

"Workers of All Lands Unite"

SOCIALIST APPEAL

ORGAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY,
BRITISH SECTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

FEBRUARY, 1946.

TWOPENCE

TRADE DISPUTES ACT TO BE REPEALED

THE INFAMOUS AND VICIOUS TRADES DISPUTES ACT (1927) IS TO BE REPEALED.

Every section of the working class movement will welcome this really important blow at Tory reaction. There are few measures that the Labour Government takes to which we Trotskyists can give wholehearted support. The Repeal of the Trade Disputes Act is one of them.

We are 100% behind the Labour Government in this step.

Introduced by the Tory reaction as revenge for the General Strike of 1926, the Trade Disputes Act was a tremendous blow at the democratic rights of organised Labour. Its principal aim was to legalise political strikes and thus hamstring the workers from sympathetic strikes of a widespread character, which could be said to coerce the Government.

The Act sought to split the organised working class by denying the Civil Servants the right to affiliate to the Trade Union Congress, the Labour Party or any other political body. It restricted the right to picket and undermined the enforcement of the political levy.

For 18 years this Act has dangled as a sword over the head of the working class.

TROTSKYISTS PROSECUTED UNDER ACT

We Trotskyists were the first, and the only section of the Labour movement to be prosecuted under this infamous Act. Comrades Ann Keen, Heaton Lee, Roy Tease and Jock Haston, members of the E.C.P. were arrested in connection with the strike of apprentices that began on the Tyneside and spread to the Clyde and several other industrial areas. This strike was aimed against the unpopular Bevin Ballot conscription for pit labour.

Our comrades were charged under the Trade Disputes Act with "inciting, aiding and abetting", and "act-

ing in furtherance of an illegal strike" and tried in the now historic Newcastle trial. Here they used the courtroom to expose the reactionary character of this Act, to expose the hopeless muddle in the coal-mining industry demanding nationalisation without compensation and the operation of the pits under workers control as the solution to the coal crisis instead of Bevin's Ballot Scheme.

They were found guilty of only one of the charges levelled against them—that of "acting in furtherance of an illegal strike". After spending almost three months in jail, awaiting trial and serving sentence they were released when the Court of Criminal Appeal quashed the conviction against them on the grounds that the Judge had misdirected the Jury on the legal interpretation of "furtherance of an illegal strike".

This was one of the few but really important legal victories in working class history defining the precise usage of the terms associated with numerous anti-Labour Laws.

The Tories will try their utmost to keep this law on the Statute books, to amend the Act of Repeal and keep as much as they can. But it does not seem that they can succeed. The pressure from the Trade Unions is too great for the Government to capitulate on this question.

REPEAL OTHER ANTI-LABOUR LAWS

In welcoming the end of the Trade Disputes Act the workers must remember that it was a legal enactment formulated by the most class conscious capitalist politicians and was aimed to destroy working class democratic rights. There are still plenty of equally reactionary laws, such as the Seditious Act, on the Statutes. These also must be repealed.

DAIMLER STRIKE

BY BILL HUNTER

OVER 2,000 DAIMLER WORKERS IN COVENTRY CAME OUT ON STRIKE ON JANUARY 21st AGAINST THE MANAGEMENT'S ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE EXISTING AGREEMENTS. THE CONVENOR HAS BEEN AUTHORISED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH CONVENORS OF OTHER FACTORIES IN THE CITY OF COVENTRY, TO ASK THEM TO CALL A TOKEN STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF THE DAIMLER WORKERS.

Armstrong Siddeley and Morris workers are levying themselves 2/6 per week per worker in support of the Daimler workers.

STATEMENT OF THE DAIMLER COMPANY STRIKE COMMITTEE

23rd January, 1946.
For several months we have been faced with subtle attempts by the Management to undermine the conditions we obtained both before the introduction of the National Arbitration Award No. 326 and also on Agreements we have reached since that time.

Rate fixers have repeatedly induced men to carry on with a job with promises of a final settlement and on the completion of the job given various hourly rates from 1/9d. to 3/- per hour. This obviously caused confusion in addition to extra work on the part of the Shop Stewards.

We, therefore, decided to ask for the consolidation of the 20/- make up into the Base Rate in the belief that we could then reach a standard basis for fixing prices and also obtain a standard figure for any type of job done on a daywork system.

It may be asked why we have not taken this matter through the channels of procedure with such a strong case in our possession and this leads up to our second claim. It is well-known that the Daimler have acquired a short term lease on the Browns Lane Government Establishment and #1 speed is being put on to get the Bus work from the Parent Firm to this factory. Again it must be obvious that the time taken through procedure would react against us and enable the Manage-

ment to put the transfer programme into full effect and thus leave us weakened or possibly non-existent at the Main Works.

We have, therefore, requested that when jobs or machines are trans-



U.S. WORKERS' PICKET LINE -- 1946 MODEL

Part of the giant barricade of autos, trucks and buses which the workers of Windsor, Ontario, established last week to successfully block the use of police forces to smash mass picket lines which the 10,000 striking Automobile workers (C.I.O.) have maintained for more than 2 months around Ford plants. This blockade on Riverside Avenue is over a mile long. (See back page).

15,000 AIRMEN IN PROTEST STRIKE

Say "Ships for Blighty, Not for Java"

BY A. MAXEY (Ex R.A.F. Sgt.)

15,000 AIRMEN, INVOLVING AT LEAST 12 R.A.F. STATIONS IN THE MIDDLE AND FAR EAST HAVE STAGED A MAGNIFICENT DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE SLOW RATE OF DEMOBILISATION.

Although this is the main issue, the demonstrations are a culmination of grievances on the part of servicemen arising from the conditions in which they are forced to live. Among these grievances are shortage of rations, clothing, and discomforts in some places consequent on overcrowding, unbearable climatic conditions—all this added to the general irritation of overseas service.

Added to these complaints which arise out of their daily life the R.A.F. conscripts are protesting at the role of British troops in the colonial areas. This is clear from the entirely political and anti-imperialist slogan raised by some of the strikers: "SHIPS FOR BLIGHTY—NOT FOR JAVA!" British servicemen don't want to be used as S.S. in the colonies.

To blame these strikes onto "misguided minorities" and "strike promoters" as intimated by A.V.M. Sir Keith Park in official despatches from South East Asia has that old and familiar hackneyed ring. It was the same story that was trotted out against the coal miners, engineers and dockers. But if it failed in its aim to arouse popular hostility to these sections of the working class in war time, it will fail even more miserably to do so against the uniformed workers now that the war is over. For there is an almost universal feeling that the lads should be brought back home.

The press reports show that the airmen conducted themselves in a calm and orderly manner. Having participated in one of the first of the R.A.F. demob demonstrations at Aden, on Sept 9th last year, I have personal experience of the orderly manner in which the service-men conduct their protest.

The "Daily Express", 29.1.46, however, features the beating up of a few

strike-breakers with the object of exposing the strikers as a vicious and unruly mob. The Beaverbrook press has been sufficiently discredited in the General Election for notice to be taken of this anti-Labour sensation mongering.

In the days when a serviceman was considered to be a brainless marching and fighting machine, strikes of the present character would have been put down with a real Tory viciousness. But those days are gone—at least for the present. An entire transformation of outlook has taken place among the mass of the workers and middle class.

With a Labour Government in power and subject to popular pressure the Colonel Bimps who would like to deal with the strikers in the tough old way, are forced to grind their teeth and let an extra glass of whisky muffle their threats.

The alarm of the Labour leaders at the spread of these strikes and the pressure from the officer caste has finally forced the Cabinet to declare that strikes in the R.A.F. or any other service must be regarded as mutiny.

But any attempt at old-fashioned repressions and savage sentences would meet with immediate and widespread public protest and to sympathetic (and therefore more dangerous—for the Government), strikes. For that reason it is unlikely that we

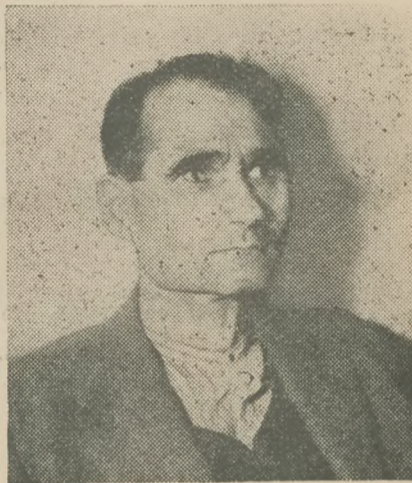
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LIST OF STATIONS AFFECTED

SELETA, Singapore
LAHORE, India
CANNING, India
DUM-DUM, India
POONA, India
ALLAHABAD, India
MADRAS, India
MAURPUR, India
PALAM, India
KANSHRAPARA, India
ALMAZA, Egypt
LYDDA, Palestine

PRESS SILENT ON MOSCOW NUREMBERG LINK-UP

RUDOLPH HESS



The leading spokesman of the Russian delegation to U.N.O. is now Comrade Vishinsky, ex-Menshevik and former opponent of the Bolsheviks, who has found high favour and a very good living in the Russia of Stalin.

He is familiar to us in another role: as the man who prosecuted and sent to their death the majority of Lenin's comrades in arms in the Russian Revolution during the infamous Moscow trials.

The capitalist press has almost unanimously recalled that Vishinsky was a famous prosecutor. They have mentioned him in connection with the trial of Metro-Vickers agents in 1933. But not a whisper about the role of Vishinsky in the most sensational trials that have ever been staged—the Moscow trials.

Even A. J. Cummings who had a lot to say on the Moscow trials as an anti-Bolshevik and pro-Stalinist had a conveniently blank memory on this occasion. Was it because of the embarrassing questions that would immediately spring to the mind of his readers if he dared to mention the Moscow trials?

The alleged evidence upon which the cream of Lenin's Political Bureau were convicted and slaughtered by Stalin was that these old Bolsheviks made a deal with Hitler and the Nazis. That they were plotting against the Soviet Union together with the Nazis!

Now, it is possible to test the truth of the alleged evidence presented at the Moscow trials, in the Courthouse at Nuremberg. All the Nazi conspiracies it is claimed by the British, American, French and Russian Governments, are being brought out into the light of day.

Every National daily and Political weekly received copies of the letters from the Secretary of the R.C.P., Comrade Jock Haston, to the Prime Minister; to Hartley Shawcross—the British prosecuting counsel at Nuremberg; and to the Russian prosecutor, recalling the confessions made in the Moscow trials and demanding that these confessions be verified or refuted by the evidence now in the hands of the Allied intelligence at Nuremberg. But our letters were met with a conspiracy of silence.

On page 4 we publish the letter

from Comrade Haston to Major Attlee and his reply.

Here we will conclude by asking Vishinsky who will read this issue of the "Socialist Appeal", why don't you complete your task of 1936-1937 and 1938 when you sent to their death the Old Bolsheviks, and prove at Nuremberg your foul slander that Trotsky was allied to Hitler? It is because the fake "evidence" you presented at Moscow will not stand the slightest independent investigation?

And to the Editor of the "Daily Worker" we ask the questions: Why don't you, who were so eager to slander the Trotskyists as Hitler's agents, answer our letter on the Moscow-Nuremberg trials? Why are you so silent about the alleged link-up between Trotsky and Hess at the present moment? Why don't you demand, together with the Trotskyists, that for the sake of justice and historical truth, a special committee of working class representatives be set up, to investigate in public during the trial at Nuremberg, the alleged connection which you were writing about only a few years ago?

THE CASE OF CALTABIANO

BY D. JAMES

As reported in the "Times", 25.1.46:

"Mr. FOOT (Plymouth, Devonport, Lab.) asked the Home Secretary for what purpose the rooms of Adolfo Caltabiano, of Nassington Road, N.W.3, were lately raided by the police.

Mr. EDE.—My information is that there has been no such raid. (Laughter.)

Mr. Foot.—If there was no raid there must have been a burglary, and will the Home Secretary undertake an inquiry into this case to ensure that both in the case of the alleged raid and the burglary there has been no political victimization? Mr. EDE.—No, I have made inquiries. The police called at this gentleman's address in October, 1945, to make enquiries about a ferocious dog. (Laughter.) A summons was issued and the matter would have come before the court, but unfortunately the gentleman was certified insane. (Loud and prolonged laughter.)

Mr. FOOT.—Is the Home Secretary aware that the landlady, who has certainly not been certified as insane, alleges that some political literature was taken away, and that this gentleman now being carried off to some mental home is, in fact, a highly respectable person who advocates the highly respectable creed of anarchism? (Laughter.) Will the Home Secretary make further inquiries to ensure that his department does carry out the principles of tolerance to which he has paid tribute? Mr. EDE.—I have made the most careful inquiries from the moment that my hon. friend's question appeared on the Paper. I am satisfied that the answer I gave is correct, and I regret to say

that a great many very respectable people are, in fact, from time to time certified insane. (Laughter.)

Mr. FOOT gave notice that he would raise the matter on the adjournment."

CHUTER EDE'S "JOKE"

Leaving aside the question of taste—jokes about mental disorders are in these enlightened days, frowned upon in any respectable music hall—it may come as a surprise to many people to learn that the self-satisfied humour of these "workers' representatives" was in fact a cynical cover to one of the most disgraceful cases of political persecution in recent times.

Adolfo Caltabiano is an old militant anti-Fascist, a Sicilian. After years of persecution by Mussolini's police, after fighting as a Captain in the Spanish Republican Navy in the war against Franco, and wandering through Europe as a political refugee, he came to this country in 1940. He was interned—as an anti-Fascist—some time before Italy entered the war. After his release he continued political activity, which frequently brought him into collision with the authorities. He has demanded to be allowed to return to Italy ever since the invasion of Sicily, but this has been consistently refused.

As a consistent Anarchist, fighting against "all forms of Government", he has denounced at the hypocrisy of the ruling classes.

ARRESTED AT HYDE PARK

Recently he has been arrested no less than five times in the course of police raids on the sellers of political

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