



TORIES LASH OUT!

BILL TO KILL TRADE UNIONISM

The Tories have a bill ready to kill trade unionism. A Discussion Statement has been circulated containing the provisions of the bill but, whilst calling for comment, makes it clear that the government does not intend to depart from any of its main provisions.

Of course, the Tories, like their predecessors in government, will protest that they are not out to kill trade unionism, simply to provide a legal framework in which unions and employers can peacefully coexist.

Space does not permit a full recital of all that is going into this bill. A look at its main provisions will suffice to show that trade unions conforming to this bill would be rendered impotent and therefore virtually dead.

ON TRADE UNION RULES. The bill stipulates that the rules must conform with legal standards laid down in the bill. To this end the registrar is to be given new powers enforceable in court. The power to enter any trade union office and demand to see any documents. The purpose - "to safeguard the public interest." But trade unions do not exist to safeguard the interest of any but its members. One can see where the Tories find a basis for this thinking when recalling Victor Feather's much applauded statement at this year's TUC, "One man's strike is another man's lay-off." In this respect whatever militant postures are now struck by Labour Party and trade union leaders, it must be recognised that no Tory bill of this kind would ever have been envisaged but for the efforts of the Labour government to draft similar legislation.

It must be remembered too that at the TUC this year trade union leaders who supported Wilson and Castle up to the hilt were to the fore in condemning the Conservative bill. But they must bear a large measure of responsibility for it. When they

lend their support to the principle of state control of trade unions they cannot with any credibility argue about what forms that state control assumes. They may rightly condemn the fact that under the Carr Bill a trade union will no longer have any legal right within its rules to determine who may or may not be admitted to membership or be excluded from membership. Easy enough to denounce the parts but they do not seriously disapprove of the whole and its purpose.

Generally the Carr bill is concerned with the rules and practices of trade unions and contains specific rules for regulating both by the state with a legal apparatus to do the job.

It specifies what it terms "unfair actions" and these are to be dealt with by Industrial Tribunals and a National Industrial Relations Court with the powers of the High Court.

A look at what the bill regards as "unfair actions" gives a fair idea of what will be left of trade unionism as we have known it if the bill becomes law and is put into effect.

Any action to deal with non-unionists. The non-unionist is protected under the bill. Any action to deal with blacklegs. "Unofficial" strikes become illegal and workers subject to punishment. Official strikes subject to secret ballot and provisions for "cooling off" period where the state decides that it is in the "public interest." Sympathetic strikes and blacking of work are illegal and punishable. In fact every facet of this bill is an attack on trade unions. To project an image of fairness all round there are certain proposals which to those outside might appear to be advantageous to workers: such as access to information from the employers as to the state of the company, etc and the recognition of trade unions is compulsory where a majority of workers

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October 6th. A thousand council workers demonstrate outside County Hall, London. County Hall canteen staff and messengers stopped work from that day throwing the GLC into chaos.

COUNCIL WORKERS STRIKE

TROOPS SENT IN

At 2am in the morning of the 24th of October, soldiers from the Grenadier Guards and the Royal Engineers were sent in to the Borough of Tower Hamlets to clear piles of rubbish. The main target was Petticoat Lane Market.

This was made possible by the double-dealing of Union leaders. A few days before troops moved in Bernard Dix, leading official of N.U.P.E. told the Swindon Council workers not to blame the troops if they were called in for having to do a dirty job. The following statement by Derek Gladwin, secretary of the trade union side of the National Joint Council which decides council workers' pay, was even more illuminating: "Because of the danger to public health and as the men had already refused to go back to work, the Government should make whatever decision they felt necessary."

"It was unfortunate," he added, "that the situation had got to the point where the Government was put into the position of having to use troops. But it is inevitable in this kind of situation."

Let it not be forgotten either, that it was a Labour Council in Tower Hamlets which asked for Government assistance, proving the real role of the Labour Party, an enemy of the working class. Also it exposed those who would try to elevate to the position of heroes those Labour Councils which have conceded the 55s. If they had been so concerned about the workers it would not have taken a strike to make them cough up.

ALL UNITED

In spite of the vacillations shown by the TU negotiators, workers have responded almost 100% to the strike call, with even non-union members stopping in support. Sewage and refuse have been hit the hardest, while highways, parks, schools and welfare have all stopped to varying degrees. The strikes have affected every sphere of manual work, from municipal port workers at Ramsgate to the women who serve the Council officials with their tea. In many areas lorry drivers have been called out in all departments, causing the maximum havoc with the minimum men on strike.

Although N.A.L.G.O. has instructed staff members not to blacklog it has not seriously tried to prevent it. Many staff members have co-operated. Where they have not workers have operated retaliatory measures.

WORKERS DEMONSTRATE

Throughout the country council workers have not only been on strike, they have also demonstrated in support of their claim. Everywhere pickets are out.

BRIXTOL, during the first days of the strike, went one better by padlocking three refuse tips and barricading a fourth. On October 24th thousands of workers marched on the Town Hall.

ST. HELENS, LANCS. 150 strikers staged a sit-in inside the council offices.

At SWINDON, where the use of troops has been constantly threatened, workers attacked the territorial army headquarters. A meeting of several thousand strikers and supporting factory workers was deliberately drowned out by the playing of records on the loudspeaker system of the nearby army headquarters. Workers rushed the building.

LONDON. On October 6th a thousand council workers demonstrated outside County Hall. Canteen staff in the building walked out in support as well as messengers throwing County Hall into chaos.

NEWCASTLE. On October 23rd three thousand council workers demonstrated in the centre of the city.

Council workers throughout Britain are in the forefront of the fight against the Government's anti-working class policies. It is the duty of all workers to support the council workers' fight.

Editorial

THE ARMED STATE AND THE WORKING CLASS

Heath went to New York and used the occasion of the U.N. anniversary to address the world in the name of British capitalism. He referred to the new "cult of violence" which threatens established regimes based on the "peaceful" exploitation of workers. He warned that the main danger "we face in the 'Seventies is not war between nations but civil war."

He quoted, as one example, the crucial division in Britain, which for him includes Northern Ireland, as not being between Protestants and Catholics but between those who are prepared to wait submissively for reforms and those "who reach for the gun."

But in the context of the "danger of civil war" this applies as much to workers in Britain as to the people of Northern Ireland.

There is nothing new about the cult of violence. It is and always has been the basis of capitalist rule. The only guarantee that the capitalist class in Britain can go on reaping profits at the expense of workers is the threat of armed force—the police and the army.

Just as the only guarantee that the capitalist class in Britain can go on exploiting the semi-colonial peoples of Africa and Asia is a British military presence which can protect investments by force. Hence Heath's plea at the U.N. for understanding for Britain's need to co-

operate with South Africa in maintaining naval strength in the Indian Ocean.

The use of British troops as strike breakers in Tower Hamlets, as they were used by Labour before to break a strike in the docks, is just a bit of sabre rattling to remind workers of the armed violence at the command of the capitalist state.

The October Revolution was the first demonstration that workers could take state power, but only by meeting the reactionary violence of the Czarist regime and the imperialist interventionists with revolutionary violence. Since then workers in other parts of the world have overthrown their exploiters but never peacefully never without civil war. Heath is right about the prospect of the 'Seventies.

But those who have tried to mislead workers, the social democrats and after Stalin's death the Khrushchevite revisionists, urge a peaceful transition to socialism—socialism without tears by means of Parliamentary elections.

Heath knows that the workers of Britain are beginning to see through this attempt to disarm them in the face of their class enemy. The massive abstention of workers in the last General Election proves it.

Heath therefore says that the main danger in the 'Seventies is civil war. Let the workers of Britain prepare themselves accordingly.

"UNION LEADER'S DILEMMA"
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"Clobber the poor" budget

Barber's mid-year budget is a straight piece of capitalist class legislation to transfer money from the pockets of the workers to the pockets of employers. By swiping the children's milk, robbing the ill and fining those who try to educate themselves, the Tories have scraped together a tidy little hoard to give to the rich in the form of reduced income and corporation tax.

This mini-budget points out the mistake the working class makes whenever it depends on the "welfare state." The employing class, operating through either the Labour or Tory party, can give away a bit with one hand and then take it back with the other.

The only real welfare state is one which the workers operate and control themselves, in the interests of the people rather than in the interests of big business. Workers have had to fight to get social services which capitalist governments can take back when it suits them. They must fight harder to be able to set up their own social welfare which no one will ever be able to take away from them.

Incidentally, a lot of pacifists have been arguing that arms expenditure ought to be cut so that the money could be spent on schools, hospitals, etc. Barber HAS clipped a bit off arms, but it certainly is not going to be spent on the people. Capitalist governments, Labour or Tory, exist to benefit capitalists.

IRISH STRUGGLE HOTS UP

British Imperialism in Northern Ireland has just come to the end of a "long hot summer" and what lies ahead in the coming months must surely turn out to be a "winter of discontent." Ever since the massive build-up of British troops began last year, there has been almost constant resistance from the people in many parts of the six counties.

Violent clashes with the Military took place in Belfast and Derry last Easter, and again in June. On July 12th the British Army turned whole areas of Belfast into an armed camp out of fear that opposition to the Unionist "festival of hate" on that day might escalate into a situation which they could not control. A week earlier there had been the rape of the Lower Falls area of Belfast in an army search which showed to all who were not yet aware of it the precise role of British troops in Ireland.

During the first week of August a young worker was shot dead in Belfast, and this led to still more direct action against the Army in Belfast, Derry, Coalisland and elsewhere. There were further clashes on August 12th when the Army sealed Derry off from the outside world and restricted the movement of the population within the city itself. During recent weeks the apologists of British Imperialism have been claiming that the unrest in Ulster is on the wane, but recent renewed fighting in Derry indicates that, if anything, the struggle is escalating.

Feeling against the Army is high, and it will continue high as long as the occupation of N. Ireland by British troops continues. The troops are there to maintain the exploitation of Irish workers by British monopoly capital. They are there to protect British investments and to ensure the adaptation of Britain's colony of Northern Ireland to the new neo-colonial era which imperialism has entered - a task which the puppet government at Stormont has proved itself incapable of fulfilling. They are also there to enforce the continued partition of Ireland in the interests of British monopoly capital. As long as the British occupation of Ireland continues, resistance to it by the Irish people will grow ever fiercer.

The same class that profits from the exploitation of workers in the six counties also exploits workers in Britain. The same

Army that now confronts the people of Belfast and Derry will sooner or later be turned against workers this side of the Irish Sea. With all their batons, CS gas, rubber bullets and, ultimately, machine guns, armoured cars and tanks. The CPB(ML) therefore calls upon all workers in Britain to support the struggle of the Irish people as a struggle in their own class interests, and as a struggle against a common enemy.

VIETNAMESE ANSWER NIXON

The much-heralded 'peace' proposals of President Nixon can be thrown on the rubbish heap along with all the other attempts of US imperialism to get the Vietnamese people to hand over what the US aggressors have failed to win by force. The so-called "major new initiative for peace in Indo-China" has nothing in it either "new" or "major" and has deceived no one except those who want to be fooled - like those in Britain who have always supported the US war of aggression.

The five-point proposals were absolutely rejected by both the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government in the South as aiming at "legalising the US military occupation and depriving the South Vietnamese people and the peoples of Laos and Cambodia of their sacred and inviolable right of self-defence." The only basis for peace in Vietnam or Indo-China generally is the same now as ever since the US began the war - immediate withdrawal, totally and unconditionally, of all US and satellite troops.

The US Government with the support of certain tame British generals boast about the success of the Vietnamisation programme, the old "let gooks fight gooks" theory of waging colonial wars painlessly. If it were such a success, the US COULD withdraw its troops. Perhaps somebody showed President Nixon the CIA report that thousands of patriotic Vietnamese have penetrated the Thieu-Ky apparatus right up to the highest levels. It has been estimated that over 10% of the personnel in the puppet government are members of the Front for National Liberation.

OCTOBER REVOLUTION BETRAYED

The CPB(ML) joins with Marxist-Leninists all over the world in celebrating the 53rd Anniversary of the October Revolution when the workers and peasants of Russia led by the great Lenin and guided by the Bolshevik Party established the first workers' state in the world and defended it against all attempts by the imperialist powers to strangle socialism in its cradle. After Lenin's death the great Stalin led the Soviet people in constructing a socialist society strong enough to withstand and defeat the fascist hordes and liberate all Eastern Europe from Nazi barbarism. In the period following the anti-fascist war the Soviet Union under Stalin's leadership blocked the attempts of U.S. imperialists to bring the whole world under capitalist domination and supported the world's peoples in their resistance to imperialism.

Today the revisionist leaders of the Soviet Union, who usurped power after Stalin's death and restored capitalism inside the country, join with the U.S. imperialists in an attempt to crush liberation struggles, attack the bastion of socialism People's China and share with the U.S. world hegemony. To consider the acts of the traitors who temporarily rule the Soviet Union on this eve of the Anniversary of the October Revolution is a matter of bitter irony for the workers of the world - but something from which they will not fail to draw the right lessons about the need for vigilance once working class power has been won.

In the last few days the Soviet revisionist leadership has:

- (1) Warned Syria and Iraq not to intervene in Jordan in support of the Palestinian liberation movement lest it upset their plans for a deal with the U.S. securing their own position in the Middle East through the Four-Power negotiations;
- (2) Used the detente with Western Germany to move the bulk of their armed forces along the frontier with China. Soviet troops, according to American observers, are much further forward in relation to the Chinese border than anywhere in Europe;
- (3) Took part through their mouthpiece, Lomynko, in joint discussions with Nixon for granting his 'aid' schemes to hoodwink the world's people;
- (4) Proceeded with throwing open the Soviet

Union to foreign capitalist enterprise on the precedent of the Fiat agreement and the exploitation rights in Siberia ceded to Japanese interests. The most recent negotiations are with the notorious British Rio Tinto Zinc combine which operates mines in Rhodesia and many other parts of the world.

But as Chairman Mao Tseung has said: "Although the leadership of the Soviet Party and state has now been usurped by revisionists, I would advise comrades to remain firm in the conviction that the masses of the Soviet people and of Party members and cadres are good, and that they desire revolution and that revisionist rule will not last long."

Join Us in Celebrating the 53rd
Anniversary of the
GREAT OCTOBER
REVOLUTION

An address on Its Significance
for British Workers

and Film Show, "Storm over
Asia", Pudovkin's Great Work
on the Defeat of Imperialism
in the Asian Far East.

Saturday, November 7th
7.30 p.m.

155 Fortess Road NW5
(Tufnell Park Tube Station)

Admission 3/6

"It was for the Jews to prove themselves worthy of that confidence... Even though the land could not yet absorb 16 millions, nor even 8, enough could return. If not to form the Jewish state, at least to prove that the enterprise was one which blessed him that gave as well as him that took by forming for England 'a little Jewish Ulster' in a sea of potentially hostile Arabism."

Memoirs of Sir Ronald Storrs,
British military governor of
Palestine in 1918

STRIKES SWEEP BRITAIN . . . STRIKES SWEEP BRITAIN

The reason why the capitalists need the Tories' new anti-trade union laws with 60-day strike bans called "cooling-off periods" etc. is made clear in the latest figures on wages and strikes. In the first 8 months of this year approximately 7.2 million workers have had increases in their basic pay, averaging just over 9%, while overall earnings went up by about 12%. In the same period last year only 3.4 million workers got increases in basic pay, and these only averaged about 4%. These increases were not handed out by the generosity of the employers, but were won because workers were prepared to fight. There were 8.6 million working days involved in strikes in the first eight months of this year as against only 3.6 million last year. The engineering industry had most strikes with 1.3 million working days, more than double last year's figure. White-collar workers are learning from other workers that they have to fight for their demands. Their strikes in the first eight months of this year have gone up to half a million working days, nine times last year's figure.

COUNCIL WORKERS

Making their contribution to European Conservation Year, local authorities all over the country have been doing their best to make the public pollution-conscious. Free outdoor exhibitions of the latest types of rubbish were provided on the streets and untreated sewage poured into the rivers. The councils had decided to fight the manual workers' demands for an extra 55s. a week to give a basic minimum wage of £16.10s. The offer from the employers' national negotiating team started at 34s. extra for men and 28s. 11d. for women, then went up another 2s. before negotiations broke down and the strike began. More and more workers came out on strike and after a few weeks there were 80,000 on strike and another 75,000 banning overtime and going slow out of a total of 770,000 involved in the claim. At Swindon, workers from local factories joined striking council workers in a march on October 9th. At this stage the employers united front was beginning to crack as increasing numbers of councils agreed to pay the full increases demanded. On October 16th the national negotiations raised the offer from 14% to 15% meaning 30s. backdated to Sept 28th and a further 10s. from next April for the majority of the workers. The Greater London Council, although weakened by the decision of Barking to pay the full 55s., took a tough line on the strike. Mr. Leslie Freeman of the GLC establishment committee added to the month's output of rubbish by calling the extra 1% offer "gener-

ous by any standard". But the GLC had been warned by a meeting on the steps of County Hall which passed a resolution that "In the light of the vicious campaign by the Tories it is incumbent on us to stand up to these attacks, and accept nothing less than 55s. If they call the troops in, we shall call for a national strike". The call for a national strike if troops were used was also made by the co-ordinating committee of shop stewards for the strike in London. If troops were used, the government would not only be faced with massive opposition from the workers but it would have problems with the morale of the soldiers. Imagine being lured to join the Army by adverts stressing time spent on sunny foreign beaches and then spending your time staggering through



BRITISH LEYLAND

All 1,100 piece workers at the Austin Morris assembly plant at Cowley, Oxford went on strike for a month demanding to receive average earnings according to long-standing practice when production of a new model is building up - the ADO 28 which comes in at the end of the Morris Minor run. The cost of the claim that the management refused to meet was only 2d or 3d an hour and they were hoping to weaken the men by provoking a long strike, thus making it easier for them to abandon piece-work in favour of measured day work. The threat is that in the future, if faced with an apparently tempting initial offer, many men will be unable to face another long strike and will accept measured day work. The average payments offered during changeover of models would mean a loss in earnings for men in some shops.

Meanwhile the Motor Show provided the usual opportunity for Lord Stokes etc. to complain about strikes and wage demands ruining export sales. But motor industry workers need not regret if their employers are no longer making such vast profits out of them. And British car workers are not alone. In the USA the world's biggest company, General Motors, has been closed down by a strike, while the president of Renault, France's largest motor manufacturer, was heard to moan that "the ink is hardly dry when new wage demands are

put forward." Foreign workers are not docile sheep waiting to be fleeced either.

TRAWLERSMEN

Aberdeen trawlersmen, who usually set the pace for the rest of the industry, have won increases of £2 9s a week. This represents a 12% increase on the basic wage of £21 which is the highest for the industry. At Grimsby, trawlersmen hope to match up to Aberdeen with a 20% claim for an extra £3 14s.

PILKINGTONS

On October 13th most of the building workers on the site in the middle of St Helens were sacked for taking part in a demonstration through the town in support of 200

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

workers sacked from the Pilkington glass-workers after the unsuccessful August strike for recognition of their new union. The building site was completely closed down when 16 men who had not been sacked joined their 59 workmates outside on the picket line.

UPPER CLYDE SHIPBUILDERS

2,000 boilermakers at the three yards went on strike for 13 days from the beginning of October. They wanted a 3s 9d increase in the basic hourly rate of 12s 3d. But once again the threat of UCS bankruptcy was used to get the men back to work with only the promise of a review of productivity bonuses.

ROLLS ROYCE

The 13-week lockout of 950 draughtsmen at Rolls-Royce's two Coventry factories ended on October 14th. The lockout started on July 14th following local strike action by 24 men. This was in support of a claim for "a substantial increase." At present the Rolls-Royce draughtsmen get £34 7s 10d a week at age 30, nearly £7 less than Rootes draughtsmen in Coventry. The management locked out the Coventry draughtsmen when they refused to accept the company's "final offer" of a 7% increase, which was claimed to be all Rolls-Royce could afford. In fact Rolls-Royce have just had a £20 million government loan and made £16 million profit last year. Finally

the "final" 7% offer worth £2 5s to £2 15s a week was replaced by a 12% offer for Coventry. The lesson that determination pays off should be obvious, especially to those of the 7,500 Rolls-Royce draughtsmen who had already accepted the 7% offer.

SILVER WORKERS

300 workers at British Silverware's Sheffield factory went on strike because six of their colleagues were suspended for a day for coming late to work. One man was suspended for being seven minutes late. The men were especially angry because for many years the factory had operated on piecework as there was not enough work to give each man an eight-hour day. So a man would arrive at a time to suit himself, complete his work and go home. But a new management had decided that the men should start work at 8 a.m. each day even though this meant men would finish work by noon.

FEREDCO

The strike by 250 maintenance engineers at Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire, continued into its third month. The men, demanding an extra £10 a week have rejected various offers from the management, the latest of which gives increases between £2 5s and £5 15s on the basic rates and improved incentive payments.

MINERS

When the National Coal Board only offered half the increases claimed by Britain's coal miners a ballot on a national strike was held. The claim was for increases of up to 33% - a £5 increase to £20 in minimum weekly rates for 67,500 surface workers, a £6 increase to £22 for 233,000 underground workers and a £5 3s increase to £30 for 67,000 coalface workers. In a high poll 55.5% voted for a strike but union rules say there has to be a 2/3 majority. In areas like S. Wales and Scotland, the votes in favour were 83% and 78%. So although these areas would be badly hurt by the Coal Board's threat of pit closures, this has not broken their militancy. The ballot result should not be a setback for the miners if they use the simple facts that a majority are for strike action and that coal stocks are very low. The steel industry has only two weeks stock, and power stations six weeks. Despite all the ballyhoo about North Sea gas the miners have the power to win their just demands if they do not let the Coal Board and the government wriggle off the hook.

On October 27th a majority of the miner's union executive accepted an increase of 10s on the previous NCB offer. But tens of thousands of miners in Scotland, S. Wales, Yorkshire and Kent voted against the offer with their feet. The mass walkout closed dozens of pits.

To "The Worker":

Here's a small piece of information for you. Lord Robens came out with a lying statement last week on Yorkshire television saying that miners no longer used picks and shovels.

There is nobody rather than me wishing this was true; but it's not true because picks and shovels are still used extensively. D.T., Carlton Notts.

Last Week we advertised a vacancy for a semi-skilled worker - one small paragraph in the Sits. General column of a regional evening paper. In response, we received more than forty applications. Of these, seventeen were from skilled workers; electricians, plumbers, welders. Time served workers with two factors in common. All were in their late fifties and all had been made redundant, many of them almost a year ago.

I use the term "been made redundant" rather than "had become redundant" because these men hadn't ceased to be skilled workers, nor has this country ceased to need skilled labour. Nor were these men desirous of being put out to grass, no matter how lushly the pasture is sown with redundancy pay.

No matter that the Government has provided for Industrial Re-training, this does not affect the man within five years or so of retirement. The Government, naturally, would be loathe to spend money on the re-training of people who can only be required to provide five years of productive work.

Money, however, is not the prime consideration where these men are concerned - men who are unnaturally unemployable at an age when they physically and mentally need work.

Perhaps, with so much publicity given to increasing (enforcing) leisure, the time has come to state again man's inalienable right to, and need for, the dignity of productive labour.

To force a skilled, able man to endure the indignity of begging for an unskilled job (and, the Employer's dream, undercutting each other in an attempt to secure employment) is a symptom of something worse than social malaise. It is a cancer that will spread - a morbid ill that must be cured before time ensures that we have men in their mid-forties joining the ranks of the redundant.

The Department of Employment and Productivity says "They would try to find suitable vacancies, but of course, their age is against them." How successful are they at placing these men? The Department can't be sure, they don't keep separate records.

Several employers have said they would prefer to take on younger married men, but would employ an older man in a menial capacity, a messenger for instance.

Trade Unions offer additional benefits and reunion dinners.

I wasn't around in the 1930's. These men were. Surely once in a man's life is too often to have to beg for work.

S.C., Salford.

INDIAN REACTIONARY SILENCED

At the end of September Sardar Prakash Singh Badal, Chief Minister of Punjab, India, visited Britain primarily to obtain more British investments for the further exploitation of the Indian peasants and workers, but also to justify his government's fascist measures against the revolutionaries of CPI(ML). In recent months there has been a reign of terror directed against old men and women, children, young people, everybody suspected of helping the guerrillas in district after district of the Punjab.

Militant Indian workers therefore felt that the visit of this butcher and defender of landlords and capitalists could not go unchallenged. Although a mere handful, they organised their plans very skillfully. They took up positions inside the cinema hall where the chief minister was being feted. The lackeys had started speaking with effusive loyalty and firm assurance that Naxalite vermin had no foothold in Southall and the Chief Minister and his Party were basking in a sense of security when suddenly the slogans began from all parts of the crowded hall. "Long Live Naxalbari!" "Long Live the armed revolutionary road of CPI(ML)!" "Down with lackeys of imperialism!" etc.

The organisers were completely stunned and the Chief Minister visibly frightened. Just as the Mayor of Ealing was about to enter the hall in full regalia there was complete uproar as militant workers jumped on the stage and completely took over the meeting. His Honour had one look and decided that discretion was the better part of community relations. Robes, chains and all he beat a hasty exit; but not much quicker than the Chief Minister whose departure could have established a record in high speed sprinting. By the time the police

UNION LEADERS' DILEMMA

For over a month council workers have been on strike. Selective strikes have swept the country, involving at least 70,000 workers.

The unity and determination is on a far higher plane than any previous struggle of council manual workers. They are in the forefront of the struggle against the government's plans to break the strength of the working class by shackling the Trade Unions. In their discussions in meetings and on picket lines council workers have shown that they are aware of this fact and are prepared to hold the line.

In contrast, the leadership of the three main unions involved, N.U.P.E., Transport & General Workers and General & Municipal, have been at all times throughout the strike ready to take to their heels. Even when calling the strike they allowed a month to elapse, which gave the management and government time to prepare. Apart from this, the leadership knew very well, as do all council workers, that August would have been a far better month to begin a strike, while the weather was hot.

ENQUIRY

The decision to agree to a so-called independent enquiry, at a time when councils are caving in all over the country was a

THE ARMED CAPITALIST STATE AGAINST WORKERS IN BRITAIN AND ABROAD

- 1949 Troops sent into the London docks by the Labour Government to break the strike of dock workers.
- 1969 British troops protecting British imperialist interests in Northern Ireland against the Irish people.
- 1970 Troops used by the present Tory Government in Labour-controlled Tower Hamlets as scabs in the strike of council workers.



TWO FIRES

As it is, the Union leaders are still under suspension for their disastrous handling of the 1969 unofficial refuse strike. During negotiations they threw away a good deal of the gains which had been won without their assistance, by agreeing to a new graduated wage structure. They came under a lot of criticism from the membership over this.

By the time annual wage talks came round again in September, the Union's leaders found themselves caught between two fires. On the one hand a Government that they feared and on the other a hitherto docile membership that had found its voice during last year's unofficial strike. When the Joint Industrial Council met, it was obvious that the workers, who had been fiddled out of their last year's claim for £5 per week, could not be fobbed off with a few shillings. So that even the fear of a strike won a first offer of 34s. There was no way out for the Union leaders. They knew that if they did not launch the strike as promised the members would do it anyway.

There should be no surprise, therefore, when these same "leaders" help prepare the way for the use of troops. By doing so they are driving yet one more nail into their own coffins.

arrived there were no VIPs and scarcely any audience.

So impressive was the blow struck against the Chief Minister's visit that a speech he was to have made in Birmingham was hastily cancelled lest Birmingham workers imitate their Southall mates.

The success of the Southall incident when a handful of revolutionary workers could frustrate the plans of a much larger body protected by the police shows what political planning and daring can achieve even without the support of self-appointed "Marxist-Leninists" and "Maoists" whose deeds don't match their revolutionary talk.

WE'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE

The Tories are using the "threat of Russia" to justify their policy of strengthening the military presence of British imperialism in the region of the Indian Ocean in collaboration with South Africa.

This has a very familiar sound. After the Second World War NATO forces were maintained in Western Europe for protection. It was said, against the alleged possibility of a Russian invasion. But these NATO troops, armed by the US, were actually used against Algerian workers in revolt against French colonialism; they are still being used against workers and peasants in Portuguese Africa; and when de Gaulle was faced with the May-June rebellion of workers and students, he made sure the French NATO troops in Germany were ready if he needed them to restore order in France.

The only trouble with using the "Russian threat" argument today is that, at the very time Heath was addressing the UN, Nixon and Gromyko were cordially exchanging views on how the US and the USSR could work together, under cover of joint "aid" schemes, to share the exploitation of the rest of the world.

POLLUTION, CHAOS & CLASS STRUGGLE

The cries of pious horror that have come from the various quarters of the ruling class establishment, at the prospect of an increase in pollution during the council workers strike, is yet another example of the continuous stream of cant and hypocrisy that pollutes the mass-media daily. The capitalists, in their mad scramble for profits, have built up their industrial plants without any concern for pollution, the natural environment, and worst of all without concern for the conditions of life of the very workers that built and run these plants. Now these very same gentlemen, behind their hired army of journalists, TV interviewers etc, pour moral condemnation on the sewage workers because the rivers may become polluted, since they had the temerity to go out on strike merely to demand a living wage.

The employers were initially worried on the grounds that they would have to pay up, but now a bigger worry must be nagging at the whole of the ruling class. The chaos that has been caused, the monumental blocking up of streets with rubbish, has once again shown, as did the earlier dustmen's strike, that though the working class could well do without the employers, the employers most certainly cannot do without the workers.

The fact that a few weeks strike by just one section of the working class can have such effect, means that if the working class as a whole were to act in unison the employing class could be held to ransom. Capitalist state power would be tottering. Only one thing further would be needed to consign the ruling class to the rotting garbage heaps, the determination and organisation of the working class forcibly to seize state power.

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BILL TO KILL TRADE UNIONISM

is for it. The fact is, of course, that these "advantages" are either quite useless or where they are necessary to the workers they have always been able to secure them without any outside help.

A recalled TUC is to be convened. What this body is able or prepared to do to defeat the Tory bill is open to question in face of all precedent. One thing is certain, it must not be allowed to bargain and in terms of outright and complete opposition it must not be allowed to obstruct all those who would take direct action.

How can workers expect those who have pursued all their lives a policy of class collaboration to lead workers in struggle against a bill which in fact spells out the long-cherished ideas of class collaborationists. The bill is aimed at imposing peace in industry whereas workers know they can only advance by struggle. They can only survive by struggle. Furthermore that struggle must take on political character to secure the real aims of the working class.

In this respect there are dangers which workers must be alive to. There are those who will seek to channel opposition to the Tory bill into the safe area - that is, to argue that the bill can only be dealt with in terms of a Labour government pledged to repeal it. What a hope! But this is really what the "lefts" are saying when you really get down to it.

Another danger is that many workers will take a fairly natural position. Let them get on with their bill and then let them try and enforce it. They can't put us all in jail. Of course, it may come to that and workers will continue to wage class war at the point of production. But let no worker think that the enactment of this bill will not strengthen the state, the employers and trade union bureaucrats.

In other words, this bill represents the biggest stride yet to the corporate state-fascism. To say let it happen, it can't work, is to deny the lessons of history. The lesson is clear now. In face of the threat of fascism workers must close their ranks and fight now. In fighting, they must not be side-tracked by social democracy and a new "left." Accept the challenge! Recognise all the twaddle about peaceful coexistence for what it is, a device to disarm the workers in face of attack by the enemy. In struggle we must not have a legal approach, seek escape in clever devices. Instead we must take a political approach. We are, in the present position, on the defensive because workers prepared to fight capitalists, regardless of sacrifice, have not taken up the fight against capitalism itself. Our party was formed to remedy this situation. You must help us to do it.

IRELAND: THE MAIN ISSUE

Let no one ever forget the single most important fact about Northern Ireland; its colonial status under the heel of British occupation forces doing British monopoly capitalism's dirty work. That is the most important aspect of the struggle. The recent exposure of brutality by British troops in Belfast (Law and Order), published Sept. 17 by Belfast Central Citizens' Defence Committee by a group that can scarcely be called Marxist is simply bringing out the most obvious nature of this occupation.

At a time when social democrats and revisionists are once again singing praises about British troops having "saved" the day in Northern Ireland and stopped alleged religious massacres it is essential that all those who call themselves Marxist-Leninists should be absolutely clear about the major contradiction in Northern Ireland today: the Irish people against British imperialism. While we do not minimise religious contradictions we must emphasise that British imperialism has always used "divide and rule" tactics to incite disaffection whether in India or Northern Ireland. British troops can never save the situation except for British monopoly capitalism.

Demonstrators marching to the U.S. and Jordanian Embassies in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle against fascist attacks from the puppet Hussein.



TO ALL WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

No doubt the strike of council manual workers has caused you some inconvenience. Probably your household refuse has not been collected and your street needs sweeping. Who's to blame? It is not the council employees, workers like yourself, who are to blame. It is your Local Authority and the Government egging them on who are to blame.

Council workers are striking for a 55s wage increase. They are after more money for what is, in the case of such as refuse collection, a dirty and unhealthy job.

"But who will have to pay?" you ask. As a ratepayer you will. But have you ever asked where much of your rates really go to? They go towards keeping a top-heavy municipal system going, with hundreds of officials duplicating each other's work. If you are a council tenant, three-quarters of your rent goes back to the City moneylenders in sheer interest. In fact when the council build any type of amenity, dozens of grabbing contractors, large and small, want to make their bit.

We are living under a system where private profit for a few is the driving force. Local authorities are part of that system. Labour or Tory, it makes no difference; both work to keep the capitalist system going, which means you always foot the bill.

Be you a worker employed by a company or a local authority, you have the same interests. That is, uniting to defeat the employing class.

Support the council worker in his just struggle by refusing to co-operate with emergency arrangements and flooding the town hall with demands that they pay up!

It is your duty!

From a leaflet distributed by the COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST)

CHINA SUPPORTS CANADIAN POSTAL WORKERS

During the recent postal strike a Canadian firm wrote to the China National Garment and Export Corporation of Peking asking them to reroute mail through New York. The reply they got was not like those from capitalist companies all over who were eager to scab on the postal workers. The dictatorship of the proletariat in China means that all businesses are run by the workers, in the interests of all workers all over the world.

This is the reply they received:

"The people who have triumphed in their own revolution should help those still struggling for liberation. This is our internationalist duty - Mao Tse-Tung

"We, Chinese people of a socialist state, should give most resolute support to the postal workers in Canada who are on strike. This is our internationalist duty.

"The just struggle of Canadian postal workers speaks eloquently the truth of the brilliant thesis of 'where there is oppression there is struggle' ...

From the CANADIAN WORKER
Journal of the CANADIAN PARTY
of LABOUR

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7.30 a.m. — 8.00 a.m. 31,42 metre bands
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(The 9.30 p.m. — 10.00 p.m. broadcast can also be heard on medium wave, 215 metre band!)

Daily Broadcast from Moscow:
9.00 p.m. — 9.30 p.m. 19 metre band

IT HURTS US MORE ...

Interviewed on the BBC Harold Wilson was asked if he did not think the Labour Government's charges on prescriptions had set a precedent for the Tories.
He answered: "But WE did it reluctantly."

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