

Striking Irish seamen fined under English Act

ON September 21, when the "Irish Poplar" and "Irish Spruce" pulled into Dublin, the crews walked off on unofficial strike in protest against the decision of Irish Shipping Ltd. to reduce crews by seven men. They were followed three days later by the crews of the "Irish Elm" and "Irish Holly", when these ships came into Dublin. On September 27 the crew of the "Irish Sycamore" struck in Victoria Dock, London.

In this "free society", some sections of the community are less free than others. Over a long period of struggle the land-lubbing wage slaves of industry won the right to strike. In 1962 this elementary right is still denied seamen, who have as much rights as soldiers and police. They cannot strike and are bound to their ship-masters' orders by the Merchant Shipping Act (1884), passed by the British Government.

Though this bill was passed while British troops occupied Ireland, the emergence of the "Sovereign Republic" made not a jot of difference to Irish seamen. So although the personnel in high places at Kildare Street and Dawson Street has changed and the rules of the capitalist game altered to suit their interests, they have omitted to deal with the British-imposed Merchant Shipping Act.

As their Articles of Contract had expired, the crews of the Irish Poplar, Spruce and Elm were not affected by the Act, but this was not the case with the crews of the Sycamore and Holly. Seventeen members of the Sycamore crew were charged under this Act, in London on October 5, with having refused to obey their Master's orders. Questioned on their right to charge the seamen, the chairman of the British Court replied that "although Ireland is no longer within our dominion, for the purpose of the Merchant Shipping Act she is deemed to be so."

The summons served on the 17 seamen referred to their refusal to obey orders of the Master of the British motor vessel, M.V. Sycamore. Apparently Irish ships are also deemed to be British on entering U.K. ports, despite the green, white and orange tricolour on their sterns. The Court official told the seamen that the responsibility rested with the Irish Government to rescind this Act, which otherwise will always be applicable. Pointing out that when Irishmen go to Britain they are immediately entitled to the social welfare benefits accorded Englishmen, he said that in this event it was only right that Irishmen should obey Britain's laws.

Of the 17 men charged, 14 were fined £4 with one guinea costs, while two deck boys and a galley boy were each fined £2. Three crew members of the "Irish Holly" were summonsed to appear in a Dublin Court on October 25, charged with refusing to obey the orders of the ship's Master.

On September 29, the strike was declared official by the Seamen's Union of Ireland and as Irish Shipping Ltd. boats pulled into port, a strike was declared. The fact that in many cases the crews were not liable under the Merchant Shipping Act, because their Articles of Contract had expired does not alter the facts of this scandalous legislation, on the British and Irish statute books.

Often we are told about regimentation in the far-off lands of the East in the capitalist Press. Now it happens right here, how many editorials have denounced this attack on citizens' elementary rights? Not a single line. In fact, their reporting of the strike has all along been a one-sided affair. The fact that Irish seamen were charged in a British Court with having broken a law passed in Ireland during British occupation and never rescinded by the Irish Government that followed was completely ignored.

The strike has lasted three weeks when the Labour Court put proposals to the seamen, which provided for some of the ships retaining two of the redundant men and for redundant workers to be absorbed on other ships owned by the company. The Union EC recommended these proposals to the seamen, but they were rejected by both the Strike Committee and the men at a meeting on October 13. Subsequently the Strike Committee held negotiations with the Labour Court Conciliation Officer. They decided to accept and recommend these same proposals to the men, who—being six days more hungry—accepted them at a meeting on October 19.

The men were thus forced to cave in to the demands of Irish Shipping Ltd. after a struggle of three weeks, in which they were subject to the lowest insults that any employer could possibly heap on his workers. When the crew of the "Irish Sycamore" walked off, they left behind their insurance cards, money and clothes, which were all held by the captain. When the men asked for their belongings, he refused to hand them over and the men walked off without a penny in their pockets and nowhere to stay. Having been robbed of their belongings, the "law" of the land promptly arrested and charged the seamen. Enquiries to Irish Shipping Ltd. elucidated the brazen insult that the men's belongings might possibly be forfeit, as was the custom 60 years ago.

The "Irish Sycamore" was subsequently taken to sea by a crew of scabs, with the seamen's belongings still aboard. The question Irish seamen would like to ask was what scabs lifted the ship's moorings, opened the dockgates and what kind of scabs were

the tugboat men—yes, they were scabs of the modern kind, "unionised scabs".

Irish Shipping Ltd. claimed that they had to reduce crews in order to compete with their international rivals and that due to the recent increase in laid-up shipping the competition has become very heavy. This is the old, old story and seamen are not the first to hear it in the last months. Busmen, dockers and innumerable other workers have been hearing this same story. Once again the present structure of union organisation has been shown to be inadequate to meet the attacks of the capitalist class.

Although the SUI officials appeared to be behind the seamen in their struggle, one vital point cannot be overlooked. The company claims that the Union made an arrangement on the redundancy plans last July—why, then, did the Union officials make this agreement? It was only when the company proposed to implement it that the seamen first heard of the plan and immediately struck unofficially.

The SUI continues to allow a system whereby Union dues are collected not by a ship's shop steward—because there is none, nor is there any kind of representative aboard ship—but by the Com-class to an extent which precludes them from making a tough stand when the situation demands it. This calls for a complete change in the structure of the Unions.

Instead of unions controlled by non-seamen in a hierarchy of bureaucrats, committed to making the capitalist system work as smoothly as possible, an industrial union is needed, controlled by the seamen aboard ship, who will make the decisions, collect the dues and fight on the policy of direct action. Only the men directly involved are in a position to decide what should be done to settle their grievances.

The fact that Irish Shipping Ltd. claim that they have to cut crews is a further manifestation of the crisis which is slowly coming over capitalism. The system has always led to unemployment—that is one of its rules, which neither company directors nor union officials can avoid. The only way to avert unemployment is to root out the system which begets it.

Seamen are faced with the same problems as their counterparts in industry. On October 19, Harland and Wolff, the Belfast ship-builders, announced that 2,190 men in the yards would be paid off by March 31, in addition to 620 workers to be paid off from the Marine and Engineering Department announced recently.

The only solution to these problems is to organise in unions which aim to replace capitalism. The present-day unions are tied up with making the system work. In 1962 this is a bit late in the day—the old horse of capitalism is dead. Let's bury it.

PAT KELLY

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Fords—union bosses prepare the sell-out

A WEEK or two ago Fords of Dagenham granted a wage increase of 10s. a week and then a little later on, 600 men were told they were to go on a four-day week, which meant an approximate reduction of £7 per week. Not a bad rise that—makes for improvement of industrial relations.

In exchange for the rise, unions promised co-operation to reduce inefficiencies, eliminate waste of manpower and avoidable loss of time.

One of the key proposals made by Fords to the unions was that the union side of the National Joint Negotiating Committee should have power to issue and withdraw special credentials for shop stewards. To date the unions have refused to accept this proposal.

The men on the floor, the rank and file, elect their shop stewards and sack them; it's the shop stewards who have the shop floor problems at their finger tips and take suitable action at once

WAR: WHERE WE STAND

● Revolutionary Syndicalism struggles against wars and militarism. It carries out anti-war propaganda and holds that permanent armies are tools of counter-revolution at the service of capitalism ... it recommends boycott and embargo of raw materials and other necessities of warfare ... The preventive revolutionary General Strike is recommended as a powerful means of action against war and militarism.

Declaration of IWMA Principles, Article 7.

to right wrongs. Obviously Fords management would like to see stooges as stewards, then they could proceed to get away with murder.

Mr. Beard, Chairman of the trade union side of the NJNC pointed out that the union side had no power to withdraw stewards' credentials, this was a matter for individual unions. But the trade union side had agreed to take another look at the problem and make approaches to union executives. This phrase has a sinister ring, if any trade union executive gains the right to interfere with shop floor representation, then it's good night nurse, all gains made at shop floor level will melt like snow in hell. You can't solve problems at shop floor level from an office desk miles away. Apart from the fact that there should be more rank and file control, not less.

The present dispute at Fords concerns the sacking of a shop steward, because he called a report back meeting on the firm's premises during the lunch break. In the first instance Fords' management claimed that the meeting was called during work time and thus interfered with production. Now they have changed their tune.

How hypocritical can these monkeys get? How many times have we heard managements and the pundits of the Press moan "that the rank and file is not sufficiently informed and therefore drift blindly into a strike."

When the rank and file are informed, at a meeting, Fords gripe

Aussie dockers defy anti-labour law

AUSTRALIA—The dockers continue to defy Australia's anti-labour laws by direct action. Fines imposed on 70 Melbourne dockers for attending a union meeting in working hours brought 3,500 more out in a lightning protest strike on September 28. They were out again on October 3 over the dismissal of 17 men involved in a dispute over the size of work gangs, while on the same day 95 dockers walked off a British freighter in Sydney when a fellow worker was sacked. On October 15 there was a nation-wide strike of Australia's 20,000 waterside workers in protest against penalties imposed on their union for illegal strike action. Since April 1960 dockers in Melbourne, Sydney, and Fremantle have been fined a total of £A5,900 (£4,720) by the Commonwealth Industrial Court for defying "not strike" orders.

because it is on their premises.

Let's disperse with all this bull about worker-management relationship. Fords want a show down, they want to smash the shop steward organisation, then speed up like hell. An employers' organisation stated some time ago that industrial relations would be far tougher when we entered the Common Market. Fords are attempting the softening-up process. This steward must be reinstated, otherwise who knows who will be next for the chopper.

ITALIAN ANARCHISTS SAVE SPANISH MILITANT'S LIFE BY KIDNAPPING CONSUL

FOUR young Italian Anarchist students—Gianfranco Pedron, Alberto Toniolo, Amedeo Bertolo and Luigi Gerli—struck a daring and successful blow in support of Jorge Conill Vall, a member of the Spanish Libertarian Youth threatened with the death penalty in Barcelona for anti-fascist activity, when they kidnapped Franco's vice-consul in Milan, on Friday, September 28.

Conill, 25-year-old chemistry student, appeared before a military tribunal in Barcelona on September 22, with two other young anarcho-syndicalists, 24-year-old Marcelino Jimenez Cubas, an engineering student, and Antonio Mur Peiron, a 26-year-old mechanic, charged with "subversive and terrorist activities." The three accused had no right to defence before the military court which imposed sentence of death on Conill, with jail terms of 25 and 20 years respectively for Jimenez and Peiron. The sentences were those demanded by the State prosecutor.

The specific charges against our three comrades were that, following the widespread strike movement in Spain earlier this year, they had placed charges of explosive at various newspaper offices and

Inside: HOW TO MURDER A RAILWAY

other buildings of the fascist administration, as a protest at repression being carried out against militant Asturian miners. Nobody was injured by the explosions in question. They are, after all, a natural form of propaganda in a country where free expression of written or spoken opinion is impossible.

Franco's corps of international public relations men immediately began causing confusion about the case. It was put out that Conill had not, in fact, been sentenced to death; that the accused belonged to a "Communist" terror organisation, whose headquarters were in Toulouse, France, and that there had been collusion in bomb attacks between the CP and the young Syndicalists. All three statements were deliberate lies. The "Communist" smear is regularly used by Franco to discredit any form of opposition to his regime; there has been no co-operation of any kind between our Spanish movement and the Communist Party; the treacherous activity of the CP during 1936-39 made such collaboration an impossibility for all time.

News of the savage sentences against Conill and his two companions caused widespread anger. Telegrams of protest, including one from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, poured into Madrid, from all over the world. It was in Italy that the storm of protest reached its height, with the students of Rome greeting the opening of the Ecumenical Council with an impressive demonstration of protest outside the Spanish Embassy where there were 43 arrests. Similar marches took place in other Italian cities and in Milan there was a sit-down outside the Spanish Consulate.

On the afternoon of September 28, the vice-consul, Isu Elias,

left the building—and did not return. That evening a Milan newspaper received a telephone call from one of our comrades, saying that the purpose of the kidnapping was to rouse public opinion to the barbarous methods of the Spanish dictatorship and to save the life of Jorge Conill Vall. No harm would befall the vice-consul.

None did. He was released five days later, after the Italian police, aided by a posse of Franco's political police sent post-haste from Spain, had failed to discover his hiding place. Elias said he had been well treated, but declined to give a Press Conference.

Two developments occurred on the following day. The four Italian comrades were arrested—their pictures are published in our Anarchist contemporary of Rome, *Umanita Nova* (Oct. 14), one of them, Gianfranco Pedron handcuffed and smiling broadly—and the three Spanish comrades were moved from Barcelona to Madrid, where they appeared before another military court on Friday, October 5. There Conill's death sentence was commuted to 30 years imprisonment, Jimenez' jail term remained at 25 years and Mur's was reduced from 20 to 18 years.

We have no doubt at all that Conill's reprieve was a direct result of the storm of international protest against fascist savagery that was focussed by our Italian comrades' brave and highly successful coup. Significantly, in a reply to the Archbishop of Milan, Cardinal Giovanni Montini, who had appealed for clemency to be shown the three Spanish prisoners, Franco's Foreign Minister, Castiella, specifically denied that any death sentence had been imposed. **THIS, LIKE MOST OF FRANCO'S PROPAGANDA, WAS A DELIBERATE LIE.**

The trial of Jorge Conill and his friends was one of a series against some 30 young anarcho-syndicalists, who have been arrested in Barcelona, Madrid, Asturias and Valladolid on similar charges of "terrorism."

Reports, as we go to Press are that Julio Moreno Viedma, 28-year-old engineering worker, has received a 30-year sentence at one military court in Madrid and that another has passed sentences on 11 members of the Libertarian Youth. Francisco Sanchez Ruano, 27, accused of maintaining liaison with Libertarian Youth centres in France and Spain and of planting a charge of explosive at the Fascist war memorial in the Guadarrama mountains, was sentenced to 28 years' jail on October 20 and ten others—including a woman comrade, 23-year-old student Francisca Roman Aguilera—received terms of from six to 12 years. Further trials are pending in the Spanish capital, but as these are surrounded with the greatest secrecy and held behind closed doors, no details are yet available.

These revolutionary victims of the fight against fascism—who are the living proof that anarcho-syndicalism is still a major force in Spain, animating even youngsters who have known no other system but the filthy Franco dictatorship—deserve our unconditional solidarity.

On October 5, a protest meeting in Paris against the vicious sentences on the Spanish comrades was banned at the last moment by the De Gaulle authorities. Spaniards arriving at the hall (Salle Lancry), where the meeting was to be held, were arrested and taken to police headquarters for questioning, which lasted several hours. Such is the complicity between Franco and De Gaulle. Our companion paper in Paris, *Combat Syndicaliste*, rightly suggests that strike action would be a more effective protest than a public meeting on future occasions.

ACTION, NOT WORDS. That is what our Spanish fellow-workers need in the struggle they have been waging for 26 years against fascist tyranny. Our greetings to them—and to Gianfranco Pedron, Alberto Toniolo, Amedeo Bertolo and Luigi Gerli.

KEN HAWKES

Salvador proscribes Communists, prescribes 7 years for Anarchists

The Central American "banana republic" of El Salvador recently passed a new law, proscribing Communist activity. It lists a series of penalties for anyone daring to carry out any form of left-wing activity. As is usual in these cases, the anti-Communism of the Salvador deputies is only a pretext to strangle any protest against injustice, labelling as "Communist" anybody who calls for even a little more bread and freedom for the people.

But the sting in the tail of this legislation was revealed in a Press Agency report stating that "The Legislative Assembly at midnight approved the Anti-Communist law, which provides for terms of up to seven years' jail for anyone taking part in anarchist activities," (our emphasis). Embodied in the law is the extraordinary statement that "Anarchist doctrine is of a totalitarian character." What lunatic drew this up? The libertarian movement is the only organised movement in the world diametrically opposed to totalitarianism, through being an outspoken enemy of the existence of the State itself and any other form of authoritarian organisation.

Bulletin of the Cuban Libertarian Movement in Exile, No. 6.

Fascist 'revival' spreads to Canada

THE fascist revival has spread to Alberta. On the University of Alberta campus a fascist students group called "Young Canadians for Freedom" has been trying to instigate a witch-hunt against socialists. They warned that radical leftists were "sowing the seeds of division and insecurity and demoralisation" and accused the head of the department of philosophy, Prof. Mardiros, of providing far-left indoctrination "by means of a course he taught on Marxism."

Prof. Mardiros replied "I make no apology for introducing a study of Marx into a course in Social Philosophy. His ideas in one way or another are influencing the modern world and I would be derelict in my duty as a university teacher if I excluded them from consideration in my course."

We concur with Prof. Mardiros in his defence of academic freedom, but would go further and suggest he also introduce a course on Anarcho-Syndicalism, which is the only social philosophy that offers a clear-cut libertarian alternative to Marxist, Communist and Capitalist authoritarian social philosophies.

Early in October the Provincial Conservative Party held a convention to elect a leader. One of the candidates, the mayor of Drumheller, was an acknowledged member of the fascist John Birch Society. He came second to a Calgary lawyer who was advocating the nationalisation of the oil industry. All Canadian political parties, with the exception of the New Democratic Party which is trying to live down its socialist past, are climbing on the nationalisation bandwagon. The leader of the Alberta Tories advocates nationalising the oil industry; the Social Credit government of British Columbia recently nationalised the electric power industry; while not to be outdone, the Liberal government of Quebec has called an election and is campaigning on the issue of nationalisation of Quebec's electrical power industry.

These events should demonstrate to the discerning Canadian that there is no real difference between the four parties. They all support the idea of the welfare state (or warfare state as it is more accurately designated in libertarian circles); the idea that the mass of the population are ignorant morons, incapable of ordering their own lives; that they must be enmeshed by a maze of laws, rules and regulations, administered by a huge impersonal bureaucracy (for the good of the people, of course). Big Brother is indeed watching us!

The leader of the New Democratic Party, T. C. Douglas, who failed in his election attempt in the recent federal election, is hoping to enter parliament as a member for a Vancouver Constituency. The member for this constituency, one of the few "safe" NDP seats, has resigned to allow Douglas to contest the by-election. Along with Liberal, Tory and Social Credit Candidates, Douglas will probably be opposed by a Socialist Party of Canada (sister party to the SPGB) candidate who claims, with considerable justification, to represent the only socialist party in Canada.

The NDP, in its bid for respectability, is considerably embarrassed by the Canadian Trotskyites. Organised in the League for Socialist Action, and publishing a monthly newspaper, they are able despite their numerical insignificance, to generate some support for their particular brand of communism within the NDP. The NDP leadership, who ask nothing more than to be left alone to develop into a respectable, capitalist, parliamentary political party, are forced therefore to search out and expel as many Trotskyites as they can find in the party. This arouses considerable indignation among the Trotskyites, who feel that they should have complete freedom to take over the NDP and use it to further their communist ideas. The sterility of these ideas can be seen in their call for a national referendum on the question of nuclear arms for Canada. Presumably if 51 per cent of the people voted in favour of nuclear arms for Canada, the Trotskyites would be in favour, too.

BILL GREENWOOD

PRESS FUND, August 15—October 24, 1962

Cleveland, Ohio, T.H. 5s; Wolverhampton, J.G.L. 4s 6d; Hyde Park sympathisers 2s, 2s 8d; Witney, Oxon, C. & L.O. 5s; San Francisco, E.S.D. 4s; Rochdale, B.B. & J.M. 10s, 10s, 10s; Edmonton, Alberta, W.G. 7s; Los Angeles, R.A. 1s; Minneapolis, J.H. 1s; Hong Kong, M.S. 4s. Total £36.2d. 1962 total carried forward £28.15s.1d.

Our thanks to the above comrades—and to our comrade S.M., of Poland, Ohio, for his gift of G. P. Maximoff's "Guillotine at Work" and "Bakunin". Book gifts, especially of libertarian books, are always extremely welcome.

MANCHESTER: For information about SWF activity in Lancashire, contact J. Pinkerton, 12, Alt Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs.

INDUSTRIAL ACTION AGAINST THE BOMB

UNTIL recently, the case for Nuclear Disarmament has not to any great extent, been put to the industrial workers of the country. A few CND groups, on their own initiative, have done some good work at local factories and trade union branches, but on the whole CND has not attempted much in this field. It has only discussed the case with the trade union leaders, but managed to achieve a certain amount of success, as was seen at the 1960 Labour Party conference. Even with this success, nothing has really been changed, for there has been no action taken by these unilateralist trade unions.

This last point was proved recently at this year's Labour Party Conference, with the issue of the Bomb being soft-pedalled by Cousins for the sake of a public image of unity within the Party. As we know, a General Election isn't far off and the interest of some Party members in this takes precedence over everything else.

A new approach was needed. Appeals to TU leaders and politicians, and the boring from within of the small left-wing group was doomed to failure. The formation of the Committee of 100 was the new approach, or rather an old one which had been wrongly discarded. It asked people to do something for themselves, instead of having someone else do it for them. A do-it-yourself movement of personal responsibility, instead of the usual delegation of responsibility.

Up until now this has been a lower middle-class movement, with only a sprinkling of industrial workers. This was rightly seen as a weakness, for without working-class support no resistance movement could hope for any success.

Last Autumn, things really started to move. A leaflet was brought out by the Committee of 100 entitled "Appeal To Trade Unionists", which was excellent and in the very first paragraph summed up the present nuclear deadlock:

"The Great Powers are caught in a rat-race that can only end in atomic war. Working people have nothing to gain from such a conflict. They can no longer be a party to the quarrels of their rulers."

It asked for the support of the workers in the struggle against the Bomb and called for direct action in opposing this nuclear madness.

A meeting was arranged at Caxton Hall, London, to which trade unionists were invited. It was well attended, especially by the people on the Left who support the traditional constitutional method and told us to work through the Labour Party and our Trade Union leadership.

After a couple of meetings in the New Year, an Industrial Sub-Committee of the Committee of 100 was formed by a simple show of hands of trade unionists who were interested in this work. Those forming the sub-committee worked in divers industries, such as engineering, printing, transport, docks and building.

There was already a group in the docks who were holding lunch-time meetings. A group in an engineering works was formed, members of which, together with those from the docks, came on to the industrial Sub-Committee.

On May Day, a meeting was held in North-West London, which was very well attended, with the speakers being Alan Sillitoe and Pat Arrowsmith, together with those of the docks and engineering groups. Pat spoke of the work she had been doing for industrial action on Merseyside and of the long arduous work which lay ahead, for one couldn't just call for strike action, without first putting the whole case for nuclear disarmament before the industrial workers.

During the meeting a tape recording of Bertrand Russell's May Day appeal to all workers was played. In it he spoke of the uselessness of passing resolutions at branch meetings against the Bomb and that it was a Labour Government who had made the first British bomb. He finished by saying, "Today is May Day. Let it be a day when we start a campaign of industrial action against the headlong rush to nuclear death. The men in control of Washington and Moscow care very little for our wishes, our hopes and our fears, but they rely on those who build and transport their bombs and aircraft and instruments. They rely on those who unload their ships and those who provide goods for the bases and food for the men who will drop the bombs. When ordinary people in their millions refuse to help them in their mad policies, they will be forced to stop."

From this kind of beginning we have gone ahead with the production of a number of different leaflets, meetings at factory gates, building sites and docks. Now we have a programme of lunch-time meetings for every weekday. There is also the routine work of making contact and keeping in touch with people from different parts of the country who are willing to help.

One of the things that gave us a real boost was the leaflet "Against all Bombs", which was given out in Moscow during the Congress for Disarmament and Peace. This was a real breakthrough, for how many times have we heard the old cry, "Why don't you protest in Moscow?" The leaflet received a lot of

publicity in the Press, on the radio and was attacked in the *Daily Worker*.

The leaflet told of the beginnings of industrial action against the Bomb in this country and spoke of our protests against the Russian H-Bomb tests. The USSR has essentially the same relations of production as Britain or America. The Russian worker has to get up in the morning when the alarm clock rings. The time is not of his choosing. Someone else has decided what he shall produce, how much and at what cost to himself. Later it called for international action by British and Russian workers over the heads of both our rulers. "Together we must ACT—OR WE SHALL PERISH TOGETHER!"

"Together we must act." This is the message we have to spread to the workers of this country. It is an enormous task. We need more speakers at factory gates, more leaflets and more people willing to help. Other industrial committees are springing up in different parts of the country, but still more are needed if there is to be eventual mass industrial action. More contacts have to be made, more meetings held with the aim of establishing committees in factories and on building sites, which can then carry on making their own propaganda in their place of work, gaining support and strength for strike action.

There are signs that the work of this industrial committee is having an effect. Last May building workers on the Petrochemical

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Since the last issue of *World Labour News*, the SWF premises at 25A, Amberley Road, London, W.9., have been broken into and post stolen. The thief, who left evidence of his identity amid a trail of damage, had obvious malicious intent towards the SWF. We have made our own security arrangements to prevent a recurrence of this despicable act, but to ensure that no repetition occurs, we ask for all correspondence, especially that containing money, to be sent in future to: Bill Christopher, 34, Cumberland Road, London, E.17. Postal and money orders should be made payable to K. Hawkes and crossed, as previously.

We also ask for anyone who receives a renewal notice with this issue to notify us immediately at the above address if a remittance has previously been sent and no receipt received. This applies equally to anyone who may have written sending money for literature, as a donation to the Press Fund, or payment of SWF dues, and not received any acknowledgement.

site organised a one-day token stoppage, in protest against the resumption of tests. Dockers have refused to handle cargoes going to Aldermaston and recently in Liverpool, a meeting of industrial workers was held outside the Automatic Telephone Co. factory, after which they marched through the city for a meeting at Cammell Laird's shipyard where a missile ship is being built.

These are small beginnings, but when the question of nuclear weapons is explained, people realise that the Bomb is part and parcel of the system under which we live.

On the day of the railway strike, some of the ideas which are being discussed among members and supporters of the Committee of 100, were put into action. A public assembly was held by the Industrial Sub-Committee in Hyde Park and a leaflet showing a link between nuclear weapons and the recent cuts in rail services and the closure of workshops, was distributed.

"The Government is wasting millions of pounds on nuclear weapons, but it says there is no money to keep the railways going. What sort of priorities are these? Which do you want as a public service? The means of getting from A to B?, or the means of wiping both A and B off the face of the earth?"

This is the sort of propaganda that's wanted. These are things people understand, because they are part of the workers' everyday struggle. The linking of these disputes with nuclear weapons and the eventual demand of workers' control in what they will produce. This is the way we must go, for without workers' control of the means of production and distribution, we will continue to live under the threat of nuclear weapons.

For this work and the propagation of these ideas the Industrial Sub-Committee of the Committee of 100 urgently needs money if we are to carry on. Please send whatever you can to the Treasurer of the Industrial Sub-Committee, P. G. Turner, 9, South Block, Peabody Estate, Lawrence Street, London, S.W.3. All monies acknowledged.

PETER TURNER

220 barmen in Glasgow have formed a union and are discussing demands for higher wages and more time off. The increased hours of opening granted by the new licensing act have thrown a heavier burden on barmen, sometimes without a proportionate wage increase or extra staff.

Through the rungs of the chair!

THE future "trade unionist" will be different. "The present trade unionist has for the most part been brought up on the idea of working class solidarity. Circumstances—fear of losing his job, fear of being oppressed—compelled him to realise he had a lot in common with other workers. But now these external circumstances have changed... the trade unionist of 1965 will calculate more on the basis of his own individual advantage" ... so said George Woodcock, secretary of the TUC. He certainly could never be accused of speaking on behalf of the rank and file, so his statement must be for the trade union "leadership". It certainly is for the right-wing bureaucracy in the ETU.

This year's rules revision conference was loaded with amendments, all submitted by the EC and all aimed at strengthening the domination of this clique over the national membership. This was well borne out in the list of amendments proposed to Rule 21 of the Union Rule Book (1958), dealing with elections. In future all elections will be conducted by the Electoral Reform Society (a most competent body who caused some raised eyebrows a few years ago in the NUM elections—with more ballots being cast for one candidate at a mine face than there were miners in the pit).

The policy of Transferable Vote is also being brought into being—it means you vote for each candidate in order of preference. On each count the bottom of the poll is eliminated and another count taken until we reach the last two, the one with the most overall votes then being elected. It could mean a candidate with a small first-preference vote being elected.

Delegates to the TUC and Labour Party Conferences will now be elected by the conference and they must be present at the conference as delegates. This rule eliminates many militants who do not get to Rules Revision Conferences. However on the main point of Rule 21 the EC became unstuck. They wished to put themselves in office for a five-year period, instead of the two-year period as now, but the conference wisely rejected this piece of bureaucratic legislation. Resulting from this defeat the EC withdrew its proposed amendment aimed at establishing the EC as a full-time body. It seems John Thomas and his crowd had no intention of leaving anything to chance, re full-time officials, unless they themselves are in the saddle. The passing of this amendment would have meant that a defeat next year in the EC elections could return into full-time positions a left-wing EC. The dropping of this amendment shows Chapple and company in their true light.

The procedure under which the conference was conducted by Chairman Chapple had to be seen to be believed and, as one delegate said, "It's a pity the votes didn't all take place on Thursday for by then most of the delegates were so fed up with the manner in which the right-wing were bulldozing things that they were nearly all voting anti-right". When a chairman says he is not conducting the proceedings under any normal rules of chairmanship, but under the 1958 Rule Book (which hasn't a word about chairmanship) one immediately becomes aware of the friction which is bound to grow throughout the proceedings.

Chapple proceeded through the conference switching off the microphone on delegates whom he did not wish to hear and refusing to allow members to raise points of order at various stages throughout the discussions. On the question of Biannual Conferences, instead of annual as at present (Rule 19), he allowed tellers to check whether a majority wanted a vote. But when the actual vote was taken, Brother Chapple took it himself and, to the cries for "tellers" from the floor, declared the motion carried without giving the delegates their normal rights.

When a loud uproar ensued, he took the vote by roll call, each delegate giving his name and the way he was voting. This gave the EC the roll-call on delegates and how they were voting. Certainly a most democratic way of finding out who supports what. To cap all his other irregularities, Chapple really infuriated even some of the uninitiated by turning his back on the conference at various intervals.

Among other significant points won or "fiddled" by the chairman was the amendment to Rule 16, now putting the election of Area President into the hands of the area committee. The more positions set by appointment and the less balloting of the rank and file the better, seems to be the policy of the EC. They also intended to take the right of appeal at branch level away, but again they met with defeat. This vote, taken on the Thursday, showed at last the feelings of those present. The longer the conference lasted, the greater the decrease in the uncommitteds.

The conference, which had been conducted more in the manner of a political party than a trade union assembly, with Chapple continually reiterating the phrase "I shall not be dictated to by

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On both sides of the wall

EAST GERMANY—A White Paper issued by the West German government on October 5 reported that since the completion of the Berlin wall on August 13, 1961, more than 12,000 people had escaped to the west, of whom nearly a thousand were frontier policemen or soldiers. Among them was Lieutenant-Colonel Martin Löffler, commander of a motorised rifle regiment stationed on the border and the most senior officer of the East German People's Army to desert so far, who said he was a Communist, but not in the spirit of Herr Ulbricht.

Over 51,000 East Germans who were on West German territory when the trap was sprung refused to go back. East German frontier guards had opened fire on 358 occasions and at least 35 people had been killed. The wall itself was nearly eight miles long, and the material used in its construction could have provided homes for 150 families. Furthermore, nearly 4,000 people had been forcibly moved from their homes near the wall.

WEST GERMANY—49-year-old Georg Heuser, for eighteen months chief of the criminal investigation department of the Rhine-land Palatinate police force, was the chief defendant in a war crimes trial which opened in Coblenz on October 15. As a former S.S. Hauptsturmführer in charge of the Minsk Gestapo office, he was charged with responsibility for the shooting of 30,356 Jews and allegedly insane persons during the Second World War. Among thirteen others accused of taking part in some 10,000 of the murders is Karl Dalheimer, a former police inspector in Bremen.

The arrest of two chief commissars of police in Frankfurt and one in Bremen on suspicion of having taken part in the mass shooting of Jews and Russian prisoners of war in east Europe was announced on September 13. Just over a month before, the Wuppertal public prosecutor announced that three other senior West German police officials were to be prosecuted for suspected war crimes.

In a war crimes trial in Stuttgart which ended on October 2, Professor Kurt Leibbrand, an international authority on traffic problems, was charged with murdering 22 Italians attached to the engineering company that he commanded in France in 1944. He told the court of a secret order he had received that Italians in the German army who refused to obey orders were to be shot. One day some Italians in his unit refused to work. "I reminded them of the army order and had them taken away. I never saw them again... There was no doubt about the military necessity of the shooting." Leibbrand was acquitted because of lack of evidence!

In calling on the East German regime to hand over all the evidence about former Nazis in its possession, the West German Trades Union Congress has commented on the hypocrisy of the Communists in making propaganda out of it, while retaining former leading Nazis in important party posts.

DOV

Communists", finished on a pathetic note, with John Byrne at last saying a brief few words. Up to then he had said nothing—there just for pouring out glasses of water for Chapple, it seemed. Maybe he was musing on the bombastic arrogance of his "AIDE-IN-THE-CHAIR".

The overall results of the conference are something of a Pyrrhic Victory for the EC. This conference is but the first at which they will try to steamroll their anti-democratic legislation to curtail the rights of the rank and file. Fortunately, the rank and file are still battling and winning main issues, but the small issues which are being lost are mounting up. The eyes of the rank and file throughout the whole Labour Movement must be opened to what is happening, thus bringing them into the fight. For who can hold back the might of the forward moving mass of the Rank and File?

"SPARK"

TRANSPORT CRISIS—I

Cousins stops busmen acting with railmen

WHAT'S the score in public transport? The issue is clear-cut—in every section of the industry profit versus service to the community.

On October 3, the railwaymen decided to call it a day and pack up for 24 hours, letting Beeching and Co. take it out of that. Leading up to October 3 had been a series of fumbings, gimmicks and dramatic acting. Dr. Beeching was taken on by Marples to make the railways pay and any method Beeching used was "fair game".

Beeching's policy is one of demolition. Out of 29 main workshops, 12 are to be axed, which means the sack for thousands of men. Rank and file pressure grew as Beeching's policy flowered; all over the country strike action was demanded.

The NUR were presented with proposals by the Transport Commission, not as a basis for discussion, but as proposals that were going to be implemented. So far as the NUR were concerned, it was a fait-accompli.

The NUR's alternative proposals were:

1. Short-time working.
2. 35-hour week.
3. That work for British Railways should be done in their own workshops, not farmed out to private firms (e.g. among the shops to be axed is Caerphilly, but the Commission is preparing to order many thousands of new wagons from a private firm in South Wales).

These proposals have never been considered.

The NUR strike plan included the underground workers in London. This meant rank and file pressure was really turned on, as it is unusual for the NUR to call them out, although they are NUR members. In past disputes they have continued to work, making the stoppage of the rest of the NUR a farce.

The other half of public transport was championing at the bit. At a conference of London's central bus section on Wednesday, September 26, it was decided by a vote of 44 delegates to 32 that a one-day strike be called in support of the railwaymen on October 3.

NUR General Secretary, who had been out of the country when his executive first decided on strike action, said he would prefer the buses on the roads, as it would increase congestion. At the Labour Party Conference Frank Cousins, T&GWU General Secretary, promised Greene support—if he asked for it.

On September 27, a deputation of five members of the Central Bus Committee saw Cousins, to secure some official backing for their conference decision. Cousins refused to sanction a strike and instructed an official to convene an emergency meeting of the Central Bus Committee for the same afternoon. Cousins' intervention gummed up the works and the strike decision was reversed by 54 votes to 22. Instead of action, Cousins made a public speech calling Marples and Beeching nasty names. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, etc," we sang as kids. From Cousins the enemy will get no sticks or stones—though he might write their names on lavatory walls.

As usual, the union leaderships were hopelessly divided at what the London busmen's paper, *Platform*, (Oct. 1962), called "the most critical stage in the greatest transport strike that has ever struck this country." That the London busmen are finding out Cousins was shown by another passage in *Platform*: "Whether Greene had or had not asked Cousins for support, whether Cousins dislikes Greene or vice versa, were quibbles. The central fact was that the Government was dismembering the nationalised transport services, making a shambles of the transport facilities and utterly destroying the lives of a half-million employees."

On television on October 1, in the "Panorama" programme, Marples got into the act by asking Greene publicly if he would meet Beeching in a last-minute effort to avert the stoppage. Greene was put "on ice." He accepted, but knew it would be abortive.

The strike took place and was 100 per cent effective. Two-thirds of London didn't go to work, leaving the roads comparatively clear. Others stayed in town overnight and some went into work extra early. All these arrangements work nicely for one day... any longer than that and the story would be very different.

All the events leading up to, and including, October 3 prove that the rank and file busmen and railwaymen are firm in their demands.

In an effort to avert another rail stoppage, Beeching met the leaders of the three rail unions on October 15. He refused a request from Greene to withdraw the whole plan for closure of railway workshops, but conceded there might have been errors in consultation and offered the unions fresh negotiations. (We all make mistakes and we're sorry!).

On October 19 the NUR executive discussed the meeting with Beeching and decided by 14 votes to 10 to defer further strike

action until it saw the outcome of further talks. Obviously a fair section of the EC are convinced that Beeching has nothing to offer.

There are signs of a "woolly handshake" in the air. A *Financial Times* editorial on October 17 latched on to the idea of a "package deal." Railwaymen have a wage increase due, so the deal would be for them to swallow the workshop redundancy in exchange for possibly better compensation payments and a bigger wage increase, tie it all up with blue ribbon and hope to hell it will fool the rank and file.

But the rank and file are not so easily tricked. Several districts are demanding further strike action. They claim the one-day stoppage on October 3 was a warning to the BTC to withdraw the closures, not to discuss how they should be carried out.

Beeching is also holding out another carrot. He has assured Greene that he will be allowed to discuss the line closures before they are put into operation. No fait-accompli this time.

Looking back at past events and anticipating future talks, the whole set-up is phoney. It stinks of capitalist economics.

Everyone agrees that railways should be as efficient as possible, from the angle of railway workers, passengers and freight users. There is, therefore, only one solution: the people who work on the railways should control and manage them as a social service for the benefit of all, and end the £75-million a year interest charges which have been paid since nationalisation.

No redundancy until every displaced worker is placed in an acceptable job and guaranteed accommodation which is also acceptable.

Until these conditions prevail, the struggle must be intensified by all workers.

BILL CHRISTOPHER

TRANSPORT CRISIS—2

How to murder a railway

WRITING the story of Jarrow's devastation during the slump of the thirties, Ellen Wilkinson called her book *The Town that was Murdered*. Now, in this land which gave the world railways, we have to contemplate the murder of a railway system. It has taken the token strike of railwaymen to bring to the front pages of the Press the meaning of the recently-announced wholesale mutilation of the railways, which is to replace the previous policy of slow strangulation.

Redundancy, the Latin euphemism which has replaced the blunt Anglo-Saxon "scrap heap", the hangman's noose of the wage worker, is about to scythe through the men and women of British Railways like an angel of doom. Not only the railroad men, but the workers of the railway factories are to be turned out on to the stones. With much "goodwill", the railway authority persuaded many of the latter to accept and co-operate with "time and motion" study by the inhuman hirelings who lurk behind machines with pencil and stopwatch. BR even made a film of one such works. Now, so the stopwatch has discovered, the works must be shut down, its jobs farmed out to private business.

But what did the unions and workers expect? Never, never in any circumstances should they allow the stopwatch men, the heralds of redundancy, to spy on them and devise means of making men into machines or scrap.

Reference to this scourge even intrudes into TV programmes. In a recent showing of that inane ITV feature, "Double Your Money", a railway office woman cleaner was interviewed. She said she had just been given notice, along with her mates, one of whom had 35 years of railway service behind her. Of course the offices are not being pulled down, they increase, and the cleaning is being handed over to a private "cleaning company". How do these companies work? Do they push their workers harder and pay lower wages? Certainly they are non-union.

But management does not decrease, it is never redundant; top, middle or lower, it increases as the devouring locust.

Of course this is not only the railmen's problem, though it would still merit our protest and action if it were. It is very much a problem for communities. The NUR is circulating a leaflet which very tellingly contrasts two maps—one of the great network of British Railways today; the other of the railways as they will appear if Dr. Beeching's thesis is carried out. On the latter, Scotland and Wales are almost without railways and the major part of lines in England disappear. Many communities will be isolated and had best think about some sort of parochial autarchy, rather than the Common Market.

To talk about the average level of unemployment being low

is like the case of the unfortunate man who was drowned in a river whose average depth was only six inches. Unluckily, the part he fell in was ten feet deep. Unemployment is very high in some areas, such as Wales, Scotland and the North and it is just these areas which are to suffer most from what Dr. Beeching ordered. In Scotland, too, large mining areas are to be thrown idle under the leadership of Socialist Lord Robens. Imagine the effect of all this on communities in these areas. Imagine the feelings of elderly men thrown out to waste away their last few working years, banished from a job they were led to believe was for life. What are they to do? Emigrate to Australia? If these men are made idle, society loses their labour and has to keep them, however poorly. Is this economics?

Redundancy is spreading. In some areas it will seem that a destroying army had been commanded: "Lay waste the land." It must be faced. The unions mostly agree to it, their officials only haggling about a small percentage addition to the bronze handshake some men will get. It is we, the rank and file, who must fight it from the bench, the machine, the line, the coalface.

That the railmen are ready to fight was shown by the turn-out for the one-day strike. But we have said before that such a strike will rarely be effective. It would, we warned, be just an additional Bank Holiday, though once the decision is made we naturally support it in action. More, much more is needed, as the railmen now know. Even that day's action was whittled down. NUR secretary Greene appears as a man who was dragged into it, scraping his shoecaps on the floor.

The railway, even the general transport problem cannot be solved by isolating it. This is a social problem, only possible of solution in a general social context. It has been caused, in the first place, by the rapid development of the internal combustion engine, but grossly exaggerated by the sickness of capitalist society, false propaganda, the unhealthy "status symbolism" of Press, films, TV and advertising, the money-grabbing and criminal selfishness of the ruling class setting the example at the apex of an acquisitive society.

But the scrapping of public transport and its substitution by a car to every family is no solution. America has more cars than any other nation and that for a very long time. As long ago as 1924, out of a world total of 15,847,824 cars, 13,464,608 were running in the U.S. Yet with this great and long experience, America is defeated by the transport problem. Its experts are saying that the vast wealth spent in developing roads has aggravated the disease and ought to have been spent on developing public transport.

This does not mean that one is opposed to the internal combustion engine (though its absence would make modern war impossible—no aircraft, submarines, tanks and little military transport). Once invented it cannot be un-invented. We have to learn how to live with it. That's the rub. We haven't and we allow the self-interest of some to destroy the welfare of all.

Private transport is heavily subsidised by the community; public transport is penalised and starved. Even the *Daily Express* recognises this and recently carried a cartoon showing Transport Minister Marples kneeling in worship before a golden motor car mounted on a plinth.

But the subsidy is not paid in money alone; it is being paid daily in the lives and broken bodies of thousands of men, women and children, in a casualty list greater than that of the blitz air raids, comparable to that of a big war. This is one factor never considered by the persons in power. It is one we should force on them.

Like the Sabbath, the machine was made for man, not man for the machine. We are humanists, human beings first. That must be the test of any machine.

TOM BROWN

Kids use direct action

MONTCLARE STREET, SHOREDITCH, LONDON, E., is thickly populated and, because it is the only available playground for many children, the local Council designated it a play street, closed to motor traffic. Motorists and lorry drivers defied the order, using the street as a storage place for vehicles, endangering the lives of children. Complaints to Council and police were ignored, so the kids took direct action.

They formed human barriers across the street whenever a car came for free parking. One motorist, who pushed his car through the barrier, was shocked when a crowd of kids jumped on the car, obscuring his vision and hammering on the sides and windows. The frightened man had to be rescued by a copper.

After holding a meeting, 80 kids marched to Bethnal Green Town Hall, with home-made posters, "Play the game. It's our play street." "Kids, not cars," and saw the town clerk. This occurred after a little Sikh boy had been injured while playing. Not all the kids are English—a few are Indian and Negro—but they are all happily united. The fight goes on.

Eight... nine... OUT!

There is one struggle, not in the industrial field, but in the field of entertainment which has received little or no publicity.

It is the struggle which the wrestlers section of the Variety Artists' Federation have with Joint Promotions Limited (including Dale-Martin Promotions) the largest group of wrestling employers in this country.

Joint Promotions (TV fame) refuse to negotiate with the union. Their form of contract does not even state a fee and they victimise wrestlers for joining a Trades Union.

These employers' tactics are reminiscent of dark bygone days when the workers were ostracised for the defence of their ideals.

What can be done to beat hell out of these scab employers? If there is professional wrestling in your area, check with the Variety Artists Federation whether it is "Black". If it is, then get cracking. Tackle the owners of the halls, probably local councils, picket the place.

Every other Thursday outside the Assembly Hall, Walthamstow E.17, there is a joint VAF and Walthamstow Trades Council picket declaring the show "black" and advertising alternative wrestling bouts in the next borough (TU contract).

The picket is made up of engineers, electricians, printworkers, office workers, etc.

This struggle may seem insignificant in terms of Fords, railways, etc., but to the lads in the ring for your entertainment it means the "rights" that you and I take for granted.

Big Brother is Watching

The Economic League have made a discovery, not as brilliant as Telstar perhaps, but nevertheless a discovery. They have found an organisation in Lancashire similar to the National Rank and File Movement. Boy! are they chuff! Then they mention that this organisation, Northern Industrial Action stands for WORKERS' CONTROL, which sobers them up a bit. When they discover that Northern Industrial Action is as opposed to Nationalisation as it is to private enterprise, they really do their nut, calling in a back-handed manner on the trade union movement to put their rebels "in order".

Ray Gunter, Prospective Sir

Ray Gunter, MP for Southwark, Labour's "Shadow Minister of Labour" has issued a stern lecture to the trade union movement on the need for self discipline and self reform.

By self discipline I suppose he means the type of action the Transport Salaried Staffs Association took during the rail stoppage on October 3. Funny, I don't call that self discipline, I call it plain "milky".

According to Gunter, a Labour Government would want three things from the unions:

1. Their co-operation in a national incomes policy.
2. Change in collective bargaining, so that the weak can receive a fair share of the national income.
3. Sacrifice some of their sovereignty over wage claims to the TUC General Council.

These are brilliant proposals, which mean pulling down the comparatively strong to the level of the weak, instead of calling for the strong to actively support the weak.

This guff from the "Shadow Minister of Labour" is presented as an alternative to present Tory policy. No wonder the average worker cannot tell the difference. If he is wise, he will give the reversed "Victory V" to all the politicians and take the power in his own hands, which is the only solution.

More Unemployed for Scotland

Massey-Ferguson plant in Kilmarnock have SACKED 230 workers as redundant. They have been compensated by an offer of £20. The Scottish workers have told the employers to "poke it" and the 1,300 workers have struck work. Fellow workers in the Midlands factory have been out in support. Coventry workers are to meet to discuss the situation.

The workers in Scotland want short-time working to prevent sackings, but this is refused by the management. Earlier in the year 400 additional workers were employed when a night shift started.

There is only one short-term answer to unemployment: **NO OVERTIME, SHORTER WORKING WEEK WITHOUT LOSS OF PAY.**

B.C.

OXFORD—A weekly Anarchist discussion group (gown, town and district) is meeting at 4, Old Library, Oxford on Wednesdays at 5.30 p.m. during term time. All libertarian socialists (the original name for anarchists) and others who wish to discuss Anarchism are welcome. An alternative meeting place for vacations will be found.

NOTTING HILL ANARCHIST GROUP—meets on the last Friday of each month at Brian and Margaret Hart's, 57 Ladbroke Road (near Notting Hill Gate Station), London, W.11 at 8 p.m.

North African labour organises—for what?

WHEN North African countries gain independence, we are not so enthusiastic as when we see new working-class organisations moving into the arena of social struggle. In Oran, Tunis and Casablanca these organisations are mobilising great masses of workers, who only yesterday were subject to the old colonialist conceptions of bourgeois society and acting as instruments at the service of a political oligarchy.

Before independence, proletarian organisations existed in these countries, but led a sterile existence, linked as they were to "the metropolis". We know from first-hand knowledge the case of the CGT in Oran, which had a heavy preponderance of Moslems, even in its executive, but followed the dictates and political opportunism of the French Communist Party and later the SFIO. We remember First of May demonstrations, when native workers were in the forefront with their red flags, accompanied by a few European railwaymen and building workers, who seemed to be fulfilling a painful duty, as they had not assimilated the great universalist and anti-racialist principles which animated militant working class struggles at the beginning of the century. Amid the mass of Moslem workers, the "European" comrades seemed like unwilling guests. It all seemed mechanical and unreal.

The more active, far-seeing groups of bourgeois bosses had succeeded in imposing their "moral law", allowing workers a mere parody of a union, more disposed to serve the political objectives of Parisian "bosses" than those of the workers. The latter were so exploited and deceived by the big foreign and local capitalists that, for the bosses, everything in the garden was lovely.

Where have these Moslem workers, who are now gathering in the National Confederation of Workers in Morocco and the General Union of Workers in Algiers and Tunis come from and where are they going?

In fact, the Moslem working class has no past, tradition or history. In the years before the Spanish Civil War, intense activity in Oran, by a few militant anarcho-syndicalists, who were being persecuted by the Spanish Government, gave rise to high hopes for the creation of revolutionary spirit and consciousness among the Algerian working class. This European element did its utmost to influence their brothers, the Moslem workers, and help them on the road to real emancipation. Some visited the centres of SIA and came in contact with militants of that epoch, such as Manuel Perez, Martorell, Giner and Lozano, but our ideas were limited to small groups.

These hopes soon went up in smoke. At the end of the Spanish Civil War, ships arrived at the Oran, loaded with anti-fascist fighters, women, old people, children, militant workers who had given their all in the cause of the world's exploited. Hundreds of people came to show their solidarity with the sad, conquered and exiled multitude. Despite the police cordon and long lines of Senegalese with fixed bayonets between the crowd and the refugees, loaves of bread, jars of jam, milk, cigarettes, bundles of clothes and sweets for the children arrived on board the boats every day. Sad to say, among all those good people, there was not one Moor, not even out of curiosity.

Franco having used Moorish troops to help subjugate the Spanish people, did not hide his intention of adding to his possessions in Africa, by taking over Oran and occupying Tangier. It was no secret that the Calif of Tetuan, an intimate and loyal friend of the Moroccan "throne", had enthusiastically aided Franco and it is also said that he flirted with Hitler's secret service.

Out of this welter of servility to califs and "thrones", political and union leaders, generals, dictators, Nazis, Franco supporters, businessmen and armaments manufacturers, arose one or two currents of thought which appealed to the masses dominated by the mystique of independence.

Where do the Arabic-speaking working class, enrolled in these new trade union organisations, and now entering the struggle with such vigour and enthusiasm, stand in regard to social, economic and moral problems?

It is useless to fill oneself with anti-fascist, anti-colonialist, socialist slogans—which are cheap to manufacture in a country like Russia—if these convictions are not carried out by convincing deeds. One way is to show the concept of anti-fascism is not just a borrowed idea, but a new and genuine sentiment animating the revolutionary workers of Casablanca, Oran and Algiers. In the same way that a bitter struggle has been carried on against elements considered to be colonialist and fascist in their own countries, the struggle should now be extended to those of similar convictions in neighbouring countries, who not only despise, intrigue and conspire against the new countries, but still hold on to territory which they conquered years ago by blood and fire.

A clear case is Franco's Spain with regard to Morocco and Algiers itself. If the Maghreb used such iron determination to root out the French Republic from Tunis, Algeria and Morocco, why not do the same with the Spanish State, which by reason of

its fascist nature and its heinous connection with the Riffs, is even more iniquitous and despicable? Why are Ceuta, Melilla, Ifni and Rio de Oro still under the control of Franco's colonialism, with the Moroccan leaders merely making a few feeble complaints at the United Nations? How can this discrimination be justified?

Similarly there has been a lack of support for the black and white militants who are fighting the fascist colonialism of Salazar, which goes as far as denying asylum to Captain Galvao and other Portuguese liberals, who want to re-establish in their country the principles of liberty and justice. Why not establish open and broad collaboration with exiled Spanish anti-fascists who have been fighting for the overthrow of Franco for 23 years and who have always refused to support the reactionary Spanish domination and exploitation of the countries of Africa?

There is, in our opinion, a duty to be fulfilled by the enthusiastic multitudes of Moslem workers, now following the flags of the General Union of Workers in Morocco and Tunisia. The Unions should demand from their governments and leaders effective action against the fascist dictatorships on the other side of the Mediterranean—and give help and real solidarity to movements fighting in exile for the liberation of those down-trodden countries, Spain and Portugal.

In this way the new working-class organisation, born of independence, could practically demonstrate that anti-fascism is not an empty exotic word, and that they are worthy to stand beside their brothers throughout the world.

CONRADO LIZCANO.

(translated from "AIT" by M.S.)

ROUND THE WORLD

U.S.A.—The 75,000 members of the International Longshoremen's Union, which organises waterside workers in the Atlantic and Gulf Coast ports, were sent back to work on October 7 by a federal court order under the Taft-Hartley anti-labour law, after six days out to fight a partial lock-out and the refusal of transport firms to sign contracts.

GREECE—Some 500 striking building workers who on October 11 defied a ban on outdoor demonstrations, were fired on by police. Twelve civilians and 17 policemen were injured in the clash and 16 of the demonstrators were detained for questioning.

ITALY—The campaign for a new national contract for 1,200,000 metal and mechanical workers was resumed on September 12 with a 24-hour strike of 300,000 men in the province of Milan. Since then the Milan workers have been holding 4-hour strikes daily, while in other parts of the country the workers have been striking from Thursday to Saturday each week. An offer made by the Italian Confederation of Industry with a view to ending the strike campaign was rejected by the unions on October 15. A joint union statement described it as meaningless.

On August 31, as a result of a ten-day strike, 18,000 building workers in Bari won a wage increase of 220 lire (about 3s. 6d.) a day, plus other benefits.

Figures of registered unemployed as on August 31, published by the Italian Ministry of Labour on October 15, showed a drop of 20,000 since the previous month, but still stood at well over a million, namely 1,012,000.

PORTUGAL—It was learned on October 11 that the security police had arrested twelve people alleged to be members of the illegal Communist Party. They included labourers, clerks, chauffeurs, and a well-known artist, Nikias Scapinakis.

TANGANYIKA—With the passing of a Preventive Detention Bill on September 27, Tanganyika inscribed itself on the roll of honour of "liberated" countries where people may be detained without trial for security reasons.

UGANDA—Under a law passed on September 23 anyone bringing the national flag into contempt or ridicule can be sentenced to up to two years' imprisonment.

MALI—Sentences were passed on October 1 in a mass trial of people accused of conspiring to overthrow the government. Of the 81 found Guilty, three were sentenced to death, 14 to 20 years' hard labour, 8 to 15 years, 7 to 10 years, 27 to 5 years, and 21 to one year.

GHANA—Following the recent bomb attempts on Nkrumah and a new wave of mass arrests, censorship of all news reports sent out of the country was imposed on September 28. On the same day Richard Beeston, of *The Daily Telegraph*, was expelled without explanation. The day before, *Daily Express* correspondent Walter Partington was expelled.

GLASGOW: Readers in the Clydeside area interested in SWF activity are asked to contact R. Lynn, 22, Ross Street, Glasgow, S.E.