNCIL

by FRED LINDOP

TENANTS of the Suffolk estate in Hackney, East London, who have called for a partial rent strike against the Greater London Council's rent increases, last week showed what militancy can do.

When the borough council failed to carry out a promise to close a side street to



## Sack for thousands as rail unions do a deal

From DAVE PERCIVAL

100,000 RAILWAYMEN face the sack in the next five years following the deal between the National Union of Railwaymen, the footplatemen (ASLEF) and British Rail. These redundancies will be in addition to those workers who lose their jobs through the continuing run down caused by closures.

The railway bosses hope the deal will eliminate British Rail's £70 million operating deficit by next year.

Claims that some railwaymen will get up to £1.14s over the rate ignore the following:

- 1 All staff had already won an extra 10s as a result of the work to rule struggle. This increase will now be deducted
- 2 A large number of workers will have to do a lot of extra work for nothing.
- 3 Earnings will be reduced for many because the four day, 10 hour week will reduce overtime. And many staff made surplus will be used to fill vacancies and again reduce overtime earnings.

## DANGEROUS

Further savings will come from the abolition of 20 long-established allowances, such as the Permanent Way Timekeepers' 5s allowance.

The unions have accepted the dangerous principle that to win a wage increase they must accept the loss of thousands of jobs. Workers are told to ignore the rapid rise in rents, the cost of living and even the wages of workers in outside industries and concentrate on saving the management's money.

The sort of productivity envisaged by the deal is not made possible by scientific

invention that will mean less work for the staff, but simply by the 19th century employers' trick of placing an extra burden on one man in order to get rid of another.

BR have stressed that this is only stage one of the deal. They have plenty more "savings" in mind.

The next step will be to include Saturday and Sunday as part of the ordinary working week with no extra payments.

The unions have agreed to this scheme for sackings at a time when unemployment exceeds half a million and is higher than at any time since the war. Every effort must be

made at local level to obstruct the agreement by staff representatives, but it must be recognised that it was possible for the NUR executive to accept the agreement because there is no organised opposition within the union.

Militant individuals or branches have acted in isolation and it has been easy for the general secretary to defeat them. It is important that the resentment that will grow as the effects of this scheme are felt is channelled into a united rank and file opposition to further sell outs.

Dave Percival is a member of the NUR.

## Speed up or get out — that's the future for Midlands car workers

From DAVE EDWARDS

COVENTRY:- "Buzzer to buzzer working, no talking to your mates, and then home to sleep." If we don't don't fight now, our kids will be condemned to fight this monster (the track).

These are just two comments from Rootes car workers on strike last week. The bosses had tried to force the men to work new machinery without first reaching an agreement with the unions.

The result was a strike of 1,200 men for four days. At stake was the principle of mutuality. The bosses climbed down, giving minor concessions.

But the future for Rootes and all car workers is grim. Continued speed up, measured day work, three shifts and reduced shop floor power are all on the agenda.

British, Japanese and European car workers are all told the same story — accept the new conditions imposed by

the bosses or we fold up, or are taken over by a hungry American giant.

A glimpse into the future condition of the British car worker can be seen in America. There most workers only last five years on a modern, high-speed track.

Donald Stokes, lord of the massive BMH-Leyland combine, is watching the Rootes struggle closely to see how the workers react before introducing his drastic plans — more redundancies, "productivity" agreements and attacks on shop stewards.

For car workers to maintain their present conditions, let alone improve them, and to protect their shop floor power, a rank-and-file movement within and between factories and firms must be built now. Contacts must be made with car workers in Europe.

## THE REPLY

A political campaign must be fought against the car giants — Vauxhall, Ford, Rootes-Chrysler and BMH-Leyland. The car workers' reply to shut-down must be socialisation and workers' control.

The Rootes bosses have thrown down a challenge. For the moment they have retreated but there must be no back-peddalling on the mutuality clauses.

The fight is going to be long and crucial. Under discussion at the moment is a document on measured day work. The bosses are determined to "re-assert control". The workers have other ideas. Messages of support to G. Clark, Works Convenor, AEF, 170 Binley Rd., Coventry.

## MANCHESTER I.S. MEETING

Colin Barker will speak on "New Threats to the Pay-Packet" Black Lion Hotel, Blackfriars Street (bottom of Market Street) 8.00 p.m. Thursday, September 12

## RENTS FIGHT NEARS CRUNCH

From BARRY SLATER

TEESSIDE Sept. 2:- The rents campaign here is nearing the crunch. Tenants' associations have sprung up on 15 different estates on Teesside and united in a federation, they are determined to defeat the rent increases proposed by the council.

The federation has made it clear that rather than pay increases of up to 29s 6d a week, phased over two years, action would be taken against the council, including the withholding of rents.

The local Labour Party, while opposing in the council chamber the increases and the means-test rebate scheme that goes with them, have given no support to the tenants.

## NO DOUBT

But the campaign has gone from strength to strength. A massive petition to be handed to the council after a march on the town hall, a series of demonstrations and mass rallies and meetings throughout the area which have voted solidly for rent strike action if necessary — all these have left the council in no doubt that the tenants mean business.

The housing committee has now agreed to meet the tenants' representatives. But the tenants are also demanding a confrontation with the full council to discuss their far-reaching demands.

- \*Withdrawal of the rent increases
- \*Withdrawal of the rebate scheme.
- \*Maintenance of the rate contributions.
- \*Council pressure for the abolition of the money-lending system of financing council-house building, with interest-free government loans instead.
- \*No rents to rise above the gross value of the house.
- \*Publication of the housing revenue account in detail.
- \*No future alteration in rents without full negotiations with tenants' representatives.

Local trades union members are entering the fray and resolutions of support for the tenants are coming in from local branches and trades councils.

Even the local right-wing press has agreed to open its columns to the tenants, after the federation had threatened to picket their offices if facilities given to council spokesmen were not extended to the federation.

## MASS RALLY

Final decisions on militant action will not be taken until the eve of the increases, when a further mass rally in the town hall is to be held. But Teesside tenants seem in no mood to change the slogan they started with —

"No rebate scheme and not a penny on the rents!"

## 'Gypsies are not human' says Labour man

SHEFFIELD:- Labour councillors are leading a campaign to have 15 gipsy families evicted from an isolated site in the Darvall district and moved to a spot on the Yorkshire moors once used for prisoners of war.

In a council debate, Labour member Harry Firth said that "gypsies are not human beings." He refused to withdraw the remark unless the gypsies started to "conform to normal standards of behaviour."

Councillor Firth is an executive member of the Sheffield Race Relations Committee.

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