

# The Government's Colour Bar

**THE MOUNTBATTEN REPORT** on Commonwealth Immigration recommended that immigration be restricted to 10,000 persons per year. Now it is expected that even this low figure will be further reduced and the final number will be around 7,000 per year.

This shows how far the Labour Party has gone since 1961 when, in opposition, they took a principled stand against the Conservative Government's Commonwealth Immigration Act. They are now cutting down on the recommended figure in an effort to win the votes of those of the electorate who are prejudiced against the coloured immigrants.

This policy is actually in operation now and for some time there has been a tightening up on the number of permits issued to coloured immigrants. These numbered over 30,000 in 1963 and last year dropped to a total of 14,000 out of 97,000 applications. In the first five months of this year, 5,500 permits have been issued so it looks as though the Government's new figure will put the official seal on a policy already enacted by the Immigration authorities.

Those immigrants who do manage to get a permit are classified under three headings. A, those with a job already waiting; B, those with a skill which is in demand and C, those, who being unskilled, come here to try their luck. While there are vacancies for unskilled

labour and jobs which need only a short period of training, no 'C' permits have been issued for over 18 months.

### IF YOU'RE WHITE, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT

Applications from non-Commonwealth migrants, who are listed as 'alien' labour, numbered over 60,000 last year, an increase over the previous year. Out of these, only 2,000 were turned down and many of those accepted filled vacancies in jobs which were either unskilled or where very little training was needed. So the dice is loaded against the coloured immigrant, unless he is skilled in work for which there is a shortage of labour.

These figures show that whereas Commonwealth immigration, which is mainly coloured, has decreased, 'alien' immigration, which is mainly white, is off the increase and added to this is the immigration from Ireland, which does not come under any control. What the policy of the 'Socialist' Government amounts to is not that it is against immigration as such, but that it really prefers those with white skins. No doubt with their eye on their small majority, they see this as one way to help them gain power at the next election.

Surely one of the best ways to overcome prejudice is to meet and work amongst all people, no matter what their country of origin.

P.T.

# TORIES CHOOSE LEADER

"Have you voted yet old boy?"  
"Yes, but the last ballot was a damn close run thing though."  
"Who are you voting for?"  
"I say, steady on, it's supposed to be secret."  
"Well, after all we went to the same school."  
"I suppose so. I'm voting for the new chap whatjemacallit—"  
"Not for him! He's supposed to be a bit of Bolshie."  
"I don't know. He's quite sound on most things."  
"He's not quite top drawer. Like Sir Alec was."  
"I know. He's got a prole background which might help the old image. He's a bit of a thinker."  
"Stinker?"  
"No, old boy, thinker. Like Enoch Powell. Economics is his subject. Better than the old matchsticks lark."  
"I suppose it is the coming thing?"  
"Is he soft on welfare?"  
"I know he kept the old age pensioners waiting last year."  
"Sounds like our sort of chap."

"He's all against workers striking."  
"Good-oh. Officially or unofficially?"  
"Both. But the official ones hardly seem to happen."  
"True. But how is he on wage restraint?"  
"Mad keen on it and increased production too, he has an economic theory that increased production will raise the gross national product and we'll be able to afford increased wages out of the increased export profits."  
"Sounds reasonable."  
"Very reasonable. That's his whole approach."  
"Is he in favour of Resale Price Maintenance?"  
"Oh yes but he's trying to tie it up with wage restraint. In that he's better than Ted Heath."  
"Yes, it sounds a wizard scheme. How's whatshisname on foreign affairs?"  
"Sound. He doesn't stand for any of that damn no-bomb nonsense. Continuity of foreign policy every time."  
"Jolly good. Does he go along with the Yanks?"  
"Well, yes and no."  
"Sound policy that."  
"How's he on immigration?"  
"He's for firmness with a certain measure of tolerance."  
"Something like Peter Griffiths."  
"I do wish you wouldn't mention him."  
"Sorry old chap."  
"How does he stand on the vital subjects?"  
"What vital subjects?"  
"Hanging. Homosexuality. Pornography."  
"He seems to be anti-hanging but he doesn't want to waste time discussing it. The same with homos, he'd rather the Lords dealt with it . . . more in their line. He seems to be against pornography on principle."  
"Sounds like a good type. Suppose we better give him a whirl. What's his damn name I always forget it."  
"Wilson, old boy. Harold Wilson (as in MacMillan)."

JACK SPRATT.

# ANARCHY 54

OUT AUG 7 DISCUSSES  
**MARTIN BUBER**  
**GUSTAV LANDAUER**  
**ERICH MUEHSAM**

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# Is Teenage Sex a Problem?

**I**N THE EARLY days of the social sciences, before Kinsey and when statistics were everything, it was a well-known fact that nine out of ten men masturbate, and the tenth is a bloody liar. Now, thank goodness, we can be more scientific and we know for a fact that one in five of boys and about one in eight girls aged between 15 and 19 have had sexual experience.

To provide us with this vital information an investigation into the extent of sexual activity among Britain's teenagers has been carried out by the Government-sponsored Central Council for Health Education, and a two-guinea volume has been published\* written by Michael Schofield, 46-year-old research director of the Council. All the above facts are true. From then on it's anybody's guess.

Certainly some astonishing 'facts' have come to light. For instance, Mr. Schofield straight-facedly tells us that boys have admitted that when they indulge in sexual activity it is because they are impelled by sexual desire. Simply to have this brought to light was certainly worth all the effort of this eminent council. As also was the revelation that teenagers' first experiences usually took place in their parents' homes. Not, you will notice, their own homes, but where their parents lived! And even this depended on how much time the youngsters spent with their parents, instead of with each other! And on how much the parents supervised them, knew where they spent their leisure, and insisted on them being home at a certain time.

As far as our Press is concerned, this investigation has ended in a damp squib. It has not backed up the sensational stories of teenage debaucheries, the picture of a generation living for kicks and dragging itself down into a slough of immoral degradation. So instead of making the front pages with sensational headlines, it is simply commented upon somewhere in the middle, with headlines and comment exposing clearly the pressmen's confusion at not being presented with a clear-cut case of what they expected.

For instance, the *Sun's* headline read: 'Like Charity—Teenage Love Begins at Home', and the first para-

graph began: 'Premarital sexual relations among Britain's teenagers are far from universal. But it is not a minority problem confined to a few deviates. And, according to a book published today, it is common enough to be seen as one manifestation of teenage conformity.' The reporter then goes on to quote the figure showing what a small minority of teenagers admit to sexual activity! Conformity with what is not explained.

What a sorry let-down! How the Press would have delighted in being able to build up a story of teenage immorality. How disappointed they are in having a report that points to the opposite.

We cannot help wondering, of course, about the veracity with which the Council's questions were answered by the teenagers interviewed. The survey dealt with 934 boys and 939 girls from seven areas in Britain. Not a very large sample, but probably enough to arrive at some straight conclusions, if all the questions were answered truthfully. Now we know that clever psychologists can so construct their question sheets that the liars will give themselves away, but still it occurs to us that in a survey of young people carried out by old people (sorry, 46-year-old Mr. Schofield) on subjects where the teenagers automatically feel secretive from the oldies, there may well have been a lot of information withheld. This, of course, can operate either way—active but guilty respondents can say 'no activity', inactive but boastful individuals can claim experience they haven't had.

The real issue, for us libertarians, is why teenage sex should be a problem anyway? Only a lunatic society which sets out to suppress natural emotions could find anything reprehensible in the expression of natural drives at the time when they are most powerful. But then we do live in a lunatic society, and so we are told we have problems.

But the problems do not come from those who want to do what comes naturally—they come from those who want to impress upon us sets of morality that have no connection with our needs, and which express only their own fears, or prejudices.

There is, after all no colour problem for coloured people except that imposed upon them by white people who have prejudices against them because of the colour of their skin. The problem does not come from the coloured—it comes from the 'whites'.

There is no problem for homosexuals other than that which is imposed upon them from outside by those who cannot accept deviation from what they think is normal.

There are no problems in abortion, divorce, or free sexuality in general other than those created by the unfree seeking to impose their suppression on all around them.

All these so-called 'problems' are problems only because we are governed by accepted standards which are in fact unacceptable. The problem in each case—and many more—is the suppression, and the ignorance and prejudice that flows from it, leading to fears, guilts and complexes in the repressed.

Freedom and knowledge are the answers. Freedom and knowledge will bring responsibility—suppression may bring the appearance of order, but it is appearance only and brings with it a fearful cost in human suffering.

What in fact are the problems that arise from teenage sexuality? Illegitimate children and venereal disease? More knowledge is the answer to that. The real problems lie deeper—or why is the necessary knowledge withheld?

For most parents power over their children is the only power they can exert. They are themselves kicked around by those in power over them—their attitudes to their children is very much in the 'kicking the cat' category. Like people in general issues, who must revolt against those in power over them if they would be free, children have to make their own revolution against their parents, and their parents' repressive moralities, prejudices and fears.

If this is what today's teenagers are doing, perhaps one in five is not such a bad percentage after all!

P.S.

\**Sexual Behaviour of Young People* by Michael Schofield, Longmans, Green & Co. Ltd., 42s. Available through Freedom Bookshop.

# The Need for Workers' Control

**I**N LAST WEEK'S FREEDOM we expressed the hope that the alleged trend towards 'anarchy' on the Southern Region railways, i.e. the idea that the men engaged on the work should control it and not exploiters or bureaucrats, would be extended rather than diminished, and would at the same time become more of a conscious social movement.

The politicians are obviously afraid that this tendency will spread. For instance Mr. Austin Albu, Minister of State in the department of economic affairs, is reported by the *Guardian*, July 26, to have told the Law Society Commerce and Industry Group that:

'Among workers there are, I am afraid, growing signs of what has been described to and by both trade union officials and by industrial managers, of a developing state of anarchy.'

The signs of this are described by Mr. Albu:  
'Small groups of workers without consulting their trade unions, frequently, even against the wishes of their shop stewards, strike or take other action which impedes the output of the whole undertaking.'

What he didn't mention is that direct action of this kind produces the results that the workers are looking for, while negotiations round the table and official trade union methods do not, and what politicians are dead against is not the

kind of action the workers take, so much as the fact that it does produce results, inevitably spoiling the government's plans for a docile labour force in a bureaucratic controlled economy.

### 'FREEDOM'S' POINT OF VIEW

This is of course the negative side of workers' control, in the sense that it emphasises that nothing can be produced or distributed, unless the workers, whether for good reasons or bad, agree to do it. Unlike some syndicalists and revolutionary socialists, most anarchists do not see signs of incipient revolution every time an unofficial strike breaks out, but we do recognise that this kind of action has in it the seed of independence, self-reliance and non-political militancy that can be developed into a libertarian revolutionary social movement.

In an interesting letter in *Peace News*, July 23, Peter Cadogan criticises *Solidarity* and *FREEDOM* for their concern with workers' control, which he considers to be 'a leftist hangover about the working class' and for believing that 'the workers have been about to arrive ever since 1848—but never mind! Come the revolution and they will all be there!'

It is amusing that later on he accuses a critic of having attributed to him 'the exact opposite of what is normally attributed', since in fact the anarchist movement, and *FREEDOM* in particular, has always taken care to demolish the

idea that the working class will automatically fulfil some messianic rôle, or that an individual is somehow virtuous through being a manual worker, and has consistently been attacked on those grounds!

Peter Cadogan goes on to recommend that we take greater interest in the 'teach-ins' in British universities. Now these have not had the effect that the American ones had, and I suspect that one of the factors behind the movement in the United States is resentment on the part of university staff that the freedom to control their own work, which has been a feature of academic tradition for centuries, has been massively eroded by the extent to which university research in the USA is financed, and therefore controlled, by direct grants from the state and the armed forces, earmarked for specific projects of interest to these bodies. In other words, that the specific issue of Vietnam has unleashed a reservoir of anti-governmental resentment that has built up over what is basically a question of workers' control.

### WHERE PEOPLE AND THE STATE CLASH

The reason that workers' control has always been regarded as a fundamental issue by anarchists is due to our feeling based, not on an idealistic view of human nature but on everyday observation, that however stupid and fallible human beings

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# Wilson downs the Gauntlet

MR. WILSON IN A speech at Newtown, Montgomeryshire, issued a challenge to the workers in this country. He stated, 'I have made it clear that the government is not prepared to tolerate industrial attitudes which stand in the way of urgently needed improvements in productivity, nor can we tolerate out-moded practices of over-manning particular jobs, or insistence on archaic working rules'. He also nattered on about managements sitting complacently on their back-sides.

This attitude is no surprise. A Labour government will always chance its arm at cracking the whip hoping to get, and nearly always succeeding, the support of the trade

union bureaucrats. Before the general election Labour trotted out the bogey line about the possible anti-union legislation of the Tories. They are probably right, but isn't this to be expected? Many trade unionists expected a Labour government to be on their side, 'After all', they say, 'it is our government'.

Previously, at the miners' Gala in Durham, Wilson attacked the industrial action of the railwaymen. He stated, 'If working to rule means slowing up production or crippling essential services, then we had better change the rule'. Mr. Brown has issued the expected warning that if his wage freeze policy is not operated voluntarily, then he will do it by legislation. It is fairly safe to say that the time is not far off when a Labour government is going to throw the book at the workers in this country, probably backed by the Royal Commission on Trade Unions.

In the 'smallest room in the House' their Lordships have contributed their farthingsworth in the general attack on the workers. Lord Thomson opened the attack by bleating about the grave national consequences of industrial disputes resulting in work stoppages. Thomson has

spent a fair amount of his life in Canada and US, where the employers still use the big stick. He called for legislation to control irresponsible action by members against their own unions and approved contracts. He would also like to see legislation similar to the Taft-Hartley law in the United States, which calls for a 200 days cooling off period before a strike takes place.

If any legislation can be preferred to another, the Taft-Hartley Act is the most detested piece of legislation ever introduced in the States. Lord Thomson, when he arrived in this country, had more bounce than a rubber ball, but the printworkers in the *Sunday Times* put Mr. Thomson fully in the picture, the big whip he was going to crack offered barely a squeak.

Another noble lord who dived in was Lord Brown, who made the point that for the past 18 months in the Ford's Motor Company, there had been little heard of in the matter of strikes. Implying of course, that since the '18' got sacked all has been quiet. Ford workers took a bashing in that round because they were 'sold out', but I can assure Lord Brown, Wilson and George Brown, they will be back. These speeches are not all hot air, the Labour government will do anything to hang on to office and court middle class support. We can expect a set-to in industry before the next 18 months are out.

## Contact Column

**Andrew Gordon.** Will Andrew Gordon of Norfolk contact his home?

**Central London Branch ILP.** Meeting on Thursday, August 5 at 8.30 p.m., at 197 Kings Cross Road, London, W.C.1. John Sangster (a member of the ETU) will speak on 'Trade Unions 1965'. Everybody welcome.

**Back to the Soil?** Would anyone like a fortnight (August 14-28) on a farm, in return for a few hours help in the house? Anne Albon, The Stable, Glynleigh Farm, Pevensey, Sussex.

**New Zealand Federation of Anarchists.** First Annual Congress, December 26 to January 6. Enquiries Box 5455, Auckland C1, NZ.

**Canadian Camp.** Libertarian Summer Camp to be held on the week-end of August 20 at Doug Worthington's, Church Road, Sooke BC, Canada. Informal discussion groups, etc. Activities to be decided on by the participants.

**French Camp Travel.** Anyone going to Anarchist Summer Camp, France in August with a spare seat? Share expenses. Frances Edwards, c/o Marlow, Manor Farm, Wooddeaton, Oxon.

**Accommodation Wanted.** Young man, ex-freedom-school pupil would like bedsitter with cooking facilities or full board, or share flat with one or two others, South London area, before end of July. Please phone: STReatham 6085.

**Birmingham Group to Libertarian Camp.** We propose renting a Minibus to the Summer Camp, estimated cost £20 a head (eight people), plus food and personal expenses. Anyone interested reply as soon as possible (also state age, sex, driving licence—clean preferred). Must pay before leaving. May rent two buses. Either middle weeks or last two weeks of August. Peter Neville, 12 South Grove, Erdington, Birmingham 23.

**Vietnam Posters.** 'Who Loses in Vietnam—Always the People'. 4d. each. 30/- per 100. Orders to Freedom Press.

**Help Needed.** To sell anarchist literature outside Bromley library. From 11.30 a.m. every Saturday morning.

**Room Wanted—London.** Shift worker would like room with mod. cons. South, or West Kensington. Box 11.

**Fifteen-Year-Old Comrade** from Paris wants to stay with family (including someone of similar age) for the month of August. Write Box 12.

**Leicester Accommodation.** Unfurnished cheap weather-proof accommodation wanted by mature (?) student, wife and two children. Any proposals (sharing, etc.) considered. Mike Radford, 90 Westfield, Harlow, Essex.

**L.A.G. Two.** Barn/Studio/Basement wanted to house meeting place, library, etc. for LAG II. Suggestions, ideas, details and details of rent required to J. Retz, 10 Gilbert Place, W.C.1.

**London Accommodation.** Couple and son (two years) seek 2/3 unfurnished rooms, North London. Box 8.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

## WHEN A STEWARD IS NOT A STEWARD

IN THE ISSUE of FREEDOM dated July 17, the question was posed whether shop stewards on board ship would be freely elected by rank and file seamen. The question has been answered. To qualify for the job a man must be a member of the union's approved panel, have at least five years continuous sea service and a clear conduct record for the previous 12 months. The stewards are expected to carry out their duties in their spare time.

If that system doesn't sort the militants from the conformers I don't know what will. The NUS, by strict vetting procedure, prevent known militants from becoming shop stewards. How this will work out probably only time will tell, but under the present set up, the whole scheme is a facade in an attempt to ward off rank and file pressure.

### YANKS INVADE FORD'S

UNION LEADERS OF Ford workers in Britain have decided to challenge the appointment of an American. Mr. Stanley Gillen, as managing director and chief executive officer of Fords of Britain. The union leaders are seeking information from Mr. Gunter about the number of work permits granted to Americans to work for Ford's in this country. If the truth is known, Mr. Gunter probably welcomes the American boss to Ford's, they have a reputation for cracking down on workers in the motor industry. The unions claim that Ford's have broken their promise that the management will remain British.

## METERMEN SURRENDER

IT WAS DECIDED at a works meeting to obey the union and board's directive to start at 8.30 a.m. and finish at 5.30 p.m. instead of 8 a.m. till 5 p.m. There was a great deal of talk by the men, but most of it was ducking the real point, that the Board was stopping 2 hours' money every week. This was the real clincher. Under the new agreement the Board must make up our money because it was guaranteed, but this was ignored by most of the men because they did not want to 'stand alone' for their rights. It was said, 'That the union was to blame because they weren't doing anything about it'. It was pointed out that 'It was up to us, that we should show that we meant what we said. That our only chance

They claim that the factory at Basildon is crawling alive with Americans.

This gesture by the union leadership is 'big deal'; if they couldn't save the '18', I'm damn sure they will not back up their argument to prevent the American boss from taking his appointment. I suppose it makes good copy at the time, but not such good copy after the bloke has been here for 10 years or more.

Craftsmen at Ford's Motor plants have just been granted an increase, the T & GWU has disassociated itself from the settlement. This increase has widened the gap between the skilled and semi-skilled worker in terms of 10½d. an hour and 2s. per hour over the unskilled. Twenty-one unions have decided to lodge a new general claim for a substantial wage increase.

Ford management realise that union organisation in Dagenham is at its lowest ebb and therefore the tactic is to divide and rule. This tactic will continue to pay dividends whilst 21 unions represent Ford workers. Obviously, one organisation could be the aim of Ford workers. If my memory serves me right, before Ford's requested union organisation in their plant, if there was a dispute the entire plant came out as one man, this could happen again but only if the divisions between skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled are broken down. The terms AEU, NUVB, T & GWU, and NUG & MW will have to be forgotten if real unity is to be achieved.

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

was to fight for a local agreement. We could do this alone (all the other depots had given in), we should be responsible and not give in, by leaving it to the union.' But all to no avail. Only seven voted to carry on the struggle. So workers of the world goodnight!

EEB METER READER.

The community that will not allow its humblest citizen to freely express his opinion, no matter how false or odious the opinion may be, is only a gang of slaves.

WENDELL PHILLIPS.

# Freedom For Workers' Control

JULY 31 1965 Vol. 26 No. 24

## Unemployment Up

THE CHANCELLOR'S BUDGET measures seem to be having an effect on the economy of the country as there has been a general all-round easing off of investments. Consequently, unemployment is on the increase at a time when it is normally the reverse. The figures show that in the month ended July 12, when it is normal for the number of unemployed to go down by as many as 15,000, it, in fact, went up by 4,193 to 280,335. This has only happened twice since the war, in 1956 and 1962.

Compared with the latest unemployment figures, the total of unfilled vacancies stands at a higher one of 452,357. This shows that in certain jobs, labour is still scarce. This is further confirmed by the recent wage increase by Fords to craftsmen and the National Provincial Bank's decision to give its employees a rise of 5%, which had already been turned down by the Staff Association, stating that this would not prejudice future negotiations. Nevertheless there does seem to be a trend which could lead to the number of unemployed reaching the 400,000 mark by the end of the year.

### A GODSEND FOR BROWN AND JONES

Now I am not sounding any alarm bells for an impending crisis, but there is little doubt that this trend will be welcomed by the Government and the

employers. It will, of course, weaken the bargaining power of the workers and could well be the answer to the Incomes Policy of Mr. Brown and Mr. Jones.

One of the strongest reasons for the employers giving way to wage demands has been the competitiveness of the labour market, but this could soon change if, as it looks likely, the unemployment figure continues to rise. Then the employers, aided by the Government, will be in a position to resist wage claims and in fact, any strike action taken to gain these demands might well back-fire, resulting in defeat and demoralisation.

Overtime working at present could be the means of doing ourselves out of a job. It is quite common now for employers to introduce overtime working and at the same time sack men. This sort of thing is going on now at Singers on Clydebank, where 1,000 workers are now banning overtime in protest against the decision to sack 300 men in the tool and maintenance section.

The huge capital outlay on plant and machinery makes it far more profitable for the employers to keep the machines manned by a smaller labour force, working overtime, than to have a larger one working less hours. However, less hours and no sackings should be the aim of all workers and now is the time to start doing something about it, before our position becomes even weaker.

P.T.

## MOTORMEN'S WORK-TO-RULE

THIS WEEK the work-to-rule tactics of the motormen have extended farther in the Southern Region and have also spread to the Eastern Region, where men at Southend have joined in. Other areas have expressed their support for such action but so far do not seem prepared to take the step themselves. But even with the present amount of support, there have been considerable delays for passengers and British Railways' already inadequate services have been thrown into chaos.

The railwaymen's claim of a £3 3s. bonus per week has been going back and forth to negotiation for the last nine months. The Railways Board say that any bonus agreement must be tied to a higher productivity agreement, meaning more single manning of trains. This higher productivity has in fact already been achieved, with the loss of 13,500 jobs since 1963, for even with this reduced manpower, there has been a 5% increase in mileage working.

### INCREASED BURDEN

All along it has been the railwaymen who have had to make the sacrifices. With each new pay agreement there is a qualifying clause which, when put into operation, means that the manpower force is gradually being decreased and those who are left have to work a great deal harder. Under the present manning agreement for passenger trains, single manning is limited to 200 miles or 6 hours per shift for a stopping train, or 100 miles or 2 hours per shift for the express non-stop services. There is no single manning during the midnight to 6 a.m. period.

This elimination of the second man in the cab and the continued tightening of schedules is placing an ever increasing burden on the motormen. It gives rise to a greater margin of error, placing the safety of the passengers in jeopardy and all because of the Railway Board's bid for higher productivity. So one can see why these men are very angry, not only with the Railway Board, but also with their own union, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen. The union has failed to win the demand

because they are not prepared to fight for it, and the Railway Board knows this. This week the union has shown that they are not prepared to make the work-to-rule official, but instead are hoping to recall the conference. At the previous one, the executive had been given a mandate on an 8-1 majority to demand the bonus claim, with no strings attached, but instead of carrying this out, they are now urging this second conference on August 10, to support them in trying to get the claim 'on the basis of obtaining the highest possible payments with the minimum relaxation of the manning agreement.'

### PASSENGERS SUPPORT NEEDED

So when one boils the whole thing down, the union executive are quite prepared to negotiate with the possibility of having more trains with single-manning and are hoping to get a mandate to do this. Of course, if there had been no opposition to single-manning by the rank and file, then no doubt the union would have done a deal a long time ago, but they had an early foretaste of how their members felt when they worked-to-rule last November. It seems hardly likely that the ASLEF executive will get the mandate it wants, but will find some other way out.

The action taken by the motormen should get the support and not the insults of the passengers. A *Solidarity* leaflet, aimed at the passengers, says: 'Let's put the blame where it really belongs, squarely on the shoulders of the employing authority: British Railways. Help the men struggle against this bureaucratic monster which has been pushing them around for months. The fight of the motormen is the fight of the working people for a decent wage and decent conditions. Support your drivers! Tell British Railways to pay up!'

The four vote majority decision by the motormen will give their union a further chance to manoeuvre. In this light it seems a regrettable move, for it also places their union executive back in control. Let us hope that these negotiators are watched very closely and kept to their original mandate.

P.T.