

# Workers' fight

5p

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After the latest round of Castle's cuts...

# N.H.S. - fighting

# for its life

"SMALL and uneconomic" hospitals are to be closed, according to Health Minister Barbara Castle.

The whole barbaric logic of capitalism is summed up in that word "uneconomic". Is the next step for hospitals to refuse treatment to "uneconomic" patients?

As well as hospitals being closed, staff vacancies are being left unfilled, services are being cut back, and outdated buildings are not replaced.

## REFUSED

At Queen Elizabeth's children's hospital (part of the Great Ormond Street group), the management have insisted £70,000 must be cut "even if by so doing the level and quality of the service to patients is affected". The ancillary workers' union NUPE found a copy of this directive - and called a 24 hour protest strike.

In Portsmouth, too, unions have taken action - over the case of 60 student nurses who were sacked straight after finishing their training.

Junior hospital doctors have refused to sign new contracts which would reduce their basic working hours from 90 to 44, but which would do that by re-

distributing payments within a fixed total wage bill, thus resulting in a straight wage cut for one third of the doctors.

Everywhere it has been the lower-paid health workers, especially the ancillaries, who have fought against the decline of the health service. Yet the government express-

es more concern over 106 consultants (out of 10,000) who have left the country in the last 12 months.

The moaning about the consultants leaving Britain would be more convincing if it was accompanied by equally vocal rejoicing about the numbers of skilled doctors who come to Britain as

Barbara Castle. Her idea of "economic hospitals" means people travelling miles out of their way to the nearest 'battery hospital'.



immigrants. Or if the nurses and ancillaries who bear the brunt of the work weren't having their jobs chopped.

As it is, it sounds more like the cries of a rich and influential pressure group, one only too accustomed to getting its way with the government.

The rich pressure groups make their voice heard. Our society continues to 'afford' millionaires and Harley St. clinics; and yet it can't 'afford' to employ sixty trained nurses.

Take £600. Do you put it towards a company director's salary for a week - or towards the difference between wages and dole for those 60 nurses for a week? No-one would decide rationally in favour of the company director. Yet that is what 'our' present-day society does. That is the barbaric logic of capitalism.

## Import controls: no solution to unemployment

"The TUC acknowledges, however, that the import controls it is proposing will have a major impact on unemployment this winter"

But import controls was nevertheless the main policy proposal to come out of the TUC economic committee meetings on Wednesday October 8th. The proposal will now go to the TUC General Council and from there to the government.

The reactionary nature of the import controls policy comes out very clearly in one of the industries recommended by the TUC Economic Cttee. for rapid introduction of controls by quota: textiles. A leader of the Portuguese textile workers' union recently toured Britain explaining that such controls hit his members particularly hard.

Even for British workers, import controls are no solution. Their immediate effect is higher prices and a smaller variety of goods available.

If the controls give a bigger share of the British market to British businesses, that still doesn't necessarily mean reduced unemployment. The overall level of demand may decline; employers may try to get increased production with fewer workers; and, whatever the short term effect of import controls, the stern hand of capitalist competition will always, in the end, strike down inefficient businesses which try to shelter in protected home markets.

The insanity of the import controls policy really becomes clear, however, when we look at it on an international level. If the British government introduces import controls, other capitalist governments will reply in kind. The end result is a general decline in international trade, economic recession - and, of course, increased unemployment in every country!

## RESTRAIN

The policy of British workers banding together with British capitalists to keep out Portuguese, or French, or Japanese, or American goods, can only choke any attempts to build international working class unity. In that way, it not only blocks the possibility of working class action to build socialism (which needs international unity), it also hinders the immediate fight against redundancies.

Ford workers in Britain, for example, have to combine with Ford workers in Belgium against the Ford bosses' threats to move production from one country to another. But how can they do that if at the same time they are combining with the British Ford bosses to try to get import controls against cars produced by the Belgian Ford workers! Or if the Belgian workers are trying to stop British-produced Fords being sold in Belgium!

Worse again, being tied with the bosses in a common campaign can only tend to restrain unions from the working class action AGAINST the bosses necessary to protect jobs.

But the TUC doesn't even claim that import controls will do much to save jobs! Their only argument seems to be that import controls would shore up some sections of British industry. From this increased capitalist prosperity some crumbs might fall to improve the workers' lot.

Never once do they consider any option other than various ways of patching up capitalism. But then the TUC leaders are not threatened with redundancy themselves. They can happily propose a remedy to unemployment which will have "no major impact this winter".

A working class fight-back against unemployment needs more than such complacency. It needs vigorous struggle against any employers trying to cut jobs; no covering for natural wastage or voluntary redundancies; occupations to seize factories threatened with closure, put them under workers' control, and force nationalisation without compensation.

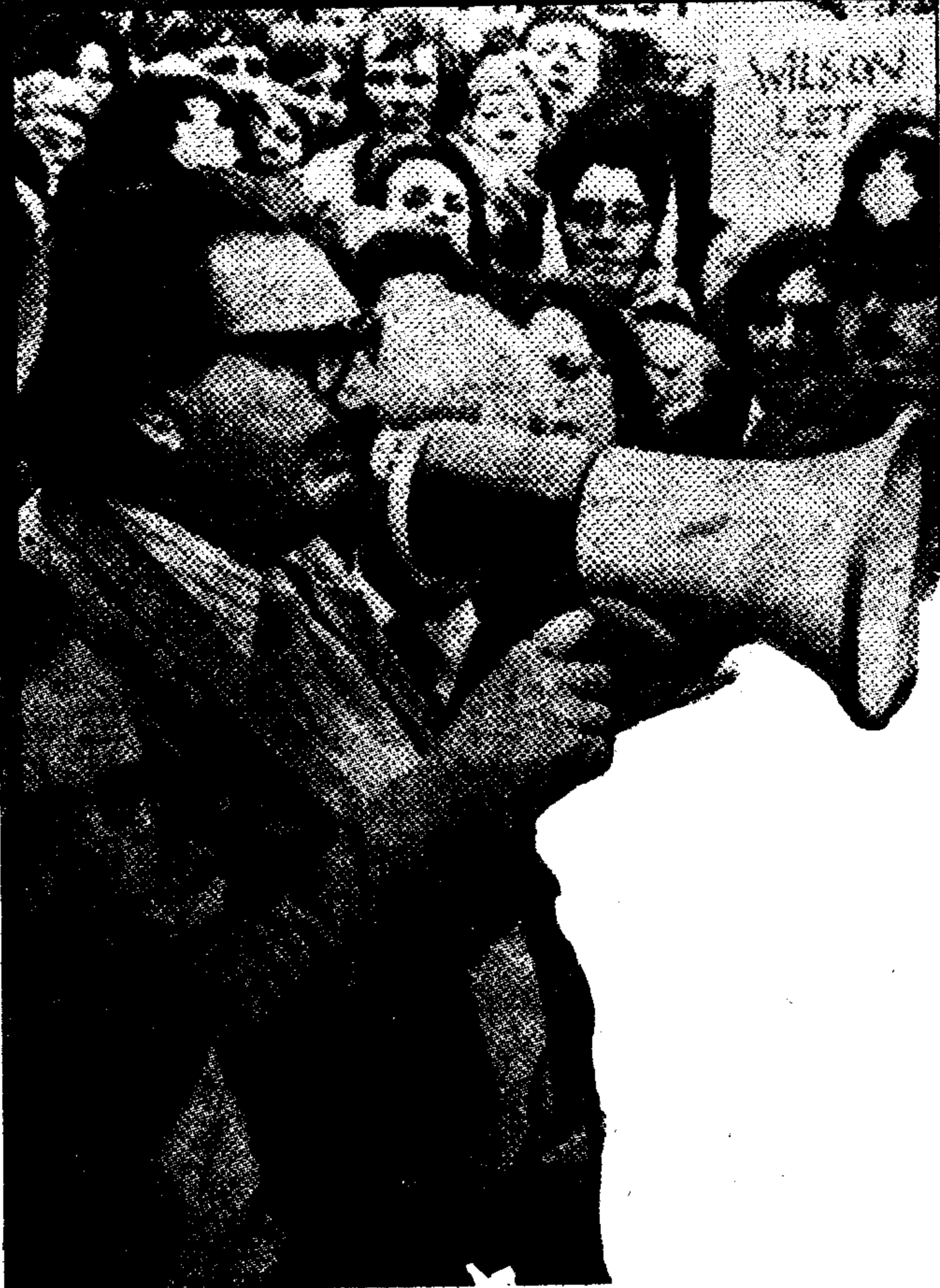
# SMASH THE NAZI FRONT!

Sprucing themselves up for a souvenir snapshot in an English country lane, 1962. The gent with the flagpole is John Tyndall, who now leads the National Front; on the right, Dennis Pirie, now NF Organiser, Brighton. This Saturday they're meeting at Chelsea Town Hall with other Nazis and a collection of racist bigots to plan next year's programme of thuggery. If we don't stop them, we shouldn't be too surprised if the Front's violence against immigrants and socialists grows apace.





LABOUR'S CONFERENCE



# HEFFER WON THE SEAT...

# BUT HEALEY WON THE DAY

THE ONLY real victory for the left at this year's Labour Party Conference was the election to the National Executive Committee of Eric Heffer. But those voting for him to replace Chancellor Denis Healey on the NEC also voted in favour of Healey's political measures.

The main pro-Healey resolution passed by conference ran as follows: "This Conference calls upon the whole of the Labour movement to support the Government in its fight against inflation."

It was, quite clearly, THE right wing resolution on economic policy. Yet the conference vote reflected the fact that this resolution has won support even in many left wing local Labour party organisations.

Why? Because if you ask an ideological question, you get a silly answer. If you ask people "do you want to help the Government stop

inflation", they answer yes. But take the same question in different terms, and ask "do you want a 15% cut in real wages?", and you get a different answer. And if you ask constituency delegates what they think of Denis Healey, he gets thrown off the NEC!

## RIDICULOUS RHETORIC

The right wing at Blackpool argued consistently on the basis of saving the Government — and saving the alliance between the Government and the unions. Decked out with ridiculous purple rhetoric and chapel-shouting learned second hand from Nye Bevan, that was Michael Foot's one and only theme.

"I am asking this movement to exert itself as it has never done before, to show the qualities we have; the Socialist imagination that exists in our movement, the readiness to reforge the alliance,

stronger than ever, between the government and the trade unions; and," he went on, launching into absurd flights of fancy on behalf of British capitalism "above all to show the supreme quality in politics — the red flame of Socialist courage. That is what we have to save the country..."

The important thing, then, is to keep a Labour government. If that Labour government fails to bring in social reforms, or if indeed it directly attacks working class conditions and erodes its own previous reforms like the NHS, well, that is all secondary. First and foremost, the Government must be supported.

The strength of this right wing argument is that it makes sense for many left wingers.

Workers Fight would insist that socialism can come only through massive rank and file mobilisation of the working class, in bitter opposition to people like Wilson and Healey. Socialism cannot be introduced through the good offices of Westminster and Whitehall, but only through a new system based on democratic, self regulating workers' councils (like the ones that are being formed in Portugal), arising out of class struggle.

## THE TOP PRIORITY

For us, therefore, the Labour government and the Labour Party must be judged by how they relate to the living struggles and interests of the working class. If the rank and file self defence and self mobilisation of the working class hurts the Labour Government — then that's just too bad. It is still our top priority.

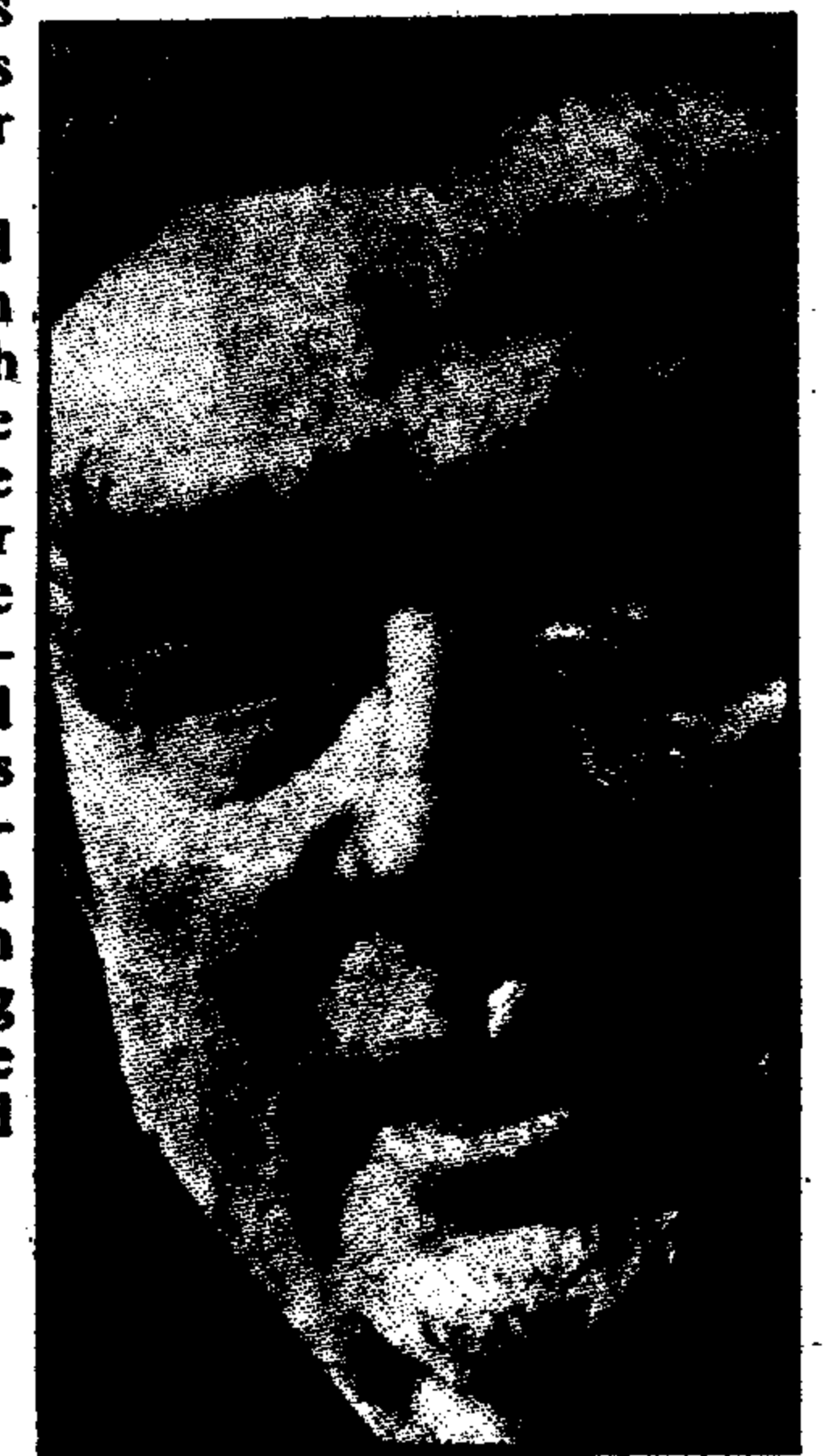
But for many of Labour's lefts, socialist advance is unthinkable without a Labour Government. When you have a Labour Government, you can demand, cajole, implore it to act; you can try to get more left wingers in place of the right wing; but you must always support the Government.

The economic crisis that should have sharpened the anti-capitalist instincts of many delegates has in fact terrified them. The Tribunes have got nowhere in developing an anti-capitalist programme and practice. Their chief leaders, Jack Jones and Michael Foot, stand firmly with the government. There remains only one set of ideas and one set of solutions visible those of Wilson.

## SUGARY WORDS

No doubt most delegates knew that Harold Wilson's speech on the Labour Government's record was the most outrageous humbug. Yet they allowed his sugary words to soothe them into thinking that perhaps the Government wasn't so bad after all.

After his boast of a "proud record" and Labour's "legislative achievement" the Conference calmly approved huge social service cuts; the wage-cutting £6 ceiling incomes policy was so massively supported that Hugh Scanlon, moving an opposition motion, didn't even bother to press for a



card vote. And is the jailing of Des Warren part of Labour's "proud record"? Is the repressive Prevention of Terrorism Act part of Labour's "legislative achievement"? And why hasn't the viciously racist 1971 Immigration Act been cleared off the statute books together with the Industrial Relations Act? Such vital and urgent questions were lost amid the standing ovations and the appeals for unity.

## RIGHTER THAN RIGHT

The 'left' beat the government on the question of import controls, and thereby managed its only policy victory by going further to the right than Denis Healey. This was doubly grotesque in that the chief candidate for import controls is textiles, and only recently a leader of the Portuguese textile workers' union toured Britain emphasising how hard his members are hit by such bans.

On the issue of Portugal itself, not only did SP leader Soares speak to the Conference, but those resolutions (from York and Richmond) which supported the revolutionary developments in Portugal weren't even allowed to be discussed.

The resolutions calling for the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act also never reached the conference floor.

Overall, the right wing rode roughshod over a left wing that had an unclear policy, and no idea how to put that policy into practice except by asking a right-wing dominated government to carry it out.

But the right wing cannot rejoice too loudly. Labour left wingers who voted reluctantly for the £6 limit will still know which side they should be on when workers rise in struggle against having to foot the bill for capitalism's crisis.

## The Unions are back in harness

AFTER a gap of several years, the trade union block vote has gone back to supporting the right wing of the Labour Party.

For some years the block vote had switched to the left. The press went into paroxysms of anti-union hate; editors attacked Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon as autocrats.

Now Jones, Basnett, Chapple and most of their colleagues raise their cards, the million pound notes of Labour's electoral system, to unanimous approval.

The heat instead is on the constituencies. Now it is not Jack Jones but Tony Kelly from Newham North East who is 'anti-democratic'. The villains are no longer the unions, but the ward and constituency Labour Parties. It's not the way union leaders are chosen that's pilloried, but the way MPs are unchosen.

The chief actor in this switch is Jack Jones. But Jones hasn't simply become a right winger. His general political aims are much the same as those of the leading 'lefts', Benn, or Scanlon, or Clive Jenkins — or even Ian Mikardo.

But Jones' course is determined by one fundamental axiom: the Labour Government must be maintained in office.

Never again does he want to see a repeat of 1966-70 when the unions came out in clear opposition to the Government over 'In Place of Strife', and as a result the Labour Government lost votes.

Four years of Tory government followed. But if the unions had had Jones' present policy back in 1966-70, 'In Place of Strife' would have become law. Instead of the unions forcing the repeal of the Tory Industrial Relations Act, they would be bound by a Labour Industrial Relations Act.

The turn to the right in the trade union block vote may at least have one small beneficial side effect, in clearing out muddled notions in the heads of certain revolutionary socialists.

Struck by the left turn of union bureaucrats over recent years, the International Marxist Group concluded that these people — and their parliamentary allies, like Benn — represented the proletarian, working class principle within the Labour Party, in opposition to the bourgeois element represented by people like Jenkins or Prentice.

Based on that analysis, they put forward the demands "Workers Government based on the Trade Unions", and "Labour Government based on the organisations of the working class". Both of these are diametrically opposed to the revolutionary principle of the organisations of the working class keeping their independence from governments that are running capitalism. Their more recent slogan, "Unite the Left against Wilson" has also drawn on the same analysis.

But now it is the right wing who can boast most loudly that they are "based on the trade unions"! When Jones leapt up to interrupt Mikardo's attack on the £6 incomes policy at the Tribune meeting, he was able to shout "I detest these attacks on the trade union movement".

Perhaps now at last the IMG will realise that the pro-capitalist policies of the Labour Party do not come from right wing intellectuals, or even businessmen like Lever, 'infiltrating' the Party, but from the basic nature of trade unionist reformism, the bargaining within the system, on which Labourism has been built.

## South Africa - mass arrests under Terrorism Act

A YEAR ago, a rally in South Africa called to celebrate the victory of Frelimo in Mozambique was declared illegal. It went ahead in defiance of the ban, and about 40 people were arrested.

Some of those arrested are still awaiting trial. South Africa has made a speciality of imprisonment without trial, what with the 60-, 90- and then 180-day orders which could be renewed indefinitely, and the Terrorism Act.

Under that Act a senior police officer can order the arrest and detention of any person and keep them in prison without trial for the rest of their lives.

Neither the detainee's lawyer, his minister of religion nor his family has the right to see him. No-one but an officer of the state is entitled to information about him. In other words, he can simply vanish, disappear without trace.

At least 22 people are known to have died while being detained under the Terrorism Act and other detention without trial laws, and there have been numerous allegations of torture and assault. No doubt the deaths in some cases at least are not unconnected with the torture and assault.

The Terrorism Act is very much a catch-all law. When five people connected with Capetown and Witwatersrand universities (one lecturer, and students' union officers) were picked up in August, campus meetings expressed shock and horror. The legislation allowed no opportunity even to find out why the 5 had been arrested. In fact, it could have been for any reason: taking karate lessons, asking for assistance for a depressed community or organising a price boycott of the local grocer could, the students were told, land someone in jail under the Act.

An 81-page charge sheet thrown at 9 African student leaders last year included such criminal items as "denigrating whites" and "representing whites as inhuman oppressors of blacks."

Some 77 people are now being held under the Terrorism Act. They include leaders of SASO, the black students' organisation, the president of NUSAS, the white students' union (Karel Tip), members of the Black People's Convention, and black youth leaders. Some will never be tried. 9 are on trial in Pretoria, others in Johannesburg. But a great deal of secrecy surrounds these trials.

Students in Britain will be holding a number of local protests on and around October 22nd in support of those held in South Africa.



Cape Town students' protest over 5 arrests in August



# Stop them murdering the N.H.S.!



London, and Royal Free ancillaries meet to plan defiance after Camden Health Authority announced cuts, including the freezing of staff vacancies. Now Great Ormond Street children's hospital workers are up in arms over a demand to cut everything — including standards.

HOW would you like to pay £1.28 for a pound of butter, and 64p for a jar of jam? If you work in the Manchester Royal Infirmary you haven't got much choice in the matter.

NUPE shop stewards at MRI have calculated that staff are paying the equivalent of this for jam and butter to go on their break-time toast. A pat of butter weighing a titanic quarter ounce costs 2p in the hospital's canteen, while for 3p you get a truly mammoth helping of jam — three quarters of an ounce, including the wrapping.

Not content with charging these British Rail style prices for a dish

your dog wouldn't sniff at, management have recently announced that other canteen prices will 'have to be' raised, and on top of this they have the face to admit that the quality and quantity of food is also going to be reduced.

The NHS is under attack from all sides. The current round of cut-

All over the country, wards are being closed down through shortages of staff. Hospital building and modernisation are being scrapped wholesale, and health facilities and services cut away.

In Manchester alone, three major projects have been abandoned — a new children's cancer unit at Christie hospital (where a

by JACK SUTTON

Branch Secretary, U.M.H. NUPE Branch

backs is the most vicious since the NHS was first set up and they will become even more drastic as time goes on.

few months ago trade unionists were branded as the wreckers for banning private cosmetic surgery), a geriatric unit at Crumpsall Hospital, and the re-building of the MRI itself. Thirteen years were spent in planning the new infirmary — now it's been swept by the board.

While the hospital management fiddles with the price of toast, the balconies on the surgical wards are ready to collapse through age and neglect. And now there'll be no new hospital.

The staff at MRI, however, are well organised and are not taking the cuts lying down. The Unions in the hospital (NUPE, COHSE, NALGO and the Works Dept. Joint Stewards Committee) have called for a picket outside the main gates on October 22nd to protest a

at the Regional Health Authority's decision to cancel the building of the new hospital. A public meeting is also planned for October 29th at which it is hoped an action committee against the cuts will be set up.

Action is also being taken inside the MRI. The laundry staff, fed up with working in conditions that would do justice to a workhouse, have demanded new equipment and machinery, and have so far won extra tea breaks, free drinks and longer dinner hours, after threatening strike action. They've also been promised improved changing facilities and rest room accommodation.

## NO ATTEMPT

In St. Mary's Hospital (part of the MRI complex) domestic staff are refusing to cover for staff shortages, with the result that the Domestic Superintendent has had to go on the wards to wash pots. The local

NUPE branch at the MRI has secured a policy statement from the management saying that there will be no attempt to cut back on staff.

## STAFFING

Management have also agreed to provide the staffing figures for all ancillary staff departments in the district. Very few hospital union branches have managed to achieve this, despite years spent in asking for it, as management know the unions will use the figures to see that staffing agreements are rigorously enforced.

Other Manchester

hospitals are planning action now. A joint meeting between NUPE and COHSE branches in Salford is planned to discuss how the cuts should be fought there. A resolution has gone to the Trades Council calling for opposition to the cuts and the hospital unions will be demanding support for a campaign against the cuts at a meeting of stewards and shop floor activists to discuss the crisis and unemployment, which has been called by the Trades Council for October 23rd.

Hospital workers have so far formed the vanguard of the fight against the gradual murder of the NHS. But clearly it is an issue that directly affects every worker.

*WE ALL know how long hospital waiting lists are, but those at Rochdale Infirmary must surely qualify for the Guinness Book of Records, if the experience of one patient there is anything to go by. Mrs. Mary Reilly has been suffering from a painful arm for four and a half years. She was finally given an appointment to attend the hospital's out-patients department where her arm was put in a sling. She was told to keep it that way until her next appointment, which she thought would be in a couple of weeks' time.*

*She was more than a little surprised when her appointment card plopped through the letter box asking her to attend ... in April 1977.*

*Mrs. Reilly's case isn't an isolated one. Another patient suffering agonies from an injured wrist was told to attend in May 1976. A spokesman for the hospital says "we are deeply concerned about this situation" (I bet Mrs. Reilly is too) and goes on to blame the delays on the shortage of consultants, facilities and finance.*

*Would Mrs. Reilly have so long to wait if she were a private patient...*

J.S.

## The queues get longer

IF you went into hospital in 1966, you could expect a couple of weeks' medical attention before being ejected once more into the cold and brutal world outside. Today, you'd be in and out in 10 days flat. In a better society and with an improving health service, you could put that drop down to improved techniques, more rapid recovery and so on. Alas, the drop in the average length of stay is achieved by such things as the callous production line methods of induced births.

Perhaps the shorter length of stay means that more people can be cared for in hospitals? Not so. In any day, less beds are occupied now. In 1954, the average number of occupied NHS beds on any day was 483,000. By 1966, the number was down to 446,000 and by 1973, only 400,000. The total actual number of staffed beds has fallen too: from 449,700 in 1971, down to 421,000 in 1974.

Little wonder, then, that the waiting lists grow. In two short years from 1971 to 1973, the number of people waiting for hospital treatment went up from 10.7 for every 1000 of the population to 11.2 per thousand.. Which means that the rise in those years from 578,000 on waiting lists to 606,000 wasn't caused by any leap in the total population of the country.

All these figures date back to before the really big cuts started. Last year's cuts are beginning to work their way through, and now staff are told to make do without this and that essential, even, officially, to cut standards.

But the figures show that the standards have already been dramatically cut. Less and less people are getting the hospital treatment they need, and they're getting less of it.

It's got to stop!

## The hospital production line

by Hudson Pace

THE campaign against restrictions on women's access to abortion has highlighted the way a capitalist society tries to deny women control over their own fertility.

What's become obvious to me after a week in hospital is that this is only the most blatant area where individuals find decisions about their own bodies taken out of their hands.

For instance, the man in the bed opposite me came to the hospital 3 weeks ago with swollen ankles. He also mentioned that he felt unusually short of breath. A doctor decided to keep him in, and since I've been here they've twice drained fluid from his lung.

Today, a doctor stuck his head round the door and mentioned to him that he has a collapsed lung. They'd known for a fortnight and hadn't told him.

My own experience of this came after my stomach was X-rayed. The doctor came to my bedside with the X-ray photos, turned his back on me, and explained them to a couple of medical students. There was obviously something worth knowing about my stomach, but he wasn't going to let me in on the secret.

This seems to be the normal state of affairs in the hospital. If you do get told a little more, it's a privilege, not a right.

What's behind all this? It's easy to say that capitalism breeds alienation, that it treats workers as machines, but repeating such formulas is no substitute for understanding how it all happens from day to day.

The average hospital doctor will probably tell you he's very busy, that the nurses are there to see to the details

For some, the NHS has already broken down — like those damaged every day by delayed treatment; like the hundreds of haemophilic children crippled because the drug they need is "too expensive" for the NHS; and like the staff who work endless hours while vacancies are unfilled.



anyway, and besides, the patients mustn't worry too much about their condition and the less they know, the less there is to worry about. He could point to the ever-popular medical advice columns in the women's magazines as proof of working class people's ignorance about their own bodies.

This ignorance isn't surprising with an education system that picks the "bright kids" for the professions as early as possible, and educates the rest as little as necessary. For most working class school students, O-level biology (if that) is the limit to their chances of a medical education. Faced with this ignorance as they make their daily round of the ward, most doctors take the easy way out and give nothing away.

But there's another factor involved. The doctor, of course, was one of the lucky "bright kids" at school, and things have gone right for him ever since. Capitalism's broad division of labour between 'workers by hand' and 'workers by brain' reaches its peak in the medical profession — and the working class patient had better not forget it!

The fly in the 'professional' ointment, though, is that looked at another way, doctors are just technicians servicing a very complex machine. The crucial distinction, as any doctor will tell you, is the crushing burden of responsibility he accepts by taking life-or-death decisions about a particular human body.

In other words, if people knew more about themselves, the doctors' status would diminish.

This concern with status not only cuts him off from the patients but from the nurses too. A short spell in a hospital bed soon shows how the doctor going his rounds ignores the nurses as people, and treats them chiefly as a source of facts on the patients.

## Lie back and forget

Many doctors might point out that often the patient asks nothing more than to put all the responsibility in the hands of the staff. But if you look behind this attitude, it isn't always a simple case of the patient wanting to lie back and forget his troubles.

For instance, there's an old bloke a few beds away who keeps telling us how he's been paying for the Health Service all his life. He feels entitled to a better service (and he's right), but the attitude of the doctors seems to tell him he's living on charity. The uncomplaining, docile patient often seems to be the one who has given in to this pressure.

And the pressure itself is a reflection of the alienation of doctors who work ON patients and not WITH them. For the doctor, pressure of work in an overloaded NHS, plus the fact that the patients have no say in running it and can be treated as "cases" rather than people with rights, turns the ward into a production line along which working class people pass from sickness to health — or death.



# TWO UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' STRUGGLES

## Their banner was a

PATIENT, suffering, dignified — and passive. Those are the popular images of the 1930s movement of the unemployed. Gaunt, tired men behind the banner of the Jarrow Crusade. But it wasn't all like that. Despite the lasting defeat of the General Strike, the demoralisation of long term unemployment and physical attacks by police, in many areas of the country the jobless put up a spirited and often violent struggle to raise the dole and abolish the means test.

One such struggle, at Birkenhead on Merseyside, was characterised by a ferocity which it is difficult to imagine today. During one week, demonstrations of 5,000 unemployed occurred almost daily, accompanied by street battles with the police, mass arrests and injuries.

In 1931 unemployment hit 2,900,000. Birkenhead, with 47% of the workers in its mainstay shipbuilding industry out of work, was taking more than its share of that national figure. And appropriately, it led in those statistics which so well give an index of human misery: between 1931 and '35, for every 1,000 live births, 89 babies were to die in their first twelve months. This was 43% above the national average.

Birkenhead Public Assistance paid 3 shillings below the maximum rates. After means testing, a single man received 12 shillings a week; a family of four could hope for about 30 shillings.

It took a week of near riot to get the rates lifted to the maximum.

## bloody shirt

by Len Cole

This struggle was led by the National Unemployed Workers Movement (NUWM), which had been founded in 1921 with the slogan *Work of Full Maintenance*. It was built up by workers who had been active in the shop stewards movement before the war, who had been conscripted to fight for British Imperialism, then demobbed to find themselves unemployed. The fledgling Communist Party played a major part in its formation.

The NUWM demanded meeting places for the unemployed, and on Merseyside in 1921 it unsuccessfully tried to occupy the Walker Art Gallery. But the workers were brutally clubbed down by the police. The

NUWM sought the utmost contact with organised workers, and applied to affiliate to the TUC. But the TUC refused, and attempted to set up its own unemployed organisations.

On Wednesday September 15th 1932 Birkenhead council met. On the agenda, a proposal by the Labour councillors to abolish the means test. Outside the Town Hall, a demonstration of 5,000 waited.

The Council was Tory dominated. Tory Alderman Baker, chairman of the Public Assistance Committee (which fixed dole rates and set the means test) spoke, revealing his deep contempt for the unemployed. He thought that the relief was abused by many recipient, who had valuable dogs which won at races. They did clandestine jobs, received undeclared wages. Moreover, he stated, an alarming number of young people were getting married, then applying for relief. And he moved that the matter be referred to the Committee.

Outside, uproar broke out; police and demonstrators fought, the police using their truncheons, the unemployed using their banners and the wooden barricades meant to control the demonstration. The uproar filtered into the Town Hall and, fearing for their lives, Tory councillors left the building, which invalidated the vote.

In that day's fighting numerous demonstrators were injured, a demonstrator was arrested, and one policeman was hospitalised.

## The police fell down the manholes

The following day the unemployed licked their wounds and prepared for the Friday.

On Friday a demonstration of 2,500 3,500, led by Scottish pipers and an Orange band, went to the Public Assistance Committee offices, and sent in a delegation to see the PAC. Nothing was forthcoming, so the demonstration decided to pay a visit to its chairman Alderman Baker. Outside his house, as a mass open air meeting was getting under way, police attacked the meeting. Again there were running battles, over neighbouring gardens, and Baker's windows were smashed. Five people were arrested; one of them, leading NUWM member Joe Rawling, was to be sentenced to 2 years' hard labour.

That evening the unemployed assembled again for a meeting at Park Gates, a regular meeting place for the unemployed during the 1930s. The meeting was baton-charged and another battle followed along Park Road East, where the unemployed broke the tops off the cast iron park railings and hurled them at the police.

By now, the demonstrators' anger was directed at the police. The following day, a great mass of unemployed workers surrounded the Price Street police station. One militant later recounted what happened: "We had them all penned in and they couldn't get out. Sooner or later we knew that something was going to happen, so we planned our escape route down Vine Street. In that street, we lifted up all the sewer manhole covers and the drain grips in the gutters and put barbed wire strands across the street. When we were ready, we gave the police station a bit of a battering, the cops came out and we made our strategic retreat.

The cops came after us, and all you could hear were the curses of the police as they tripped over our grids and wire and fell down the manholes. The people in the houses were doing their bit too — heaving various implements from the bedroom windows at the police." (from *Building the Union* by Tony Lane.)

## Died after being truncheoned

That night the police, reinforced from Liverpool, took their revenge. They went on a systematic raid of the working class areas of Birkenhead. Doors were battered down, windows smashed, furniture broken up and people beaten and thrown down stairs.

Of the 43 arrests made that week, most occurred on this night. There were numerous injuries too, and one man, Paddy Devlin, died after being truncheoned.

For those arrested, there were heavy sentences. Defence organised by International Class War Prisoners Aid Society managed to get some acquitted, but many went down for 9 months hard labour, 24 months hard labour, three years' borstal and similar sentences.

In Liverpool, an impressive demonstration, flying Paddy Devlin's blood soaked shirt as a banner protested the police action.

We should remember that banner — even if that of the Jarrow Crusade is the more famous.



## They got date pudding for dole

More than just the dole queues are reminiscent of the 1930s: after the 'never had it so good' propaganda of the 1950s, we're back to talk of sacrifice. As in the 1930s, once again the rulers and owners of our society are trying to con the working class into making bearing the brunt of capitalism's depression.

In Battersea, at that time, the so-called 'Municipal Reformers' (Tories) regained power in the borough after 13 years of Labour control, using similar appeals to 'National Interest' to those in the pamphlet 'Attack on Inflation' circulated by the Labour Government last month.

### Pomp

These 13 years of "socialist rule", as The Times called it, had been a period when the pomp of the Town Hall had been laid aside. When the Tories returned they brought with them the trappings of formal ceremony. A newspaper of February 20th 1932 showed pictures of Emmanuel Boys playing at toy soldiers and the Mayor and MPs saluting the flag. According to The Times there was also "a very large crowd" present.

The Times went on to say "Lord Howe, who was formerly a Member for South Battersea, said that he longed to see the flag flying over the municipal buildings, not so much as

(from 'Pavement')

a sign of party triumph, but as an emblem of national unity and loyalty."

Three days after the flag raising farce, the Tories put up rents on pre-war Council estates by 10 per cent. This figure sounds fairly high even by today's standards, but in those times, with the average wage around ten bob a day (if you were fortunate enough to have a job) it was a massive increase.

### Like kids

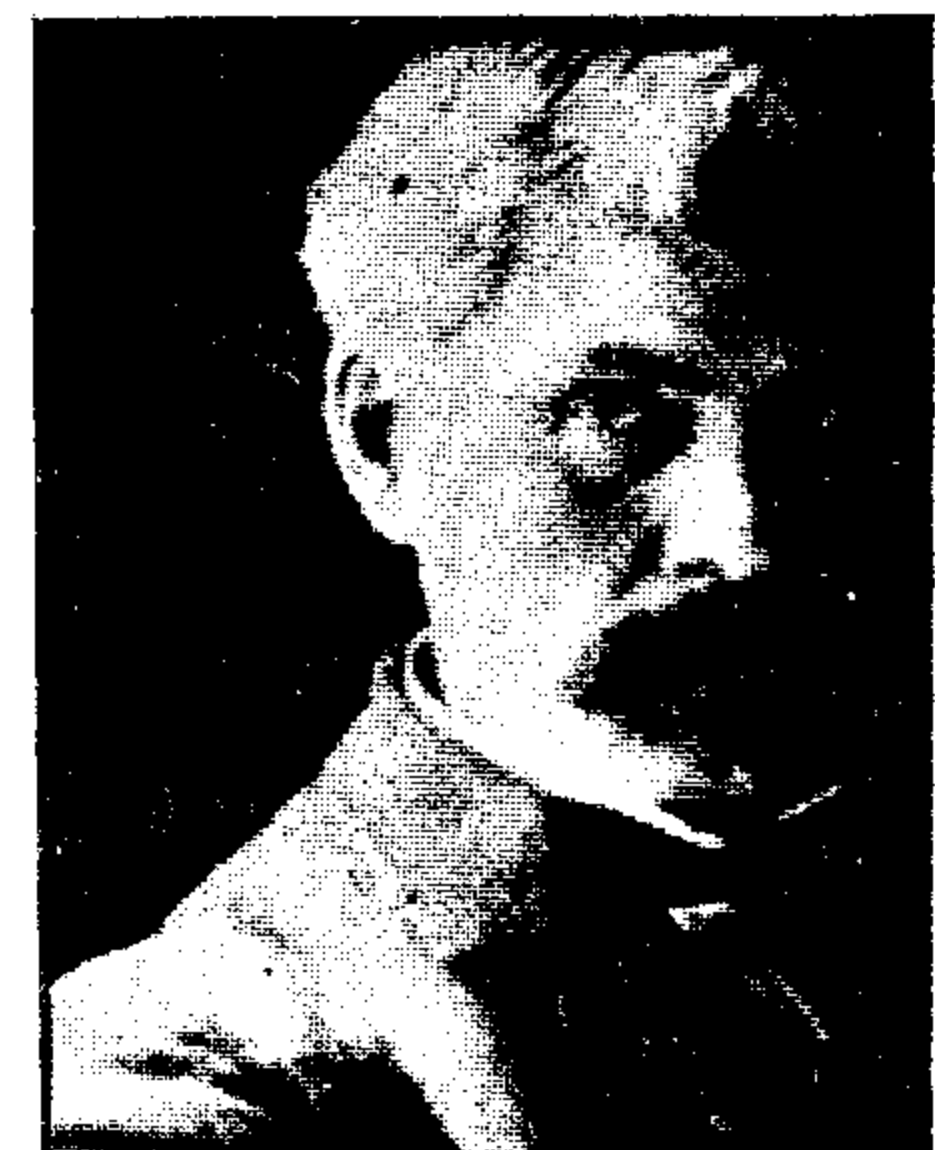
This was followed by further pressure on the 'loyalty' of the municipal workers, for the Tories also reduced wages by as much as half a day's pay. Many of these workers lived in Corporation houses, and so suffered a double dose.

The well fed who ran the charities were very busy at this time. On March 2nd, 1932, the press showed photos of the Mayor and Commander Marsden, MP, ladling out soup to the local unemployed. It seems that the soup was gladly received at the time, but the following year, with continued pressure on the unemployed, the charitable handouts became less popular.

In March 1933, the Daily Herald related one incident: "Uproar broke out just as the Mayor of Battersea was about to distribute free portions of

a 40lb. date pudding to some 400 local unemployed at Latchmere Baths. The men had noticed the presence of several photographers. 'We are not going to be photographed eating pudding like kids!' they protested.

Rev. J.A. Thompson, one of the organisers, hurriedly mounted a table, and standing among mugs of tea said 'If you think...' 'We don't think; we know' shouted the men, 'We won't be snapped like specimens. We want work, not pudding'. There was an argument lasting half



Ramsay MacDonald

an hour, during which the Mayor and the photographers left by the back door. When the men finally sat down to eat the pudding they ate in privacy.

In the 1930s the Tories handed out date pudding to the unemployed and wage cuts to those in work. It seems to us that Wilson's 'hand out' amounts to the same thing.

## GRAVY TRAIN

Mr. Jim Slater was last week again making big killings in his real-life Monopoly game in the City. For the price of a few phone calls (not cheap now, admittedly) he has netted for himself an estimated £500,000 on the sale of half his shares in the gold speculation company Lubok Investments.

○ ● ○

Last week the Post Office revealed its latest stunning invention which, it is hoped, will eventually find its way into the homes of 'ordinary' people. The Viewdata system will enable us to sit at home with a keyboard in our hands by which we can request useful information such as share prices; the reply will appear on our TV screen.

A demonstration of the equipment on television (the old fashioned sort, that is) showed a man requesting a list of restaurants so that he could decide where to eat that evening. When he had chosen a restaurant, he was able to ask his Viewdata what was on the menu, and that too came up on his screen.

Should be very handy.

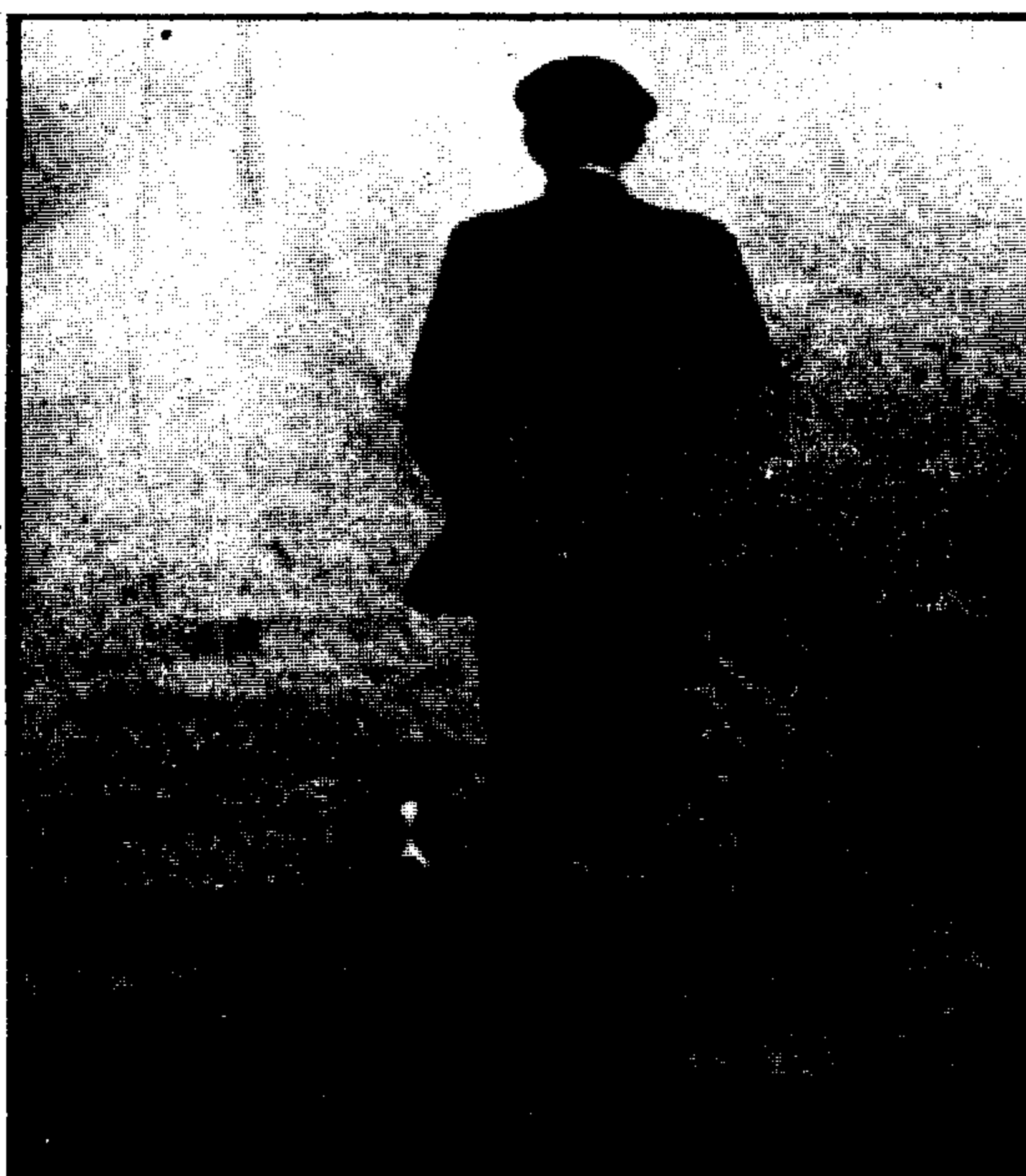
○ ● ○

Hotel building seems to be one side of the building industry which never seems to slump. It has been estimated that the new Intercontinental Hotel at Hyde Park Corner has cost at least £13 million. That's about £26,000 per bedroom.

That sum could have built a fair sized housing estate for a few hundred families.

○ ● ○

THE perks enjoyed by Britain's diplomatic bureaucrats were highlighted last week by the fuss over the purchase of a £382,000 home for the British ambassador to the OECD. He was getting the new house because the old one was "too noisy". The report by the Commons Expenditure Committee which criticised the purchase was not, however, against it in principle, but was upset over the fact that the final cost worked out at £70,000 more than the original estimate. But that still leaves £312,000.





**HOW many black old age pensioners do you know? How many black workers spent their childhood in British nurseries, schools and training colleges?**

Immigration is a tremendous bonus to any economy, bringing a high proportion of active, trained, educated workers, and a very low proportion of children and old people — who are the major recipients of the 'social wage', the major 'consumers' of education and health care.

It takes 20 to 30 years before an immigrant community catches up with the native population in terms of the benefits it receives.

This fact, says a 5-page feature in this month's *Race Today*, is behind the now open policy of the Home Office of keeping out dependants, even though the Immigration laws, themselves deeply



It took 2½ years before this man could hold his baby daughter. She was born while her mother, who lives in Acton, was visiting relatives in Pakistan. British immigration officials disputed that the baby was hers.

was based on Para 44 of the Statement of the Immigration Rules on Entry — 'an unmarried daughter under 21 who forms part of the family unit overseas may be admitted for settlement.'

"It was accepted by the adjudicator that Umrajeet was related as claimed; that she was unmarried; that she was fully dependent on her father Darbara Singh who, it was proved, sent regular remittances to support his children. However, the decision was deferred because it was claimed that Mr. Singh was not in a position to provide adequate accommodation for Umrajeet. [Even

signed on the day before the hearing;

b)The tenancy runs for one year only.

c)He was not due to enter occupation until two days after the hearing;

d)There had been no advance payment of rent. "There was no doubt about Mr. Singh's capacity to pay the rent. But 'It is my belief' said the adjudicator 'that there exists a strong possibility that the present lease represents one more attempt at deception on the part of the sponsor [Mr. Singh]."

"The final decision was adjourned for three months, giving Mr. Singh the time to occupy the flat and pay rent regularly.

"Finally Mr. Singh returns. He has satisfied the stipulation. The Home Office, at the hearing, launches a vigorous opposition to the granting of the visa. It

Indians, the problems are as different as the life-style. But they are no less unrelenting.

A single mother will come here to work, recruited perhaps by London Transport, leaving small children with their grandmother. When it comes to bringing them here to live with her, however, she has to prove that no-one else was keeping them. "Countless West Indian mothers must prove that for every week during their stay in Britain they were the parents with the sole responsibility for the upkeep of their children. The Entry Officer [also] pursues relentlessly the interrogation of young children: 'Do you see your father?' —Yes. 'Does he give you presents?' — Sometimes; he bought some school books for me last term.

"This can be enough evidence to refuse a visa on the grounds that the mother does not have the sole responsibility for the child's upkeep."

Other officials are engaged in flying from island to island in the West Indies, trying to locate the children's father to question him on whether he makes a contribution to their upkeep.

Thus it goes on from year to year, with families split by petty-minded, racist officials. The British capitalist economy gathers its rewards. And the anger and frustration grow.

# WHAT COLOUR IS YOUR GOAT?

racist, say dependents should be allowed to come and go freely.

Under the pretext of increasing efficiency, a Labour Home Secretary (Jim Callaghan) introduced the practice of checking out dependents' bona fides before they arrive in this country. Now, instead of a check at Heathrow lasting a couple of days at most, wives and children must wait years and years, make very long journeys to the British Embassy at Dacca or Islamabad or New Delhi, to be asked the most astonishing questions.

Out of this policy have come the most harrowing stories; the obstacles to entry make the Berlin

Wall look like it's made of Lego and guarded by plastic garden gnomes. Even when the applicants' relationships have been verified and approved (after interrogation of the entire family in an attempt to find a discrepancy in answers to questions like "what colour is your goat?" or "what is your house built off?") immigration officials may think up further objections.

"Umrajeet Kaur (19 years) and her sister Karmajit Kaur (13 years) both applied for entry visas at New Delhi on 25th May 1974 to enable them to accompany their mother, a returning resident. The father is resident here in Britain

too. Both sisters live with a maternal aunt in India and are solely dependent on their parents.

"The Entry Clearance Officer's decision effectively split the family. The mother and Karmajit were granted visas, and 19-year-old Umrajeet's application was turned down.

"The latter's application and subsequent appeal

though Mr. Singh had a house]

The decision was deferred in order that Mr. Singh submit evidence that he had secured adequate housing. Mr. Singh subsequently returned with what he thought was proper accommodation, sealed with a lease. He was again rejected because:

a)The lease was only

seems that a precedent was set in the intervening months, that an applicant in those circumstances should start the process all over again. The decision, however, went against the Home Office. Not content, they lodged an appeal. Meanwhile, the family reunion has been postponed perhaps for another year."

In the case of West

## OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

THE Home Office Immigration Department has quietly brought in a new ruling requiring black people in Britain to sign an 'oath of allegiance' to the Queen whenever they want to take out a British passport. This ruling also applies to black people who came here as children on their parents' [British] passports and in some cases even to black people born in this country.

The Immigration and Nationality Department of the Home

Office has refused to issue the certificate of registration necessary for a British passport unless they receive this 'oath of allegiance' to the Queen signed in the presence of a Commissioner of Oaths.

There was no mention at all of this requirement in the original Immigration Act of 1971 and it appears to be yet another barrier being put up by the racist immigration authorities who are trying to keep Britain white. There is no legal foundation for such an insulting [and clearly racially discriminating] measure, and black people are advised to challenge it.

from Grass Roots

# POLICE VIOLENCE ON TRIAL AGAIN

THE successful appeal by Cliff McDaniel (see back page) put the Hornsey police in the dock. So did the Defence in the famous Mangrove Nine trial four years ago, only then it was the West-London police that was found guilty of assault, disturbing the peace and provoking a near-riot. And right now at the Old Bailey, the Cricklewood police are on trial too, and have been since early in the summer.

Of course, they are not the ones in the dock. The actual defendants are ten black people charged, among other things, with "fighting and making an affray". These charges arise from the events of a night in October 1974 at a West Indian club in Cricklewood, north London, called the Carib.

## Unbridled savagery

The language of the law is designed to smother the reality of those events, but the evidence of the witnesses says something else: that what happened that night was yet another example of the unbridled savagery that the British police employ against black people in this country.

The police had visited the Carib on four separate occasions in the fortnight before the night in question, allegedly looking for wanted people. This was in a club which had never received local complaints and had always been granted a licence by the local authority without question. But the pretext the police used is a classic one, which they have used again and again to bust in on black people when they are relaxing and having a night out.

In the early hours of October 12th, then, a dozen police rushed into the club, claiming to be after a youth who had stolen a car. Without any ceremony, they went straight to the toilet and dragged someone out. At this, the rest of the people in the club started showing their opposition to what was going on. The police promptly radioed for 'help', and policemen started converging on the club within minutes — according to a witness from Amnesty International, 120 of them, with 8 vans and transits, 3 dog vans and an ambulance on standby. They completely blocked off Cricklewood Broadway.

Witnesses in the club describe how the police assaulted them on the dancefloor with anything they could find.

They then forced the people to run a gauntlet down the narrow stairs. Almost every witness to this said a variant of the same thing: that the police lined the stairs and beat the people with truncheons, kicking and punching them as they went down. Witnesses have described vividly how the 42 youths detained at Golders Green police station had cut, bruised and swollen faces.

When they were outside, the police used dogs against them, and also hurled many people over railings and into vans, screaming racist abuse the whole time. The club cashier describes how police were shouting "come with us you black shit!", "black bastards", "black whores", "I'm just waiting till we get them in the van outside" etc.

The Amnesty International witness saw dog handlers chasing black people from the club, the dogs tearing at their clothes and bodies. The club manager described how policemen bearing riot shields in one hand and truncheons in the other confronted people taking refuge at the top of the building. He believed the siege of the club was planned, as young people arriving there before the raid were questioning him about the number of police hanging around the street.

One defendant alleged that when he refused to sign a statement on October 29th, a police officer punched him in the stomach and another screwed his arm up his back. The policeman took a form from a drawer and said "This is your statement", and he was forced to sign this "statement" which he had never given, under the threat of being locked in a room with a police dog.

## In hospital for 4 weeks

The police even laid into a man as he held up a card showing he was a haemophilic — a disease which makes any injury potentially fatal and certainly agonising if internal bleeding is caused. "I know I have to keep away from any horseplay", he said in the witness stand. But the police had kicked and punched him and thrown him over the railings with the rest, and then delayed getting a doctor. The experience put him in hospital for 29 days. And this man is charged with the others with violence against the police!

Since the events of last year, the police have kept the Carib club under constant surveillance, continuing to harass customers going in or out. Many witnesses have refused to come forward for fear of police reprisals. The people fought back at the time to the extent that 12 policemen were wounded, and there has obviously developed a deep hatred and bitterness in the black community.

A defence group, backed by numerous West Indian organisations, has been formed. Meanwhile, the trial goes on.

Send donations, messages of support, to: The Cricklewood Ten Defence Committee, The Carib Club, above Burtons, Cricklewood Broadway, London NW2.



Left: Lloyd James, now serving a 3-year jail sentence after a very thorough beating by police at Brockwell Park. Right: sensational headlines, but witnesses tell a different story.

**Evening Standard** LONDON LATEST  
London: Saturday October 12 1974

42 held after two-hour battle

## TWELVE POLICE WOUNDED IN CLUB SIEGE

By KEVIN MORPHY

TWELVE policemen were wounded — four of them seriously — in a bloody two-hour battle with screaming, battle-travelling youths at a North-West London club early today.

As Richard Stone, in his early twenties and married, was pushed in the back, he had a head wound and was hospitalized in the street.

... [rest of the article text]

**Sensational defiance**

The club had a reputation for its night-time parties...

**New bomb**



# Will TOM Conference face up to its basic political tasks?

THE National Delegate Conference of the Troops Out Movement takes place this weekend, 11th/12th October.

The scene is set for bitter factional warfare on the structure and tactics of TOM. But it is vital that the basic political issues are not drowned.

For some months now Workers Fight has been sounding the alarm about the threat of civil war in Ireland. Several other tendencies in TOM now admit that the threat exists, though they draw different conclusions.

The 'Big Flame' group say "a civil war is the most likely outcome." They advocate relief work to aid the Catholic community in Northern Ireland, alongside continuing agitation around the two demands of the TOM - 'Troops Out Now'; and Self Determination for the Irish People as a Whole.

Workers Fight, too, believes that it is necessary to prepare to aid the Catholic community in the event of civil war. But petty 'charitable works' now don't help that preparation. What we have to do is argue as vigorously as we can within the labour movement for solidarity with the forces of the Catholic community fighting against the British army, against the Loyalist organisations, and against the Six County state. Through doing that NOW we can add the best possible weight to relief committees in the event of civil war.

## Poisonous effects of Partition

'Self determination for the Irish people as a whole' - on a 32-County basis - is indeed the basic issue. But what does 'self determination' mean? Concretely, for us, it means solidarity with those actually fighting to end Partition and the British military occupation. Otherwise it is an empty and ambiguous politicians' phrase, which can be interpreted in a dozen different ways.

Moreover, while Workers Fight emphatically supports the demand "Troops Out Now", we also recognise that, with civil war looming, and even more in actual civil war, this demand on its own does not at all express the central issues at stake. It needs to be coupled with an understanding of the poisonous effects of Partition and of the justice of the struggle to reunite Ireland as an independent 32-County unit. Otherwise it can only mean a reactionary "get out and let the Irish kill each other" position.

If the TOM is to face up to the realities in Ireland, it must put solidarity with the Republican and socialist forces at the centre of its work.

The Troops Out Movement was founded some two years ago on the notion that it would rapidly mushroom into a mass movement on the model of the Vietnam anti-war movement in the USA. Unfortunately it is still only a tiny movement, with a following largely confined to the revolutionary socialist left.

That the TOM would not become a mass movement was predictable. Certainly TOM could be bigger than it is if it abandoned its present peculiar structure (more like a 'left group' than a united front calculated to bring in the widest forces). A more open structure could cool the present 'bottled in' factional conflicts. However, any comparison with the USA anti-war movement was ruled out from the start for a number of reasons: the complexity of the situation in Ireland, with the army's role appearing as "keeping the peace" the absence of casualties or conscription on a Vietnam scale.

## Countering today's threat

But most of the factions in TOM have closed their eyes to the evident facts, and have opposed WF's arguments in favour of TOM taking up propaganda for solidarity. A solidarity position, they say, would stop TOM becoming a mass movement. They never explain WHY the TOM hasn't become a mass movement yet (except by blaming all failures on the opposing factions!) or how it will suddenly expand. Meanwhile,

it is neither a mass movement, nor an effective tool for clear propaganda on Ireland.

All the groups also admit the possibility of civil war. However, they refuse to allow that possibility to influence their policy. Sometimes they recite commonplaces to the effect that we must base policy on today's realities and not on speculation about tomorrow - thus elevating short sightedness to a principle! Sometimes they say that "building a mass TOM" is the best contribution we can make to "changing the balance of forces" - as if countering today's threat with tomorrow's (hoped for) mass movement were any better than satisfying today's hunger with tomorrow's dinner.

Usually they put great stress on the fact that civil war MAY be avoided.

## Entitled to our support

Civil war may indeed be avoided. But we should grasp the nettle of the WORST possibility, however much it stings. And what is the 'better' possibility? A Craig-SDLP bloc, which would wage all-out war on the Catholic community and the IRA. A new institutionalisation of the Six County state. The best elements of the Republican population will fight against any such 'solution' - and they will be entitled to our support.

The debates on TOM structure and tactics this weekend will not be irrelevant. It will help a great deal if the TOM deposes its present cliquish leadership, adopts a more open structure, and lays a restraining hand on manoeuvres of a type more proper to bourgeois 'pressure group' politics. But all this has meaning only if the TOM faces up to its basic political tasks.

# Thatcher steers an uneasy course

AT last week's Tory Party conference, a motion of no confidence in the Tory leadership in Parliament got about one third of the votes.

That's bad enough for any party. In the Tory party it is an earthquake. Attacks on the leadership come through discreet drawing-room cabals, not through anything so rude and vulgar as an open conference. The role of the conference is to be an annual celebration of support for the Party Leader. The pro-Heath 'moderate'

group in the Tory Party have shown their discontent by settling up the 'Tory Reform Group'. More vocal in the conference were the Right-wingers, for whom the move from Heath to Thatcher was a step in the right direction, but not far enough. They gave William Whitelaw a rough reception when he tried to explain why the Tory Party was supporting the Labour Government's £6 pay limit.

It is because the Labour Government is carrying out

'Tory' policies so successfully that the Tory Party is in trouble. They are split between those, like Heath, who want to come to an agreement with the trade union bureaucrats to clamp down on the working class; and the Powellites and semi-Powellites who believe in the play of the 'free market' and in chopping social services.

The Whitelaw-Carr-Heath line is discredited because the Labour Government can obviously put it into pract-

ice far more effectively than the Tories; and the Powellite line is discredited because of the disaster of 'confrontation' policies in 1970-74. Thatcher steers an uneasy compromise course.

Socialists can rejoice. The greater the chaos in the Tory party, the longer the Labour government stays in power; and the greater are the chances of building a serious socialist opposition to clear out the right wing leadership in the labour movement. C.R.

500 redundancies are expected soon in Long Eaton and Beeston factories of Plessey Telecommunications, along with 1500 on short time working. The reason given is a slump in orders from the Post Office.

Five unions have formed a joint liaison committee over the problem of redundancies. The union policy is: no deal with Plesseys on the loss of workers' livelihoods. They will not accept redundancies, whether voluntary or forced.

Three white collar unions, APEX, TASS and ASTMS, have banned overtime at the two factories and engineering trades shop stewards have introduced strict control over overtime. C.K.

## MEETINGS

LONDON Workers Fight readers' meeting: "PORTUGAL - workers' power or counter-revolution". Speaker: Simon Temple (Vauxhall LPYS), plus a speaker from the Portuguese Workers' Coordinating Committee. 8pm, Sunday 19th October, at the 'George', Liverpool Rd, N1.

Hackney North and Stoke Newington LPYS: debate on "IRELAND: what way for Labour?". Speakers from TOM and LPYS NC. 7.45pm, Tuesday 14th October, at Stamford Hill Library, N16.

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN Conference: Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October, at Imperial College, London. Trade union branches, LPYSs &c may send delegates, but anyone who supports NAC's aims can attend, men included. Details: 30 Camden Rd, NW1; 485 4303

MANCHESTER Workers Fight readers' meeting: "IRELAND and the British labour movement". Speakers: Sean Matgama and Kath Caulfield. 8pm, Thursday 16th October, at the Ducie Arms, Gt Ducie St.



# Cliff McDaniel case: a great victory for Black Parents and Black Students Movements

CLIFF McDaniel, a black student at Stationers School in Hornsey, North London, last week won his appeal against conviction for assaulting a police officer and using insulting behaviour.

Judge Thomas Edie said in summing up at Middlesex Crown Court last week that the case reflected on the conduct of the police and that an investigation should be carried out.

On April 17th this year Cliff and some friends were outside the school when a patrol car passed them. The car reversed, and then two policemen, PC Ryan David and PC Fry, got out and confronted the students. A third policeman, PC McCulloch, stayed in the back of the car as he didn't want to get involved.

The policemen asked Cliff McDaniel to turn his pockets

out, which he did. But when they insisted on searching him thoroughly he said they should do it inside the school and not out on the street. At this point the policemen attacked him.

## BRUISES

A number of people witnessed the attack. One of them, a Mrs. Jane Langridge who is the school's welfare assistant and was watching from a window, described in court how she saw the policemen lay into Cliff and beat him in the back.

Later she was sent by the headmaster, Mr. Baynes, to the police station to see how their student was. She reported that he had a graze on his chest, weals on his arms and bruises on his back and he complained of pains in

his stomach.

This was not the only evidence of police brutality. A Mrs. Maynard and a colleague had seen the police hold Cliff upside down. "At one time he was so close down, his face was more or less on the pavement." She said that she had pleaded with the police to "mind his head and neck" but they had just told her to mind her own business.

At this point 'reinforcements' arrived and formed a circle round Cliff so that it was impossible to see exactly what was being done to him.

It was after this beating that Cliff McDaniel was charged with assaulting the police! But as Defence counsel Ian Macdonald remarked, "It was Mr. McDaniel who was on the receiving end and not the one giving out the punches."

The success of the appeal is a striking victory for the Black Students Movement and the Black Parents Movement in the area. They have campaigned since the charges were first brought in defence of Cliff - and, by implication, against the police who assaulted him. Fortunately, neither movement sees this success as a signal to close down their campaigns. On the contrary it has justified the need for these movements.

## PUBLICLY

Workers and socialists in the area should insist that the investigation into PCs Ryan David and Fry should not be carried out by the police themselves, but publicly by representatives of the working class and the black community.



Top left: Black Students' Movement organise a picket outside Highgate Magistrates' Court during the trial of Cliff McDaniel. Above: another member of the picket. (Pictures from 'Race Today')

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