

Anarchist Worker

**SELF-MANAGEMENT
IN STRUGGLE**
-SPECIAL FEATURE

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SOCIAL CONTRACT MUST GO UNDER

RECENT EVENTS at Leyland show the extent to which the bureaucracy of the unions, ever loyal to a Labour government dominated by the right, show their collaboration with the industrialists.

'Back to work or else!', threatens Scanlon.

'Back to work or else!' threatens

hired thugs as on the Globtik Venus or police as at the LSE.

Faced with increasing militancy from workers, students and the homeless, the bosses resort to their faithful servant, the law, with the Criminal Trespass Bill being put through parliament.

This law will not only affect



'Back to work or else!', threatens the National Enterprise Board.

Yet isn't this the 'left' Scanlon that the Communist Party gave its backing to not so long ago? Just as it gave its backing to Beaver Jack Jones and those other 'lefts', Wilson and Foot, in the past.

Further examples of class collaboration from union leaders can be seen in the threats to striking workers at the *Times* from the NATSOPA leadership; and the backdown of Geoffrey Drain (see inside) over the Scottish public service strike.

Determination

Yet in spite of all this, workers are beginning to show a determination to fight back.

The Social Contract is seriously threatened by a rising tide of anger and against redundancies workers have occupied three Plessey factories throughout the country.

A previous occupation of the Wildt Mellor Bromley factory in Leicester was called off after a threatened court injunction. This pattern is repeated in the smashing of the occupation on the Globtik Venus.

The rash of occupations throughout colleges and universities against cuts face similar threats, with an injunction and the smashing of the occupation at the London School of Economics.

Threats

The bosses are beginning to bare their fangs, with the increasing use of injunctions called for by either the right-wingers in NALGO, 'liberals' like LSE principal Dahrendorff, or strike-breaking organisations like the NAFF.

Physical dispersal of occupations are now to be seen, whether it be

college, but also the thousands of people squatting throughout Britain because they cannot obtain other accommodation.

Defence

Occupations, wherever they take place, must be defended and the maximum mobilisation possible in the area must be countered against such threat, through workers, students and squatters united organisations.

Merlyn Rees has already obtained the planned deportation of Agee and Hosenball, in compliance with the CIA and the US treasury.

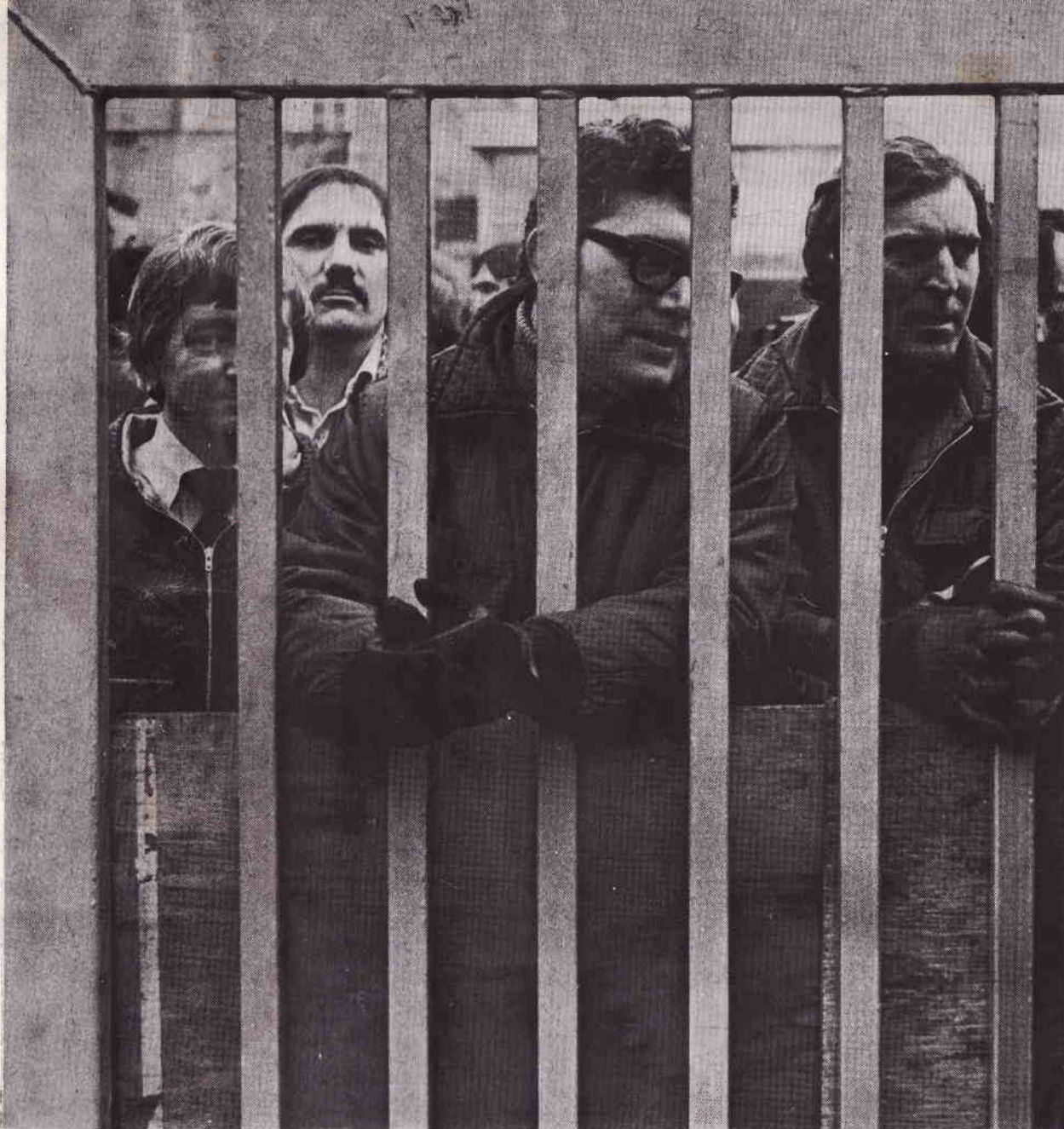
He is already preparing laws to further limit immigration and harass immigrants already here, in the same way as he has used the Prevention of Terrorism Act to harass the Irish working class community, with arbitrary arrests and deportations. Many of these people had nothing to do with the IRA but happened to be militant at their place of work.

All out!

In the face of all these attacks on the meagre liberties obtained by the working class (and only then through years of struggle), it becomes more and more important to fight against low wages and for equal pay; against unemployment and the cuts; against the Criminal Trespass Law, the Immigration Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

One way in which rank and file organisations can be built up is by building for the national day of strike action called by the Liaison Committee in Defence of Trade Unions this April 19th, to fight against the Social Contract for free collective bargaining.

EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE



Workers occupy at Massey Ferguson. The Labour government is trying to outlaw actions like these with the Criminal Trespass Law now going through Parliament.

Photo: John Sturrock (*Report*)

Fight Sexism & Racism

"At this stage the formation of autonomous black networks is not 'black racism' but a recognition of current necessity. Pretending white racism within the working class doesn't exist by ignoring it, is simple insanity. Unity on the picket line is of course vital. . . but on its own it can't smash racism. Autonomous black workers' power is a vital factor in doing so. The more coherent it is, the more effective it is going to be." (*Libertarian Struggle*, May 1973)

"Confronting racism and sexism within the working class is vital if we are to prevent the bosses using these divisions to split us and rule. Black and women's autonomous organisations and caucuses in the trade unions, are essential for this." (*Libertarian Struggle*, July/August 1973)

WE SAID THIS back in 1973, and it is as true today as it was then — if not more so.

The National Front and other racists have become more active over the last couple of years. Physical attacks on black and Asian communities led to the creation of many defence organisations around the country, and many large demonstrations where black and Asian workers, especially the youth, came into action against racism for the first time.

Not only this, but blacks and Asians were involved in many strikes from the late 60s onwards.

The most important of these were the Mansfield hosiery strike, the building strike and the ancillary hospital workers strike, where blacks and whites of both sexes fought together (all in 1973).

There were also major strikes as Courtaulds, Standard Telephones and Cables, ICI, and the disastrous strike at Imperial Typewriters, which was broken by racist divisions.

Black youth turned out in large numbers to stop the National Front marching through Bradford, and reacted violently against the police attack on the Notting Hill Peoples Carnival in 1976.

Many Asian workers were involved on September 28/29 in the riot of nightshift workers at Fords, Dagenham, ignited by work hazards and speed-ups.

The increasing involvement of blacks and Asians in struggle should be assisted by revolutionary organisations.

Many left groups have distributed large amounts of anti-racist leaflets, posters and stickers, and this is useful and necessary work.

But blacks and Asian workers should not be seen as just another hunting ground to recruit to predominantly white male organisations.

Autonomous black organisations, as long as they don't become separatist groups, and as long as they reject the leadership of the black capitalists and establishment, should be supported by all revolutionaries.

The problem of racism in Great Britain, is a deep and serious one. It is likely that it will be used more and more by the bosses to divide and rule.

An intensive struggle against racism has already started, but must be widened and strengthened over the next few years.

Women workers too have been



International Women's Day Meeting at Conway Hall. Photo: Laurence Sparham (IFL)

taking an increasingly active part over the last few years. Much activity has centred around the National Abortion Campaign, the Working Women's Charter, local nursery campaigns, the creation of centres for battered wives, as well as the spread of women's self-health groups.

In industry too, women have played an increasingly active role.

The Leeds women's sweat shop strike, the Fakenham occupation, the strikes at Trico and Coventry Bingo were all examples of this.

Only recently (January 21) 550 workers, mainly women, at Magnavox in Barking, Essex, won a job evaluation strike, while the Grunwick strike for union recognition, involving women workers, many of them Asian, still continues.

Of course the fight for equal pay, for adequate abortion facilities, for the provision of creches and nurseries are important struggles, but they often risk being destroyed by sexist divisions in the working class.

That's why it's essential that

women's caucuses are created in the trade unions. Not only there, but in revolutionary organisations as well, forcing male militants to confront their own sexism, forcing the organisations to make actions against sexism a priority.

A united working class will not be achieved by us ignoring the contradictions inside it. The woman or black who sacrifices his/her own interests for the sake of the revolution does not only hurt him/herself.

It damages the revolution. male
Eva Long

UNEMPLOYMENT

OFFICIALLY, unemployment is around 1,500,000 though it is most certainly higher than that.

At the beginning of the year the government announced in its White Paper that there will be public spending cuts of £2,000,000 in the financial year, 1977-78. The 'squeeze' will particularly affect local government housing hospitals and education.

Such cuts will effect the level of



Meeting to defend Islington 18, black youths arrested in the months after Notting Hill Carnival on charges that don't specify any crime. Photo: John Sturrock (Report)

Threat to Workers Democracy

TRUEMID was launched on July 30 last year: its full name is The Movement For True Industrial Democracy.

From the expensive quality of the glossy material it produces, it is clear that it is already well supported financially.

In fact, its estimated costs for August 1976 to August 1977 are £133,000!

Since it has had little chance to build up much in the way of members' subscriptions the logical conclusion is that it is the employers who are providing the cash.

Aims

Indeed, this is clearly stated in its aims: Truemid aims to set up eight regional offices, each with a convenor and secretary who will administer a number of districts. It says:

"The districts will eventually become financially self-supporting through membership subscriptions and donations from employers." (our emphasis)

It already has full time organisers in Lodon and Birmingham. It declares its overriding strategy to be:

"The preparing and documenting of a new comprehensive coding of trade

union rules and regulations and of trade union negotiation procedure and relations within industry."

Campaigning to secure:

1. The support of the majority of trade union members and thereby the adoption of the new code by the TUC, and
2. The support of the CBI for the industrial relations aspect of the new code.

The Preparation of a Trade Union Committee Working With the CBI of a Draft Parliamentary Bill to provide the code with full legal status".!

In other words Truemid is campaigning for the return of the Tory Industrial Relations Act and is already interfering in trade union elections in support of those candidates who its backers, the employers, consider will help them to do so.

Truemid believes that:

"Employers should . . . accept their responsibilities . . . identify and encourage employees . . . they must constantly seek to be fully informed of union developments . . . they must allow the moderate activist time off with pay . . . use of telephone and typing . . . they should encourage and arrange inter-factory visits for moderate activists.

Some employers have already acted on this advice.

TRUEMID's Council

Chairman: Syd Davies, AUEW.

Secretary: Ron McLaughlin, AUEW (former assistant to John Boyd)

Treasurer: Heather Williams, APEX

Members: Malcolm Henderson, APEX
Arthur Hull, SOCS
Brian Key, NALGO
Tom Adam, (non-unionist)
John Ogier, (non-unionist)

The present chairman, Syd Davies, is a former AUEW Convenor from a small factory in Birmingham, Aero Coldform, and has admitted that in order to carry out the work of building a Truemid network, he has been given one year's leave of absence by his employer.

During the last AUEW elections he spent his time touring the country enlisting support for those 'moderate' candidates who were backed throughout the campaign by the press and television.

In Manchester and elsewhere, Davies visited factories where he asked employers for permission to distribute leaflets to workers, asking them to vote for these candidates.

At some factories in Manchester he asked to see convenors and shop stewards to say he had been sent by the Manchester District Secretary of the Union.

The 'moderates' won the election.

will be posted the original leaflet with a covering letter", then "a visit to their homes".

All this in order to assess: "1) the political leaning of the member; 2) the interest we have provoked; 3) the extent and willingness of the member to be involved in Branch proceedings; 4) the attributes and services each member may have to offer; 5) members further contacts within this or with other unions. From the 100 plus people we will visit, we shall find the seven or so required to stand for the election to Branch Officers."

The members, however, still have to be encouraged to vote for the "seven or so". Truemid has the answer to that. The "seven or so" by attending every Branch meeting "will thus be alerted to any pending election". This will give "ample time to write and visit members".

Next "the group will hire a coach" which "will collect members and take them to the Branch to cast their vote (sympathetic members only).

After they have "cast their vote" the members will be treated to "a social drink" before being "returned home". Perhaps Truemid will campaign for this to be shown in election expenses?

IF YOU have seen any Truemid literature you will have noticed the 'moderate' language and descriptions that Truemid use to describe their enemies. Their internal documents, however, are much less restrained than their documents for open discussion, such as Trueline.

In one such document they describe how to win "control of the Branches". Under the heading "TAKING OVER A BRANCH" they describe step by step their methods, as used for one (unnamed) white collar union.

Firstly they "researched" the AGM report, found "that one important branch was moving . . . extremist resolutions". Second they "researched" the "positions and political affiliations of the Branch Officers". Third they "distributed leaflets".

As a result of all this they "made contact with two branch members". Having contacted their members they then "encouraged" these two, plus two others "to form a nucleus of a group oriented towards taking over this branch".

Truemid continually preaches "morality" yet the next steps in their plan were to obtain "the names and addresses of all the Branch". This was done and the names "card indexed".

From here they intended that "all [Branch members]

employment in the public sector.

This has already been spelled out in greater detail by a number of county councils. Essex is a case in point.

Anarchist Worker has a copy of a confidential document — a summary table showing estimates of the 1977/78 Revenue Budget — placed before representatives of Nalگو, NUPE and other trade unions at a meeting in Chelmsford in the 17th January. The document was proposed by the County Personnel Officer on 11th January.

In it, the County envisage cuts of at least £8,500,000 and a cut back in staff through 'natural wastage' not filling vacancies and 'voluntary/compulsory redundancies' or 2,180.

Particularly hard hit will be education.

Part-time clerical staff in primary schools will be reduced by 100 by not filling vacancies, and large numbers will be cut in colleges of further education by the same methods.

By voluntary/compulsory redundancies 445 jobs will be lost by cleaning staff, as will 150 school meals assistants. There will also be savage cuts in swimming pools staff. And much more . . .

Nevertheless workers in Essex are beginning to fight back.

Nalگو has already instructed its members not to undertake work hitherto done by people who have left (through retirement etc) but who have not been replaced.

On February 1st, members of the Fire Brigades Union, Nalگو, NUPE, and bus workers marched through Chelmsford to picket County Hall.

The Socialist Workers Party (formerly IS) are supporting such action as part of their 'Right to Work' campaigns.

Libertarians see it as part of a larger, grass roots struggle not only against the effects of a crisis-ridden capitalist system, not as a 'right to be exploited' campaign but for the eventual destruction of private property society.

P.E.N. (Nalگو, Colchester)

In *The Guardian* of October 8 last year Davies is quoted as saying: "Lots of people do support us. Garden parties and bridge parties have been held." — what kind of people attend events of that character?

The same *Guardian* article stated: "Asked about his connections with Colonel David Stirling, who advised members of his GB75 organisation to transfer to the movement, Mr Davies said, 'I think he a totally acceptable figure. We feel that the Scargills and the Scanlons, not the Stirlings, are the danger to this country'. Stirling is one of the military men in this country who is building up a special force to deal with strikes and what they call 'civil disobedience'. That is what his GB75 force is intended for. One of his pet ideas is to use helicopters to break picket lines."

National Front members are also active in Truemid.

Opposition

Truemid must be taken very seriously and opposed at every opportunity.

Over the last few months we have seen a massive propaganda campaign against 'Left Wing Extremists' in the unions.

What has really been happening is that with a chronic economic crisis and increasing unemployment, more and more people are beginning to demand new policies of social change as opposed to the discredited remedies of pay restraint and cuts in public spending, rationalisation, sackings.

Lacking confidence in the ability of the 'moderates' to hold back the movement for radical change and real answers to the economic problems, the bosses have embarked on a policy of taking over the trade union movement at branch and district level.

Truemid is a threat to every worker: trade unionists have the right to express their point of view without the interference of such employer-financed groups.

Don't let them get a foothold in your branch.

BP

Information from *Trades Unions and Democracy*, an East Birmingham Trade Union Research Unit Fact Sheet, and *Truemid — The Threat To Union Democracy*, put out by the Manchester Co-ordinating Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.