

Workers' fight

5p

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1975

KNOCKED

"THE ATTACK ON INFLATION" is what the Government's new wage-cutting White Paper is called. An attack on the working class, would have been a more accurate title. For the White Paper puts an end to free collective bargaining and announces a thumping depression in our living standards.

Almost the only firm pledge in the Labour Manifesto, almost the only firm promise Labour Ministers have made week after week, was that they would not bring in statutory wage curbs. Now they have made a complete about turn. And they try to cover it up by saying "The Government are supporting (!) the TUC's proposal for a universal pay limit of £6 a week"; and "The Government therefore propose to support the guidance given by the TUC to negotiators with effective sanctions."

Loyal

The Labour Government bludgeons its cringing flunkies in the TUC into accepting pay curbs — and then presents itself as merely the loyal assistant of the TUC!

This is, as before, a Labour Government dedicated to rescuing capitalism; dedicated to solving capitalism's problems at the expense of the working class; and dedicated to binding the struggles of the working class into the immobilising confines of laws that directly serve society's profiteers and exploiters.

Foot and Benn run out

WHEN Harold Wilson announced that he was holding a major press conference and that he would be accompanied not by Denis Healey but by Shirley Williams and Michael Foot, it was clear that he was trying to underline the unity of the Cabinet.

Despite all the rumours about a real fight in the Cabinet, and speculation about a possible resignation from Benn or Foot, these fake-lefts folded up without a fuss.

Instead of using the considerable authority they have with the Labour Party rank and file, and leading a fight against Wilson's proposals, they have thrown in their lot with the right wing.

Worse still... if worse

The Social Contract started with the notion that workers should hold back advance on wages, the better to secure social reforms. We now have massive cutbacks in housing, health and education, in place of those promises of social reform — which were just sugar to sweeten a programme of incorporation of the trade union bureaucracy into the mechanism of the state. The assumption was and is that workers should tailor their demands to the requirements of keeping "the British economy" — that is, capitalism — running. That logic now asserts itself imperiously by demanding cuts of up to 20% in workers' real living standards.

"On aggregate, it [the maximum permitted wage rise] amounts to about half the rise in the cost of living" — that was Labour Minister and millionaire Harold Lever's assessment. And CBI leader Lord Watkinson filled in the picture: "Unemployment is still going to increase. It's in the pipeline at the moment".

It's a wage cut for the low-paid, too — even if they get the £6, which they will still have to fight for, uphill all the way. There are no 'criminal sanctions' in the Government proposals, they say; but in fact the proposals amount to a massive fine on every worker in the country!

And it's not just a 'temporary sacrifice'. There is no guarantee at all of better conditions after a year of pay freeze patiently endured. On the

FOR SIX?

contrary, the scene will be set for even tighter state regulation of the unions.

If workers make sacrifices, all that will do is line the pockets of the exploiters and keep the capitalist system dragging us through misery for a few more years. Instead, we should look to our own interests and to building up our own power. Instead of pay curbs, we should build solidarity with all fights for higher wages. We should press ahead with all existing claims, 10% limit or no 10% limit. We should demand automatic cost of living increases with a 'zero

threshold'. Instead of redundancies, we should fight for work or full pay, and shorter hours with no loss of pay.

And we won't get what we need by hoping for a few crumbs from the Labour Party - TUC deals. The Labour government, having extracted the TUC's agreement to the £6 limit, didn't concede them one bit in return. The TUC wanted strict price controls. The Government responded by making it quite clear that this was not possible without conducting a real attack on profit — the very lifeblood of the capitalist system — and that 'price control' under capitalism is in fact a utopia. And the Government is determined to save capitalism.

The TUC proposals were in fact a massive betrayal of the working class. They even went so far as to call on the Government to pass legislation permitting employers to breach contracts of service!

Dam

But while the TUC was almost unanimous when the Congress vote was taken on the Social Contract, the situation today is different. Thirteen members of the General Council voted against the proposals: Allen of USDAW (shop-workers), Clive Jenkins of the white collar ASTMS, Ray Buckton of ASLEF, John Boyd and Len Edmondson of the AUEW and Ken Gill of its supervisory and technical section TASS, Alan Fisher of NUPE, Fred Jarvis of the NUT,

M. Thomas

FREE David O'Connell

THE ARREST in the 26 Counties of David O'Connell threatens the Northern Ireland ceasefire. O'Connell, formerly Chief of Staff of the Provisional IRA, is known to have concentrated on purely political affairs in the six months of the truce. Still he is fair game for the toadies of Downing Street who rule in Dublin and have many Republicans locked up under scandalously undemocratic legislation.

O'Connell has a long record of Republican activity. In the mid '50s he almost lost his life in a raid on a barracks in Northern Ireland during the IRA campaign of that period.

By arresting him the 26 County authorities have shown that the ceasefire and the talk of 'peace' in Northern Ireland is a one sided affair. The IRA and the Catholics must down arms and stay still and silent as the British Army and the 26 County authorities attack them — and as the Orange paramilitary organisations prepare in Northern Ireland for civil war. That's what these hypocrites mean by 'peace', 'ceasefire', and 'an end to violence'. They merely want unbridled licence for their own violence. But the continued detention without charge or trial of hundreds north and south of the Border already proved that, even before the arrest of O'Connell.

FREE Des Warren

Demonstration outside Nottingham Prison, where Des Warren is now serving his three-year sentence for picketing.

Saturday 19 July

Organised by Nottingham Trades Council

Lawrence Daly of the NUM, Alan Sapper of the cine and TV technicians union ACTT, Terry Parry of the Firemen's Union and Geoffrey Drain and Audrey Prime of NALGO.

Three members who were not present at the meeting, Hugh Scanlon of the AUEW, Les Buck of the sheet metal workers, and Jim Slater of the National Union of Seamen, are well known to be opposed to the flat rate wage cut proposal.

This clear division in the ranks of the trade union tops will worry the Government. Just one important trade union coming out in open struggle against the £6 norm could disrupt the whole scheme. As bosses' leader Lord Watkinson put it, "One little hole in the dam and you're in dead trouble".

Action

The question, however, is: will the dissident trade union leaders fight the government, or will they knuckle under with a bit of grumbling? Lawrence Daly, who voted against the proposals on the TUC General Council, was amongst the most energetic in persuading the NUM Conference not to take the militant line.

Trade unionists must push now for the September TUC Congress to come out against the plan, and for rank and file action if the leaders knuckle under.

The question posed now for Wilson is: can the trade union leaders keep their members in line even with the back up powers of the new legislation?

For the working class, what's needed is not speculation, but action. The Social Contract guidelines were smashed through; before them the Tories' successive wage freeze plans were cracked. There should be no holding back because this is a Labour government. It is a government representing the same fundamental interests as the Tories and doing it in the same basic ways; a government of traitors and turn-coats, cowards and careerists who do not deserve the loyalty that a government would naturally inspire if it really broke with the bankers and the bosses.

Jack Price

MINERS' VOTE WILL STILL TEST WILSON'S POLICIES

FOR WEEKS the press had seen the miners' conference as the make or break point for the Labour Government. Clearly if the National Union of Mineworkers decided to demand £100 now from the National Coal Board, as the Yorkshire miners wanted, the government's hopes of introducing "anti inflationary" measures would be nil.

The '£100' Yorkshire resolution was supported by Kent, South Wales, Derbyshire and Scotland. When it came to it, Wilson didn't even aim his appeal at supporting the so-called moderates. The Government doesn't want 'moderation' — it wants suicide! Wilson's appeal was for "the next 12 months to be a year for Britain, not for self."

ISOLATED

In the manoeuvring before the Tuesday pay debate, Yorkshire miners' leader Arthur Scargill was first isolated by those delegations dominated by the Communist Party shifting to the right to compromise with Gormly; and then he too came to compromise. Consequently an entirely meaningless pay resolution was passed, much to Gormley's delight.

Later in the conference, as if to compensate for this, a resolution was adopted to demand a four day week of 29 hours.

The most threatening aspect of the pay debate was Gormley's insistence on plugging the NCB's long rejected "pit and workshop incentive schemes". It looks, therefore, as if Gormley will try to get the extra money in the disguised form of local productivity payments linked to the national production scheme. That would be a big step to breaking up the powerful unity of the miners.

How to rig a fact-finding tour

THREE members of the Greater London Association of Trades Councils' "fact finding" delegation to the north of Ireland have been thrown off the delegation and may face charges when the GLATC Executive meets this week.

Mike Knowles, secretary of Hackney Trades Council, Rosemary Sales of Barnet Trades Council and Gerry McMorrow (also of Hackney TC), all supporters of the Troops Out Movement, were members of the GLATC's fourteen person delegation which left for Belfast on July 3rd.

Before the delegation left, the three had objected to the list of engagements drawn up by the visit's organiser Jack Dromey, a legal officer of the NCCL and member of Brent Trades Council. Rosemary Sales proposed that they include a meeting with the editor of the Andersonstown News (a Catholic community paper) and representatives of the Association for Legal Justice (an organisation helping internees).

ONE 'GROUP' HADN'T MET SINCE 1969!

This proposal was defeated, the main argument being that there wasn't enough time to put more meetings on the agenda. (The objection to meeting the editor of Andersonstown News might not, however, have been unconnected with the fact that the paper had just revealed that one organisation included in an earlier agenda and vouched for by Dromey as "covering both sections of the community", had not met since 1969...)

"It became increasingly clear" according to Mike Knowles "that the visit was designed to come up with a pre-arranged conclusion, that is, the line of the Communist Party: that troops should stay in a peace-keeping role and that Westminster should bring in a Bill of Rights. The idea was that the delegation should come back to Britain and tell the trade union movement 'this is what the situation is like and this is what the people want'."

The first meeting that took place — with representatives of the Belfast Trades Council — only served to confirm the minority's suspicions. Joe Cooper, the Trades Council's chief spokesman, talked of their "unanimity" in believing that the troops should be maintained in a 'peace keeping capacity' and that a Bill of Rights should be legislated. On being questioned, however, he admitted that the British troops were not in reality a peace keeping force and that they were harassing and oppressing the Catholic community.

GUIDED TOUR OF THE SHIPYARDS

The following day's events exposed Jack Dromey's claim that time was too short to include more visits: after a 45-minute meeting with Harland and Wolff shop stewards in the presence of management, the rest of the morning and afternoon was spent on a guided tour of the shipyards and a Government training centre!

That evening, the familiar line of 'maintenance of troops in a peace-keeping role and a Bill of Rights' was recited by Brendan Harkin, the general secretary of the Civil Service Alliance and a vice presidential candidate for the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) — not to mention his directorship, by kind invitation of Merlyn Rees, of a British-state subsidised company.

Like Joe Cooper, Harkin stressed that if troops were withdrawn there would be a massacre of Catholics. But as with the other meetings, the only points of interest came out in the 'unscripted' remarks. For instance, he admitted that "the Ulster Workers Council action exposed the trade unions in the north of Ireland as representing nobody politically."

Challenged by Ms. Sales about the role of the troops, Harkin also admitted that they were not playing a peace-keeping role. But at this point the majority of the delegation intervened to stop Ms. Sales from questioning Harkin. In this blatant bid to stifle the minority, the anti-Troops Out Movement, pro-Communist Party purpose of the trip was again revealed.

The delegation's next visit was to the headquarters of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA). There, under a portrait on the wall of Morning Star reporter Chris Myant, the GLATC delegates heard it all again, from people representing nothing but some abstract "middle ground".

This visit was to be followed by one to a Republican (Official) Club, where the line was due for another airing. But the minority delegates decided to seek out those they had proposed that the delegation as a whole should meet. Getting together with the editor of Andersonstown News and the assistant editor of the Hibernia Review, the three minority delegates arranged for them to bring some tenants' leaders to a meeting scheduled for the following day when the full delegation met the Greater West Belfast Community Association.

This Association is itself a perfect example of the impossibility of finding genuine political common ground between Loyalists and Republicans. With a



Communist Party member as secretary and a Loyalist as chairman, it lives out its shadowy existence funded by the notorious Northern Ireland Office of the British Government, dealing in such vital issues as an anti-motorway campaign and complaints about the shortage of dustbins in West Belfast!

As the stalwarts of the WBCA sang the old refrain, the group the minority delegation had arranged to turn up arrived and asked to see the full delegation. On behalf of the GLATC, Tom Pilford told them he would "love to see" them but there just wasn't the time. At this, the three T.O.M. supporters denounced the whole affair as a farce and walked out with those the GLATC had snubbed.

"Get out and stay out" was Tom Pilford's response.

The three then visited a number of co-operatives that had been set up in Andersonstown, met the chairman of the Turf Lodge Tenants, saw the Turf Lodge Incident Centre, the Turf Lodge Social Club, a park that has been developed for entertainment by Catholic community, a Gaelic school, a centre of the Provisional Sinn. Fein, several housing areas and a community garage, meeting dozens of ordinary people of Catholic Belfast.

Mike Knowles said later that he was struck by the unanimity of the hostility to British troops in the Catholic areas and the desire to see from Westminster some "declaration of intent" setting a date for withdrawal. But, he felt, there were different attitudes on the unification of Ireland.

HASTY ATTEMPT TO COVER THEIR TRACKS

On the Saturday, the majority of the delegation turned up unexpectedly at the Turf Lodge Social Centre. It was clear to the officials of the Centre that this was an attempt by the GLATC delegation to avoid, by a token visit, the accusation of not having been to Catholic community centres. Deciding not to give these people such 'cover', the Centre members refused the majority delegation admittance.

The story of the GLATC delegation is the story of a sorry piece of political contrivance by which the Communist Party, well represented on the Greater London Association, tried to fake evidence for its middle-of-the-road, middle-of-nowhere policies, and counterpose them specifically to those of the Troops Out Movement. Most of such attempts succeed; this time it has been exposed and we should be grateful to those who exposed it.

London trade unionists and trades councils in particular should see to it that the three who exposed this farce are not disciplined but allowed to present a report of their findings to trade union and other labour movement bodies.

ANDREW HORNUNG

INDIA: GANDHI BANS STRIKES, AND WAITS

INDIRA GANDHI's crack-down operation continues in India, with an announcement of a ban on strikes. This has gone through without a murmur of opposition either from the INTUC (the Congress Party's own trade union organisation) or from the AITUC, the trade union organisation dominated by the Communist Party of India.

This latest measure shows the implications of the CPI's stand of total support for Gandhi's measures. They justify it by saying that the measures are directed against the right. It is true

that many of the harshest actions have been against the sectarian extreme rightist groups, but many Naxalites and other revolutionary militants have also been arrested. And any special powers given to a capitalist state are bound in the end to be used against the working class, as with the ban on strikes.

The main areas where arrests have been carried out under the emergency dictatorial laws are in the states of Bihar — the home and political base of Jayaprakash Narayan — and Maharashtra, where there

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REPUBLICA WORKER SHATTERS S.P. LIES ABOUT TAKE-OVER

THE STRUGGLE over the Portuguese paper *Republica* was concluded this week, with the handing over of the paper to the workers' committee. The Socialist Party, which since the dispute came to a head in May has been claiming that the paper was a SP organ, has resigned from the Government, giving as one of its reasons the fact that it had been deprived of "its" paper.

But only last September, the paper's management had refused a request by the workers' committee to declare openly that the paper was an organ of the SP. And as recently as the April election campaign, the paper had, in accordance with Portugal's press law rulings on non-Party papers, given equal space to all the election candidates — whereas if it had been a party organ, as SP general secretary Mario Soares has been vociferously claiming since May, it would by law have been allowed to ignore the other candidates and concentrate on the SP election campaign.

In London, at a press

conference on Monday 6th and a public meeting on Tuesday 7th, Rui Dominguez, representing the *Republica* workers' coordinating committee, explained the growing hostility of the workers to the management. At first, they had all been proud to work for the only daily paper that had opposed the Salazarist regime before 25th April. When, during the Spinola period, after the 25th April coup, it was fined for infringing press regulations, the workers chipped in out of their own pockets to help pay the fine.

FACADE

Sr Dominguez reckoned that most of the workers were SP sympathisers. (There are two SP members on the workers' coordinating committee). But as they saw the SP gradually squeezing out non-Party journalists — 17 in all — and censoring news unfavourable to the SP, they began to react against the paper's "double life": its facade of independence and openness, covering the reality of an increasingly

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Argentinian general strike beats Peron's plans

ARGENTINIAN workers, with a two day general strike on July 7th-8th, smashed the Peron government's wage curb plan, which was to hold wage increases to 50% while prices rise at over 120% per year. Negotiated increases of 100 to 135% will now take effect.

The official general strike was called by the right wing Peronist trade union leaders — normally the most slavish supporters of a Peronist government — only after the country had effectively been paralysed for ten days by unofficial strikes, closing down the steel, textile, chemical and car industries and also affecting the

railways. There had also been street demonstrations and violent clashes between police and armed workers since the attempted wage curb was announced on 28th June.

Alongside the withdrawal of the pay curbs, the unions had also demanded the replacement of Lopez Rega, Minister of Social Welfare, seen as the personification of the right wing policy of the government. It appears that Lopez Rega will in fact hand over the ministry to someone else, but will retain his position as secretary to President Isabel Peron and secretary general to the Government, that is, as effective leader of the administration.

The strike expresses as dramatically as possible the break-up of the Peronist movement. Juan Peron built up his popularity as Minister of Labour from 1943 to 1945 and President from 1946 to 1955. He was able to construct an alliance of the working class and the industrial capitalists, on a programme of national industrial development, sustaining his popularity by pay-outs in wages and social security from the prosperity which Argentina enjoyed, particularly during the second world war.

When Peron returned in 1973, it was as a last resort for a ruling class shaken by an economic crisis which is

even worse now. The previous military regime had been politically shattered by the Argentinian "May events" of 1969. Peron neutralised the growing left-wing feeling for a time, but only for a time.

Since Peron's death, and his replacement as President by his wife, the splits within Peronism have grown wider and wider as more and more people realise that no repeat of the 1946-55 operation is possible. Increasingly the army — traditionally anti-Peronist, and certainly anti-Lopez Rega, in its leadership — will crowd in on the wings of the political stage.

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KOREA

Korea was 'the war before Vietnam' — so massive that for years, the Vietnam war sat in its shadow until it began to outstrip it in the scale of its monstrous devastation.

But leaving aside comparisons of casualties and tonnage of explosives, there was a world of difference between the two wars. The Korean war belonged to the deep cold war age, when the 'Communist' countries were always the aggressors and could be lumped into one. As for the US, no one — least of all Americans themselves — doubted their motives when they bombed and napalmed in their effort to keep South Korea 'free' and to 'secure a lasting peace'. No one, that is, except for a few Communist Party members and Trotskyists. Yet by the end of the 3-year war, when a

grudging truce brought 'peace', there were 4 million military and one million civilian deaths, as well as millions of refugees.

This week, 25 years ago, the war was two weeks old. The bitter memories and the problems left have not faded away. With the South Korean President Park's report of the 'discovery' of North Korean war preparations and recent statements from the Pentagon regarding the 'peace and security of the Korean peninsula' and the use of tactical nuclear weapons installed in South Korea, many people are asking — could it happen again? President Park has said he expects North Korea to attack within the next eighteen months, though this may be just designed to rally support around him and his repressive regime in the wake of heavy handed crackdowns on the opposition in South Korea.

Six hours after the fighting had begun on 25th June 1950, the American journalist John Gunther

by Keith Bennett

was about to sit down to a meal in Japan with two important members of the US General MacArthur's staff. One was called to the telephone. He returned and whispered to Gunther: "A big story has just broken. The South Koreans have attacked North Korea." Gunther trustingly thought there had been an error in communication and promptly reversed South for North to restore the cold war record of 'Communist aggression'. Others, less trustingly, have seen the origins of the Korean war in a different perspective.

But the question of 'who fired first' is not crucial. Korea was, and still is, an artificially divided country. The division along the 38th Parallel was not geographically justified, but was forced upon the Korean people by the USA.

Korea had been a Japanese colony since 1910. After Japan's surrender in August 1945, a 'Peoples Republic' was set up, organised through Stalinist-led 'revolutionary committees'. Most of the North was occupied by Soviet troops, which moved up to the 38th Parallel in line with the Yalta and Potsdam agreements. But on 8th September, US forces landed in South Korea and declared a military government, incorporating former Japanese government officials. The local popular committees were of course suppressed.

WORKERS

Meanwhile in the North, all Japanese-owned property was nationalised and an extensive land reform was carried out. Throughout the South in September and October 1946 strikes broke out. A South Korean official document states, "In the general strikes that took place virtually all over the country, the workers shouted their opposition to the US military government as well as demands for Communist-style reforms of the political, economic and social systems."

By 1950, however, the left had been 'removed' from South Korea, and Syngman Rhee, flown in from the USA to head the Southern Government, was rapidly expanding his armed forces. So confident was the South Korean government that the Defence Minister stated, "If we had our own way, we would have started up already. But we had to wait until they (the USA) are ready."

Fighting began officially on June 25th 1950. Within hours the North Korean forces had crossed the 38th Parallel and in three days had captured Seoul, the

or Japanese domination in Korea would be the inevitable result of leaving the capitalist economy intact. Thus the USSR found itself in an uneasy alliance with a popular national liberation movement, but its basic policy was conservative. Russia acquiesced in the 1945 partition of Korea. Afterwards it refused to give the North Koreans an air force. I.F. Stone's book 'The Hidden History of the Korean War' quotes the Russian general Zakharov: "It is necessary to be careful with these Koreans... We are going to form a modern army... but we are not going to act like a sorcerer's apprentice, creating a force which would make mischief in the Far East!"

CHINESE

Equally false was the talk of China "expanding her empire". It was quite obviously not in the interests of the Chinese to make war. China was about to pick up the pieces left after 20 years of war, and 12 years of non-stop fighting with the Japanese. It had set about demobilising part of the army, and was settling down to discuss the first Five Year Plan. In no way was China prepared for war. This Chinese tried at first to use diplomatic channels to persuade the USA not to send troops across the 38th parallel. However, when in November 1950 General MacArthur launched an all-out assault north towards the Chinese border, China replied and in a month the Chinese Peoples' Volunteers had driven MacArthur back to the 38th Parallel.

North Korean claims of South Korean and American military provocation were never taken seriously by the West. It was to take 20 years before the great "credibility gap" opened under US government propaganda.

Cease-fire talks began in July 1951, and a US/UN ceasefire line was agreed upon with North Korea by November 26th. From then on the North Koreans were to be blamed for the following one and a half years of war because of their "stubbornness" — an accus-



South Korean President Park — brought in to replace Syngman Rhee

this statement by John Foster Dulles, then Secretary of State: "I don't think we can get much out of a Korea settlement until we have shown — before all Asia — our clear superiority by giving the Chinese one hell of a beating."

Threatened by hints of nuclear war from the Pentagon and pressured by the bombing of North Korean irrigation dams, North Korea and China finally accepted "voluntary repatriation", and at the end of the war one third of North Korean and Chinese prisoners, either voluntarily or under various pressures, stayed behind. On July 27th 1953 the ceasefire was signed.

Not only on the battle fronts and ceasefire negotiations were the North depicted as the 'baddies'. Reports of atrocities and "brain-washing" from POW camps were numerous: thus the Korean war was not only a Cold War product, but served to feed and reinforce Cold War hysteria in the USA for years to come.

Meanwhile, little attention was paid to the fate of Korean and Chinese POWs in the South. Amongst the many tales of "Communist atrocities" in the western press in December 1951, the United Nations Command very quietly announced that 6,600 POWs had died in Allied camps, and it was only in May 1952, after a full scale revolt by North Korean prisoners held on Koje Island, that the UN command was forced to admit to the appalling conditions of Allies camps.

REVENGE

Only the US/UN forces bombed from the air in the Korean war, as later in Vietnam. As early as September 1950 the US had dropped 97,000 tons of bombs and 7.8 million gallons of napalm. Yet the North managed to take the whole of the South initially, and, after being beaten back within a few miles of the Chinese border, go on to recover most of North Korea.

But the US took its revenge in a style that has now become all too familiar. By the end of the war Pyongyang had been practically levelled. In May 1953 the US started bombing the vital irrigation dams one by one. Five of the twenty major dams were destroyed before the armistice was signed. Reports of chemical and germ warfare suggestions were strengthened when the Defence Department tried to dump unwanted nerve gas (Sarin) off the coast of Florida in 1970. It was then revealed that the gas had been produced in 1953 "in case of renewed hostilities".

Since the 1950s the South Korean people have seen widespread industrialisation — and increasing repression as the size and potential strength of the working class grows. Over the last year the extent of President Park's repression has even embarrassed liberal circles in the American establishment. The open martial law declared three years ago, has led to the torture and execution of 'Communist' trade union organisers.

After the victory of the Vietnamese people over the USA, the Korean workers and peasants are unlikely to tolerate this repression much longer. Should they rise again, socialists in the west must ensure that they no longer sit on the fence as they overwhelmingly did in the 1950s. (The International Socialism group, for instance, took a neutralist line, claiming it was just an "imperialist power struggle".)

In the event of the outbreak of war again, it is unlikely that any US Administration will get away with sending in an army already so disaffected by the Vietnam experience. Whether Ford's threats of nuclear attack will, in the realities of the situation, materialise, depends significantly on the international response to such threats. Unanswered, they are a fearful cloud hanging over the Korean people.



Top: jubilant workers display first issue of the independent Republica. Below: Rui Dominguez in London.

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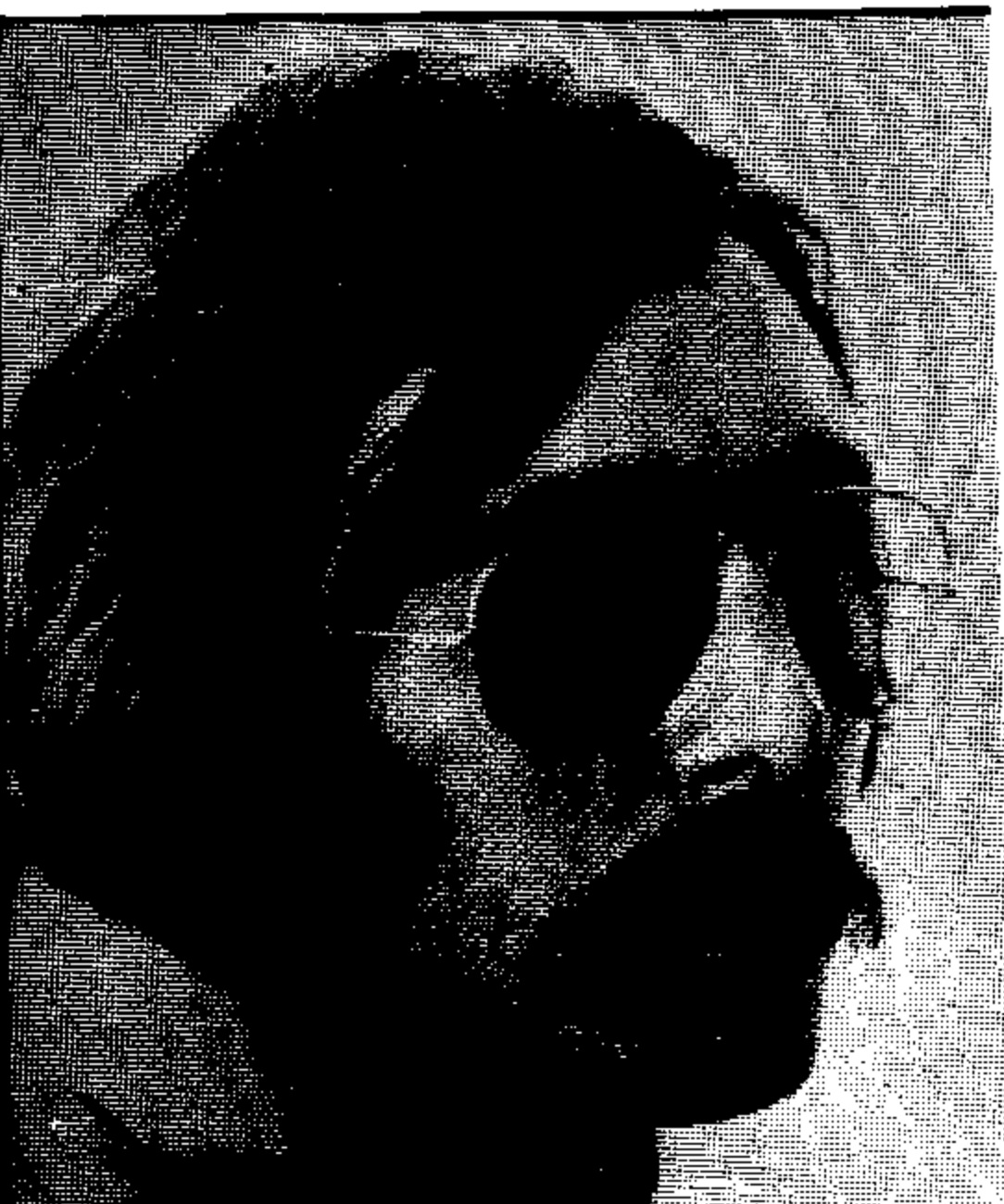


Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)

the 153 (out of a total of 175, including editorial staff) Republica workers — including members and sympathisers of many parties fiercely opposed to the CP — would be to attribute truly magical powers to a Communist Party which has, if anything, lost considerable influence among rank and file Portuguese workers.

But speculation is not really necessary. Daily proof, in black and white, will be provided by Republica itself.

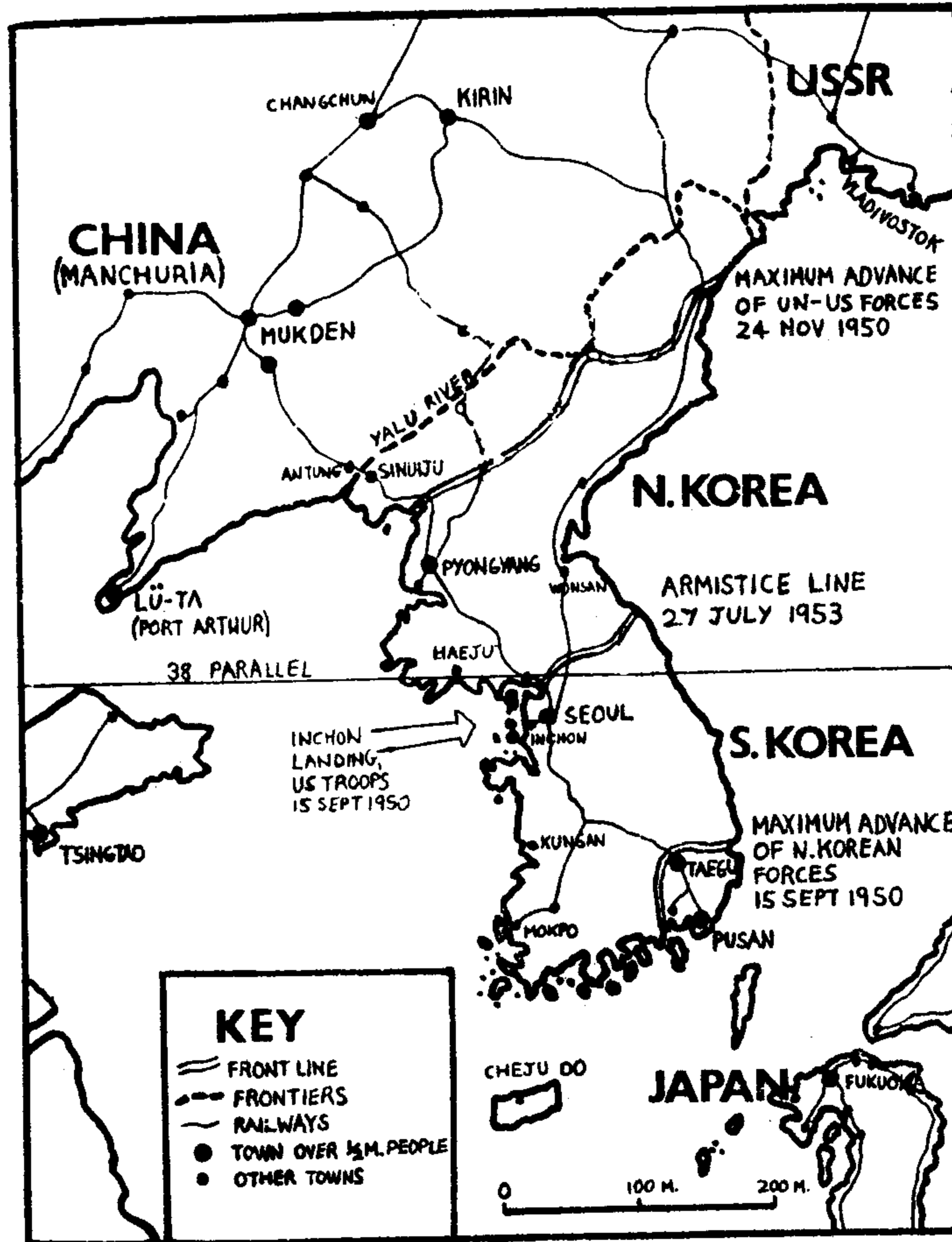
Speaking tour for Portuguese textile industry militant

Rui Dominguez' visit to London was made possible by the Portuguese Workers Coordinating Committee. In addition to a press conference, he spoke to a large meeting in Fleet Street, and to a gathering of print and media workers concerned about redundancies in the media. On 17-24 July, the Portuguese Workers Coordinating Committee have arranged for a representative of Portuguese textile workers to visit Britain and speak to factory and public meetings in textile areas.

The PWCC (18 Fleet Rd. London NW3) would like to hear from any socialists or trade unionists who can arrange a meeting for this speaker.

25 years after the cold war crusade

South Korean capital. The American writer Robert Simmons in his book 'Without Parallel' writes: "There were constant and sizeable armed clashes between North and South for over a year before the final crisis... While the Seoul regime enjoyed little support, it had announced its intention to invade the North... The subsequent rapid victory of the North Koreans was caused not by the size of its invading force, but rather a combination of superior fire power, surprise, higher morale, and the support of a significant part of the South Korean population."



The Soviet Union gave support to the Northern forces. However, all indications are that the USSR's attitude was defensive rather than "expansionist". The Soviet bureaucracy, the usurper of the proletarian revolution of 1917, resting on the economic foundation of the degenerated workers' state, follows a policy of conservative, nationalist self-protection, without the in-built drive for political and economic expansion typical of advanced capitalist powers — which must by their very nature seek new markets, new sources for raw material, new spheres for economic expansion; and also without the in-built revolutionary urgency to smash capitalism internationally which a healthy workers' state would have.

The social transformation in North Korea, despite the military-bureaucratic way it was carried through, was a step forward, permitting rapid economic growth in the last 25 years. The Stalinists carried it through, not for revolutionary reasons, but for reasons of self-protection, knowing that US

ation which must have puzzled American soldiers on the ceasefire line, as the North Koreans made many important concessions. By January 1952 the North Koreans had agreed to the two main demands made by the UN Command: an armistice line along the existing battlefield (not the 38th Parallel) and a complete return of all allied prisoners before a ceasefire.

Then, and only then, did the UN raise the question of "voluntary repatriation" of North Korean POWs — an obvious propaganda stunt, and completely one-sided in its application, as the North had already agreed on the automatic return of all allied prisoners. The Americans said the "voluntary repatriation" issue was a "humanitarian" one — yet they were later to go on to practically level the North Korean capital Pyongyang.

In any case, the demand extended the war a further 1½ years, and was also used by the US to manoeuvre into a more favourable position, as hinted at in

I.P.C. lobbied over anti-abortion lies

ON FRIDAY 11th July about 40 people picketed the offices of 'Mother' magazine in answer to a reactionary article on abortion in the June issue of that magazine, published by IPC. The article — written by a midwife — rehashed the allegations made in books such as 'Babies for Burning' and in SPUC and LIFE propaganda, talking of 'babies', 'quietly disposed of by means of that legalised murder called therapeutic abortion'.

The article opposed the 1967 Abortion Act and the whole concept of a

woman's right to choose whether she has a child or not. At this time such an article can only win support for MPs such as Abse attempting to carry the Abortion (Amendment) Bill, which would push abortion back into the back streets.

The National Abortion Campaign, with the support of the 'Women in the Communications Industry' group and the Working Women's Charter Campaign, called the picket after they had written to 'Mother' asking for a right of reply to the anti-abortion article and had

no positive response. Women on the picket felt that the article was only one expression of IPC's attitude towards women. A whole series of IPC "women's magazines" treat women either as simple sex objects or as the submissive wife, mother, or girlfriend. IPC also has an appalling record concerning the welfare of its own employees. NATSOPA members have no maternity leave, keeping your job when pregnant depends on management goodwill, and IPC's new building has no creche facilities.

In addition to the NUJ Book and Magazine and London Freeland branches, CPSA British Library branch supported the picket, taking up a recent CPSA NEC circular which called on CPSA branches to support local NAC activities.

IPC were so worried by the picket that they closed down the offices of 'Mother' magazine for the day, sending the staff home, and warned IPC staff not to take part in it. The organisers of the picket have called on workers at IPC to support their demand for

a right of reply, and has called on the NUJ the London Clerical Branch of NATSOPA, both of which have adopted the Working Womens Charter, to publicly state their opposition to the Abortion Amendment Bill.

PAT LONGMAN
(NATSOPA)

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN picket and street theatre, outside University College Hospital outpatients building, Grafton Way, from 4 to 7pm on Tuesday 22nd July.

Knowsley plumbers: a clear case of victimisation

We reported in WF 102 that 12 Knowsley Direct works plumbers at the Longview depot had won their fight against the compulsory transfer of two of their members. And so they thought... until they returned to work and found management insisting on the same compulsory transfers! They immediately came out on strike again.

For the last two weeks management have refused to change their stand, even when they were offered compromises — two other men to move voluntarily, or one of the men involved and one volunteer to transfer. This insistence on the transfer of the two plumbers originally involved including the deputy steward has made it clear that the issue involved is not only management's attempt to disrupt union organisation and to spread tradesmen around to cover for the shortage of labourers, but is also a clear case of victimisation. Other workers in the Borough have responded to this by organising a levy to support the strikers. Send messages of support and donations c/o George Lyons, 44 Eastfield Walk, Westvale, Kirkby, Liverpool.

John Bloxam.

700 protest over jailed Iranian student

Seven hundred students signed a petition presented to Harold Wilson when he attended a degree ceremony at Bradford University. The petition protested at the imprisonment in Iran of a student from Bradford University, Sadiq Zabak-alem. It further expressed concern at the presence in Bradford University of agents of SAVAK, the Iranian secret police.

Meetings

SPANISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE picket of the Spanish National Dance Company, Friday 18th July, 6.30pm, The Coliseum, St Martins Lane. "Phony trials before military courts are being prepared to allow the legal murder of four of the regime's political opponents — Basque militants Jose Antonio Garmendia and Angel Otaegui, psychoanalyst and women's movement militant Eva Forest, and building workers' leader Antonio Duran".

LONDON Workers Fight meeting. "The crisis in the Labour Party". 8pm, Sunday July 20th, at 'The George', Liverpool Road, N1 (Angel underground).

NORTH LONDON Troops Out Movement public meeting. "Why the troops should be brought out of Ireland". 8pm, Thursday July 17th, at the Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Road.

MERAG workshop on Zionism — the failure of Jewish nationalism. 3pm, Saturday 12th July, at 83A Haverstock Hill, London NW3.

LIVERPOOL Workers Fight "Imperialism and Internationalism". 8pm, Wednesday July 23rd, at Stanley House, Upper Parliament St.

Published by Workers Fight, 98 Gifford Street, London N.1. Printed by voluntary labour. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

500 DEMONSTRATE AGAINST PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT

THE frozen numbness which gripped the labour movement following the death of 21 people when two Birmingham pubs were bombed last November allowed the ruling class toady Roy Jenkins to push through Parliament 'draconian measures' (Jenkins' words) which overnight converted one million Irish people in Britain into second class citizens. Arrest and detention without charge for as long as a week, summary deportation without charge or trial, mass terrorisation of the Irish community — these have been the results of Jenkins' so-called 'Prevention of Terrorism' Act. 44 people have been deported. Over 500 arrested — for being Irish.

ACTION

Last Saturday, 5th July, the first national demonstration against the Prevention of Terrorism Act signalled to the government that the numbness is wearing off. Between four and five hundred people marched through the streets of Kilburn to protest at the police state legislation.

Workers on a number of building sites have already taken action against fellow trade unionists being victimised under the Act. Brent and Hammersmith Trades Councils have



opposed the Act, and Bletchley Trades Council waged a successful campaign to defend a prominent local trade unionist arrested under the Act. The demonstration marks a breakthrough. Left groups, Troops Out Movement branches, Labour Party Young Socialists branches, and trade union branches whose banners appeared on the march, few but significant, made up the march, with the supporters of Workers Fight making up the major single contingent. We had devoted much of our resources to organising it after a Workers Fight resolution at the Troops Out Movement Labour Movement conference was passed in favour of the demonstration.

As the message from Joan Maynard MP read out at the end of the demonstration said, however, we must get the Act off the statute books. British workers must be got to recognise that it can be used against them and may well become permanent legislation if not wiped off the book by the anger of the labour movement.



The demonstration was only a beginning. Plans exist for organising a "Free speech in Ireland" demonstration in the autumn, which will include the 'Prevention of Terrorism Act' among the items it concerns itself with.

Last Friday evening, 4th July, South East London Troops Out Movement branch organised a picket and leafletting of visitors to the R.A.C. Open Day at

Woolwich Barracks. Unfortunately less than 25 people took part, mainly on account of the fact that the local IS decided independently to do a picket of their own on the Saturday rather than assist in mobilising large numbers for the Friday (and of course this also meant that the IS comrades were missing on Saturday's T.O.M. demonstration against the Prevention of Terrorism Act). If similar pickets are to be more successful in future, there must be much better coordination both on the local level and with other London T.O.M. branches.

Clay Cross councillors face the bailiffs

AS BAILIFFS visited the homes of the eleven ex Clay Cross Councillors to serve writs on them for costs arising out of the rents fight in 1972, the Labour government set money aside for employers to use as insurance against losses that could arise from fighting workers trying to beat the Healey 10% norm.

The 11 councillors face a surcharge of over £8,000, for their refusal to collect rents in the six weeks between October and November 1972. They have seven days to pay!

The Clay Cross councillors were in fact putting in practice Labour Party policy on the Housing Finance Act, proclaimed in the local government elections shortly before the Act came in as "complete opposition" to the Act. Many other councils also refused to raise rents, and though none of them stuck out as long as Clay Cross, some 400 other councillors throughout the country could also be liable to surcharges.

When Labour was returned to office in 1974, it was agreed that a Bill would be put through Parliament making the repeal of the Housing Finance Act retrospective, and reimbursing any fines the councillors would have to pay. That Bill was torn to pieces by the Tory Lords last week, and it looks possible that Labour will make no effort to alter or throw out the amendments the Tories have put in.

SURREY UNIVERSITY ASTMS STRIKE

The University of Surrey branch of ASTMS (organising mainly technicians) has been in official dispute with the University for nearly two months now over their claim for an annual Area Weighting payment of £180 backdated to April 1974. Nearly all other public sector employees locally get this payment, which is also recommended by the pay board, but after five months of time wasting the University told the non teaching staff to refer the claim to national level.

In fact no machinery exists at national level for dealing with this essentially local issue, and the ASTMS members are continuing the dispute until a cash offer is made by the University. In order to save strike pay technicians of each department have been on strike for three days each in turn.

Picketing has so far been relatively successful, with only small firms and Birds Eye and Walls delivering supplies. Unfortunately the

other non teaching unions (NUPE and NALGO) have not joined the dispute. NUPE have agreed to take it to national level, whereas ASTMS are allowing the University authorities to take it to national level whilst continuing the strike).

Confidence among ASTMS members is high, particularly as the conference season, when the University reckons to make a lot of money, is starting now, and the University is low on supplies for conference guests such as laundry and beer. One setback which the technicians have suffered in the last couple of weeks is that NUPE is allowing University porters to unload deliveries to the maintenance department, which it has previously blocked. If the technicians can win this dispute it will greatly strengthen the Unions at the University, but to ensure an early success it is essential that they attempt to win over the NUPE and NALGO members. P.F.

McALPINE'S PROVOKE STRIKE AT I.R.O.

FOR 34 years electricians at the Inland Revenue Office site in Bootle had not only to fight their employers, but also their own union officials, to get a decent rate of pay for the job. Both hid behind the rules and regulations of the Joint Industry Board, for the electrical contracting industry. Now the employers, again with the connivance of the EEPTU, are on the attack. They have sacked John Byrne, the leader of the strike, in a clear case of victimisation. The rest of the site came out in solidarity and in one of their fund raising leaflets they explain the issues.

Sir Alfred McAlpine have succeeded in provoking a strike on the IRO site... Five weeks after John Byrne was sacked the T&GWU members went on strike at 3.30pm; one hour later all members of UCATT were laid off.

The next morning, Tuesday 17th June 1975, the electricians... join[ed] the strike for John Byrne's reinstatement.

The ETU official has met the Company; arising from his negotiation with them, the following recommendation was put to the electricians: That the electricians return to work without John Byrne and the Union will negotiate with the Company to put them back on the JIB. If we were to return under the JIB it would mean an immediate drop in wages of £14. This is completely unacceptable. Already there are JIB representatives on site in the shape of Mr Stan Maxey, Peter Shaw, and John Marsden, electrical supervisors on loan from Balfour Fitzpatrick.

The question that crosses our minds is: Is there an unholy alliance and conspiracy between the JIB, the ETU officials, and McAlpines to destroy the electricians on this site, and in the process destroy the site and the prospects of employment on Merseyside?

We have worked on this site for over nine months. In all that time the Union have refused to recognise the agreement and the site. We are all fully paid up members of the EEPTU but we are denied representation by our officials. If the officials are serious in looking after the interests of their members and wish to negotiate a new agreement, then let them move forward from the present agreement operating on the site and not backward.

We never wished this strike to take place, but now that we are on strike we shall not return until the following conditions are met:

1. Reinstatement of John Byrne.
 2. No return to the JIB — no wage cuts.
 3. Recognition of the stewards and normalisation of the site.
- Furthermore, we appeal to all Trade Unions, Trades Councils and political parties to demand a public inquiry into the IRO site....
- For further information, write to: K Wallace, 214 Rimrose Rd, Bootle 20, Merseyside; or ring T Henderson, 051 933 9211. Finance is essential.