

* Socialist Worker

For workers control and international socialism

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Crunch near in Ulster

Maintenance men on picket duty for 18 weeks

TUC TELLS STRIKERS

TO JOIN BLACKLEG UNION

Alan Woodward

STRIKING MAINTENANCE WORKERS at the Enfield, North London, factory of the big metal combine of Johnson Matthey have been told by the disputes committee of the TUC that they must return to work and join a union that has been blacklegging for 18 weeks.

The men, all members of the AEF, the engineering union, have been the first to feel the effects of the TUC's new role of 'industrial policeman'. The strikers want their union to be included in negotiations, but the management, backed by the TUC, say that the British Iron, Steel and Kindred Trades Association must represent all workers in the factory.

And the TUC have gone a step further than the management and told the strikers to leave the AEF and join BISAFTA.

When the strike started in June the men were given substantial backing by other workers. The Johnson Matthey Joint Combine Shop Stewards' Committee blacked Enfield material and organised a cash collection together with food from the well-organised Harlow works.

The AEF District Committee quickly backed the strike and helped with collections and blacking. And the local Ruberoid factory set the pace for help from other factories on the Brimsdown industrial estate.

SMASHED

BISAFTA has kept its members at work throughout the 4½ months of the strike. Strong-arm men from inside the factory have intimidated pickets and three times smashed the wooden hut that protects them from the rain.

When lorry drivers refused to deliver oil to the factory, the management bought a small fleet of 'pirate' tankers and recruited drivers from BISAFTA who toured London for oil supplies. In spite of AEF protests, contractors were brought in from other areas to do maintenance work.

The strikers are bitter and angry after 18 weeks of inaction. Shop steward Jerry



Notice at the Enfield factory

O'Farrell thinks there is little hope of the strikers getting work elsewhere in North London because of the engineering employers' blacklist and their former jobs at JM have been taken by blacklegs.

The strikers feel that the dispute could have been settled long before if the AEF, which is recognised as the majority union in every other JM factory, had called out all its members. Johnson Matthey, one of the leading gold and silver processors in Britain, made an increased profit of 55% in the first half of the year and is currently paying a dividend of 11 per cent out of a total profit of £7.14m.

The men feel that their executive member, Reg Birch, has done everything he could to help them but the official machine has been slow and reluctant to take firm action. It took the executive several weeks to make the strike official and Jerry O'Farrell was excluded from the TUC

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'The International Socialists offer no policies to workers in Ireland. They say that the barricades should stay. This can now only isolate Protestant workers from their brothers in the Catholic areas.' - Workers' Press, October 3.

Sean Treacy

THE BRITISH government's strategy to split the Northern Ireland Unionist Party and force the Stormont regime to implement a programme of minimum 'reforms' comes to the crunch in the next week or two.

The strategy is designed to stabilise the basis of the Unionist regime by incorporating right-wing elements from the Catholic community. For this reason it is necessary for Westminster to instruct the British army to prevent any new pogrom which might be launched by Paisleyite elements. The Paisleyites are afraid that even minimal reforms will involve the destruction of the sectarian character of the Orange regime and would, in the end, open the way to a united, even if still capitalist, Ireland.

As recent fighting in Belfast between the troops and Paisleyites indicates, the strategy of the Orange extremists is to create circumstances in which a large section of the Unionist Party will revolt against Chichester-Clark's agreement with Westminster. This is still a likely outcome since the Unionist Party rank and file and Stormont itself is split down the middle on Westminster's timid requests for disarming of the B-Specials and re-organisation of the RUC.

The choice

A Unionist revolt, egged on by the Paisleyite mobs, who last week marched in strength and occupied Stormont for a day, would present the British government with the choice of either imposing direct rule or abandoning the field to the Paisleyites.

In fact the programme of reforms is a fraud. It does make some concessions to the Catholic middle class in promising an end to the blatant discrimination practised by local authorities and public bodies.

But it offers Catholic and Protestant workers alike no hope of an end to the scourge of unemployment, low wages and rotten housing.

The signs are, however, that the Catholic right wing, including the traditional nationalistic Green Tories and the 'moderate' leaders of the civil rights movement, are prepared to jump aboard Chichester-Clark's bandwagon.

At a recent session of Stormont they praised the premier's 'constructive approach'. At the same time within the Civil Rights Association they have begun a witchhunt against socialist and republican militants who challenge the right-wing's interpretation of what the fight for civil rights is about.

Dublin support

Civil Rights Association members are being balloted to empower the right wing to discipline and expel all those who introduce 'ideology' into the movement.

The right-wing have received enthusiastic support from Dublin for their line of abandoning mass struggle against the Unionists. A recent issue of the Fianna Fail government party paper, The Irish Press, gave front page headline advice to the beleaguered Catholic workers of the north: 'Cool it, Derry'.

A growing section of the Catholic workers of the north see that the fight for civil rights involves confronting both the Unionist regime and the southern Green Tories.

Because of this the People's Democracy is organising itself on a 32 county basis around a socialist programme which involves the creation of a mass working-class solidarity movement in the 26 counties and a resolute strategy of fighting class issues in the north and the south.



DUSTMEN: MAGNIFICENT SOLIDARITY

THE DUSTMEN'S strike is one of the finest examples of workers' solidarity in recent years. As rubbish piles up throughout London (as in Hoxton Market, above) the dispute is spreading as far as Scot-

land and the Cabinet is seriously disturbed. It is possible that as this issue goes to press the strike may become official and dustmen nationally will stop work. Full report: BACK PAGE.

'Smash all-in schools' says Tory right

SW Reporter

SMASH COMPREHENSIVE education, strengthen fee-paying schools and recognise that working-class children are less intelligent than middle class: those are three of the main proposals made this week by a group of influential, right-wing Tories in their second Black Paper on education.

Timed to coincide with the Tory conference and the rightwards drift of the party under the impact of Powellism, the Black Paper demands an end to 'progressive' education and wants a return to the Victorian concepts of rigid, authoritarian schools drumming the 'three Rs' into submissive pupils.

'Special elite'

The document is virulently anti-working class from start to finish and says openly that society needs a special elite of well-educated young people to run the major industries.

'We need first-class surgeons, engineers, scientists, mathematicians, lawyers, scholars and these can only show up through a system of elitist training and competitive exams,' the paper says. The editors argue more than once that they are not 'fascist' but hit out at the 'present cult of egalitarianism' which they consider to be a levelling-down process, 'actively unjust to brighter children, who become a new underprivileged.'

One writer, Prof. Sir Cyril Burt, even repeats the ugly racist nonsense of

the discredited American 'authority', Arthur Jensen, who has argued (and been refuted) that negroes have 'less innate intelligence' than whites.

The authors twist facts and figures to suit their 'theories'. They argue that modern trends in education have led to lowering standards and delinquency. In demanding rights for 'brighter' (ie rich) children, they are cynically turning their backs on the vast majority of pupils.

Working-class children should be left to their overcrowded classrooms in slum schools, caned and beaten into submission as they parrot the ABC and learn to count up to ten, while the sons of the privileged and pampered are chummed out on a special conveyor-belt into the top directors' chairs.

The arrogance of the suggestions is only matched by their ignorance. Although socialists have been critical of

the manner in which comprehensive schools have been introduced and their retention of streaming, early results show no lowering of standards and indicate what progressive educationalists have always maintained, that the presence of different educational levels in one school raises the standard of all children and does not hold back the 'brighter' pupils.

Resist

The Black Paper is a product of the present anti-working class atmosphere that the government has helped to create by its hysterical attacks on the labour and trade union movement. Any move to implement these reactionary ideas by a future Tory government and to turn our schools into replicas of Dickens' Dotheboys Hall must be resisted by the labour movement with all the force at its command.

Redundancy: the threat to your job

GEOFF CARLSSON writes the first article of an important new series. Page two

Redundancy: the threat to your job

PART ONE



COMBINE COMMITTEES:

key to the fight against bosses' offensive

by **GEOFF CARLSSON** AEF
Former chairman of the ENV joint shop stewards' committee

ANY RESISTANCE to redundancy must be welcomed and encouraged. But it is difficult to lay down hard and fast rules for combating the threat of heavy sackings because there are too many unknown factors that can only be assessed at the time by the people involved.

In general it is easy to say 'No redundancies'. In practice it is much more difficult to prevent it.

The whole pattern of working class life has changed. While it is true that the organised working class has suffered no major defeat since the general strike of 1926, many events have taken place that have left the workers weakened in the face of planned redundancies by the employers or the government.

The workers' traditional organisations, the trade unions, have become, more and more, part of the state machine. The lessons that flow from this are not apparent until sections of the class in need of help from their unions come up against the reality of their leaders' collaboration with capitalism.

SLOW

Years of relatively full employment also took their toll of another arm of the workers' struggle - the solidarity movement that was more powerful before the war when the workers were economically weaker.

Workers learn as these facts become clear, but the process of learning has been painfully slow over the last 10 years. This is because the employers and government have also been moving slowly and have not engaged the labour movement in a major confrontation.

On the credit side, as wor-

kers have felt their separation from the official trade unions, they have built up an alternative armory in the shape of the shop stewards' committees that have varied in strength from area to area, depending on local circumstances.

These workers' representatives have proved to be almost the only major obstacle to the employers' plans for rationalisation, speed-up and greater exploitation, precisely because they are at the point of production and suffer in the same way as the members they represent. If they deviate too much from the wishes of their members, they can be replaced.

But one serious defect in the fight against redundancies is now coming to light. This is when the sackings are carried out on a large scale by companies with many branches and subsidiaries.

While the employer is organised on a plant and company basis, with an overall policy and strategy, the stewards tend to have a parochial attitude that does not go beyond their place of work.

This makes them easy meat for such employers as

GEC-AEI-EE who can play one plant off against another and plan to switch production from one site to the next to overcome local opposition.

The great need of the day is an organisation that goes beyond the single factory. That means a combine organisation that links up all the plants in the group. Only in this way can a struggle against redundancy become meaningful.

Although difficulties such as distance between plants, differentials in wage rates and the local employment situation seem to be major obstacles, it is not very different from the problems that workers faced when they first started to organise single factories.

SOLUTIONS

There were numerous wage differentials then, the management played one department against another and there was often a pool of unemployed outside the gate. But difficulties of a past period were faced up to and largely overcome.

The problems facing organisation on a company-wide basis can also be solved. Solutions are needed that will

prove correct or will need modification in the light of experience.

The English Electric shop stewards' action committee's proposal last month to occupy the Merseyside factories suffered a rebuff but it did at least show a positive plan of action on as broad a base as possible.

The plan may have had weaknesses, it may not have taken into account many local factors, but at least the very concept of such an occupation put fear into the Arnold Weinstocks of this society. Such concepts of occupation or other methods based on an all-embracing action committee or combine shop stewards' committee must be developed.

In some situations the old and tried methods of defence such as a complete withdrawal of labour have made do. In other instances, when the stewards thought the management would welcome a stoppage, hoping for a break in the workers' solidarity, once they were on strike, different methods were planned.

An example that bears this out was the case of ENV in 1956, when the management of the Willesden engineering factory decided to make 120 men (10 per cent of the labour force) redundant. The shop stewards' committee, made up of all the unions in the factory, had anticipated such a move and a year before had drawn up plans to combat redundancy.

ENDORSED

The plans had been presented to the workers and endorsed by them some time before anyone was put on the redundancy list.

The plan was:
1. No acceptance of redundancy.
2. Work sharing.
3. Shorter working week without loss of pay.
4. Regular factory meetings, each day if necessary.

The basic attitude behind the plan was that working conditions which had been won must be defended and that could only be done by keeping the entire work force. A 10 per cent pool of unemployed skilled labour in the area could only mean a weakening of the factory organisation.

When the management's plans were announced and before any lists of names was published, the workers restated their previous decision not to allow one man to be made redundant. While the stewards refused to discuss redundancy, the management hoped that lack of work in certain departments would create a climate in which

workers would start to quarrel among themselves and finally accept the terms.

The stewards held factory meetings almost daily, explaining again and again the problems and drawing up their plans for sharing work and transferring labour around the factory.

This situation went on for several months. The management sat back and virtually left the running of the plant to the stewards' committee, hoping that the problems created would be too much for them to handle.

They were proved wrong and the only people made redundant were two workers who refused to operate the work-sharing plan. The management were faced with an ultimatum: either retain the two men or face a total strike.

The men were dismissed. It was a resounding victory, for it demonstrated the power of workers' control against capitalist control.

CLOSE

Twelve years later the ENV management were able to smash the factory organisation, but at a price that was not to their liking. They had to close the plant completely and transfer the work to a northern factory.

It is of primary importance that industrial workers, through their stewards' committees the columns of workers' papers, meetings and conferences, should begin to discuss the problems that confront them, to draw conclusions about the best methods of organising themselves against the mounting attacks.

The long term task of militants today inside the factories is to try to raise the consciousness of workers so that they believe that, as a collective, they hold the key to their own future.

Militants should press for the linking up of stewards' committees into combine committees where this is applicable. Regular meetings of combine committees must take place at which plans can be drawn up to counter any moves by the employers.

The employer with a single factory dreads the emergence of a strong shop stewards' committee. The employer with many factories in a combine dreads the appearance of a strong combine stewards' committee.

The building of such committees, linking up all the factories within a combine, is the essential task of the present day and if successful will mark a major step forward towards workers' control.



ENV shop stewards marching at the Labour Party conference in 1966, shortly before the factory was closed and later re-opened when the militants' organisation was smashed

It's quite

I STARTED WORK at the Mather and Platt annexe of Moston College of Further Education in Manchester without any previous training as a teacher.

I was a graduate who had not really settled down, but was very keen on teaching young apprentices. I was to teach General Studies.

At my interview it was made clear that the post was for one term only and was part time. It was also made clear, though my students were soon to prove otherwise, that I would be teaching throw-outs, social and educational dead-legs (good for creating profits but nothing else).

The apprentices whom I taught were soon to do, and in some cases were doing, men's work. They were getting the pay barely fit for an adolescent's basic needs and were being treated like

children. They tend to education, atmosphere, General Studies improve the which they can not their wage

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POMPIDOU: mood of alarm in ruling circles

'IF Georges Pompidou's France should continue along the road it has gone so far, it would tend to become an agricultural country, without getting to this point, however, for there would be such an increase in unemployment that the revolution would break out.'

This warning did not come from any raving student 'leftist' but from M. Lionel Stoleru, one of the distinguished associates of French Finance Minister Giscard d'Estaing. It typifies the mood of alarm in French ruling circles this autumn.

To some extent this mood serves the purpose of propaganda and some of it derives from the particular interests of the large banks. But France does face serious problems in the years ahead.

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ners. Within Market, France ground only as raw materials a products, wh behind in t chemical and o

Yet France advantage - a force. A rece report shows th 1966 France h relative labour Common Mark exception of some indust workers were w Italians.

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Guerrilla po

AS ONE of the IS members who recently visited the al Fateh camp in Jordan, I would like to comment on the discussion on the Middle East in Socialist Worker.

The stages theory is the approach of al Fateh and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (the group responsible for the hi-jacking etc) although the latter may deny this in some of its literature.

Fateh, by far the largest guerrilla group, sees Zionism as the highest form of imperialism, only after the defeat of which can a social programme and direct opposition to Arab regimes begin. The leadership of Fateh carries this view to its conclusion in as much as it refuses to criticise any Arab regime in public, revealing itself as only a national liberation group.

It does not see the coming state of Palestine as necessarily being a socialist one, but 'a progressive, secular Palestine in which Christian, Moslem and Jew will worship, live peacefully and enjoy

equal rights' (document).

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Socialist Worker

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Tel: 01-739 1878 (editorial) 1870 (business)

CAPITALISM has nothing to offer mankind but exploitation, crises and war. The ruling classes of the world - a tiny minority - subordinate the needs of the vast majority to the blind accumulation of capital in the interests of competitive survival.

Imperialism condemns two-thirds of mankind to famine and calls forth movements of national liberation which shake the system and expose its essential barbarism. The constant and mounting preparations for war and the development of weapons of mass destruction place the survival of humanity itself in the balance.

The increasing intensity of international competition between ever-larger units drives the ruling classes to new attacks on workers' living standards and conditions of work, to anti-trade union and anti-strike laws. All of these show capitalism in deepening crises from which it can only hope to escape at the cost of the working class and by the destruction of all its independent organisations.

The only alternative is workers' power - the democratic collective control of the working class over industry and society through a

WHERE WE STAND

state of workers' councils and workers' control of production.

Only thus can the transition be ensured to a communist society in which the unprecedented productive forces thrown up by capitalism can be used to assure an economy of abundance. Only the working class, itself the product of capitalism, has the ability to transform society in this way, and has shown its ability to do so in a series of revolutionary struggles unprecedented in the history of all previous exploited classes.

The working class gains the experience necessary to revolutionise society by constant struggle against the

ruling class through the mass organisations thrown up in the course of that struggle.

To overcome the unevenness with which this experience is gained, to draw and preserve the lessons of past struggles and transmit them for the future, to fight against the pressure of bourgeois ideas in the working class, and to bond the fragmentary struggles against capitalism, into a conscious and coherent offensive, a revolutionary Marxist party of socialist militants is required, embracing the vanguard of the working class.

The struggle to build such a party is only part of the wider struggle to create a World Revolutionary Socialist International, independent of all oppressors and exploiters of the working class, whether bureaucratic or bourgeois.

International Socialists therefore fight for:

Opposition to all ruling-class policies and organisations.

Workers' control over production and a workers' state.

Opposition to imperialism and support for all movements of national liberation.

Uncompromising opposition to all forms of racialism and to all migration controls.

NEXT WEEK The struggle goes on at English Electric

an education, getting the sack from teaching...

by ANDREW HORNING

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and so did my students. Very shortly it was clear that they really enjoyed the subject. Several agreed to stay in class over their lunch-hour and play more records and discuss.

I told the vice-principal about this and nothing more was said. On the day that my students were to stay over the lunch-hour I went to the vice-principal to ask for the gramophone.

He said that it was locked away. I asked for the key. He said he wanted to use the room my students were in to check some books.

I asked if I could use the next room. He said it was inconvenient. Then the vice-principal asked if I couldn't just ask my students to go away, because it was inconvenient that day.

At this I replied that I suspected they had been told this in one way or another most of their lives and I did not intend to repeat the experience.

Finally I got the gramophone half-way through the lunch hour - that is, I got the gramophone and the vice-principal. When the vice-principal came in, half the students left.

Then there was the smoking question. I was asked whether I allowed my students to smoke in class.

I said that I did and that in an apprentices' school where they were expected to respond like adults I thought the students should smoke if they wanted. The reasons why not were colourful:

1. Fire regulations. (But we smoke in the staff room in the same building, and anyway, Mather and Platt manufacture fire fighting equipment!)

2. Someone in my class might have asthma. (No one had asthma.)

3. It's unfair on the majority. (The majority wanted to smoke.)

4. It's unfair on the teacher. (I didn't mind. Besides the teacher's only one person in the class.)

5. They need discipline. They haven't been in the army. (No. They haven't been in the army.)

6. It looks sloppy. (No answer to so subjective a judgment - and so irrelevant.)

7. It makes a mess. (Students or the school should provide ashtrays. Any other mess is anyway cleared away with the daily cleaning.)

8. IT'S A SCHOOL RULE. (No answer to this one.)

Being completely floored by the subtlety of these arguments from people bearing the style lecturer or senior lecturer, I asked my classes not to smoke because it was a school rule. When questioned by my students I agreed that it was a stupid rule.

Basically, I think a teacher has a greater duty to be

truthful and candid to his students than loyal to the administration. On second thoughts that's such an understatement as to be almost disloyal to the students.

After several more attempts to sabotage lunch-time meetings with or without the gramophone, I had decided to have a word with the vice-principal who still had never come to me directly and hinted, let alone complained, at anything being amiss. But my interview was pre-empted.

On the Monday, three weeks after I had started school, I was called to a meeting with the principal and vice-principal and was told that 'owing to an administrative change' my 'services were no longer required'.

I was taken aback. I had thought that I should see the vice-principal and ask him to be open in his criticism seeing as he had sabotaged classes, meetings and discussions - but I really didn't think that the thing could have

gone so far without his saying a word to me. I was wrong.

I asked if the reasons for my dismissal - and I was the first to mention the dirty word - weren't in fact something other than 'administrative'. 'No,' replied the principal, 'they are administrative as much as anything else.'

Though I wasn't as well versed in sophistry as the principal, I felt it fair to ask: 'Administrative as much as WHAT else?' No reply. Noone felt a need to give a reply.

Question rules

I asked whether they did not owe it to me to give a reply. After a while the vice-principal gave as his reason the fact that the students were beginning to question the rules (particularly on smoking). The principal gave as his reason the fact that I had let my own opinions enter into my teaching.

I then learned my lesson -

you see I thought I was in the education game, thought you have to do more than tickle and tease an appetite. The principal defined a good General Studies teacher for me: 'A good General Studies teacher should interest the boys in a number of different ways so that at the end of the year the boys think to themselves: I wonder what his views are.'

I had been a teacher for three weeks - no, in fact I had been a pupil for three weeks. I learned what thousands of young pupils and students learn every day: the system.

It's a real education!

This article is reprinted from the latest issue of Rank and File, a paper for militants in the National Union of Teachers. It is available (1s post free) from 87 Brooke Road/London N16.

French capitalists use devaluation to boost profits

Pompidou prepares for autumn attack on workers' wages and living standards

by IAN BIRCHALL

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The government claims to be controlling prices. What this means in reality is a horde of officials sent to harass small shopkeepers but a purely moral appeal to large industry.

Certainly French capitalists see devaluation as an opportunity for increased profits. Renault, Citroen and the other big car firms have not cut their export prices by anything like the amount of the devaluation.

The attack on the working class is concealed beneath a mass of economic measures that are apparently concessions, but in fact are quite fraudulent. Taxes have been reduced on low incomes, and increased (very marginally) on high incomes.

But if one takes into account last year's 10 per cent wage increase, the effect is a relative increase in taxation. Only the old and sick

benefit by a crumb of charity.

In fact, total taxation revenue rises this year by 12 per cent. The new tax on banks looks radical but in fact well over half the revenue comes from nationalised banks and bank shares showed no sign of alarm.

The government's anti-inflationary measures include cuts in road, home and hospital building. These will not merely cause increased suffering but raise the level of unemployment. There is still, however, enough money to send French troops to back up the corrupt dictatorship in Chad.

In the first instance, then, workers face a defensive struggle. This has already begun with the big strikes on the railways and Paris underground and a lot of smaller strikes from dockers to agricultural teachers. In Corsica, local Action Comm-

itees put up barricades to protest at bad roads and schools.

Most strikes centre on strictly economic issues - the Paris underground workers were aggrieved at a five minute addition to the working day. The generalised demands for workers' control raised last year have disappeared.

But the political implications of the strikes are clear. If all the gains of May 1968 are lost, French workers will face deep demoralisation, which can open the way to a rapid shift to the right in French politics.

One need only compare the late 1930s, when, after the frustration of the Popular Front, the French working class put up no serious resistance to collaboration with Nazism.

Rapid advance

A successful defence of working-class standards, on the other hand, can open the way to rapid political advance. For the French working class is now at a political turning-point.

For 30 years the French Communist Party has been the party of the class. For all its betrayals and opportunism, it gave the class a consciousness of itself and the foundations of marxist education. But this is now at an end.

Throughout the de Gaulle period, the CP courted respectability, seeking, and finding, electoral alliances with the centre. But its respectability is now threatening its hold on the class.

The Communist union, the CGT, faces competition, not so much from revolutionaries, as from the reformist and largely Catholic CFDT. At one printing factory the CGT called a stoppage in protest at a CFDT steward visiting another shop.

Private contacts

The CFDT are distributing to their members extracts from a recently published account of private contacts between the government and CGT leaders during May 1968.

The CP is caught in a cleft stick. To be consistently militant might provoke a situation it could not con-

tol. To continue to seek respectability may endanger its factory base.

So, like Nellie on the bell, it swings to the left and it swings to the right. Recently CGT leader Georges Seguy, in an unprecedented fit of revolutionary euphoria, dared

to prophesy that the Pompidou government might not last out its term of office.

In face of shrieks of protest, he assured the bourgeois press that 'There is no question of a declaration of war on the government'.

Any serious revolutionary group in France realises that it is in no position to offer alternative leadership at the present moment. But a leadership must be built and the bitter defensive struggles of this autumn offer a difficult but crucial opportunity.



Renault workers read of plan to give them company shares

Join the International Socialists

- ABERDEEN Pete Drummond
19 High Street Aberdeen
- ACTON Roger Cox
- Flat 1 37 Queens Drive N4
- ANGEL Barry Huggill
- 154 Downham Road N1
- ASHFORD Phil Evans 'Eastside'
- Ham Street Nr Ashford Kent
- BARNESLEY 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 13
- BRADFORD Neil Patterson
- 25 Fernhill Grove off Park Rd
- BRIGHTON Andrew Moir
- 14 Upper Wellington Road
- BRISTOL B R Horlock
- 26 Elmdale Road Bristol 8
- CAMBRIDGE Tony Needham
- 12a Metcalfe Road
- CAMDEN EAST Lee Kane
- 26 St Paul's Crescent NW1
- CAMDEN WEST Robert MacGibbon
- 22 Estell Rd NW3
- CARDIFF Nigel Walby
- 35 de Burgh Street
- CHELTSEY Kevin O'Connell
- The Flat St Thomas' School
- Eastworth Rd Chertsey Surrey
- CLYDEBANK Eric Duncan
- 1221 Dumbarton Rd Glasgow W4
- COLCHESTER Ian Noble
- 12 Coach Rd Arlesford Wivenhoe 27
- COVENTRY Dave Edwards
- 53 Palmerston Rd Earlsdon
- CRAWLEY Babs Ward 59 Banks
- Rd Poundhill Crawley Sussex
- CROYDON Jenny Woodhams
- 26 Braemar Avenue South Croydon
- DEPTFORD John Ure
- 172a Deptford High Rd SE8
- DONCASTER George Yarrow
- 39 Jossey Lane Scawthorpe
- DURHAM Pam Law
- 16 Hartfield View
- EAST LONDON Bob Light
- 2 Oster Tee Southcoote Rd E17
- EDINBURGH Brian Lavery
- 41 East London Street

- ENFIELD Ian Birchall
- 109 Croyland Rd N9
- FULHAM Brian Rose
- 49 Schubert Road SW15
- GLASGOW North-Ian Mooney
- 4 Dalcross Passage W1
- South-S. Morris 4 Elphinstone
- St Glasgow SW1
- GLOUCESTER Tom Butler
- 36 Brook Street
- GRAYS & TILBURY Alf Waters
- c/o 1 Russell Rd Tilbury Essex
- HAMPSTEAD Chris Barker
- 36 Gliden Road NW5
- HARLOW Hugh Kerr
- 70 Joiners Rd Harlow Essex
- HARROW Kevin Simms
- 56 Salisbury Road
- HAVERING Terry Ward
- 91 Heath Park Rd Gidea Pk
- HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
- John Barrett 20 Belswaines Lane
- HORNSEY Valerie Clark
- 13 Dickinson Rd NS
- ILFORD Lionel Sims
- 16 Madras Rd Ilford 01 478 7311
- IPSWICH Brian Mulvey
- 104 Westbourne Road
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- 37 King Henry's Rd NW3
- KINGSTON John Owen
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- LANCASTER Don Milligan
- 56 Norfolk Street
- LAMBETH Andy Smith
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- LEICESTER Lynette Allham
- Stanford Hall Stoughton Drive
- South Oadby Leics.
- LEEDS Vince Hall
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- 25 Midland Rd Leeds 6
- LOWESTOFT Trevor Moss
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- Manchester 20
- MERSEYSIDE Janice Humphrey
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- MERTON Pam Kelsey
- 47 Richmond Avenue SW20
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- 26 Lesbury Rd Newcastle 6
- NORTHAMPTON Mick Bunting
- 25 Witton Rd Duston
- NORWICH Gerald Crompton
- 220 College Rd NOR 54F
- OXFORD Steve Bolchover
- 181 Ifley Rd
- PORTSMOUTH Alan Sandham
- 43 Marmion Rd Southsea Hants
- POTTERIES Dick Pratt
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- Rd Redcar: Rob Clay 33 Pasture
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- Carpenters Park
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- 34 Whiteside Ave Hindley
- YORK Bob Looker 22 Hobgate
- VICTORIA Tony Dunne
- 14 Carlisle Mansions Carlisle
- Place SW1

Please send further details of the meetings and activities of the International Socialists to:

Name _____

Address _____

Send to 6 Cottons Gardens London E2

Politics in Palestine

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difference between guerrilla groups will become accentuated, but also from the fact that the majority fighters operate from countries in which they are refugees, (eg Palestinians living in Jordan) and as such hold a very tenuous position vis-a-vis the government and its armed forces.

Hussein has already attempted to defeat the guerrilla movement on two occasions and these attacks must be seen as attempts to neutralise Fateh and destroy the Left, eg the DF.

Finally, the concern as to whether the guerrilla groups are anti-Jewish is completely unfounded. Emphasis is made at all levels of the struggle that it is Zionism that is the enemy and the cause of hatred between not only Jews and Arabs, but also between Jews themselves. - STEVE EMMS, London E6.

Grave doubts

DESPITE Stephen Marks' article explaining the tortuous nature of the IS position on

Ireland, many people have very grave doubts on the role of the British troops.

The troops are basically agents of Westminster and British interests even when these diverge from the local Tories and Paisleyites. So far to support them could only be a tactical demand recognising the contradictions in Westminster's and the divergence of Stormont's interests.

But to elevate this tactic to a piece of a strategic demand is very shortsighted, as events have proved. The Belfast Defence Committee are now worse off with a painted line than their own barricades and the troops will now go in with clubs to fulfill the role of the RUC.

I think we should continue to demand their withdrawal and the reunification of Ireland into a socialist republic. It is a long-term demand not a transitional one but we cannot trim in this centrist manner if we are going to keep the respect of the revolutionary elements in this situation. - TERRY BULL, Blackheath, Warley.

DUSTMEN SPARK REVOLT OF LOWER-PAID WORKERS

Bob Light

THE MAGNIFICENT SOLIDARITY of the dustmen has set light to the grievances of under-paid, over-worked local government manual workers. With almost all the 32 London boroughs without refuse collections, the dustmen have been joined by lavatory attendants, road sweepers, welfare department drivers, school bus drivers and park attendants.

The strike that began in Hackney, East London, for £20 a week minimum wage is now supported in parts of Essex, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. Further strike action is likely in Birmingham and Coventry.

Car men walk out on gold-watch boss

SW Reporter

LINWOOD:- Robert Irwin, American boss of Rootes' Scottish plant, was given the cold shoulder by 800 workers on Tuesday when he presented gold watches to blue-eyed 'Stakhanovites' who are prepared to sweep the floor as well as do their normal job.

The rest of the workers walked out and held a meeting outside the Car Assembly Block. The reason for the protest was the management's repeated refusal to honour agreements on present man assignments.

The management have been sending a 'mix' of cars down the line without union agreement and have caused more work for many men.

In spite of stock-piled cars around the plant and the approach of winter and low sales, Rootes want to further expand production in the hope of a boom. They have announced an 80 per cent increase in the speed of the line from next month and the labour force in the CAB will be boosted by 25 per cent.

Rootes workers will have to struggle to maintain their present poor conditions which were brought in with Measured Day Work last year. The demands should be:

1. No speed-up without cast-iron guarantees of no short-time or redundancy.
2. No increase in individual man assignments.

Strikers free arrested steward

EAST KILBRIDE:- Angry demonstrators besieged a black maria and forced the police to release a shop steward who had been arrested for alleged stone throwing. The incident occurred last Wednesday outside the Lanarkshire factory of Better Sound Reproductions where 850 workers have been on official strike since 23 June for recognition of their union, the AEF.

The local district committee of the union had called a token half-day strike in support of the BSR strikers, mainly women. Feelings ran high outside the factory after a week of intimidation of pickets by blacklegs and the hospitalisation of a union official who had been knocked down by a strike-breaker's car.

The strikers' attitude has hardened and they are determined to stick out for victory. * Socialist Worker regrets that the strike was described as unofficial last week.

500 at IS debate

MORE THAN 500 people attended the debate on Which way to socialism? in Brighton last week during the Labour Party conference. Paul Foot and John Palmer spoke for the International Socialists and Sid Bidwell MP and Eric Heffer MP represented the Tribune group of Left MPs. The meeting was organised by Brighton IS branch

The revolt of thousands of workers who take home less than £15 a week for doing society's filthiest jobs has shaken the councils, the Department of Employment and the men's unions.

Following the breakdown of talks in London last Friday, the employers have until today (Thursday) to come up with an acceptable offer at fresh talks in Edinburgh. Failure there will almost certainly mean that the strike will be made official and national.

Union representatives promised the 300 militants who demonstrated outside Friday's meeting that they would recommend official recognition for the strike. Transport Workers' Union secretary Jack Jones is keen to follow up his speech at the Labour Party conference in which he called for a campaign to help lower-paid workers.

FORCE

His support for the dustmen will force the Public Employees and the General and Municipal Workers to also recognise the strike. But if the unions do give official backing, they will effectively drive a dustcart and trailer through their planned negotiations on a wage claim of 18s a week for all the lower-paid grades of local government.

If the unions press their resolution put last Friday for £20 'on the understanding that this figure is reflected in the other groups covered by the national council', then not only the dustmen but most of the other 680,000 workers covered by national negotiating machinery would get the new rate.

The national joint industry council, which is tied to the Prices and Incomes Board's wage norm, would resist any pressure from individual councils to meet a demand like this. Barbara Castle would be forced to intervene to defend wage restraint.

NO STRINGS

The time seems right for some form of 'productivity' package, but at the moment the dustmen are violently against any such deal. Too many of them have had experience of PIB-sponsored bonus schemes, all of which have meant heavy cuts in manning.

The militant dustmen are demanding a straight wage rise, with no strings and no victimisation.

The strike itself is still 100 per cent solid, in spite of attempts by some councils, backed by reactionary local papers, to break their ranks. A mass meeting in Poplar last Thursday voted to set up a shop stewards' action committee to co-ordinate the work of local strike committees.

The strike committee are maintaining 24-hour pickets on all depots and on streets where market rubbish is piling up. Attempts by council-hired blacklegs to move garbage have been largely defeated and strikers are appealing to workers in the Greater London Council to refuse to distribute plastic bags to residents.

No pong at the top

Readers will be relieved to know that the delicate nostrils of Her Majesty and Mr Wilson will not be offended by mounting rubbish. Their dwellings have been supplied with large hygienic skips - delivered by blackleg labour, of course.



Tube workers protest at press blackout

Ted Wheeler

LONDON UNDERGROUND engineers and fitters claimed this week that the management are running trains in need of repair in a bid to break their two-week old strike.

The press blackout on the strike, the men feel, is the result of pressure from London Transport, who do not want to alarm passengers about the state of the trains. The strikers, from the LT's Acton depot, demonstrated in Fleet Street last week and on Monday lobbied the headquarters of the management, in Baker Street.

When a deputation saw the chief industrial relations officer of London Transport, he told them that he knew very little about the dispute.

The strike was caused by the management's failure to honour a manning agreement with the men's union, the AEF. This was first broken in October 1968 by the management and the union banned overtime and stopped staff movements between shops.

REFUSED

The present dispute started when the instructor to the mechanical apprentices went on holiday and the management refused to allow his deputy to start unless a fitter from another shop took his place. Acting on union instructions, the fitter reported for work and was clocked out for refusing to obey the foreman.

Acton AEF stopped work and were followed by other LT depots at Northfield, Ruislip, Neasden, Hainault, Cockfosters, Hammersmith, Ealing and Lillie Bridge.

The tragedy of the situation is that AEF men are fighting alone and other union

members are still at work. This is the result of the failure of the Joint Works Committee, which is sharply divided along craft lines, with 50 per cent of the members in the NUR and the rest divided between the AEF, EETU-PTU and NUVB.

It is imperative not only for this strike but for the future that the JWC should be revived and turned into a fighting body of all the unions.

The executive committee of the AEF declared the strike official on Tuesday.

* Donations to: D. Roberts, 39 Sherwood Road, Harrow, Middlesex.

TUC tells strikers to join blackleg union

from page one

hearing, which did not listen to the men's case.

O'Farrell lobbied the union leaders at the Brighton Labour Party conference last week to ensure that an appeal is lodged against the TUC's decision. He was told that this was the only possible course of action.

A TUC spokesman said this week that theoretically the AEF could ask the disputes committee to reconsider its decision but in general such appeals can only be made annually at the Trades Union Congress. This would mean that the JM strikers would have to wait until September 1970 for their case to be brought up.

The pickets say that local AEF-sponsored Labour MPs have been no help to them. Most serious of all, there has been no attempt to impose a national policy of blacking supplies to the group's factories.

Transport Workers' Union officials have accepted the company's version that it is an 'inter-union' dispute and have told their drivers to deliver to the Enfield factory, although this means breaking an official picket line. Oil

Ballot gives EETU right wing tight control

by an electrician

'IT NOW CAN be fairly said that the power has been put back in the hands of the members.' So wrote John Freeman, then editor of the New Statesman and now British ambassador in Washington, in his introduction to All Those in Favour, an account of the Electrical Trades Union high court trial that threw out the old Communist leadership and installed Les Cannon and his colleagues.

But in the years since the trial, the EETU-PTU, to give it its new technological-age title, has moved further away from the members' control. The leaders have instituted a full-time executive, done away with rank and file area committees, amalgamated branches under full-time officials and allowed the branches no appeal against executive decisions.

SELECTION

And with the recent ballot on rule changes coming out in the executive's favour, rank and file appeals committees and trustees are abandoned and the selection of officials is allowed, Cannon and co would seem to be in complete control. Militant sparks and plumbers will find the task of bringing even an element of rank and file control to the union even more difficult.

But the ballot result itself seems to indicate an area where much could be done. Only 70,000 of the 350,000 ballots issued were returned and there are a large number of EETU-PTU members either uncommitted or apathetic. Attempts must be made to reach them.

In the past, various ETU action committees have tended to look inward and concern themselves more with branch activity and having 'lefts' elected to union office (most of these selling out to the executive) without reaching the average union members. But with the possibility of a national paper being supported by the action committees, it should be possible to spread the real facts about the operations of the executive.

WEAKEN

EETU-PTU members must be shown where the policies of their right-wing leaders will lead. Their support for the Labour government's Incomes Policy, wage freeze and the pressure they exert to put various productivity deals into operation will weaken shop-floor organisation and cause difficulties in the years ahead when attempts are made to gain wage increases within these agreements. Already there are rumb-

lings in the electricity supply industry where a productivity deal, supported by the union, has been in operation for a few years now. Although the real effects of the Joint Industry Board in contracting are still to be felt, the government said in a recent report on the contracting industry that 'The industry's customers should now expect - in fact they should demand - a rapid improvement in the use of labour by the industry, leading to a reduction in costs and prices'.

We know who will bear the brunt of any cuts in prices and increases in productivity: the sparks on the sites, as usual.

EETU-PTU members must realise that although some short-term gains in wage rates may be made, the union's continued implementation of government policy before their members' interests must eventually end in worsening conditions.

Rank and file members now have an uphill fight to regain control of their union, with amalgamation with the General and Municipal Workers on the cards (to give Cannon an anti-left block vote at the TUC) and the continued use of the ballot to counter any anti-executive votes at union conference. But it is a fight that can and must be won if the EETU-PTU is ever really to reflect the aspirations of its members.

Strike halts GEC Mersey factories

THE THREE Merseyside GEC-English Electric plants threatened with massive redundancies and closure were hit by strike action on Tuesday. 2100 members of the AEF closed the Netherton section and held up production at the Napier factory on the East Lancs Road.

Mass pickets are on duty at all three factories. Stewards allege that the management broke an AEF overtime ban by using staff workers at the weekend to do maintenance work.

100,000 out

100,000 Italian metalworkers held a demonstration in Milan on Tuesday to demand higher wages, shorter working hours and more freedom for unions in the factories. It was the latest in the series of mass strikes that has swept Italy in recent weeks.

* See next week's Socialist Worker for a full analysis

NOTICES

DISCUSSION on 'The work of the IS teachers' group' Sunday 19 October, 6 Cottons Gardens, E2. All IS members welcome. 2 pm.

Prepayment essential for notices. 1s a line, average 5 words a line. Deadline Tuesday.

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