

# workers' ACTION

No. 20 June 3rd-9th 1976 8p

Inside

May 26th

▶ p2

IS in decline

▶ p4

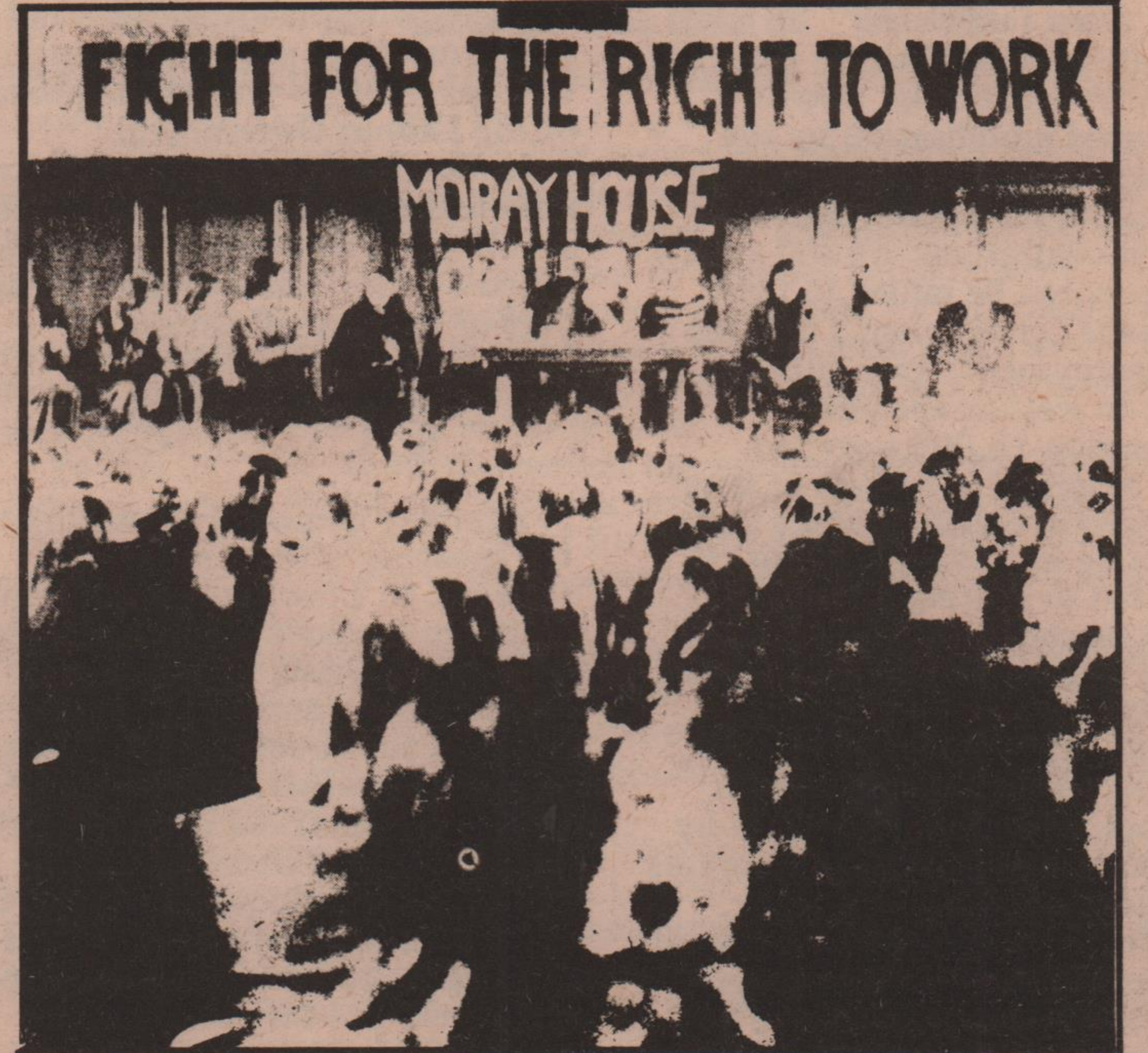
Spain

▶ p6

All out  
for  
June  
15

## SPREAD THE

# OCCUPATIONS



THE OCCUPATION of Edinburgh's Moray House College of Education has sparked off the biggest campaign yet seen against the anti-working class policies of the Labour Government. Out of 140 teacher training colleges, 104 are occupied, together with several polytechnics and universities.

Because of the cutbacks in government and council spending, most students qualifying this year will not be able to find a teaching job. In England and Wales only 15,000 out of 40,000 student teachers are expected to find jobs. In Scotland, where every single college has been occupied, the situation is even worse. Nearly two out of three of the 3,500 qualifying this year will not be able to get work.

This desperate situation is what has produced the enormous explosion of anger among student teachers. The main aims of the student campaign are to find jobs for all qualified students this year; to reduce class sizes to 30; and to reverse all cuts in the number of people coming into teaching.

At the mass rally on 26th May called jointly by the Moray House occupation and Edinburgh Trades Council, 3,000 people heard a speaker from the Scottish Executive of the NUM support the students' struggle. The EIS (the Scottish teachers' union) also supported the rally, as did all the public sector unions. Following on from a meeting of 400 rank and file teachers organised at Moray House on May 24th, 15 schools in the Edinburgh area struck on May 26th; also

striking and supporting the rally was Parsons Peebles Engineering works.

Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, made a statement in the House of Commons last Thursday, 27th May; but all he could offer was the suggestion that older

teachers might like to retire early, and that more teachers might like to go into remedial work.

Two things have marked out the occupation of Moray House from all the NUS demonstrations, the Union leaders' speeches against the cuts, and the militant resolutions.

Firstly, that the students took direct action, rather than relying on 'public opinion' or on trying to persuade the Government.

Secondly, that the students have waged their battle as part of the fight against ALL cuts and unemployment, not as a 'special case'. Right from the beginning, they sent out 'flying picket' squads to other colleges and to the schools, and sought to extend the campaign as widely as possible in the labour movement.

Now the campaign must be carried forward with maximum urgency, thwarting the government's hopes that it will fizzle out with the end of term, and resisting the NUS leadership's attempts to dissolve it into a one-off jamboree on the proposed 15th June Day of Action.

■ 'Flying pickets' must extend the occupations to ALL colleges, polytechnics and universities. Support must be won from college staff, who also face severe redundancies. (In the merger of two London colleges, for instance, two thirds of the academic staff face the sack.)

■ The 'flying pickets' must also go out to local SCHOOLS, winning support for the student teachers' demands. Teachers should demand that the EIS and NUT executives call out all their members on strike for the 15th June Day of Action.

■ Solidarity must also be won from other unions fighting against cuts and unemployment, particularly public sector workers. In Edinburgh, students from Moray House and other colleges have been visiting local hospitals and building sites to win support for a conference they are holding on Saturday June 5th. Arrange for workplace meetings in working hours on June 15th to be addressed by students from the occupations.

■ Labour COUNCILS must be forced to give full support to the battle against the cuts, and to refuse to implement all cuts.

■ In each area, colleges taking action should push for the setting up of local FIGHT THE CUTS COMMITTEES, based where possible on the Trades Council, and composed of delegates from shop stewards committees, Trade Union branches, Labour Parties and LPYSs and students' unions, as well as women's and black organisations.

■ The call has also been raised for a NATIONAL ACTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE of representatives of the colleges in struggle, to provide an alternative lead to the NUS bureaucracy. Teachers, too, should set up action committees along the lines of those which organised the Scottish teachers' strike 18 months ago.

SOAS students  
leave as  
Queen Mother  
occupies

The School of Oriental and African Studies in London occupied on Tuesday 25th, after a Union meeting. As in other colleges the occupation centred on the Administrative section and the telephone switchboard, and was entirely peaceful.

Unlike other college administrations, however, the School authorities reacted by trying to smash the occupation as quickly as possible. On Wednesday the Director, Sir Cyril Phillips, ordered the suspension of 12 students including the President and President-elect of the Union.

Although designed to break the morale of the occupiers, the suspensions only served to swell the numbers in occupation.

The Director felt impelled to explain his great sympathy with the cause of the unemployed — and then said he was 'powerless' to stop the suspensions (up to 15 by now) because those were the rules of the School! Moreover, he had applied for High Court writs to be served on all the 15 suspended students.

A resolution to the Union meeting on the Thursday at which Phillips made these announcements called for an immediate end to the occupation. It was overwhelmingly defeated. Instead, it was agreed that all those present at the meeting would sign a witnessed statement to say that they too were in occupation.

While it is unlikely that such a

list would have persuaded the Director to give way on the suspensions, the speed with which the signatures were put on it showed quite clearly the feelings of the students and their solidarity with those victimised.

Unable to win by threats, the Director resorted to the forces of Law & Order. Within hours of the meeting, bailiffs arrived with High Court injunctions on all those occupying.

The reason for this incredibly heavy handed attitude was quite clear. At 5 o'clock that afternoon the Queen Mother was due to turn up to say goodbye to the Director, who is retiring at the end of this session.

Unfortunately for the Director, his attempt to save face ended in farce. Having agreed that to continue the occupation would have meant the arrival of the police and the violence that usually attends them, the students decided to leave as a group with banners and placards to show their intention of continuing the campaign. By coincidence this banner-waving group left through the front door of the college just as HRH and Co. were trying to come in.

Meanwhile, across the road at the Institute of Education, a meeting of the occupying students was hearing that the lecturers had ended all formal teaching to show support for the occupation. And the Nalgo branch had decided on a half day strike in support.



TEACHER TRAINING STUDENTS IN OCCUPATION AT BISHOP LONSDALE COLLEGE, DERBY.

PHOTO: News Line

# May 26th: The fight is there — let's get organised now

**What  
we  
should  
fight  
for**

THE EMPLOYERS' press remained absolutely silent about May 26th. The demonstrations and meetings of that day passed with hardly an inch of coverage in the press. The response of thousands of trade unionists against mounting unemployment was just not considered 'news' by a press intent on drumming up a campaign of racist hate against 71 Malawi Asian families.

Despite total opposition from the trade union leadership, despite a half-hearted mobilisation by the organisers of the Labour Assembly which called the action, the May 26th demonstrations showed clearly that forces can be rallied to fight the Labour Government's policies of unemployment, wage cuts and attacks on welfare spending.

In London 15,000 marched. 20,000 marched in a series of demonstrations in Scotland and a massive meeting of 3,000 filled the Usher Hall to give support to the student teachers occupying their colleges to put a stop to the school cutbacks.

10,000 marched on Merseyside, according to police estimates. In Liverpool the march was joined by a contingent of 600 women workers from the Tate and Lyle factory, where the employers are now threatening redundancies. In Skelmersdale, where the unemployment rate of this 'new town' runs at 25%, 200 workers occupied the Town Hall

and Development Council Offices before the demonstration.

The ranks of the marchers everywhere were swelled by student teachers fighting for the right to work — fighting against cutbacks and unemployment.

In some towns, the demonstrations were small. 600 in Manchester and Sheffield. But throughout the country, workplace meetings and public meetings showed the anger that has built up against the policies of the Labour Government.

In Cardiff, for example, 100 trade unionists and Labour Party members attended an evening meeting called by the Trades Council in support of the Day of Action.

## Speeches

At many demonstrations, though, the speeches offered no real way forward. In Liverpool, for example, platform speakers praised the role of Eddie Loyden, fighting 'for us' in Parliament, and instead of giving any lead for direct action locally, called for another lobby of Parliament. In Sheffield Ernie Roberts Asstnt. General Secretary of the AUEW, spoke eloquently of the ills of rising unemployment and cuts in social expenditure — but no proposals were put forward for local action committees to forge links and lead a fight.



Ernie Roberts

WORKERS ACTION supporters in Cardiff called for the Trades Council to take a lead by turning its unemployment sub-committee into a fighting body drawing in shop stewards committees, union District Committees, Labour Parties, LPYS branches, the unemployed and women's groups. But these proposals were opposed by the Trades Council leadership and not taken up by others who claim to be serious about mounting a united fight against unemployment.

It is absolutely vital that the forces mustered on May 26th are not squandered. If they can give a lead in the fight against unemployment and wage cuts, they will be able to call on the support of other groups of workers who did not come out on May 26th.

The next major focus for these

forces must be June 16th. On that day the TUC hopes to sign, seal and deliver its anti-working class deal with Dennis Healey. The re-called TUC has been convened to support the policies of the TUC, the policies of Murray, Jones and Scanlon.

Already the Labour Assembly has called for a lobby of the TUC as it sits in deliberation on our living standards and jobs. Militants everywhere must fight for delegations and for stoppages to ensure that this lobby confronts the trade union leaders and the TUC delegates with a massive show of opposition to their deal with Healey.

## Forces

If the TUC goes ahead and is intent on selling the jobs, wages and conditions of the working class, then the actions of May 26th showed that the forces do exist to lead a fight back. We must step up the campaign nationally to ensure action on June 16th, and in the process work to build fighting local committees against unemployment.

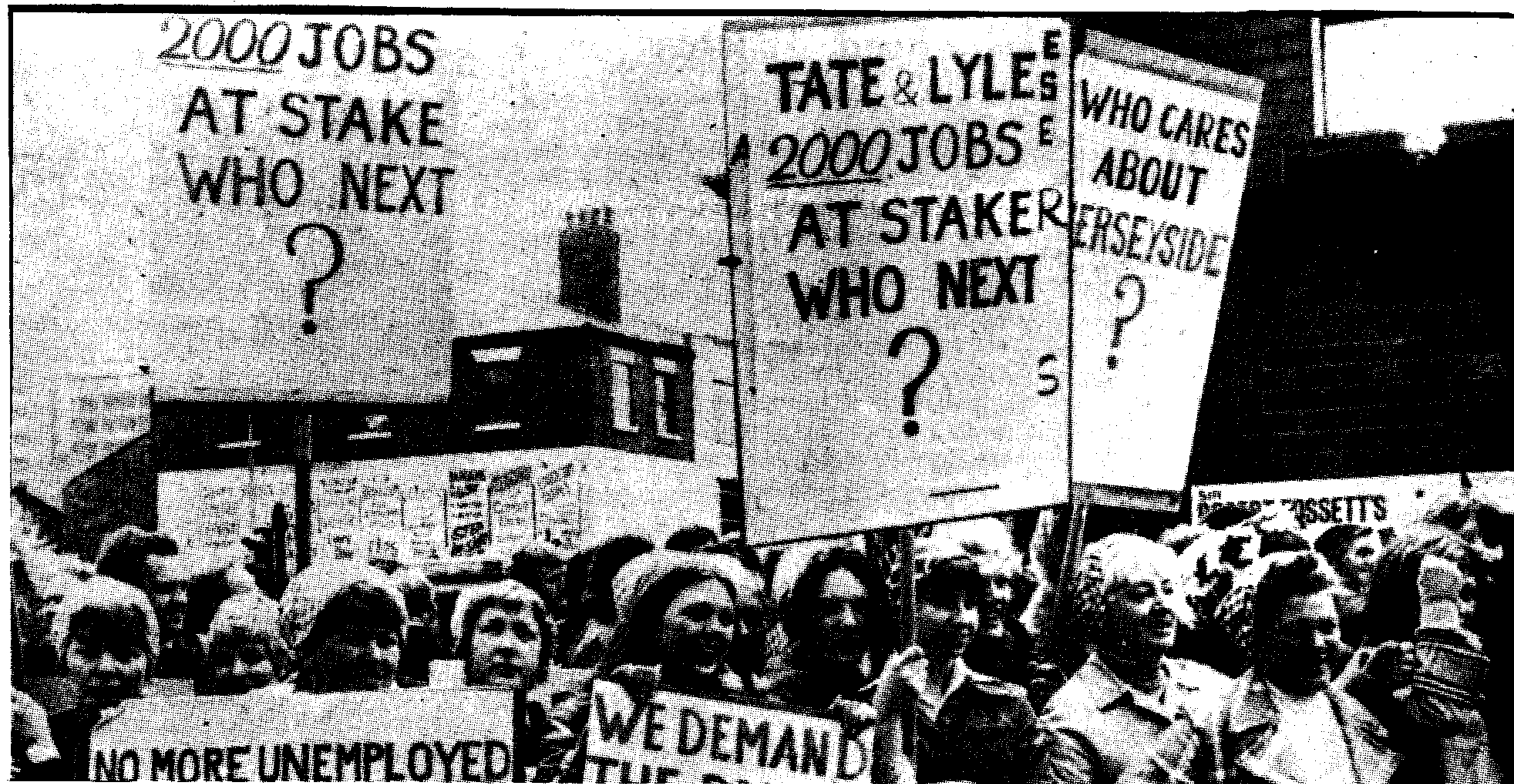
The student teachers throughout the country, the women workers at Tate and Lyle in Liverpool and the countless others facing battles to save their jobs — and the services to the working class that those jobs provide — must not be left to fight alone.

Northampton CP  
forgets what  
day it is

IN NORTHAMPTON, action for May 26th was just about nil, despite the fact that an important strike in the town centres on a fight against 6 redundancy notices. A small clue to the lack of action on the Day of Action is contained in an incident at the town's AUEW No. 7 branch.

One of the members, who is involved with the local Right to Work Campaign, put a proposal to send a delegation to the strike on May 26th, as a token of solidarity. The Chairman of the branch (a Communist Party member who went as the branch's delegate to the Labour Assembly) responded "May 26th? Oh, that's one of your things — we can forget it." "No, it's one of yours — don't you remember, you were a delegate" he was told.

Evidently he didn't remember. He insisted on a vote, and when it was tied, cast his vote against doing anything. . .



Tate and Lyle workers on May 26th demo

LAST MONTH Desmond Trotter, the young West Indies revolutionary imprisoned in Dominica on a trumped-up murder charge, was reprieved from the death sentence which had been passed on him.

The reprieve came for two reasons. Most important, an international campaign exposed the nature of the frame-up. Then the only prosecution witness, a young girl called Camilla Francis, swore a statement describing in detail how the police had induced her to give false evidence, and how they had told her who to pick out of the identification parade — "Point to the one fourth from the right; that's Trotter" they had told her.

## Innocent

What thousands of people had believed and the Defence Campaign had publicised — that Trotter was completely innocent and had no connection whatever with the crime he'd been charged with — was now established. The Dominican Government hadn't the nerve to go ahead and hang Trotter. But he's still in prison!

In a letter smuggled out of his prison Trotter has thanked London students for their efforts on his behalf. He also describes the terrible conditions in which he and his fellow prisoners are kept.

Locked in his cell from 4 in the evening until 6 the following morning, he has only a blanket and a piece of cardboard for a bed. The cells are plagued

with mosquitoes, and hygiene is non-existent. There is no sublight or fresh air — Trotter describes the place as a "death cell".

Because of these conditions his health is rapidly getting worse. He says "My skin is beginning to crack and my left leg, which was burnt at the time of my arrest, is showing definite signs of infection due to lack of sunlight, filthy conditions and poor diet."

The Dominican Government, having failed to hang Trotter, are evidently trying to kill him slowly. We must not leave him to rot. The campaign for his release must get the same support as that to save his life.

A meeting to publicise the campaign is being held at the London School of Economics Old Theatre at 7pm on June 4th, and will be followed by a reggae disco in the LSE bar.



"Point to the one  
fourth from the right;  
that's Trotter"

LAST WEEK'S AUEW National Conference resolved to call for the nationalisation without compensation of all firms threatening closures or redundancies without alternative local employment.

The Executive was instructed to support all workers occupying their workplaces in the fight for jobs.

This is important. It means that the AUEW Executive is now committed to supporting factory occupations — on paper at least. But can we take this as a signal for a fight?

The engineering section meeting of the previous week rejected proposals that could have led to a stepping up of the fight for jobs. Calls for an immediate ban on overtime, initiated at a national level, were rejected. Instead the issue is to be left with District Committees, and will be up to their initiative and inclination.

## Lead

While the Union is committed to supporting workers should they occupy their workplaces, no binding national lead has been given to step up the fight for jobs now.

What will be binding, however, Scanlon stressed, is the conference

AUEW  
gives priority  
to cutting  
wages — not  
fighting  
for jobs

decision to support the wage cutting deal with Healey. As he put it: "the motion now carried is binding on all sections of the union, all shop floors and every shop steward" — which shows that the Union leadership gives more priority to cutting its members' wages than to fighting to save their jobs.



Problems for refugees, not for immigrants

# What's wrong with immigration controls

MANY quite well meaning people genuinely believe that immigration controls help to stem racialism and are useful for giving those immigrants already here 'a chance to settle in'.

Why then do socialists call for an end to immigration controls?

First and foremost, because we are against the classification of human beings according to nationality and race, as if they were zoological specimens and not people. We believe that workers of all countries have more in common with each other than with the parasites that exploit us.

Immigration controls undermine this truth. They create the image of unwanted aliens who 'create problems' and, like some disease, must be brought under control and kept away. They underline the nationalism of the ruling class and encourage the view that 'Britishness' is something privileged and special — and from this flows the logic of sacrifice 'for the nation', of wage cuts for 'the economy'.

Immigration controls also help the bosses and their press to manipulate workers. They treat immigrants not as people but as 'units of labour'. The 1971 Immigration Act, for instance, gives bosses a weapon to use against immigrant workers if they step out of line. And the existence of laws which herd people into categories helps the press to use one section as a scapegoat for problems and shortages caused by capitalism and to divert workers' attention from our real enemy — the capitalist class.

## More people are leaving

It isn't even as if there's a 'population problem'. The population of this country is declining, and more people leave every year than come in. GLC leaders bemoan the 'depopulation' of parts of London.

Anyway, because the Immigration Acts are framed in terms of race, they bear no relation to the question of the size of Britain's overall population. The 1971 Act leaves the door open to millions of people defined as 'patrials', who can trace descent to an English grandparent. Every year, for every one black immigrant, three of these 'patrials' come here to live. And because they are white, they face no obnoxious bureaucracy and no-one points to them and complains that this is 'an overcrowded island'. And they jump the queue of wives and dependents of black immigrants who are made to wait up to five or six years to join their families.

Not only do immigration controls breed racialism, not only are they themselves racist, but they have also created a whole racist 'industry'. The Home Office employs 1,500 officials whose job is to keep people out. 1,500 bureaucrats who bully and intimidate little children, bewildered wives and destitute old people trying to join their families, or hunting through the immigrant communities to track down some

'illegal' immigrant who may have lived and worked here for years.

Is this really the way to 'help newcomers to settle in'?

"The entry certificate officers ... rely entirely on the intensive, offensive and often obscene interrogation of the applicant, which, as Mr. Alex Lyon has pointed out, may well be a child of ten. That the procedures adopted at British posts should include the examination of young girls to see if they are virgins is only one of the gross violations of respect for the individual in which they indulge."

"On visits to British posts abroad I have seen Entry Certificate Officers shout, stamp, swear, throw passports at people waiting for interview, even before they know the nature of their application. Their attitude is based on a contempt for the local people." (Mary Dines, in a letter to the Guardian last week.)

The hardship and the viciousness bred by the Immigration Acts, their devastating effects on working class consciousness and their institutionalised racialism, could never be justified by any amount of practical



help they might provide in 'easing the burden on the social services'.

But, according to two studies conducted by the Government's Community Relations Commission, immigration controls are no help at all in doing this. If anything, they create problems that wouldn't exist if there was a completely free flow of people into the country.

"Does the rate of entry in fact affect the ease of settlement?", asks Susan Wallis of the CRC, writing in this week's New Society. "The evidence suggests that similar



James Callaghan (below) sacked Alex Lyon (above) who advocates immigration controls but wants them operated 'decently'.

patterns of resettlement and similar difficulties occur whatever the rate or time of entry."

According to the studies "Both Kenyan and Ugandan Asians made few demands on public housing or welfare because the majority went initially to live as an extended family with friends or relatives... Most found jobs within a few weeks... Many of the women, though not previously employed in Africa, took jobs in Britain. Major employment difficulties were low wages and under-employment. Men were unable to find jobs which made use of their previous experience or work skills, and most found semi-skilled factory work. Children were reported to be settled in schools and to have a satisfactory educational performance."

## Forced out as refugees

"At present" she writes "the arrival of Asians is costing the British taxpayer nothing, most ratepayers nothing, ratepayers in some areas a small amount, those in ten or so authorities a larger amount, [and these ratepayers include of course the immigrants in those towns or boroughs] and the East African Asian community a great deal."

But, she says, extra problems are caused when people come as refugees rather than as voluntary immigrants. "The key factor affecting the settlement of East Africans is their lack of choice in quitting Africa. Special problems result from loss of livelihood and from the migration of handicapped persons. ... Forced migrants rather than immigrants have needs not shared by other incoming groups."

If there were no immigration controls, then, and people could come when it was most convenient to them and not wait until they were forced out as refugees, resettlement would actually be easier.

So the apparent 'common sense', 'practical' argument for controls is exploded.

From a working class point of view, immigration controls are evil from start to finish. They are a clear and blatant anti-working class measure, as much so in their own way as the Tories' Industrial Relations Act. Any body of the labour movement that wants to make a stand against racialism must start by going on record for the repeal of all the Immigration Acts and for an end to immigration controls.

If the labour movement fails to do this, then in effect it will be saying: 'We're not racists, of course, but keep these blacks out'. There should be no room for such hypocrisy in the working class movement — just as there is no room for racialism.

Rachel Lever

# PURGE RACISTS FROM THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

THE THREAT OF RACIALISM to the British working class movement is ever present. And it goes back a long way.

Britain's role as the world's first imperialist power long ago sowed the seeds of national arrogance towards the peoples of the colonies. British propaganda claimed they were 'backward' — and British slavers and capitalists made that propaganda into fact by plunder and conquest.

The British working class movement, dominated by reformism, became deeply infected by racialism. Whereas a Marxist mass party would have fought for an internationalist stance, British Labour and its forerunners were well pleased to share in the plunder.

To this day, the labour movement has not developed any tradition of fighting racism. Whilst militants can recall the anti-fascist struggles of the 1930s, there is no real precedent for a fight against racism. Racists abound in the labour movement — some conscious, others so ignorant they don't know what racism is.

Large scale immigration brought the problem of the old colonial racism onto 'home ground', at a time when the dissolution of the British Empire was undermining the old assumptions of superiority. The racialism of decline and impotence is potentially more poisoned and rancorous than that of self-assured superiority.

Now multiple economic miseries face the working class, and its organisations are immobilised in face of a Labour Government appealing for Party loyalty and 'national salvation'. Racialism, like scum on stagnant water, is set to grow and thrive.

The bureaucrats of the TUC, eager for a safety-valve to divert workers' pent-up frustrations, won't fight racism. The career politicians of the Labour Party, with an eye on the voters, endorse 'respectable' official racism, promising to tighten up on the Tories' filthy Immigration Act and showing concern at the 'problem' of immigration (while Healey's cutsmake the real problems that workers face in housing, education, transport and health).

All the time they are playing into the hands of the Tories, of Powell and of the open fascists of the National Front. Given this mainstream endorsement of their racism, the fascist parties stand poised for a new growth, using a combination of street marches, electoral tactics and penetration of the trade unions.

Thus the immigrant communities face a barrage of hostility. In the gutter press they are stigmatised as muggers, carriers of disease and welfare spongers. All too often now black workers are faced with the racism of their white workmates, of their trade union representatives and officials — day by day, as a matter of course. Increasingly, they also face fascist organised violence and intimidation as well as 'spontaneous hooliganism' whipped up by the press.

The people in these communities know the police as their enemy — a source of harassment and frame-ups, indifferent or amused by racist attacks.

## Resistance

The threat to the black communities presents them with the acute need to resist. Yet the climate of fear engendered by the racist hysteria has already driven some of their respectable middle class leaders to the useless policy of appeasement. But 'talking to Mr. Powell', joining in the chorus against 'illegal immigrants', avowals of a common cause with the racists against 'newcomers' and appeals to the police are all paths to disaster and defeat. By contrast, events in Bradford and in Birmingham show large sections of the black community, particularly the young, ready to resist.

Within the working class movement, socialists and revolutionaries must initiate a clear campaign against racialism in all its forms. Anti-fascist work is still vital — but it is not enough, for racism is the fertile ground in which these weeds of fascism grow and multiply.

Revolutionary socialists together with all sincere anti-racists and anti-fascists, must unite in action to stem the tide which has swept up Labour and trade union leaders at all levels from the grassroots to Transport House and Westminster.

WORKERS ACTION proposes the following basic campaign within the labour movement and in unity with black workers and immigrant organisations:

- **RACISTS OUT OF THE LABOUR MOVEMENT!** There is no room for the apostles of racial hatred in the ranks of the working class movement!
  - † NO trade union membership for open racists and fascists
  - † NO open racists or fascists to hold places on any trade union, shop steward or trades council body.
  - † WITHDRAW Labour Party membership and sponsorship from all councillors and MPs openly advocating and propagating racist policies. REMOVAL of all trade union officials espousing racist policies.
  - † FOR clear anti-racist platforms in all rank and file, Trade Union and Labour publications.
  - † FOR workplace, trade union, Labour Party and LPYS delegations to active anti-fascist committees.
  - † FOR coordinated propaganda throughout the labour movement to nail the racist lies.
- **NO PLATFORM FOR FASCISTS!**
  - † Coordinated mobilisation of all labour movement, anti-fascist, and black organisations to prevent all fascist marches, meetings and mobilisations.
  - † NO public halls or meeting places for fascist or racist meetings.
  - † DEMONSTRATIONS and action against all openly racist newspapers and publications — including both national and local press. For a campaign in the MEDIA UNIONS to prevent racist publications.
- **OPPOSITION TO THE IMMIGRATION ACTS AND TO ALL IMMIGRATION CONTROLS!**
  - † REPEAL all existing legislation. FOR a labour movement campaign to wipe racialism off the statute books.
- **LOCAL ANTI-RACIST / ANTI-FASCIST COMMITTEES** based on a united front of all workers' organisations including political parties and groups, drawing in the organisations of the black communities and all forces committed to 'no platform for fascists'. To campaign against racist ideas and 'arguments' and prevent all racist and fascist activity in their areas. For the NATIONAL COORDINATION of all anti-racist and anti-fascist committees.
- **DEFENCE OF THE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY AGAINST RACIST ATTACK**
  - † FOR the right of black caucuses in the trade unions.
  - † AID to the self-defence of the immigrant areas against racist and fascist attack.
  - † FOR active support by the white labour movement for the defence of the black communities — for joint committees of defence that unite in action the labour movement with black community organisations.

LAST WEEKEND, the Conference of the International Socialism Group (IS) met against a background of considerable confusion and demoralisation among its members.

IS, apparently the most successful group on the revolutionary left in the late '60s and early '70s, saw during this period its membership increase fourfold and sales of its paper Socialist Worker top the 30,000 mark. In a whole series of industries IS members and supporters were the only credible alternative on the left of the Communist Party.

Yet since the election of the Labour Government, IS's membership has fallen to about half its previous peak and sales of its paper have slumped dramatically.

Certainly these years have been a time of relative downturn in the class struggle compared with the massive battles of 1972-74. Yet an organisation that has proved so singularly unable to 'swim against the stream' should be asking itself, or more precisely, its leadership, the reasons for this.

The IS membership will experience great difficulty in obtaining an honest answer.

Even in the period of mass recruitment the leadership of IS, centred around Tony Cliff, were unwilling to lead on the basis of democratically decided policies and perspectives. Most of the major schemes — the Autumn/Winter campaigns, the 'Buyers into Sellers' Campaign, the 'Workers Paper' — were not discussed at a Conference and were often sprung on an astounded National Committee and membership fresh from the brain of Tony Cliff.

Their meagre results were never accounted for.

In the early '70s Cliff's schemes bore some relationship to reality. They related to the shopfloor militants forced into battle with the Labour and Tory governments' attempts at wage freezes. The IS orientation towards the rank and file in the unions, and its sharp opposition to the whole trade union bureaucracy (including the lefts like Scanlon, Jones and Daly) was quite correct. But the nature of the politics that IS took to rank and file workers was a different matter altogether.

Cliff had no clear conception of either how to build a revolutionary party, or how to develop a revolutionary programme which would link the struggles of the moment with the fight for workers' power.

## Brick wall

Cliff believes, and educates IS members to believe, a grotesquely simplistic notion of the relationship between trade union and political struggle.

He believes that at a certain level the trade union struggle becomes political struggle, and that revolutionaries should relate to this by encouraging militancy by assistance and propaganda.

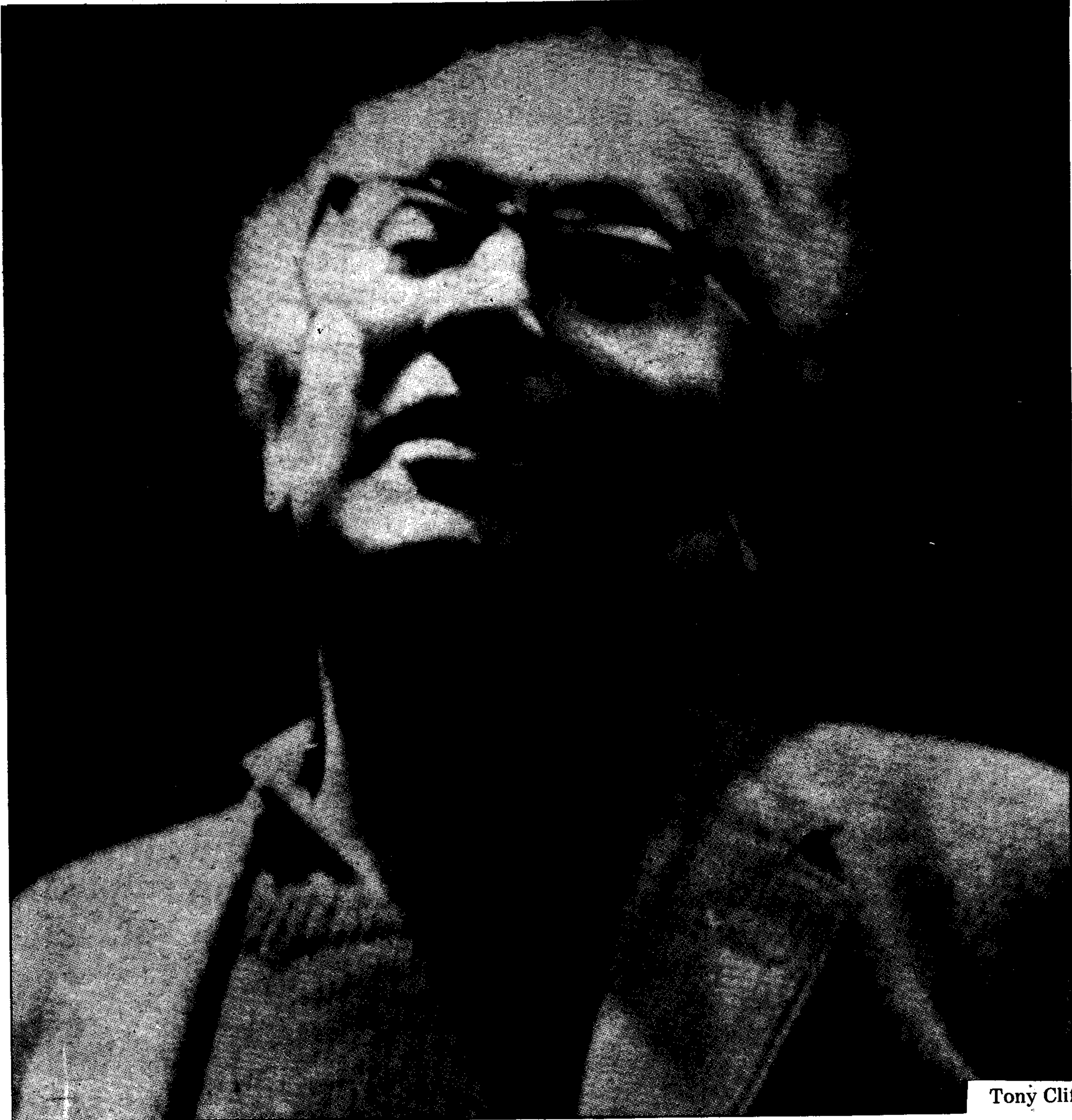
It is unquestionably true that there is no brick wall between economic and political struggle. Political issues arise and are posed by struggles over wages and conditions, particularly in periods of sharp economic crisis. They are posed objectively — independently of whether the participants are aware of the implications.

But that is not the end of the story. And the question for revolutionaries is, and has always been — how to make sure that the politics which are posed objectively become consciously held and understood by these working class participants.

For Cliff, the answer is simple: step up the struggle and with the aid of some socialist propaganda (via Socialist Worker) workers will draw the revolutionary lessons, many of them joining IS.

Yet things are only this simple if you see, as Cliff does, a straight evolution from pure economics to pure political struggle. Cliff is able to see things this way because he does not understand the nature of that special brand of bourgeois politics operating within the working class — reformism.

In the 1950s Cliff wrote an article called 'The Economic Roots of Reformism', which advanced the view that reformism was the natural response of workers in times of boom — and that revolutionism was the natural response in times of recession. And he prophesied



Tony Cliff

When shopfloor organisations began to be strengthened and as the Labour Party seemed to be losing its base in the working class, Cliff naively identified this with the 'decline of reformism'. From this he saw the rise of 'do-it-yourself reformism', which was based on struggles from below rather than on legislation from above. And the next step would be that this do-it-yourself reformism would develop into revolutionary consciousness and activity during periods of crisis.

What this view totally ignores is that trade union struggle usually takes place WITHIN the framework of capitalism. It is all about struggling for a larger slice of the cake, rather than the disposal of the whole cake. Political reformism addresses itself to those aspects which the wages struggle cannot deal with — the rights of trade unions, social welfare, health and education, the control of industry and so on. The Labour Party was formed as an extension of the trade unions to achieve these aims in Parliament.

In periods of capitalist crisis the question of what kind of policies the working class movement should adopt is posed very clearly. Struggles for higher wages will meet with stubborn resistance, and the bosses will attempt to cut into all the gains made during periods of boom.

## Reformist

But workers do not want to sacrifice their wages, conditions and social services to the bosses. They want to maintain and even expand them. Militant struggle over these immediate needs is a prerequisite for posing a solution at the expense of the bosses — a solution which to have any permanence and security must go beyond capitalism, placing the economy and state power in the hands of the working class.

Yet the transition from immediate and partial struggles to a coherent offensive against capitalism is not an automatic process. The events of the last two years have amply demonstrated this.

Faced with large sections of industry making losses and needing massive state rescue schemes, faced with large scale unemployment and rampant inflation, the IS recipe of 'Use your muscle more' is increasingly threadbare. The pressures of these enormous problems on trade

ment.

The strength of the Labour Party and its hold on the working class cannot be measured simply in terms of its organisation or the votes it gains. After all, those who leave the Labour Party or cease to vote for it don't just flock into revolutionary groups, or even into the Communist Party. The strength of the Labour Party lies in the support it gains from the trade unions and the trade union bureaucracy — and, most vitally, in the continuing credibility (bolstered by the media and the education system) of its nationalist and pro-capitalist ideology.

IS's reliance on just 'more militancy' makes it unfitted to act as a voice of a real revolutionary way out of the dead end of reformism. This is where their second major and related weakness appears.

IS sees the revolutionary party not as a vehicle for carrying revolutionary politics, strategy and tactics to workers, but as a ginger

struggles BEYOND the routine reformist aims — if possible, developing and generalising the struggle towards revolutionary aims; certainly, educating workers in the connection between each partial grievance and the overall communist — revolutionary — programme.

This fight to go beyond reformism is the fight for transitional demands. Each demand, to the extent that the revolutionary party can really mobilise for that demand, is connected to more advanced demands, ever more clearly directed against the very foundations of the capitalist order.

## Recipe

The method of transitional demands is not a matter of formulae from a recipe book; it is a matter of being completely free from reformist routinism, being constantly on the look-out for the revolutionary potentialities in any struggle.



# FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

NO

Not the only 'right' IS members are having to fight for now . . .

group to encourage militancy and beef up organisation.

Yet what the working class lacks is not organisation, but first and foremost political awareness. The working class is the most powerful class in history when it is politically aware, with clear aims and a clear strategy. It is utterly weak when — as is normal — it is befuddled by ruling class ideas in their various forms, including reformism.

A revolutionary party is based, primarily, on a persistent battle for

It therefore needs a lively, critical-minded, politically educated membership in the revolutionary party.

Three elements — the Leninist conception of a revolutionary party, as built on strict ideological clarity; a high level of democracy and political education in the party; and the method of the transitional programme — are all closely interconnected.

IS rejected all three long ago. IS has always understood 'the party' just as a 'technical' machine



# CLIFF



Saltley Gates: the militancy that closed these

proletarian communist party quite different from all other parties: the fact that it seeks to lead a revolution where the workers will be fully conscious of their aims, not foot soldiers in someone else's army.

In IS's view, difficult political issues, like Ireland or the EEC, can and should be ducked, if that helps to 'build the party'. It makes no effort to link day-to-day struggles with revolutionary aims, choosing instead the recipe of 'more militancy' and abstract socialist propaganda: no effort to educate the membership — as long as they can sell papers and recruit more members, they would be 'building the party'.

The trouble is, this 'party' proves quite useless when the struggle breaks out of routine limits. When confrontation blew up in Ireland in August 1969, IS could only rely on British troops to solve the situation. When the armed struggle against imperialism invaded Britain in 1972, with the bombing of Aldershot barracks, IS panicked. Reversing the revolutionary declaration 'if I should die in struggle, a hundred will spring up in my place', Socialist Worker advised Irish freedom fighters that it was no use killing British soldiers since for each one dead, a hundred would take his place!

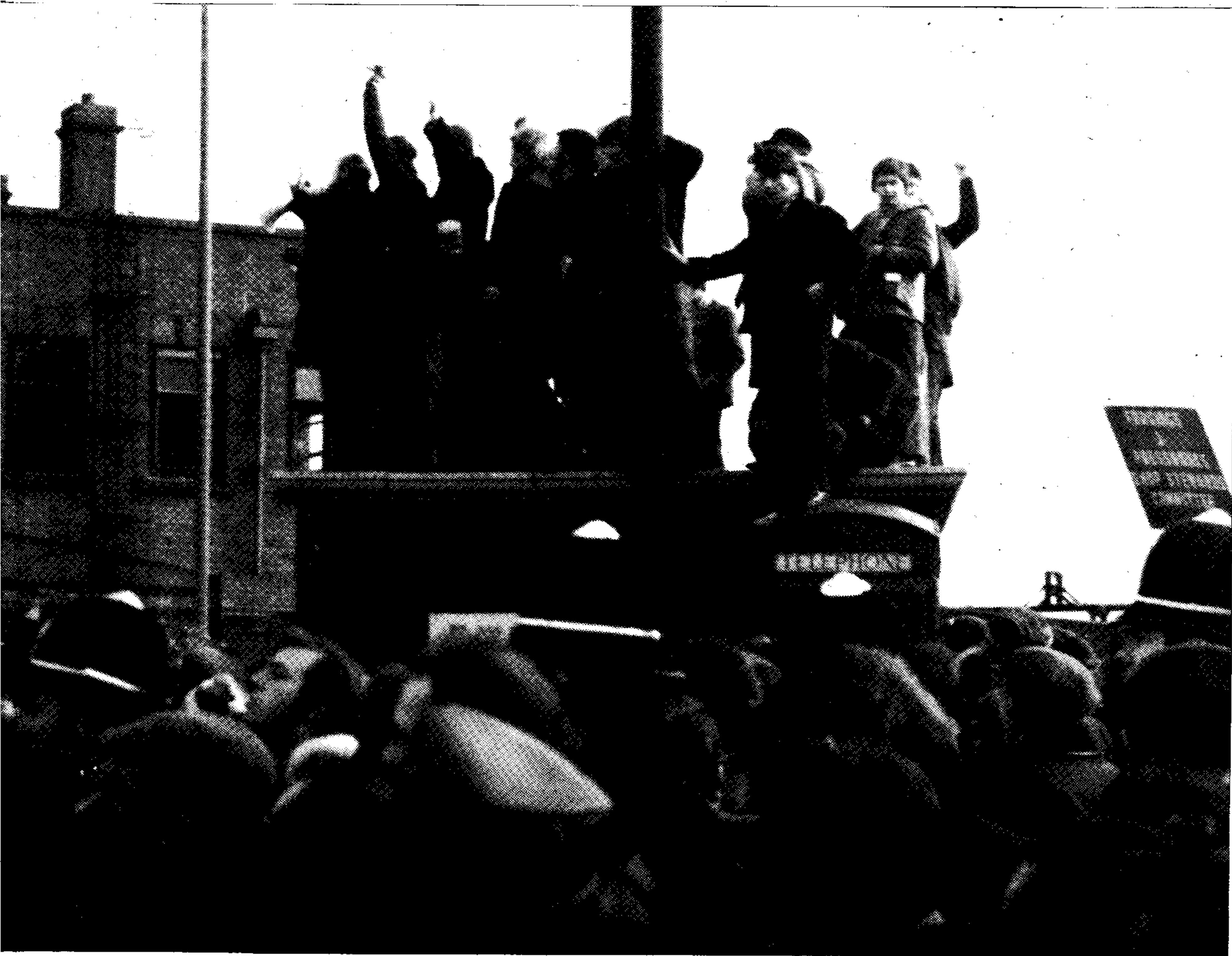
And when a rolling mass strike movement erupted against the Tory jailing of five dockers in 1972, Socialist Worker didn't get round to calling for a General Strike until after the return to work.

The IS leaders could see few militant workers to link together in the 1950s and '60s, and thus contented themselves with a loose, 'libertarian', discussion-group IS.

Today, they see thousands of militant workers. They do not recognise any political problems in fusing those militants into a revolutionary party. It is simply a matter of organisation, of finding this or that stunt to rope militants into 'the party'.

Logically and naturally, they see those who raise political criticisms as annoying interferences in this serious and urgent business of 'building the party'.

# ON THE IFF-EDGE



gates and brought the miners' victory fueled IS's growth; with its decline the IS found itself shipwrecked

the 1960s and the bureaucratic IS — the methodology which sees 'the party' as first and foremost a machine, with politics and programme secondary.

For these reasons, the IS leadership can give no real account of itself to the membership.

In the present situation of run-down and decay, the answer of the IS leadership has usually been the same. A new magical organisational formula, a new campaign or gimmick, will set everything right again.

In 1973 'factory branches' were to hold the key to building IS as a mass workers' organisation. This was hailed by the IS leadership as 'the most important decision we have ever taken'. By today, few if any of the IS factory branches remain — though there were once claims that over 30 existed and that 60 were to be built by 1974.

In 1974 the leadership switched its attention to Socialist Worker. The key to building a mass workers' paper lay in changing SW. More workers were to write for the paper, more workers were to sell it, and the organisation would be built. Paul Foot was appointed editor to preside over this change of line which would launch the breakthrough for IS. In fact the paper continues to be written by professional journalists and relies on commercial retail outlets in search of new and wider audiences.

## Expelled

The IS leadership played similar tricks with the internal life of IS. In 1973 a 'worker leadership' was to be built and dominate the National Committee. Throughout the country new and inexperienced industrial comrades were pushed directly to position of seeming leadership by virtue of their occupation. In fact over half the Executive Committee who presided over that turn have now left or been expelled.

At least a third of the 1973 NC were left. Nearly half of the workers left for the 1974 NC are out of IS.

changes and proposals. The NC itself was abolished and the leadership passed to a smaller 6-person Central Committee checked only by much diminished National delegate conferences (observers excluded) and Councils which meet once a quarter.

The workings and direction of IS have become increasingly mysterious to whole sections of the membership. The turnover figures testify to that.

Not surprisingly, opposition groupings and critical blocs emerged as the fortunes and prospects of IS declined.

## Handful

Last year, two opposition groups were expelled from IS. One, the Left Faction, went on, by fusion with Workers Fight (itself proscribed as an IS tendency and expelled in 1971) to form the International-Communist League. The other is currently producing the paper 'Workers News', and grappling with the problems of differentiating themselves politically from the IS tradition.

Yet another opposition group has emerged in IS. It sets itself to achieve no more than "a set of organisational changes" linking together a number of diverse political positions around the demand to re-instate the old style National Committee and the norms of internal democracy (such as they ever were) in IS. They raise no objections to previous expulsions in IS — most of them were party to them — and wish to criticise no more than the internal life of their organisation.

There has been widespread discontent within IS in the past months at the sectarian antics which accompanied the 'Right to Work Campaign' — the counterposing of the initiatives of the IS 'Rank and File Organising Committee' to those of local trades councils and labour movement bodies, the obsession with sponsorships to the march and the Albert Hall rally, which made IS members a neglig-

iated trade unionists and ordinary Labour Party and Communist Party members.

A tiny handful of 'right to work committees' had more than a few weeks' existence. Prominent trade unionists have resigned from them because their links with IS and its 'Rank and File Organising Committee' were not made clear, giving the CP a field day in their cynical campaign of exposing them as "IS fronts".

The campaign itself is rudderless, turning now into a 'defend the 43 campaign'.

Workers Action supported the Right to Work Campaign to the extent that it took a lead in fighting unemployment. WA also supports wholeheartedly the fight to defend the 43 marchers arrested when police attacked the march. But the IS chest-beating and self-glorification only stand to hamper a real fight against unemployment.

Any opposition within IS must ask hard questions about the results of the latest binge of campaigning and about IS's total failure to address the glaring problem of the pay deals and incomes policies and the paralysing grip of the trade union leaders. At such a time, where are the forces of IS's rank and file caucuses?

## Politics

They have been largely frittered away by the inadequate, unpolitical trade unionism on which they stand, the lack of steady consistent work from a membership busy with the twist and turn of the moment, and the bureaucratic stranglehold that IS maintained over them.

No opposition in IS can conceivably restrict itself to the question of democracy, or the quirks of the leadership. They must look at its politics, at the root causes. The gimmickry, the increasing sectarianism, the arbitrary and uncontrollable regime, are not accidental or temporary aberrations. On the basis of the IS politics, these things will get worse as the problems facing revolutionaries get bigger.

## LETTER FROM PARIS

### Justice!..or the judges go on strike

IN 1971, a small petrol dealer in Marseilles named Boudourian went bankrupt when Barclays Bank suddenly withdrew his credit and informed him that this was at the request of the big petrol companies. Boudourian made a legal complaint and an inquiry was started.

Within no more than 6 months, a first report was prepared. The contents of this report (which have only just been leaked to the press) show, with copious proof, the existence of an illegal nationwide conspiracy of the big petrol companies, organised in a secret cartel since 1968, to raise prices, divide up the market, rig tenders and drive out of business all the small independents who don't do as they're told.

The report on this 'Mafia' was submitted to the then Minister of Finance — one Giscard d'Estaing — who contrived to sit on it indefinitely. The French Government of today is totally at the service of big business and after ignoring the dossier as long as possible, it is now seeking to close the file and dismiss the case.

But the French state hasn't always been so single minded, and its internal contradictions have exploded the matter in its face.

French governments in the past have in part rested (electorally and ideologically) on the small producers in town and country — and that's why the interests of the petrol companies clashed with the law and resorted to clearly illegal actions. The myth of the neutrality of the legal system carries a lot of weight with many magistrates, who weren't happy about turning a blind eye.

A deeper challenge has existed too. After May 1968 a breakaway Magistrates' Union (mainly of junior magistrates) was set up, openly denouncing the class nature of the state and the law, and trying to redress the balance by exposing it and by pushing the legal contradictions to the limit.

A member of this union, de Charette,



Giscard d'Estaing

was reprimanded a few months ago. He had found a managing director of a company guilty of homicide at a preliminary hearing, after a worker was killed in an "industrial accident", and refused him bail pending formal trial and sentence.

The Marseilles magistrate, Ceccaldi, who is dealing with the petrol cartel file, is also in this union. When he refused to submit to pressures to close the case he was 'promoted' to a position in a small town at the other end of the country. He is refusing to go, and has been threatened with dismissal unless he does.

The Magistrates' Union has just held an extraordinary conference and decided to strike if sanctions are taken against Ceccaldi, and even the other traditional professional association of magistrates has had to support him in the name of the independence of the judiciary.



ELSEWHERE, big capital has been able to use the economic crisis to make its dominance total. It's been the small producers (who have survived here in much greater numbers than in England) who have had to cross the law to defend themselves.

Dr. Simeoni, leader of the Corsican separatists, appeared this week before a specially constituted 'Court of the Safety of the State', charged with "raising an armed band against the state". A general one-day shut-down in Corsica marked the widespread support for him.

Corsica, a land of small peasants, had suffered economic decline and enforced emigration for many years. Then the Pieds Noirs, the settlers fleeing from the now independent Algeria which they had so long robbed, were settled here with large government funds, and started a profitable capitalist wine growing enterprise. In some cases the profits were swelled by financial rackets, which helped to bring ruin to the Corsican peasants.

Last August the separatists, led by Simeoni, occupied the farm and cellars of one such wine producer, in Aleria. On orders from Paris, CRS riot police were flown in and the farm was surrounded by armoured cars and machine guns. The besiegers opened fire, and the occupiers responded — killing a CRS.

Dr. Simeoni, competent and articulate, is dominating his trial with passionate rhetoric. In the South of France, on a similar issue, the state chose instead to make an example of Albert Tesseyre, a typical small winegrower ruined by debt and almost illiterate, who is charged (on very dubious and contradictory evidence) with shooting a policeman during the pitched battle that took place between the wine growers and the CRS on 4th March this year.

Not a leader, Tesseyre is a typical small cultivator, like tens of thousands of others, and the sense of identification with him in the region is strong, reinforced by his hunger strike.

These legal dramas are not the winding up of past struggles, but pauses during which the issues appear, focussed and magnified for all to see.

A working class movement that could lead and unify around itself these numerous disaffected sections of the population would be enormously powerful. Both the Socialist Party and the Communist Party would like to benefit electorally from the discontent, but neither has the courage nor the political inclination to lead this potentially revolutionary upsurge in a concerted struggle.

## workers ACTION supporters' groups

Birmingham, Bolton, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Chelmsford, Chester, Coventry, Crawley, Durham, Edinburgh, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Newtown, Northampton, Nottingham, Oxford, Reading, Rochdale, Sheffield, Stafford, Stoke

Write for details of meetings & activities to:  
WASG, 49 Carnac Street, London SE27

Name .....

Address .....

THE FORMATION of the Permanent Democratic Coordination in Spain has been a further blow to the strategy of the liberalisers in the Juan Carlos regime, and will undoubtedly exacerbate the divisions between them and the hard liners.

These divisions have been apparent ever since Arias Navarro made his declaration of intent on becoming Prime Minister in February 1974. He put forward at that time the possibility of reform within the strictest limits.

These proposals — a promise of increased bargaining power for the fascist-run vertical syndicates ('trade unions'); a 35% elective parliament and some freedom for 'political associations' (not parties) — amounted to very little. But even so, they brought the immediate opposition of the old-guard Falangists entrenched in the bureaucracy, the police and the army — a powerful faction of the regime known as the 'bunker'.

The fact that it was Arias, always considered a hardliner and the architect of a major offensive against the opposition while he was Minister of the Interior, who was attempting to 'liberalise' the regime, shows the tremendous pressure that was building up to change the regime.

This pressure came from two sources: the increasing opposition of the working class and the impending economic crisis.

In the early '70s the regime was hit by an unprecedented strike wave. Led locally by 'workers commissions', the illegal Spanish trade union movement, there were a series of local and regional general strikes.

In September 1972 a strike at the Citroen factory at Vigo rapidly spread to other factories and even to shopkeepers. In the summer of '73, Pamplona was paralysed by a general strike, with British Leyland taking the lead in locking out workers.

Throughout 1974, following the imposition of a wage freeze by the Carero Blanco government, there were widespread strikes culminating in a general strike in the two main Basque provinces with the demand for amnesty for political prisoners; more than 200,000 workers were involved.

The significant thing about these strikes was that they were not limited to economic demands, but rapidly widened in scope to demand freedom to form trade unions, freedom of assembly, for the release of

# SPAIN: THE SLOW FUSE OF REFORMS

those arrested, and political amnesty.

In the 20 main disputes of 1974 alone, 46,000 workers were locked out and over 6,000 sacked as 'ring-leaders' — which gave rise to the demand for 'amnesty in the workplace', i.e. reinstatement of the sacked militants.

Such demands challenged the very basis of the regime whose 'economic miracle' was based on the complete suppression of the workers' movement.

At the same time the regime was

Nineteenth century working conditions go hand in hand with one of the worst industrial accident rates in the world. Spain also benefited from the world boom. The failure to solve the land question meant that there was a continual 'surplus' of labour on the land. The demand for labour from Europe partially solved the problem, encouraging a large number of Spanish workers and peasants to become emigrant workers in Germany and France. They provided a major source of

dependence of Spanish industry on exports to Europe led to a dramatic down-turn in key sections of the economy. Industrial production fell by 16% in 1975, and unemployment doubled in the year up to June 1975. The cost of oil on which the economy had become heavily dependent during the '60's soared, leading to a trade deficit of 7 billion dollars. It also pushed up the inflation rate to 17%.

It was in this situation that the Spanish bosses and their represent-



Madrid demonstrators put up barricades against police attack

hit by a serious economic crisis.

The economy had managed to achieve a sustained boom in the '60's, increasing its Gross National Product by 7% each year, and rapidly industrialising. Spain was an attractive proposition for foreign investment, guaranteeing international companies a terrorised labour force with the state always at hand to smash strikes and break any attempt at unionisation. On top of that, unemployment and social security payments are negligible

income, in the form of remittances, for the Spanish economy. A second major source of income was provided by the blossoming tourist trade.

But while it was the fastest growing economy in Europe, it was also the most vulnerable. The European recession which followed the oil crisis dealt it a double blow. Remittances began to fall off as emigrant workers were the first to get the sack or be put on short-time, and tourism failed to expand. The

atives in the government felt the need to press for some reform of the regime. Rising unemployment and declining living standards had led to an unprecedented strike wave which was beginning to challenge the very basis of the regime. If this movement was not to get out of hand, it was necessary to embark on a programme of limited reform while maintaining the fascist regime for a 'transitional' period until a stable bourgeois parliamentary regime could be introduced. This meant

allowing the development of political parties, particularly bourgeois workers' parties, such as the Spanish Socialist Party (the PSOE). If this could be done without legalising the Communist Party, so much the better. But if this was not possible the CP had shown, and deliberately set out to do so, its 'respectability' by controlling and sabotaging the working class offensive.

But the bosses' strategy underestimated two things, each of which fed on the other. The growing combativity and strength of the working class together with the intransigence of the 'bunker' subjected the reformers to a withering crossfire. From the announcement of Arias's proposed 'opening' of the regime, the right has led a sustained counter-attack which has paralysed the regime. The right sees the rise in the workers' movement of demands for retribution against the forces of repression, and at the same time views every and any liberalisation as a betrayal. Using its control of the army, and its strength in the state institutions, the right have attempted to sabotage the 'reformers' programme. This has led to the withdrawal from the regime of sections of big business, such as the Tacito group of Christian Democrats, who resigned from all important posts in the civil service, and de Irmo, the ex-president of the Spanish subsidiary of IIT. These groups have joined the traditional opposition calling for democratisation. Meanwhile the unfulfilled promises of reform and the repression which has been dealt out to workers has only increased the militancy and scope of demands for reform to a point which threatens to go beyond the control of the Communist Party.

It is against this background that the two opposition groups [ the Democratic Convergence, led by the PSOE and the Christian Democrats; and the Democratic Junta led by the Communist Party ] have merged. The majority of bourgeois politicians have decided that the CP is acceptable, indeed necessary, for an orderly transition to democracy. But the growing militancy of the working class means that even the CP will find it difficult to 'restrain' the workers. If the CP cannot do the job, then the regime will once again have to turn towards dictatorship — a trun that will meet with massive resistance from the workers.

STUART KING

## GREECE: the workers give their answer... it's a GENERAL STRIKE

LAST week's general strike in Greece was the response of the Greek working class to the Government's latest attack on them — a new anti-union "industrial relations" Bill.

Despite their reluctance to support the action, the "Communist" parties (there are two in Greece, the pro-Moscow 'Exterior' party and the more obviously reformist pro-Italian 'Interior' party) were dragged into backing the strike by the popular enthusiasm for it.

But given the lack of serious organisational preparation and the "Communist" parties' basic reluctance to force the issue, the strike only held for four days.

All the heavy industry complexes, the building industry, banks and large stores, buses and hotels were stopped by the strike. The government, in a bid to keep some services running, drafted airport, transport, communications and power workers.

Last Tuesday, fighting broke out in central Athens between striking workers and students and the police. It started at midday as a column of strikers tried to advance on the parliament. The fighting continued until midnight, with over 100 people injured, 189 arrested — and one woman killed, knocked down by a police car.

The main purpose of the disputed Bill is to block the development of the Greek trade unions now that, 30 years after their "reconstitution" by the so-called Allies, a tiny element of democracy has been introduced into them. The bosses hoped, with this legislation, that the fascists and right wingers in the leadership of the General Confederation of Greek Labour could continue to keep their grip.

As in the British experience, one of the main aims of the capitalists is to outlaw any strikes which do not have the official sanction of the union. These official strikes are themselves few and far between.

The Bill forbids any propaganda for trade union demands and organisation; makes secret ballots compulsory before strikes; demands that such ballots show a 75% majority for strike action before such action can be held; bans financial aid for disputes; outlaws unofficial strikes; recognises the right of scabs to work during a strike; and institutes a cooling off period of 80 days for strikes in the public sector.

The passing of the Bill puts all trade union activity solely under the umbrella of the General Confederation of Labour, and severely hampers any workers who take action outside the official framework. (The majority of strikes since the dictatorship have been unofficial.)

The Bill was debated in parliament last week and passed in principle. At the time the General Secretary of the GCL said that the Government had acceded to 90% of their demands for changes in the Bill. All these amounted to were a clause recognising the legality of official unions, and a reduction of the cooling off period from 80 days to 10.

### Rapidly

The workers' movement in Greece was not silent even in the worst days of the seven years' military dictatorship after 1967. But with its collapse in 1974 the struggle of the industrial workers blossomed rapidly. And this was despite the constant obstacles put in its path by the "communist" parties which sought an alliance with Karamanlis' New Democracy Party.

These "Communist" parties are too busy trying to forge a "democratic anti-fascist and anti-imperialist alliance" with sections of the bosses and government.

The anger and frustrations of the 7 years' dictatorship were not long exploding. The strike of dockers in 1974 was the beginning of a strike wave which has



Athenian police attack workers marching on Parliament during general strike

been escalating ever since. All sections of the working class have been drawn into these struggles, ranging from public sector workers to workers in the traditionally militant heavy industries.

One of the most protracted and hardest fought of these struggles was at MEL — a paper manufacturer near Salonika. 400 workers were involved in the strike, which lasted from August 1975 to May this year. The workers were demanding wage increases and the payment of health and insurance contributions denied them during the dictatorship.

The strike was run (as many of them have been) by a committee elected from, and recallable by, a mass meeting. To

publicise their case, the workers produced a newsheet which they pasted up around the town. And they held demonstrations in Athens. Towards the end of the strike, they escalated it by occupying the factory.

### Attacks

But their determination and initiative were not enough in the face of the lack of support from the CPs. Denied any effective support, the strike finally ended in May with none of the demands really being met. On top of that, the Government moved against the leaders

of the strike, arresting 40 of them and sentencing them to 35 days in jail.

Repression such as this has been meted out to all workers who have tried to take on the bosses and the government. In Euboea, for example, a meeting of 5,000 miners was attacked and broken up by police. In other areas, workers on strike have been attacked and their leaders thrown into jail.

Now these 'ad hoc' acts of repression will be aided and formalised in the new legislation, as the government tries to force militant unofficial action within the walls of the GCL, there with the help of the GCL leaders to stamp it out.

# AUEW: cowardly manoeuvres won't help the Left

THE further amalgamation of the AUEW is in danger. At the engineering section NC and last week's National Conference the Right Wing were able to effectively bloc further progress.

Full unity between white collar and manual workers in the engineering industry will be a major step forward for the trade union movement. It can overcome the disunity in the factories and workplaces, a disunity that can only serve the interests of the employers.



AUEW leader Scanlon

The right wing oppose the amalgamation for their own reasons.

First, they are terrified of any increase in power that the left would hold in the new, fully amalgamated union because of the left's control of TASS at present. They also see the traditional craft separation of engineering workers being submerged in a complete amalgamation with foundry, construction and white collar workers.

They play into the hands of the employers. But the Broad Left officials who have pushed the amalgamation have themselves fallen into the hands of the right wing.

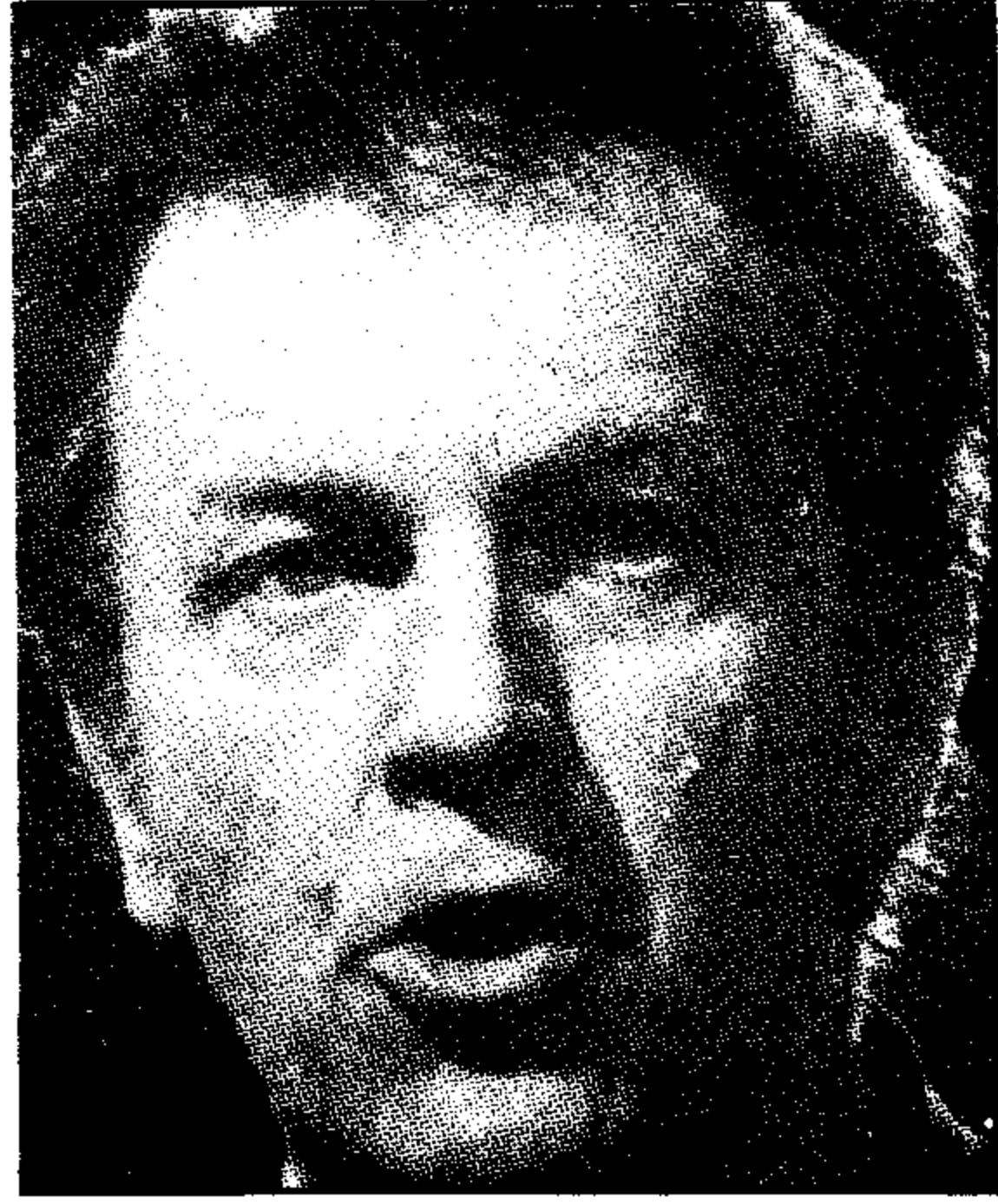
They have rejected proposals that the TASS officials should come up for new and regular election. While officials from the other sections will be subject to election, and re-election, TASS officials, in the Broad Left scheme for the amalgamation, would be free from such rank and file control.

The right wing were in fact able to stand as champions of rank and file democracy and re-call as a result of this bureaucratic manoeuvring and cowardice on the part of the Broad Left.

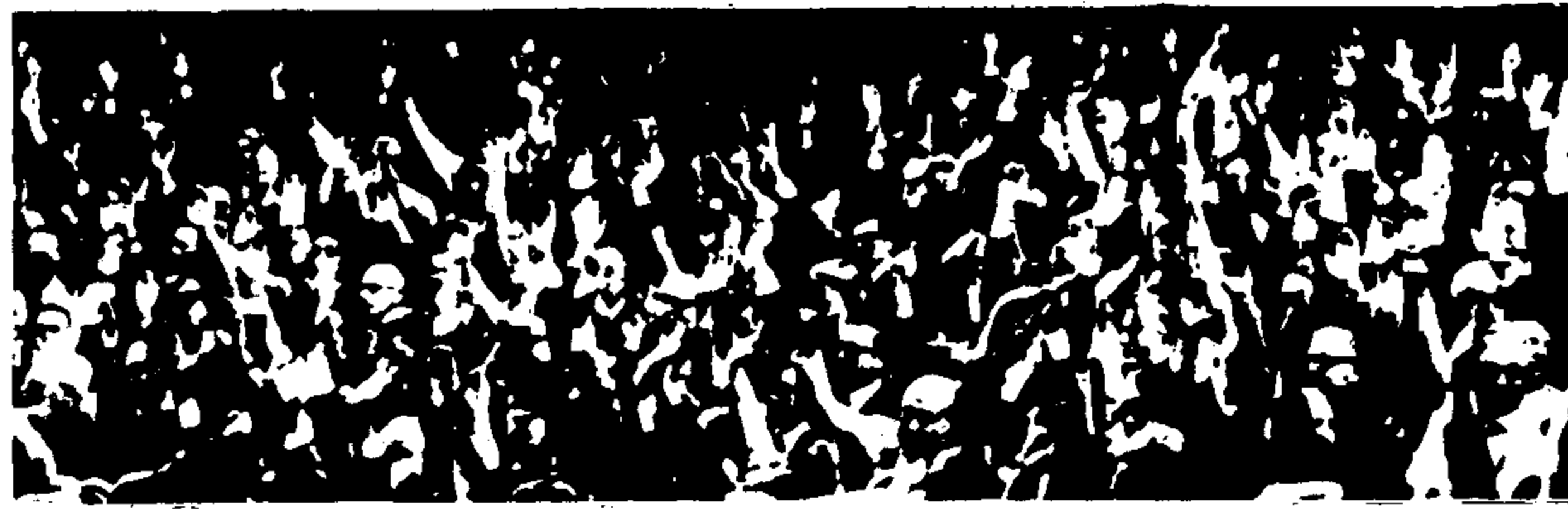
We are for the regular election of all trade union officials. We are in favour of them being subject to instant re-call. We are also in favour of a genuine amalgamated white and blue collar AUEW which is subject to thoroughgoing rank and file control.

The Broad Left, anxious to protect their allies in TASS from scrutiny and re-election, have opened the road to the fragmentation of the AUEW.

Only the employers and the trade union right wing will benefit. J.R.



TASS leader Gill.



## THE UNIONS



## Rule 14 brings the Right out of the woodwork

AN unusual meeting of Northampton Trades Council took place on May 19th. Instead of the normal attendance of about 25, this time 50 people crowded in. The right wing had 'dug them up from everywhere' — delegates from the G&M, from the Boot & Shoe unions, people not seen from one year's end to the next.

They had come in droves to vote for the adoption of the TUC's Rule 14, which forbids trades councils to organise action with any body not in agreement with the policies of the Labour Government and the TUC.

Northampton Trades Council, together with the County Association of TCs, had been holding out against this rule. A couple of days before, the County Association had had its meeting, at which it too was bludgeoned into accepting the rule. A letter from the TUC told them "This rule is obligatory, but we have been good enough to let you have two votes on it." They were also told, in advance, that no motions against Rule 14 would be allowed at the forthcoming at the National Conference of Trades Councils (held last weekend, see report in WA 19). DG

## NALGO: all against the wage limit

THE CONFERENCE of Nalgo (local government workers' union), to be held from 8th to 11th June, could be the starting point for a real fight-back against both the massive cutbacks in planned public service expenditure and the new pay restraints.

And it is clear that if such a fight-back is to be started, it will only be

done in the face of bitter opposition from Geoffrey Drain and Co. on the Nalgo NEC. Although the Nalgo NEC originally opposed the idea of the old £6 limit, they buckled and Drain seconded the proposal at the TUC to support it. Since its inception, they have consistently supported both the old and the new wage limits as

part of the 'social contract'.

No less than 4 of the motions which oppose the whole 'social contract' concept point out that Nalgo's support for the wage restraint was, according to the NEC, conditional on the Government maintaining levels of public spending.

Although Bro. Drain may have conveniently forgotten that he originally laid down such conditions, Conference will have the opportunity of pointing out that the rank and file have had enough of the successive 'bargains' with the Government which have resulted in Nalgo members, in common with the rest of the trade union movement, receiving both a cut in wages and declining

public services — with the inevitable loss of jobs in local government, health, universities and the various other Nalgo services.

It is significant that there is not one motion on the agenda which comes out in favour of wage restraint under present circumstances.

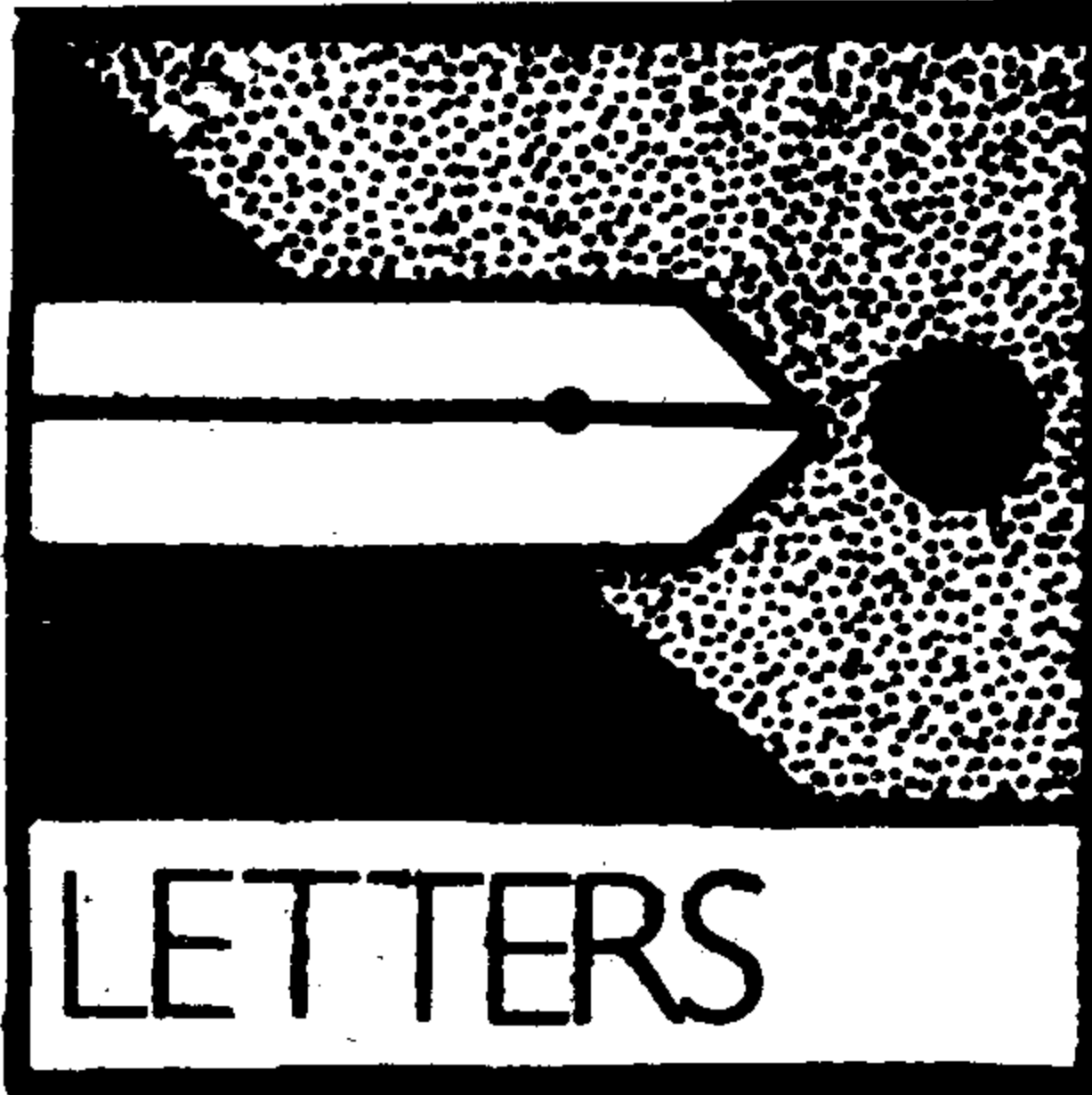
Such a set of motions can be of little comfort to the NEC, who were presumably hoping for conference endorsement for their support for the new pay limits.

Elsewhere on economic policy there is another bright spot: the only motion on import controls is the one from

Manchester — it opposes them!

One section of the agenda where the Right in the union are clearly intent on launching a serious attack is on the question of the NHS. There is a whole series of motions which aim to soften the position taken last year, of firm opposition to private practice and pay beds.

It is clear that the main battles at conference will be around these issues. It is important for the future development of Nalgo as a fighting union that the Nalgo Action Group provides a forceful and coherent opposition to both the right wing and the left-talking opportunists who dominate the NEC.



## Lessons of Blackburn

THE MURDER of two overseas students in London recently following the anti-immigrant hysteria whipped up by the press and by race-hate mongers like Powell and the National Front should be a warning that immigrant communities in Britain could in the near future be facing up to pogroms.

A scene which some of us witnessed in Blackburn a few hours after the National Party demonstration there may give your readers an idea of the sort of pressure the immigrant community is

under in certain areas.

Ten of us from the Merseyside Anti-Fascist Committee were waiting in a van parked on waste ground for a comrade who'd yet to return from heckling the so-called 'victory' march through the town of the fascist National Party.

At the top of the hill to our north were a number of Asian shops, and in the other direction at the bottom of the hill lay a vast quantity of old bricks. Suddenly, we saw a mob of about 100 white kids — aged between eight and eighteen — coming up the hill and throw-

ing bricks at the Asian shops.

Fortunately for us, we were white, and the mob engaged in this 'junior pogrom' didn't associate us with the anti-fascists until a middle-aged fascist turned up and directed some of them to throw their bricks at our Student Union van — which, as always happens on occasions like this, we couldn't get started! A few minutes later, four motor-bike cops arrived, and the kids ran away.

Naturally the police didn't make any arrests — as they showed a few hours earlier, they prefer to arrest non-violent black demonstrators.

This mob of white racist youngsters had without doubt come from the National Party march. We recognised one or two, and others were carrying union jacks. So much for the respectable image of the National Party, and the pledge of its leader Kingsley-Read, made to a Manchester Court the day before this incident, that he would not "incite whites against blacks"!

There is another thing your readers need to know about Blackburn. The fascists talk a lot about the "threat of black muggers", yet in Blackburn gangs with fascist connections roam the streets knocking down Asians and stealing their wallets or handbags.

Powell talks about blood and violence on the streets, but the blood and violence is caused by him and his kind. We think there are three important conclusions to be drawn from all this.

First of all there is a need for a national campaign against fascism and racism. We know that papers like WORKERS ACTION will urge its readers to support this call, and hope that organisations like the International Socialists will stop thinking they can fight fascism on their own, and start instead to organise together with other anti-fascists.

Secondly, there is a need to campaign for mass marches of anti-fascists in all the major centres of white racism — for a start, Blackburn, Bradford and Leicester. Why do we have to wait for the fascists to organise something before we march?

Finally, anyone who marched through Blackburn will tell you that it is probably the nearest thing we've got in this country to Selma, Alabama. The whole town literally lined the streets to jeer the blacks in the anti-fascist march. In circumstances like Blackburn, the question of workers' and community defence forces comes to the fore. It is vital that the left prepares these defence forces so that fascist and racist violence will not have its way on the streets.

BILL BUNTER & NORMA COX  
Liverpool

## Differentials divide, we need unity!

IN REPLY to Bro. Barnes' letter in last week's WA on the question of differentials, I would like to argue that socialists should not be in favour of differentials.

Look at how they developed. During the period of boom after the war, many industries saw the development of shop floor organisations such as shop stewards committees. The bosses began to use differentials as a way of breaking this growing shopfloor unity by offering 'bribes' to the more elitist and craft conscious sections of the workforce.

Differentials became common in the craft unions, especially those in the engineering and motor industries, and became increasingly the focus around which wages struggles were fought. In engineering, for example, the acceptance of a basic grading structure meant that most wage claims were related to the retention, extension or revision of that structure of differentials.

But now the boom is over the bosses are trying to control and restrict wage rises by a number of devices. With their allies — the TUC and Labour Government — they have introduced an incomes policy which limits pay rises and abolishes free collective bargaining.

This policy has eroded the differential structure. The £6 limit was a more or less successful attempt to substitute a national flat rate increase for locally bar-

gained agreements (which usually include differentials), over which the union leaders had less control.

This was also done in an attempt to sell the incomes policy as a means of helping low paid workers. It was implied that the lower paid worker would become relatively better off.

But they weren't. After higher tax deductions, and loss of benefits, there was very little in it. And as the general working class living standard was pushed lower, so of course the standards of low paid workers fell just as fast.

### Erosion

At the same time, skilled workers resented the erosion of their differentials. It was this resentment that led to the strikes referred to by Bro. Barnes at SU Carburators and Rover.

The new Healey policy of the 4% limit has been devised as a sop to these skilled workers. They will get 'bigger' percentage increases than lower paid workers.

But the 4% will not restore the previous differentials, and in the immediate future there will no doubt be fights for bigger differentials. In this situation, whatever our views on the rights and wrongs of differentials as such, we

should be clear that these are fights for higher wages — they will be the only way some sections will see to improve their living standards.

So we should give such struggles our full support.

At the same time, we must always point out that the logic of these struggles is to divide the workforce into skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled, and break up the unity of the workers in any particular factory or industry. When we're up against our union leaders, our bosses and the government, we'll certainly be needing support and solidarity from other workers — first and foremost, those we work alongside.

That's why we need policies which can unite all workers in the fight against the pay limits.

The position of WA supporters should be to push for large flat rate increases, coupled with a sliding scale of wages. In other words, the increase and the basic rate should be protected against the ravages of inflation by automatically rising as the cost of living rises.

Only around these demands is it possible to unite all sections of workers — skilled and unskilled — in a common struggle.

PETE SMITH  
(AUEW, Acton Works)

## Why the Left vote for Wright

WORKERS ACTION was perfectly right in issue No.9 to call on its supporters (and I include myself among them!) to vote for Len Blood rather than Bob Wright in the first round of elections for the position of Assistant General Secretary of the AUEW and explained quite correctly why this should be done. Again, you quite rightly pointed out that if Len Blood was defeated, then WA supporters should vote for Wright.

In issue No.10, you again urge supporters to vote for Bob Wright, while reminding us of Wright's shortcomings. You remind us that, in the final analysis, Wright — on the basis of his past record — will show up no better politically than Weakley the open right wing candidate. But you then say that Wright should be supported in order to keep out the right wing.

Whilst I agree that we should keep out the right wing, if we say that 'in the last analysis Wright is no different from Weakley' we are saying that Wright is in fact a right winger himself. So why should we vote for Wright?

As I see it, the reason we vote for Wright is because he is standing as a Broad Left candidate and is therefore more susceptible to rank and file pressure than Weakley, who has already shown exactly where he stands. Wright would give us a better arena in which to fight because of his so-called leftward leanings, he would be forced to support such calls as opposition to wage restraint, for instance, not because he is a super lefty but because it would be the only way in which he could retain his left appearance. And of course, with Wright in office, if he does not support fights against anti-working class measures, he will expose himself for what he is, whereas with Weakley in office, Wright and Co. would be able to mouth their left rhetoric and blame Weakley being office for the lack of fight-back by union officials.

Our support for Wright should be subordinate to our criticism because objectively he is no better than Weakley. Meanwhile we should be fighting at rank and file level to build a revolutionary base so that next time round we are not going to be in a position where we have to give critical or any kind of support to a left flunky.

DAVE MARSH, Birmingham.

# WIDIRKIEIRS IN ANCTIFINDN

## NAC to hold own tribunal

THE NATIONAL ABORTION Campaign is to call a one-day Tribunal in early December to hear evidence for abortion which the Parliamentary Select Committee won't be considering. The Tribunal will be based on locally collected evidence from trade unionists and women's and tenants' groups.

This decision emerged from the NAC planning meeting held in Sheffield on 23rd May. It was also agreed that NAC should be prepared to call a demonstration against the Select Committee's proposals — due out in July — if they introduce further restrictions.

TONI GORTON (NAC Steering Committee) reported that Jo Richardson and other MPs sympathetic to abortion rights felt it unlikely the Select Committee would bring about a new Bill in the next session of Parliament. These MPs were concentrating on getting a meeting with Michael Foot, who along with David Ennals voted against the reconvening of the Select Committee.

by B. Thompson

The planning meeting rejected this complacent optimism. SPUC and its backers on the Select Committee have the intention of making abortion illegal, and in the absence of determined opposition they will move further and further in this direction. They are already putting pressure on the Dept. of Health to abandon its experiment in day-care abortions.

Leo Absie, one of the ringleaders of the anti-abortion gang, is demanding that pregnancy advisory services sever all financial links with those who perform and are paid for abortions, and he also wants to introduce a seven-day delay between a woman's request for an abortion being approved and the operation

itself. This delay would mean more time for the Churches and others to pressurise women to change their minds.

On the urging of the Catholic Church, the Select Committee is also likely to recommend a residence requirement for abortions. Already abortions on foreign women have been cut by more than half in the past year, but the Catholic delegation to the Select Committee has been demanding that 'Parliament should not rest until this form of service is discontinued absolutely'.

These reactionaries find it extremely embarrassing that their 'flock' in places like Spain and Italy can evade the repressive legislation in those countries by coming to Britain for an abortion — if they can afford it. Considering the condition of women in these countries, and the quite staggering numbers who die every year from illegal abortions, it's clear how important it is for us to fight for their right to have an abortion in this country.

The Church is also apparently disturbed by the findings of the Institute of Social Studies in Medical Care recently, that 43% of Catholic women support abortion on request, and that the same proportion of Catholic as non-Catholic women say they would seek abortion for an unwanted pregnancy.

With the attitudes of its adherents changing fast on this question, the Catholic Church no doubt feels an urgency to act now while it still has some grip on its members.

The proposal for a tribunal provoked a lively debate on the planning committee. MARGARET RENN (East London NAC and IS) argued for a demonstration as a better focus for mobilisation. Against this it was argued that, while

NAC must hold an immediate demonstration against any restrictions recommended by the Select Committee or introduced by the DHSS, a demonstration on 'A Woman's Right to Choose' was not the best way to draw in new people.

This was clear from a comparison of the huge demonstration against the James White Bill last year, compared with the relatively much smaller April turnout this year when the focus was less clear.

JANE BRUTON (Leicester NAC and I-CL) argued that the proposal for a tribunal must be discussed in the framework of the overall aims of NAC. Clearly an alternative inquiry into abortion was needed, to combat the anti-feminism of the Select Committee, SPUC and Life, whose real aims are to take all choice away from women and subordinate their lives to child-rearing.

However, Comrade Bruton argued, this must be more than a publicity stunt. For a tribunal to help

build a mass campaign, it must be seen as a working class inquiry; to present the issue from the point of view of working class women, the inquiry should involve trade unions (particularly those in Health and welfare) women's groups and 'housewives' — that is, child-bound working class women. If this was done, the Campaign could draw on the strength of the wider labour movement, Labour Parties and trades councils.

In support of this approach, NAC members from Sheffield said that union branches involved in their campaign for out-patient abortion facilities could be more actively involved in collecting evidence, as could the health service unions and women's and tenants' groups. This activity could culminate in a local tribunal.

The planning meeting deferred until its next session (to be held in Leicester in July) the decision about the form the tribunal should take.

### Shout these figures from the roof-tops

ON THE 12th May a letter was sent out to the members of West Sussex careers advisory committee, urgently calling an extraordinary meeting on youth unemployment in the area. 1410 school leavers are estimated for 1976. Of those, 126 are projected to find employment, 263 will stay on at school or go on to higher education, 216 may stay on or may want work. That leaves 821 school leavers still looking for work. The total number of vacancies is 73.

But the reaction of the advisory committee has been "let's stay calm and don't panic. Let's not dramatise the situation, and for heaven's sake don't go to the press".

Thankfully, the reaction of Labour councillor Barbara Anderson was somewhat different. She was rightly worried by the figures presented, but even more worried by the attitude of the chairman. He said: "The people of Crawley have the right to know what's facing their children. We should be shouting these figures from the roof-tops".

The South East, especially Crawley, has generally had the lowest unemployment rate in the country. But we no longer have the situation where there were once 60 registered unemployed and over 500 vacancies in the town.

To counter the growing threat of unemployment in Sussex, the Manpower Services Committee has proudly proclaimed that it has a county-wide plan to beat unemployment. It has been given £40,000 to create 39 jobs for school-leavers clearing parks and overgrown fields.

The irony of the situation is not lost on the token trade-union side of the committee. POEU district secretary Dave Ward said afterwards, "This Commission is part and parcel of the West Sussex County Council, the very people who are acting as agents of the Labour Government in cutting back of education budgets and housing programmes, and making their own council workers redundant".

The Crawley Joint Shop Stewards Committee will be raising the question of youth unemployment at its next general meeting. Workers Action supporters on the JSSC will be urging stewards to go back and negotiate with their managements to take on more school leavers this autumn, backing up this demand if necessary with actions such as banning overtime and walking out after 35 hours work. It must be recognised that shop floor control of manning levels is the only way in the present situation to bring down the numbers of unemployed.

FOR OVER A WEEK now, taxi drivers have been picketing Lime Street Station in Liverpool against British Rail's decision to give its 'Golden Rail' contract to 'Yellow Cabs', a private taxi hire firm.

The pickets, all members of the T&GWU, have persuaded a number of British Rail workers to take solidarity action to prevent or delay the distribution of goods from the station. They have also extended the protest to Manchester Victoria station, where 400 taxi-drivers have taken similar action. The pickets have distributed thousands of leaflets to London cabs with the aim of getting their support.

### DON'T LET THEM SMASH OUR UNION

WHEN SHAREHOLDERS in the firm of J. Blackwood Hodge met at the Dorchester hotel in London on May 26th, they were met by a picket of JBH workers from Northampton.

The picket represented the 120 workers there who are on strike to defend the jobs of six of their workmates. But there's more to this strike than resistance to the 6 redundancy notices that were handed out at 2 hours' notice. As a leaflet distributed by the strike committee says "Don't let them smash our union — fight for full employment."

JBH — the world's largest distributors and repairers of heavy earthmoving equipment — have refused since before Christmas to recognise an AUEW steward, Ken Butterfield. After lengthy negotiations, it was agreed to put the matter to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Two weeks ago, ACAS ruled for Bro. Butterfield's recognition, which meant that it became legally enforceable. And the company responded with 6 redundancy notices — all apparently chosen at random, with one exception: Ken Butterfield.

Ken, a supporter of Workers Action, told us: "The move was transparently obvious. Before the sackings, 600 hours a week were being clocked up by a workforce of 120 — easily enough to keep all six of us in work."

A week last Monday the JBH workers voted to strike until all 6 are reinstated. TASS members in the Group's main stores came out in support.

AUEW branches in the area are backing the strike, and last Thursday the strike was made official — though the local Official tried to get the TASS stores workers to go back to work.

The constant picket on the works in fact includes the TASS members. And a subsidiary in nearby Wellingborough has also been picketed: workers there held a token walkout on Friday to show their support, and agreed not to cross the JBH picket in Northampton.

The strikers also plan to picket other depots doing similar repair work.

Locally, there's a lot of interest in the dispute, though it's an area not normally noted for militancy. Maureen Colquhoun MP is giving it her support too. There have in fact been a number of similar cases recently of militants being victimised, and people are looking to this dispute as a test case to stop the rot.

Send donations to the Strike Fund or requests to speak, to JBH Strike Committee, AUEW/TASS Office, Giles Street, Northampton.

### TARMAC SACK SEVEN BUT FLIRT WITH COUNCIL

LAST THURSDAY, May 27th, 22 T&G building workers at the Brixton Recreation Centre, decided to stay out on strike against the victimisation of their former convenor-steward Pat O'Neil, a carpenter.

The strike, which is now in its 7th week and has received official backing, began shortly after O'Neil resigned as convenor on March 9th because of the pressure from the other work he does locally for the T&GWU. (O'Neil is the local T&GWU branch secretary, and a member of the London Building Group of the T&GWU).

On March 26th, a list of six labourers to be made redundant was issued by the contractors, Tarmac. On April 2nd, O'Neil's name was added to the list and a week later, when management had refused to withdraw the proposed redundancies, the T&G builders walked out. Since then, this 100% union site has been at a complete standstill, the 68 UCATT workers having been laid off.

In insisting on the redundancies and the victimisation, Tarmac management has even been ripping up the redundancy agreement operating on the site. The agreement, not one particularly favourable to the workforce as a whole, is that in the case of redundancies, or run-downs due to completion of work, it is the indirect workers who go first, and for the remaining direct workers the principle of "last on, first off" operates.

Management has claimed that it has stuck rigorously to the agreement. But the facts show that they are lying. Only a week before redundancies were declared, a sub-contractor had been allowed to take on four carpenters to do partitioning. Besides, Pat O'Neil has worked on this site since 1974.

However, the local construction industry's conciliation panel has, not unexpectedly, backed up Tarmac's claim.

After six weeks of strike, Tarmac sacked all the T&G workers, but the director, Docherty, told all the men, unofficially, that they can have their jobs back if they allow O'Neil to be sacked. Quite naturally all the men have refused.

Lambeth Borough Council, for whom the centre is being built, is also heavily

implicated in these redundancies and victimisations. O'Neil has a history of organising sites in the Borough. On a number of them lump labour has been successfully stamped out. The links between the Council and Tarmac are extremely suspect. The Recreation Centre is part of a planning deal between them which includes a new office block for Tarmac. Recently the Council has been 'unexpectedly' offered two floors in this block. On the recreation site itself, the contract has clauses which allow Tarmac to close the site down for a year and still not make a loss or have to pay any penalty to the Council — a very handy agreement if the company wants to victimise militants.

The T&G is taking the verdict of the local conciliation panel to national panel level. But the latter will automatically endorse the advice of the former.

### Panel

When this happens, the T&GWU wants to take the dispute to ACAS, where some think they will get a fairer hearing than at the conciliation panel. But some of the strikers are sceptical about this 'Arbitration Service'. In this kind of dispute there is not much room for conciliation, as there is only one result which is in the strikers' interests. And the ACAS can't even promise that, let alone 'negotiate' it.

If the redundancies and victimisation are to be beaten, the strikers can trust only themselves. Support from the rest of the labour movement is vital. The Roberts (Kennington) site is already organising weekly collections for the Tarmac strike fund.

Donations to the Treasurer of the works committee, Tom Mahon, 16 Kirks-ton Gardens, Streatham Hill, London SW2

Pat O'Neil will be asking his branch of the Labour Party for a lobby of the Labour councillors in order to get an investigation into racketeering and corruption taking place on the Recreation centre project.

ROBIN CAMACHO

### Women's hospital: the first out of 130?

THE ELIZABETH GARRETT ANDERSON women's hospital is under threat of closure as part of the government's cuts which will, according to one official document, claim 130 out of London's 150 hospitals.

The fact that EGA is the only hospital staffed by women, specifically for women, in London, and that its closure would coincide with a general attack on nursery and play group facilities, pressure on women to get out of jobs first, and an onslaught on abortion facilities, must sound the alarm to the women's movement as well as to trade unionists in the health service and the working class movement in general.

A packed meeting on Thursday 25th May discussed the 'Save the EGA campaign'. Speakers stressed that the fight to save EGA was only part of the struggle against cuts in the NHS, and should be

linked with other battles against hospital closures. Workers at Acton hospital, for example, will occupy immediately if one piece of equipment is removed.

Whittington hospital, also facing closure, and South London hospitals which have already been closed, were also mentioned. One nurse from the Royal Northern hospital reported that four out of their five lifts had broken down. (At EGA all wards above the first floor, and the operating theatres on the fifth, have been closed because of a faulty lift shaft, which the Area Health Authority refuses to repair.)

Two local Labour councillors attended the meeting, but the 'left' Labour MP, Lena Jeger, did not turn up, although she had been invited to speak.

The next meeting in the campaign is on Monday 14th June, 7pm at 30 Camden Rd, London NW1.

### EVENTS

Small ads are free for labour movement events. Send copy to 'Events', 49 Carnac St, London SE27, to arrive by Friday for inclusion in the following week's issue.

Thursday 3rd June. Reading Socialist Forum on 'The Fourth International'. 8pm at St Davids Hall, London Rd.

Thursday 3rd June. "No to the Healey Deal! For a Socialist Alternative to the Crisis!" Joint Workers Action/Red Weekly/RMC public meeting. 7.45pm at the 'Dolphin', Canning St, Liverpool.

Friday 4th June. 'Peoples Democracy' / 'Revolutionary Struggle' meeting on "Fascism — the threat in the north of Ireland". 7.30pm at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

Friday 4th June Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation meeting to commemorate 20th anniversary of the publication of Khrushchev's 'secret speech' and to celebrate publication of Medvedev's 'Let History Judge'. 7.30pm at Holborn Assembly Rooms, London WC1. Adm. 30p.

Friday 4th June. Meeting to discuss the Italian elections, called by supporters of the Italian revolutionary left electoral alliance. 7.30pm at 31 James St, WC2.

Friday 4th June. "Free Desmond Trotter". Meeting called by 'Liberation', with speakers Stan Newens, Althea Lecointe, Jo Richardson, Martin Flannery, John Platt Mills. 7.30pm at LSE Old Theatre.

Monday 14th June. 'Save the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson hospital' meeting, 7pm at 30 Camden Rd, London NW1.

Saturday 26th June. TOM Open Forum, in support of the Labour Movement Delegation to Ireland. Speakers Tony Cliff, Eamonn McCann, Pat Arrowsmith, Colin Sweet, Ken Livingstone, Mervyn Metcalf. 10am to 5pm at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

Sunday 27th June. Manchester Trades Council Spanish solidarity conference. 10.30am to 4pm at the AUEW offices, The Crescent, Salford. Delegates creds. 50p from Frances Dean, Room 165 Corn Exchange, Manchester 3.

Published by Workers Action, 49 Carnac St, London SE27. Printed by Prestagate. (TU) of Reading. Registered as a newspaper with the GPO.