

* Socialist Worker

For workers control and international socialism

133 14 August 1969 every Thursday 3d

Derry fights police state

Sean Reed

ULSTER police opened fire on Tuesday and unleashed a barrage of tear gas bombs from 2 inch mortars in one more attempt to smash down the embattled people of Derry.

In the latest battle 72 RUC men and more than 100 people have been injured so far — including Peter Campbell, a member of Derry's Young Socialists, who was shot by police during an attack on the barricades of Bogside.

The fighting started as 15,000 of the Orange bully boys of Derry marched beating their drums in their annual master race reminder to the majority of Derry citizens of their historic humiliation. Each bang on the drum beat home the message 'We rule here'.

By nightfall, 2000 regular police, with about an equal number of the hated B-Specials and 600 British troops in reserve, launched attack after attack in an attempt to force the Bogside to surrender.

Although some Paisleyites joined the cops in their attacks, this was a straightforward fight between the heroic citizens of Bogside and the armed forces of the state which, aided and armed by British imperialism, has kept the majority of Derry in subjection for 40 odd years.

Fighting ability

The same high degree of fighting ability was shown as in the last battle for Bogside. Youths armed only with sticks, stones and petrol bombs fought a Tory police force armed with tanks, armoured cars, mortars and tear gas provided by the British 'Labour' government.

It is no exaggeration to say that Derry — Ireland — may be on the brink of pogrom or civil war.

The responsibility for this rests first and foremost on mainstream Tory-Unionism, but those in the civil rights movement who have refused, in the words of Derry Labour Party, to 'Turn Left to avoid civil war', must, to a certain extent, share in this guilt.

If the police attacks continue, the alternative is no longer between civil war and peace.

It is between a pogrom and a civil war. The whole working people of Ireland must not, at any cost, allow a pogrom.

To expect the Wilson government to support the people of Derry in their demands for civil rights is to sow illusions, among people who have enough already.

Real aid

British imperialism can no more aid the struggle of the Irish people than petrol can quench fire.

Instead the British and international labour movement, in alliance with the majority of Irish people everywhere, must rally to bring real aid to the beleaguered people.

In London, support the rally of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign at Shepherds Bush Green on Sunday 3 pm.

In every other city of Britain let marches, demonstrations, meetings and occupations take place all next week.

Collect money and other material aid to help the struggling people of Ulster.

Build the Solidarity Campaign. Contact: Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IRISH CIVIL RIGHTS SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

Rally on Sunday at Shepherds Bush Green 3 pm

Magnificent solidarity shakes state-run combine

STEEL STRIKERS FIGHT BOSS-UNION ALLIANCE

John Larke and Les Pick

PORT TALBOT:- The solidarity of the blastfurnacemen at the Abbey Margam works of the British Steel Corporation, with their town firmly behind them after seven weeks on strike, has shown something of the power of workers' unity pitted against the bosses, the TUC and the men's own union.

The National Union of Blastfurnacemen has refused to make the strike official and along with the TUC has shown that it is not prepared to fight for the right of lower-paid workers to get £1 a week extra to bring their earnings up to the princely sum of £13.

Two hundred labourers who work long hours for low wages in appalling conditions of heat have demanded the extra £1. They are backed magnificently by 1200 men who have fought without strike pay to get their mates the nationally-agreed increase.

It would cost BSC a mere £200 a week to stop the strike. The company prefers to pay £55 a week plus free food and transport to black-legs, mainly foremen and white-collar workers, who are still, contrary to press reports, keeping one furnace in action.

WARNING

The hard-line attitude taken by the bosses is a warning of what all steel workers can expect from their new, state bosses. Defeat for the workers at Port Talbot will open the road for a wholesale attack through productivity deals on the rights, conditions and wages of every worker in the industry.

The BSC is big business and the labels 'nationalised steel industry' and 'public ownership' mean nothing when it comes to the interests of the men who produce the steel. The TUC's first move was to tell the men to go back to work pending negotiations between the NUB and the management, both equally discredited.

This is the new role of the TUC — watchdog over its own members when they claim some of their rights to a share in the wealth they produce.

The men have two basic demands — better rates for lower-paid workers and an investigation into labour relations at the steel works.

PROD DEALS

High on the list of grievances is the Green Book used by the management in imposing productivity deals. The men have been told that not one comma in the book will be altered.

One proposal says that a foreman can call in the company doctor to examine a man if the foreman thinks he is unfit for the job. After a few years in the heat of the furnaces, many workers could easily be sacked with this excuse — and BSC intends to sack 5200 men in Port Talbot over the next three years.

Those who remain with jobs will be doing harder work with less overtime at poorer rates.

The steel bosses are going to great lengths to try and smash the strike. Among other things, they are saying that the new basic oxygen plant will not open because of the

Scabs get £55 a week

blastfurnacemen. In fact, the postponement results from a manning dispute with another union.

The bosses are hinting, too, that Port Talbot will not be the site for a new plant planned for the area. They hope to hit the blastfurnacemen so hard that they will return to work demoralised and sign the Green Book, something they have so far refused to do. Most other unions have already signed without explaining the full implications to their members.

As one worker said: 'We should have been out with the blastfurnacemen at the beginning. Our union signed the Green Book and we have been paying for it ever since.'

The men are beginning to find out just what this sort of union betrayal means. The blastfurnacemen have been forced to talk of replacing the bureaucratic shambles of the NUB by an organisation that reflects their own wishes and demands, as the strike committee so clearly has done.

DEMAND

As a start the men are demanding that NUB union officials should be re-elected every five years instead of the present practice of election for life.

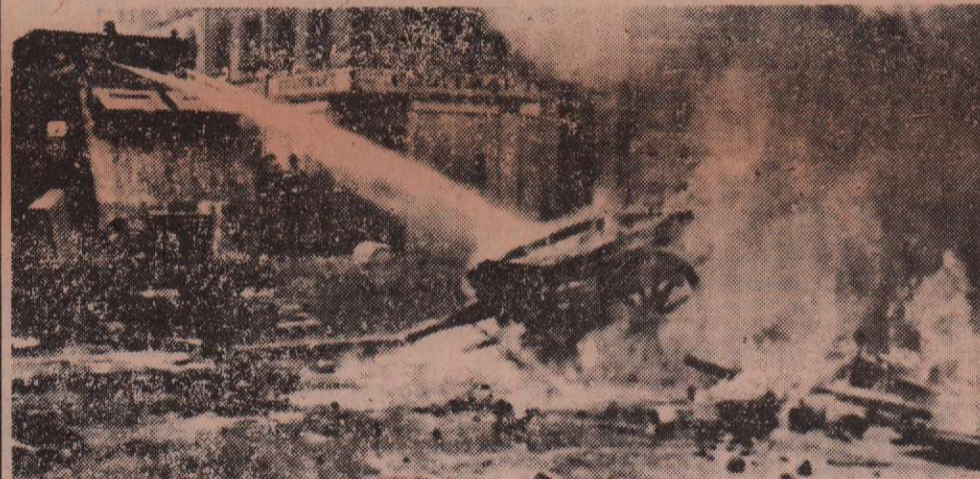
The blastfurnacemen have on the whole been reluctant to view the strike in a political light, even though Barbara Castle has instituted an official enquiry into it.

The enquiry, now in session, may make a few minor concessions to the strikers' case, but it will almost certainly come out firmly in the interests of the bosses. Such enquiries are supposed to be neutral, but the present one is made up of right-wing academics, a member of the employers' federation — plus

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DERRY: the ghetto stones RUC bully-boys



DERRY: a water cannon douses a blazing car

French devaluation may spark fresh upsurge by workers

Ian Birchall

LAST WEEKEND's devaluation of the franc was a manoeuvre worthy of de Gaulle himself.

The news was carefully timed when most French workers are enjoying their newly-won four weeks' holiday from the production line. But does Pompidou's entry into the international financial game in fact mean a break with the Gaullist past?

He has carried out a devaluation which de Gaulle was unwilling or unable to do last November. The influence of Finance Minister Giscard d'Estaing — liberal, pro-Common Market, already grooming himself for the presidency — was probably crucial. It was Giscard's support that

clinched Pompidou's victory.

But, as de Gaulle himself showed in 1958, devaluation only works if accompanied by other measures against the working class. Then, with a demoralised working class, it succeeded. Now, 15 months after May 1968, the approach will have to be more subtle.

The price freeze is merely a charade, due to cover only the holiday period. But Prime Minister Chaban-Delmas has also promised social reforms.

He may fulfill his promise of a bit more charity for the

poorest and a bit more taxation for the richest. The crunch will come for the millions in between.

The autumn may see a wave of sharper struggles. The key question is the role of the Communist Party and trade unions.

For the moment the CP is isolated from all electoral allies. In the long term it remains opportunist and oriented on parliament. In the short term it has two problems.

Remind

First, to retain its position as leader of the working class against the creeping infiltration of leftists. Second, to remind the ruling class it is still a force to be reckoned with.

So a 'left' turn by the CP is a possibility. The ensuing struggles will offer both opportunities and dangers to the revolutionary Left. Clear political strategy rather than mindless militancy will be at a premium this autumn.

see cartoon on the back page

Fascist bomb threat

ALAN WOODWARD, a member of Tottenham International Socialists, was phoned four times by fascists on Friday who threatened to shoot him and petrol bomb his home.

The phone calls followed a letter by Woodward in the local paper which said that

extreme right-wing groups like the National Front had to be seriously combatted to stop the spread of racist ideas.

Woodward, who is married with two young sons, rang the police who said 'there was little they could do about it' but suggested he let them

know if he received any more threats.

The National Front are actively leafletting factories in the Tottenham area and plan to stand a candidate in a council by-election in the neighbouring borough of Enfield.

4000 Kentish miners' jobs in jeopardy as old coal bosses bleed the industry dry

THINK OF A DEPRESSED area and you think of Glasgow and the declining shipyards, South Wales and Northern Ireland stagnant after 50 years of Tory rule.

They are the big areas, but there are small ones covering only a couple of parliamentary constituencies and therefore too small to be worth doing anything about in a country of 634 constituencies.

They are areas that do not get tax concessions, nor advance factory building by the Board of Trade, nor automated bus factories. They are ignored under the general gloss of prosperity. North East Kent is one of those areas - Canterbury, Ramsgate and the Isle of Thanet. It's a place of retirement for the old of London and the new building to accommodate them confuses the picture.

But the majority of the population still have to make a living in the locality. They are not desperate, not angry, but resigned to the continual haemorrhage of youth from the area into London.

Local trade unionists are convinced that the closure of Chislethorpe coal mine is only the beginning of the end for the mining industry in Kent. They are certain that this ultimately means the end of 4000 jobs directly and many more indirectly as the reason for the existence of places like Chislethorpe ceases.

Act of defiance

The coalfield is not very old. The first shafts were sunk in the late 1920s and during the war it was the scene of a famous act of working-class defiance.

Summonses were issued against unofficial strikers, two trade unionists were imprisoned and released after the entire labour force struck. Out of 2000 summonses issued, the police served only two.

Worries about the pits have been circulating locally for some time, and not surprisingly in view of the volume of pit closures over the last 10 years. Just last year, Tilmanstone pit was given a jeopardy notice but two things got in the way of it.

One was that the pit consistently produced the tonnage that the National Coal Board said was necessary to make the pit 'pay'. The other was that the Dover MP, Mr David Ennals, is in the government and, in conjunction with the local branch of the

National Union of Mineworkers, put up a very stiff fight against the closure.

Tilmanstone is officially safe and has received a shot in the arm of investment in the form of drainage works which will enable mining to continue there.

Chislethorpe is in the Canterbury constituency and the local MP is said to have two things at heart. Nearest to his own parliamentary seat which doesn't depend on many miners' votes as he is a Conservative, but also very dear to him is a cheap and ready supply of labour for the holiday trade - labour that can be employed for three months and left to the Ministry of Social Security for the remaining nine.

The battle for Chislethorpe has therefore been much less effective, though none the less hard fought.

Three stages of attack

As Harry Martin of the Engineering Workers told a trades council meeting attended by David Ennals, there have been three stages in the NCB attack on Chislethorpe.

First they issued a jeopardy notice dependent on the production of 8000 tons of

by
FRED MILSON

coal per shift over six months. The NUM local branch has maintained this rate for the last five months and so far seem set for six.

This might be said to be quite a stroke for the NCB to pull. There are no alternative jobs outside mining.

It means either the NUM acts as the bosses' agent in the search for profitability on their terms, or alone they take on the whole of the capitalist system.

As the Chislethorpe NUM chairman said, he never had a harder job than to get that level of production. But he did it.

The NCB said there was a manpower problem in the Kent field and that the pits were less profitable because of this. It's a commentary on conditions in the industry that even in an area of quite high unemployment, the young men don't want to go down the pit. Anyway, the fathers won't let them.

Chislethorpe patiently pointed out that alone among the four pits, they recruited more men than they lost. It was the only pit in the area actually near

full strength, yet the NCB were going to take the younger men from Chislethorpe and absorb them in the other three.

Could it be that the better recruitment at Chislethorpe means better conditions there and that better conditions mean expense for the coal owners?

Finally, reported Harry Martin, the NCB sent two geologists down from London and in the course of one day they concluded that 'geological conditions' prevented the continued operation of Chislethorpe.

Broken-up seams

Perhaps this was the real truth at last, for there is no doubt that the coal seams are very broken-up and there is no telling how long a face is going to remain productive, or how much waste must be removed before the seam reappears.

The pits also run out under the sea, which gives rise to the drainage problem that Tilmanstone in particular suffered from.

If it is geological conditions, then it seems that all the pits must go and that simply the NCB want to crack one pit first and slowly phase out the others, retiring some men early and fairly generously to minimise their responsibility in the long run.

Mr Ennals had no answer to a question from the Betteshanger NUM secretary when he asked if the Coal Board could retire some men at 55



Tilmanstone a shot in the arm

or above on 70 per cent of their wage for three years, why couldn't all miners have the option of retiring at 60 on 70 per cent of wages.

He remarked that in 1947, the miners thought that nationalisation meant a change from the old ways, but now the NCB and the coal owners seem to mean the same thing.

The old coal owners still draw £30 million per year as compensation for the worn-out junk they lost more than 20 years ago and so still drain the life-blood of the industry.

In the early 1950s the target for the industry was 250 million tons per year. Since then successive governments have back-pedalled on this target but have left the industry with an investment to re-pay far larger than presently required. No wonder the industry doesn't pay

according to the accountants and has played ducks and drakes with the miners for years.

Impressive meeting

That meeting held by the Ramsgate Trades Council was the most impressive I have ever been to. The overwhelming impression was of the dishonest way in which the National Coal Board went about its relations with its employees.

Nationalisation without workers' control has surely proved but a small step forward for the miners. And nobody who attended that meeting and heard those trade unionists, could doubt for a

moment the

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Biafra: Cliff's 'so

THE NIGERIAN

TONY CLIFF's argument (24 July) in favour of a virtual abstentionist position in the Nigerian-Biafran conflict is a sorry parody of a marxist position, despite Cliff's justified reputation for clarity and insight.

Firstly, he would have it that a tribal identity is perforce to be distinguished from a national one - a verbal trick not dissimilar in technique to the one practised by those who term the Soviet Union's rulers as a 'caste' and no a class! Is an African 'tribe' of several millions so very different from a European 'nation' the size of, say, Denmark?

And why should Comrade Cliff doubt the existence of a Biafran national identity when not only empirical observation but marxist definition (Stalin-Lenin, 1913) affirms it? Nations were arising in Europe at a time (10th century onwards) when capitalism had not developed even so far as it has in Biafra today.

As far as economics goes, the one marxist prerequisite for national status is a common economic life - not necessarily a fully capitalist one. And where this factor is at first tenuous it can consciously be built up under internal or external pressure, as the unfortunate instance of Israel shows.

As for the role of imperialism, it is as well to remember that the fact of British and Russian support did not prevent Lenin from arguing the relative justice of the Serbian cause against Austro-Hungary during World War I and hence opposing a purely abstentionist stance in that particular conflict, unlike the war as a whole.

Some of Comrade Cliff's arguments are irrelevant, not to say fatuous. Pakistan has

already achieved independence (albeit originally a dubiously-justified one) from India, which acknowledges its sovereign existence - so a putative Indo-Pak conflict is not to be equated with the Nigerian-Biafran one.

And who cares what code of conduct Gowon gives his troops to read, study and inwardly digest? I am sure that all in all, the Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia were better behaved than the Nigerian ones - which does not, however, make their presence any less obnoxious!

If socialists are to support national independence struggles - as they must, since an equitable solution of outstanding national conflicts necessarily precedes an effective pursuance of the class struggle within each individual nation (and also internationally!) - then it is irrelevant to deplore the awakening of national consciousness after the event.

Polish independence from the new Soviet state under Marshal Pilsudski was nothing for socialists to rejoice about, but to act in defiance of the fact, as Lenin in an unwise moment did, and mount a 'liberation' offensive does not (and did not then) aid the cause of proletarian internationalism.

We do not have to blind ourselves to the nature of Ojukwu and his ruling circle while nevertheless aiding him in the short term. Portugal and France (and Baron von Rosen) have their own reasons. We have ours. - MIKE TALBOT, Liverpool 8.

Misses the point

CLIFF'S ART

eria wades th water but mis do we or do Biafra's right ination?

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Socialist Worker

6 Cottons Gardens London E2

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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 de-

WHERE WE STAND

mand 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 in-

fluence 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 and international socialism.

JUST OUT!

Russia: how the revolution was lost

by Chris Harman

an International socialism pamphlet 1s 4d (inc. post)

from IS BOOK SERVICE
90 Mountview Road London N4

One year after the brutal Russian invasion, Czechoslovakia's Stalinist bosses are issuing grave warnings against any signs of opposition. But as our report shows, there is a growing ferment in the factories

THE MAIN FOCUS of resistance to Dr Husak's big clampdown in Czechoslovakia is now without a doubt in the factories.

A series of mass protest strikes in some of the country's largest plants since Dr Husak came to power has left the party leadership rattled.

They have been forced to issue a string of warnings about 'adventurism' and 'anarchy' in the factories and Dr Husak announced a few weeks ago that there would have to be purges within the leadership of the unions.

What has clearly worried the ruling clique is that the strikes are not only political and command mass support, but that they are being made in solidarity with students and intellectuals.

The Novotny regime clung to power for many years by fanning mutual prejudices between workers and intellectuals. This collapsed in the democratic upsurge last year.

In line with his Moscow-backed mission of reimposing tight bureaucratic control from the top, Dr Husak would dearly love to restore this policy of divide and rule.

The first strikes took place at the end of May when shipbuilding workers in Prague downed tools in protest after the plant director invited the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Society to use the factory for a meeting to commemorate the Red Army's entry into Czechoslovakia in 1945.

The strike was not reported in the tightly-controlled local press.

PANIC

Then on June 25, 10,000 workers at five branches of the huge CKD works in Prague held a 15-minute strike to protest against the banning of the students' union a few days before. This was the first time workers had struck in solidarity with students, and the party leadership showed its panic by issuing an immediate warning in the newspapers, thus informing many people who had not yet heard about the strike.

The strike committee replied by saying the strike would be repeated if necessary.

At the same time many



Husak (second left) at the time of his 'election'. On the right, the deposed Dubcek

Czech workers' resistance rattles Husak leadership

by PETER HITCHCOCK

union branches are threatening not to pay their dues. And they are sending out resolutions calling for drastic changes in government policy.

These circulate in type-written form all over the country. They show dramatically that the worker-student intellectual front forged last year has never been stronger.

One of the most closely argued of these typewritten appeals was signed by workers at the CKD factory on June 2. They attacked Dr Husak for coming to the factory on the previous Saturday and making his first major policy speech in front of a specially invited audience, which they pointed out did not include any of the real workers at the factory.

In their statement the workers said, 'Comrade Husak said that the trade unions were a sort of "conspiratorial organisation with anti-socialist elements". We believe that this charge is absolutely demagogic and false.

'The aim of the unions is to defend the interests of all workers who after 20 years of bad management are naturally demanding changes and improvements towards a society not only socialist but materially rich. Therefore the interest of all employees is directed towards workers' councils.

'NONSENSE'

'We cannot agree with Husak's idea of an anti-socialist force. As defined it is an obvious nonsense because it is extremely

improbable that the majority of workers are the offspring of capitalists....'

Another statement signed by the chairmen of all the trade union works committees at the CKD plant, a huge enterprise which turns out locomotives and other heavy transport machinery, criticises the central committee of the metal workers union on a number of issues.

For not condemning the recent purges in the editorial staff of the trade union paper *Prace*,

For not condemning the banning of the students' union and the co-ordinating committee of the cultural workers union.

And for not defending the independence of the unions. Senior union officials, as this and other statements make clear, are being co-opted

onto the narrow committee that is trying to pull back into its hands all the reins of power in Czechoslovakia.

There are also of course good economic reasons behind the militancy among the rank and file at the moment. After years of enforced wage restraint, last year's general relaxation gave them a chance to make up some of the lost ground.

DETERMINED

Wages have gone up more than 10 per cent since January 1968 but the government is now determined to put a stop to this.

New wage ceilings are being prepared and factory managers who exceed them will be fined. The plan to set up workers' councils with genuine power in every factory is about to be thrown overboard and if workers' councils survive at all in the new enterprise Bill which will

be published towards the end of the year, they will be a phoney.

Instead of letting workers choose the factory manager in a free election, they will probably be given a short list of candidates approved by the Communist Party. So much for democracy.

The government has also started raising prices as a way of eroding the rise in workers' standards of living. By an agreement with the unions, food and rents have been spared at least until January 1, 1970 but many workers are afraid that the new year will bring swingeing price rises.

The rank and file movement in the factories will have a hard job to keep going in the face of the pressures of co-optation and outright repression which the Husak clique is now using.

What is certain is that the worker-student alliance has never been stronger than in the last three months.

erry parody of marxism' ...

BLOODBATH

for helping instigate the war and for supplying arms. But it's hard to see how we can carry conviction unless we at the same time declare our unqualified and unambiguous support for self-determination for Biafra.-MICHAEL KIDRON Hull.

Label sticking

THE POSSIBILITY of a real mass movement against the war in Nigeria has not been paralysed, as Tony Cliff suggests, by the way the question has been posed by the Communist Party, the Labour Party and others, but by the lack of an attempt to analyse the situation in Nigeria from a socialist perspective.

To stick the label of 'tribalism' on every movement in Africa which we cannot immediately understand on the basis of our own experience is a sure way of preventing any understanding of what is happening. It is also extraordinarily patronising.

One always thought that the way people acted depended on economic and social forces. It is not self-evident why Nigerians and Biafrans should be different and act on the basis of atavistic forces of primeval blood ties. That is the way colonial District Officers used to explain riots, rebellions and other unfortunate events.

If under Ironsi's regime the merchant capitalists were trying to tilt the balance between themselves and the

feudal north one would expect this to have economic and social consequences for the development of Nigeria, notwithstanding that nepotism and corruption remained.

There is not a radical difference between the class structure of federal Nigeria and Biafra in the sense that there is not a radical difference between the class structure of France and Germany.

But this does not help very much in understanding what is happening in Nigeria and Biafra. As Cliff himself says, in federal Nigeria there is an alliance of tribal feudal religious leaders and capitalists, in Biafra an alliance of capitalists and the military WITHOUT the feudal, religious element. Is this less significant than tribal differences?

The differences between Nigeria and Biafra are mainly tribal, but all that says is that the people concerned come from different tribes, which is not a particularly original contribution. Analysis begins only with an explanation of the relationship between 'tribal' antagonism and social and economic forces.-CAROLYNE DENNIS, Birmingham IS.

Orange Order, purple passage

WHILE ACCEPTING that the report on the Derry riots (July 17) was factual and that feelings were running high, was the passage 'The beer-swilling bigots of the quasi-secret, drum-beating, Catholic-baiting Orange Order' necessary?

If a bridge is to be built between Catholic and Protestant workers this type of journalism, especially in areas where sectarian feelings run high, can do nothing

but harm. Certainly the Orange Order should be attacked but more objectively in the future please.-G. R. KELLY, Glasgow IS.

Jack Jones' role

THE COVENTRY IS members have written (July 24) that we should give 'critical support' to Jack Jones, 'Transport Workers Union secretary.

Let's have a look at some of the notable actions of Jones. Was he not one of the main trade union officials who tried to get the Liverpool dockers back to work in the 1967 strike without winning all their demands?

Did he not support the agreement made with Ford that left penalty clauses in after this year's strike?

Does he not support the Devlin Report on the docks which will lead to sackings and speed up?

And does he not support the TUC intervening in unofficial strikes as outlined at the June 5 conference?

These are the actions that we are supposed to give Jack Jones 'critical support' for! Our main aim should not be to support Jones or Scanlon or Daly but to expose their role in the unions as part of the process of building a revolutionary leadership in the unions. - BARRY MILLS, East London IS.

I AM EDITING, for Panther Books, an anthology of revolutionary and radical poetry by young British poets. The intention of the book is to justify, reflect and define the political aspirations of young people today. I would like to consider contributions from your readers - who should send poems, with s.a.e. please directly to me.-ALAN BOLD, 19 Gayfield Square, Edinburgh 1

Join the International Socialists

- ABERDEEN Pete Drummond 19 High Street Aberdeen
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- BARNSTLEY Joe Kenyon 120 Standhill Crescent
- BECKENHAM Mervyn Smith 9 Alton Gardens Copers Cope Rd 01 658 6552
- BIRMINGHAM Godfrey Webster 128 Yardley Wood Rd B'ham 18
- BRADFORD Bob Komrsich Flat 1 7 Oak Avenue Bradford 8
- BRIGHTON Andrew Moir 14 Upper Wellington Road
- BRISTOL David Rose 25 Sydenham Rd Bristol 6
- CAMBRIDGE Ian Rutledge 1 New Square Cambridge
- CAMDEN EAST Lee Kane 26 St Paul's Crescent NW1
- CAMDEN WEST Robert MacGibbon 22 Estell Rd NW3
- CARDIFF Derek Shields 6 Ruthin Gdns Cathays
- CHERTSEY Chris Wickenden Langmead Pibright Woking Sy Brookwood 3003
- GOLCHESTER Ian Noble 12 Coach Rd Arlesford Wivenhoe 272
- COVENTRY Dave Edwards 53 Palmerston Rd Earlston
- CRAWLEY Deborah Ward 2 Weddell Rd Tilgate
- CRUYDON Jenny Woodhams 26 Braemar Avenue South Croydon
- DURHAM Pam Law 16 Hatfield View
- EAST LONDON Bob Light 2 Oster Tce Southcoote Rd E17
- EDINBURGH Brian Lavery 25 South Clerk St Edinburgh 8
- ENFIELD Ian Birchall 109 Croyland Rd N9
- FULHAM Jackie Taylor 41 Perham Road W14
- GLASGOW Ian Mooney 4 Dalcross Passage W1
- GRAYS & TILBURY Alf Waters c/o 1 Russell Rd Tilbury Essex
- HARROW Kevin Simms 56 Salisbury Road
- HAMPSTEAD Chris Barker 36 Gliden Road NW5
- HAVERING Terry Ward 91 Heath Park Rd Gidea Pk
- HIGHBURY Joyce Rosser 23 Hampstead Lane N6
- HORNSEY Valerie Clark 15 Dickinson Rd NS
- HULL Paul Gerhardt 52 Freehold Street
- ILFORD Lionel Sims, 16 Madras Road, Ilford 01 478 7311
- IPSWICH Brian Mulvey 104 Westbourne Road Ipswich
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- LAMBETH Andy Smith Flat 6 126 Streatham Hill SW2
- LEICESTER Lynette Allham Stanford Hall Stoughton Drive South Oadby Leics.
- LEEDS Vince Hall Flat 8 25 Bagby Rd Leeds 2
- Woodhouse: Viv Hopkins 25 Midland Rd Leeds 6
- LOWESTOFT Paul Welby 173 The Avenue
- MANCHESTER J Sutton 11a Rowan Ave Valley Range M16
- MERSEYSIDE Mick Talbot 15 Sefton Park Rd Liverpool 8
- MERTON Fred Milsom 119 Wolsey Crescent Morden
- NEWCASTLE Tony Corcoran 26 Lesbury Road
- NORTHAMPTON Mick Bunting 26 Witton Rd Duston N'hampton
- NORWICH Gerald Crompton 220 College Rd NOR 54F
- NOTTINGHAM Tony Evans 289 Derby Rd Nottingham
- OXFORD Dave Peers 21 First Turn
- PORTSMOUTH Pamela Shummer 43 Marmion Road Southsea
- POTTERIES John Whitfield 5 Grosvenor Rd Newcastle
- PRESTON J Prus, 72 Lower Bank Rd Fulwood Preston
- READING Miriam Balsey 22 Redlands Rd Reading
- RICHMOND Edward Brown 4 Cheyne Ave Twickenham Mdx
- SELBY John Charlton 12 Thatch Close Selby Yorks
- SHEFFIELD J Wilkin 15 Raven Rd Sheffield S7 1SB
- SOUTHAMPTON John Fisher 144 Thornhill Park Road
- SOUTHCHESTER Chris Peace 13 Stirling Ave Leigh-on-Sea Essex
- STEVENAGE Michael Downing 57 Trumper Rd Trots Hill
- STOCKPORT Geoff Hodgson 78a Forest Range M/C 19
- STOKE NEWINGTON Mike McGrath 28 Manor Road N16
- SWANSEA Dick Jones 19 Woodlands Toe
- TEESIDE Barry Slater Flat 3 78 Redcar Rd Gt. Scarborough Yorks
- John Foster 10 Pallister Ave Brambles Farm Middlesbro
- TOTTENHAM Laurie Flynn 574 High Road N17
- WANDSWORTH Mark Hutton 87 Brodric Road SW17
- WATFORD Paul Russell 61 Carpenders Avenue
- Capenders Park
- WIGAN Ray Challinor 34 Whiteside Ave Hindley
- WOLVERHAMPTON Dave Spilsbury 274 Penn Road
- YORK Bob Looker 22 Hobgate
- VICTORIA Tony Dunne 14 Carlisle Mansions Carlisle Flat SW1

Please send further details of the meetings and activities of the international socialists to

Name

Address



Leeds: Left must mobilise against racism

SOCIALISTS IN THE LEEDS area have been carrying out a post mortem on the circumstances which led up to the race riots of two weeks ago. In the riots a thousand or so white workers and teenage youths wrecked a Pakistani Estate Agency and smashed the windows of an Indian cafe, following the fatal stabbing of a white youth in a brawl with two coloured youths.

Two policemen's noses were broken in scuffles with the mob, which chanted racist slogans in support of Enoch Powell and shouted 'Get the Pakistanis'.

All this happened in the tumble-down Burley area of the city, one of areas in Leeds with a shifting and varied population, and hundreds of shocking back-to-back slums and decrepid Victorian terraces. Children play on disgusting waste ground; housewives hang their washing across the street; local youth entertains itself on the street corners, in the pubs, and in one or two cafes.

An irrelevant ugly new Catholic church stands in the centre of the street where the riots took place.

On the face of it it should seem that the frustrations and anger of the local residents and youth would

be directed at those responsible for the decay and neglect — the local council and a national government with the social priorities of the Tories. But why has such rage been directed against coloured residents, who are in fact in a small minority in this area. The original stabbing incident is no explanation. The victim appears to have been a bit of a tearaway and previous incidents have not produced the same response.

No roots

The answer lies in the politics which people who live in such places think are relevant to them and will solve their problems. The labour movement, as elsewhere in the city, has no roots in Burley, except for a few local inactive Communist Party or Labour Party members.

The impotence of the Left was clearly shown by the bungling response of the Communist Party when faced by disturbing reactionary politics in an area where they usually field a candidate for the council. The local CP secretary rang up the Chief Constable and warned him to be vigilant in case

Phil Evans

unscrupulous right-wing elements tried to take advantage of the situation!

The local rather 'white liberal' Congress for Racial Equality was flummoxed but suggested car patrols of the area by its members. None of these gallant vigilante patrols manned by volunteers were seen and it was not made particularly clear what they were to do if suddenly confronted with a group of hardened Powellites.

The local International Socialists and supporters covered the whole area at once with a leaflet calling on local people to fight their real enemies and putting the finger on known local and national fascists who had attempted to intervene during the riot. But it was obvious that this would be of little effect, except to counter propaganda being put out in the form of a leaflet by Colin Jordan's fascist National Movement calling for the repatriation of coloured people.

The lack of a sustained tenants' campaign and community action grouping in the area cannot be

overcome easily. Into the vacuum created by a corrupted labour movement has blown a wind of reaction, the result upon workers' minds of years of cynical political neglect by the representatives of the local Left.

The implications of the Leeds race riot are frightening. For years Leeds has been hailed as a model city as far as race relations are concerned. If ugly scenes like this can flare in Leeds, they can happen in hundreds of similar towns.

Fascist groups

It need not depend upon a particularly high proportion of local immigrants. Burley is a predominantly white area; Chapel-town in Leeds has far more coloured people. Also disturbing is the political intervention of fascist groups, notably the growing National Front, whose members moved among rioters inciting them to attack coloured people 'where they are'—that is, in their homes.

Socialists can hardly be too alarmed about this situation. In Huddersfield, the National Front fielded a complete slate of candidates in the local elections and got

more votes than the Communist Party. Particularly disturbing is the attraction for youth of racist politics and street violence, which, it must be said, relieves the monotony of urban decay.

In Burley, 'Hell's Angels' cyclists roared up and down the streets as crowds gathered looking for excitement after pubs closed and youngsters of 12 turned up in groups during the week of troubles to see 'the fun'.

Pious appeals to the local vicars or the police are useless in this kind of situation. After all, the Leeds police stood by while most of the window smashing went on, on the grounds that their intervention would only 'make it worse'.

Tiny and isolated though they may be, the role of socialist groupings faced with working-class reaction on the Leeds scale is to get their teeth into building organisations of youth and tenants with correct political direction. If we don't work inside the working class towards laying the blame for oppression and squalor at the feet of the real enemy, the ruling class, who else will?

'NO REDUNDANCIES' SAY MILITANT ENGINEERS AT THE SUN

John Ball

THE DAILY MIRROR group, the International Publishing Corporation, bought Odhams Press in 1961 for £37 million. The takeover gave IPC a virtual monopoly in the magazine field, but it also brought problems, mainly one called the Daily Herald, which the group did not want.

In 1964, IPC changed the name of the Herald to the Sun with a big splash of publicity, the promise to keep it going until the 1970s and not much else. Now the Sun is going to die at the beginning of next year.

As a result of the IPC board's continual vacillation on the question of whether or not the Sun would close, the workers have, to a certain extent, become apathetic. Some of them are simply waiting to receive redundancy pay.

Many of the union officials have taken a 'wait and see' attitude with the exception of the rank and file engineering-maintenance liaison committee. The committee has continually pressed IPC for information about the future of the Sun by threatening — and taking — industrial action.

Stopped production

The secretary of the Liaison Committee is Sean Geraghty whom I interviewed.

J.B. What action has the Liaison Committee taken so far?

S.G. There was a meeting in the middle of a production run of The People, which cost Odham's newspapers 50,000 copies and £10,000 in hard cash. As a result we received the date of closure of the Sun, which was being kept a secret.

J.B. What are the present demands of the Liaison Committee?

S.G. We want to know what is our future in IPC and what is going to happen to the buildings in the Long Acre area.

J.B. How does the Liaison Committee feel about redundancy?

S.G. We're not interested in redundancy. We want comparable jobs within IPC. Figures for closing and payment of redundancy will be at the most £2.4m, of which the net cost to IPC, less government contribution, will be £1.9m.

Vacant buildings

This will be met out of reserves. IPC will then be left with vacant buildings in London and Manchester, worth at least £3.25m.

J.B. What is your attitude to IPC moving The People and Sporting Life newspapers to other printing presses?

S.G. They will not be moved to any other house in Fleet Street until every member at Long Acre has been taken care of.

J.B. Has any move been made to join up with other print unions?

S.G. The Liaison Committee is a member of the Federated House Chapel, along

with other print unions, but these unions have had an attitude of 'wait and see'. The Liaison Committee has gone ahead on its own because past experiences (as in the takeover of 1961) have shown us that a 'wait and see' attitude denies us any say in any decisions made.

J.B. Do you feel any loyalty towards the Sun?

S.G. No. As a trade unionist, how can I feel loyal to a paper when it continually attacks the working class and its struggles like the blast-furnacemen's strike at Port Talbot and which supports the Barbara Castles and Aubrey Jones? Only when a paper supports the working class and is controlled by the workers and journalists, can I feel any loyalty towards it.

J.B. Do you reckon that Robert Maxwell is likely to succeed with his proposal to keep the Sun going?

S.G. Maxwell is really a non-starter in practical terms. As maintenance workers, we fail to see how two sets of maintenance workers can maintain one plant under two different managements.

If we become part of the work force on the Evening Standard plant (where Maxwell intends to print the Sun) we would insist on the existing conditions and payments. We would certainly not see ourselves as part of a cheap labour force to undermine the jobs in the industry.

Serious action

J.B. How do you see the immediate future of Odhams Newspapers?

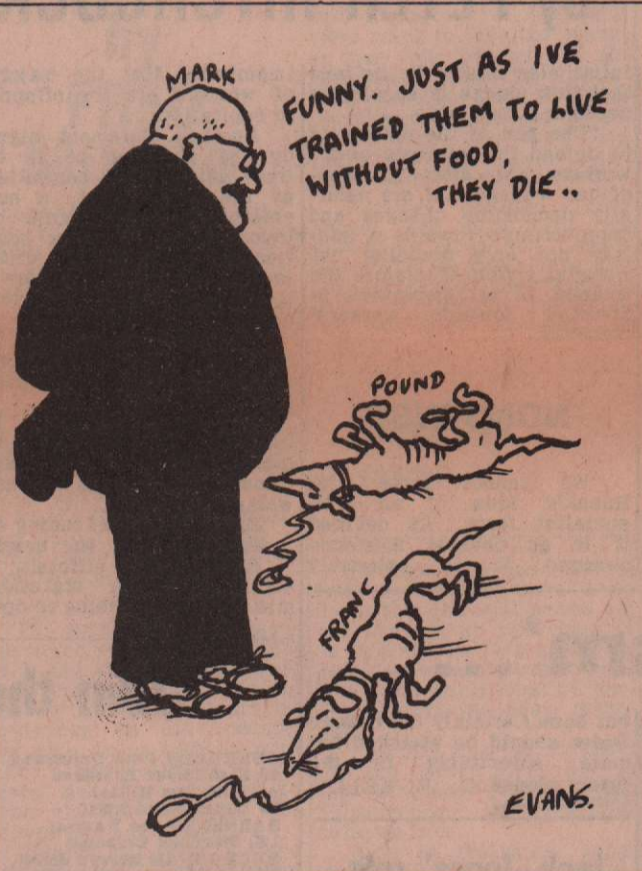
S.G. Unless serious discussions take place about the future, there will be more industrial action. Any attempt by management to interfere with existing agreements of the maintenance chapel would lead to serious actions by the Liaison Committee.

J.B. What do you see as the future of workers in Fleet Street?

S.G. What is taking place at Odham's Newspapers will become a precedent for the rest of Fleet Street in future struggles. At the moment the Sun is closing, but next year or the year after, we could be talking about any newspaper whose readership is declining.

The nature of the system under which we live is fully exposed by the actions of the IPC. Last year the profits of IPC rose by nearly 80 per cent to over £12m. A series of articles in The Times stated that IPC shares were grossly undervalued, and recommended them as a 'good medium term investment'.

Meanwhile several thousand workers, including many who have spent a lifetime producing the newspaper, will be thrown on the scrapheap, due to the dictates of a few immensely rich press barons.



Italian Left hammers out factory policy

Ferruccio Gambino

TURIN: The first Congress of Rank and File Committees and Militant Workers in Turin on July 26-27 saw the participation of more than 2000 workers and students from all over Italy.

Turin was chosen, following the July 3 rebellion, as the reference point for the working class in Italy as a whole.

A broad agreement was reached among militants from different groups and in different industries who are preparing for strikes when the new wage contracts are renewed between September and the end of the year.

It was agreed that: the same wage increase should be demanded for all workers in one industry a drastic reduction in the work week should be obtained NOW

any difference between skilled and unskilled workers should be abolished

big wage increases should be demanded on the basic pay and not on incentive

STEEL STRIKE

from page one

Dan McGarvey, president of the Boilermakers' Society.

Some strikers may think that McGarvey's presence will help their case — but he was signatory to the notorious Cameron Report which witch-hunted Barbican building workers.

Apart from hysterical, 'holding the country to ransom' gibberish in the Daily Mirror, the press and television have not yet launched any major attacks on the strikers. As The Times put it:

'Neither the industrial relations Bill the government abandoned in June, nor the Tory proposals ... would have succeeded in coping with the Port Talbot situation. Penalties on the unofficial strikers would almost certainly have made things worse and, some politicians argue, might have led to sympathetic strikes far beyond South Wales.'

THREATEN

In other words, there is nothing anyone in power can do when the workers in a key industry stand together on an issue as the Port Talbot men have done. The very structure of the power wielded by Wilson and Castle is threatened if more workers realise what is happening and strike in solidarity.

The bosses of Britain are a little more subtle than in the years when they sent armed troops against strikers in Tonyandy, Liverpool and Glasgow but the same iron hand is behind the scenes on the levers of power.

Until workers realise what they are up against and organise accordingly there will be no end to injustice and waste like that at Port Talbot.

NOTICES

LIVERPOOL Socialist Worker public meeting: Ray Challinor on Two centuries of working class struggle. 7.30 pm at the Wedding House, Highfield Street, off Tithebarn Street, Sunday, August 24. All welcome.

MORE Gestetner Duplicators! Only 115/- (plus 15/- carriage). Ex-W.D. hand operated, fully re-conditioned. Write to R. Hill, 142 Princes Road, Liverpool 8.

IS Students' Conference, 6 Cottons Gardens, E2. 10-6.00 Friday September 5. Documents available from above address.

THE WEINSTOCK empire and how to fight it: Manchester IS pamphlet 10d per copy (inc post) from Colin Barker, 44 Sewerby

Street, Manchester 16.

GRAND SOCIAL to aid branch funds: Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign, Islington. Duke of Wellington 119 Balls Pond Rd N1, Friday, Aug 15, 8 pm.

PRESS BARONS' quest for profits threatens jobs in Fleet Street: public meeting, speakers: Paul Foot NUJ and Sean Geraghty Secretary, Odhams Press Engineering Liaison Ctee. Tues August 19, 6.00 pm Prince of Wales, 61 Queen Street, London WC2 (cnr Drury Lane) Called by Odhams Press International Socialists.

Published by the International Socialists, 6 Cottons Gdns London E2. Printed by S W (Litho) Printers. Registered with the GPO Annual subscription £2.

Site bosses get tough as profits soar

Dave Percival

THE BUILDING FIRM of Taylor Woodrow has just reported to its shareholders that during the past six months profits have increased by more than 4 per cent to £2.6 million.

An earlier report showed that the 13 directors had awarded themselves an average of £9000 each. Mr Frank Taylor, the chairman, is in the happy position that if he were to sell his share in the company it would fetch £7000.

The manner in which this happy state of affairs for Mr Taylor and his shareholders has been achieved is being clearly displayed at the company's multi-storey office development at East Croydon. A year after the job started full trade union organisation was achieved, and 21-year old carpenter Graham Sharpe was appointed Federation Steward.

Proposals rejected

The workers immediately decided to press for an improvement in the bonus which the firm had been able to impose on the unorganised labour. All proposals were rejected by the management and a site meeting decided to refuse to work to the conditions of the imposed bonus.

Next day Graham Sharpe was sacked for 'forcing' men to cease work at 4.30 although this allegation was denied by the men who were supposed to have been 'intimidated' by him.

Initially all Taylor Woodrow workers went on strike but following the advice of the Transport Workers Union official, only the 17 carpenters stayed out. Despite the support of their local Woodworkers Union official, the right-wing leadership of the union refused support and insisted that the workers should await the decision of a National Disputes Commission.

Victimisation

The commission, half of whose members are trade union officials, decided on August 8, two weeks after the sacking, that Graham Sharpe should be transferred to another site. This decision opens the way to the victimisation of any future steward.

Faced with the combined forces of employers and union leaders, the chippies returned to work on Monday. They had all received letters threatening to dismiss any who failed to return.

Taylor woodrow, who through their subsidiary Myton earned notoriety at the Barbican, contribute over £10,000 a year to organisations such as Common Cause and the Economic League to maintain 'Free Enterprise'. Their workers at Croydon have learned that it is only the bosses' enterprise that is allowed to be free.