# The Newsletter

WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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## THIS WEEK

Trotskyism in the **United States** 

-a statement (see page 2)

Barbican strikers

Early in the strike, mounted

police moved the pickets on

after there had been scuffles

with men employed after the

sackings. Six of the strikers

were fined £5 following this

The men were on strike for

two weeks before the three

unions involved, the Transport

and General Workers' Union,

Amalgamated Society of Wood-

workers, and the Amalgamated

Union of Building Trade Wor-

OUTSIDE the gates of Turriff's trade unionism.

building site in the City of

London's Barbican re-develop-

ment area, many of the 380 men

sacked by the firm attended a

meeting last Monday—the day

of settlement (reported on page 4

The men, from the West

Indies, Asia and Ireland, had

stood firm on the picket line

They have won their way back

on to the site and must now take

of this week's Newsletter).

for three weeks.

## SMITH'S **SLOW** MOVE TO UDI

S. Rhodesia

By JOHN CRAWFORD

BEHIND all the talk of 'sanctions' against the Rhodesian white minority in the event of a breakaway, Wilson is preparing a compromise.

Whatever formula may be found to make it look as if the three and a half million Africans have agreed, the tiny white minority will be left in control.

There is no need for Ian Smith to declare independence immediately. He can take his time to build up support among the imperialist powers.

Despite the vote at the United Nations on Tuesday, there could easily be a deal made between the Rhodesian settlers and the U.S. govern-

#### STRENGTHENED

Meanwhile, the reemergence of Lord Salisbury and the shift to the right in the Tory policy last week, shows how Smith's position can be strengthened as time

It also marks the change taking place in the relationship between imperialism and the colonial nationalist movements.

Salisbury, in his 'Daily Express' article on Tuesday, repeated his opposition to the MacMillan policy of reliance on agreements with African nationalism. This was expressed in the famous 'wind of change' speech in February

The crisis of world imperialism in 1965 has exposed the weakness of bourgeois nationalism throughout Asia, Africa and South America.

Nyerere's statement that 'it is infinitely preferable to have a pelle al olution than to have the peoples of Rhodesia suffer the horrors of war', shows how far such politicians are from leading a struggle against imperialism.

#### CRITICISM

He severely criticised the speech of the Rhodesian tionalist leader. who threatened an all-out fight against white domination.

How can Wilson fight the Rhodesian racialists? His immigration policy in Britain has itself encouraged racialism. The new Tory line will be correspondingly strengthened as a result.

The denunciation of Smith as a 'traitor' (by the 'Daily Worker' among others), and calling for his arrest as an 'enemy of the Queen' is so

much rubbish. The examples of Carson in

Ulster in 1913 shows that the state will never act against opposition from the right.

Socialists must expose Wilson's compromise plans. We must support every move towards the building of the workers' movement in Africa, which is needed if imperialism is to be defeated.

Sir William is one of that small

band of powerful right-wing leaders who can see power slipping from their hands in the days that

So far as they are concerned. government legislation, curbing the rights of their members, is absolutely necessary if they are to cling on to this power for a little while

Anti-Communist scare

During the period of inflationary boom, when their members enjoyed relatively full employment, they whooped up the anti-Com-

Now, more and more trade unionists are beginning to see through this sham, so the right

It will be recalled that at the National Committee of Carron's union, which met last April, the Communist Party delegates voted for the resolution of 100 per cent ment, which he now claims gives him full right to cast the votes of the union for legislation.

### Refused delegation

At the same National Committee the Communist Party delegates also joined hands with Carron and the right wing in refusing to meet representatives from the apprentices' movment who had travelled to the Committee to exercise their right to put pressure on their elected representatives.

This cowardly capitulation paved the way for Carron. It was the same as the retreat over Ford's victimisation of shop stewards. The more the Communist Party retreat, the stronger become the

right wing. The militant rank and file must draw their own conclusions-the time has come to learn the bitter lessons from the betrayals inside

Carron will never be defeated by those who retreat before him. Now is the time to start the ball rolling by taking steps to launch a real campaign inside the factories

# OUR ANSWER TO

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS

**NO LEGISLATION AGAINST** THE TRADE UNIONS!

CLEAR OUT THE WILSON-**MACDONALD TRAITORS!** FIGHT FOR SOCIALIST **POLICIES!** 

#### LONDON

7 p.m., Sunday, October 17 New Ambassadors Hotel Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1 (nearest tube station: Euston)

Speakers: G. Healy, National Secretary, SLL M. Banda, Editor, Newsletter Peter Kerrigan, Liverpool docker

## LEICESTER

7.30 p.m., Sunday, October 24 The Corn Exchange

Speakers: Cliff Slaughter, Editor, 'Fourth International' Dave Ashby, National Secretary, Young Socialists Jack Gale, Central Committee Member, SLL

#### SHEFFIELD

7.30 p.m., Sunday, October 31 The Vestry Hall, Cemetery Road (Noor End)

Speakers: Cliff Slaughter, Editor, Fourth International' Dave Ashby, National Secretary, Young Socialists Jack Gale, Central Committee Member, SLL

#### **GLASGOW**

7.30 p.m., Sunday, November 7 Partick Burgh Hall, Lesser Hall Speakers: Cliff Slaughter, Editor, 'Fourth International'

John Robertson, Young Socialist

and engineering convenor

### BELFAST

7.30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 14 International Hotel, **Donegall Square South** 

Speaker: G. Healy, National Secretary, SLL

#### LIVERPOOL

8 p.m., Sunday, November 21 Lecture Room, Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street

Speakers: G. Healy, National Secretary, SLL Cliff Slaughter, Editor, 'Fourth

Peter Kerrigan, Liverpool docker

### BIRMINGHAM

7.30 p.m., Sunday November 21 Digbeth Civic Hall, Digbeth

Speakers: Aileen Jennings, Editor, 'Keep Left' Mike Banda, Editor, Newsletter Jack Gale, Central Committee

Member, SLL

### **NEWCASTLE**

7.30 .m., Sunday, November 28 Bridge Hotel, Castle Square

Speakers: Cliff Slaughter, Editor, 'Fourth International' Jack Gale, Central Committee

Member, SLL Chairman: J. Willamson, Young Socialists National Committee

# DEVLIN Victory for

THE Labour government under Wilson's leadership is to propose legislation on the basis of the Devlin Report on the docks. Portworkers will, therefore, be the first victims of the attack which is now being launched against the trade union

Needless to say, the Tories will support Wilson wholeheartedly. Indeed, the only valid reason for the functioning of the government, is that it will prepare the legal groundwork against the trade unions, so that later on a Tory

government would have more power to enforce its own

reactionary decisions. Towards this end, the international banking fraternity has provided a bridging loan to enable the government to stagger over its balance of payments difficulties during the next few months—long enough to get legislation against the trade unions on its way to the statute books.

Portworkers rank traditionally amongst Britain's most class-conscious and solidarityminded section of workers. There will be a big fight against all attempts to speed up and worsen conditions on the docks. It is, therefore, very important for them to be clear about what solution they propose in place of Devlin.

Britain is an island whose economic lifelines flow through six major ports, Southampton, London, Liverpool, Hull, Manchester and Glasgow.

The rank-and-file portworker, generally speaking, supports the policy of the Socialist Labour League, which says clearly that all docks and harbour installations should be nationalized.

### Vital industry

If the nation depends on the docks, why should this vital sector of industry remain in the hands of private owners who make massive profits through exploitation of the portworker, leading in turn, to a continuous increase in the cost of goods which are imported and exported.

Devlin says the opposite of this, and he is supported by the Labour government. He says that what we need is a growth of more monopoly ownership and control on the docks and the elimination of the small and medium-sized port employers.

Under capitalism monopoly ownership is essentially restrictive in the interests of profit-making. By concentrating greater and greater power into fewer and fewer hands, the way is open for this powerful handful to raise their costs at will, without regard for the requirements of the people as

a whole. By supporting the Devlin Report, the Labour government comes down on the side of the most anti-social anad ruthless group of monopoly capitalists. These are the people who are the real 'wreckers' and not the

#### **NOW TORIES DEMAND:** FINE REBEL UNIONS

ON Wednesday this week the Conservatives outlined, at their annual party conference in Brighton, their reactionary plans for the trade unions.

Sir Keith Joseph, Shadow Minister of Labour, said that one main proposal was to make procedures for dealing with disputes legally enforceable against unions.

Trade unions would be fined if their members broke agreements with the employers.

The Labour government prepares the way for such an action by its declared intention of legislating against the trade

by GERRY HEALY National Secretary of the Socialist Labour

#### demands of the early pioneers who built the labour movement. Today, it supports monopoly capitalism on the

No compensation The Socialist Labour League is not in favour of the kind of nationalization on the docks which has virtually crippled the railways and mining industries. There should be no compensation, except in very needy cases, where the former employers would have to establish that they would be destitute unless they received some

portworkers fighting for better

The right - wing Labour

government has moved a long

way from the nationalization

conditions, as Devlin alleges.

assistance. The majority of the profits must be ploughed back into the industry enabling wages and working conditions to be improved, whilst costs of imports and exports would be reduced, thus reducing the cost of living and assuring a greater volume of exports.

Neither are we in favour of a bureaucratic hierarchy of ex-owners, or their agents, running the docks after Cont. page 2, col. 3



# Hands off the Indonesian Communist Party! By MICHAEL BANDA

THE counter-revolutionary I forces led by the Generals and incited by Islamic fanatics are rampaging through Java and Sumatra.

An unprecedented campaign of violence and terror against Communists and trade unionists is in full swing. Houses of Communist MPs, including the residence of D. N. Aidit, leader of the party, have been ransacked.

District and provincial offices of the Indonesian Communist Party (KPI) have been burnt down. Wholesale arrests and executions of Communist Party members and sympathisers have been reported from many areas.

Colonel Untung, leader of the palace corp, has been captured, and many of his supporters disarmed. Sporadic fighting is reported in East Java and parts of Southern Sumatra.

#### FEEBLE UNITY CALLS

The ailing Sukarno-now a reluctant hostage of the Generalsissues feeble calls for 'national unity' which the generals use to repress the Stalinists even more

The KPI adds to the confusion and helps to strengthen the position of the reactionary Generals by shamelessly supporting the appeals made (supposedly) by Sukarno for an end to the fighting and for 'national unity against imperialism'. The KPI in a statement re-

printed in the 'Daily Worker'

and toiling peasantry of Indonesia to:

... increase their vigilance, to strengthen the front of national unity in order to achieve the realisation of the five principles of the Revolution to foil the joint British - American project of Malaysia and also step up the struggle against neo-colonialism

This at a time when illegality, imprisonment and summary execution is the lot of thousands of Communist Party members!

#### **DAILY WORKER' SILENT** The 'Daily Worker' remains inscrutably silent on these events, even Kosygin is forced to protest

against the murder of KPI mem-

This is where class-collaboration has led Aidit and his advisers in the international Stalinist movement. For over 10 years they laboured to support capitalism in Indonesia under the spurious poli-

tical banner of 'national democracy'-the brainchild of the Soviet leaders. At the same time they gave full support to so-called policies of 'non-aligned peaceful co-existence' of Sukarno, who tried to walk the diplomatic tight-rope between the workers' states and imperialism.

This policy, needless to say, disarmed the working class theoretically and disorientated the KPI politically. Sukarno by involving KPI leaders in his National Council compromised the KPI still further.

While everyone knew that the Generals were plotting to take the power for some time, the KPI

leaders looked imploringly to

Exasperated by the opportunism and collaborationism of the official leaders, the young communists, together with junior officers from the army, tried at the last moment to turn the course of events by a premature and ill-prepared uprising.

No mobilisation of the working class was undertaken nor was the peasantry drawn into the struggle. The trade unions have remained

indifferent and the party remains hopelessly divided. Now the uprising has been

crushed and the white terror has begun. World labour cannot stand aside while the butchers in Djakarta

slaughter workers and peasants with impunity. We demand that all executions cease forthwith, all political prisoners be released, and attacks against the KPI and leftwing groups be stopped.

## Campaign against union law now

SIR WILLIAM CARRON, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, has described the vote by his union delegation against legislation on the trade unions as 'disloyal'. Sir William was prohibited from attending the Labour Party Conference because of a recent operation.

At the opening ceremony for new offices of the union in Leeds, he declared:

In case there should be any doubt, let me make it quite clear that the AEU is in full agreement with all that the TUC General Council has done and that we will fully co-operate in the implementation of policies worked out in consultation between the TUC and the govern-

#### Power is slipping

He further stressed that since his union was fully committed to supporting the government this meant that those who represented it at the Labour Party Conference should have voted for legislation. By Newsletter Reporter

munist scare to hold their offices.

wing feel that it needs fresh assistance in order to carry on.

support for the Labour govern-

this union.

and the AEU against legislation against the unions.

## Statement by the Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League

PHE United States of America is not only the main centre of the power of world capitalism. It is also the most vital sector of the world proletarian revolution for the overthrow of the capitalist system. For this reason, no international revolutionary movement is worthy of the name if it does not accept the responsibility of seeking every possible path to assist in the building of a revolutionary party in the very citadel of world imperialism.

The reconstruction of the Fourth International cannot be successful without an advance on these lines inside the United States. It is in the context of the preparation of the international conference of the International Committee of the Fourth International that this step forward can be consciously prepared.

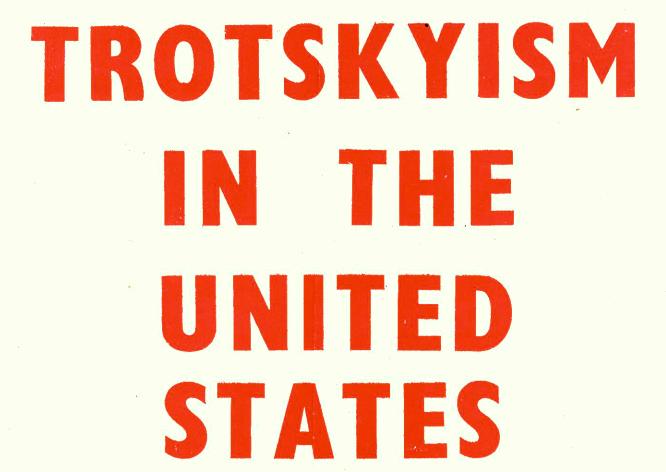
Those who go on impressions and moods, the professional opportunists and centrists, can always be relied upon to leave out of their political calculations one overwhelming factor in the world situation: the American working

Blinded by the mighty wealth of American capital, its military power and its ability to corrupt politicians on an international scale, these reformists see the American workers as an inert and passive mass, victims of all the illusions of the American way of life, including anti-Communism and racialism. They mistake the appearance, where everything is dominated by bourgeois ideology, relayed to the working class by its treacherous leaders as well as by the capitalist institutions themselves, for the fundamental process of production and class struggle.

The American worker is inevitably driven to the sharpest class struggle. At the point of production, he experiences the consequences of unprecedented changes in the forces of production. Capitalism has been able to introduce automation on only a very small scale, but already, in conditions of high boom, this limited application has brought back the phenomenon of the capitalist 'reserve army of unemployed' on a new and expanding scale.

This introduction of automation into an unplanned economy is producing the most violent social struggles, especially as it coincides with the historical legacy of one of the main preconditions of American capitalist wealth, the super-exploited Negro population, America's 'internal colony'.

The actual content of the insurrection in Los



revolutionary party in the USA unless it is based upon a full appreciation of the consequences of the revisionism and capitulation to the class enemy of the party founded by Trotsky. The SWP has, in recent years (though the roots of the process are much farther back1) abandoned the internationalist positions of Trotskyism. Internationalist politics in our epoch are the politics of the working class. All other classes have particular stakes in the 'national interest' and are unable to carry out a consistent internationalist line. Insofar as the working class has become affected by this national opportunism, it has been the result of the creation of a specially privileged minority of the class on the basis of colonial super-profits. The revisionists, those who abandon the construction of the revolutionary party of the working class, are representatives of these alien class influences.

The SWP has arrived at a position where its political line is determined, not by the class struggle and the need of the working class for a strategy, but by estimations of the movements of middle-class national political trends. Insofar

as the workers are considered at all, it is as some

The impact of the Vietnam war is thrusting hundreds of thousands of young American people into struggle against the system, a struggle which they will very soon learn in experience is the same as that of the Negroes. Pictured is one of the many

Angeles, the riots in Chicago, the self-arming of Negro workers throughout the United States, is the incompatibility of American capitalist social relations with the new productive forces. The impact of the Vietnam war, which U.S. business finds so necessary to maintain a high level of government spending, as well as to assert its leading international role on behalf of capitalism, is thrusting hundreds of thousands of young American workers and students into struggle against the system, a struggle which they will very soon learn in experience is the same as that of the Negroes.

All the struggles of the colonial peoples, in which the blood of millions has been shed since the Second World War, and the struggles of the workers in Russia and Eastern Europe against the bureaucracy, which came to a head in 1956, and are now surging forward once more, has as a precondition of success the coming forward of a revolutionary leadership for the workers thrown into struggle in the advanced capitalist countries. This has always been the standpoint of Trotskyism: it is possible, as in Russia, for the workers and peasants of a backward country to overthrow the native capitalist state, but for the victory of socialism in these countries the struggle must go forward to success in the main centres of advanced

For this reason, Trotsky paid particular attention to the class struggle in the United States, and not at all only because his years of exile ended near the borders of that country. Trotsky was in essence the real founder of the Socialist Workers' Party of the USA.

But there will be no successful building of a

The Kennedy assassination should have sharpened the class perspectives of all Marxist revolutionaries. The SWP response was to send condolences to the President's widow.



demonstrations. sort of 'pressure group' to give weight to one or other of these surface tendencies in the 'radical milieu' inhabited by middle-class re-

When Kennedy was assassinated, there is not the slightest doubt that here was an event absolutely indicative of the Watts rebellion in Los Angeles. It should have sharpened the class perspectives of all Marxist revolutionaries. What was the response of the SWP? Its General Secretary, Farrell Dobbs, sent a telegram to the widow of this millionaire President, expressing the condolences of the Party!

At that time there was drawing to a close another phase of SWP activity which in its own way proved just as fatally the degeneration of the SWP. The members of the Party had their attention turned almost exclusively not to the explosive changes in American society, which were given peculiar expression in the Kennedy assassination, but to the revolution in Cuba.

Solidarity with the revolutionary people of Cuba was certainly an outstanding task of revolutionaries in the United States, but the SWP leadership made sympathy for the Cuban revolution the be-all and end-all of party activity. The 'Fair Play for Cuba Committees' in which they enthusiastically participated fell around their ears once the heat was turned on by the U.S. government. As always, peace movements not based on the preparation for working-class power capitulated to the enemy once the first shot was fired.

Earlier the SWP had failed objectively in its attempt to 'regroup' the left after the crisis of Stalinism in 1956. Here again there was an attempt at compromise, an attempt to trim principles in order to attract those moving away from Stalinism. Thus it was in this period that Hansen and others first publicly made concessions to the idea that the Stalinist bureaucracy might reform out of existence the negative features of Soviet society.

Eventually, in 1963, the SWP leaders acknowledged the source of the degeneration of their

See the magazine Fourth International, Summer

politics by supporting the so-called reunification with the Pabloite 'United Secretariat of the Fourth International', from which they had broken in 1953, on the grounds of its capitulation to Stalinism. This 'reunification' was made the excuse for suppression of principled discussion of the previous split. Those who demanded dis-cussion on this, and later on the consequences of it in the Ceylon betrayal of N.M. Perera, were summarily expelled from the Party.

The recent Convention of the SWP confirmed all these developments, virtually liquidating the political line of the Party in the 'broad' anti-war movement. The Party's newspaper reports the Convention's call on this question without a trace of analysis of the specific line and struggle of the revolutionary party, to build the movement which will take power from the capitalists as the only answer to war. Outside of this, 'internationalism' is only a series of pious references to the identity of the struggle all over the world, which is exactly what Joseph Hansen provided.

It was fitting that alongside these political conclusions went the refusal of any right of appeal to the revolutionary minorities expelled from the SWP since its last Convention. By a small majority, these rights, never revoked in the history of the Trotskyist movement, were refused to those ex-members at present working in two groups, the American Committee for the Fourth International and the 'Spartacist' group.

The above account should make it perfectly clear that the sources of the present position of the SWP are political and international. Not only have the steps in degeneration been intimately linked with the struggles against revisionism inside the international Trotskyist movement; the political ideas at the base of the degeneration are part of an international tendency in the movement, the tendency of Pabloite revisionism and liquida-

If this is clearly understood, then the preconditions for a struggle to build a genuine Trotskyist party can quickly be grasped. From this point of view, the personal evolution of this or that individual in the SWP leadership, the special combinations and cliques in the leadership, etc., are seen to be purely incidental to the main

The recent Convention of the SWP must be analysed from this internationalist viewpoint, otherwise there will be nothing but disorientation and confusion, and no possibility of potentially revolutionary elements in the SWP being attracted to the politics of the International Committee.

This raises the question of the responsibility of revolutionary Marxists in the United States. Not only the American Committee for the Fourth International, but also the 'Spartacist' group, has expressed agreement with the main lines of the International Committee's draft resolution for the 1966 international conference. What is now necessary is the working out of a revolutionary perspective for the struggle of the American working class.

With such a perspective, American Trotskyists will be able to carry forward the work of Trotsky in developing Marxism in an everyday connection with the living movement. Only in this way can a successful battle be waged against the pragmatism which permeates every aspect of American philosophy and politics. On this basis, as the International Committee has rightly insisted, unification of all those who accept our international perspectives is essential.

The bedrock of this unity must be, we insist once more, the recognition of the international roots of the SWP's political degeneration. It is in no way a question of counting heads, but of insisting on Trotskyist principles as our startingpoint. Only in this way will American Marxists uphold the traditions of the revolutionary move-

With this as starting base, a correct attitude to the current crisis in the Socialist Workers' Party is necessary and can be worked out. It is dangerous in the extreme to ignore the potential of the vouth recruited in the recent period to the SWP. They are not simply errand boys and voting fodder for the Dobbs-Kerry leadership.

What is happening is something more profound, and if this is not grasped, or is obscured by one-sided commentaries which concentrate on the line-up of internal party groups, then American Trotskyists will be hopelessly left behind by events.

In the ironical sense which history so often gives to such processes, it is inevitable that the most profound degeneration of the SWP coincides with the most agitated ferment among American youth. This ferment will develop at a very rapid rate, and will bring to a head very quickly the contradiction between the degeneration of the SWP and the objective needs of the American working class. The latter contradiction is only the manifestation of the sharpened international crisis of centrism and revisionism, a face of the working-class offensive.

The first responsibility of those in the United States who adhere to the positions of the International Committee will be to ensure the political



The SWP expelled all who demanded discussion on the 1963 'reunification', and later, the consequences of the Ceylon betrayal of N. M. Perera (left).

clarification of these young workers and students who have joined the SWP. Without tackling this. necessary political task, it will not be possible to fully prepare for the tasks in the trade unions and the Negro movement.

Here again, this clarification will require a correct international starting point. It will not be possible for them to understand and change the situation in the SWP without this internationalist perspective.

These remarks on the SWP illustrate a general truth which must be burned into the consciousness of every American Marxist: nothing will be solved in the USA without a recognition of the international source of the internal political problems of the USA and of the Trotskyist movement in that country. We are confident that Marxists in America will be able to unite their forces in the common struggle with us to rebuild the international revolutionary movement.

> Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League

9/10/65.

## ETVILLIN

nationalization. This is the the employers and their agents, most costly way to run a nationalized industry and results in nothing more than behind-the-scenes conspiracies to utilise the industry concerned in the interests of private capital instead of in the interests of the majority of the people. It simply amounts to rule by the capitalists under the 'old pals act'. The Socialist Labour League demands workers' control on the docks.

Every day of their lives portworkers work together in the holds of great cargo vessels. By their skill and understanding they save each other's lives. They know the docks and they know ships. Who are better qualified to run their industry?

from

page

one

### Vital workers

They are a vital part of the working class aand they know and realise the needs of other workers. They know what short-time working is like and they have seen their families suffer on the dole. They know

and they know how to run the ports. These are the main reasons why we favour workers' control on the docks.

Our answer to Devlin is nationalization, without compensation, except in needy cases, under workers' control.

Devlin's reply to the policy of the Socialist Labour League consists of a series of red herrings. He sets out in his report to prove that there was some kind of conspiracy behind the growth of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers ('Blue Union') in the northern ports during 1954 and

There was nothing of the

Long years of rule by Arthur Deakin of the Transport and General Workers' Union had convinced portworkers that this union could not be changed without a great struggle involving all of the workers employed in the in-

The NAS&D is the oldest-

established trade union on the docks. By exercising their right to join the union of their choice the dockers did no more than stand by the democratic traditions of their industry.

They did not form a 'new union'. They joined a union that had been established on the docks long before the T&GWU.

#### Solidarity

By joining the NAS&D they were in fact waging a struggle for the democratisation of the T&GWU because they were revealing to everybody the impossibility of trade union democracy within this union. During all this time the utmost solidarity existed between members of the T&GWU and the NAS&D.

The Communist Party at the time (1954) led by Vic Marney, the late Ted Dickens and Jack Dash, opposed, along with Arthur Deakin and Tiffin, who replaced him as general secretary, recruitment into the

postscript

## The 'Left' after Blackpool

N The Newsletter of October 2, three of my reports from the Labour Party Conference were printed on the back page.

It has been brought to my attention that some people in the Labour Party, who regard themselves as left-wingers. consider my reports to be distorted.

They imply further that the distortion was deliberate, in order to support The Newsletter's criticisms of the weakness of the 'left' in the Labour Party.

It is said that Mr. Peter Price, a delegate from Nottingham to the conference, was the victim of my misreporting, and that the members of his constituency were also brought in without justification.

First of all, what did my Newsletter report actually say? Reporting Tuesday's proceedings, I wrote:

'In the debate on the government's record Peter Price (Nottingham) thought fit to congratulate Wyatt for his "courage", thus rightly raising in everyone's mind just how much "courage" and resolution lay behind Price's constituency's motion against the war in Vietnam.'

Reporting the debate on Vietnam on Wednesday, I wrote:

'Wilson . . . ignored the question from a Nottingham delegate: "If you and Stewart were in Vietnam, would you

The fact that the 'Daily

Worker' is forced to refer to

the book at all is a sign of the

times. Even more significant

is that so great has been the

criticising Dutt's article the

'Daily Worker' has had to

To read this ageing apostle

of Stalinism is indeed repulsive.

No longer able to put out the

poisonous slander of former

times in its open form, Dutt is

forced to find new and more

subtle methods to attack

publish some of it.

Dutt.

be on the side of the Vietnamese people, or of a South Vietnamese prime minister who is a great admirer of Adolf Hitler?" '

Our critics complain that the first report is distorted, and that reference to the 'Daily Telegraph' will show that Price was actually only contrasting Wyatt's courage with the need for courage on the left of the Party.

It is also suggested that we deliberately omitted Price's name from the second report in order that it should not weaken our previous criticism of him.

If our first report implies that the Constituency Party was anything but sincere in sending in its resolution, then we repudiate any such suggestion. The point being made was that the 'left' was too irresolute and lacking in leadership to inspire any determined following from the union and constituency delegates at the conference.

Thus the sentence before our first report is: 'in point of fact, Gunter, Wyatt, Wilson, and the right wing intimidated the "left".' Price's unsolicited compliment

to Wyatt illustrated this. Had it been our intention to obscure the fact that Price was Wilson's questioner, why should we have referred in both passages to the fact that the Nottingham Constituency was opposing Wilson on Vietnam?

However, it will perhaps be best to quote the 'Telegraph' report so beloved of our critics.

'Mr. Peter Price, of Nottingham South, said he had

been an opponent of Mr. Wyatt, but he had to pay tribute to his courage in putting forward his views.

'Courage is courage, whether it is shown on the right or the left. I would like it to be shown much more on the left and particularly on the left of this platform.'

If this makes the defenders of Price any happier, I wish them the best of luck.

But, before they go on their way, I hope they will read the following report of the same speech, which appeared on the same day in 'The Guardian':

'Mr. Peter Price (Nottingham South) said recently his constituency party had sent a message to the Coalville miners supporting their attempt to get Mr. Wyatt out. But in view of the courage with which he had stated his rightwing views, and in view of the way in which the people above him (on the platform) had departed from Socialist principles, he was now glad that they did not get him out. Courage was needed on both the left and the right of the Party.'

I consider that The Newsletter took from this bewildering speech its main characteristic: its confusion and its expression of a 'left wing' tailing along behind a stridently confident ('courageous'?) right.

Mr. Price must thank his friends if his unforttunate remarks have had to be put in Cliff Slaughter print again.

## **PASCUAL**



MARIANO PASCUAL, one of three Spanish trade unionists jailed in 1964 for 'illegal association' with organisations attempting to obtain free trade unions, has been released.

Along with Jose Cases and Francisco Calle, he was arrested in February 1964. Later they were jailed for six, five and three years respectively and ordered to pay heavy fines.

THE trial of four Spanish workers arrested in Barcelona following the Workers' Trade Union Alliance May Day demonstrations has been postponed. It was originally set for October 6 and 7 in the Tribunal of Public Order in Madrid.

There have been further arrests in Barcelona in connection with the same case.

They are: Cipriano Damiano, who is accused of being a member of the Workers' Trade Union Alliance (ASO) and secretary of the National Committee of the National Confederation of Labour in Spain (CNT), and Salvador Domenech and Juan Valdenebro, both accused of being ASO and CNT organisers.

The authorities were asking for 18 years jail for Damiano and four each for Domenech and Valdenebro, who will stand trial with Jose Pujol, Ignacio Elhombre, Antonio Martinez and Ignacio Carrajal for allegedly organising the militant

May Day demonstrations. Damiano has since escaped from the police and is still free.

# World liquidity: problems shelved

THE most interesting thing about Washington meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank was that nothing new happened, despite the widespread interest which had been aroused.

The 2,800 finance ministers, bankers, economic experts and journalists were soon engulfed in boredom after speeches from the representatives of the big countries. It then became evident that the United States government had decided to seek a pause in its controversy with de Gaulle's government and to avoid a discussion of the underlying problems of the world monetary system.

That system rests on the agreements made at Bretton Woods in 1943 which conformed with the interest of the United States at that time, while recognising the special position of the pound sterling in international finance.

The main problem was to give some stability to the world monetary system by finding a



## Tom Kemp reports on the recent IMF meeting

substitute for the old gold standard which had broken down in the course of 30 years of war and crisis.

In particular, if capitalism was to survive, the competitive depreciation of currencies which had brought monetary chaos in the 1930s had to be checked.

During those years governments caught in the slump had sought to open up a market for their exporters by reducing the exchange value of their currencies, or even by running several different exchange values according to the transaction involved.

The International Monetary Fund was intended to prevent resort to such devices by fixing the values of the different national currencies and by setting limits to the extent to which governments could change them.

At the same time, it was recognised that the world economy was in a state of chronic disequilibrium. The power of the USA contrasted with the penury which reigned elsewhere.

#### Weak currencies

Most currencies, apart from the dollar, were weak because most countries needed goods which could be obtained only from dollar sources and had little to offer in return.

A major part of the world's monetary stock of gold had found its way to Fort Knox. The whole world trading system threatened to seize up through consider themselves called to lack of lubricants. The Interdefend against us the role of national Monetary Fund and the World Bank, together with revolution, we give warning American loans and the Marshall Plan, dealt with some of these problems in the post-war world and helped make possible a particularly rapid restoration of world trade levels.

The currency system set up is prepared, how it develops, under the International Monetary Fund is known as the party is not for us a machine gold exchange standard. Under it all currencies are linked together through the dollar and gold.

The U.S. Treasury stands to exchange gold for dollars at the fixed rate of \$35 per ounce. The dollar thus stands in much the same relation to this standard as the pound did to the classic pre-1914 gold standard which turned on the City of London.

#### Important position

Despite the great weakening of British capitalism since that period the pound had conserved an important position in

lated by countries which had supplied Britain during the war.

This, together with the unrivalled experience and connections of the City, left the U.S. government with but little choice. Greatly weakened in relation to the dollar the pound, nevertheless, accepted as one of the 'key currencies', which remain to

international financial sta-

Until the mid-1950s it seemed that the dollar at least was impregnable. Since then, however, the picture has changed. Repeated balance of payments deficits have drawn down the gold holdings of the U.S. and have thus led to doubts about the gold value

of the dollar itself. More dollars have been pouring into the circuit of exchange, enabling U.S. business to establish a dominant position throughout the capitalist world, while the dollar, as a currency unit, has weakened, especially in relation to the currencies of Western Europe.

#### Gold value

It is clear that the gold exchange standard can be no stronger than the currencies that compose it and that a weakening of one throws an increased burden upon the other, leaving gold as the only sure store of value for central banks which can afford to procure it.

Meanwhile, the volume of world trade has continued to increase, partly through the expansion of economies like the German, French and Japanese, partly through the continued outflow of dollars and pounds.

Many countries have had to draw on their reserves and borrow from the richer countries or from international institutions like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to prevent economic collapse and revolution.

Means for continuing this process are, however, limited by the rules of these institutions, as well as by the attempts to limit the outflow of dollars from the U.S., and to bring the British balance of payments into equilibrium.

This supply of gold is limited, it is unequally distributed and tends to pile up in the richer countries with export surpluses.

So, as it has been put, in the course of the marble game some players run out of marbles. If there is not a fresh share-out they will have to withdraw from the game. This is what is facing many of the countries represented at the Washington meeting. They hoped to hear about propositions for a new share-out or some means of getting more marbles to play with. They went home empty-handed.

What has happened is that the whole question of the future shape of the world monetary system has been handed over for the consideration of the big powers grouped in what is known as the Group

#### U.S. favoured pause The U.S. appears to have

favoured this pause hoping in the meantime to bring its own balance of payments problem under control and winning allies to deal with French criticisms of the dollar. The latter have attraction for countries which have to watch their industry passing under U.S. control, or fear inflation, and thus are suspicious of plans to create new forms of 'liquidity'.

But the French line makes little appeal to those countries which, without new credit facilities, face economic col-

Perhaps the U.S. administration hopes to be able to hatch a new plan in the Group of Ten which, while safeguarding the dollar, will rally support from these quarters, i.e., the national bourgeoisie of the less developed countries in particular. It may also be hoping that growing internal problems will force a shift in the French line by next spring; it is known that substantial sections of French business are opposed to de Gaulle's back-to-gold ten-

In the meantime hard bargaining can be expected inside the Group of Ten.

# A repulsive review from

which the re-issue of \_\_Trotsky's 'History of the Instead, he treats us to a series Russian Revolution' has of lies and distortions about elicited, one calls for special attention. appeared in the 'Daily Worker' (September 24) and it was by R. Palme

> And this from a man who justified and covered up for every one of Stalin's crimes against Communism.

volume of correspondence class as to open the way for the

main purpose: to prevent readers of the 'Daily Worker' from studying Trotsky's book. thousands of communists were

'counter-revolutionaries'.

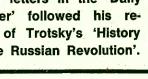
Stalinism, leaving as slimy a trail of slander as he dare.

'In the subsequent Trials, because of the security organs, the innocent suffered as well as the guilty. It is for Soviet historians to give an objective account of the whole period.'

#### No account

Dutt knows better than anyone that Soviet historians are as unlikely 'to give an objective account' of the Trials as the Communist Party in Britain is to write its own history.

Many letters in the 'Daily Worker' followed his review of Trotsky's 'History of the Russian Revolution'.



to quoting the most abrasive exchanges, and avoids analysing the subjects in dispute. He tells his readers that

Trotsky's fight against the theory of 'socialism in a single country' was 'defeatist'. And he pretends that Trotsky and his supporters

were 'defeated overwhelmingly in the Party, after a discussion and a vote in every branch'. (This particular lie is repeated by Olive Arnot in a letter in the 'Daily Worker' of October

In fact, no real discussion was allowed. Gangs of hooligans were sent round by Stalin to howl down the Opposition speakers.

#### Hounded

When Trotsky spoke to the meeting which expelled him from the Party, not one word of his speech was heard. His supporters were hounded from their jobs and finally imprisoned or exiled.

And yet, in 1965, it is Trotsky's book which is reprinted. His ideas and his revolutionary stand inspire a new generation of workers, while Stalin's name is reviled.

Dutt grumbles that Trotsky treats the Bolshevik leaders. (with the exception of Lenin) 'with contemptuous disdain and hostility'. Dutt is so used to worshipping the bureaucratic idealisation of history, that Trotsky's presentation of a living process, with all its contradictions and imperfections seems like blasphemy.

But, as Trotsky says in the Introduction to Volume II and 'Certain of the friends of

the Soviet Union-a phrase to refute or correct the picture given of the contake upon its shoulders.'

#### **Bureaucracies'** crisis

Dutt and his friends continue their battle to stop the rebuilding of an international movement to take up that task. But the crisis faced by bureaucracies throughout the worlda reflection of the crisis of capitalism-makes it harder for the Stalinists every day.

October revolution and the struggle against its betrayers becomes clear to numbers of young people who turn towards the Socialist Labour League

munist Party leaders turn what was once a communist party into an opportunist sect, they find it impossible to prevent Trotsky's analysis of the victory of the working class under Bolshevik leadership from aiding the Fourth International in preparing for the

As Dutt and the other Com-

this day.

#### OF all the reviews To this end, he hints that it is slaughtered by Stalin's thugs, not 'trustworthy'. Dutt and his friends were most active participants in the inter-Of course, he is unable to specify a single inaccuracy. national slander machine.

Trotsky's political record. Trotsky is alleged to have conducted a 'venomous ven-. detta against the Soviet government, the leadership of the Soviet Communist Party and

the Communist International'.

#### Lunatic theory

While Trotsky was writing the 'History of the Russian Revolution', Dutt, installed by Stalin's machine, was forcing the British Communist Party to accept the lunatic theory of 'social-fascism'. He carried out his work so successfully, that by the time of Mac-Donald's betrayal in 1931, the Party almost vanished. Meanwhile, his German co-thinkers had so misled the working

victory of Hitler. His so-called review has one At the time of the Moscow Trials in 1936-38, when

Trotsky and his followers were smeared as 'fascist agents' and Everyone knows now that

the Trials were frame-ups and the 'confessions' rigged. So Dutt has to slide round this episode in the history of

'The Soviet government dealt with this Trotskyist conspiracy,' he says.

Dutt also reverts to earlier forms of 'anti-Trotskyism'. He makes the most of Trotsky's disagreements with Lenin in the pre-1917 period, although, naturally he confines himself

This is our reply to Devlin:

gallivanting with the T&GWU

Nationalization of the docks

to join the union of their choice.

#### dition of the party during the events. For the information of these "friends" who the Bolsheviks in the October that our book teaches not how to love a victorious revolution after the event in the person of the bureaucracy it has brought forward, but only how a revolution and how it conquers. A whose sinlessness is to be defended by state measures of repression, but a complicated organism which like all living things develops in contradictions. The uncovering of these contradictions—among them the waverings and mistakes of the general staff -does not in our view weaken in the slightest degree the significance of that gigantic historic task which the Bolshevik party was the first in history to

The real meaning of the today.

At the same time the

international trade and finance. After 1945 it could not have been dispensed with without bringing monetary chaos, since many central banks held sterling as their reserves, and sterling balances had been accumu-

continued decline of British capitalism, expressed in repeated balance of payments crises, holds a big question over the role of the pound and thus over

## our policy NAS&D. They maintained that Dash and the Stalinists are the

it is not necessary to combine the class struggle with the democratisation of the T&GWU. They built up an artificial barrier between the members of the T&GWU and the 'Blue Union', NAS&D.

The Communist Party did everything it possibly could to weaken the struggle of the NAS&D for recognition in the ports. When 10,000 members in the northern ports joined the NAS&D in 1954-55 and forthwith opened up a struggle for recognition, the Stalinists opposed and sabotaged this struggle. After the seven-week dock

strike in favour of recognition by 30,000 T&GWU and NAS&D members combined, Ted Dickens, the Stalinist forerunner of Jack Dash, and supported by Dash, voted for the expulsion of these 10,000 members from the NAS&D under TUC instructions.

They were expelled with Stalinist support and this is what started non-unionism on the docks. The TUC, Jack people responsible for nonunionism on the docks today, because they refused to allow dockers to join the union of

their choice. The legal action by Spring of Liverpool early in 1956 reinstated these 10,000 members, but it did not clear up the nonunionism, which was now created on the docks.

Ted Dickens joined forces with the right wing against the northern dockers. The result was that non-unionism continued and the northern men were forced to retreat, even though they had won their case

#### Responsibility

If there is non-unionism in the northern ports today, Jack Dash must take his share of the responsibility. The NAS&D stevedores under Barrett's leadership must also share this responsibility because they have constantly obstructed the recruitment of non-union dockers into the NAS&D.

T&GWU dockers joined the 'Blue Union' in 1954-55 because it was the union of their choice. There was no conspiracy by the Socialist Labour

The dockers were accepted into the NAS&D by a majority vote of its membership. We had no say in this matter. The decision was made by the dockers themselves democratically. We supported them because we felt they were right to take such a step.

Today, we fully support the right of the NAS&D to recruit in the northern ports. Dick Barrett is wrong to accept Devlin on greater monopoly on the docasisarrett should fight for his .....bers instead of

Our policies are open and above board. We repeat them again for all to see.

under workers' control. The right of portworkers

#### which often means friends of the present Soviet powers and that only so long as they remain powers-have reproached the author for his critical attitude to the Bolshevik party or its individual leaders. Nobody, however, has made the attempt

# BARBICAN BUILDERS RETURN

GLASGOW

BUSMEN BAN**NIGHT SHIFTS** 

DUS crews at the Ibrox and Langside depots of Glasgow Corporation Transport Department have banned working after 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

The immediate cause of the ban is the number of assaults and disturbances on corporation buses. Last year there were 67 injuries to bus crews from assaults.

But behind the seemingly unhappy relations between bus workers and some sections of the transport users lie other

On many routes services are difficult to run due to lack of staff. A few weeks ago one bus depot threatened strike action in protest against the lack of relief crews to man the

#### OFF THE ROAD

The general manager of Glasgow City Transport Department has stated that on some Saturdays as many as 400 buses out of 1,200 are off the road due to lack of staff.

In addition, bus crews report long hours of overtime due to the fact that there is no one to relieve them at the end of the

situation, where In queues get longer and longer as people wait for a bus which is full when it arrives, and bus crews are tired from long and irregular hours of duty-frustration mounts and tempers become frayed-arguments and violence result.

The majority of bus workers are completely opposed to ex-

#### Schedules strike 100 per cent solid

THE second one-day protest strike at Hanwell London Transport Garage staged last Saturday against the new schedules, was again 100 per

A meeting was to be held on Thursday this week to discuss future action.

Leatherhead garage also staged a one-day strike on Saturday against the schedules.

cessive overtime, but many are forced to work some overtime to make ends meet.

Glasgow bus workers should receive the full support of all other sections of workers in a fight to improve the onerous conditions under which they work.

While the ban on Friday and Saturday night services may cause some inconvenience and appear to be over an issue likely to increase the conflict between bus workers and passengers, it has far deeper implications for both bus workers and workers who travel by bus.

What the bus crews want above all is 40-hour week with rates of pay sufficient to maintain their families in decent conditions and rostered free week-ends so that they can enjoy their leisure time.

### REGULAR

Transport users want regular and frequent services and an end to the ever-growing increases in fares.

This means fighting against the Tory and right-wing Labour measures to restrict spending on essential public services.

It means local authorities must be relieved of the burden of heavy interest payments on loans secured to buy public transport vehicles. The provisions of cheap oil for transport and the abolition of profits made by the motor vehicle industry in supplying buses to local authorities must be made.

This can only be achieved by fighting for policies of nationalization of the oil and motor industries, of the finance corporations and all public transport. It means the planned organisation and running of transport by elected committees of transport workers.

## Must fight for 100 per cent site

By A NEWSLETTER REPORTER

OST of the 380 building workers on Turriff's Barbican site in the City of London returned to work on Thursday. Three weeks earlier they had been sacked for striking against the employ-

BRISTOL

gets the cold

shoulder

Newsletter Correspondent

A NY illusions national docks officer of the

Transport and General Wor-

kers' Union, Tim O'Leary,

may have had about getting

the Bristol dockers to go

back to work without a proper

settlement were abruptly

shattered at a meeting on

Both during the meeting and

afterwards Bristol dockers

angrily shouted at O'Leary that

**PERSUASION** 

Bristol, the meeting lasted one

hour and during that time

O'Leary tried to persuade the

dockers to go back to work the

following morning, whilst the

union promised to resume talks

24 hours afterwards on the

O'Leary, however, was un-

able to promise to the meeting

that the 'Gloucester City', the

ship involved in the dispute,

would be included in the talks

because, he said, another agree-

ment had already been reached

concerning that particular ship.

It was after this statement

When asked if he had any

objection to the Minister of

Labour intervening in the dis

pute O'Leary said 'I have none.'

The line-up of forces is quite

clear. The officials of the

Transport and General Wor-

kers' Union are most eager to

ANSWER

O'Leary himself said that he

thought the vote in Colston

Hall went in favour of a return

Bristol dockers, however,

have given a definite answer to

O'Leary and the other officials

of the Transport and General

They must now call on sup-

port from other sections of

dock workers such as those in

the northern ports, who have

already condemned the Devlin

Report on modernisation of the

docks as an attack on the

docker, and called for the

nationalization of the industry.

get the men back to work.

that the men decided to remain

timber rates.

out on strike.

to work.

Workers' Union.

Held in the Colston Hall,

they wanted to stay out.

Monday this week.

ment of non-union labour.

At a time when the Labour government is proposing to legislate against the trade unions this is a significant step forward for the rank and file, but it must be carried concretely to its logical conclusion of 100 per cent unionism on this and other sites.

The settlement to the strike was announced on Monday after talks between the employers and the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives.

The men had been on strike for at least two weeks before their unions, the Transport and General Workers' Union, Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, and the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers recognised their struggle.

The settlement allows all the men employed on September 21 to return, and for all those new workers who are taken on (to replace those who found other jobs after the sacking) to become union members.

A document drawn up by Furriff's, which was signed by many taken on after the 380 were sacked, was withdrawn at the talks. This document ensured that men would not take part in any unofficial action, go-slow or work-to-rule.

### Stood firm

West Indian, Asian and Irish workers have stood firm on the picket lines during this strike, despite scuffles with the police and non-union labour taken on by Turriff's, and attacks from the press.

Many of them have been insisting throughout the dispute: 'We want a 100 per cent

One worker told our reporter on Monday that the site was about 95 per cent unionised. But we need the other 5 per cent if we are going to go back stronger,' he added.

At the same time 'leaders' of the strike, supporters of the Communist Party, were waving this question aside.

At a meeting on Monday evening, the day the dispute was settled, these 'leaders' refused to answer the question about 100 per cent unionism at least five times. questioner was told: 'Leave that till we get back,' and the meeting was abruptly brought to a close.

The best way to continue this fight is by ensuring that every builder becomes a member of his union to fight against all building employers for better wages and conditions, by demanding the nationalization of the industry under workers' control, and against all those who attempt to weaken this struggle.

# industrial Newsletter

## Dockers reject timberrate offer 0'Leary—

Militant stand for more negotiations

**Newsietter Reporter** 

O<sup>N</sup> Friday, October 8, with the dock strike entering its 12th day, union officials made their second attempt at urging the strikers to return to work.

The proposal to return to work on Monday, October 11 was rejected by the strikers.

Only a very small number did vote for the union officials' proposal.

One official told the dockers that negotiations over unloading of packaged timber (the cause of the present dispute) would begin as soon as a return to work took place.

But, he said, the strikers had to return on the basis of the interim piecework rate agreed by the Local Joint Council for cargo on the 'Gloucester City'.

The men have flatly rejected this interim rate for the ship. They claim that it is inadequate.

#### **NEGOTIATIONS**

Dockers are also insisting on immediate negotiations on the whole question of pay and manning scales for unloading timber.

Continuously, since the strike started, the press has directed a stream of insults and threats at the 1,500 strikers. Adverts in the local paper

have appeared denouncing the strikers. And statements have claimed that some dockers can earn as much as £4 a day.

What the papers do not report, however, is how often a docker is ever given a chance in a week to earn that much money a day.

Opposition has not come only from the employers and the press. The Transport and General Workers' Union representative is reported to have said the strike was 'putting the whip in the hands of our opponents to bring legislation against us. In fact our government might have to do it.'

#### **LEGISLATION**

The day before this statement was made, a report in the local papers said that proposed legislation to implement the suggestions of the Devlin Report is to be laid before Parliament next month.

This information was given by Ray Gunter, Minister of Labour, not at a meeting of dockers, but to the annual

conference of the Institute of Personnel Management at Harrogate.

It was also announced that Tim O'Leary, national docks officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, was to address a meeting of dockers on Monday.

#### INDICATION

This is an indication of how seriously the employers are taking this dispute.

They obviously see it as a preliminary trial of strength to test the dockers at Bristol and Avonmouth for the coming struggles over the implementation of the Devlin Report. The concessions which the

employers are being asked to make are marginal, but what is at stake is not just the question of pay but the whole future of the dockers in the ports.

The port employers are anxious not to lose out to the Bristol dockers, who have shown a tremendous amount of strength in this struggle.

LONDON AIRPORT

THALLENGING the Trades

warning system, 21 Ministry

of Aviation shop stewards at

London Airport decided to ask

for official union support for

any strike action they may

In opposing the govern-

ment plan, whereby all wage

claims are to be reported under

the 'early warning system'

before talks begin between

management and the workers,

the stewards have put in a

claim for parity for Ministry of

Union Congress' early

Ministry workers

seek equal pay

**Newsletter Correspondent** 

# Defiant car workers boycott mini-shift

By Sylvia Pick

A NGRY car workers boycotted last Friday night's mini-shift at the British Motor Corporation factories in Birmingham. At Longbridge and Tractor and Transmissions, plants were virtually deserted.

This was their defiant rejection of the move by shop stewards

at Longbridge to sacrifice the victory, won in the mini-shift dispute, in return for the management's ending of shorttime working introduced in BMC factories last Monday

Workers are asking what lay behind this sudden announcement of short-time working for an unspecified number of

After one week of short-time working, the management announced that it was possible to end it if stewards would 'co-operate' by recommending that the mini-shift be worked.

Was it, in fact, a tactic used to reverse the Friday shift victory and induce the cooperation of shop stewards' committees?

#### BACKING

They already had the backing of union officials, who throughout the struggle had insisted that their members abide by the terms of the 'package deal' covering night-shift working.

There was no move from this official attitude until the revolt against Friday-night working was so widespread that the unions were forced to admit that they could no longer contain the situation.

This claim is made after a

pay agreement covering BOAC

and BEA workers was ratified

The men claim that the

parity agreement, which was

drawn up in 1959, will be

broken if the claim goes before

1959 Agreement

the Ministry of Aviation that

the 1959 agreement will have

to be referred to the Prices and

Referring the agreement to

the Prices and Incomes Board

however is not likely to pro-

duce any more results than re-

ferring it to the 'early warning

will have to fight for every

penny they can get from the

Earlier this year it was the

BEA porters who got their first

taste of struggle. Ministry of

Aviation workers must learn

the essential points of their

fight and demand parity of

wages-but not on the basis of

OVERTIME BAN

AT ROLLS ROYCE

FIGHT thousand engineering

workers at the six Rolls Royce

factories in Scotland have imposed

The clerical workers claim that

overtime rates in England are

higher than those paid at the

Scottish factories and are demand-

a ban on overtime working.

workers and 1,200 clerical

Now it has been decided by

the 'early warning system'.

on September 14.

Incomes Board.

government.

any package deal.

gesting that short-time working might be the consequence of cancelling the mini-shift?

'DONE A DEAL'

National discussions on the

question of Friday night shifts

were due to take place this

week. Are the engineering em-

ployers seeking to influence the

outcome of these talks by sug-

Intense resentment was felt by Longbridge workers, who believed that their shop stewards had 'done a deal' with the management and thrown away the fruits of their long struggle against Friday night working.

They may well ask what kind of leadership this is at a time when the employing class is stepping up its attempts to discipline the workers and force them to accept a lower living standards and tougher working conditions.

The working class are now feeling the results of the cowardly capitulation of trade union and Labour Party leaderships before the capitalist class.

After such glaring evidence that official leaders of the labour movement intend to show no fight in defence of workers' interests, every employer in the country feels his position strengthened.

These attacks can be defeated by the militancy and solidarity of the working class. But first they must throw out the weak and treacherous leaderships who collaborate with the enemy class and sell out their own.

## STEELMEN **STRIKE OVER** FITTER

By Newsletter Reporter

N protest against what they call the 'archaic disciplinary methods' implemented by the Steel Company of Wales, 1,300 maintenance workers withdrew their labour on Tuesday this

The decision was taken at a mass meeting of 1,000 members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union at Port Talbot.

The men, who are employed at the Abbey Works of the Steel Company of Wales, are taking the action of refusing to work until Saturday in sympathy with a suspended fitter.

#### Suspended

The fitter was suspended for seven days after it was alleged that he had been 'negligent'.

Last Thursday 51 fitters started an unofficial strike in sympathy. All the men say they will not

return to the Abbey Works until Saturday which is the same day that the suspended fitter resumes work.

Behind this strike is a challenge to the employers by the steel workers of Wales on the question of attacks on workers by the management. In staging a protest walk-out the AEU men have shown they will not be divided.

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From BOB SHAW, Our Scottish Correspondent

take over pay.

Aviation workers.

# Threat to Linwood militants

THE Paisley District Com- shop steward for three years at ■ mittee of the Amalgamated Engineering Union is to investigate the action of the management of Rootes, Linwood, in moving the secretary of the works committee to another part of the factory.

He is now no longer able to function as a shop steward.

At the Linwood factory many shop stewards are demanding that the management's action be contested.

They point out that removal of the works committee secretary means that the management could be free to victimise any militant who opposes the kind of trade union and management collaboration which

Rootes are advocating. Hugh Hunter, the ex-secretary, is a member of the AEU and was a

Linwood. Appointed four months ago as

Removal of works committee secretary

works committee secretary by unanimous vote, he immediately became involved in negotiations for the introduction by Rootes of an Emerson-type bonus scheme, which already operates in the Pressed Steel factory across the road.

#### COMMITTEES

Included in the management's proposals, is the setting up of productivity committees and the payment of bonus on the basis of saving in labour costs.

In an attempt to organise a protest within the factory some hop stewards and militants from Rootes and Pressed Steel factories attended a meeting called by the supporters of the 'Labour Worker' 10 days ago.

The speaker was Tony Cliff who proceeded to try to head off any attempt to fight against the rightwing rade union leaders.

In Ford at Dagenham last year, Cliff said, it was not a question of the car workers being sold out, it was the car workers themselves, they were just not organised.

It was, he said, no good attacking the leaders since it was not they but workers who came out with the racialist slogans at Smethwick (a car workers' town). Cliff, of course, only created

confusion by not in fact explaining that it was a Labour government which opened the door to the racialists. From this committee there has

been no official statement about Hugh Hunter's position and attempts to get the convenor to call a meeting to discuss the case have failed. Tony Cliff is worth mentioning

only because he succeeded in temporarily confusing militant car workers and heading off a fight with the right-wing trade union officials. His message was that it is useless to build a

Wilsons and John Boyds (of the AEU) so that the employers can be defeated.

agents for the right wing.

#### LEARN A LOT

When the Young Socialists demanded a year ago that the Wilson leadership take over the government and operate a socialist policy and announced their determination to fight for such policies themselves, the supporters of the 'Labour Worker' in Glasgow aided the right-wing Labour Party officials to expel and hound the

Young Socialist members. The car workers at Linwood can learn a lot from the struggles of the Young Socialists against the employers, the right wing and their

#### system'. Aviation workers know this. They also know that, like many other sections of workers now facing wage struggles, that they

Car workers should learn the lesson of the operations of people of this type, whose supporters were in the Young Socialists for four years and played the role of

ing parity. The engineers are demanding an improvement in a recent 5s. and 13s. 4d. wage offer. 'left' aides.