

# Socialist Worker

for workers control and international socialism

**Socialist Worker meetings**

**London**

Politics behind engineers' struggle  
Africa Centre  
King Street WC2  
(nr Leicester Sq)  
October 21 7.30

**Newcastle**

Socialists and engineers' struggle  
Bridge Hotel 8.00  
October 20

# VICTORY TO THE ENGINEERS

## Productivity deals OUT

## Rank and file control IN

**BRITAIN STANDS ON the brink of the biggest and most important and conflict between capital labour since the 1926 General Strike.**

Already the press has started its campaign of distortion, hysteria and smear. They talk of the 'National Interest'—but the only interest we recognise is that of the workers, who make up a majority of the population.

### Cut-throat

The national interest that the government and the bosses' press will be talking of is another thing. It is a myth which always means in practice that workers' wages must be held down while profits rise, so that the modernisation of British industry for more ruthless cut-throat competition can be paid for out of the pay-pocket.

This is not the national interest but the interest of the owners of the nation. They will also talk about 'democracy'. Already any waverer or blackleg who passes round a petition against the strike is sure of front-page publicity.

The call for 'democratic ballots' has come chiefly from unions notorious for their lack of democracy. We can be sure that the

'Labour' government, well known for its 'democratic' respect for conference decisions, will hammer this point home in an attempt to demoralise the engineers.

The employers fear a solid strike, supported by a rank and file who understand the issues and will not give in. This must be our aim. The first demand of every militant must be 'For a solid strike. All out on October 21.'

This task falls to the rank and file militants, for the union leadership has done next to nothing to explain the case to the membership. The chief danger once the strike starts is that the AEF may succumb to talk of 'endangering the national interest' and agree to a productivity deal with the bosses and the government, instead of a straight 'no strings' increase.

A small pay increase can be wrapped around with all sorts of fancy agreements which mean harder work, worse conditions, and a smaller work force. Though Scanlon has opposed the incomes policy, he has never condemned the idea of productivity agreements.

It is up to rank and file engineering workers to make clear now and during the strike, that they will not accept a productivity deal. What they demand is a straight increase of £2 now. No strings, no deals.

As the strike develops, the pressure on Scanlon to give in to

such a deal will mount. The press, radio and television will all be against the engineers, and will try to whip up feeling against them.

To counter this, and to put pressure on Scanlon from the opposite direction, we must demand weekly mass meetings and elected strike committees. This is the true democratic answer to all the talk of ballots.

### Mass meeting

A ballot asks each worker 'what do you as an individual want to do?' A mass meeting asks the workers as a whole 'What shall we do together?'

There must be no return to work without a chance for the members to vote on the terms. If engineers show they can control their strike, why might they not control their own industry?

If workers take over any factory to back up their demands, as happened in France in May, where will all our press enthusiasts for 'democracy' be then? Our next demand must be 'For rank and file control of the strike'.

But we must say more than this. The strike has come about under a 'Labour' government that has accepted the capitalist system, and operates it against the workers. It has launched an attack on workers'

standards and conditions, and has passed laws to restrict workers' bargaining rights. If the strike is called off or is defeated, these attacks will increase.

To back up the strike we must demand an end to the wage freeze, and to all laws against trade unions and against free bargaining. There must be no restrictions on workers' rights to bargain freely over wages and conditions, whether through the unions nationally or on the shop floor.

This means repeal the Prices and Incomes Act, and say no to the Wilson-Castle drive to 'productivity' For behind each plan for Measured Day Work or work measurement, behind each attack on wages or conditions, from the rate to the tea-break, and behind each boss who presses for them, stand Harold Wilson, Barbara Castle and the 'Labour' government, the executive committee for the bosses as a whole.

To answer their attack on the engineers and all workers, and to back up the strike, we must stress the need to smash the wage freeze, and smash all anti-trade laws.

The old workers' organisations, the Labour Party and the Communist Party, have all but collapsed. Whatever happens on the October 21, more struggles lie ahead.

More and more militants are realising that a new political

movement must be built, based on rank-and-file democracy, regrouping all socialists in a political organisation of a new type, with a clear perspective for workers' power.

A solid strike, an active strike, a strike controlled and led to victory by the engineers themselves, with a mass understanding of the issues involved, can help this process more than a thousand programmes or pamphlets. It can wipe away at once all the demoralisation so many militants feel as a result of Wilson's sellouts.

For all these reasons we must demand: 'Victory to the Engineers!'

### The slogans

The union leaders have not explained the demands. And they dare not explain the implications.

This task falls to the militants. In every factory, in every shop, in every shop, in the pub and at the workbench, these points must be hammered home. On every wall, and on every noticeboard these slogans must go up:

**ALL OUT ON OCTOBER 21!  
TWO POUNDS NOW! NO STRINGS!  
NO 'PRODUCTIVITY' SELLOUT!  
RANK AND FILE CONTROL OF  
THE STRIKE! SMASH THE WAGE  
FREEZE! SMASH ALL ANTI-  
TRADE UNION LAWS! VICTORY  
TO THE ENGINEERS!**



# SMASH WHITE POWER

IT LOOKS AS THOUGH Wilson's attempt to reach agreement with Smith has failed—this time at any rate. But whatever the outcome one thing is clear: Wilson will sell out as much or as little as is consistent with the interests of British capital.

The principle of 'Nibmar' (no independence before majority rule) is crucial for the African liberation movement in Southern Africa. One must look at Rhodesia in the context of white control over the whole of the economic and political complex of Southern Africa. If any concessions are made on this issue then the struggle for liberation is inevitably set back.

Constitutional guarantees that 'one day', after sufficient preparation, Africans will be given political equality in Rhodesia are meaningless. They are unenforceable and evade the issue—the overthrow of white oppression and giving full rights to Africans now.

The reasons for the latest negotiations are quite clear. The South African government has put pressure on Smith to settle.

What they are interested in is the long-term stability of the whole of Southern Africa. They hope a formal settlement will lead to a reduction of pressure by other African countries and even a slowing down of the guerrilla warfare which is developing in South West Africa and in Rhodesia.

They would be willing to sacrifice Smith and Rhodesia to this long-term stability, and see the emergence of Africans into Rhodesian politics as no threat if they are controlled by puppet leaders. After all, they can point to Hastings Banda in Malawi as the kind of Uncle Tom they can do business with.

Wilson, too, with his home policy in a shambles, desperately wants a propaganda coup to rally support and to steal some of the Tories' clothes. Wilson also needs to protect capital's long-term interests in the whole area.

Incorporating safe Africans into the government to do it is quite acceptable and he hopes that this will take the wind out of the sails of the African liberation movement. Unless there is a compromise this could bring the whole edifice of exploitation and monopoly profits tumbling to the ground.

Clearly socialists have nothing in common with the interests of the South African ruling class or British capital. The negotiations only have meaning in this framework.

In terms of the real issues they are at best irrelevant, while any 'solution', which is reached can only make the struggle for liberation harder. Like the rest of Labour's policies, any success Wilson has will be a setback to the international socialist movement.

Richard Kuper

The Fearless talks are over, but will it be long before Wilson tries again to reach a deal with Smith?

# Labour's four years of soft-sell to Rhodesian racialists

by ANNE DARNBOROUGH

of Anti-Apartheid Movement

**N**ibmar, said a Labour Party delegate, being urged to support demands for a Rhodesia debate at Blackpool this month, 'is party policy'.

He therefore saw no need to petition for a special debate on Rhodesia or to stiffen the party leadership's commitment to the crucial principle of 'No Independence Before Majority Rule'.

The delegate was right. Nibmar is party policy, and has been since long before the Labour government came to power.

But like much Labour Party policy with regard to Southern Africa, it has swayed and tottered.

Yet significantly, Southern Africa is often used by the government to show how closely they have stuck to pledges made in Opposition days. Barbara Castle, addressing a pre-conference rally in Blackpool, made proud mention that no arms were being sold to South Africa, and that no deals had been done with Ian Smith.

But Harold Wilson must have hoped to do a deal with Ian Smith when he set up last week's Gibraltar meeting and all those preceding it. The history of his hopes goes right back to the first month of the

Labour government.

On November 27 1964, Wilson wrote to Smith: 'We have an open mind on the timing of independence in relation to progress towards majority rule'.

Only a month before, on October 2, two weeks before the general election, he had written to an African opponent of Smith: 'The Labour Party is totally opposed to granting independence to Southern Rhodesia so long as the government of the country remains under the control of a white minority'.

## FLEXIBLE

In 1965, demonstrating flexibility on the protection of the African majority in the colony. Wilson sensitively chose to tell African nationalist leaders living in restriction in Rhodesia, that no British force would be used against the rebels, in the event of a unilateral declaration of independence.

He passed this word on to Smith, and a few months later, on November 11 1965, Smith seized independence.

Numerous declarations that Wilson would not negotiate with the rebels followed, and he instigated a partial programme of voluntary sanctions against Rhodesia at the UN. In January 1966 he told the Commonwealth Prime Ministers in Lagos, that these would bring down



THE FORGOTTEN MAN: While Wilson discussed with Smith, African leaders like Joshua Nkomo (seen with Wilson on his last trip to Rhodesia) are still held in detention.

the regime 'in weeks rather than months'.

In April, despite being well-supplied with oil from South Africa, Smith did bleat piteously about the effect sanctions were having, but before the screws could turn, Wilson, forgetting his no-negotiations vow, rushed officials to Salisbury for the famous 'talks about talks'.

These dragged on and off throughout the summer until the Commonwealth Prime Ministers, assembling in high dudgeon about Britain's failure to deal with the rebels, came to London in September 1966.

There, Zambia's Foreign Minister Simon Kapwepwe was so incensed at the British holding operation that he left the Conference calling Wilson a 'racist'.

Furious, the Prime Minister nonetheless could not even wait till the conference ended before setting fresh talks in train, and by the end of the month the then Commonwealth Secretary, Herbert Bowden, was in Salisbury, showing Smith his new 'package'.

This had little to do with Nibmar. The British attitude was simply that a re-working of the 1961 Constitution rejected by the Conservative government as unsuitable for independence, would be acceptable, providing some 'safeguards' were built in.

## INSISTED

Even so, Bowden, after further investigation in Salisbury in November, concluded that there was so little give in Smith's position that there was no point to further negotiation.

Nonetheless, Wilson insisted on talking to Smith himself, their final meeting before last week.

He flew to Gibraltar and boarded HMS Tiger, promising close, anxious colleagues that he would insist on a British military presence in Rhodesia during a transition from the rebel regime to whatever new form of government might be agreed. This promise did not appear in the proposals later.

Aboard the Tiger, Britain made all the concessions. The police state powers embedded in the

1961 Constitution and the Law and Maintenance Act were not to be annulled.

Nothing in the proposed Tiger Constitution could prevent Smith from banning opposition parties or interfering opponents.

There were no demands for improvements in African income and educational qualifications, the prerequisites to an enlarged African A roll vote and thus to majority rule. Nothing made majority rule inevitable. No mention was made of British intervention should the 'safeguards' for Africans be eroded in later years.

## BIGOTED

Smith was canny enough to smell that Wilson was offering a good deal. The Prime Ministers returned home, certain of the best.

Only Smith's less intelligent and more bigoted colleagues could not see their own advantage and saved the day for their African compatriots, turning down the deal.

At this point Harold Wilson came full circle. 'The British government will withdraw all previous proposals for a constitutional settlement which have been made: in particular they will not thereafter be prepared to submit to the British parliament any settlement which involves independence before majority rule,' he told a packed House of Commons early in December 1966.

But the statement stuck in the craw. It was repeated to parliament once or twice with increasing reluctance in the following six months, but already by June 1967, Wilson was indicating to the Rhodesians that he might be able to discuss the Nibmar pledge with the African Commonwealth leaders to whom he felt obliged.

In his parliamentary address to the Blackpool Conference this month, the Prime Minister mentioned Rhodesia, and his firm intention to stand by the six principles (which envisage minority rule independence with 'safeguards'). But he made no mention of Nibmar.

Later in the week, pressed to it on television, he grudgingly said: 'There will have to be a significant change on the Rhodesia side, before I can ask the African leaders to let me rescind the Nibmar pledge.'

# PIERRE MULELE MURDERED

PIERRE MULELE, guerrilla leader and fighter for African liberation, was executed by firing squad in the early hours of October 9 in Kinshasa—Congo (formerly the Belgian Congo), under the orders of the President, General Mobutu.

Mulele had left the protection of the neighbouring state of Congo—Brazzaville on September 29 in the company of the Kinshasa Foreign Minister, Bonboko, having been led to believe that he had been amnestied for his part in the 1963-4 Kwilu rebellion.

Mobutu then declared that the amnesty did not extend to a 'war criminal'. Pierre Mulele appeared before a tribunal of three high-ranking officers on October 7.

The request for a lawyer was refused and the press and public were excluded so that (in the words of a government spokesman) 'there

should not be any overheating of minds'. On October 8 the death sentence was delivered.

A former Minister of Education of Patrice Lumumba, Pierre Mulele also served in Antoine Gizenga's anti-imperialist government at Stanleyville in 1961. While the rebels of the Kwilu rising were being hunted down by white mercenaries, he stayed in the region, moving around freely under the protection of the people.

The murder in 1961 of Patrice Lumumba by Tshomba, the hiring of Belgian colonialism, aroused indignation and shock all over the world for its treachery.

Mobutu, who took over after the expulsion of Tshomba from the Congo Premiership in late 1965, is a bastion of American interests: his treachery will therefore receive less attention in the Western press.

# Socialist Worker

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# WHERE WE STAND

SOCIALIST WORKER IS THE paper of International Socialism, a movement of revolutionary socialists who believe that the present form of society, with its blatant inequalities, its periodic crises, wars and racialist hysteria must be replaced by one based on a planned economy under full workers' control; those who produce the wealth should own and control the means of production.

International Socialism is opposed to any incomes policy that seeks to restrict the wages of the workers in order to boost the profits of the employers. We unconditionally support all shop stewards and rank and file trade union members in their struggles for

better wages and conditions and oppose all reactionary laws that threaten the liberties of the labour movement. We support all strikes in defence of workers' interests with the demand of no victimisation of trade unionists. Redundancy should be opposed with the demand: five days work or five days pay. Shop stewards organisations should strengthen and extend their influence by linking up on an industrial and ultimately a national basis.

We are opposed to racial discrimination, a weapon used by the ruling class to divide the labour movement. Immigration control must be ended, ensuring the free movement of peoples regardless of

race and colour. Black and white workers must unite and form their own defence organisations to fight fascism and racialism. The labour movement must demand the immediate recall of British troops from abroad as the first step towards ending colonial exploitation.

The task of revolutionary socialists is to join workers in their struggles with socialist ideas that will link up the various sections of the labour movement and help create a force that will lead on to workers' power.

If you would like to join IS or would like further details of our activities, fill in the form below:

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Address .....

Send to Socialist Worker, Paxton Works Paxton Road, London N17



# The Tory dilemma: how to keep Big Business and the middle class happy (WHILE THEY ALL HAMMER THE WORKERS)

The Conservative Shadow Cabinet and Edward Heath have emerged fairly triumphant from this year's party Conference.

Against all the odds, they succeeded in reconciling the policies of big business with the social dissatisfaction of big businesses' most reliable supporter—small business, and the 'county' people.

But it wasn't an easy victory and next time it will be a lot harder.

All existing political parties serve the state and thus the owners of society. It has been carefully built into the very framework of their existence.

But at times they are also forced from within to reflect certain class movements in society. This is the case with the Conservative Party at present and the upper layers of the middle classes.

Traditionally the leadership of the Conservative Party has never bowed down before its membership. In no period was this as obvious as when Harold Macmillan was leader.

## The backwoodsmen

As Prime Minister he was all the constituency backwoodsmen were against and the Parliamentary Conservative Party, Cabinet and big business were for: the end of imperialism and 'the wind of change' in Africa, the approach to the Common Market, the social policies of 'you've never had it so good'.

He got away with it not only because God was in his heaven (the Conservative Party believes in its natural right to govern) but also because all was right with their world.

This has changed. What has happened is that in the past two years there has been an immense acceleration of the rationalisation process in British capitalism. Among public companies (that is just the largest companies; the very small ones that are still

private are not shown) the growth of mergers and monopolies has been enormous.

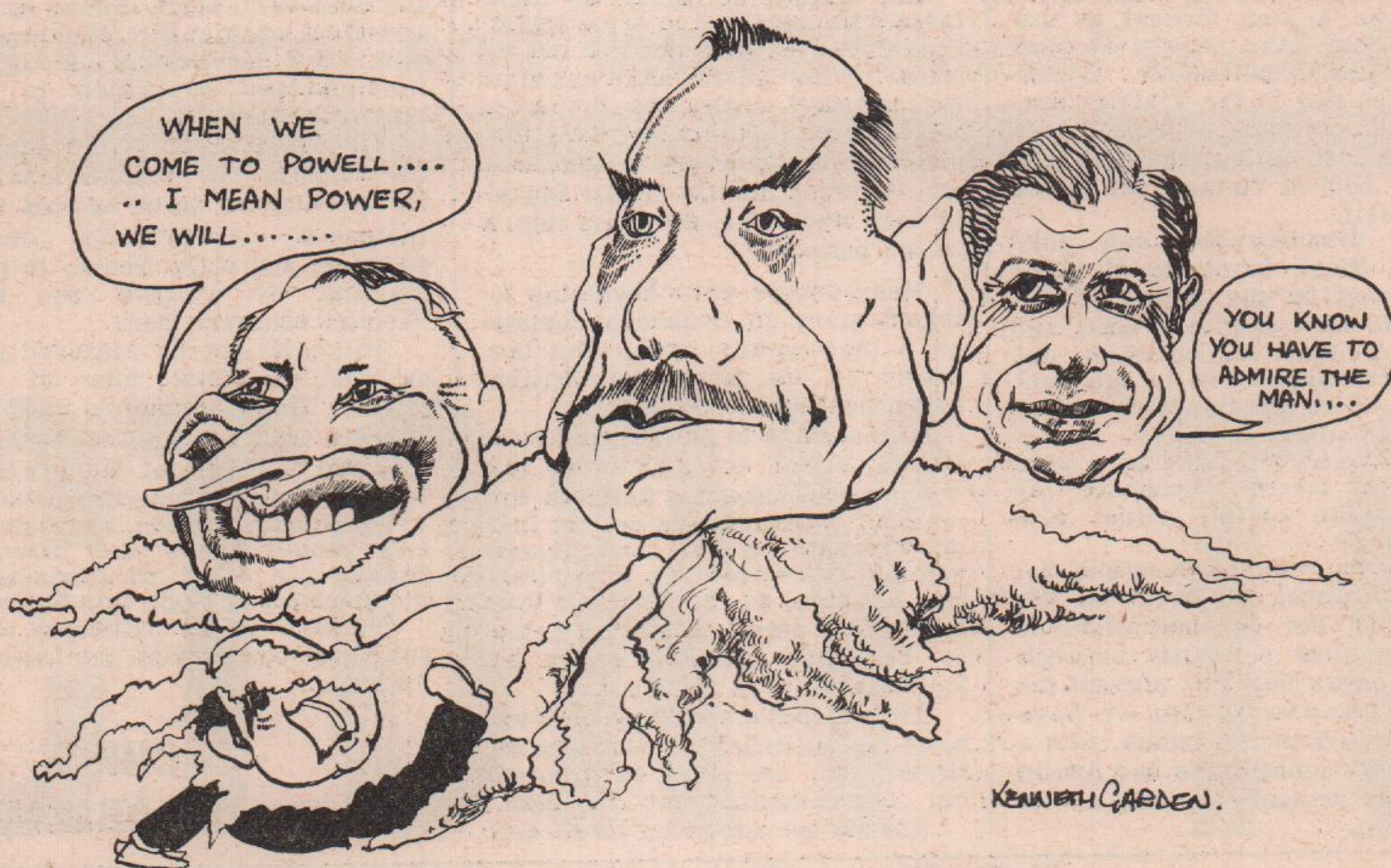
The small businessman and the rest of the upper layers of the middle class are witnessing their own destruction.

The vicars, the brigadiers and the county women cannot but help react as they experience part of the same social movement. They react through the only ideology they have, nationalism and racialism, built on the individualism of their social existence. And they react through the only organisation that they have—the Conservative Party.

It was during last year's conference that Enoch Powell began his series of flash-point speeches at constituency meetings, pulling together issues to build a coherent (though contradictory and irrational) set of right-wing explanations, to voice directly the fears and prejudices the middle class holds.

This first speech was on Asian immigration from Kenya. From this he developed his position into why are there social upheavals? (answer the students) and why is there social distress? (answer the immigrants, the students and the foreign bankers).

In this attempt to create a simple 'out-group' explanation of the economic pressures on the middle class at present he was



KENNETH GARDEN.

by JOAN SMITH

premature. This social class is totally reactionary at present.

It is caught between big business and the organised workers, and the threat of organisation in their own small businesses. But it is not yet ready for an organised, irrational, radical right-wing 'philosophy'.

That is why last week's Tory conference was a mixture of irrational prejudice and an attempt to find a rational economic solution to middle-class problems. The triumph of the Shadow Cabinet was that it couched the perfect big business remedy to the present economic difficulties in terms appreciated by small businessmen and other sections of the 'petty bourgeoisie'.

Iain Macleod's economic vision of an 'economy of choice', ('a charge on spending rather than a penalty on earnings') is totally reactionary in the 'positive' rational sense that the Conference was looking for.

With lower rates of tax and surtax and SET to be replaced by

a value-added tax (which will not affect the 'small trader') it answers all the charges against the Conservatives for lack of policy and creeping 'socialism'.

The burden of taxation will, through much higher prices, be shifted further on to those who pay nearly all of it already. Old age pensioners pay 50 per cent of their pensions on indirect purchasing taxes.

It is the most regressive tax system possible. A value-added tax will be of such dimensions that it will severely affect the purchasing power of the whole working class if it comes into operation. It is coupled of course with a 'voluntary' incomes policy.

This cut in the purchasing power of the workers will cut imports and increase exports. Big business and the state will thus be provided with the wherewithal to pay back the £2,000m. debt abroad, leaving 'capital' free to wander the face of the earth.

It will also provide for the righteous (those with merit, as proved by their higher earnings) to spit on the unrighteous (those with low earnings) and administer charity to them in the name of 'help where it is most needed'.

This policy is precisely the one to rally the Conservatives on. But for how long?

The movement among the delegates at the conference springs from the constituencies and from the much larger middle-class movement. The attack on them from big business is not going to stop.

In struggles with their own workers and foreign competition, the owners of large-scale production are forced to attack the people nearest to them. The tremendous

increase in political and economic tensions which produced the present round of mergers, re-organisation and 'golden handshakes', is not going to stop. And what happens then?

Last Friday, Enoch Powell proposed the abolition of all the main grants for big business (investment grants and those for development areas—a saving of £610 million) and the abolition of the organisation which is at present master-minding the mergers, the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation). This with the abolition of housing subsidies (also an Iain Macleod policy) would enable tax to be cut by half.

By next year, or the year after, if the present shake-up continues, the constituency Conservative parties may well turn to demanding these policies and couple them with all the vicious racialism that they are capable of.

The vote for Heath's immigration policy was not a turn away from such a racialism. Never in his speeches has Powell advocated anything that wasn't already official Conservative Party policy (even last May) i.e. negligible immigration and paid repatriation.

Mr. Edward Heath is left in the unenviable position of having to produce policies which give concessions to small business but are basically on behalf of big business. The financial plea the Tories made at last year's conference for £2m from their supporters did not get the immediate response they had expected.

## No connections

Heath is caught between offending the giants (and perhaps driving them into the arms of the Labour Party) and destroying his own party base. Heath, unlike Hogg, has no connections with this base. He was voted in from the Parliamentary Conservative Party.

The effects of any rationalisation of British industry are going to be very hard on the parasitic, prejudiced class that live directly or indirectly off the big owners. Mr. Heath has to produce positive policies for this reorganisation of industry (the depression of living standards is only half way there) and yet retain his own supporters, who never really supported him in the first place.

Because of the link between economic and social policies, he cannot allow the racialist feeling to get too far out of hand unless it rebounds on him in a series of small-trader economic proposals.

There is nothing incompatible in big business and racialism, but there is something very incompatible between big business and small business economic policies. And Mr. Heath knows it.

## Mersey militant speaks out

By Mike McGrath (AUBTW)

A DEPUTATION from the Shell-star site at Ellesmere Port in Cheshire, where 1150 construction workers were locked out by the Chemico management when they refused to work a productivity deal, toured building sites in London last week to raise money for the men.

I spoke to a member of the deputation, who has to remain anonymous for fear of victimisation by his union. (For the latest news of the lock-out, see page 4.)

How did the dispute at Chemico develop?

The most important factor was the interference of the Department of Employment and Productivity. They stopped the existing site agreement and demanded that a new one be written to ensure that bonus was more strictly related to productivity.

A new agreement was drawn up by the seven unions involved—engineers, boilermakers, structural workers, construction engineers, electricians, plumbers, sheetmetal workers and coppersmiths) and the employers without consulting the workers. A copy of this fell into our hands and we immediately distributed it on the site.

Consequently at the mass meeting called by the unions, the workers unanimously rejected it, although the officials said that it had already been signed. Faced with this overwhelming rejection, two of the unions (engineers and

boilermakers) admitted that it had not been signed.

After this meeting, the management endeavoured to enforce the agreement and finally gave all 600 men the sack. The other 550 men working for sub-contractors walked out.

What support have you had in the area?

Fantastically strong. 8000 men went on a one-day strike and 3000 marched through the centre of Liverpool.

Why do you think you have received such massive support?

The spontaneity of the opposition to this deal took us all by surprise although we had been discussing tactics for weeks beforehand.

The most important part of the agreement is the 'flexibility' clause which would cut the labour force by one third. In return we would get 2s an hour bonus (the same as we had previously but paid four weeks in arrears).

In addition, this bonus would be cancelled if there was a stoppage of work or any other form of industrial action, for any reason whatsoever during working hours. How we're meant to have a dispute outside working hours I don't know.

How do you see the struggle developing on Merseyside?

I think it's clear that we must break down the barrier between construction engineering workers and civil engineering workers as a first step towards uniting all workers whatever their industry.

Because of the lack of continuity of employment, any stewards' committees formed always break up after a short period. However, given

the alliance of employers, unions and the government on the issue of productivity deals, we must look more and more to rank and file committees and eventually a linking up of these committees on a national scale.

## Join the International Socialists

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 WIGAN: Ray Challinor, 34 Whiteside Avenue, Hindley, Wigan, Lancs.  
 WOLVERHAMPTON: Dave Spilsbury, 274 Penn Road, Wolverhampton.  
 YORK: Bob Looker, 22 Hobgate



# October 27: why we are marching

THE UNITED STATES' war against the people of Vietnam continues day in and day out with unabated brutality.

Despite the peace talks in Paris, the intensity of the bombing of most of the north is as great as ever before, while there is not even a nominal limitation to burning and napalming of villages in the south.

American politicians may have succeeded in preventing the war being the central question in their elections, but petroleum jelly designed to stick to the skin while it burns is still poured on Vietnamese peasants. The most powerful nation in the world continues to systematically maim and kill those who oppose its rule.

The press, of course, hardly mentions this now. It does not consider genocide to be news.

The real and continuing violence perpetrated by the US government against the Vietnamese every hour of the day, is ignored. Instead headlines are devoted to the 'dangers' of October 27's demonstration against the war.

Stories appear that talk with conviction about preparations made by demonstrators to 'seize centres of power', stories which have no foundation outside the depraved mind of the hack journalist.

We must ignore such red herrings that are designed to divert us from the real problem of ending the US occupation of Vietnam and the horrors associated with it. What is really important is to ensure that the October 27 demonstration is as large, militant and effective as possible.

For although one demonstration will not end the Vietnam war, or even affect the Wilson government's support for the Americans, it can be a step forward in the development of a movement that will seriously challenge the system that gives rise to the Vietnam war, as well as providing encouragement for those resisting the US war machine both in Vietnam and in the USA itself.

The demonstration can only perform these functions if it is not misled by the antics of the press. It must display a unity and militancy that makes clear our determined opposition to the society of which the Vietnam war is the most barbaric product.

This means marching as a solid mass. It means occupying the whole width of the street with arms linked.

It means refusing to allow the police to direct and break up the impact of the demonstration. It means a clear solidarity between demonstrators that will prevent the sort of massive arrests we have seen on previous occasions, with a toll of increasing fines and prison sentences designed to keep us off the streets.

But the need for militancy should not be confused with individual punch-ups with the police, or with individual acts of apolitical vandalism (for instance against buses or cars). However sincerely motivated such actions are, they do not carry any political message to those who watch the demonstration or who read about it through distorted press stories the next day.

Nor should militancy be confused with marching to a particular target. The VSC has decided not to march to the US embassy because the physical layout of the area makes it particularly easy for the police to break up the demonstration. Marching into Grosvenor Square is very much like marching into a police barracks.

Many people were beginning to regard going to Grosvenor Square as a twice-yearly ritual. But our enemy is as much the British government as the US one.

The need is to put the finger on Harold Wilson for supporting the war and to make the point to the mass of working-class people that this support is part and parcel with his implementation of capitalist policies at home. For this reason the demonstration is going to Whitehall and the centre of political power in Britain.

This should also define what we mean by militancy on the demonstration. We are going to express our determination and strength. But we are not going to succeed

in overturning British society at the moment, however hard we try. For what stands against us are not merely a few policemen but the fact that the mass of the working class in this country is not involved in the movement. Until they are, the powers that be can effectively ignore us.

This does not signify that we merely wait for the working class to move. Rather it means that our aim must be to begin linking up the movement against the Vietnam war with the developing forms of working-class opposition to the present society.

The need is for those against the Vietnam war to participate in the growing struggles against rent increases, productivity deals, speed-up and wage freeze, to help millions of workers see how Vietnam concerns them.

This will not be achieved just by the particular form of the October 27 demonstration, although slogans pointing out the connections can be important. What is more to the point is to use the occasion of the demonstration to begin to make, both before and after, a huge scale effort of propaganda and argument to begin this process.

Massive unity, militancy and solidarity can provide the impetus for this.

**CHRIS HARMAN**

## Massive support for engineers' battle

THE WILDCAT PRESS, hell-bent on destroying the unity of engineering workers, suggests without evidence that there is little support for the October 21 strike.

But a Socialist Worker nationwide survey shows MASSIVE support for the strike and a grim determination to beat the employers.

At the CAV Lucas factory in North London, not only AEF members support the strike. 70 per cent of the General and Municipal workers members are in favour of strike action, although their union ballot was opposed to joining the AEF.

A shop steward at Crabtree's in LEEDS declared: 'The men are all for the strike. They are scared there might be a sell-out, but they feel that now is the time for a showdown.'

Ken Ruddick, works convenor at BAC WEYBRIDGE in Surrey, said: 'They win or we win. There's no going back.'

## 'No blacklegs'

A mass campaign of leaflets and factory meetings is under way on TYNESIDE. 'There will be no blacklegs on the Tyne,' our reporter says.

Les Allen, AEF National Committee member and convenor at Thermal Syndicate, WALLSEND, said: 'We have fought to build a strong movement and there comes a time when we have got to use the strength of the movement. Whatever the leadership may decide, the rank and file must say that time is now.'

Jim Murray (AEF) Vickers Armstrong convenor said: 'While there is no wild enthusiasm for the strike, there is a 100 per cent determination among our members to pursue this dispute to a successful conclusion. The anachronistic wage structure of the engineering industry has been long in need of complete change.'

Support is also solid on Teesside. A strike fund has been set up and rank and file members are making substantial contributions.

## 3 months for IS secretary

CHRIS WICKENDEN, 19 years-old secretary of Chertsey branch of the International Socialists, was found guilty of assaulting a police sergeant and was sentenced to three months at a detention centre on October 10.

The incident took place on the July 21 demonstration against United States' aggression in Vietnam. Chris was trying to rescue a comrade who had been arrested, and who he thought was being victimised by the police.

The police witness stated that Chris punched the police sergeant in the back twice, although Chris claimed all along that he was only trying to pull the sergeant's arm away from the arrested man. His story was substantiated by a witness.

But, as with most cases dealing with demonstrators, the police evidence was accepted without hesitation by the magistrates. The case had been remanded four times.

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# Mersey men KO 'prod' deal

From ROSS HILL and MIKE TALBOT

MERSEYSIDE:- The six-week-old lock-out of 1150 construction workers fighting a productivity deal at the Shellstar site, Ellesmere Port, has ended in a knock-out victory for the men.

A peace formula put to a mass meeting last Saturday by union leaders included:

## Drivers step up fight against 'spy in cab'

TEESSIDE:- Lorry drivers voted on Tuesday at Stockton to support a call for strike action against 'spy in the cab' meters.

The strike call came from a national delegate meeting of drivers on Sunday in London. The meters, called tachographs, will be placed in lorries when the government's Transport Bill becomes law.

They will work out drivers' mileage and rest periods. Drivers say the meters could result in a serious cut in their already low wages.

The Teesside drivers, who formed their own rank-and-file action group, decided to call off their own unofficial strike.

A member of the action committee said on Tuesday: 'We will support all action from London as long as there is no compromise on the tachograph issue.'

Some members of the action committee, including the chairman, have been victimised. Their bosses refuse to take them back.

The drivers are bitter about lack of support from the Transport Workers' Union, which refused to back the strike. Many of them are tearing up their cards and joining the United Road Transport Union.

## Porters back tenants

MEAT PORTERS at Smithfield Central Market in London voted on Tuesday to hold a one-day strike next month in support of GLC tenants who are refusing to pay rent increases of up to 15s a week.

The tenants are planning a massive demonstration outside GLC headquarters on November 19.

A return to work for all on the basis of the old agreement plus 6d per hour (a total of 11s per hour for craftsmen).

Rejection of the productivity appendix to the agreement, which had been forced on the men by bosses, unions and the state in order to cut the labour force.

The return to work to be phased over two weeks, with priority for stewards and regular pickets.

Compensation to be paid to men who are taken back last.

No victimisation of militants.

Negotiations between employers, unions and state to start after the return, but with stewards present.

Bro. Marsden, the national convening delegate, told the men they had achieved victory because of the efficient and determined way in which they had conducted the struggle.

## BLOCKED

They had organised mass picketing, which had blocked the whole site.

And they had won widespread support from other sites in the region and beyond. 12 major sites on Merseyside had formed a joint stewards movement and organised demonstrations, collections, a one-day stoppage, and the threat of an all-out strike if the agreement was not scrapped and the men reinstated.

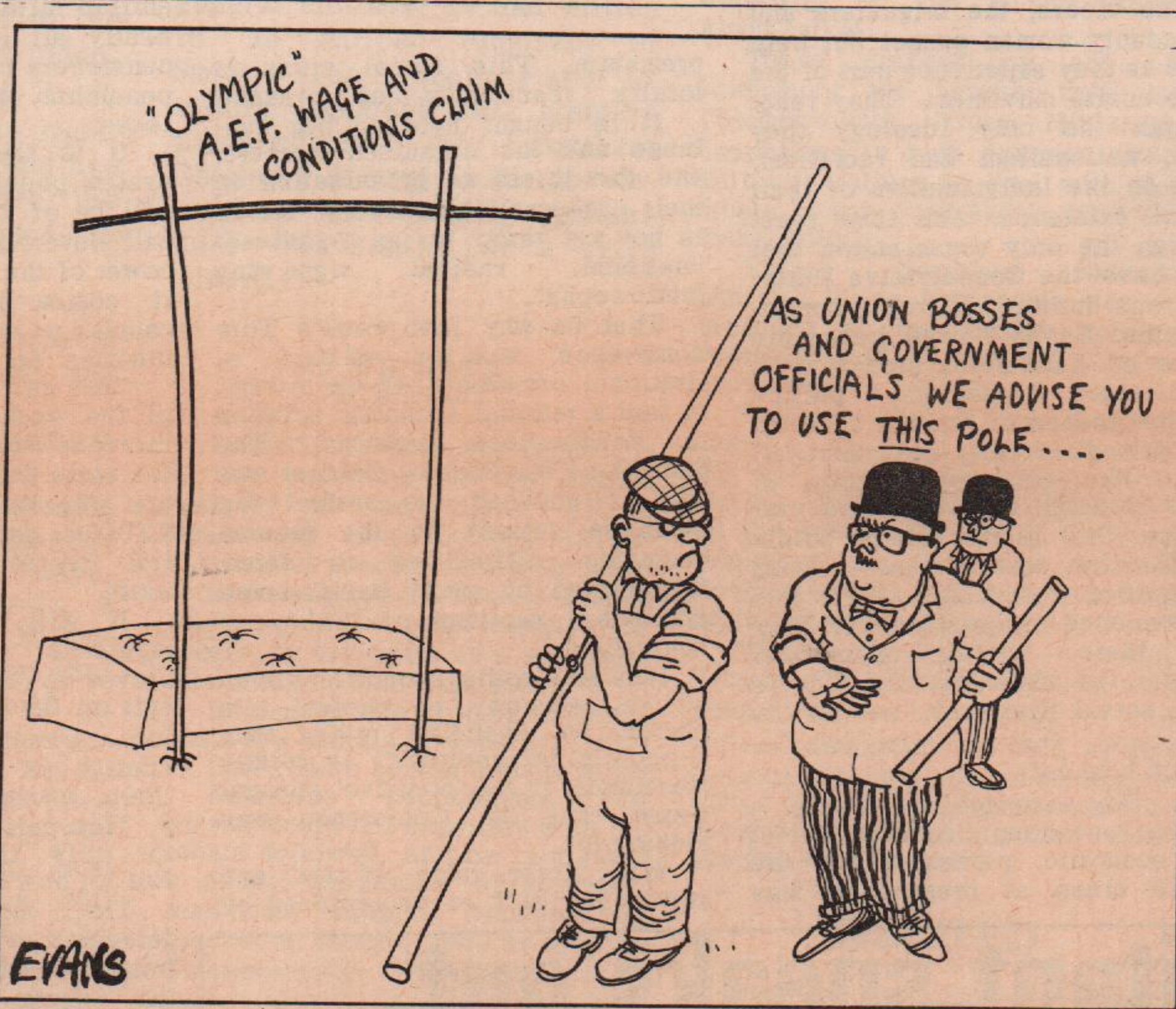
One effect of the campaign was to encourage workers at Warrington Gas site to reject a similar productivity swindle.

Barbara Castle's government department was waving the productivity flag right from the word go.

The Chemico management were prepared to give in, but the government wouldn't let them.

This smashes the lie that the state is a 'neutral' umpire. It is more and more siding openly with employers and union officials.

Donations are still needed. Send to Bro. P. Herley, 66 Brook Drive, Great Sankey, Warrington, Lancs.



## 'We strike on Friday' say Ford stewards

By SABBY SAGALL

SHOP STEWARDS from all the Ford plants at Dagenham voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday for a one-day token strike on Friday to support their claim for a £2 all-round wage increase.

The claim was first made in April, but it has been repeatedly turned down by the management who have invoked both the two-year standstill agreement

signed by the trade union officials on the Ford National Joint Negotiating committee and the government's Prices and Incomes Act.

The agreement allowed for special circumstances such as a rise in the cost of living.

Production workers who voted against the strike did so not through any lack of militancy but because they have been laid off several times already this year and their main concern at the

moment is to secure a guaranteed weekly wage. The production men have maintained a successful overtime ban for four weeks now, with a loss to the company of 25 per cent of their production.

This intensifying resistance to their bosses—Britain's most ruthless employers—is paralleled by the initiative that Ford's managing director, William Batty is now taking together with other car industrialists in attempting to obtain legal penalties against unofficial strikes.

Militants throughout the car and components industry must begin thinking about ways of uniting in action at rank-and-file level in order to counter the growing co-ordination taking place among the car bosses and the state.

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

London Region Meeting Saturday October 19

Details from branch secretaries.

## BUILDING WORKERS ON THE MARCH

1200 BUILDING WORKERS from Liverpool, Manchester and London marched on Monday from Speakers Corner to Cavendish Street where union officials were meeting to negotiate a pay claim with the employers.

The main demand made through speeches, slogans and banners was: 'Meet our demands now, the full wage increase (£15 p.w. for labourers, £17.11.8. for craftsmen) with no strings attached.'

The crucial issue in the building workers struggle is control of their own organisation.

This includes control of their union officials who usually act in the interests of the employers and government, rather than of the workers who elected them and pay their wages.

Militants feel that officials should be elected for shorter terms of office with immediate recall at all levels if they step out of line.