



## KILL THE BILL — SMASH CAPITALISM! ENGINEERING WORKERS TO STRIKE AGAINST BILL

Breaking out of the general passivity of the trade union leadership in the struggle against the Industrial Relations Bill, the Executive Council of Engineering Workers voted by a comfortable majority on January 26th to lead their million and a half members into industrial action.

They call for national one-day strikes throughout the vital sections of British industry which would be thrown into chaos by such action. This call to arms of the second largest union in the country is the most serious threat of official trade union opposition which the Government has so far had to face.

The Engineers' Executive also decided that even if the Bill became law the Union would adopt a policy of "non-cooperation". This stand shows up a fatal weakness in the Government's scheme for turning trade unions into obedient organs of the state apparatus. Even if they use their mechanical majority to turn the Bill into Law, it remains a scrap of paper till unions agree to register. Suppose they don't. Suppose they decline en masse to stick their heads into the elaborate noose the Government has woven for them!

There is no doubt whatsoever that the rank and file members of the AUEW will close up right behind their leaders and even do a good bit of pushing on their own, so that not only will the one-day national strikes be implemented but it will also be possible to move forward in unity to other forms of action. It is essential that the AUEW Executive not be left going it alone. The leaders of other unions must move up into positions on the front line, too, or be forever discredited in the eyes of their members. When massive industrial action against the Bill begins to hit the employers where it hurts, the real class position of every would-be trade union leader will become obvious.

### THE TUC AND THE BILL

This call to action will be a serious embarrassment to the Trade Union Congress. It is already clear that the TUC General Council will not lead a fight to smother the Bill. Instead they engaged in a mighty paper war which they hope will show in time to come that they did oppose the Bill vociferously. This should deceive no one, and certainly does not hoodwink the employers or the Government. Such a huffing and puffing shows what a paper tiger the General Council is!

So terrified are they of being in the lead of the mounting army of the working class on this issue that they vacillate on all actions and demonstrations. Find themselves unable to initiate even a one day stoppage and, in connection with the spontaneous actions on December 8th and January 12th, seek to apologise for them. On January 12th at Albert Hall we were treated to the absurd

and disgusting position of Harold Wilson imploring the print workers who had stopped work to attend the meeting to report back for work immediately so that his speech could be set up and printed in the national newspapers!

In fact the General Council is acutely embarrassed by the clarity of the trade union working class as a whole in their iron determination to put down the Bill and its perpetrators. They are embarrassed because their cousins, the former Labour Government, sought to impose such legislation themselves; and however much they wriggled at the time they did not dare rely on the working class to smash the Labour Party's proposals.

### WHO WILL LEAD IN THE BATTLE?

It is obvious that to cut through the deceit of the paper war, trade unionists everywhere must wage their own battle, must back their own workshop floor leaders on this issue and must reject any notion that a great education campaign is required to win the public to their side. In relation to this Bill they are the public and they need no further democratic mandate to smash this capitalist class legislation.

In the coming meetings of the executives of unions under the aegis of the TUC, in the deliberations of union executives nationally, in all the talking and arguing, the trade unionists proper must make clear their determination and their might to oppose and defeat the Bill. They must force upon "leaders" their own will: their own conviction. When they are given a real lead, as in the case of the decision of the AUEW Executive, they must quickly take it; but they must not wait for leadership from on high. Any other course will end in dirty compromise and defeat.

Our party, the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), has complete confidence that the workers, the great rank and file, will slice through the vacillations and petty haggling, will take the leadership into their own hands and the Law, too, and tear it to shreds.



Chou En-lai, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China welcomes Reg Birch, Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), who led a Party delegation to China at the turn of the year.

### CALLAGHAN CALLS FOR SUICIDE!

Writing in the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' journal, Labour's James Callaghan said that simply exposing the weaknesses of the Government's Industrial Relations Bill was not enough. The trade union movement must "decide its own response to the problems which the Bill falls to answer."

What should that response be? The unions must work out their own "voluntary incomes policy". They must also reject and disown any rebels who take a different or more militant line than the official leadership.

Then trade unionists can sit back and wait for the "eventual repeal of the Act if Labour are returned to power."

Workers will know what to tell Labour Party leaders they can do with advice like that. They know where the real leadership in fighting and defeating the Bill will come from — the factory floor. Action will generate leadership.

Who will defend the trade unions from attacks by capitalist governments whether Labour or Tory? Those who founded the unions in the teeth of opposition from the employing class — the men at the point of production. Workers fought to establish trade unions. Workers will fight to defend them.

### THE SECRET POLICE STATE

Why should workers be concerned about the way the Home Secretary expelled the German student, Rudi Dutschke, from Britain? Because every flouting of democratic procedure by the capitalist state is really directed at the working class. The Dutschke affair is a typical example of how the state conceals an attack on the rights of workers behind an attack on the rights of some individual or minority group too weak or too lacking in support to defend themselves. We must never forget that from the point of view of the capitalist state the working class is the enemy.

Rudi Dutschke was no threat to national security, so why the rush to throw him out on the basis of a Special Branch report that he had engaged in political chit chat while in Britain? Why did the Home Secretary decide that a foreign youth attending political meetings created such a grave situation that the whole immigration appeal procedure had to be abolished when security was involved?

Because it was thus possible to establish a very dangerous precedent. Britain's secret police have been given the final say in all cases of who is to be allowed to come into this country and who is to be allowed to stay. Not only does this mean that refugees from fascist states like South Africa or Rhodesia could be denied the right to stay in this country if the Special Branch thought they were "too political"; but militant workers from any part of the Commonwealth could be denied the right to remain here if a secret police report called them "security risks".

CONT'D ON PAGE 4



Barricades in Rossville St. Derry

## IRELAND

Several weeks of uneasy peace in Northern Ireland came to an end in mid-January when fierce fighting broke out between British troops and the people on the Ballymurphy estate in Belfast.

The immediate cause of this latest outbreak of rioting was the opposition of the Ballymurphy people to the attempted reintroduction of the R.U.C. into an area where they had been prohibited from going since the struggles of August 1969.

For three nights running patrols of Police and Military were attacked with stones and petrol bombs. Commenting on this, Major General Farrar-Hockley said that if troops were withdrawn a "breakdown of law and order" would follow.

By "law and order" he means the armed suppression of the Irish people by British Imperialism. He went on to say that without a British military presence "there could be no effective representation of the people." This remark, uttered in a colonial state that denies even the rudiments of bourgeois democracy to a substantial part of the population, is, to say the least, sick. The

truth is that there can be no effective representation of the people of Northern Ireland while the British Army remains in occupation.

Recent statements by the I.R.A. that they will defend the Irish people against British troops and other oppressive forces are much to be welcomed. However, if the struggle in Northern Ireland is to succeed it will have to progress from local defensive actions of the kind now being fought at Ballymurphy to a general struggle throughout the entire province for the expulsion of British troops and the smashing of the British colonial administration at Stormont.

Furthermore, the recent decision of the Eire government to reintroduce internment without charge or trial proves that the regime in the south is no less repressive and no less dominated by British Imperialism than that in the North. What is needed is a concerted struggle to liberate the whole of Ireland from British Imperialism and domestic reaction, and to develop this the creation of an all-Ireland Marxist-Leninist Party is an urgent priority.

## PALESTINIANS FIGHT ON

The double-edged attacks on the Palestinian liberation fighters continues to intensify since the failure of the September massacres in Jordan. The Palestinian people have to face not only the Israeli aggressors in front, but Arab regimes stabbing them in the back. This combination has now been carried to its logical conclusion with the Bedouin Jordanian army lately rearmed by Britain and America coordinating its attacks with the Israeli forces in pounding Fedayeen bases and refugee camps. On the Lebanese border, the Israeli military have resumed their raids on villages and camps deep inside Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the US and Soviet Union are busy pushing through their "Rogers Proposals" to prepare the way for the permanent existence of the US base of aggression in the Middle East, Israel. The well-publicised "Jarring talks" with the "two sides" (the Palestinians are forgotten again) are under way in spite of the theatrical intransigence of Meir and Dayan on the Israeli side and President Sadat and others on the "Arab" side.

"Since its inception, the Palestinian liberation movement had to face its open enemies, the US, Israel and the reactionary regimes in Jordan and Lebanon as well as the hostility and intrigues of its hidden enemies, the Soviet Union and its dependent regimes in Egypt, Syria and Iraq. Those enemies are coming out more and more into the open and beginning to work in greater coordination among themselves; more so

as the Palestinian revolution proves its strength and determination by quickly resuming their operations against Israeli military targets soon after Hussein's massacres in Jordan.

Behind the "peace proposals," the "Jarring talks," the reallocation of refugee camps called the "Palestinian state" plan etc., the way is being paved to smash the liberation movement in Palestine. The massive arms and "aid" given to Israel by the US, the rearming of the Bedouin troops in Jordan by Britain and America, the daily harassments of the Palestinian people and attacks on the Fedayeen; all these signs point to a new and bitter confrontation planned by the US in the near future with Jordan providing the battlefield again. This confrontation will prove to be the most crucial in the history of the Palestinian revolution.

Unlike some press reports, the Fedayeen are as determined as ever before to carry their revolution to final victory rejecting every capitulationist scheme whether proposed by America, Russia or any Arab state. This determination has earned them the strong enmity of the imperialist powers east and west.

Their future struggles will be harder and the battles will be bloodier. In this situation it is more important than ever before to give full support to the fighting Palestinian people and expose all attempts especially by our government to yet commit a further crime against the people of Palestine.



Fighting in Amman

## SINGAPORE CONFERENCE

What are the facts behind the much-publicised circus at Singapore with, as the main attraction, the "arms and the man" wrangle between Heath and the African politicians? There are just three points to be made - in spite of the reams and reams of words churned out by all the political pundits.

1. There is a British empire, all right, whatever it calls itself and whatever contradictions are shaking its foundations. The value of British investment overseas at the end of 196 (not counting oil) was £5,585,000,000. The surplus in Britain's overseas balance sheet last year was £2,700,000,000. The invisible earnings (that is, the income from various investments, insurance, etc) in one quarter of last year amounted to £1,132,000,000. It is this last figure which comes to Britain's rescue in terms of its balance of payments position.

That is the kind of economic reality underlying the British empire and it is not going to be dissolved by somebody getting angry at a conference and saying he does not want to belong to the club any more.

2. Any British Government, whether Labour or Tory, will defend that empire at any cost. It may mean selling arms to South Africa or sending troops to this place or that; but to expect British Governments, representing British monopoly capitalism's interests in this country and overseas, to be nice and liberal in how it protects those interests is to have no understanding whatsoever of imperialism.

3. Not till, as has already happened in China and Albania and is in the process of happening in Indo-China, people throw imperialism out by force of arms and keep it out will they be free to manage their affairs in their own interest. This liberation from the plots and scheming of British imperialism is not going to be won at Commonwealth conferences by neo-colonialist leaders. It will be won by revolution of the people in the colonial and neo-colonial countries.

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) welcomes and will support in every way possible such revolutions which are already flaring up in various parts of the British empire. These revolutions are directed against the same class enemy that exploits the workers of Britain.

One thing the Commonwealth Prime Ministers appear to have ignored is the proposed new Immigration Bill which is to be introduced by Maudling. Obviously Commonwealth Premiers are not worried about the proposed restrictions to be imposed on their citizens and those who, though born in the Commonwealth, now hold British Passports. If press reports are to be believed this new bill is going to attack established civil liberties in a big way, as for example, making Commonwealth citizens report to the police, every time they move house. Furthermore if the idea of vouchers for specific jobs is going to be introduced then the immigrant worker will be threatened with deportation every time he is dismissed.

## GUERRILLAS BLAST PHNOM PENH AIRPORT

In the early hours of Friday, January 22, Cambodian liberation fighters attacked Phnom Penh, their country's capital. The Americans and South Vietnamese, like the puppet Cambodian government, were caught napping yet again and could do nothing to stop the guns and bombs which blew up 95% of US aircraft now being used to bomb Cambodian villages.

A thousand people, army and civilian personnel in the many army and navy bases developed since the US invasion of Cambodia last March were killed and wounded. Even the South Vietnamese ambassador whose house is near

## LEYLANDS BUY OFF MUTUALITY AGREEMENT

In our January issue we reported on the efforts of British Leyland Motor Corporation to end Piece Work and substitute a system which means simply piece work speeds for day payment. The struggle envisaged has not materialised - the workers have accepted the employers' terms.

That the terms amount to £1 an hour may have led some to believe that BL/MC workers have achieved a notable advance. This is not so and experience will no doubt prove this point. The defence of mutuality was a rallying point for engineering workers which nearly brought about a national stoppage in 1969. Then the national engineering employer proposed an end to mutuality and did not get acceptance by the unions. Mutuality is a term used in the national piece work agreement and means that before a price or a time can be fixed it must be agreed by the worker or workers who have to perform the work and the employer. If the worker challenges the price or time, it remains in dispute until a price or time is agreed. Under the AEU agreement the job in question can be refused and work stopped until agreement is reached that suits the workers. The employer can either give the worker other work which is not in dispute or have work stopped until agreement is reached on the job in question.

### CONTROL AT SHOP FLOOR LEVEL

The operation of the piece work agreement, given good shop organisation and solidarity gives workers control at shop floor level over an increasing proportion of wage bargaining instead of the entire wage being negotiated elsewhere, away from the shop or factory.

The effect of this can readily be seen and judged by the ever increasing efforts of employers, once the enthusiastic advocates of piece work, to do away with this system and replace it with various systems all having the one thing in common, the end of mutuality. The employers' motive is simple enough, any employer would prefer to impose a price rather than negotiate one with workers who may refuse to do the job until the price is acceptable.

Of course, piece work has involved workers in much struggle, it cannot be otherwise. When workers claim for themselves the right to name their price for what they have to provide, in the same way as any other purveyor of something of value, he strikes at the heart of the system. The right to say "pay the price or go without" has been almost exclusive to the employing class. They cannot take kindly to workers exercising this same prerogative. Where workers have this right and surrender it for what seems to be immediate gain, short term advantage, they make a mistake.

### AVOIDING STRIFE

The motive may also be to end the strife which involves them at times in dispute with loss of wages. They do not get rid of the strife by this means. What they give up is a very valuable tactical advantage they have

hitherto enjoyed. The struggle will remain and they will have to devise new tactics to replace the old. There is no gain in this.

Any consideration of immediate monetary gain ignores the lesson learned by many workers in recent years who have sold conditions for a wage increase instead of fighting for such increase without conditions.

The simplest example of this is the sale of the tea breaks. Simple arithmetic exposes this employers confidence trick which many workers have fallen for. The motive for the sale of tea breaks is a gain without a struggle. Why, some workers ask, face the prospect of loss of wages in a strike when such increase can be achieved by sacrifice of a morning and afternoon tea break? Two ten-minute tea breaks are worth half-an-hour of any employer's time, on the week that is two-and-a-half hours.

### SELLING TEA-BREAKS

When hourly rates were around 8s the going price for the tea breaks was £1, and this is to remain unchanged. When the hourly rates, for example, reach 16s on this reckoning the tea breaks must be worth £2. But the workers who fell for this three-card trick receive only £1.

The sale of conditions, many of them hard won in past struggles, is patently wrong in principle. Economically they are sheer lunacy as the above example illustrates. And the question remains, if the proper way of securing wage advance is by selling conditions, how do you go on when they have all been sold?

The answer of course is that the struggle will remain. There is no way of opting out or selling out. In seeking to eliminate an area of class conflict and surrendering valuable tactical advantage in the process workers do not secure peace. The war remains but the enemy has won position.

### LEARNING FROM MISTAKES

We would do no service to fellow workers by ignoring their mistakes. All must learn from each other. In the day-to-day struggle on the factory floor there is a whole wealth of experience to be drawn on.

If BL/MC workers want to know what their employer is up to they only have to look around at the rest of the motor industry, to look at Ford's in particular, the classic example of piece-work speed for day-work pay and very poor pay at that. Hence the Ford workers claim for "parity."

If the Ford system is better than the BL/MC system why, it must be asked, are Ford workers the lowest paid workers in the industry.

Workers will engage in struggle wherever they work and under any system of work or payment. This is certain and recent struggles involving sections of the working class very rarely engaged in struggle illustrates this fact. But tactics are important.

The class struggle will only be finally eliminated by the elimination of the employing class, and that is inevitable. In the coming struggles which will inevitably become sharper, with the employer using every tactical advantage, with the use of their state power as epitomised in the anti-Trade Union bill, the issue of power must come to the forefront.

In this situation the employer will not be sloppy. He knows the score. It therefore becomes all workers not to be sloppy either. While we fashion new weapons in the ceaseless struggle against the employers we cannot afford to give up those we have already and which have served us well.

**SOCIAL:**  
First Public Performance of  
Grand Union Folk Group  
Refreshment Provided  
155 Fortress Road, N.W.5.  
Admission 5/- 7.30 pm  
Organised by Croydon Branch  
CPB(ML)

# 700,000 JOBLESS

## MORE WORK — FOR FEWER PEOPLE

### REDUNDANCIES

Last month produced a new wave of announcements of plans for redundancies from many companies. This comes at a time when unemployment has reached a new post-war high of 690,000. Hawker Siddeley, British Steel Corporation, Honeywell, Vickers, and Pilkingtons are among the many companies that have recently announced lay-offs.

The effects of the crisis of British imperialism are now beginning to hit the working-class hard. Jobs are disappearing at the rate of about 6,000 a week. Problems of the struggle against redundancies, always a difficult one, are now coming to the fore. The employers have been using the sugar coated bullet of redundancy payments to try to damp down the struggle for the right to work. A lump sum payment may seem quite attractive, but if it is followed by little chance of obtaining work, as is increasingly the case, it can provide no solution. Further it can be used by the employers to divide workers by setting long service workers against the new workers who will receive little or no redundancy pay.

### TRYING TO SPLIT THE WORKERS

The employers may also use redundancies to attempt to split the workers in other ways; by trying to convince the workers not made redundant that it will be to their economic advantage that others are made redundant. It must be understood that an attack against one is an attack against all, and that the security of all workers is threatened.

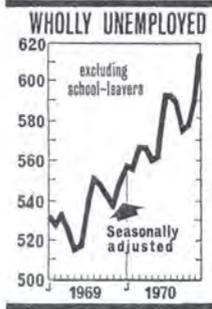
In 1970 average earnings in Britain rose by about 15% while the 1969 increase was about 9%. The fact that the level of wage settlements has gone up by about 60% is not because the employers felt weighed down by the money in their wallets and wanted to get rid of some but because of strikes and the threat of strikes. The number of days of strikes recorded in 1970 at about 12 million was about 50% up on 1969. No wonder this is the time the employers want to bring in the Industrial Relations Bill.

### CHRYSLERS

5,500 car workers at the Chrysler plant at Linwood, Scotland were demanding increases of £11 a week to give parity with Chrysler workers at Ryton, Coventry. An initial offer of £4.10s was rejected and the men eventually won a 17% increase of £5 plus better overtime rates and pensions. This means a £32 basic rate for day workers.

### MOLINS

At this Deptford tobacco machinery company, two hundred technical staff, claiming a 14% increase and overtime payment for all grades, took action when the management said that its final offer was 7 1/2% and it could afford no more because of its precarious financial position (due to the management spending a fortune on producing machines nobody wanted to buy). From the beginning of December there was an overtime ban, "working without enthusiasm" (a polite term for a go-slow) together with token strikes and days of "thought" spent thinking about work but not doing any, days of "cleanliness" spent tidying up — but not working, days of "discussion" spent talking to other people —



The struggle against redundancies has always been a difficult one for it requires not only a fight from those workers immediately threatened, but action in solidarity from other workers not so threatened. Such action will of course be made even more difficult if the Industrial Relations Bill is introduced with its clauses limiting solidarity action.

When the ever growing crisis of British imperialism, the struggle for the right to work is going to assume ever increasing importance. Capitalism by its very nature cannot guarantee the right to work; consequently out of this there arises revolutionary implications. We must therefore go beyond the pleas of the reformists of the TUC and the Labour Party to patch up the dying beast of capitalism and realise that our task, the task of the working-class, is to finally destroy the beast. Whatever "Yet" Feather may say about "irresponsibility",

### OVER-TIME

There is a myth like so many others designed by the ruling class to tell us "You've never had it so good", that the working week gets shorter all the time. In fact statistics published this month by the P.I.B. show that hours worked by men manual workers have been about the same since before the war. "Normal" hours have gone down from around 45 1/2 hours to 40 hours, but overtime has increased from about one hour to about 6 1/2. Thus in Britain it is the 46 1/2-hour week, not the 40-hour week, and this is a longer week than that worked by the workers of the Common Market countries (except France) or the U.S.A.

Any worker who thinks he's getting good rates for overtime because of time-and-a-half or whatever, should reflect on this: In the average job, 6 1/2 hours overtime is counted as part of a living wage. So you're getting cheated as surely as the non-manual worker who has to do his overtime unpaid! Many jobs are advertised quoting a wage which includes the overtime which the employer expects you to work. And when you go to the Labour Exchange they hasten to add, "but there's plenty of overtime" after telling you the hourly rate. If you earn under 10/- an hour, figures show that you'll almost certainly be working overtime, and there's a good chance you'll be working 50 hours or more a week.

Of course, no employer will pay a living wage for 40 hours if he can pay the same for 50. Thus you have the irony of high levels of overtime side by side with 690,000 unemployed, who could all be employed just out of the extra work done in overtime.

### DEGREES BUT NO JOBS

Unemployment is now hitting graduates, especially those with higher degrees. There is a "glut" of PhD students for whom no jobs can be found. And since the number of graduates is due to double by 1980, we can expect this situation to get worse.

Reasons for this according to the London University careers advisory board are that the level of recruitment by industry has stabilised and the number of academic jobs is falling off. It should be no surprise that the same processes which are causing unemployment to rise among all workers are also making it rise for workers who are graduates, even though they may not regard themselves as workers.

Naturally the ruling class takes advantage of this rising unemployment. As in industry generally, competition among graduates for posts enables employers to leave out "undesirables" and hold down rates of pay. "An increasing number will have to accept posts which have not hitherto been by graduates," say the careers advisory board. And they add: "This should not be seen as a bad thing for the effect should be to increase efficiency at all levels in every section of employment throughout the country."

But more and more graduates are realising, with unemployment and low pay, that they are in the same boat as the rest of the working class. Thus there is a rise of militant trade unionism among them replacing the "gentle societies" of the past — as for example the industrial action of the NUT.

This is an indication that graduates are beginning to switch allegiance to the working class and the capitalists will be finding that their exploitation of graduate competition has back-fired on them.

### ALL OUT SUPPORT FOR POST OFFICE STRIKERS

On January 20th 230,000 post office workers began a strike for increases of 15% to 20%, with a minimum of a £3 rise. At present average earnings range from £15 to £27 while the average postman has to start work at 6.00 in the morning, six days a week, in all weathers for the princely basic rate of £19.3.4d a week. The postal workers are also against the present age limits on maximum pay, which mean that telephonists earning £12 a week basic rate at the age of 20 have to wait eight years until they can get the maximum of £17.8.6d at 28, although the 20-year old will probably be just as efficient. The Post Office Corporation only offered an 8% increase and like any employer, claimed that they could not afford to meet the union demand which would cost about £37 million a year. In an example of the number-juggling which passes for economics in government circles the Post Office claimed that to meet the postal workers' demands they would have to put the cost of posting a letter up to 9d, although this would bring in an extra £88 million. In any case, with the telecommunications section of the Post Office booming as never before there is no reason at all why the cost of postal services should go up to meet the claim. No reason except that Big Business uses the telecommunications services and wants to keep those particular prices down.

As the union did not have enough funds, there was no strike pay. Yet it was decided to keep enough members at work (without pay) to deal with pensions, emergency calls, etc. This was done out of fear of the kind of "public opinion" that was used against the power workers, but forgetting that this "public opinion" is a paper and television tiger created by the government that will be used against any workers no matter how considerate, whose action is really effective. And if you are not going to have an all-out strike then why should everyone go without pay? The power workers, the council workers, and the postal workers themselves back in 1964, are examples of how selective strikes or going slow can sometimes hit just as hard as an all-or-nothing strike.

The Post Office tried to break the strikers' morale by claiming that the number of blacklegs was increasing. The strikers replied with mass demonstrations to show their determination to fight on. The postal shutdown provided a field day for profiteering private services, with official government blessing of course. So why don't postal workers fight these blacklegs by going round the City and the banks, accepting letters, charging as much as possible and then delivering them — down the nearest drain?

### MERSEY DOCKS

1,700 dockers, the entire labour force of Ae Smith Coggins went on strike in mid-January in protest against the company's right to move men from one sector of the port to another. This had meant that men from the North sector were being transferred to the South which meant leaving home earlier and getting back later. A timely reminder that the real working day is not just the time between clocking in and clocking out.



### ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

#### TANKER DRIVERS

In early January 1,500 drivers of oil and petrol tankers for Shell-BP and Texaco went on strike, not for their own direct benefit, but for drivers for the smaller authorised distributors. As a result of a £4 increase last summer, the oil company drivers get a basic rate of £28.5s while the drivers for the many small distributors are paid a basic rate of £25. Action by the oil company drivers has a quicker and greater effect than action by the distributors' men as the distributors have to jump when the oil companies crack the whip, and the oil companies cannot make their usual vast profits unless they can distribute the oil. These tactics by the drivers have led to parity for the distributors' drivers in the Midlands and large increases in the rest of the country. Some drivers have won increases of up to 60% in the last twelve months.

#### PRINT WORKERS

Once again print workers have shown that the Press lords do not have absolute power to print whatever lies they like. On January 12th workers at the Bristol Evening Post held a lunch-time protest meeting against the Bill. That evening a distorted account of the meeting appeared in the paper and so the workers refused to print it. If this happened to every lie the Press prints there would be precious few papers to be seen on the streets and no great loss either.

#### NURSES

On January 12th representatives of 300,000 nurses rejected an offer of 7 1/2% pay increases. The nurses want pay increases at least in line with the 15 to 18 per cent awarded to council workers and a 40-hour week from April 1st, with the promise of a further two-hour reduction.

#### LONDON BUSMEN

On January 21 a claim was lodged on behalf of London Transport's 23,000 busmen for an extra £5 a week — 20 to 25% more on the basic rate, and also improved working conditions, a 2 1/2 hour reduction from the present 40-hour week, and increased allowances for operators of one-man buses. Present average weekly earnings are about £26 for drivers, £25 for conductors and about £31 for one-man bus operators. A reduction in the maximum hours for drivers from 72 to 60 hours was also pressed for.

#### PICKET LINES AT MOLINS



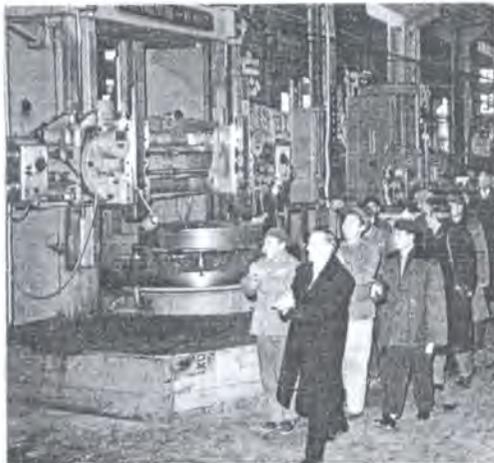
# CPB(ML) DELEGATION

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) expresses its fraternal gratitude to the Communist Party of China for the comradely hospitality given to the delegation led by Reg Birch, Chairman of the CPB(ML), on their visit to the Peoples' Republic of China.

This year, 1971 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China by Chairman Mao Tsetung and a dozen other comrades in the then imperialist-dominated city of Shanghai. It was fitting, therefore, that the delegation of the CPB(ML) should "see in" such a momentous new year in the fraternal company of Comrade Chou En-lai, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and other members of the Political Bureau and Central Committee.

While in China the delegation had the opportunity of meeting many workers, including those who had taken an active role during the Cultural Revolution in defeating the revisionist line of relying on material incentives, of putting experts in command, of trying to restore capitalism. These workers, now often members of the revolutionary committees responsible for socialist production in factories and mills, have taken back that portion of power usurped by the revisionists and under the banner of Marxism-Leninism are scoring magnificent achievements for the people of China and for the world socialist movement. Through the delegation these workers send their brotherly greetings to the workers of Britain. In every factory workers particularly asked the members of the delegation to tell British workers that they supported them wholeheartedly in their fight to defend trade unions against the attacks of the capitalist state.

The real importance of the delegation's visit to China is the evidence they bring back to the workers of Britain of the higher quality of life in a country where the workers have taken power and kept it, where exploitation has been abolished, where socialist working class morality has prevailed over the selfish, grab-what-you-can code of the bourgeoisie. By applying the scientific laws of Marxism-Leninism to the specific conditions of Britain the workers of this country will take Britain along the same revolutionary road. Their working class brothers in China wish them well in all their struggles.



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## WORKERS!

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DEFEND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE -  
TO STRIKE DOWN CAPITALISM

Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

CALLING ALL WORKERS

PUBLIC MEETING Friday, February 19th 7.30 p.m.

Speaker: REG BIRCH

CONWAY HALL RED LION SQUARE

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(cont'd from page 1)

Furthermore "security" has now been given such a broad interpretation that it can cover anything the state wants it to. It is no longer restricted to matters of state secrets. It now includes discussing political issues, attending political meetings, taking part in demonstrations etc.

The Special Branch could not have been quicker off the mark to make the maximum use of the Carr bombing to extend the range of their outside-the-law activities if they had arranged the whole thing themselves. And of course the "IRA scare" is always good for depriving Irish political prisoners of the most elementary rights or giving the Special Branch a free rein in their break-and-enter investigations.

Just as the appeal for "law and order" has been the signal for judges and magistrates to increase enormously the fines and sentences for political offences, so the appeal to "security" is always the basis for giving more scope to the secret police. Whenever democratic procedures are set aside on grounds of security, the secret police come into their own.

This is happening more and more. In the Industrial Relations Bill employees have the right (in theory) not to be unfairly dismissed (section 20) and if unfairly dismissed can complain to the industrial tribunal (section 94). But, according to section 142, if the action of dismissal was taken on national security grounds (which only needs the signature of a minister of the crown as conclusive evidence) then the industrial tribunal shall dismiss the complaint forthwith. In other words reports to the Government from the Special Branch will decide who can be arbitrarily dismissed from work.

Already employers are writing security clauses into contracts of employment. If a firm is given a Government contract or even has the possibility of receiving such a contract in the future, the whole secret police apparatus can be used in screening workers to eliminate "security risks".

Capitalism only begins to rely on such devices of the corporate state as the secret police when it is in trouble. British capitalism is in trouble. But it will not give over without a fight. It will become increasingly vicious with its back to the wall. We, the workers of Britain, will not plead with it to leave us some bourgeois democratic rights. We will destroy it in order to establish REAL democracy—proletarian democracy.

### PUBLIC MEETING ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BILL

Main Speaker: TED ROYCRAFT

Federation House, Elmwood Road, Broad Green, Croydon  
7.30 p.m. Wednesday 10th February

Organised by Croydon Branch, Communist Party of Britain  
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LIVERPOOL WORKERS MARCH AGAINST THE BILL

## STRIKE LEADERS OR STRIKE BREAKERS

Every Trade Union and all Trade Union leaders express total and unqualified opposition to the Carr anti-Trade Union Bill. Whatever divisions were there in the case of the Labour Government anti-Trade Union intentions have now been removed. There is now unity at the top - for what it is worth.

The call of the TUC for tea-break meetings and meetings outside working hours met with a mixed response. There were many total stoppages of varying duration but the total effect is made difficult to assess by the very nature of this type of call. Certainly it has not had the effect of stopping the government in its tracks. The lack of any real and sustained opposition and the virtual assurance given to the government by the Trade Union leaders that they will not only refrain from instigating action but will condemn action whoever else instigates it gave the green light to Carr to go ahead.

It is necessary for all workers to recognise that whilst the Carr Bill is a sweeping attack on the whole Trade Union movement, everything but the kitchen sink as it were, the main brunt of the Bill is directed against the workers at floor level. That is its most cogent feature. Already Union bureaucrats are attending courses mugging up on the Bill to learn to live with it. No such courses are of any value for the workers and Shop Stewards. What stands out from all else in the Bill is the way its sponsors have made an exhaustive study of all kinds of workshop struggles in all their aspects. The tactics employed by workers and stewards in all kinds of situation have been carefully studied and the provisions of the Bill framed accordingly.

It has been commonplace for those local officials who are at one with their members to advise the members to "lean on" an employer when that employer shows intransigence. The stewards know that such advice can have wide interpretation, it is a question of tactics. You don't threaten the employer with an overtime ban if there is no overtime working at the time, but if the employer is pushing for overtime then such a ban can be quite effective. The meaning of the Bill is that every turn of the screw which has been second nature to shop stewards is an illegal act and will be dealt with as such.

It has always been hard enough to outdo the employers, the employers are not exactly bereft of wits either when it comes to tactics. Any time he has the advantage he uses it. The Bill makes every tactic ever used by the employers either quite legal or the penalty negligible. In such a one sided contest as that created by the Bill what was always a difficult task for Shop Stewards becomes one fraught with legal sanctions as well as those the employer has always had at his disposal. If the employer so chooses, he can within the terms of the Bill decide that he will simply dispense with the Stewards by paying sums of money which in the light of past experience he could consider money well spent.

Of course workers may well decide that they will not have their Stewards dumped for a little cash consideration and take action for their retention. In that case they will be guilty of an illegal act.

All these considerations must be seriously studied by all workers who know from experience that if organisation at the place of work is affected it doesn't matter much what happens elsewhere. Trade Unions did not grow out of an idea. They were not organised and set up by professional leaders. They were established in struggle where workers worked and the workers asked nobody for permission to do this. They just did it. Why would there be any other criterion for the defense of the very Trade Unions which workers created in struggle with their employers.

Again we say do not ask for leaders to call on you to act, act and tell them you have acted. If you wait for them to tell you, you will wait for ever!