

* Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM



Marchers say 'Smash Irish police state'



A thousand marchers went from Hyde Park to the Ulster Office on Sunday chanting 'Northern Ireland police state out' and 'Tories out, north and south'. Main speaker in Hyde Park was Michael Farrell of the Belfast People's Democracy. The demonstration was called by the International Socialists.

N. Ireland: no election 'truce'

By SEAN REED

CAPTAIN Terence O'Neill's decision to call a snap election in Northern Ireland while his Tory Unionist Party is in open disarray must be seen as an act of political desperation in a situation which has become, for Northern big business, both intolerable and dangerous.

The diehard Unionist MPs, by meeting openly in Portadown, have thrown down the gauntlet to O'Neill.

O'Neill knows that at least seven more Unionist MPs are waiting in the wings to join the diehards.

It is common knowledge that a majority of the rank and file members of the local Unionist constituency associations are in support of William Craig-style fundamental unionism.

By holding an election O'Neill has ensured (with some exceptions) that the sitting members will be re-elected as the official candidates.

It is clear that where the official candidate is an O'Neillite he will be opposed by an independent diehard, while the official diehards will be opposed by independent O'Neillites.

With this prospect, time and money are all important and O'Neill who has the money (via the official party funds and the backing of big business, both British and Irish) holds a snap election and denies his opponents time to organise money and support.

Save bacon

Another advantage O'Neill hopes to gain by a snap election is to save the bacon of the Green Tory Nationalists whose support has been corroded over the last few months.

Green Tories like Eddie McAteer will raise the cry of 'opposition unity' in a desperate attempt to hold on to their comfortable parliamentary jobs.

Where possible socialists must smash this spurious unity by refusing to support any candidate who is not wholeheartedly committed to the full programme of the civil rights movement, including the demand for civil rights in the south.

Wherever possible, socialists must oppose candidates of both the two-tone Tory parties and must resist any pressure for a civil rights truce during the election campaign.

Such a truce would be disastrous at any time but would be treacherous now when O'Neill enters the hustings with his proposed amendment to the Public Order Act which would make it illegal to sit down, sit in, or stand up for civil rights.

SUPPORT GROWS FOR FEB 27 STRIKE

By THE EDITOR

THERE IS GROWING SUPPORT for the call by Scottish miners for a one-day general strike on February 27 against the government's plans to introduce anti-trade union laws.

Engineering workers, builders and car men in many parts of the country are three important sections of the labour movement that are backing the strike and lobby of TUC executives in Croydon.

This widespread support shows that more and more militant workers are prepared to take action against the Labour government. The plans outlined in Barbara Castle's White Paper on trade union 'reforms' are the last straw for many who have put up with wage freeze and cut-backs in social services rather than rock the Labour boat.

Strip hard-won rights

Mrs. Castle's plans are part of Labour's drive to modernise British capitalism at the expense of the workers. Profits and prices soar while wages are held back, productivity deals strip away hard-won rights and thousands, as at GEC this week, face redundancy.

The anti-union laws are designed to frighten trade union leaders into closer collaboration with the state machine and to use those leaders to crack down on shop stewards and rank and file militants.

Running through the proposals in the White Paper is the urgent desire to strip the shop-floor militants of their power to fight for higher wages and oppose poney productivity deals and to put responsibility for wage negotiations solely in the hands of safe, reliable full-time officials.

The plans for cooling-off periods, national ballots, union mergers and registration of unions with a government authority are a disgraceful intrusion into the independent

rights of the movement. If these ideas become law then the door will be open for even more vicious attacks in the future, particularly as the next election is certain to be fought by Labour and Tories on a 'bash the unions' platform.

The government is even more determined to push ahead with its attack following the news that 1968 was a record year for 'unofficial' strikes and that wage rates in some sectors managed to outstrip the rise in the cost of living. The incomes policy is repeatedly being broken by militant groups of shop-floor workers. Labour, in the interests of big business, says this must stop.

The February 27 strike call is a sign of the growing opposition to government plans. Although many sections have beaten the Incomes Policy they have remained isolated from one another.

February 27 is the first united challenge to the government. It is of great importance because of the political threat contained in that challenge.

The strike by itself will not change the government's mind but if many thousands down tools they will force it to think again. February 27 should mark the start of a massive challenge to the government and socialists in the unions must emphasise the political questions involved—the nature of the capitalist attack and the need for workers to link up and mobilise for power.

Socialist Worker calls on all its readers to organise for the widest possible strike on February 27, a strike that will resoundingly tell this miserable anti-working class government 'Hands off the unions!'

They back the strike

Here are a few of the organisations supporting the February 27 strike and lobby of the TUC: Scottish miners, Welsh miners, Manchester district AEF, North London district AEF, Slough district AEF, Slough No 1 branch AEF, Glasgow district AEF, AEF Vauxhall motors Luton, AEF Tyne district committee, Tyne

and Blythe Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, Newcastle Trades Council, Shell Star, Warrington Gas Works and Fiddlers Ferry power station (all Mersey construction sites), London building workers' joint sites committee, Bristol No 4 branch ASW, No 1 region TGWU, Dalston (London) bus branch

Tenants clash with police in march on Greenwood

From FRED LINDOP

LONDON COUNCIL tenants clashed with police on Sunday during a rents protest march to the home of Housing Minister Anthony Greenwood.

Four thousand tenants marched behind the banner of the GLC Tenants Action Committee to Hampstead Heath. They were protesting at Greenwood's refusal to stop the Tory GLC's rent increases last autumn.

Determined

They represented estates throughout London that have refused to pay the increases and have declared their determination to ignore further increases planned for October.

Many marchers were angered by police cordons that prevented them from passing Greenwood's home in Downshire Hill. Five approach roads were cordoned. When a deputation returned

to say that Greenwood had accepted their petition but had refused to speak to them, there were shouts of 'Let's make him talk.'

The police cordon was rushed and broken but police

reinforcements held the marchers. There was considerable police brutality and four men were arrested as they went to the help of women and children.

The arrested men all came from the dockland area of Tower Hamlets and the tenants who attempted to break the police cordon came mainly from the well-organised estates in East London.

Ruskin College

The second special issue of Socialist Worker on the LSE last week reported plans for a 'sit-in' by students at Ruskin College, Oxford. No such plans were made and Socialist Worker apologises for any embarrassment the report may have caused.

LONDON SQUATTERS Protest meeting to instal homeless families in empty property.

Sunday Feb 9 2 pm Manor Park station, Station Rd E12. British Rail to Manor Park on L'pool St-Gidea Pk line. Central line to Stratford, change to BR to Manor Park. Buses 101,25,66,721 Green Line. We need money, cars on the day, offers of food, water containers etc. Further details 128 Hainault Rd E11. 01-539 8059.

Irish strike

MORE than 3000 London dockers stopped work in the Royal Group on Tuesday in the first of a series of lightning strikes called by the Port workers' Liaison Committee.

Thirty-three ships were idle. The men want minimum piece-work rates of £6 a day.

Docks held up

TENS of thousands of maintenance workers in the Irish Republic brought work in the docks and other industries to a complete halt on Wednesday. They were striking in support of a wage claim.

Paynter AWOL

WILL PAYNTER, former miners' secretary, ex-Communist Party member and attacker of 'absenteeism' in the pits, is to join Mrs. Castle's union-busting Commission of Industrial Relations at £6,500 a year.

LSE LOCKOUT: VICTORY FOR MILITANTS

From MARTIN SHAW

THE LOCKED-OUT students at the London School of Economics won an overwhelming victory at a five-hour union meeting on Monday.

During the first week of their struggle the authorities, government and press made exceptional efforts to isolate the socialist students who had inspired the removal of the prison gates put up by the administration.

A vicious campaign was mounted against 'agitators' and 'conspirators' in an attempt to encourage the majority of students to do the dirty work for them by isolating the militants.

Monday's Union meeting was to be their triumph. The Director, Walter Adams, sent a letter to all students demanding a resolution condemning 'violence' and any action outside 'constitutional channels'.

THREAT

Conservative and Labour students, posing as 'moderates', had proposed just such a resolution incorporating his demands.

The clear threat was that LSE would not be reopened unless these demands were met.

The threat backfired. The real 'moderate' students refused to be blackmailed. Instead they joined forces with the socialists to produce an overwhelming majority in favour of three basic demands: 1. No victimisation of staff, students or workers (a shop steward, one of the LSE porters, who spoke against the iron gates, has been suspended.)

2. An end to staff informing on students.

3. The reopening of LSE without gates or police.

DEFEATED

The Director's motion was heavily defeated.

The press, which had previously printed all the lies of the LSE authorities and the government, were visibly shaken by this unity. Tuesday's Daily Express started the slide and the Evening Standard editorial of the same day tells the governors to 'withdraw their rigid preconditions and reopen the school at once'.

The denunciation by Mr. Edward Short, Secretary for Education of 'academic thugs' was shown to be the nonsense it clearly is—unless perhaps he was referring to Walter Adams and the industrialists, bankers and press magnates who run LSE.

PRESSURE

It is the LSE authorities who are now under most acute pressure. Taxpayers' money is being wasted inside LSE, and outside it when hundreds of police guard the college.

Students and many staff blame Lord Robbins, Chairman of the Governors, for the continued closure. The longer it goes on, the more their bitterness will continue.

When LSE does reopen, Robbins will have destroyed the last remnants of even the phoney 'community' which used to exist in LSE. They may decide the price is too high to pay.

The firm stand of LSE students is matched by the support of other students throughout Britain. A large minority, in many places, a majority, have supported LSE in local actions. There have been three large, militant dem-

Turn to back page

WHAT Edward PLACE N HE E2

THE SHIPPING correspondents of the national press were paid for their free cruise to Las Palmas on the new Queen Elizabeth II by being unanimously that the liner 'will be a great

Now it is the turn of the correspondents to be the delays on the QE2 to the workers.

From JIM ORD SHOP STEWARDS

One by one, the stories of 'stewards' theft' and 'inexcusable delay' are finding their way into print.

From Clydeside workers comes a rather different story. They do not deny that a certain amount was taken from the ship, or that, wherever possible, jobs were 'made to last'.

Working-class Clydeside has grim memories of unemployment, and a healthy contempt for the frivolous waste of the luxury liner.

The difference between the glitter of the liner and the squalor in which the men who build it are forced to live is one of the crudest contradict-

ions in capitalism and the workers do not hold back from snaffling whatever they can.

The story of delay and incompetence which surrounds the QE2, however, has little to do with the workers. Three points in particular emerged from a long conversation with joiners who worked on the ship, none of which are likely to be brought to our attention by the national press.

To start with, this was the first ship built on the Clyde which was 'all maronite'.

INSISTED

Ever since two Greek hulks caught fire in New York harbour some years ago, the American government has insisted that all new ships should be lined with fire-proof maronite. Their insistence on this brittle material is not entirely unrelated to the huge American investment in Cape Asbestos, who produce it.

The Upper Clyde Shipbuilders therefore decided that

the QE2 should be lined throughout with maronite. They had not reckoned on the fact that soon after work started, asbestosis, a fatal cancer caused by dust from asbestos materials like maronite was classified as an industrial disease.

The TUC doctor at once insisted that maronite should not be cut unless by a covered saw or with a vacuum cleaner to remove the dust. The employers were forced to abide by this ruling, but neither they nor their subcontractors were prepared to pay for more than a very few cleaners and saws.

John Browns (one of the firms in UCS) had two saws, which, because of their own needs, they banned from the contractors.

Tom Goldie, a joiners' steward explained what this situation meant:

'About five times a day, we'd have to cut maronite, and this meant carrying a big slab of the stuff about four decks up to the saw.

'There was always a long queue waiting to use it, and invariably while you were standing there a gaffer would say 'Get lost and come back in half an hour'.

'Often, you'd come back to find exactly the same situation all day. You could waste about three hours a day just waiting to cut a bit of maronite.'

WASTED

Vacuum cleaners, too, were in constant demand, and there were no more than 30 for the use of 550 joiners on the ship. Hundreds of hours were wasted in queues for cleaners.

A second big delaying factor was the need constantly to have things 'looking smart' for the 'walk-rounds' of the ship by the UCS bosses, or, worse still, for the directors of Cunard. Lord Mancroft, who has been complaining about the ship's delay recently, was a regular visitor, with his wife and family, of course. Before such visits, the

foremen all over the ship would blurt out orders to put up panels with only two screws and clear passages by any stop-gap method that came to hand.

Invariably, after such walk-rounds, the piecemeal work would have to be dismantled and the work done all over again, with the loss of countless hours.

One of the most sinister, and unexplained, reasons for the chaos in the management's labour planning towards the end of the QE2 building was an agreement signed with the finishing trade unions on September 2, 1968.

This agreement stated that any worker employed for a continuous period of nine months by UCS would be entitled to a minimum of two years' redundancy pay.

Many of the finishing trade workers started on the boat last March and April and would have been entitled to substantial redundancy pay if they were still working by last December.

Accordingly, over 19 a series of 500 joiners.

About 100 were re-employed later, and more the ship left of the men who built the ship all to Las Palmas and still on her northward.

BLAME

Had these workers owed to work without the finishing work been completed?

As it is, the management save about £1,000 in redundancy pay, and blame the delay!

P
F

As Squatters prepare for action this weekend, a look at the scandal of empty buildings

THE LONDON Squatters' campaign to install homeless families in empty buildings began in East London. Its first aim is to highlight the fact that thousands of families are homeless, property remains empty all over London.

Eventually homeless people and slum dwellers will be rehoused in these empty buildings.

In spite of government promises, the housing situation continues to deteriorate.

Ministry of Housing estimates that 1,800,000 people live in places 'unfit for human habitation'.

Bleak hostels

In spite of the publicity of Cathy Come Home and efforts of campaigns like Shelter, the figure for homeless families continues to

There are now 15,574 people in hostels for the homeless—usually bleak places where lives are made a misery by authoritarian rules and regulations. The effect of bad housing homelessness on families is terrible. In 1966 (the last year for which figures are available) there were 781 children in care in London as a result of housing conditions.

A worker with a family has practically no chance of finding decent accommodation in London at a reasonable rent. For a coloured worker it is impossible.

Slum landlords take advantage of this situation with rents, terrible conditions and often a reign of terror to tenants going to Rent Officers and the Authorities. Get the worst criminals into the small Rachmanite

Bonanza for property profiteers as homeless figures soar by JOYCE ROSSER

landlords, but the 'respectable' large property developers and estate agents, who have made multi-million pound fortunes since the war.

Most money has been made in speculative office blocks which have mushroomed all over London. The developers who make the money are merely middle men and don't even put their money into the projects.

All the money to buy the site is lent by the banks and the cost of construction paid by the building contractor.

Because of the tax system none of the difference between the total cost and the value

of the finished building goes in tax—it is all profit to the developer.

Harry Hyams is an example of one of these developers. He works with Wimpey, the building contractor.

Big expansion

'Oldham is the most staggering phenomena of the property development business during the past decade. Run by the chairman and managing director Harry Hyams, who also owns 40% per cent of the equity and sits on Wimpey's board, its

fixed assets have expanded—and not by takeover—from £152,000 in 1960 to £72 million in March 1968.' (The Times, 16 December 1968.)

Centre Point in London's Tottenham Court Road is his most famous building for which he is asking more than £1 million annual rent.

O. Marriott whose book The Property Boom (Pan 7s 6d) has many details on the vast fortunes made by developers, reckons that 'Centre Point will probably be the most profitable single building ever promoted in this country'—more than £11 million tax-free profit.

Top landlord

If the present take-over of City of London Real Property by Land Securities goes through, Sir Harold Samuel, the head of Land Securities, will be the biggest landlord in the world, and head of a group worth £500 million.

Other important landlords in London are the Church of England, British Rail and many of the old aristocratic families. They have also done well out of the 'property boom'.

Many of these developers find it pays to keep buildings empty for years.

'Hyams is the pastmaster at the art of keeping buildings empty. This is not the crazy tactic it sounds. In a market where rents are rising it can pay hand over fist to leave a building empty almost deliberately.' (Marriott)

There are eight million square feet of empty office space in Greater London alone—enough to house all of Britain's homeless.

For different reasons local councils keep some of their property empty. They buy property for development some time in the future—so it is boarded up and left, often for up to 10 years.

Many of these buildings are perfectly sound and suitable for housing families.

Homeless action

Several times in this century the homeless have occupied empty property.

In 1945 empty seaside buildings were occupied and in 1946 many former service camps were taken over.

On October 11, 1946 the government announced that 1038 camps in England and Wales had been occupied by 39,535 people. Most of these people stayed put and eventually were rehoused.

Already in East London two symbolic occupations have been held, one in a block of luxury flats and another in a 25-room vicarage (used for storing boy scouts' equipment!). The next stage in the campaign is the actual installation of homeless families.

In Notting Hill two families have been living in an empty building for two weeks while the Greater London Council and the education authority try to decide who owns the place.

In East London several families will be installed soon by the Squatters.

The threat of the Ivy Bridge building workers to install 100 homeless families in almost completed council flats is an indication of the



The London Squatters campaign began in December when they invaded an empty block of luxury flats

Another explosive factor in the situation is the possibility that thousands of other families, at present living in multi-occupied accommodation or with relations, might decide to become homeless, realising that this way they have a better chance of getting accommodation.

At present the authorities do everything they can to make it difficult for people to become technically 'homeless' and unless they are actually on the streets they will not take responsibility for them.

They try to brand the homeless as lazy and irresponsible and put them in old

and squalid ho-

The campaign like King Hill some improvement. Once the homeless organise and get homes they people will reach a better standard of living over the roof over their heads.

Hidden dangers in LET

THE FRONT-PAGE article 'Hands off' (January 25) seems to underestimate the seriousness of the government's proposals for dealing with the unions.

The article had very little to say about one likely outcome of the proposals, that is an increase in the power of the union bureaucrats. If the government can strengthen the hand of the union leaders (a move many full-time officials would welcome) then this would obviously save the employers and government a lot of trouble.

In my view the most dangerous aspect of In Place of Strife lies in the proposals to compel the registration of unions. The government proposes to appoint a Registrar who will only accept for registration the rules of those unions with which he agrees.

Unions will require to have rules covering, among other things, elections, ballots, discipline and the appointment and function of shop stewards. Unions that do not register can be fined.

So in effect, either accept the government's interpretation of what a union rule book should look like or be fined. In Place of Strife says that the government will only interfere if the rules covering the subjects mentioned above are not 'adequately covered', a phrase that would certainly entail a tightening of union control over shop stewards.

The proposals for a government-supported closed shop are being investigated as another great leap forward. Enshrined in this is the message to workers that they don't have to strike over cases of victimisation.

If the industrial court rules against the employer then he can be fined if he disobeys. The operative word of course is 'if'.

Workers can also be fined if they take action against the court's ruling. Given the

could (and with this government would be) another way of sorting out militants.

Certain possibilities loom up if we consider this along with the proposals that the Commission on Industrial Relations would have the power to refer to the Department of Employment and Productivity for legal enforcement recommendations concerning union recruitment demarcation.

Let's suppose that union recruitment demarcation lines were investigated in the car industry and enforced by the government. Since unions could be restricted to recruiting specified groups of workers, a situation could then arise where a steward or militant might be found guilty of infringing the union rules, rules possibly made more stringent by registration.

He could then be expelled from the union and, with an enforced closed-shop demarcation operating, lose his job.

The government has portrayed the move to maintain the status quo while disputes are being investigated as another great leap forward. Enshrined in this is the message to workers that they don't have to strike over cases of victimisation.

If the industrial court rules against the employer then he can be fined if he disobeys. The operative word of course is 'if'.

Workers can also be fined if they take action against the court's ruling. Given the

LET

is highly probable cases of victimisation would have been industrial action of the workers in the removal of militants.

These are the dangers of Place of Strife.

Place of Strife hopes to control and therefore to control cards is by no means. However, step easier for the enacts of capitalist their to good bet.

As your leader led out, the proposals open further anti-union.

It is therefore important that government intervention now and as a fight against union support.

miners' call a general strike.—Glasgow IS.

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Socialist Worker

EDITORIAL 657a High Road Tottenham London N17 telephone 01-808 2879
BUSINESS Paxton Works Paxton Road London N17 telephone 01-808 4847

Editor Roger Protz
Editorial Committee Paul Foot Richard Kuper Constance Lever Laurie Flynn
Business Manager Jim Nichol

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, and racist 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 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 file trade union members in their struggles for better wages and conditions and oppose all reactionary laws that threaten the interests of the labour movement. We support all strikes in defence

WHERE WE STAND

of no victimisation of trade unionists. Redundancy should be opposed with the demand: five days work or five days pay. Shop stewards organisations should

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 racism. 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'

Japan's battling students spearhead revolt against grip of the dollar

by **NIGEL HARRIS**

THE JANUARY 18 assault of 8,000 Tokyo policemen on Yasuda Hall, administrative centre of Tokyo University (Todai), has brought to a close the first phase of the most militant student revolt at the moment.

This summer, the Lower House of parliament comes up for re-election and in 1970 the US-Japan Mutual Security Pact can be altered or scrapped.

In both cases, the official opposition is not presenting an adequate attack. The student movement, as elsewhere, is filling the vacuum.

Eleven months ago, the Todai Medical Faculty went on strike against the disciplining of some students. In June, Todai's President-like LSE's Director this month-called in the police to clear the campus.

FORTRESSES

The result was a storm of protest. Other faculties went on strike and by the end of October the university had come to a halt.

The campus was converted into a series of fortresses, commanded by different factions. The bitter battle to remove these factions has occupied the police ever since.

But this is only Todai, the nucleus of the opposition and the premier university of Japan.

Elsewhere, in some 50 of Japan's 370 larger universities, the revolt has also developed.

A year ago, students and workers fought to prevent the US atom-powered aircraft carrier Enterprise, refueling in Japan.

In May, there were violent demonstrations as militants of Zengakuren (Federation of Student Self-Governing Associations) tried to block railway fuel supplies to the Tachikawa US air base.

PREVENTED

In the summer, a US military plane crashed into a building of Kyushu University and militants prevented US recovery of the aircraft until the US promised to evacuate nearby Itazuke air base.

Further attempts to block fuel and ammunition trains culminated in the enormous demonstration of October 21 against the Vietnam war and US bases in Okinawa and Japan.

Some reports state that 700,000 workers of the largest trade union federation, Sohyo, and a smaller one, Churitsuren, demonstrated in 363 areas of Japan. Three and a half million held workshop

rallies and the students stormed the parliament building.

The demonstration coincided with government attempts to penalise 10,000 railwaymen for a work-to-rule. The railwaymen held a one-hour strike and boycotted fuel trains supplying US bases, and 175,000 other workers held one-hour solidarity strikes.

This year, apart from the battle over Todai itself, students sacked a Tokyo police station as reprisal for the assault on Todai; Chuo and Meiji universities held solidarity demonstrations and occupations and there was a riot at Kyoto University.

FORCED

Nihon University, the scene of an enormous demonstration on September 30 that forced the chancellor and five other directors to resign (because they had been milking university funds for their own pockets), and Todai were both closed, affecting perhaps 150,000 students.

In total, the police claim, 4000 police were injured and 5000 students arrested. Incidentally, the level of violence was more than it might have been because the Japanese Communist Party students (the Yoyogi faction) fought openly against the action of the militants.

The issues behind the revolt are the same as elsewhere, the same combination of local student grievances and major political issues. In particular, because a majority of Japan's universities are operated for private profit, the continuous raising of fees is a constant threat to all students.

AGITATING

In addition, the US maintains extensive bases in Japan itself, and has long been seeking to push Japan into the role of its major agent in Asia, the lynch pin of an East Asian Treaty Organisation and the major Asian nuclear power.

On Okinawa itself, the local population has been agitating for a long time for US evacuation. US requisitions of land from 1955 now cover 15 per cent of the total land area.

The peasants complain bitterly that the giant Kadena base was built on the best sugar growing soil, and that sugar cane must be cut on demand to a height of one foot so as not to interfere with electronics communications.

They say US troops enjoy extra-territorial rights so that they cannot be tried by Okinawa courts and the waters around the island have abnormal radioactivity because of the transit of nuclear submarines (a frog mutation was discovered by an Okinawa newspaper last July).

There have been peasant

demonstrations and sitdowns with the slogan: 'Yankee land robbers get out! Your dollars are here today, gone tomorrow, but our land bears fruit forever.'

The Japanese government has tried to conceal the fact that it would basically like to be the major nuclear power of Asia, and is not averse to US power in achieving this.

On Okinawa, it has restricted itself to polite criticisms—requesting that schoolrooms be sound-proofed against the noise of US jets.

Even if the US does return Okinawa to Japan in the 1970s, both Washington and the government of Japan would like to keep the nuclear installations intact there. To do so, they must revise the Japanese Constitution to delete the clause which forbids Japan to hold nuclear weapons.

The particular student issues and the wider politics cannot be separated. Control of the universities, the 'mass-puro' (mass-production) of students, is part and parcel



Students demonstrating outside parliament

of the corrupt businessman's regime of Prime Minister Sato.

And Sato cannot be separated from his friends in Washington.

SURVIVE

Whether it is the row at Keio University, which began when medical students protested against the faculty accepting US military funds for research, or at Kyushu University, US foreign policy and the Vietnam war are intimately bound

demands. The clear Japanese society.

At the moment, the student clear the most militant force the first alternative.

Join the International Socialists

- ABERDEEN Janet Kennedy 32 East Main Ave Mastrick
- ACTON Hugh Finn 6 Vaughan Ave Stamford Brook W6
- BECKENHAM Mervyn Smith 9 Alton Gardens Copers Cope Rd 01 658 6552
- BIRMINGHAM Godfrey Webster 128 Yardley Wood Rd B'ham 13
- BRADFORD Bob Kornreich Flat 1 7 Oak Avenue Bradford 8
- BRIGHTON Micky Adams Flat 4 85 St. Aubyns Hove
- BRISTOL David Rose 25 Sydenham Rd Bristol 6
- BOLTON F Canavan 11 Sutton Rd Sutton Estate Deane Bolton
- CAMBRIDGE Peter Smith 65 Glisson Road
- CAMDEN Chris Barker 36 Gilden Road NW5
- CHERTSEY Chris Wickenden Langmead Pirbright Brookwood 3003
- COLCHESTER Ian Noble 12 Coach Rd Arlesford Wivenhoe 272
- COVENTRY Dave Edwards 53 Palmerston Rd Earlsdon
- CRAWLEY Deborah Ward 2 Weddell Rd Tilgate
- CROYDON Jenny Woodhams 26 Braemar Avenue South Croydon
- DURHAM A Beard 35 Hallgarth Durham
- EAST LONDON John Metcalfe 61 Wolsey Avenue E17
- EDINBURGH Jim Smith 25 Pitt St (Leith) Edinburgh 6
- ENFIELD Gill Pressman 34 The Chine London N21
- FULHAM Jackie Taylor 41 Perham Road W14
- FOLKESTONE Dave Cowell c/o 18 Station Rd
- GLASGOW Ian Mooney 4 Dalcross Passage W1
- HAVERING Terry Ward 91 Heath Park Rd Gidea Pk
- HORNSEY Valerie Clark 18 Dickinson Rd N8
- HULL Paul Gerhardt 52 Freehold Street
- ILFORD Lionel Sims 99 Belgrave Road 01 SEV 6991
- IPSWICH Malcolm Bezant 45 Melbourne Road
- ISLINGTON/ANGEL D Phillips 2 Chapel Mkt Grant St N1 01 BRU 1026
- DALSTON/SHOREDITCH B Hugill 154 Downham Rd N1
- HIGHBURY Keith Ellis 8 Archibald Road N7
- KENTON Kevin Simms 56 Salisbury Road Harrow
- KILBURN Sean Dunne 18 Lithos Road NW3
- KINGSTON Roger Crossley Flat 2 6 The Avenue Surbiton
- LAMBETH Andy Smith Flat 6 126 Streatham Hill SW2
- LEICESTER Shirley Abrams Flat 3 26 St Albans Road
- LEEDS Vince Hall Flat 3 25 Bagby Road Leeds 2
- LOWESTOFT Ron Mallet 30 Cotmore Road
- MANCHESTER Jack Sutton 11a Rowan Avenue Walley Range M16
- MERSEYSIDE Ross Hill 5 Lothair Rd Anfield Liverpool 4
- MERTON Fred Milson 119 Wolsey Crescent Morden
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- NORWICH Gerald Crompton 220 College Rd Norwich NOR
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- RIPLEY & ILKESTON C Burne 75 Heage Road Ripley Derbys
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Castle White Paper

cropper in practice. Frankly I don't know what he means when he talks about conventional rank and file activity, unless he means recruitment. Surely Ted Richards wasn't referring to that sort of thing. Of course recruitment strengthens the financial coffers of the union—Richards was in fact supporting the idea of the independent activity of the rank and file, something quite different.

Bro. Donovan suggests that the time has come for a 'totally new form of trade union'. From what he has told us of the ease with which new recruits are influenced by the right-wing and the role of the Communist Party, the conditions seem far from right to start a new union.

With such a fragmented industry and large turnover of labour, it would appear that a dual struggle, both in and outside the unions is called for.

It can hardly be true of the building industry as a whole that workers are so easily absorbed into the structure.

What is needed, surely, is a socialist alternative linked to the rank and file militancy. Otherwise O'Donovan is right and rank and file action will assist only the bureaucrats.—**TOM HILLIER**, London NW.

'Liberal stupidity'

WHILE WE ACCEPT that, to some extent Socialist Worker has to be an open paper, this is no excuse for printing any

that appears on the editor's desk.

A case in point is Paul Foot's article on Edward Heath's latest contribution to racistist propaganda—(February 1).

There is no real answer to racialism except the class answer. Any other argument is a mere squabble over statistics for it accepts the premise that it is race, not class, that divides man from man.

Nowhere in Comrade Foot's article is there mention of the need for class solidarity. In New Statesman this would have been a bad article, in a paper that has revolutionary pretensions it is a symptom of something very wrong.

We suggest that Socialist Worker should not be ashamed of its revolutionary intentions, and that comrades such as Paul Foot should ignore the 'reasonableness' of liberalism and preach good, unadulterated class hatred.—**BOB LIGHT, JOHN METCALFE, BILL BAYLISS, JOHN FORSYTH, BETH STONE**, East London IS.

Castle

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Ford stewards issue strike call

From **JIM LAMBORN**

FORD SHOP STEWARDS at the Dagenham works voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday night for a total stoppage in every plant on February 24 if a satisfactory pay settlement is not reached.

The decision followed last week's meeting of the Ford joint negotiating committee where the trade union officials—depending how charitable your attitude is—found either their souls or were conscious of the implacable opposition of their members to the company's proposals.

Sackings threat on the Clyde

From **STEVE JEFFERYS**

CLYDEBANK—While the national press prints accusations against John Brown shipyard men in connection with the QE2 saga, workers face the serious threat of mass sackings.

The present estimate is that 3000 workers on Clydebank will be declared redundant this year.

350 workers at the Foster Wheeler John Brown land boiler factory got their cards on January 31. 700 men at the Babcock and Wilcox factory will also be 'phased-out' in the next few months.

The men directly under the chopper have responded vigorously, but their readiness to fight has been partially weakened by the constitutional approach of local 'leaders'.

Provost's shame

Two weeks ago Provost Turner of Clydebank gave the Amalgamated Engineering Union, Babcock and Wilcox a "shame at Babcock and Wilcox" gave to Dr. Dickson, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of State for Scotland.

They heckled and booed him when he came to explain why the government would neither give the firm a grant to prevent redundancy, nor take it over.

Even more revolting was the decision to declare February 2 a 'day of prayer'. Commenting on the decision, John Boyd, Scottish AEF executive member, said: 'As a man of faith, I must say that more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.'

He was speaking after a meeting with directors of Foster Wheeler where the union side had 'won' a fortnight postponement of the first sackings.

More US grapes on way

THE Bahia Blanca is due to arrive at No 4 dock, Tilbury today (Saturday) with 78,000 lbs of California grapes. American grape pickers have asked British unions to black the grapes to aid their fight for union recognition.

Most of the cargo will be in crates marked United Packing Company.

MEETINGS

BIRMINGHAM IS open meeting Friday Feb 14. The struggle for civil rights in Ireland. Spkr. Gery Lawless, 'Old Contemptibles', Edmund St (side of Snow Hill stn) 8 pm.

IS Midlands school Feb 8 and 9. Sat 2 pm John Palmer on Ireland. Sunday, Chris Harman on student movements, Tony Cliff on party and class. Ruskin College, Oxford

MANCHESTER: march for civil rights in N.Ireland, Sat Feb 8. Leaves Albert Square 2.30 pm. Friday Feb 14 Manchester IS public meeting, Liam Dalton on Ireland—a history of exploitation, Wheatheaf, High St. off Market Street, 8 pm.

TRIBUNE—THE LEADING SOCIALIST WEEKLY. This week: John Saville of Socialist Registrar asks 'How can working class regain its voice and power?' Lawrence Daly, mjners' leader, discusses his early influences and his break with CP. Also: the postal workers, N.Ireland, docks, housing, letters, reviews, From newagents or 24 St. John St. London EC1.

WANTED: London IS member to handle individual subscriptions for SW. Ring Jim Nichol 808 4847.

BRUTAL ASSAULT ON PICKETS —STOCKPORT POLICE PAY DAMAGES

From **COLIN BARKER**

MANCHESTER—Police were ordered by the assizes last week to pay £2,280 damages to three men who acted as pickets during the strike at Roberts-Arundel factory in Stockport for trade union recognition.

All three had fractured noses. One spent several weeks in hospital with severe neck and spine injuries.

The facts only came to light because one of the three, Ron Cook, a Manchester University student, was legally still a minor.

A shocking account of his treatment was given to the court. His counsel told the judge:

'Cook was placed in a van and he was punched twice in the face by a police officer.



RON COOK Beggd for mercy

When he arrived at the police station he was punched in the face.

'He was placed in a cell with a police officer, a PC Leigh. He was punched in the face and kicked on the body, and the assault persist-

ed until he was asked to beg for mercy.'

The Stockport police settled out of court in the other two cases and in this way sought to hush up the whole dirty business. The Director of Public Prosecutions has to date refused to prosecute.

The internal police report has not yet been published. It seems that the names of the other officers involved are being covered up.

The Stockport labour movement is demanding a full public enquiry. Without it, Stockport people can only assume their police force includes uniformed thugs.

Every form of pressure must be brought to bear to force Stockport police out of their official hiding.

Factory workers' round the clock sit-in

From **JOHN DEASON**

WORKERS at the Injection Moulders plastics factory in Kingsbury, North London have occupied their factory twice in the last two weeks.

They sat in to reinstate workmates who had been suspended for failing to achieve the minimum rate demanded by management for their machines, a rate which is being contested by the men.

On Friday January 24 four machine operators from the morning shift were suspended for five normal working days. After an emergency meeting called by the shop stewards all the men on the shop floor downed tools and started a sit-in, demanding the reinstatement of the men.

The sit-in was fully supported on the shop floor and quickly paralysed the rest of the factory, while several in the finishing department joined them in solidarity.

Total support

The afternoon shift continued the sit-in, again with total support. The night shift maintained the occupation through the night.

The factory remained occupied over the weekend, the men rigorously keeping the three-shift system to ensure that the factory was held for 24 hours a day.

One worker jokingly put it: 'Our shop stewards were stricter about time keeping than the management would ever dare to be!'

On Monday morning the management gave in completely to the workers' demands and the four were immediately reinstated after the panicky intervention of a high-ranking staff relations expert from Guest, Keen and Nettlefold, the parent firm.

But the management, having seen their authority completely undermined, suspended another machine operator on Tuesday morning for the same reason. They clearly thought that the suspension of just one man would not meet with such solid opposition and would serve as a disciplinary example.

Three days

The sit-in was immediately restarted and the same demands were raised.

The three shifts again held the factory for 24 hours a day, this time for three days.

Last Friday the victimised operator was reinstated after negotiations between the employers, local engineering union officials and shop stewards.

The machine rates in question have been the subject of many 'failures to agree' between management and the shop stewards' committee. The management are trying to force through a productivity deal which the workers are determined to fight.

In the words of shop steward Mike Lehane: 'Any prod deal leads to the weakening of shop floor organisation, considerable increase in accident risks from speed-ups, and eventually the dole, all from the selling of conditions for which we have had to fight hard in the past.'

The management did not dare call in the police to eject the men while the occupation was under way.

Last summer IM workers successfully fought a ten-week lock-out for better conditions and higher wages. On that occasion the men were ejected by the police for refusing to do the extra dirty job of grinding.

Trade unionists who will admire such principled militancy on the part of the IM workers will be interested to know that more than 70 per cent of the work force are coloured immigrants.

Both last summer and during the recent occupations, they have shown that far from being union blacklegs, immigrants can display as much class solidarity as any other militant trade unionists.

Teachers occupy union HQ in pay retreat protest

N.U.T reporter

ONE HUNDRED and twenty members of the National Union of Teachers walked into the Union's Executive Chamber in London last Friday—a few hours after provisional agreement on salaries had been reached on the Burnham Committee.

In spite of repeated requests from Dr. Davies, the NUT President, they refused to leave. The executive was adjourned and all except Mr. Hulett, the London member, walked out.

The rank and file members then settled down to hold their own meeting which took place in a good-humoured atmosphere. It was the first time in NUT history that such militant action had taken place.

Cost of living

The Burnham agreement was for a 6 $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent rise to last from April 1969 to 31 March 1971. The executive's own case, through its members on the Burnham Committee had been that the rise in the cost of living since the last agreement nearly two years ago had been at least 9 per cent.

The cost of living has risen more than that since the estimate was made, so that a modest claim of about 13 per cent would raise teachers' standards of living over two years only minutely.

A difficulty for ordinary, low-paid class teachers in making their anxieties felt through official channels is that the executive of 40 odd consists, almost without exception, of head teachers—mostly administrators of large secondary schools—whose work and salaries bear no relation to those of class teachers.

They do no teaching and

their salaries are usually in the £3-4000 bracket. A first-year teacher (having studied a further six years after school-leaving age) teaching 30, 40 or more children, earns £800—a weekly take-home pay of less than £12.

A comparison of scales of pay achieved by the NUT (a non-militant union) with those of the draughtsmen's union DATA (a very militant union) is revealing:

'A Grade B draughtsman holding an Ordinary National Certificate and with one year's experience will, under a recent settlement approved by the government, receive a minimum of £20 per week, £1,040 a year...Yet the draughtsmen's qualifications fall well below what the government would demand to recognise the same person for teaching—Higher National Certificate being the minimum qualification plus five years' experience. (NUT Salaries Campaign Brief).

Many feel that proportional representation of heads and class teachers on the executive might turn capitulation and sell-out into militancy.

No confidence

The rank and file meeting claimed that the executive had contravened Rule 4(b) which requires a three-quarters majority for any change in a salary claim, as the voting had been only about 22-13 in favour.

The meeting therefore passed a resolution of no confidence in the executive, called for its resignation to be moved at a special conference on February 15 called to consider the provisional agreement, and asked for

support for a meeting at Conway Hall of delegates and members the night before the conference.

Many teachers now realise that the only method of getting improved salaries is strike action, and the meeting discussed such action in detail.

It was clear from the meeting and from petitions for strike action signed that day by school staffs and handed to the executive, that many schools, at least in the London area, are ready to come out at short notice. These teachers feel it is in the best long-term interests of all the members of the school that strike action should force money into education, the very poor relation in capitalist society.

Action committee

The meeting ended after the election of an action committee to continue the fight.

This new militancy is part of a general ferment in the educational world that is just beginning to take place.

Increasing numbers of teachers are questioning the long-standing attitude of obedience and subservience to heads and other members of the education hierarchy, who can, at worst, be complete dictators in their schools, and who are almost invariably backed up by officials of the education authority.

The class teacher cannot appeal even to the union in cases of grossly unfair treatment—even dismissal from the school—if the head also happens to be a NUT member. The union will not intervene between members, despite the great inequality of rights.

Frustration is raising the question of election of heads for a defined term of office at pay comparable with that of class teachers.

Rapid growth

Taking place side by side with the rise of pupils against authoritarianism, the movement for 'educational democracy' can become powerful. Although its roots are yet frail, the rapid growth of journals like *Rank & File Teacher*, Manchester's *Compulsory Miseducation* (Secondary Schools Ad Hoc Committee) *Vanguard* (fortnightly of London Secondary School Students' Union) and no doubt many others, show promise of healthy development toward more democratic teacher-pupil control.

Two local *Rank & File* groups started up last week, one is Islington-Hackney, the other in Manchester, and schools groups are forming, based on schools or areas. This will no doubt spread.

Rank & File obtainable from: 87 Brooke Rd., London N16. (9d). *Compulsory Miseducation*: Brian Fowler, 4 Brunswick Rd., Withington, Manchester 20. (3d). *Vanguard*: c/o Michael Wolf, 6 Parsifal Rd., London NW8. (3d).

GPO solidarity wins

THE VICTORY for Post Office Telegraphists in their pay battle with the government is of tremendous importance for the whole labour movement.

They won because they carried out their strike threat and were supported magnificently by all other sections of the Union of Post Office Workers in the one-day stoppage on Thursday, January 30.

The huge rally in Hyde Park involved thousands of young post office workers taking part in militant action for the first time ever.

'Muddle'

No one should be misled by press talk about government 'muddle' or a cabinet misunderstanding of the telegraphists' pay claim.

The cabinet were clear and unconfused on the need to jump on the post office workers as an example to all other sections of workers fighting for higher wages. Castle and company

thought UPW members were soft and would not fight. They got the shock of their lives when the post office ground to a halt.

They caved in and paid the telegraphists a 5 per cent

increase backdated to last August.

If other sections of workers show the same determination to strike for their rights, then Labour's reactionary Incomes Policy would soon be reduced to tatters.

Dockers back civil rights

From **HAROLD YOUD**

MANCHESTER DOCKS branch of the Transport and General Workers Union passed its first political resolution in 10 years last week. It sent a demand to the union conference that the TGWU should support the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland.

The resolution will raise a very important issue as the union has many members in N.Ireland where so far the unions have remained aloof from the struggle for civil rights. A spurious unity is

usually maintained by ignoring controversial issues.

The labour movement, instead of spearheading the struggle, tails behind liberals and others who cannot advance the policy of militant working-class action needed to unite the oppressed Catholics and Protestants against the Unionist system.

If the resolution is called it will at least raise the issue of the head-in-the-sand policy of the TGWU and other unions in N.Ireland.