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Paper of the Socialist Organiser Alliance No.98 SEPTEMBER 2 1982 (Claimants and strikers 10p) 25p

BREAK LINKS WITH TORIES

THREE WEEKS ago, the first trade union militant was hauled before the courts, threatened with jail under anti-union laws passed by the Thatcher government.

In a few weeks' time a further package of anti-union legislation — Norman Tebbit's Bill — will enter the statute book. Management throughout industry is using the recession to mount an offensive against shop floor trade union organisation. Yet still trade union officials continue to collaborate with the Tories and the CBI — on the National Economic Development Council, its local offshoots, and a whole edifice of 'tripartite' committees, commissions, and tribunals.

The Roman Emperor Nero played the fiddle while his capital city burned around him. The TUC leaders — lacking even musical talent — simply continue friendly relations with the very same government and employers who are hell-bent on smashing the power of the unions.

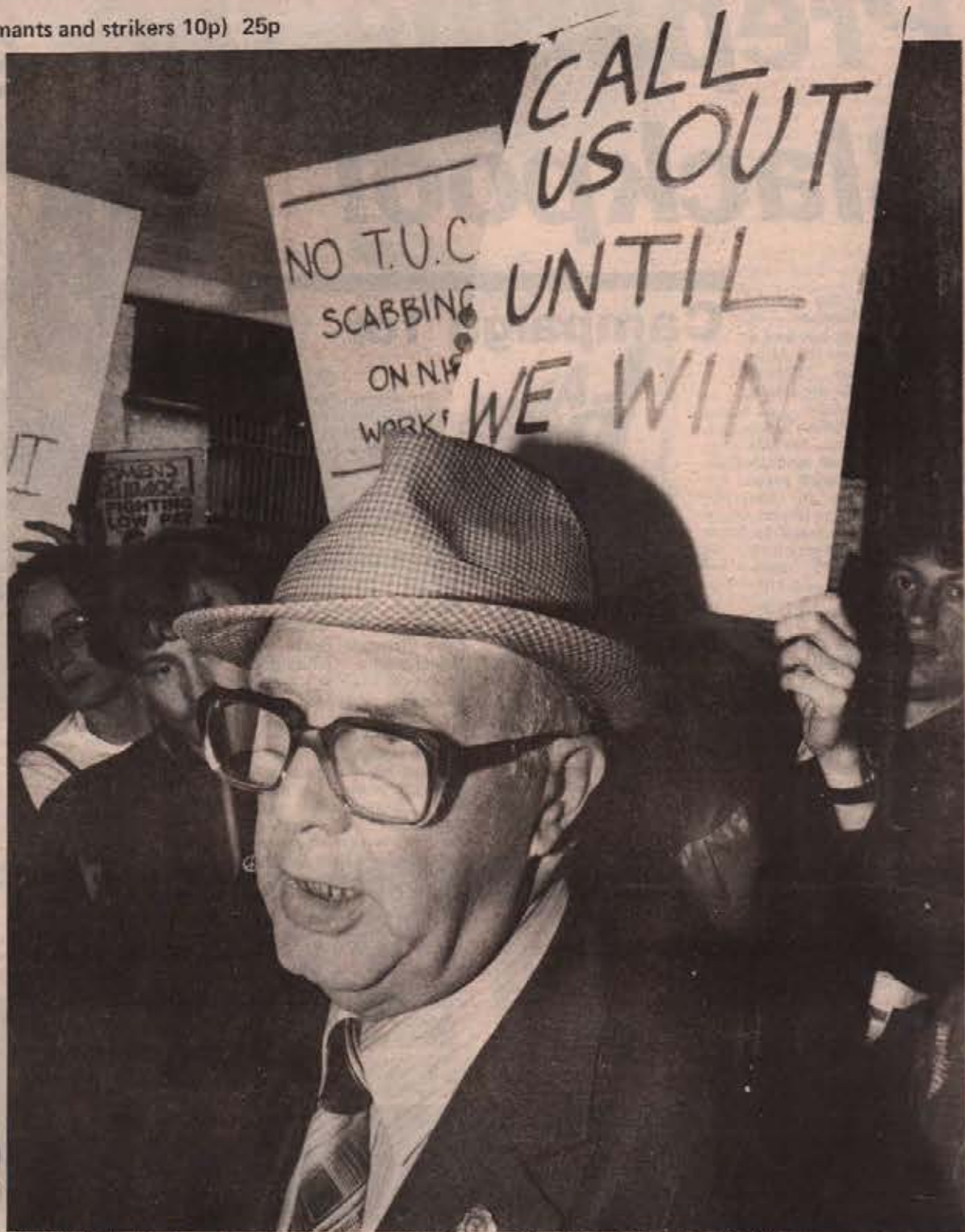
The Brighton TUC Congress next week will see the right wing oppose resolutions calling for an end to such links with the Tories. They will also oppose an FBU motion calling for

immediate action if any trade unionists is jailed under the Tebbit laws, and an NGA motion insisting that the TUC 'fighting' fund should not be used to pay legal fees arising from the new legislation.

The reality is that the vast majority of union leaders are opposed to taking any action at all against the Thatcher government. That is also why the health service pay dispute — despite the inescapable militancy and tenacity of 700,000 union members — has been allowed to drag on for five months, with the wave of solidarity strikes in other industries curbed by NHS union bureaucrats.

Last week's meeting of TUC health unions once again brushed aside resolutions for all-out strike action and for a 24 hour general strike, and failed to take advantage of the two-to-one ballot rejection of the Tory pay offer by the non-union Royal College of Nursing. Instead it limply called yet another one-day stoppage.

But this did not go unopposed. Outside was a vocal lobby of 100 health workers organised by the rank and file group



TUC Health Services Committee Albert Spanswick stonewalls as rank and file activists demand action

'Health Workers for the Full Claim' — demanding all-out strike action and a call for a 24-hour general strike. And many health union militants will join the lobby of the TUC on Monday September 6.

They will be demanding that the TUC gets off its knees and gears up for war with the Tory government. This means firmly rejecting any use of the courts to fight the Tebbit Bill, breaking all links at all levels with this vicious union-busting government, and building up instead of undermining the fighting strength of the working class.

A decision for all-out action by the NHS call for a 24 hour general strike in defiance of the government, could be a powerful support of the health workers, could be a powerful offensive — giving a powerful lead to other sections now entering the

The Tories can be defeated from the front by the leadership.

24-HR GENERAL

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Conference Fund

moan and
when his guillotine, but
that's what we call a real
education.

Labour witch-hunt



Why the CP slam Marxism Today

by Tony Richardson

A FURORE has been caused in the ranks of the British Communist Party, and among its fellow-travellers, by an article in the September issue of the CP magazine Marxism Today — or, rather, by quotations in the Daily

Mirror from the article. The article, 'The Unions Caught on the Ebb-Tide', by Tony Lane, is about the current state of the trade unions. Most of the article is non-controversial. But at the end

it discusses the shop stewards' movement. 'The move towards company bargaining with shop steward participation has gained a new clientele for the British Rail break-fast, as shop floor representatives have sat cheek by jowl

with managers on their way to London'. 'Here we are simply observing the creation of a new working-class elite which has the opportunity (and too often takes it) of sharing in the expense account syndrome: the franchise of perks and fiddles has been widened'.

It says some stewards use their positions to become foremen and even personnel managers. 'Other stewards simply use the role as a means to an end: an easy life, an opportunity to get off the job and out of the plant with spurious excuses of 'union business'...'.

The article goes on to say that this produces cynicism in the membership.

Much of this is an accurate account of how the employers sometimes bureaucratised even the lowest level of the trade unions. The struggle against such bureaucratisation is part of the everyday struggle of militant shop stewards.

Workers who genuinely want to fight the Tory attack on the trade unions should be in the forefront of exposing this corruption.

But the answer of the CP has been for their Industrial Organiser, Mick Costello, to give interviews with the capitalist press attacking the article. A front-page piece in the Morning Star has declared that the article ought to have been in the capitalist press, and that 'the shop stewards' movement' should be defended.

Tony Lane's answer is to get away from shop stewards bargaining and to go for national bargaining through the full-time officials. In defence of this he quotes former NUM general secretary (and, at the time, leading CPer) Will Paynter.

This is the way that bargaining is going anyway, especially in major industries like the motor industry. More important, the corruption of the organisation at national level is far worse.

The answer of the CP is to defend the trade union leadership at all costs, because so many of their members in industry have cosy relations with the bureaucracy. This explains why they denounce their own theoretical journal.

The answer from genuine socialists should be a cleansing of the trade unions at the same time as we face the Tory attack. We defend even the union bureaucracy against the Tories, but only so that we can do the job of clearing them out ourselves.

Preparing the gags for Blackpool

EVEN before this year's Annual Conference of the Labour Party has had a chance to discuss the Militant Tendency Report (MTR), attempts are being made to stifle debate.

The just published Conference Agenda reveals that about a dozen amendments to Conference resolutions relating to the Militant Tendency Report, based on the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy 'model resolution' have been ruled out of order by the Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC). The amendments were to a resolution submitted by Plymouth Drake CLP and Manchester Withington CLP in the Party Unity section of the Agenda. The CAC's decision means that Conference is to be denied the opportunity of considering proposals which alone may offer a positive alternative to the recommendations of the MTR. If Conference, faced with a straight yes/no vote on the report, were to pass it, this would without doubt throw the Party into a civil war of unprecedented ferocity at a time when the Party should unite to bring down the Thatcher Government.

The CAC's reasons for ruling out the amendments are specious and totally contradict previous prac-

Campaign for



Democracy

In a press release, the CLPD has protested against decisions to rule amendments out of order.

tice and even some of its decisions this year. The CAC claims in letters to the respective CLP's that

1. 'the amendments are of a different subject to the resolutions';
2. and that they represent in fact 'a constitutional amendment ... and ... (as such should have been submitted)... by the closing date for resolutions, July 2nd.

In the case of (1), the resolution from Bermondsey CLP contains three demands relating to democratic rights of CLP's and individual Labour Party members that the NEC should respect tolerance for dissent and in particular the 'customary right of Party members with similar views to form groups to advocate these views more effectively'.

The same demands are included in the resolution from Plymouth Drake and Manchester Withington CLP's. In addition the Bermondsey resolution calls for 'policy or constitutional disagreements to be resolved in a spirit of tolerance and not by autocratic and arbitrary vetoes or registers'. It goes on to urge Conference to 'instruct the NEC to reverse its decisions which have infringed the above mentioned constitutional and customary rights of CLP's, and to bring before the 1983 Annual Conference constitutional amendments to bring the above rights of CLP's within the constitution of the Labour Party'.

The subject matter covered by the amendments to the Drake/Withington resolutions is



Walworth Rd wants to avoid a conference vote.

no different to that contained in the original resolution from Bermondsey - which the CAC have allowed to stand. It relates to the rights of Labour Party members to form groups and urges that these rights be specified in the Party's Constitution. It cannot be argued therefore that the area covered by the Drake/Withington resolutions and amend-

ments to them contains two unrelated subjects.

As regards point (2), in 1979 amendments to resolutions containing detailed proposals for constitutional changes were allowed and indeed were incorporated into the composite resolution on the election of the Leader.

As for the CAC's assertion that the proposals should have been submitted as a formal constitutional amendment, the facts are as follows: The NEC approved the MTR on the 23 June and the closing date for resolutions and constitutional amendment was 2 July. Official notification of the contents of the MTR did not reach affiliated organisations until well after the above deadline. So much for the realistic nature of this suggestion.

to the MTR as well as working for its outright rejection. Such criticisms advanced by ultra left or just muddle-headed sections of Labour's Left clearly mistake 'radical' and 'uncompromising' phrasemongering for a socialist strategy.

The decision of the CAC can still be reversed, and CLPD is urging CLP's and other affiliated organisations to send to the CAC emergency resolutions on the following lines: 'This CLP/trade union/socialist/Co-op society is gravely concerned that at least 11 amendments providing for a positive alternative to the Militant Tendency Report have, according to Labour Weekly [27.8.82], been ruled out of order on grounds which seem to contradict both previous CAC practice and Citrine's ABC of Chairmanship'.

This CLP/trade union/socialist/Co-op society therefore urges the Conference Arrangements Committee to reconsider its decision and to include the amendment on the agenda so that Conference has a further option before it concerning the MTR'.

It is possible that a reference back to reverse the CAC decision will have to be moved at Conference. It is important therefore that all affiliated organisations should mandate their delegate(s) to support the reference back and to vote for the resolution incorporating the amendments. All Labour Party members must be made aware of the crucial issues at stake. It is vital that all those who want to see a Labour Government returned at the next General Election should treat this issue as their top priority.

SO info

THE NEXT Socialist Organiser delegate meeting is on Saturday September 4, from 11.30am to 4.30pm at UMIST students' union, Sackville St, Manchester.

The agenda will include: the witch-hunt; preparations for Labour Party conference; resolutions including one on campaigning for police accountability; the NHS dispute; and other reports.

All local groups are asked to send delegates — and to operate 'positive discrimination' by sending a woman delegate if possible. Comrades who will be going to Labour Party conference are also specially asked to attend, whether they are local group delegates or not, for the discussion on Conference preparations.

For creche facilities or accommodation in Manchester, phone John Bloxam at 01-609 3071.

UNITE THE LEFT!

John Bloxam comments

THE Labour Party Conference Arrangements Committee has ruled out of order two amendments proposed by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy and supported by several Constituency Labour Parties.

The CLPD press release explains the details and the procedural arguments.

Unfortunately it cannot resist a side-swipe at those of us on the CLPD Executive who disagreed with the authors of the press release on tactics.

The disagreement was not quite as reported. It was not whether a delaying tactic was legitimate, but what the cost was. The original proposals of the CLPD right wing were practically identical to the register, but they were substantially modified after getting only a one vote majority on the EC.

And the fact that the CAC might want to get 'delaying resolutions' out of the way does not mean that they were more likely to get a majority. The fact still remains that if the trade union leadership feel strong enough for a purge, they will not want to delay, particularly with an election coming up.

In any case, the CAC decision probably means that the issue must be fought out between the register and outright rejection, whether we like it or not. Our job is to unite the Left and rally the forces for outright rejection.

Labour movement conference: September 11
Fight the Tories, not the Socialists!

At Wembley Conference Centre, London

All bona fide labour movement organisations are entitled to send delegates (maximum 5 per organisation), and are invited to sponsor the conference. Credentials fee £1 per delegate.

Credentials from Tony Saunois, 23 Ironside House, Homerton Road, London E9 5PW.

Cheques payable to Labour Movement Conference Fund

Labour Party Conference
Socialist Organiser
BRIEFING

For just £2 you can get this amount of space to urge delegates to back a resolution that you support, to remember an issue you feel strongly about or come to a meeting you are organising ... and its amazing how much you can cram into a space this size!

Just write to Nik Barstow, c/o 41 Ellington Street, London N7.

After PLO withdrawal

WHAT NEXT FOR LEBANESE MASSES?

THERE ARE plenty of grey clouds with no silver lining. And for the people of the Middle East there is no bright side to the Israeli victory in Lebanon which has brought the evacuation of Palestinian fighters from West Beirut.

The withdrawal of the Palestinians does not mean that the Zionist troops have gone, or show any sign of leaving. They remain dug in by the tens of thousands around Beirut and within shelling distance of the Syrian capital of Damascus.

The conditions for a Zionist withdrawal have not been clearly spelled out. On the one hand Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon have spoken of a withdrawal hinging on the prior withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanese soil: some demands however seem to go even further, apparently demanding the deportation of some left wing Lebanese militias from their homeland as a precondition for pulling out Israeli troops.

Meanwhile, by dint of the Israeli presence, the weakening of the Lebanese resistance as a result of the withdrawal of the Palestinians, and a campaign of terror and bribery, Phalangist militia leader Bachir Gemayel has secured election as the next President of Lebanon.

Nazi

Gemayel heads an armed force of upwards of 6,000, modelled on Hitler's Nazi Party, and secured his unchallenged position as head of the Maronite military apparatus by the slaughter of prominent members of the rival Franjeh family. He has been supported with arms and cash by the Israelis since taking over the Phalange from his father in 1976.

His election as President — by a 'Parliament' elected back in 1972 — was greeted by a personal telegram of congratulation signed, "Your friend Menachem Begin".

Gemayel's abiding hatred for the Lebanese Left and for the country's Muslim majority has been amply demonstrated, and he is described by his own brother as "possessed by megalomaniac violence". Yet the Tory press in Britain has concentrated on building the image of the new President as possibly the bringer of peace to Lebanon.

If indeed there should be a period of realignment and lull in the political struggle between the forces of left and right in Lebanon, however, this would be a result not of Gemayel's personal preferences so much as the situation in which he finds himself.

Reagan

On the one hand Gemayel is beholden to the Israelis, and they in turn are subject to the demands of the Reagan administration.

For the US imperialists, the main objective in supporting the Zionist invasion of Lebanon has been the establishment of a stable regime — not the prosecution of a new stage in the unresolved civil war of 1975-6. Gemayel

Not peace, but an onslaught from the Lebanese Right and the Israelis, is the prospect. Harry Sloan reports.

would therefore need to be certain that he had sufficient political and material forces at his disposal before embarking upon such an enterprise; and it is by no means certain that he could do so.

Crush

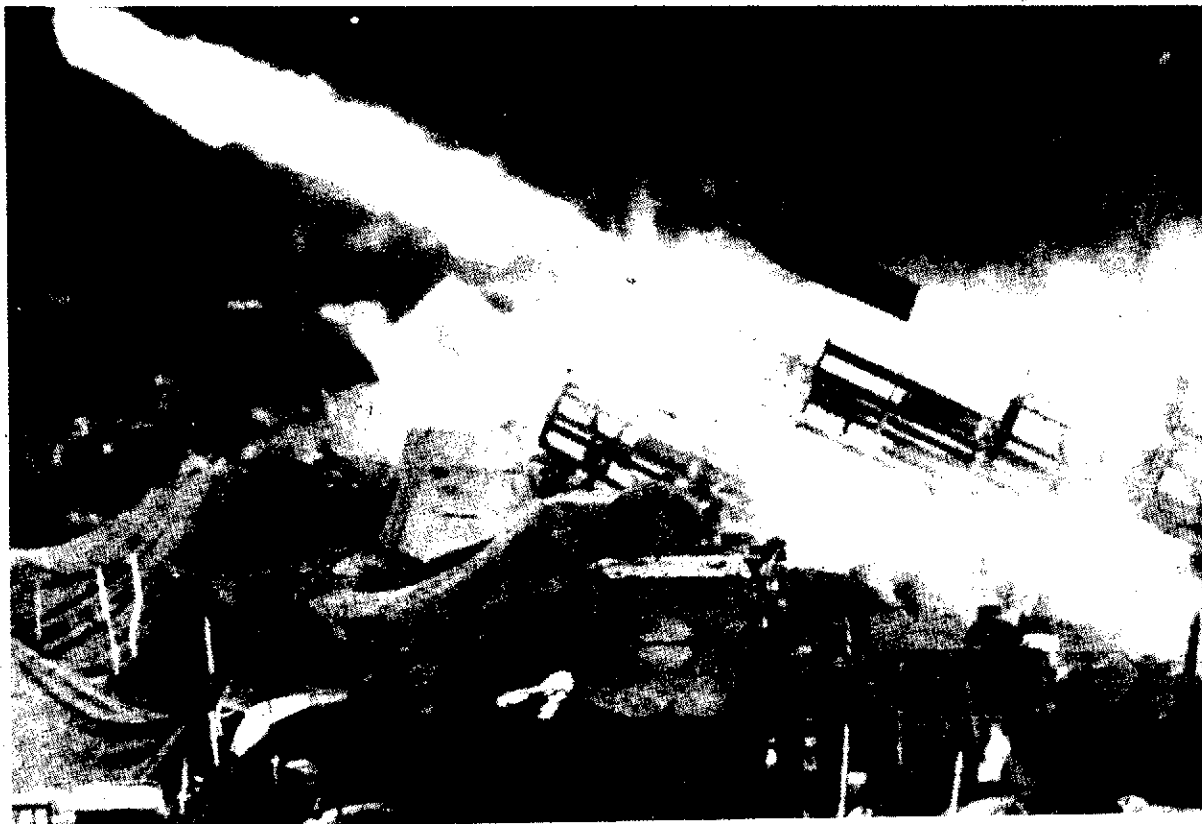
On the other hand Gemayel's ambitions to crush the strength of the Lebanese Left have already been partly realised by the Zionist invaders. The withdrawal of the Palestinian forces has left the Lebanese Left militias isolated — and the fact that a large quantity of heavy armaments and equipment has been handed over by the PLO to them and not the Lebanese army will not compensate for the losses suffered and the bitter taste of defeat.

It seems clear from reports that the Zionist use of the 'big stick' has indeed cowed a number of prominent leaders of the armed left wing opposition. Behind blustering statements refusing to talk with Gemayel until "after the Israelis have left", or even to talk to him at all, it seems clear that manoeuvres are already beginning towards an arrangement for 'peaceful coexistence' with the Phalangist president.

Jumblatt

Such talks were foreshadowed by the various frantic attempts which were made during the Israeli siege of Beirut to set up a Lebanese 'government of national unity', involving leaders of the Lebanese Left, in particular Walid Jumblatt.

Now the leader of Amal, the 5,000-strong Shi'ite militia, Nabieh Berri, has declared his view that the Muslim



Rockets, bombs, bullets.... the war isn't over yet

community should seek reconciliation through negotiation — and urged Gemayel to take the initiative for talks.

Meanwhile the Zionists have suggested that they might press for one of the more hard-line groupings, the left-wing Sunni Muslim Murabitoun militia, to be removed from Beirut.

Army

The Murabitoun have forces estimated at anything between 700 and their own claim of 5,000, and are currently issuing press cards to journalists in continuity with those previously issued by the PLO. Their leader, Ibrahim Kollilat, has consistently said that he will oppose any use of the Lebanese army in West Beirut.

But Kollilat too has gone along with the sombre mood of compromise and retreat, talking of Murabitoun putting down their arms — though not until after a Zionist withdrawal.

If indeed it proves possible on this basis to subdue the armed forces of the Left without waging a renewed

civil war, we can expect Gemayel to take advantage of the situation.

But even there remain problems. The departure of the Palestinians from Beirut does not eliminate the PLO strength in Lebanon. PLO forces retain their strong foothold in alliance with Lebanese leftists further

north in Tripoli. Will the Israelis seek to eliminate this pocket of resistance? Or will they leave the task to Gemayel, hoping his regime proves strong enough?

Nor is the challenge to central authority confined to the North. Even under Israeli occupation the Druze population of Lebanon has staged

a one-day general strike, and guerrilla action continues to defy Zionist repression in the shattered cities of Tyre and Sidon.

The south of Lebanon is also the home of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees, who are unlikely to submit without a struggle to Gemayel's threat to expel

them from the country.

Additionally there is the question of the Syrian forces inside Lebanon. Around 50% of the Syrian army is still on Lebanese soil, though its initial mission — preserving a balance between the Phalangists and the Lebanese Left and Palestinians — has now been superseded by events.

A formal withdrawal by Syria would be seen as a further major retreat before the Israeli army, and would open up the possibility of Zionist troops advancing unopposed up to the Syrian border.

A refusal to withdraw, on the other hand, could still produce a renewed military confrontation, possibly even all-out war between Israel and Syria, which the Syrians would be certain to lose.

It is not clear whether — or how strongly — the USA would regard such action as detrimental to its longer-term hopes that Zionist military terror will — as in the case of Egypt — bludgeon the Arab regimes as a whole into a submissive stance in which the USA in the guise of 'peacemaker' can establish alliances on its own terms.

One thing is certain: with the PLO leaders driven still further into the arms of reactionary Arab regimes, and reconciling themselves to a long-term existence as supplicants of US and European imperialism, and with the Lebanese Left preparing to compromise with their fascist opponents, the future holds immense danger for the workers and peasants of the Middle East.

PRESS GANG

by Patrick Spilling

THE ROYAL Family showed today why not a single one of their number has had to wait in a dole queue for handouts from the state.

They proved that when it comes to grey matter, these talented aristos are not only superior to every subject, but also top in every subject.

Dr Tony Benn, that graduate of some Marxist red-brick commissariat, thinks he can garrotte the Queen and replace her with one of his professors in idiosyncrasy from County Hall.

But Prince Edward has shown Benn where he can put his MA in misery.

The Balmoral boffin has won himself a place at Cambridge in an astonishing display of brilliance.

He faced the trials of the exam room just like millions of other boys and girls — but with the added burden of missing the so-called education dished out by comprehensives so beloved by Benn and his cronies.

While his competitors were swotting up on advanced sex lessons, or whatever passes for 'French' in LEA, Prince Edward was taking cold showers and rolling in nettles at his five-star training camp, Gordonstoun.

To send him there, his mother, like so many others, had made sacrifices. She was prepared to scrimp and save so she could hand over for his education £5000 a year — more than some NUPE members have the nous to earn for their whole existence, let alone be prepared to spend on their children.

This battle to give her children the best whatever the cost paid off. Prince Edward scored one of the most devastating intellectual successes in the whole history of the British monarchy.

Fifth... in a spelling bee.

There are of course some sneering knockers who try to twist every success for their own ends.

There are those who say

Daily Mail
Daily Express
Financial Times
The Daily Telegraph
The Sun

the other four 'ahead' of Prince Edward did not get places at Cambridge — or at any other university. They complain they did not even win places on a job creation scheme.

Carping

Such envious carping is beneath our contempt.

The beauty of our education system — which survives now almost alone in Oxford and Cambridge — is that it is not confined to the narrow dictates of the winning post.

Character and breeding are required to win a place at our great educational establishments. The fact that his mother owns the place is neither here nor there, as everyone knows.

Even if Prince Edward was a dustman, his quality would show through.

It was that same quality that made Admiral Woodward select his brother Prince Andrew to act as

decoy for Exocet missiles in front of the flag-ship of the great British task force.

It is the same quality which makes his brother Prince Charles such a compelling raconteur.

The Prince of Wales' tales of nights in the red light districts of his naval ports are the stuff of which English literature 'S' level passes are made.

Trendy

And what if some perverted anti-monarchist decries his nights of bliss?

It is better than condoning adultery, as some trendy bishops would have us do.

Besides, visits to a brothel are in the long tradition of the true English monarch — Elizabeth and Victoria apart, of course.

Benn may moan and sharpen his guillotine, but that's what we call a real education.



His own brother says he is "possessed by megalomaniac violence"

Central America

THE LONG WAR

"James Dunkerley's book 'The Long War' is the only substantial account of the present situation in El Salvador. It is written by a revolutionary socialist. It is well-researched, well-organised, and readable. Buy it, or order it from your library (Junction Press, July 1982: paperback £5.95, hardback £12.80)".

BILL McKEITH reviews and summarises the book.

For two years, up to the 'election' of last March, the ruling junta in El Salvador embarked on a US-sponsored programme of 'repression with reforms.' The failure of this project under President Duarte resulted in the 'electoral' victory of Roberto D'Aubuisson long-time leader of the country's death squads, and the appointment of a puppet president (Alvaro Magana) to front the military's all out 'pacification' of the population.

The Long War

Full-scale war may be said to have begun in El Salvador in April 1980. Then the armed opposition to the junta formed a unified command, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN.

But armed actions by different guerrilla organisations against the country's rulers have been continual since the early 1970s. And, in the consciousness of the Salvadoran masses, the 'long war' goes back to the rebellion of 1932 and beyond — to the 1880s, when today's oligarchy seized lands from communal and municipal ownership in order to establish the coffee plantations from which it still plunders its wealth.

Socialists must deepen their understanding of why solidarity with the FMLN should be a priority of work in trade unions, the Labour Party and other Labour movement organisations.

James Dunkerley's book *The Long War* is heartily to be welcomed on this count. It is the only substantial account of the present situation in El Salvador and its background. It is written by a revolutionary socialist who is active in solidarity work. It is well researched, well organised, readable and deserves to be read widely.

Contents of the book

The first part covers political developments from the 19th century up to 1961, emphasizing the 1932 Revolution. Chapters 4 and 5 describe the formation in the 1960s of the economic and social fabric of present day El Salvador. The third part covers the marked polarisation of class forces in the 1970s, and two final chapters analyse the collapse of the reformist October 1979 junta, the move to unrestrained civil war in the international

context of renewed Cold War.

In the Conclusion, Dunkerley returns to the theme of the regional nature of the conflict. The book's value is much enhanced by the endmatter including a really useable index, bibliography, chronology of main events, and glossary of organisations (over 50 acronyms!).

US intervention

There is another respect in which the present, military, phase of political struggle in El Salvador is a relatively 'long war'. Between the first big offensive of the FSLN in Nicaragua and the Sandinista's overthrow of Somoza in July 1980 was a war of 10 months. It is now 30 months, and one 'final offensive' since the formation of a single military command of opposition forces in El Salvador.

The decisive factor here is the attitude of the US government. In place of the vacillation in its support for Nicaraguan dictator Somoza, in El Salvador the US government has reasserted its traditional role of increased military intervention in the face of popular movements in the Central American region.

More 'aid' now goes from the US to the butchers of El Salvador, a country of 5 million people, than to the rulers of any other Latin American state. Since the installation of a 'reformist' junta in October 1979 — on a 'pacification-with-reform' platform in the US's Vietnam mold (and with the same leading advisor) — over 40,000 Salvadoreans have been massacred by forces trained and armed in the USA, equipped with US helicopter gunships, and guns and ammunition shipped in by daily flights from the USA, alongside over 800 US troops ('advisors') in El Salvador.

The US government now ranks El Salvador top in the struggle against 'Soviet expansionism' — New Cold War terminology, covering the threat of independent anti-imperialist movements. (Certainly the USSR, like Cuba offers no concrete aid to the FMLN, any more than either did before the FSLN victory in Nicaragua.)

By its bloody intervention, the US government demonstrates an understanding that a victory for the workers and peasants of El Salvador over the US-backed oligarchy and military will be a devastating blow to the ability of US banks and corporations to exploit the rest of the Americas. In crude terms, the US government has been obliged in the Central American context to resurrect the 'domino theory'.

This is the reason for US 'internationalisation' of the conflict. Diplomatic support from Britain, Israel, client states such as Egypt and all the Latin American dictatorships, underpins direct military intervention. In this the USA, Argentina, Israel and South Korea have provided arms, troops and training on a regional basis, to prevent the linking up of Central American struggles (notably those in Guatemala and El Salvador).

The coordinated support from the Honduran and Guatemalan armed forces (as well as former sections of Somoza's National Guard) is of a kind the Nicaraguan FSLN did not have to cope with and is an escalation that has vastly increased casualties and homelessness (an estimated 700,000 refugees) in the civilian population.

The 1932 Revolution

Part of the history, of

today's war in El Salvador is the intervention of US Marines in Central America politics, when US financial and strategic interests have been seen to be threatened by a reformist government or by popular revolt. Stationed in the Pacific off El Salvador during the few days of the abortive 1932 Revolution were three US and two Canadian warships. British marines landed briefly from one of the Canadian vessels until the Salvadorean military pointed out they were not needed.

If 'revolution' seems exaggeration for a rebellion which failed to take off at all in the capital, when rebel control of the few towns taken was lost in a couple of days, we must remember that the young Communist Party (PCS) had endeavoured to organise an armed insurrection on January 22nd, that barely armed and ill-prepared peasants engaged superior forces in a number of battles, and above all, that over 30,000 peasants were killed in the pogrom that followed (government casualties were about 80).

Role of the PCS

In this, 'perhaps the single most important



Roberto D'Aubuisson with friends

event in Salvadorean history', as Dunkerley describes it, argument and inadequacies in the PCS foreshadowed questions which are still unresolved today.

One faction, including the youth wing led by Miguel Mármol, called for immediate preparation for armed insurrection, following the military coup that had brought a brief liberal interlude to an end. The majority, including the intellectuals and party leader, Agustín Farabundo Martí, argued for intervention in elections in order to unmask the military, strengthen contact with the masses, and secure support from sections of the San Salvador garrison. When the first round of voting proved a fraud and PCS victories in some districts were annulled, the PCS reversed its position and fixed, then postponed, a date for insurrection.

During the postponement, the plan was discovered by the government with any possibility of winning over sections of troops was denied, Martí and others were arrested.

It was in these conditions with no mass membership, no organised cell structure and with a political line that had zigzagged over the crucial 2-3 weeks before the

22nd January, that the PCS decided to go ahead with its attempt to coordinate the uprising.

Dunkerley's own view is that the failure of the uprising had another, underlying cause — 'above all else, these absences reflected a greater weakness — an unborn working class that was so tiny and young it could not yet form the nucleus of a mass revolutionary party.'

The PCS was virtually destroyed in the genocide that followed. Martí, who had admired Trotsky (then leading the Left Opposition), and who had failed to convert the Nicaraguan Sandino to communism, was shot. Miguel Mármol survived miraculously, later to pen memoirs which Dunkerley describes as an ignored classic of Latin American revolutionary writing.

Such was the trauma of 1932, it was to be 40 years before any coordinated independent armed opposition to the landowners represented all this time in government by a succession of military juntas and dictators.

The 1960s

US response to the Cuban Revolution was to launch the 'Alliance for Progress' in Central America: US economic intervention in the 1960s accelerated the increasing poverty, unemployment and alienation from the land of the peasants, the trebling of the urban working class, the creation of a large under- and unemployed population in shanty towns on the edges of the cities, continued concentration of land ownership, radicalisation of the students, teachers and other petit bourgeois sections.

Dunkerley covers the occasional reformist attempts to democratise

government and introduce some agrarian reform. In one of these, in 1972, Napoleon Duarte (for two years recently nominal head of the junta), had as his successful running mate in presidential elections the same Guillermo Ungo who resigned from the junta and now heads the FDR, the broad grouping of which the FMLN is the military wing. In 1972 a military coup put paid to Duarte-Ungo election victory.

Rise of the Left

But the political developments in the working class and peasantry can best be recorded in the PCS, which throughout the 1960s — while still paying lip-service to a distant overthrow of the regime — through its trade union activity backed what it detected as progressive industrial employers against the still-dominant oligarchy, in the vain quest for a non-existent national industrial bourgeoisie that would lead a bourgeois democratic revolution.

The PCS majority backed the so-called football war against Honduras over a border dispute. Soon after, in 1970, a PCS minority, led by General Secretary Cayetano Carpio, left to form the Popular Liberation Forces — Farabundo Martí (FPL). The FPL described itself as Marxist-Leninist in character, with a strategy of 'prolonged people's war'. First of the politico-military organisations to arise in the 1970s, the FPL was and is the largest.

Dunkerley's analysis of the political and social origins and trajectory of these forces is one of the most interesting parts of the book, summarised roughly here.

In 1972, rejecting a Christian Democrat party unable to deliver any



Affiliate to the El Salvador Solidarity Campaign, 29 Islington Park Street, London N1.

reforms in the face of the military, a radicalised middle class grouping established the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) with a guerrillaist perspective divorced from building a mass movement in the working class, and developing a strategy of 'people's armed insurrection'. The ERP itself split in 1975 the new organisation being the Armed Forces of National Resistance (RN) which favoured a defensive 'anti-fascist' resistance to allow for the building of a united left.

Christian Democrat ministers, as the counter-insurgency character of the agrarian 'reforms' became inescapably apparent.

The armed organisations came under unified command (DRU, then FMLN). Unification of the 'popular organisations' followed the same month, January 1980, under the banner of the Revolutionary Coordinator of the Masses (CRM).

The FDR

The influence of Sandinista politics was apparent in the CRM's 'Programmatic Platform for the Revolutionary Democratic Document'. This was not simply a compromise document between left organisations, but it soon turned out, a reformist platform preparing for a broad front.

Reformist politicians who had left the junta set up the Salvadorean Democratic Front (FDS) in April 1980. Within two weeks a rally of 100,000 in San Salvador marked the establishment of a CRM-FDS alliance, the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) on the same programmatic platform.

Although this platform includes nationalisation and land reform, the language is such that it can be 'favourably' interpreted by both socialists and reformists. Such was the opinion at the time the platform was drafted, although political independence was certainly to a large degree sacrificed, for example by dropping any mention of the overthrow of capitalism or socialism, in favour of such catch-all phrases as 'social progress'.

It is quite possible to interpret the political

Popular organisations

Based initially in the east the politico-military organisations extended the areas under their control, mounted tactical engagements with government forces, assassinated leading right-wingers and ransomed western businessmen. During the 1970s in a development distinct from those in Nicaragua and elsewhere, each organisation allied itself with a mass 'popular organisation' largely comprising affiliated unions linked to it by a common programme.

Thus the FPL/BPR (Revolutionary Popular Brigades) and ERP/LP-28 were established. The RN linked with FAPU and the PCS continued with its own front, the UDN.

The profound influence of developments in Nicaragua made itself felt even before the FSLN victory.

The October 1979 junta was abandoned, first by the few leftists which had entered it, then by the PCS, and finally some of the



Organise solidarity on the streets of Britain

strategy of the Platform — whatever the intention of certain parties to it — is a capitalist reconstruction, with state control of certain sectors, and democratic reforms.

This is what the governments of France and Mexico, and the social democratic Second International of which the Labour Party is an affiliate support, and this is doubtless the message conveyed to them by the reformist overseas emissaries of the FDR such as Ungo.

Their hope is for a negotiated settlement to the war which will leave these 'leaders' in control. 'The Long War concludes

that this is an extremely unlikely outcome.

It is not possible to gauge the actual political balance in the FDR within El Salvador. It is in any event Dunkerley's view that for the left organisations to break publicly from the reformists and leave the FDR would be a catastrophe in the middle of the war. This may be right. What is certain is that solidarity action in Britain should have a socialist orientation whatever the 'public' FDR politics.

As James Dunkerley argues in his conclusion, the 19 million people of El Salvador, Nicaragua

Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica share similar societies and economies. In escalating its actions in defence of its own interests, US capital respects no borders.

We should recognise too that the 'balkanisation' of Central America, which serves imperialism well, is based on administrative and church divisions of the Spanish empire, reimposed after the collapse in 1841 of the Federal Central American Republic.

Regional conflict

Unlike the social democratic leaders in Europe,

the US government has concluded that it cannot defend its interests and at the same time concede the most basic democratic and economic demands in El Salvador, or in neighbouring Guatemala, because to do so would threaten uncontrollable anti-imperialist developments.

For the workers and peasants of El Salvador, Guatemala and other Central American states, the only prospect of imposing and defending even such basic demands is the building of their own leadership independent of reformist and Stalinist misleaders, during the struggle against their

native and imperialist oppressors.

This must mean calling not for a 'democratic' popular front government, but for a workers and peasants government based on their councils and defence committees, built now wherever possible, and alongside the military organisations; only such a government can open the way to establishing a Socialist United States of Central America.

Solidarity

Socialists in Britain should redouble efforts in opposition to the Reagan/Thatcher strategy of increasing military intervention. The removal of the Tory government from office would be the greatest act of solidarity with the struggle in El Salvador. We should demand the reversal of the US policy of increasing invasion of Central America and the Caribbean.

We should call on Nicaragua, Cuba, the USSR and other workers states to provide arms and other concrete aid to the struggles of workers and peasants in Central America; in the face of US intervention, their failure to do so threatens the gains made in both Cuba and Nicaragua. We should campaign for trade union blacking of trade with El Salvador and all reactionary Latin American dictatorships. We should organise public meetings and demonstrations in support of these demands, and affiliate to the El Salvador Solidarity Campaign in Britain.

IN BRIEF

The long arm of apartheid state

FACED with a growing radicalisation among its own black working class, the South African regime has not held back from its efforts to beat down black workers elsewhere on the continent.

Last week saw official acknowledgement of the fact that three white soldiers killed by Zimbabwean armed forces inside Zimbabwe were members of the South African Defence Force.

The Force's chief, General Constand Viljoen, claimed that the men were on an 'unauthorised mission' to free political detainees from a camp in southern Zimbabwe.

But they are not the only South African soldiers operating outside their own borders. From their bases in occupied Namibia, troops from the apartheid regime have waged repeated interventions into southern Angola, striking heavy

blows at the nationalist MPLA regime.

The South Africans have supplemented their own interventions by training and sponsoring counter-revolutionary guerrillas of the so-called 'National Union for the Total Independence of Angola', or UNITA.

UNITA's leader Jonas Savimbi has just been explicitly unmasked as an agent of the Portuguese fascist regime in its struggle against the liberation forces of the MPLA in the early 1970s.

Savimbi

Documents just released to the Portuguese press reveal Savimbi reporting to his fascist paymasters on an attack by UNITA on a 30-strong contingent of MPLA fighters.

Savimbi later continued his reactionary struggle with CIA and South African support, and is currently still harassing the MPLA regime. A similar band of South African sponsored guerrillas is at work in Mozambique, striking both at Machel's Frelimo regime and at training camps and exiled leaders of the illegal African National Congress of South Africa.

The long arm of apartheid intervention has also been seen in the abortive coup attempt in the Seychelles last November, in which the mercenaries involved were members of an elite South African army unit supplied with weapons by the Defence Force.

In a period in which economic crisis will prompt growing instability in black Africa, we can expect such interventions by the capitalist rulers of South Africa to intensify: the answer must be international action by the workers' movement in solidarity with the black proletariat in struggle against repression and exploitation.

Spanish poll

SPAIN will go to the polls on October 28. The UCD (centre party) government of Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, now in a minority after repeated splinter-group defections from the UCD, has decided to dissolve parliament.

This is no surprise. The only unexpected fact is the precise date — which means that the Pope's

visit to Spain, on October 14-22, will be in the middle of the election campaign.

The PSOE (Socialist Workers Party) — it is rather more pro-capitalist than its name would seem to imply — is expected to win the election. PSOE leaders have condemned the timing of the election as a gambit to maximise votes for the Right.

The moderate wing of the CGT has announced its intention to call a 24 hour general strike for the

beginning of September, while the more radical CGT is preparing to relaunch the 'second stage' of its plan of mobilisation. The first stage ended on March 30 with a harshly repressed demonstration in the centre of the capital, a few days before the 'reconquest' of the Malvinas.

The bosses, organised in the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA), have made their opposition clear to any massive wage increase...

The armed forces are still, from all accounts, in deep disarray. The crisis-ridden regime, trying to protect its flanks, last week published its plans for the legalisation of political parties. This legislation will mostly be just the formal recognition of the accomplished fact.

Committee for Human Rights in Argentina. c/o 29 Islington Park Street, London N1 9QB. Newsletter subscription £3 per year.

Food scandal

THIS week's Sunday Times points out a scandal in which meat pies branded as unfit for consumption have been consigned to refugees in Lebanon.

The meat pies, originally processed by Matteson under the Walls label, were found to contain an admixture of horsemeat, and withdrawn from sale.

But the regulations involved meant that the 288,000 cans were only declared unfit for human consumption inside the United Kingdom and Western Europe.

Elsewhere, apparently, the world's population of oppressed and exploited people are considered a legitimate target for unfit meat — some of which is thought to have come from knackers' yards.

There was at first dismay when it was revealed that the pies were headed for Cyprus: after all, as Matteson's managing director pointed out, 'we get English tourists there'.

So he should now rest easy in the knowledge that the dodgy food will be eaten by people securely outside Western Europe — few of whom will even speak English.

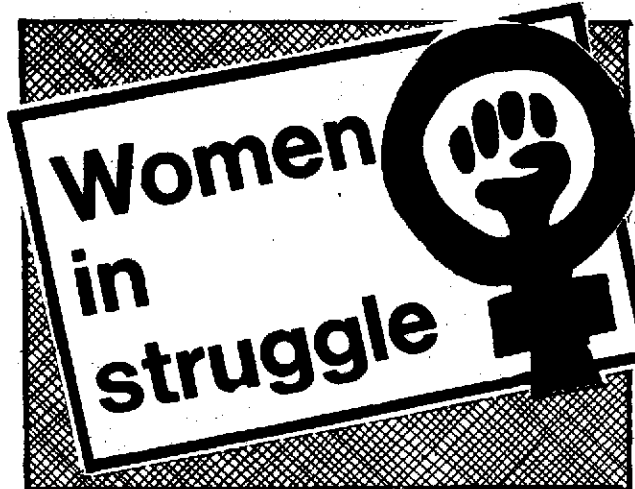
Except of course that the Cypriots and Lebanese have a reputation as streetwise businessmen — who might yet wind up shipping them back to England, 18 months after their manufacture, to make a neat profit.



South African soldier in Namibia

Sept.18: Decision day!

Gerry Byrne previews the September 18 conference of the Women's Campaign for Jobs (at County Hall, London)



AS WE wind into September and political activity starts to warm up again after the summer lethargy, it's time to rebuild the links and renew contacts.

While the Labour movement (at least the official, routine part of it) has been resting, the unemployment figures have crept up, a whole generation of school leavers has been thrown on the dole, and vicious new

attacks on the low-paid and unorganised have been set in motion.

The campaign for the June 5 Women's Right to Work demo created a movement, albeit an amorphous and disconnected one. The task now is to link those activists who took up the call — at the very least the 5,000 women who came onto the streets on June 5 — into a campaign which can

agitate and fight.

At a meeting in July, 20 women resolved that the Campaign must not end with the one-off Women's Right to Work March. We need to deepen the local roots generated by the work for the march. So the Women's Campaign for Jobs

But it will take more than 20 women to make it a campaign in more than name.

September 18 is the step in this. We need to define our priorities, generate initiatives, and give coherence to the widespread feeling in favour of a woman's right to paid work, independence and decent facilities.

The primary aim must be to develop a real base in the localities. This doesn't mean demanding that a handful of women gather under a new

banner and go to yet another meeting. It means that the initial small numbers of activists turn out to build on existing links with labour movement and other women — to link up with the struggles of women in work whose jobs are threatened (and whose aren't, these days) and 'non-working' women (i.e., those who are excluded from paid employment and defined as 'useless' to society.)

We will have to utilise existing organisation whether trade union, Labour Party, or women's right to work, and create new ones where there is a need. It's not the form or the name that's important, but the work that is done in resisting and publicising the attacks on women. We must generate support for women workers taking action in defence of jobs and services (like nurseries, health services, etc.) and attempt to organise women who are at home, under attack from the new social security rules and the destruction of local services.

We must counter the ideological barrage that tells us our place is at home and we should have no ambitions beyond that.

Movement

A real movement is also more than a collection of local activities. It needs a direction and a focus to work towards. It needs co-ordination so that local groups don't get sucked into what can become a depressing and isolating round of unconnected activity.

That's why it's important that the campaign adopts militant national focus to link isolated groups and individuals into a movement with a goal, a purpose, agreed focuses for action.

A 'nation-wide' Women's Campaign for Jobs was proposed at the July 3 meeting. It will be up to the September 18 conference to fill out the details. Some of us will be suggesting that a 'tour' of local marches, with the hard-core marchers going from city to city by bus rather than expending most of the time and effort in pounding lonely highways, is the best formula.

What is important is that it should be a forceful, militant affair, which generates enthusiasm — which, far from diverting from local activity, builds on its strengths and helps make fighting force from the fighting spirit of women, wage and unwaged, organised and not yet organised.

THE HIDDEN HAZARD

'THE MOST common and least discussed occupational health hazard for women' is how the Canadian Labour Congress describes the problem of sexual harassment at work.

In the US and Canada, the trade union fight against sexual harassment goes back seven years. In Britain, this 'common occupational health hazard' has only reached national prominence in the last year.

The town hall union NALGO initiated a campaign against it in 1981. Pressure had been put on NALGO by a case of sexual harassment in Brent a few years previously, when two women complained to their shop steward about the intolerable harassment they faced from a chief officer.

The issue became of major importance in Brent NALGO, but ended bitterly with the women eventually leaving their jobs.

Since NALGO started its official campaign, the extent of the problem has been reflected in how quickly many union branches have taken it up.

More recently, the National Council for Civil Liberties has called a conference on sexual harassment (reported by Deborah Knight in Socialist Organiser no.96), and issued a pamphlet. The pamphlet sets out to define sexual harassment and, using the work already done in the US and by NALGO, suggests guidelines on how to fight it.

The campaign may be new but the problem is not. As the NCCL pamphlet points out:

"Like domestic violence, which was a 'hidden issue' until ten years ago, sexual harassment is still not seen as unacceptable practice.

"Just as domestic violence has been accepted as normal within a marital relationship — women being considered the property of their husbands — so sexual harassment has been considered normal behaviour in the relationship between men and women at work throughout history."

Mary Corbishley reviews a new pamphlet on sexual harassment at work by Ann Sedley and Melissa Benn, published by the National Council for Civil Liberties (95p).

ence has been accepted as normal within a marital relationship — women being considered the property of their husbands — so sexual harassment has been considered normal behaviour in the relationship between men and women at work throughout history."

Just as low pay and low status for women's jobs despite 'equality' legislation indicate women's second-class status as workers, so too sexual harassment is a further reminder to women of the place this society gives them. And they are reminded not only by their bosses but also by fellow workers.

If women are not considered as workers with equal status, their presence at work can be a source of diversion, amusement and assertion for men. Sexual harassment can range from a whole series of seemingly trivial jokes ("I see you've got legs, then" when a woman wears a skirt to work rather than trousers), to leers and suggestive remarks, right through to actual rape.

For black women the harassment can be doubled by racism.

Because the office 'wolf', the pin-ups, the dirty jokes, and the grope in the cupboard have been seen as 'normal' behaviour, a bit of fun which helps to make the time pass, women have generally not complained for fear of being seen as 'kill-joys' or abnormal.

Sometimes they have blamed themselves, feeling possibly that they encouraged it. As with rape, women are made to believe that maybe it's their own fault.

"A woman approached by a hospital porter in her first job said: 'I was young and naive and automatically assumed that I had encouraged him in some way. Ashamed and embarrassed, I left the job several weeks early'."

For many women, especially in small non-unionised workplaces, the sexual harassment can take the form of blackmail — not complying with the sexual advances of the boss can cost a woman her job.

The case of Julie Wyatt is an example. A clerk in a small building merchants, she refused the advances of her boss, Richard Smith — and was sacked. Unlike many others, Julie took her case to an industrial tribunal for unfair dismissal and won.

In other instances going along with sexual harassment from customers is seen to be part of the job — barmaids are expected to chat up the clients, waitresses are expected to be 'nice and friendly'.

Refused

Another case reported to the NCCL involved a waitress in a Pizza Parlour:

"Her basic wage was extremely low so she had to rely on tips from clients to supplement her wages. Ms M told us: 'All the waitresses accepted that they would have to put up with behaviour they normally wouldn't tolerate. You would often get a group of men coming into the restaurant and they would think it funny to talk about you and your body while you were serving them. Sometimes they would actually touch you... pinch your bottom... It would have been useless to complain to the manager. He thought it was funny too.'"

Just as the economic dependence of women on men has forced them to accept violence at home



from their husbands, so too the type of work that many women do and the low wages that accompany it make them subject to harassment at work.

In discussing how to combat sexual harassment, the authors of the pamphlet have looked at work done in the USA.

The National Organisation of Women have provided legal and counselling services. The Working Women's United Institute, originally set up to better general working conditions for women, began to receive as many as 200 letters and phone calls a week from women seeking advice on how to cope with sexual harassment.

A group called the Alliance against Sexual Coercion was set up specially to deal with sexual harassment. It grew out of the Rape Crisis Network, because women who had been sexually harassed had gone to Rape Crisis centres seeking help. In June 1977 they opened an office in Boston to deal with victims of sexual harassment.

In 1980 the Equal Opportunities Commission adopted guidelines which confirmed that sexual harassment can be seen as sex discrimination under the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The last chapter of the NCCL pamphlet provides a very useful list of suggestions for action and proposals for model resolution — it discusses how to raise the problem in the first place by informal networks and discussions, how to challenge particular forms of harassment, and how to get the issue raised and made part of union policy.

The guidelines laid down by NALGO are also reproduced in the pamphlet. Although the NALGO proposals for action stress the necessity for setting up alternative support networks for women who may have an unsympathetic shop steward or would prefer to talk initially with other women about the problem, still the guidelines tend to leave the onus on the individual to take the case through a lengthy grievance procedure, rather than taking it to a union branch meeting for the branch to discuss action.

The NCCL argue that these guidelines could be used to amend the present Sex Discrimination Act in Britain. But they stress that the use of the courts and tribunals is a last resort.

The widespread use of the courts as a means of settling issues of discrimination in the US reflects the weakness of the trade union

New issue of Women's Fightback — 16 pages and articles on the NHS dispute, the jobs campaign, WF summer space, sexism in education, Judith Williams, Labour women's conference, etc. 20p from WF, 41 Ellington St, London N7.



COMING UP Women's Fightback AGM. October 23, County Hall, London. Open to all women, but only members and delegates from affiliated groups can vote. For conference details send s.a.e. to 41 Ellington St, N7; to join WF too send £3 (or £5 to include regular mailings and the paper).

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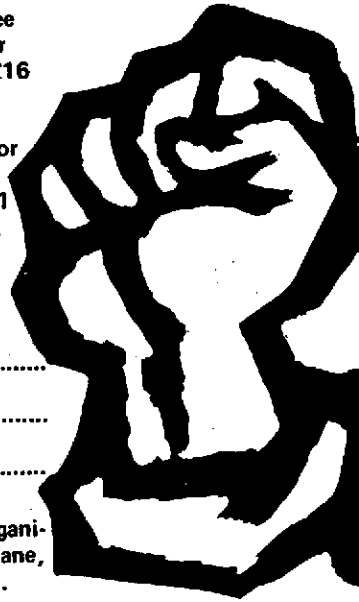
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SWP on the sidelines

This letter has also been sent to Socialist Worker

Dear Comrades,

In Islington we are used to the right-wing local paper attacking the Labour Party and our councillors. Its favourite tactic for doing so is 'exposing' some individual aspect of our manifesto (support for gay rights for example), claiming that is all we are interested in, and then saying 'But what good will this do for ordinary ratepayers?'

We don't expect the same sort of treatment from left-wing newspapers — yet on August 21 we got it from Socialist Worker.

The article by Mike Simons on 'Life Under Labour's Left' used a very similar 'straw man' technique: it 'exposed' our manifesto commitment to decentralisation of council services, claimed it was our only answer to the government's attacks, and then said, 'but what good will this do tenants and council workers?'

A few individual councillors may see decentralisation as a way to avoid a fight with the Government. But a joint meeting of Islington Labour Party delegates and our councillors decided in July to mount a major campaign from September to carry out our manifesto promises in full next year, to freeze council rents and keep the rates down — regardless of what the Government says.

Yes, there is talk of a 40% rate rise — from the right wing in the Labour Party. But it is the left wingers in the Labour Party who are leading the fight to stop the Council from following that cop-out road that was taken by Lambeth and Lothian.

Because we do understand that it is vital to get the full support of the

council's workers for such a fight, we have committed the council to supporting the national wage claims of the local authority unions in this year's pay rounds. We want to break the idea that Labour councillors should act as employers, albeit 'good employers', and instead be bodies fighting on the side of the working class.

But, that said, the view that it is 'ironic' that council workers 'will have to organise and fight', whether there's a left-wing Labour or an SDP council just misunderstands the basic issue. Left-wing councils would mean nothing at all if there was not class struggle and it would be the most naive 'municipal socialist' view to think that the class struggle will stop in one borough if there is a left-wing council. Like many other Labour Party members who work for Islington, I know that it is up to us, the workers, to organise and fight if we want the council to follow the right road.

At least, as Labour Party activists, that is what we are trying to do; trying to turn the Labour Party outwards from resolution-mongering to the real fight. So far, though you would never have guessed it from Mike Simons' article, we are winning. But Socialist Worker seems content to sit on the sidelines and passively predict that it will all go rotten.

You may, in the end, be proved right, but no-one will thank you for it unless you join in with the fight that's going on now instead of setting up straw men.

Yours fraternally,
Nik Barstow, Chair Islington Labour Parties.

Writeback



We invite readers to send us their letters, up to a usual maximum length of 400 words.

Send to
'Writeback',
Socialist Organiser,
c/o 28, Middle Lane,
London N8.

GAY RIGHTS NOT KRAY RIGHTS

Ray Atwell's letter (SO 97) states that 'the Krays were part of an oppressed minority (they were gay) — in that sense it is an obligation on all revolutionaries to unconditionally defend them'. But what should we defend about them?

Ray says we don't defend their acts of violence as a method of solving non-political disputes, even though this violence was in part a response to the oppressive straight society they lived in. I would agree — but this seems to contradict Ray's 'unconditional defence'.

Do we argue for the state to be more lenient in punishing them? Presumably Ray thinks we should. As far as I am concerned, it is no job of the workers to defend those, gay or not, who carry out acts of violence like the Krays did.

We do defend gay people. We defend their right to be gay; to organise as gay people and to publicly assert their sexuality without fear of intimidation or legal attacks.

But we don't therefore defend any actions of gay people.

The logic of Ray's letter seems to be that we would defend Martin Webster in all the current faction fights within the fascist movement, because I'm sure we can trace a lot of Webster's actions to the fact that he is a gay male in a straight male society. But of course we don't argue for special treatment for Webster.

Neither should we argue for special treatment for the Krays.

Will Adams, Tower Hamlets.

Marxists and national liberation

Jette Kroman (SO 96) sums up the feelings of many comrades in other lands who find themselves in general sympathy with Socialist Organiser but profoundly disagree with the arguments it put forward over the Falklands.

Whereas SO argued for defeatism on both sides, many argued that British and Argentinian workers should support with various degrees of criticism the Junta's attempt to reclaim the Islands.

As Jette argues, the central plank for this position is that whatever the subjective desires of Galtieri, 'the invasion was objectively anti-imperialist and historically progressive'. This I believe to be incorrect.

Carte blanche

Marxists do not give general carte blanche support to nationalist struggles. We support them even where led by anti-working class forces where there is a specific progressive content, where the struggle, by being successful, will remove nationalist blinkers which tie workers in both oppressor and oppressed country to their bourgeoisie, and weaken imperialism as a world system.

It is because of their specific progressive content in this sense that Marxists have supported the struggles of India and Ireland against Britain and China against Japan.

Concrete analysis reveals no such progressive content to Galtieri's war. But it was between an imperialist and a dependent nation? We would agree that this is a factor to be taken into account in our analysis, bearing in mind the transformations in world imperialism in the last 70 years.

We would profoundly disagree that it is the sole factor, the final test of whether or not Marxists support nationalist struggles, and that all we need to do is read off whether the combatants are First or Fourth Division clients of US imperialism.

Impact

The crucial test remains: was the specific content of Galtieri's invasion 'objectively anti-imperialist and historically progressive'? The answer surely is 'no' a thousand times 'no'!

How would the capture of a few barren rocks have led to a blow against Imperialism? It would have had the same internal impact as Mussolini's success in Ethiopia and shifted the balance of forces in Buenos

Aires in favour of imperialism. The USA would have had few problems in coming to terms with the fact that Suez had been repeated as farce, that Britain had dropped and Argentina risen a few notches in the table of trusty client states, and that Thatcher's ruffled feathers needed massaging.

Strengthen

It manages far more intractable problems between Saudi Arabia and Israel. Why should a victorious Junta not strengthen its ties with US imperialism? Why would the sacrifice of the prestige of the maverick Prime Minister of a declining power weaken imperialism when the gain would be a more pliant Latin American sub-continent?

I can go no further in the space allotted but I hope this gives some understanding to our Danish comrades as to why we argued as we did.

Comradely,
Carol Hobbs, Bolton.

Enclaves and imperialism

I READ Jette Kroman's letter ('An anti-colonial war' August 19) with a sigh of relief. Letters and discussions on this issue can never be too numerous, even considering that the war is long ended, in view of Socialist Organiser's totally erroneous position on it, and the serious implications in terms of developing the anti-colonial consciousness of the British working class.

British settlers on the Malvinas do not want 'self-determination' themselves. They consider themselves part and parcel of Her Majesty's Kingdom, i.e. of its colonial, racist and reactionary tradition, and for that reason they do not want any independent form of relation either with Argentina, Latin America, Britain itself, or anybody else.

That is, they see themselves for what they are, an enclave and extension of British colonialism in the South Atlantic.

The argument that the inhabitants of the islands are not native Argentinians suppressed by British colonialism, but free-willed British 'subjects', is absurd. The Malvinas inhabitants are not Argentinians precisely because colonial Britain expelled Argentinians from it by force in 1833. The whole development of the conflict, at any point in history is thus part of a colonial conflict.

Your position that 'in the case of a British attack on the Argentinian mainland we will then support Argentina' negates everything that Lenin and Trotsky ever said on colonialism, war, national independence, etc.

We must always (i.e. before any conflict or war

breaks out) support Argentina, Guatemala, or any other reactionary regime, against their own masters (European and US imperialism).

This is part — or at least it should be — or the revolutionary programme of any Trotskyist organisation. It does not even need discussion, conditions 'ifs', 'whens' or 'in cases of'...

Thus, we must equally support Guatemala in its claim to colonial Belize, regardless of the 'independent' 'self-determined' regime Britain has established there with the support of its army, and no matter how reactionary and murderous the Guatemalan government. Who is the 'aggressor', who invaded whom and broke international laws, agreements and rules is irrelevant', said Lenin. 'what matters is the class-historical nature of any war or conflict'.

A lesson should be learned from this, just as for us, Latin American Marxists, the danger is to adopt positions based on a rationalisation of narrow petty-bourgeois or bourgeois nationalistic ideology, so for British Marxists the danger is to adopt positions based on the rationalisation of a deeply ingrained colonial 'consciousness' which I have noticed, seems to affect even revolutionary parties and militants of Britain.

Your first duty is to attack the colonial traditions and ventures of your own ruling class, let alone its present servants. Only then will Latin American revolutionaries trust your claim to represent the revolutionary will in your country.

S.D.
(member of the Trotskyist Communist League of Chile)

NUCLEAR (CON)FUSION

by Les Hearn

SCIENCE

IN CONTRAST to nuclear fission, little has been written on the Left about nuclear fusion. So here goes!

In fission, large unstable (hence radioactive) atoms (such as uranium, U, or plutonium, Pu) break down spontaneously, radiating energy in the form of heat, light, X-rays, gamma rays and neutrons. The neutrons can then strike other unstable atoms and cause them to break down, and a chain reaction is set off. If uncontrolled, the result can be an atomic explosion; if controlled, the result is the steady production of heat which can be used to generate electricity.

Nuclear fusion is the process of joining atoms together, and with a few types of light atom, such as hydrogen, H, this also releases energy. Fusion will happen spontaneously, but only at inconceivably high temperatures and pressures (hence the term, thermonuclear).

Fusion reactions so far utilised have been those between two isotopes of hydrogen; namely, deuterium, D ('heavy' hydrogen, found naturally in small amounts bound up in water), and tritium, T (a radioactive form which breaks down quite fast -

half the atoms go in 12½ years, compared with 24,000 years for Pu).

The problem is to get more energy out of a fusion reaction than you put in to get it going. So far this has only been achieved in an H-bomb, where the necessary conditions are obtained by exploding an ordinary fission bomb around a charge of D and T, smashing the atoms into each other. The vast amount of energy in the resulting fusion is released destructively into the environment.

Peaceful

For the peaceful production of energy, the process must be modified somewhat:

1. It is important to note that energy is produced in a pulse - there is no possibility of a chain reaction - so we need to produce safely a series of pulses (unlike the steady release of energy in a fission reactor). And this on a much smaller scale than in a thermonuclear bomb - we don't want the power station vaporising!

2. We must find a way of containing the reacting atoms - no known substance is solid at 100 million degrees Celsius

(deg C). We need a way to get the D and T to the right temperature and pressure other than setting off an atom bomb each time.

3. We must trap the energy produced so it can be turned into electricity.

4. We must obtain T, available only from certain nuclear reactions.

Problem 2 has been tackled in two ways:-

a. At temperatures above a few thousand deg C, all atoms separate into electrons and nuclei, making an electrically-charged gas or plasma. This can be contained for some tens of seconds by an intense magnetic field, while it is heated by pumping in radio-waves or by hitting it with beams of fast-moving ions (charged atoms), so that fusion takes place. This is known as Magnetic Confinement Fusion (MCF).

b. The fuel is injected as a sand-grain-sized pellet of frozen D and T or as a little glass sphere containing D and T at high pressure, and is instantly blasted with either laser light (at the same rate as sunlight falls on the whole of Britain) or with beams of heavy ions (as above). Inertia prevents the pellet or glass sphere from

instantly exploding and, before it has time to expand, some fusion of D and T nuclei takes place, forming the gas Helium, He. Fast moving neutrons are released which carry most of the energy produced. This process is called 'inertial confinement fusion' (ICF).

3 is solved by surrounding the vessel with liquid lithium (Li), a light, highly reactive metal like sodium, which traps the neutrons, turning their energy into heat, used to make steam to drive turbines and produce electricity.

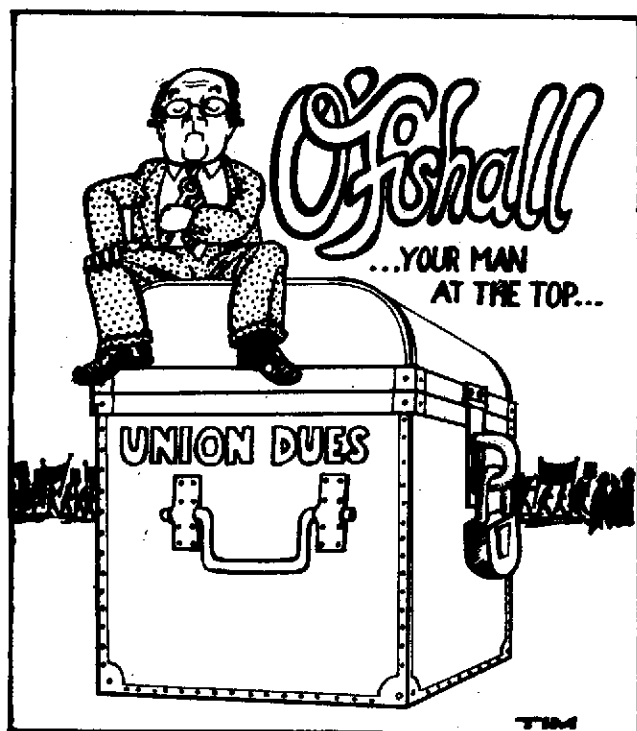
4 is also solved here, as nuclear reactions between Li and the neutrons will 'breed' more T.

Problem 1 is the least worry of fusion researchers at the moment, but is nevertheless not simple. The apparatus must be strong enough to withstand the ten or so explosions per second needed to produce a useful amount of energy, without leaking. Dangers of radioactive contamination are less than with fission reactors - there is less radioactive fuel involved, and it is kept separate from the site of the reactions, being fed in, like petrol in a car

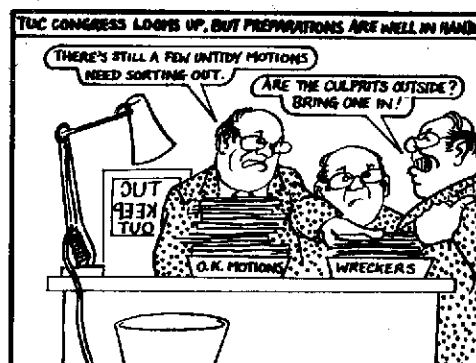
engine, a little at a time. A failure of cooling would not affect the supply of fuel at all, unlike in a fission reactor with the danger of a 'meltdown'. Leakage of liquid Li would be dangerous, though, with the possibility of fire and release of radioactive T. Though T gives out less powerful radiation and for a shorter time than U or Pu being a gas it can easily enter the lungs and, being chemically identical to H, it can be incorporated in water and enter the tissues of the body, in both cases being best placed to cause mutilations and cancers.

The danger may be low globally but could be high for workers in such establishments, or for nearby residents. In any case, fusion reactors would appear to be safer than fission reactors, but since at present no one has succeeded in getting out more than a few per cent of the energy they put in to start a fusion reaction, commercial fusion power seems rather a long way off - 150 million kilometres off in fact! And even the sun has its dangers as light-skinned people in sunny lands learn to their cost; and as we shall all learn, if we destroy the ozone layer!

ITUC '82



In 1979 resolutions to the TUC calling for it to break off talks with the Tories were pushed off the agenda by Congress House



HOW BACK ROOM BOYS RUN THE TUC

THE SELL-OUT of ASLEF has focused the attention of socialists on the operation of the TUC.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee (a sub-committee acting with no authority from the General Council, and consisting of leaders with no mandate from their own unions) successfully broke the official strike of an affiliated union, by means of threats, and in defiance of the democratically expressed wishes of the union's members.

The structure of the General Council will also be a big issue at this year's Congress — specifically, whether the 41 person leadership of the trade union movement should be elected annually

Congress proposes — and who disposes? Carol Hobbs looks at the backstage plans and plots in the TUC

by the Congress, or whether unions with more than 100,000 members should have the right to automatically appoint members to the General Council. (The smaller unions would then vote in their own minnows' section to elect a specific number of representatives between them).

At the moment, the entire General Council is elected from 18 trade groups based on specific industries like engineering and electricity, or clusters of unions in a particular area like the civil service.

The principle deduced from this is that once elected the General Council member is answerable to Congress, not to his (and almost always it is his) individual union.

At first glance responsibility to the whole movement will appear a valuable principle, one which embodies the unity of the working class and the necessity to overcome sectionalism.

This was the aspiration years ago of the militants of the Shop Stewards' Movement and the Minority Movement, who fought for "All power to the General Council", as a "general staff of labour".

They saw it as a means of concentrating the power of labour against the growing concentration of capital.

Shield

In reality, alas, this conception of accountability has often been used as a shield and justification for those who wished to take steps which were far from being in the interests of their members.

Bryan Stanley of the POEU said at last year's Congress.

"It is inconceivable that the General Secretary of the Transport Workers or the Engineering Workers has a responsibility to Congress when their own unions are telling them to go in a different direction".

Yet in 1977 Jack Jones informed the executive of the TGWU that they were bound to observe the 'only one wage increase in 12 months' rule despite TGWU conference decisions to the contrary. Similarly, when the 'late' Hugh Scanlon faced a move by the AUEW National Committee to bar him from taking part in talks with the Heath government, he replied:

"Do your damndest! I am participating as a repres-

entative of the General Council, not the Engineers".

Moss Evans or Alan Sapper, if asked to explain their strike-breaking on the railways, could reply in the same terms.

Where the militants of the generation before 1926 saw the role of the 'general staff' as leading struggles, the General Council has in reality acted to dampen resistance, limit working class action, and relay the policies of the capitalist state into the labour movement.

As so often, a weapon forged for the emancipation of the workers has become an instrument to discipline them.

The state's exploitation of the contradictions inherent in the role of the union official has led in the last 60 years to the growth of a trade union super-bureaucracy, centred on the General Council, whose personnel are far more remote from and resistant to rank and file control than the officials of the national unions in the early 1900s.

In 1914 the predecessors of the General Council, the Parliamentary Committee (the title illustrates its far narrower focus) was little more than a talking shop with a part-time General Secretary.

What consolidated the General Council as a mediator between labour and capital was the 1926 defeat and the strategy of 'influencing the state' followed after that by Ernest Bevin, the most powerful union leader of the day, and Walter Citrine, the first real TUC General Secretary.

Partner

During the second world war and after the TUC was accepted as a (very junior) partner in the administration of capitalist society. Its leaders were given direct access to government its representatives sat on hundreds of state boards and committees, its purpose became the successful management and control, rather than the successful prosecution, of industrial conflict.

The attitudes that union officials have always brought to Congress House can be seen from Citrine's comment

"I set about cultivating the acquaintance of the employers' officials and being as frank with them as my duty to my members permitted. I tried to play straight with them. I found they did the same with me."

"We knew that ours was a continuing relationship". By the '70s the TUC had developed into a hard bureaucratic machine, its policy and decisions being increasingly centralised at the top and relayed downwards.

Rule 14

Its devolved machinery, such as regional councils and Trades Councils, has been hemmed in by controls such as the notorious Rule 14 (which forbids Trades Councils from taking decisions contrary to TUC policy). Its officials are total and capable bureaucrats.

By the 1960s, George Woodcock could inform Congress.

"The General Council do not as a rule welcome motions on the Congress agenda. Our general attitude to motions is that if they tell us to do what we already intend to do, they are redundant, and if they try to tell us what we do not intend to do they are offensive".

The Sunday Times could describe Woodcock's successor as general secretary, Vic Feather, similarly insulated from rank and file control, as:

"... never out of place, whether he is choosing wine and a cigar in a smart restaurant, making deals with employers and Ministers, or simply chatting to rank and file trade unionists".

Like their successor Len Murray, Woodcock and Feather were bureaucrats in the pure sense.

They had never moved up the union structure, never led a strike, never fought out policies at stewards' committees or branches.

Down from Oxford, Len was appointed as a researcher in the TUC economic



"I set about cultivating the acquaintance of the employers' officials and being as frank with them as my duty to my members permitted. I tried to play straight with them. I found they did the same with me."

"We knew that ours was a continuing relationship".
WALTER CITRINE, TUC general secretary 1926-45

department in 1947, having impressed his interviewer Woodcock with his cynical view of trade unions.

After 25 years as a back-room Uriah Heep Len eventually made it by dint of scrupulous orthodoxy and 'Buggins' Turn'.

Such an individual is not likely to possess even the residual shards of union consciousness that must lurk somewhere deep in the souls of General Council 'left-wingers'.

If one strand in the creation of a hard bureaucratic centre in Great Russell St is the bureaucratising pressures on the individual union tops as they scramble up the ladder from Hartlepool section steward to Hampstead general secretary, the other ingredient is the interplay of

General Council members with the full-time staff of Congress House.

Murray's powers are immense because ill-defined. Rule 10 of the TUC simply states that the General Secretary is elected by Congress and sits in an ex-officio capacity without a vote on the General Council.

He is there all the time. He is not burdened with the suppression of the rank and file of an affiliated union.

The full-time staff at Congress House, which has burgeoned in the last decade, is at his beck and call.

There are seven main departments in Congress House, intended to provide expertise and resources for Murray and the General Council.

Organisation and Indust-



"... never out of place, whether he is choosing wine and a cigar in a smart restaurant, making deals with employers and Ministers, or simply chatting to rank and file trade unionists".

The Sunday Times describing VIC FEATHER, TUC general secretary 1969-72

TUC '82

'Break links' is the big debate

AMONG the usual plethora of bland and toothless resolutions for debate at this year's TUC Congress, a few topics stand out as relative hot-spots of debate.

Some might even break through the alcohol induced slumbers of delegates to produce a real buzz of interest.

Key among these of course is once again the question of jobs — not the record levels of unemployment, but the positions of top General Secretaries on the TUC General Council.

A proposal adopted last year, to replace the traditional method of election of the General Council by trade groups with a new process which would automatically give a seat to every leader of a union with over 100 000 members, is up for debate again — with the TGWU leading a strong lobby to have it thrown out.

Another issue of bureaucratic jobs, power and privilege at stake focuses on a call for the TUC to break its top-level links with the government and employers which have functioned for the last 20 years through the National Economic Development Council (NEDC).

The TASS motion calling for withdrawal has been toughened up by an amendment from the ISTC which demands that affiliated unions should pull their representatives out of "all official and semi-official (quango-type) government bodies".

The right wing stance in support of continued collaboration with NEDC is argued by ASTMS in an amendment to a SOGAT 82 motion. ASTMS claims that continued involvement is "of substantial value to working people in general".

Other issues which could provide a focus of interest in a week which will be largely filled by routine speeches by well-rehearsed General Secretaries, include the question of opposing Tebbit's anti-union legislation. The Fire Brigades Union has tabled a resolution specifically demanding that the TUC should:

"respond to any trade unionists being jailed under the proposed Act by taking positive action and calling for an immediate withdrawal of labour".

And the print union NGA has a motion to prevent the use of the TUC's 'fighting fund' to pay legal fees arising from Tebbit's

Act. This is likely to draw out the real meaning of the 8-point plan adopted in April.

On wages, the right wing appears to be mounting a determined thrust for adoption of a policy which would lay the basis for a new 'social contract' under a re-elected Labour government.

A resolution from the AUEW Construction Section rejecting talks on pay restraint "with this or any other government" faces an amendment from the ISTC affirming support for such talks with a Labour government as part of a 'national economic assessment' embracing 'earnings and incomes'.

In general however the motions on the week's agenda are sufficiently vague or innocuous to allow General Secretaries and lay delegates to cruise comfortably through a week of high-living on lavish expense allowances in Brighton, far removed from the mass unemployment and plunging living standards of the members they supposedly represent.

Harry Sloan



George Woodcock signs a TUC-CBI statement on productivity, in 1967. With him (from left): CBI chief John Davies, TUC chairman Harry Douglas, CBI chairman Stephen Brown

"The General Council do not as a rule welcome motions on the Congress agenda. Our general attitude to motions is that if they tell us to do what we already intend to do, they are redundant, and if they try to tell us what we do not intend to do they are offensive".

GEORGE WOODCOCK, TUC general secretary 1960-68

rial Relations will be familiar to militants because of their witch-hunting supervision of Trades Councils such as Oxford and Tameside.

The Economic department exists to justify Len's argument that wages don't cause inflation when the Tories are in, but do cause it when Labour sits in Downing Street.

When Labour is in, its bent is Treasury economics, today it peddles a right-wing but still utopian version of the Alternative Economic Strategy.

Social Insurance and Industrial Welfare has in the past been dominated by the extreme right-wingers Peter Jacques and Jim 'Ins' Hamilton.

At Education, Roy Jackson's job has been to ensure minimal uproar over Labour's cuts and argue that in order not to endanger the £1.6 million subsidy from Tebbit, shop stewards should learn nothing more practical than how to interview a member.

CIA

The International Department relates more to the Foreign Office than the rank and file (members of the staff have actually been seconded to the FO). In close liaison with CIA-backed unions, it has worked to bring 'safe' TUC-style structures to control the rank and file in Third World countries (most recently Kenya and Zimbabwe).

There is also a Finance and Publicity Department.

Each Department employs upwards of 10 staff. Its head is answerable to Murray, Murray's deputy, Norman Willis, and the two Assistant General Secretaries, Ken Graham and David

Lea, are like their master impeccably orthodox in their dedication to the economic and social status quo.

Any troublemakers among the staff are worn down or get out.

Sub-committees of the General Council in theory administer the areas 'serviced' by the full-timers.

In reality decisions are often initiated by the Congress House apparatus, working with the more far-seeing General Council members — those who can propound the most convincing and saleable strategy for the continued subordination of workers to the system.

They have a lot of scope, given the open-ended and contradictory nature of Congress decisions, and the lack of expert knowledge and resources many General Council members experience as they move away from their immediate concerns and their natural immersion in these more immediate concerns (quangos, second homes, Board seats, House of Lords seats...).

The mingling of the appetites of the apparatus and the statesmen takes place in the Finance and General Purposes Comm-

ittee, the TUC delegation to the National Economic Development Council and the Joint Liaison Committee with the Labour Party.

Through these mechanisms Murray worked with Jones and Scanlon in the '70s to develop and sustain new forms of class collaboration.

Wage controls

As Robert Taylor writes of the genesis of wage control from the TUC side

"In the spring of 1975, Murray and his full-time advisers grew impatient with the inability or refusal of the unions to reduce their wage demands".

The "inner cabinet" then went to Downing St and bargained the £6 flat rate policy with no mandate, later presenting the General Council and Congress with a fait accompli.

Similarly, today's eight points for putting a brave face on accepting Tebbit were drafted first by full-timers, then passed on to the General Council for rubber-stamping and a Special Congress with no amendments allowed.

The power of the full-time apparatus as against the General Council is today on the upswing.

The system of industrial committees set up to develop greater links between individual unions, has been a means of actually imposing more control from Congress House.

Peter Jacques, as Secretary of the Health Services Committee, has played an important role in limiting the NHS dispute.

When the Printing Industries Committee tried to tighten up on the anti Tebbit eight points, they were subject to interference from Ken Graham.

Yet strictly speaking Graham and Jacques, like Murray, are purely 'civil servants' (and unlike Murray they are not even elected).

Suppressing

Len himself is not reticent in following Woodcock's dictum on suppressing the decision making powers of Congress.

In 1979 Paul Kennedy, a Manchester branch secret-

ary, successfully moved a resolution at the annual conference of the Bakers' Union calling for the General Council to break off all talks with the Tories.

A week before Congress, Paul was called down to London to be confronted by Len, Harry Urwin (deputy general secretary of the TGWU), and Alan Sapper of ACTT.

He was informed in no uncertain terms that they wanted the resolution withdrawn and that they had already persuaded Les Wood, general secretary of UCATT, and Alistair Graham of the CPUSA, to withdraw similar motions.

Paul wilted under prolonged pressure and agreed to go along with this conspiracy to withdraw the motion in favour of a composite which did not call for the end of all talks.

So once again the wishes of Len prevailed against the democratic desire of the members of UCATT CPUSA, and the Bakers.

This is the harsh reality of TUC decision-making and we should see attempts to restructure the General Council in this context.

Election

The issue of election or appointment cannot be divorced from the fight for democracy at all levels, or viewed in isolation.

Take for example the next step down, voting at Congress itself.

As TUC historian Vic Allen comments, looking over the years

"General Council members who have been chairmen of delegation meetings have used their authority over procedural matters to question the competency of delegations to determine policy."

"When everything else has failed, the opinion of delegation meetings has been flouted and union block votes cast to meet General Council requirements".

We all remember Carron and Scanlon.

In other words undemocratic centralising tendencies operate at every level and are on the increase.

Principle

The present trade group electoral units are unrepresentative and the present system depends on patronage, but we should still stand by the principle of election not appointment, and argue that those standing for the General Council should stand in front of the whole movement on their record.

We would like to see the whole Congress annually elect not only the General Council but also Murray and the other officials.

But to make this proposal reality, we will have to intensify our fight to introduce or develop democracy within each TUC affiliate.

Marx Socialist made Bookshelf easy

Books and pamphlets that you should read

and profit' Marx defines these terms very simply and clearly.

And he doesn't just explain what decides the level of wages, prices and profit. He also shows how labour-power is a thing, a commodity, with a price just like any other commodity; how a capitalist pays for workers' labour power at its value, but still makes a profit; and how profit is, nonetheless the direct product of exploiting workers.

Marx ends up by showing that the only way in which workers will get a fair, decent standard of living, is by arguing not for 'A fair day's wage for a fair day's work', but for the revolutionary demand 'Abolition of the wages system' and doing away with capitalism altogether.

The main problem with 'wages, price and profit' is that the beginning chapters are a bit involved, and keep mentioning people you've never even heard of! So I'd suggest to anyone who finds Marx a bit hard to read, to start at Chapter 6 on 'Value and Labour'.

After reading 'Wages, price and profit' you may even feel like having a bash at 'Capital Vol.1. Once you get into the hang of it, it's quite readable, and Marx does give lots of examples to explain what he means.

What's more, at the same time as scientifically explaining how capitalism works, Marx make you share his disgust and anger at the misery and injustice capitalism produces — and makes you feel you've got to organise and fight back.

MARY WILKINS introduces 'Wage Labour and Capital' and 'Wages, price and profit'

A common jibe hurled at Marxists is that they never read Marx. And many socialists feel especially guilty about not reading Marx's works on economics but find 1,000 pages of 'Capital', Vol.1 a very daunting prospect.

Marx probably realised this himself, and tried to summarise the basic points of his theory about capital very concisely, and in language which beginners at economics would find easy to understand.

In 1847 Marx wrote 'Wage labour and capital', which explains how capital is produced and how capitalist exploitation takes place. This booklet is based on talks Marx gave at meetings of the German Workers' Society in Brussels.

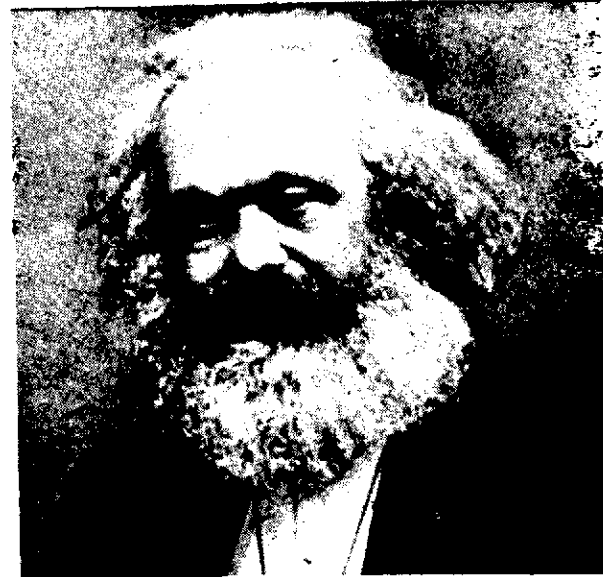
But I think that 'Wages, price and profit' written 18 years later in 1865, is clearer. And this booklet is probably the best way to start reading about Marx's theory of capitalism. It's not too long, and is divided into short chapters, each dealing with one particular subject.

One of the hardest things about Marx's writing is grasping precisely what he means by the particular terms he uses. What, for example, is 'labour-power' and how exactly does it differ from just plain 'labour'? In 'Wages, price



"Do your damndest! I am participating as a representative of the General Council, not the Engineers".

HUGH SCANLON



Marx, not so obscure

Defend Baba Bakhtura!

COMMUNITY groups picketed the Home Office on August 27 to protest about the case of Bakhtaur Singh. Popularly known as Baba Bakhtaura, he is a singer who came to this country 3 years ago. He applied to extend his leave to be here, and this was refused.

He applied again, but was refused. Then his lawyers failed to make his appeal within the set time limit. On June 14 Baba Bakhtaura was arrested and imprisoned. Oldbury Magistrates sent him to prison for 2 months on July 7 and recommended to the Home Office that he be deported. The only 'crime' he was wanted to stay here with his family and serve the community.

Owing to wrong advice from counsel, he pleaded guilty to knowingly over-staying his leave to be here under the Immigration Act.

After he finished his sentence he was still detained in custody. Only

after a prolonged campaign by the community was he given bail with strict conditions.

Baba Bakhtaura is crippled in one of his legs.

Fears

He is a much loved and respected Punjabi singer of religious, cultural and historical folk songs. During his 3 years here he has sung at many temples all over the country. These temples have now written to Timothy Raison, Minister at the Home Office, urging him to let Baba Bakhtaura stay.

Baba Bakhtaura's case proves that what the Minister says publicly is only to appease the fears of the black community, when in reality hundreds of black people are being deported, said Mr. Tariq Ali, Secretary of the Defence Committee which has campaigned in support of Baba Bakhtaura.

The arrest, imprisonment and criminalisation of Baba Bakhtaura is part and parcel of a vicious witch

hunt of black people in this country. Our communities are being destroyed at an ever increasing pace.

In Bradford 18 people are threatened with deportation, in Manchester whole families are being kicked out of this country, in Oldham 30 families are split up and are now waging a struggle to be re-united with their loved ones, and now there's Baba Bakhtaura.

Picket

Contact: Baba Bakhtaura Defence Committee, 19A, Birmingham St., Oldbury, W. Midlands. [021-552-6121]. Friday September 3:-

Mass PICKET outside Wolverhampton Crown Court, 10.30 am, when Baba Bakhtaura's appeal is to be heard.

Friday September 10:- Public MEETING and SOCIAL at the New Inns, Holyhead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, at 7.30 pm.

Air India strikers confront cowboys

SACKED Air India shop steward, Alroy de Silva, told us:

'Support for the strike is still strong, and it is really hitting the airline. Flights are leaving Heathrow as many as 150 seats light, and this during the peak season.'

Since the reservation section is paralysed, the company is carrying on only at enormous cost. Baggage has been disrupted and much of it is being totally lost, yet the company is determined to carry on paying out huge amounts in compensation as they don't want to admit that they can be beaten by the unions.

Only 20% of Air India cargo is going through, and we're trying to deal with the private cowboys who are taking it in.'

After 9 weeks, the 100-odd Air India strikers are still solid. Last Thursday the Air India TGWU branch totally rejected a proposal put to the union leaders by the management that they were prepared to take back some of the 91 sacked workers, but not the union activists.

Management have been

trying every trick in the book. Their latest effort has been to get some of the strikers, who are suffering badly financially, to circulate a petition criticising the leadership of the strike!

As Alroy de Silva pointed out, 'That confirmed to us that it had been instigated by management as they would not have known about it (prior to it being handed in) unless they had been responsible for it themselves. In fact some of the strikers who were involved in getting it signed have admitted as much themselves.'

Blacking from other workers is still very important. There are possibilities of international blacking. The International Federation of Transport workers has said to the strikers that if the TGWU nationally was to ask them they would black Air India.

Moss Evans hasn't got round to this yet, but he has written to Mrs. Gandhi about the dispute!

There is also the possibility of solidarity action from Air India workers in Bombay. This is very

important, as the way the dispute has been covered in India shows how the Air India UK management are trying to play down the success the strikers at Heathrow have had. The Federation of Guilds (Indian unions) involving Air India workers in Bombay has already written expressing support and is trying to arrange a meeting to discuss further support for the British strikers.

Pitch

Alroy de Silva stressed the importance of donations and financial support. Many strikers are feeling the pinch, having been out

for nine weeks.

'Nine weeks is a long time and for many of our members, either they are the sole bread winners in a family, or both wife and husband work for Air India. There are only 100 of us, so a little money can go a long way.'

The Air India strikers will be at the TUC next week looking for support, and they are speaking at the anti-witch hunt conference at Wembley on September 11.

Send donations and messages of support to: TGWU AIR INDIA Branch 1/1305, c/o Transport House, 7-9 South Road, Southall, Middlesex.



The Bengali community and the labour movement joined to oppose the Nazi stall....

Brick Lane challenge

by Will Adams and Susan Carlyle

THE MARCH last Sunday in protest at the NF bookstall in Brick Lane, East London, was the first coordinated anti-racist fightback, with substantial support from both the labour movement and local Bengali groups.

The local Labour council, having unknowingly granted permission for the bookstall to operate, is refusing to revoke the licence because they maintain the fascists would win on appeal. Evidence of racist material has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions, but in any case legal manoeuvres are not the solution, nor a guarantee of justice for the

people who are constantly the target of the fascists' propaganda and the physical attacks that they are feeling confident enough to launch on black people.

A survey of local papers and reports from estates and local schools show the vicious attacks, with knives and iron bars used as weapons.

Some attacks have taken place outside mosques and in areas where Bengalis have traditionally felt safe, like Spitalfields.

The march's route led away from the market area, but some anti-racists stayed behind to ensure the protection of the Trades Council bookstall, and some remained in the neighbourhood after the march ended in case the fascists organised a retaliatory rampage as they have done in the past. However, the hard core of 60 or so fascists removed themselves from the area, probably to maintain a respectable face and not jeopardise their stall

licence.

Legally the stall can be closed if it causes a breach of the peace, but only the police can activate this clause.

500 marchers was an adequate number, but on the organising committee Socialist Organiser supporters had to argue strongly for the march to go ahead, even if small, and against a proposal to disband it and concentrate numbers in the market around the stalls.

Susan Carlyle, a Socialist Organiser supporter and local Labour councillor, spoke at the end and stressed the need to stay behind as an act of solidarity with the Bengali community and to continue the campaign.

We want to build on this march to rid Brick Lane of all fascist literature sellers and to support the communities under attack as a result of the poisonous racist atmosphere which the Labour council refuses to see itself as responsible for.

Labour Party supporters who have taken a stand against the council must discuss the role of local authorities carrying out racist housing policies where ghettos are being created, and fight for an open policy of allocations for people of all races on new estates.

The council's unwillingness to act allows the fascists to organise with some kind of legal sanction. The policy of total reliance on legal sanctions is running out of time, and it is an illusion if anyone thinks that it will reverse the racism generated.

Building a united anti-racist movement which involves the unions, Labour Parties, and ethnic and community groups, is a vital necessity in the face of the racist violence. We must ensure there is no return to 1978, when the labour movement lost the fight and black and Bengali people were isolated.

Into Foot's shoes?

AS MICHAEL Foot's popularity ratings sink slowly in the sunset, a new hatchet man is being groomed for office in the hope of

bridging the gap between the soft Left and the overt right wing.

He is Peter Shore, the tub-thumping nationalist whose enthusiasm for the Falklands war left even Tory backwoodsman Julian Amery gasping for breath, and whose jingoistic opposition to the Common Market is unsullied by any hint of socialist aspiration or rhetoric.

According to the Observer, Shore is being promoted by the cabal of right wing union bureaucrats whose expense accounts allow them to dine regularly together at the St Ermin's Hotel in London. And he could also win big votes from the 'left' bureaucrats of the TGWU.

His rivals Dennis Healey — now 65 — and Roy Hattersley, though vicious enough for the right wing, apparently lack the panache to deliver their politics in a way that will be swallowed by the soft left.

And nobody now seems even to remember the name of John Silkin.

Dry wit

NORMAN Tebbit is no namby-pamby. Not for him the velvet glove when a hobnail boot is available. No weeper of crocodile tears he.

On this score he disagrees with his predecessor James Prior — who is not so much wet as soggy.

Prior had somewhat rashly described the present level of unemployment as 'intolerable'. The same empty cliché is trotted out regularly by union bureaucrats, Labour politicians, and sundry do-gooders. Tebbit disagrees.

'I don't like the use of the word 'intolerable' in relation to something which is in fact going on and being tolerated'. Who is right?

Missed queue

ANYONE lethargic enough to be caught watching Granada television's latest offering in their 'All For Love' series on Sunday night will remember the hilarious scene in which the hang-dog 40 year old married man announces to his unenthusiastic 22 year old lover that he has discovered the ideal venue for their first sexual encounter — a hotel bathroom!

The ensuing repeated scenes of orgasmic pleasures are unaccountably never interrupted by the hotel's other guests rattling the door, carrying brushes, towels, and transistor radios. But perhaps there is a reason

for this.

The hotel front entrance used in the play is that of the Great Western Royal at Paddington — where delegates to London meetings of ASTMS are regularly boarded overnight.

Yet apparently it is far from easy for such travellers to find any bathroom at all in the place — let alone the huge Roman-style marbled edifice depicted in the film.

For a while at least ASTMS members and other visitors to the hotel are now likely to find their stay even more taxing, elbowing their way to the head of queues of freeloaders looking for a bathroom!



... But the 'master race' are still peddling their poison

John Harris

A lead from Belfast

John Bloxam, just back from Belfast, reports on the action there in the NHS pay dispute

BRIAN Sullivan, (NUPE) secretary of the North and West Belfast District co-ordinating committee, told me that workers are 'solid' throughout the North. Since August 20, Central Sterile Supplies Department units are out in every hospital. With other action, e.g. in transport and laundries, that makes the North of Ireland one of the strongest areas in the NHS dispute.

The 2800 workers at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, where Brian Sullivan works, have been at the centre of the fight.

The CSSD there has been closed down for over 4 weeks. Accident and emergency work has been covered through the Theatre Sterile Supplies Unit, with three workers from the CSSD vetting what is needed. It was they, through the shop stewards committee, who decided recently what would be needed in a bone marrow surgery case, and made sure it was provided.

There has been a slightly different form of workers' control in the canteen. There, the cashiers have been withdrawn on lightening stoppages, and everybody standing in the queue at the time gets a free lunch!

NIPSA (the civil servants' union, which also organises hospital administration employees) has been very strong throughout the dispute. They have come out themselves on a three-day strike, and their action has extended to the Civil Service Agency - where they are refusing to pay out money to GP's and dentists until they all agree to take NHS patients, (and drop their option of not doing so).

Their latest trick was last weekend. The consultants at the Maternity Unit closed it down to babies needing treatment. It was due to the CSSD strike, they claimed.

Brian Sullivan says that the feeling for all-out action is 'very heavy', and points to the 2,000-strong meeting at the Grosvenor Hall on Friday, August 13, which supported the all-out call, as just one example.

The TUC leadership has been absolutely pathetic throughout the dispute, to say the least.

One aspect of this has been the isolation of different regions throughout the dispute. 'The women in the RVH need to be able to pick up a sheet and see that the CSSD in Southampton is also out.' He thought that was a very good aspect of the Health Workers for the Full Claim Broadsheet.

Even in the North itself, local co-ordinating committees had to push the regional officers to call an all N. Ireland Co-ordinating Committee, made up of 2 delegates from any local committee.

At the second of its well-attended meetings, a resolution was passed which called the all-out indefinite stoppage of CSSD's from the 20th, and for other groups of key workers to come out where there were no CSSD's.

It also called on the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to call a 24 hour general strike in Northern Ireland in support of the health workers. This was forwarded to the British TUC, but on the understanding that if it didn't act, then N. Ireland would go ahead on its own.

Brian Sullivan had this to say about the TUC Health Services' Committee's decision on the 26th. 'I couldn't believe that the TUC had given the 22nd as the day of action, and leave people waiting around that long. My attitude is let's go and do something positive.

Let's not wait until the TUC acts. If we have to give a lead from Northern Ireland, then we will.'



Albert Spanswick in fighting mood... against members lobbying the TUC Health Services Committee

Glasgow action

SHOP stewards from all over Scotland are being called to a conference in Glasgow on Friday September 3 to organise action for the NHS strike day of September 22.

The Scottish TUC, which has organised the conference, is avoiding the words 'general strike' but union officials are saying that 'the appeal for maximum support' rules out nothing.

Meanwhile 100 workers are still on indefinite strike at the Scottish NHS administrative HQ at Trinity Park House, Edinburgh. Glasgow am-

bulance workers have been on indefinite strike after their pay was docked on the pretext that the Trinity Park House strike made it impossible to compute overtime money.

NUPE ambulance workers throughout Scotland are on strike for four days - from midnight on August 30 to midnight on September 2 - for the 12% pay claim. And at the Western General hospital in Edinburgh, 100 ancillary workers walked out for the afternoon on Thursday 26 after hearing the RCN ballot decision to reject Fowler's latest offer.

Setback at London Hospital

THE DECISION last week to end the 12-day strike at the London Hospital in Whitechapel is a setback for union organisation there.

The victimisation and eventual sacking of shop steward Phil McEntee can be taken as a sign of the NHS administration's policy to take revenge for the months of disruption in hospitals successfully organised by trade unionists in pursuit of their pay claim.

Many of the reasons for the failure to reinstate Phil rest with the management's ability to act during the holiday period, when the bed patient level was about 50% and when the workforce had already lost wages all summer with the health union leaders' policy of drawn-out action.

Nevertheless the strike was still strong despite one union steward going back in, and most workers stuck with their union's mass meeting decisions. Management even admitted to the press that the trickle back to work was so slight that they had been unable to run the hospital properly.

The latter part of the strike was marked by the emergence of the problematic demand for an independent inquiry, which defocused the defensive industrial action against the dismissal.

Carworkers 'no' to 7.5%

by Tony Cashman

TWO thousand TGWU members at Vauxhall Ellesmere Port unanimously rejected the company's 7.5% pay offer at a mass meeting on Tuesday 31st.

The unions are demanding:

- * £25 on the basic
- * A 38 hour week now, followed by progress to a 35 hour week,
- * Better pensions staff status,
- * Five weeks' holiday at time and a third.

The main aim of the claim is to restore our basic wages to the buying power they had three years ago.

The company's offer includes improvements on holidays, holiday pay, pensions, and lay-off pay - with strings. The conditions are:

- * It should be compulsory for wages to be paid by credit transfer to bank accounts,
- * The works rule book to be updated,
- * The company should have the right to re-time any job at any time,
- * Workers should be expected to identify their own mistakes on jobs,
- * No interference by the unions with GM imports.

The offer came just before Vauxhall announced

losses of £21.6 million in the first six months of 1982. The company are using these figures - and the state of the car market and the economy - to try to get workers to accept this ridiculous offer.

They have used the same sort of pressure to force through 6,200 redundancies in Vauxhall in the last two years, and keep the Ellesmere Port plant on short-time working for one and a half years until recently.

But General Motors the multinational that owns Vauxhall made a profit in the first half of 1982. They imported 45,000 Cavaliers into Britain from Germany, where they can be made £1500 cheaper than in Britain - thus notching up large profits which do not show in the Vauxhall accounts.

Although the car market is depressed, Vauxhall's share has gone up from 8% last year to about 12% this year.

What we need now is a massive rejection of the offer by all the unions in the major Vauxhall plants, and, if necessary, an all-out strike by all the plants, supported by blacking of GM imports like the Cavalier and Opel models.

Glendale gains

SUBSTANTIAL concessions have been made by management in the nine week dispute at Glendale Engineering, North-West London.

At talks with the AUEW last Thursday 26, Glendale boss George Banborough offered to recognise the union and to take back two of the three strikers. The union has given no definite answer, and the offer has not been put in writing, but new talks are expected this

week. Banborough's shift can be attributed to the commitment for blacking Glendale goods obtained at a major customer - Glynwed - and the determination shown by the strikers, who have campaigned widely in the labour movement for support and have organised mass pickets every Monday.

Contact: Mick Woods. (01) 624-1931.

Militant suspended

LAST Tuesday, 24th, Mike Docherty, a COISE member and active supporter of Health Workers for the Full Claim in Nottingham, was beaten up in the grounds of Highbury Hospital.

His attackers were police who alleged that he was driving a stolen car. The car was his own.

Mike was later charged with refusing a breathalyser test, blood sample, and urine sample, and with possible criminal damage to the police vehicle that he was bounced off. He was not charged with stealing his own car, and Mike says he was not

asked for any tests or samples.

Hospital authorities suspended him the next day.

Highbury hospital management must be feeling quite confident now. They have already sacked another Health Workers for the Full Claim supporter, whose case for unfair dismissal is being pursued by the union full-timers.

Both these members are still playing an active part in the dispute. On Friday morning 27th they joined a picket at the Queen's Medical Centre, where a COISE member had been suspended

the previous day - for being 'seen talking to' hospital employees who were alleged to be planning an occupation of parts of the hospital.

The suspension was followed by an immediate walk-out by porters, ancillaries, and the man's colleagues in security.

The victims of this sort of intimidation are steered in their determination to fight on. However, the trade union bureaucrats are discouraging any campaign against the intimidation in the wider movement (it only makes trouble, doesn't it?)

ROB JOHNSTON

POEU sold out again

by Ricky Houston

WHEN the POEU Postal Engineers' one day strike on Monday August 23 was called off, initially we thought it was a victory for the engineers.

But it has turned out to be yet another in a series of sell-outs of postal engineers in the POEU by the Union leadership since the split of the Post Office and British Telecom.

After calling off the strike by phoning branches, the NEC has published a letter to branches, together with the letter from Dearing (Chairperson of the Postal Board) to Bryan Stanley (the POEU General Secretary) on which agreement was based.

It amounted to a stay of execution of an agreement Postal Engineers had with the old Post Office, giving them until Christmas when Dearing 'hopes' to have reached a new agreement with magnanimous Stanley - an agreement which will worsen the pay and conditions of postal engineers working in mechanised depots, and which Stanley hopes to add his signature to over the heads of the POEU membership.

Postal engineers (who

make up about 10% of the POEU membership) feel they are being pushed out of the union by the bureaucrats in Greystoke House, but they are beginning to fight for themselves following Monday 23rd's grand old Duke of York.

Never

Liverpool Power branch, a major postal branch, unanimously decided that the strike should never have been called off, and are writing to branches with postal members to call a conference of branch officers and delegates to fight to remain within the POEU and to fight the Postal management's attacks on their pay and conditions.

Postal branches will certainly support this, but Telecom branches should also. It is the same POEU leadership who lack the will and direction to lead their members into fighting for pay and conditions in both the P.O. and B.T., and it is the same Government behind the P.O. and B.T. who are directing both management boards into attacks on our jobs.

AUGUST

Mon 2 9 16 23 30
Tue 3 10 17 24 31
Wed 4 11 18 25
Thu 5 12 19 26
Fri 6 13 20 27
Sat 7 14 21 28
Sun 8 15 22 29

WHAT'S ON

Paid ads 5p per word, £4 per column inch. Send to Socialist Organiser (What's On), 28 Middle Lane, London N8.

CLASS FIGHTER Steering Committee meeting. Saturday September 4, 1pm to 5pm, Labour Club, Bristol St, Birmingham.

SPARTACIST Truth Kit. New pamphlet on the politics and practice of the Spartacist League, by John Lister. 70 pages, £1 plus 26p postage, from WSL, PO Box 135, London N1.

BRENT Socialist Organiser/Women's Fightback joint meeting. Socialism in the 80s. Speakers: Gerry Byrne, Mick Woods. Tuesday September 7 7.30pm, Trades and Labour Hall, 375 Willesden High Rd, London NW10

SHEFFIELD Socialist Organiser. September 8. The Alternative Economic Strategy. September 22. The Labour Party witch-hunt. All at the Red Cow, The Wicker, starting 7.30.

LAMBETH/SOUTHWARK Socialist Organiser Group Open Forums. 8.30pm at 41 Camberwell Grove, London SE5. September 16: The Fight Against Black Oppression. September 30: Fighting Women's Oppression.

BIRMINGHAM Palestine Solidarity Committee march. Saturday September 4. Assemble 2pm Chamberlain Square.

NORTH London Irish Solidarity Committee: showing of the film 'The Patriot Game', Friday September 3, 7.30, Holborn Central Library, Theobalds Rd. Admission 50p.

ISLINGTON Socialist Organiser. next meeting Sunday September 12, 3pm at the Thornhill Neighbourhood Project, Caledonian Road. Speaker from Labour Committee on Palestine, on the Middle East. Tea, coffee, and sandwiches provided for baby-sitting phone Nik, 607 5268.

MIDLANDS People's March for Jobs. September 15 to 18: a five-pronged march from Stoke, Derby, Rugby, Hereford, and Shrewsbury, converging on Birmingham. Coordinator: Sid Platt, NALGO, 7th Floor, Tower Block, Centre City, 7 Hill St, Birmingham B5 4JD (021 643 6084).

TURKEY Solidarity Campaign activities to mark the second anniversary of the coup in Turkey.

Friday September 10, 11 am to 1.30pm: picket in Fleet Street to protest at newspaper coverage of events in Turkey since the coup.

Sunday September 12, noon to 2pm: join the picket of the Turkish Embassy, organised by CDDRT.

MANCHESTER Socialist Organiser meetings.

Sunday September 5. The fight for gay liberation. Speaker from Labour Campaign for Gay Rights.

Sunday September 12: Solidarnosc two years on. Speaker from Polish Solidarity Campaign.

Sunday September 19. Ireland, a nation divided. Speaker from Labour Committee on Ireland.

All 8pm at the Lass O'Gowrie, Charles St.

POLISH SOLIDARITY Contact addresses. Solidarnosc Trade Union Working Group, Acorn House, 314/320 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP. Tel: 01-837 9464.

Glasgow Polish Solidarity Campaign. Ian McCalman, 18 Mossiel Rd, Glasgow G43 041-632 1839.

Edinburgh PSC. C/o Edinburgh Trades Council. 12 Picardy Place.

Oxford Labour Committee on Poland, 468 Banbury Road, Oxford. 0865 58238.

Coventry PSC. John Fisher, c/o ASTMS, 26 Queens Rd., Coventry. Labour Poland Solidarity Fund, c/o Cooperative Bank, 110 Leman St., London E1.

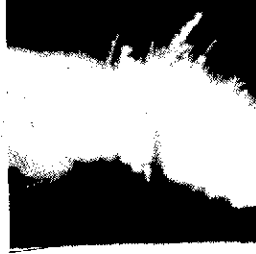
TRIBUNE Rally. Unite to defeat the Tories!

Tuesday September 14, 7.30 at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

Speakers: Tony Benn, Michael Meacher, Les Huckfield, Chris Mullin, Ian Brown (EFTPU Shell Carrington), Johnny Aitkin (EFTPU London Press br.)

Advertisement

Workers' Socialist Review no.2

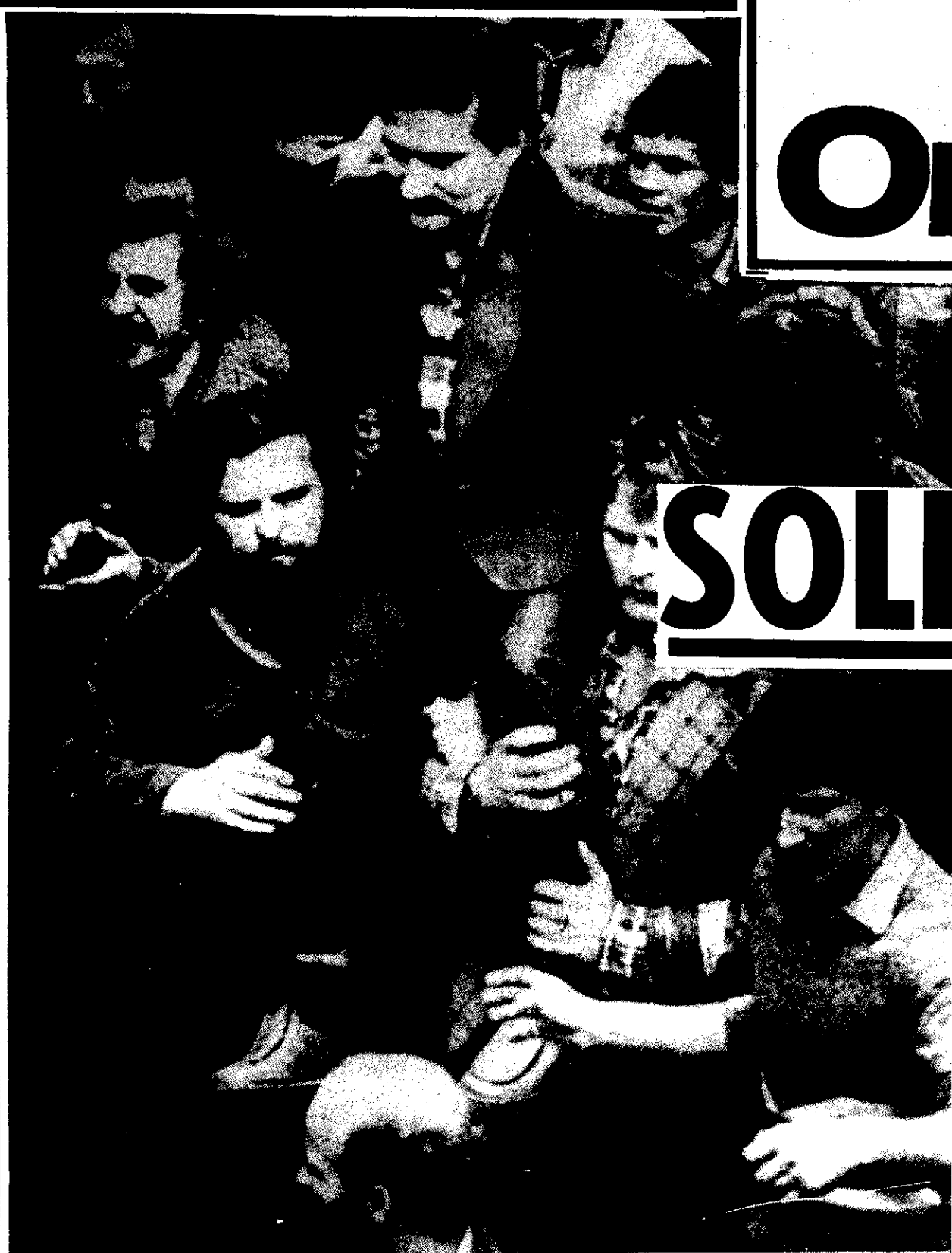


FALKLANDS - WHOSE WAR?

OUT NOW! 40 pages: single copies 70p plus 20p P&P, 5 copies £3.50 post free. Orders: WSL, PO Box 135, London N1 0DD.

Socialist Organiser

2 years on SOLIDARNOSC LIVES!



From triumph in 1980 to rearguard battle in 1982 - the struggle continues

THE POLISH government says that there were no strikes on the second anniversary of Solidarnosc's founding, August 31. Whether that is true or not, we won't know until the reports of that day from underground Solidarnosc activists reach Britain.

But it is certain that strikes and non-cooperation in the factories have been one of the major forms of resistance by Polish workers since the imposition of martial law.

As exiled Solidarnosc activists in Britain put it in the latest issue of their Solidarnosc Trade Union Working Group newsletter:

"The real battle is fought not on streets but in workplaces, over workers' sense of commitment. In this field the government has been soundly defeated.

"Billions pumped by Western bankers, and ten Siberian pipelines, will be of no use when the ruled reject the idea of working for the rulers".

The demonstrations on Tuesday showed not only the anger and courage of Poland's militant workers, but

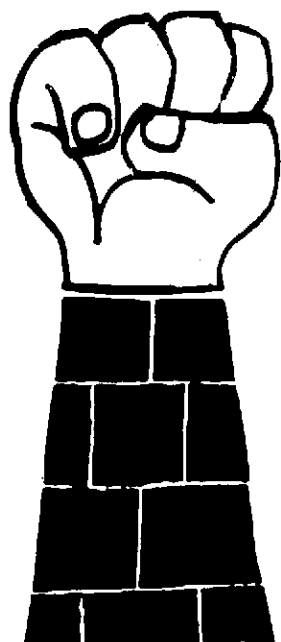
also that their organisation is still strong - despite being forced underground, despite the repression, despite the 'socialist' police who used tear gas, batons, and bullets against the workers on the streets.

The TUC stood alone with die-hard Stalinists among West European union organisations in abstaining from the Polish solidarity demonstrations on Tuesday.

The same complacent, compromising attitude towards the executioners of Poland's workers is shown by much of the Labour Party Left. It was the left-wingers on the Labour Party National Executive - with the honourable exceptions of Eric Heffer and Dennis Skinner - who favoured continuing the invitation to the Warsaw Pact's ruling Stalinist parties for this year's Labour Party conference.

The continuing struggle of the Polish workers against the bureaucracy is also a protest against this indifference, and a challenge to us to increase our solidarity.

£6000 fund



This should be the last of the slow summer holiday weeks for the fund - or at least, it had better be! Only £20 from Pete Keenlyside in Manchester and £3 from Glasgow SO supporters this week. Let's make sure September is different.

Glasgow	44.40	37%	Birmingham	448.00	87%
Edinburgh	70.00	22%	Coventry	574.80	137%
Stirling	-	-	Nottingham	114.00	114%
Carlisle	-	-	Leicester	86.00	22%
Durham	110.00	110%	Northampton	-	-
York	4.00	8%	Cardiff/Bristol	45.00	45%
Bradford	-	-	Oxford	423.50	83%
Leeds	88.00	88%	Southampton	45.00	45%
Hull	1.25	-	Basingstoke	-	-
Sheffield	102.50	103%	Brighton	-	-
Merseyside	120.00	38%	London	304.00	14%
Manchester	183.00	47%	Miscellaneous	744.51	-
Winsford	-	-	TOTAL SO FAR	3527.96	59%
Stoke	20.00	67%			

Send donations to the Fund to: Socialist Organiser Fund, 28 Middle Lane, London N8 8PL.

Biding his time

THE THOUSANDS of Longbridge workers currently facing short-time working will be comforted to know that they are soon to be joined by another BL employee - Sir Austin Bide, the new chairman.

There are some minor differences in the arrangements, of course. The Longbridge workers will be on 75% of grade rate for the duration of the short time - that's around £93 per week for most of them.

The arrangements reached for Sir Austin may seem at first glance to be rather more generous. He'll be receiving £1,200 per week.

But, remember, the Longbridge people are only having to work one day per week, whereas Sir Austin will have to work a two day week. So don't start making simplistic comparisons.

And one other thing. Many BL workers these days are having to moonlight to make ends meet. We don't approve of this sort of thing, of course. But it's nice to know that Sir Austin also has difficulty getting by on just one wage packet. His other job - chairman of Glaxo - brings in a handy £1,000 a week or so extra.

If we're honest, the 'chairman' job

is a pretty cushy number, well away from the pressures of the production line. But after all, Sir Austin is 66 years old and might have difficulty holding down a track job.

Just like the workers over 60 years of age at the Cowley Assembly plant who are being taken off light sub-assembly work and forced onto production lines for the first time. They are told: "If you can't hold it, you can leave".

Let's hope nothing like that happens to Sir Austin.

Mobilise to defend union rights

New
broad-
sheet
out now!

10p from the Mobilising Committee for the Defence of Trade Union Rights, 28 Middle La., London N8.