



More workers reject both Labour and Tory parties

Prepare for struggle!

NOW that the election is over we can objectively assess its meaning and its result. More important, what next must we the proletariat, the working class do to advance?

A government has been defeated because the most advanced section of the working class has pushed aside forever the theory of the "lesser of two evils." They did not vote Tory, they did not vote Labour. All workers knew that the Labour government had been and was their betrayer. The dilemma was how to make this manifest against the knowledge that in doing so, inevitably, a Tory government would be returned.

Repudiate Labour Party

First things first, all thinking workers had no other course but to repudiate a so-called Labour government which clearly was in every action, the enemy of the working class; a government which throughout office attacked the working class; a government brought to power because of the affection and consistent loyalty of the working class led by the labour movement; a government which, when thrust into power by such a strength, tried to devour its own mother.

Throughout it was a capitalist government, a pillar of the state. Not once did it attack the employing class — the capitalist — but always the worker.

Tool of US Imperialism

First and of the greatest significance was its role in foreign policy. It was always a lieutenant of United States imperialism, and never once stood in defence of humanity. Even now there is not a whisper of criticism concerning Cambodia. The Labour government was always the servant, the inferior of the U.S. compounding felony upon felony. But more than all else in this vital field was a vagueness and ambiguity which meant no position at all was adopted but that of a servant, always waiting for a Johnson, a Kennedy, or a Nixon to order. At no time in its history in or out of office, has the Labour party propounded a foreign policy other than that of being a vassal to U.S. imperialism. Such a reactionary role had to bring in its wake reaction at home and attacks on the working class (wage freeze, incomes policy, and attempts to impose shackles on the trade unions by means of legislation) until at last they were disowned by the working class, their creators and their executioners. The election was lost by the Labour Party because the most political workers, the vanguard of the class, would no longer suffer them, would not as before campaign and rescue them.

We said: Don't Vote, Organise!

Our Party said — Don't vote, Organise! This was correct but not original because it was shared by those alone who could have ensured the return of Labour. Their abstention from the vote is at once the most political expression of the power of the working class and a step forward in the 150 years of British working class history. Having embarked on this course, that is ultimately the destruction of parliamentarianism — the weapon of the bourgeoisie, what next?

We must be part of every struggle, in solidarity with and in support of every fight against the employing class and its new government, every strike and every organised act against authority. Not only because we fight a Tory policy which is clearly seen in

all its nakedness but because we are out to destroy all capitalism, whether operated by the Tories or by the social democrats of the Labour Party. In all these struggles we must raise the battle-cry: Smash parliamentarianism, ace card of bourgeois democracy!

Tories will attack workers

We know that the Tories, reluctantly returned, will continue all the plans of their predecessors, willing slaves of capitalism, to launch an all-out attack on their class enemy, the working class. They will of course use this handy legacy — every measure envisaged by the Labour Government against the Trade Unions, in favour of mergers leading to redundancy and shutdowns, to strengthen links between private capital and the nationalised industries. Above all

they will play the slavish role to U.S. imperialism so well performed by the Labour Government.

The capitalist class has reacted in its traditional way to the return of a Tory government. Immediately after the election results the financial world was confident, stock market prices boomed, the Pound was bought heavily in the international exchange markets. But they are whistling in the wind. The contradictions of British capitalism grow apace. Their unexpected win, which was not even striven for, brings its demand of responsibility. In effecting it the Tories will of course redouble their attacks on the Working class. There will be among us those who will say that because of this we should have voted Labour and must work for their early return. On the contrary: since we have had the power to knock the traitor off his pedestal we must now pursue the enemy.

The trumpet call of Powell (the only Tory who really campaigned) is but a very small voice of the darkest, most powerful forces of reaction in Britain today, who will demand an acceleration of the attacks on the working class so ably laid out and planned by the Labour government. They will demand now another policy of wage freeze, further attacks on the Unions and further gnawing away at the social services. They can assert that the Labour government produced the highest unemployment in figures in thirty years, that they even stole the kids' milk. They will demand an intensification of the racialism created by the Labour governments Race Relations and Commonwealth Immigration acts.

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STRUGGLE WITHOUT STRINGS!

DURING THE past several months, National officials of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, which embraces 17 unions and a combined membership of 3 million workers, have been involved in negotiations with the Engineering Employers Federation for a "new modified" procedure agreement to cover the Engineering Industry.

IMPOSED

The existing agreement which has aroused the hostility of generations of Engineers, was imposed on the Engineering Unions in June, 1922 following a 13 week lock-out by the Engineering Employers Federation, when 2,000,000 workers were without jobs. The employers, taking advantage of the slump and mass unemployment, were determined to worsen wages and working conditions.

UNION PROPOSALS

The Employers rejected proposals drawn up by the Engineers on the rating of machines by which a system of classification and minimum rates for the whole range of Engineering machines would be applied. The Employers claimed that they had the sole right to decide the class of labour to be used and the rates of pay to be paid, and that

they had the sole discretionary powers in regards to overtime working.

ULTIMATUM

The Employers delivered an ultimatum to the effect that the Engineers must sign a declaration not to interfere with the managerial function of the employers. The ultimatum was rejected by the Engineering workers, the employers retaliated by locking-out all Engineering workers in federated establishments in an effort to break the unions. It was in this period of class struggle that the bosses in June 1922 imposed the original "procedure agreement" despite the great courage and sacrifice made by the engineers during the bitter 13 week struggle.

"THREE MONTHS PLUS"

Under the existing engineering procedure called "the procedure for the avoidance of disputes" means that in event of a dispute at a firm not being resolved it is then referred to a "works conference" it is, at this stage that full time officials of the unions become involved. If no agreement

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ALBANIA ABOLISHES INCOME TAX

From November 8th this year the Peoples Republic of Albania has decided to abolish the system of taxation, including insurance.

There will be no deductions from any workers' pay packet!

Any British wage or salary earner who looks angrily at the difference between the figure at the beginning of his pay slip and the much smaller figure at the end, will be envious.

The Albanians are able to do this because of the steady increase in the national income, and the success of the workers in surpassing the targets of the fourth 5 year plan. This is an example of socialist planning in a country led by a Marxist-Leninist party.

Dockers'
Dilemma!
see p.3.

DON'T BE FOOLED BY RUSSIA!

EVEN NOW there are many people who cannot bring themselves to accept how far the present Russian ruling class has deviated from socialism, despite the Russian occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the military attacks on China last year. Perhaps the latest manoeuvres by Russia over Indo-China might help them to change their mind. Ever since U.S. imperialism blundered into invading Cambodia trying desperately to check its falling war strategy in Vietnam the Russians have been put on the spot. They had been building their hopes on "negotiations" between U.S. imperialism and Hanoi. But now they could not get on with their game of further deals and bargains with the U.S.. When Nixon blundered into attacking Cambodia the Russians were slow off the mark to denounce this further act of U.S. aggression. Even now they have not recognised the Cambodian government-in-exile and continue to have diplomatic relations with the Lon Nol stooge government set up in Cambodia by the USA. Instead they have given tacit recognition to the diversionary activities of other imperialist stooges - Indonesia, so-called "Malaysia" and Japan, whose diplomats have recently met Gromyko in Moscow to explain to him the need to withdraw all foreign troops to reactivate the old International Control Commission and to reconvene a new international conference on Indo-China. Instead of refusing to let such well-known clients of U.S. imperialism even to come to Moscow the reaction of the Russians is equivocal. They would not be entirely opposed to the reactivation of the International Control Commission when everyone knows that Canada and India have been nakedly supporting U.S. aggression in Vietnam and Laos and Poland's role has been quite wishy-washy. They cannot quite accept the idea of a Geneva Conference but at the same time the flames of war should be dampened down. They are still peddling the old revisionist routine of pretending to be for liberation struggles in words but in practice failing to differentiate between the unjust wars of imperialist aggressors and the just resistance of the oppressed peoples, tacitly supporting U.S. aggression.

Indo-Chinese People's Summit Conference

But that is not all. Ever since the Summit Conference of Indo-Chinese peoples in the Vietnam, Laos, China border region at the end of April this year it has become quite apparent that the ever-growing peoples wars in Vietnam, Laos and now Cambodia are solidly backed by China whose material and political support for the struggle is unstinting and highly welcome. Russia, for all its hypocritical talk about carrying out Leninist principles of proletarian internationalism, has been truly exposed. How to cover up? By stepping up denunciation of Nixon and the entire brutal U.S. imperialist machinery? Certainly not. With the USA there must be ever-growing contacts through cultural and scientific delegations, through Henry Ford Jr's reconnoitring expedition, through Japanese and European middle men and through arms limitation talks. No, Russia's answer to U.S. invasion of Cambodia, to the secret CIA war in Laos and the renewed bombing of Vietnam is to attack China! The barrage of hysterical and scurrilous attacks on the Chinese Party and its great chairman, has been mounting from Moscow. In the first week of June the well known Russian magazine on international affairs - New Times - published an article entitled "Asia and the Peking Khans." The main line of the article follows the May 18th Pravda article accusing China of seeking if not total world domination then domination over Asia. "Mao and his followers are undertaking practical steps for asserting Chinese domination in South and Southeast Asia. To do this Peking tries to create in the whole region an atmosphere of permanent internal conflict."

Kremlin uses Goebbels' Technique

The Goebbels' technique of the big lie has been followed up in subsequent attacks. On June 7 the Sunday Times reported that Russia had indicated to the USA that the North Vietnamese troops were being heavily over-extended in their attempt to fight the war in Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam. The Russians conclude that if the North Vietnamese want to pursue the war on the current scale, they will be forced to rely increasingly on the Chinese - and that would make the chances of peace more remote than ever. Surely no more damning evidence can be found of Soviet revisionist treachery. At a time when U.S. imperialism, being defeated by the heroic struggles of the people of Vietnam, is escalating the war throughout Southeast Asia the Russians are stabbing the Vietnamese in the back in order to break Sino-Vietnamese links.

To Brezhnev and Co. their efforts to rebuild capitalism in the Soviet Union require all kinds of deals with the imperialists. If China - the greatest bastion of socialism and national liberation - can be

smashed it will suit their evil intentions. This is the strategy of Russia's attack on China: - from polemics to physical aggression. Moscow Radio, according to the Times (June 19) is stepping up its bitter attacks on the Chinese Party and Chairman Mao Tsetung. While one can ignore the naked fabrications there is the sinister theme of support for Tibetan "partisans" now opposing "Chinese oppression." For "partisans" read feudal scum and for Chinese "oppression" read the consolidation of the communist revolution. Now we know where Moscow stands.

Repression in Iran

THE SOCIAL and political conditions of Iran have remained unknown to the majority of the people of the western world. This is mainly due to the fact that world imperialism has a huge interest, such as oil and minerals, in Iran and, through its monopoly capitalist controlled mass media, has kept a strict conspiracy of silence about Iran.

Iran is under the most despotic, totalitarian and barbarous rule of the Shah, a puppet of U.S. imperialism.

More than 20,000 political prisoners, ranging from extremely poverty stricken, oppressed and illiterate peasants, who constitute the majority of the population, to the workers, middle class intellectuals and progressive religious leaders, are lying inside the Shah's medieval prisons. Any manifestation of opposition to the regime and the interests of world imperialism is being dealt with by the latest Nazi-type suppressive measures.

Once again a new wave of oppression has swept through Iran. Following the recent massive demonstrations in Teheran in which about 200,000 took part, more than 200 people have been secretly arrested and subjected to the Shah's barbarous tortures.

The struggle of the Iranian people is inseparable from the struggle of oppressed people all over the world against imperialism and its lackeys.

WHO ARE THE REAL FASCISTS?

WORKERS MUST know who are their friends and who are their enemies. At election time every parliamentary politician poses as the friend of workers and points out the other side as the enemy.

This time, however, there was a new twist. The Labour Party didn't direct their main blow at the Tory Party as such, but Enoch Powell.

And soon the "Communist" Party of Great Britain, the Trotskyites and all the other "Left" cover for social democracy were baying in tune that the main enemy of British workers is Enoch Powell. Powell, along with the National Front, they said, is determined to bring fascism to Britain, and the only way for workers to prevent this is to put their faith in their friends. And who are these "friends"? Why, who but Harold Wilson and the Labour Party!

The truth is that fascism is being brought to Britain, not by Powell and a handful of Hitler-worshippers, but by the Labour and Tory parties. Fascism should not be confused with the trappings as manifested elsewhere - black and brown shirts, anti-semitic theories, swastika emblems and moustachioed demagogues. Fascism is a form of monopoly capitalist rule. Its main features are a strengthened state apparatus of violence, acting both at home and abroad in the interests of the biggest monopolies, intensifying attacks on workers' living standards and smashing all independent organisations of the working class. Labour Government legislation from 1964 to 1970 was aimed precisely at this. They expanded the police force, enormously increased armed forces' pay, formed the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation to speed up mergers in the interests of the giant monopolies, froze wages, while increasing unemployment to the highest level since the Great Depression, and through the commission on Industrial Relations and the June, 1969 Agreement with the T.U.C. made a bid to swallow the trade unions into the maw of the state. These measures amount to steps towards fascism in Britain - fascism which, just as with Hitler and Mussolini, comes under the signboard of "socialism."

Powell's main job is to serve as a "marker" for Wilson and Heath, reaction to his speeches indicating just how far the Labour and Tory parties can go in their racist policies. One day the monopoly capitalist class may select him as their principal spokesman. Meanwhile it is a diversion for workers to concentrate attacks on him which should be concentrated on the real fascists in the parliamentary mainstream.

Cont. from p.1.

Prepare for struggle!

Revisionist hypocrisy

What does that mean for us - that a Tory government is worse? That we should go through the pretence of the revisionist "Communist" Party of Great Britain in "opposing" Labour but only where it cannot be accused of splitting? Their miserable election results must show the stupidity and hypocrisy of this: members of the "C" PGB must now question such a policy and their continuance in such a party which purports to be revolutionary, but contents itself with wasteful, wanton, useless parliamentary skirmishes.

The working class must beware now of a false opposition led by Wilson. In particular we must beware of a new Labour "left" opposition in parliament among the back benchers. There never was a real opposition to the reactionary politics of Wilson's government from the so-called Labour left M.P.'s, nor can there be now.

Especially we must guard against a guilt feeling among the working class, a reversion to Labour loyalty, a

striving to secure as soon as possible the return of a Labour government. On the contrary, having exhibited the power of the working class to destroy a government, we must now continue that task and destroy the Tory government, and all capitalist governments.

It is the people that count

The election proves this: it is the people that count, and that the most awakened section which has the power to throw off its back the burden and deceit of social democracy is doubly strong and can defeat capitalism itself.

The fight will be hard in factory, in dock, in school and university; wherever people are we must now be prepared and must advance.

We must follow through and extend this great political lesson: failure to do so will hasten a corporate state, fascism, here in Britain. We must go out and recruit to our party, the revolutionary party, the very best elements of the working class to move further forward.

ORGANISE NOW!

VIETNAM MEETING



Vietnamese journalist addresses a meeting called by the CPB(ML) celebrating the anniversary of the founding of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam

FEDAYEEN CRUSH US-BACKED PLOT

THE RECENT attack on the Fedayeen by Jordanian reactionary forces aimed at liquidating the Palestinian revolution, once again shows the vicious face of U.S. imperialism. In its attempts to suppress national liberation movements around the world. In view of the results of the big power talks on the middle east by the U.S., Russia, Britain and France, in conjunction with the acceptance of the U.N. resolution of June 1967 by Golda Meir (the Israeli prime minister), the U.S. decided to impose its "peaceful" solution in the middle east by force. This meant that in order to preserve its imperialist interests in the middle east the U.S. had to suppress the main obstacle to achieving its so-called "peaceful solution" - the Palestine, national liberation fighters.

The increasing unity of the Palestinians themselves, signified by the meeting of the Palestinian National Council which elected a central committee and unified command representing all the guerrilla organisations, meant also that it was becoming urgent for the U.S. imperialists to act before it became too late for them.

The plan behind the U.S. plot was to use various high ranking reactionary officers in the Jordanian army to launch an attack on the Fedayeen. These officers were led by

Sherif Nasser, commander-in-chief of the Jordanian army (who is the King's uncle) and Sheikh Zeid Bin Shakar, commander of the third armoured division.

Since large sections of the Jordanian army sympathise with the Fedayeen the main units used against them were the special forces of the Jordanian army. This is an elite corps, whose officers are trained in anti-guerrilla warfare in the U.S. and by the Chiang Kai-Shek puppets in Taiwan.

The reactionaries launched an all out attack on the Fedayeen in Amman, and shelled Palestinian civilians in the refugee camps, while the U.S. imperialists prepared to back up their puppets by placing the 82nd, airborne division on alert in order to intervene. However, the Fedayeen were able to defeat the reactionaries and force King Hussein to accept their terms before the U.S. could intervene. Yassar Arafat, supreme commander of the Palestinian unified command, warned the U.S. imperialists "don't send your troops to Jordan or you will find a second Vietnam." This victory of the Palestinian liberation fighters against the U.S. imperialist-backed plot has forged an even greater unity between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples in their common struggle against Zionism and its imperialist backers.

DOCKERS' DILEMMA?



Collaboration or struggle?

THE militancy of dock-workers has been born out of past struggles and oppression by employers who were reluctant to engage men on a permanent basis, but have for decades found it convenient and profitable to pick up labour only as and when they have needed it.

To overcome this militancy both Government and employers have set up various committees - Devlin, Bristol and the Ports Modernisation Council, and now the Ports Nationalisation Bill, all designed to bring pressure to bear on the working class, to reap the advantage of technological change for the employers.

What is in it for the docker? Already in the Port of London there is a decrease of labour from 23,000 registered dock-workers on September 18th, 1967, when decasualisation took place, to 17,901 by February of this year. Since then the Dock Labour Board has been effecting severance pay at the rate of 100 a week.

There was an address on Friday, January 30th, 1970, to the Merseyside Productivity Association by Catell, chairman of the Ports Modernisation Council (who admits he has never worked in the industry before) which was headed:

"Devlin Stage II, a Tragedy in the Modern Style."

This address shows the real motives of government and employers and the implications for dockers. He says away with all posturing and play-acting over Stage II of the Devlin Report. Yet he openly admits that after two years of decasualisation there are 12,000 fewer dockers shifting four million tons more cargo.

All the committees make recommendations for strong and effective official trade union leadership.

Catell pinpoints London and Liverpool as the two main ports which have kept up a far higher degree of resistance to change than the other ports.

He goes on to say that at present we have a registered dock labour force of

49,000 men and predicts that by 1975 through wastage and severance pay it will be down to well below 35,000 men.

Containerisation while taking a lot of the hard work out of the job has created enormous problems for dock-workers. But even this form of transportation is likely to be superseded by L.A.S.H. - a system of carrying aboard ship lighters which can be driven ashore where needed from anchorage on any seaway or estuary.

In such a complex industry as the docks involved in such rapid technological change, the answers to the problems confronting the working class are going to be very difficult.

Severance pay of approximately £1,500 has to some extent eroded the militancy of the dock-worker.

The idea of participation of unions on the board of the National Ports Council, unless led by a highly politically conscious working class, would become, as on all other boards, class collaboration and would work for the benefit of the employers and to the detriment of the dockers.

In the light of present circumstances the claim of Liverpool dockers for £60 per week of 20 hrs plus longer holidays could be the only way to stop a growing number of redundancies.

But the real answer is a re-assertion of militancy and a fight for the right to work. This political struggle on a question of principle will have to be waged against whichever party forms the government after the election because government and employers have always worked hand in glove against the interests of dockers. In this struggle dock-workers will be joined by other sections of the working class subjected to the same splitting tactics of using technological advance to swell the reserve army of unemployed and thus weaken the whole labour movement.

The dockers have now taken the attitude that they will not accept unregistered labour doing their work, and this has now resulted in the one day strike on June 2 which is the opening shot in the dockers battle for the dockers' right to work. Furthermore after a national delegate conference on June 23, the dockers have decided to take on the boss by calling for a national dock strike on July 14 unless their demand for a £20 minimum wage is met.

STRIKERS BLOW UP LORRY

THE IRISH cement strike, more than four months old, continues, and, at the time of writing has shown no signs of coming to an end. Pickets have destroyed more than 8,000 tons of cement on its way over the border.

Dockers in Newry have stepped up their efforts to prevent the landing of strike-breaking cement destined for the South, and earlier this month (June) they successfully prevented a French ship from landing its cargo of cement. Lorries on their way through Newry to the Border have been stoned and their loads have been tipped off, while more recently a cement lorry was blown up in Dublin.

These actions by the strikers and their sympathisers have virtually halted the supply of cement into the South, and have brought the construction industry there to the verge of a complete shutdown. In this situation it is not surprising that the neo-colonial state machine has begun to intervene against the strikers. Efforts are being made to involve them in time consuming proceedings in Eire's Labour Court, while lorries bringing strike-breaking cement from the North are being given escorts of Garda (Southern police) from the Border Southwards. But the strikers remain undeterred.

The big question now is "How long will it be before British Troops in the North intervene to protect consignments of scab cement on their way from Newry to the Border?"

Marx On Irish Question

"... quite apart from all phrases about 'international' and 'humane' justice for Ireland... it is in the direct and absolute interest of the English working class to get rid of their present connection with Ireland... For a long time I believed that it would be possible to overthrow the Irish regime by English working class ascendancy... Deeper study has now convinced me of the opposite. The English working class will never accomplish anything before it has got rid of Ireland... English reaction in England has its roots... in the subjugation of Ireland."

WORKERS CONDEMN US AGGRESSION

RESOLUTION carried by London (North) District Committee AEF, representing 35,000 workers:

"This London (North) District Committee AEF condemns the United States Government for the cold blooded murder of four American students by U.S. National Guardsmen. This act clearly demonstrates that the American working class are now under a military dictatorship.

"This District Committee in expressing deep sympathy to the people of America, pledges its full support to all those brave American people who are struggling to defeat the U.S. Government's murderous war of aggression against all peoples of South East Asia.

"We further condemn the Labour Government's action of servile support of U.S. aggression in South East Asia."

Ten Million Handout for Bosses!

THE IDEA of the Industrial Re-organisation Committee to hand out this amount of taxpayer's money to Leylands to help them to re-tool in the latest most sophisticated and automated machinery, exposes more than ever the role of the now departed Labour Government in making capitalism more efficient to the detriment of the Working Class.

The Tories will also carry on this policy, while denying any significant help on the question of housing subsidies or a reduction in interest charges. So Tweedledum and Tweedledee will propagate and aid Capitalism and the crunch for the Working Class will be the sack.

Leylands, before the deal has got under way, are already asking for volunteers amongst office and supervisory staff to

accept redundancy proposals.

It is obvious that with automation, many production line workers will be put off and swell the 600,000 unemployed that we are faced with at the present moment.

There is at the present time in this country an exorbitant number of overtime hours being worked and this, no doubt, applies to Leylands as it does to other major firms.

The only way workers can defend their interests is by:-

1. Resistance to sackings.
 2. A shorter working week.
 3. A considerable increase in wages.
- to gain the maximum benefit from automation in the interests of the Working Class. To achieve this result, a real battle will have to be fought by the workers at Leylands to defend their interests.



ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

1970 continues to break records for the level of industrial struggle. In the First four months 3,100,000 working days were "lost" in strikes, which is 63% more than last year.

BRITISH STEEL CORPORATION

2,100 electricians and engineers at Corby began their struggle with a work to rule and overtime ban and then moved into a full strike after a week. The men are demanding a bonus of £5 8s a week in place of the present bonuses which vary between 17s 9d and £4 8s 9d. They want this increase paid without any strings before starting negotiations on a wider basis as part of the BSC's "greenbook" productivity plans.

DUNLOP

1,500 engineers at the Fort Dunlop factory in Erdington, Birmingham ended their six-week strike. They accepted an offer of an immediate £4 a week increase to be followed by another £1. The claim had been for an increase of £6 a week. Engineers had also been on strike at the Dunlop factory at Inchinnan in Scotland and sympathy strikes had taken place at ten other Dunlop factories. The increases show what can be gained by workers' solidarity when faced with a big combine.

EXHIBITION WORKERS

4,400 exhibition stand fitters have put on a fine display for other workers of the sort of wage increases that can be won through militant action timed to hit the bosses at their most vulnerable time. A mass meeting on June 13 accepted an increase of 30% in basic rates from the first week in July. With the pay award of last September, this means that hourly rates will have gone up by 50% in 10 months, from 9s 8d to 14s 6d.

WHOSE FUNERAL?

Francis Chappell & Son, funeral directors, are trying to bring the idea of company unionism back from the grave. The management saw its chance in April when the workers were not prepared to strike when a shop steward was sacked. If workers do not take action to defend their unions and their rights in them they will end up with the sort of union the bosses want them to have. At Francis Chappell a staff association has been set up with the company putting up an initial £25 and then £25 per year for each worker. Employees who join pay no subscriptions and are barred from being trade union members. The annual £25 can be paid out as an annual bonus if there are no strikes. So workers are being offered £25 a year for not striking and not belonging to a union. Obviously this is worth a lot more than £25 to the bosses. And it will cost the workers much more unless they wake up and break the silence of the grave.

PRINTING

Negotiations between the main printing unions and provincial newspaper and general printing employers reached deadlock when the unions rejected an offer of an extra £2 a week on basic pay from August 1st. The unions are claiming £5 6s 8d to £6 a week rises for the 130,000 workers involved.

DOCKS

The Transport and General Workers Union has given notice of their intention to terminate the existing agreements with the port employers at the end of June. On behalf of 47,000 members they are claiming an increase in the basic weekly rate from £11 1s 8d to £20. The basic rate does not affect the guaranteed minimum wage which is £17 in London and £16 elsewhere, but it is used for calculation of piecework pay and overtime.

BIRMINGHAM QUALCAST

400 foundry workers, mainly black, at the Midland Motor Cylinder subsidiary of Birmingham producing gearboxes and castings returned after a weeks strike. They had claimed a £4 a week rise and are now to get an extra £3 immediately and 18s 6d in December.

GRANADA TELEVISION

300 studio technicians at Manchester were on strike since May 26. They were demanding an extra 12% for accepting new manning schedules for transmitting Sidney Bernstein's extremely profitable rubbish on 625 lines and in colour.

OTTERMILL SWITCHGEAR

At this plant making telephone switchboards in Devon 200 strikers have been sacked. They have been on strike since the beginning of May claiming an extra £8 15s a week to bring them up to the average national wage. The men were sacked after rejecting an "offer" from the management that the strikers be allowed back at the old pay rates and that about 30 of them be declared redundant. The workers gave this "offer" the answer it deserved and were then declared to have "terminated their employment by breaking their contracts." Production has been cut to about a third by the continuing strike.

MOBIL OIL

Maintenance workers at the Mobil refinery at Coryton, Essex have secured an increase of 6s/- per week to make a wage of £1,800 a year for a 40 hour week. This increase has no strings or conditions attached. This is significant in that Mobil was in the forefront of productivity dealing following Esso at Fawley. At the mass meeting where the settlement was agreed, the strong sentiment was expressed that having broken away from productivity deals they will not go back down that street in future.

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STRUGGLE WITHOUT STRINGS

is reached it is then taken to local conference and if a deadlock is reached the whole issue is then referred to central conference at which national officials of the unions state the case to national engineering employers representatives, this whole procedure can take from three months upwards to complete, and at each stage becomes increasingly separated from the shop floor.

NEW PROCEDURE

The unions are seeking a new modified agreement in which two basic principles are being sought:

1. That there should be a shortened procedure for dealing with grievances and that such a procedure should terminate in the locality, i.e. up to and including local conferences.
2. That a "status quo" clause should be incorporated in the agreement which would mean either side seeking a change in wages and working conditions must first use the shortened procedure agreement before taking action to enforce their claim.

For the unions it would mean, among other things, that any claim for increased wages would have to go through the procedure. Likewise the employers would have to go through the same exercise if they wanted to "sack" workers, speed up or make changes in working conditions that have been, or are considered to be managerial functions.

DEAD LOCK

At the time of writing, deadlock has been reached in the negotiations, the Executive Council of the A.E.F., the most powerful union involved, are empowered by its policy making body, the National Committee, to give notice through the confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions to terminate the present agreement in the event of a breakdown of negotiations. The employers in an effort to head off any possible major confrontation between themselves and the unions said at the last meeting held on the 10th April, 1970: "Finally, we come to the fourth major topic of disagreement between us — the so-called status quo principle. I should like to say straight away that we subscribe to the status quo principle."

The employers having said that, with tongue in cheek, then go on to say: "Nothing in the foregoing shall require management to invoke the procedure when carrying out its responsibilities within the framework of agreed or established conditions. In such circumstances the decisions of management shall be implemented immediately without prejudice to the right of the workpeople concerned to raise such issues in the procedure thereafter."

Thus, making it plain that they have no intention of surrendering "their right to manage."

"TACTICS"

The social democrats, along with the employers, are the strong advocates of a new procedure agreement.

Like the Government they state that such reform of industrial relations is the

centre of their economic strategy. The question then should be seen as a tactic, rather than a principle at this stage.

The employers and those trade union leaders who fear the tremendous strength of their membership, have come to recognise that 48 years of bitter struggle by the engineering workers have left great gaping holes in the 1922 procedure agreement, it has developed into a "take it or leave it" affair to many factory organisations, particularly those who are conscious of their own strength. The 1922 agreement is fast then, becoming a "paper tiger."

It is this factor which now dominates the employers thinking, and together with those in the trade union movement, who support their system of exploitation, are seeking to re-impose their procedural authority on the workers in an attempt to stem the growing flood of so-called "unconstitutional" strikes, and at the same time, drag the workers into a situation where class collaboration is the order of the day, i.e. worker/management participation, joint production committees, etc.

QUICK NO!

It is against this background that a new modified procedure agreement is being sought, workers will soon come to realise, if they haven't already, that written procedure agreements won't change the bosses attitude to wage claims, etc. The employers will never forget how to say no to workers demands. If the new procedure agreement cuts down the time of negotiations from 3 months or more to one month, it would merely mean in most cases, that the employers would say no two or more months sooner. This means you can't have a shortened agreement, that does not involve struggle, and that no agreement at all, means certain struggle being that the buck stops at the shop floor and that action would take the place of words.

PROUD RECORD

The engineering workers have a long and proud record of struggle, they have proven in countless class struggles that they are not lacking in courage — and together with other workers have demonstrated in the recent General Election that they are not fooled by the Labour Party, who have paved the way for the coming anti-trade union attacks.

The situation presents great opportunities for the organised engineers to be the spearhead of the British Working Class in the coming battles.

Whether engineers decide to battle around the old agreement or new, makes little difference, both are the products of the class antagonisms and contradictions existing in Britain between those who labour and those who ride on the backs of the Working Class. For whatever other reason, one thing is sure, talks on the new procedure agreement are not designed to assist workers but to reduce engineers' rights in the interests of monopoly capitalism, whereby, such procedure agreements, in conjunction with Government legislation could become legally binding with penalties and fines if not observed, in order to preserve capitalism in Britain.

MORE WORKERS BOYCOTT POLLS

THE MOST striking result of the 1970 Election is that the working class refused to vote. Despite all the press and T.V. ballyhoo, the blandishments of the parliamentary parties and the gimmicks like votes at 13, the election turnout was the lowest since 1935 and one of the lowest since parliamentary democracy began in Britain. The proportion of electors bothering to vote has dropped from 84% in 1950 to 71% twenty years later.

In the major industrial centres the decline has been even steeper. The overall fall in turnout since the 1966 Election was 4.1%. But this conceals an increased turnout in Northern Ireland and in parts of Wales and Scotland, where the nationalist parties dispensed some fresh illusions to the voters. In England there was a drop in turnout in all but 9 seats. In Stoke-on-Trent the three traditionally Labour held constituencies showed a 20% fall in turnout since 1966, barely half the electorate bother to vote.

In the great industrial cities of London, Glasgow, Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester the average poll ranged from 61 to 65%. In 74 of the London constituencies less

than 55% of the electorate cast a vote, and in 10 of these more electors stayed away than voted. Nine of these ten are strongly working class constituencies, traditional safe seats for Labour. The lowest turnout of all was in Stepney (44%).

Why did the working class stay away? None of the usual excuses stand up. The weather was beautiful (or was it snowing in Stepney?) Postal votes and rearranged constituency boundaries have made it easier, not harder, to cast a vote.

Apathy is not the explanation. The vote of the revisionist C.P.G.B. declined drastically. It might have been thought that in a generally reduced poll the proportion of votes cast by loyal C.P.G.B. supporters would rise. In fact in 40 out of 43 constituencies in which revisionist candidates stood in 1966 as well as in 1970 their percentage of the poll dropped. The absence from the polls was deliberate and is a sign of developing maturity of the British working class. This positive act was directed at all parliamentary politics and is a nail in the coffin of parliamentary democracy in Britain.

BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND NOW!

Recent events in Northern Ireland bear out the CPB(ML) statement issued on the 14th of April 1970 which we reprint below, and show that the change of government in Britain has not basically altered the ruling class policy of murderous repression and exploitation in Ireland.

The British ruling class has been murdering Irish men and women for 800 years. When General Freeland orders his 10,000 British troops to "shoot to kill" Irish people he is acting as the natural heir of Cromwell, of the executioners of James Connolly, and of the Black and Tans.

The fact that he defines the Irish people, in rebellion against the British army of occupation, as "hooligans" should fool no-one. British imperialism has always defamed and slandered anyone who dares resist it.

Recent events show that the uprising in Northern Ireland last August was no mere flash in the pan. The Irish people are determined to liberate their entire land from British control. Frantic attempts to whip up religious differences will fail. Irish workers, ever since the days of Connolly and Larkin, have put aside religion and united at the point of production against the boss. Today the Irish people, with workers at the fore, are forging closer and closer unity against their biggest boss — British imperialism.

They know from bitter history that what Britain has seized with the gun and is holding with the gun can only be repossessed with the gun. Chickens come home to roost, and General Freeland's orders will come back on him with a vengeance. Blood debts will be repaid in blood.

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) calls on all British workers and on all Irish workers residing in Britain to give full support to the just struggle of their class brothers in Ireland. We say to our Irish comrades: Your struggle is our struggle. We say to the Labour Government and all the other parliamentary pimps of imperialism: Out with British troops! Release all political prisoners! End British rule now!

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CRISIS IN THE U.S.

DAILY news comes in about the futile U.S. attempt to enlarge its sphere of domination in S.E. Asia, and encircle Socialist China, and of the resistance of the Indo-Chinese people; the summit conference, the foundation of the liberation movement in Cambodia.

The barbaric extension of the Vietnamese war into Cambodia by Nixon and the U.S. ruling class is a sign not only of the weakness of the U.S. imperialists in Indochina, but of an internal crisis within the United States. Neither the militarisation of the U.S. economy nor space circes have been able to cover up the financial and political impasse that the monopoly capitalists and their state face.

Its gold reserves dwindling, U.S. share of world trade has dropped from 35% to 15% in the post Korean war period. Within the U.S. unemployment is rising, prices are being inflated, industrial production is falling off. Commenting on the brutal invasion of Cambodia, even James Reston, a chief spokesman of U.S. imperialism has had to acknowledge the worsening economic and "labour turmoil" in the U.S.

The U.S. Working Class Ain't Dead.

In the past three years there have been more strikes by U.S. workers than at any time since the Depression in the 1930's, when the American workers made great gains through violent struggle under Communist leadership. In recent months more than 3 million American workers have gone on strike, often in face of injunctions

and in some cases harassment by police and the national guard at the command of the bourgeois dictatorship. Of special importance was the 5 month long strike by workers at General Electric, both an economic and a political struggle, as G.E. is one of the major producers for the war effort in Vietnam. Black and women workers have often taken the lead in these struggles, uniting with fellow workers against the common enemy.

Mass Movement.

The U.S. ruling class also faces attack from within by a broad mass movement against the war in Vietnam and Cambodia. Opposition to the war is radicalising the middle sections in American society. Students in SDS often under the leadership of P.L. have risen up against army training programmes (ROTC), imperialist corporation recruitment, university inter-connection with military and sociological war research etc., and have deepened their struggle in supporting campus workers against the exploitation of the employer-university.

In the face of a threat of mass unemployment (eg. 350 graduate students on an average compete for one decent teaching job) the students' struggle has deepened and matured in recent months. For example the Job Seekers Caucus resolution passed by 5,000 students and teachers at a recent convention related unemployment to the "imperialist war in Vietnam," opposed victimisation of teachers for their political views and affirmed the right of the teacher

to serve working class students by teaching them about the roots of exploitation, defined the position of job seeking students as the tip of the iceberg of the working people in general.

The four brave students slaughtered at Kent State University for opposing the extension of the imperialist war into Cambodia will not be forgotten. The G.E. strikers and the Californian students who burnt the Bank of America to the ground are pointing to the revolutionary future.

The Noose.

As Nixon extends the war into Cambodia in a desperate and futile attempt to avoid defeat in Vietnam, the internal contradictions within the United States have become intensified. In the face of increased struggle by workers and students, Nixon had had to resort to fascist and racist measures — troops and appeals to the so-called "silent majority."

Increasing economic difficulties, the failure of imperialist wars, intensified reaction and racism is uniting the American working class and allied strata, intensifying opposition by one of the most militant working classes in the world, against their exploiters.

The growth of the Progressive Labour Party, the burgeoning of militancy on the part of the American working class, the increasing opposition to racism and anti-communism mirror the success of the Vietnamese people against the U.S. military in

Indochina as signs of the weakening of U.S. imperialism.

Although the road to the dictatorship of the proletariat and the liberation of socialism in the U.S. will be long and difficult the direction is clear.

Unity and Revolution.

The proletariat of the U.S. and England, the fighting people of Vietnam and Cambodia all face a common enemy: exploitation by imperialism. The success of the Indo-Chinese revolution aids the proletariat in the U.S., and by extension, aids the workers of Britain in their struggle against exploitation and the foundations of capitalism.

Workers and oppressed people of the world share a common goal: liberation and the ultimate achievement of socialism and communism in which the working class as a whole will exert leadership in everything.

Let the workers of Britain militantly express their solidarity with the people of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam in their struggle for social progress against U.S. imperialism, and with the workers and students who are fighting within the heartland of U.S. imperialism against the war, and for the goal of overthrowing the U.S. bourgeois dictatorship.

Let these actions of solidarity be undertaken in the understanding that the major contribution of the British working class against the barbarism and exploitation of capitalist rule is long overdue — the establishment by revolution of the workers' dictatorship and socialist society in Britain.