

TUC - FORCE

GENERAL VIETNAM- AMERICA DEFEATED

By DAVE GALASHAN

The mining of Haiphong harbour and other North Vietnamese ports, is a desperate ploy of a falling colossus. But with its downfall in South-East Asia, it is making sure that it drowns in a sea of blood - Vietnamese blood. That arch representative of a decrepit capitalist cynicism, Nixon, said: "There is only one way to stop the killing. That is to keep weapons of war out of the hands of the international outlaws of N. Vietnam."



Nixon in friendly discussion with Russian diplomats.

But who is it but US imperialism who has dropped three times more bombs on Vietnam than they dropped on Germany and Japan put together, created ten million bomb craters in South Vietnam; destroyed nearly half the pine forests and more than half of the mangrove forests? The US bombers have dropped every two weeks more bombs than fell on Britain during the whole of the second world war.

Despite the saturation bombing, aimed at killing everyone in a particular area - the 'arclight' raids - according to the *Sunday Times* (7/5/72) this has 'only' a one-in-30 kill rate for well dug-in troops; something the liberation troops are experts at. B52 bombers are called in by S. Vietnamese Army commanders as soon as any opposition is met. It is estimated that it takes 73 tons of bombs to kill a Vietcong soldier.

Despite Nixon's claim to be concentrating only on military and industrial targets in North Vietnam, the bombing of the Red River dykes

floods and killing tens of thousands of civilians. In the interests of 'freedom', American imperialism has spawned the most monstrous weapons ever invented.

They drop bombs which on detonation throw out plastic bullets which penetrate the human body and cannot be detected by X-ray machines; cluster bombs which throw out shrapnel the size of tennis balls, with some having time-delay fuses. All designed with the civilian in mind.

It was estimated that in 1967, the US airforce were killing or seriously injuring 1,000 non-combatants a week in N. Vietnam alone - equivalent to a casualty rate of 600,000 per year in America. An American helicopter pilot was quoted (*Sunday Times* 7/5/72) as saying: "They were trying to evacuate their dead and wounded on stretchers. You should have seen their walking wounded, man. Those walking wounded really ran when they saw me. But I nailed them in the arse."

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Militant

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GENERAL ELECTION !

The National Industrial Relations Court has responded to the rail workers work-to-rule and overtime ban by ordering that this be called off and a compulsory ballot ordered. In an attempt, no doubt, to prove that "their members" are prepared to work "overtime" - at 50 times the rate a rail worker is paid - the Appeal Court Judges turned out on Sunday, to hear the appeal of the rail union. Instead of confronting the Tories through the courts, the union leadership should be going ahead with industrial action.

The QC of the rail unions demonstrated in his speech that the rail workers are solidly behind the call for industrial action. He pointed out that over 300 telegrams and letters had been received from union branches supporting the work to rule. This should be followed up by calling mass meetings of railmen in every area, to discuss the present struggle.

election is a step in the right direction.

But it is a pious hope if it is not backed up by the might of the 10m strong trade union movement. If Feather and the TUC General Council were really determined to force an election, then they would organise mass demonstrations, mass meetings and widest possible action by the working class. The struggle

WALLACE

The shooting of Governor Wallace of Alabama again highlights the violent society of the most "successful" capitalist country.

This purveyor of hatred against the blacks, Vietnam peace demonstrators and the Labour movement, is the personification of and a major contributor to this violence, and, as Louis Heren in the *Times* on Tuesday May 16 said, "always behaved as if he knew that he would become his own victim".

"He was always preceded by assistants carrying a tall, bullet proof reading desk. He is short, and would crouch behind it. Often only his flaying fists could be seen as he shouted his cliches of hate."

In no way would Marxists condone this attempted assassination. This sort of act plays into the hands of reaction, as was immediately indicated when a section of the crowd turned on a group of blacks, believing they were responsible.



The only way to fight the Wallace "bandwagon" is through clear working class policies. Already moves in this direction have started. Robert Holmes International vice-President of the Teamsters' Union, said:

"We have to take the lead in smashing Wallace when he comes to Michigan - with the issues, his record in Alabama, exposing his Big Business backers and his fake 'populist' front. He is anti-union, a racist trying to fool millions of dissatisfied people with fascist-type demagogogy."

The setting up of a United Labour Committee with representatives from most of the major unions, to campaign against Wallace, is a clear indication of the need to step up the demands for an independent

Support the Railmen

This would really spike the guns of the Tories and demonstrate the support for the work-to-rule. Their conception of "democracy", is to circulate ballot forms by post and use the press, television and radio to cajole and threaten rail workers to vote the way the Tories wish. They are in for a shock. The snarls of the *Daily Express* and the rest of the gutter press, together with threats from the "brolly and bowler" brigade, will only harden the resolve of the railmen.

They have made "concessions" enough in the past 20 years. So far and no further! The labour force has been reduced by 60% over 14 years. They have to work 50 and 60 hours a week for £24 (present basic for a porter is £17-20). It is about time the British Rail board and their Tory backers made some "concessions".

"WILD MAN" FEATHER

The determination to hold out for the increase to be paid on May 1, should not be seen as a mere quibble over a few pennies. The Tories are sticking out because by holding down the railmen, they hope to inflict a blow against other workers with claims in the pipeline. THE LABOUR MOVEMENT NEEDS TO GIVE MASS AND ACTIVE SUPPORT TO THE RAILMEN.

The TUC should be co-ordinating the struggles of the railmen and other workers. Feather has declared that the TUC is campaigning for a general election. This in turn has brought down a rebuke on his head by Tory minister MacMillan. Feather then protested that this was the first time in 37 years he had been called a "wild man" and found it somewhat "disconcerting"! If he had an ounce of class understanding, he would have taken the attacks of the Tories as a sign that perhaps he was beginning to do the job expected of him by the Labour

of the railmen presents a golden opportunity to give the government a "whiff of grapeshot".

The whole movement has been incensed at the vicious baitings and attacks on the railmen. The TUC should organise a one-day general strike in solidarity with the railmen and the dockers, and as a warning to the Tories. This would shake the government to its foundations. Its hallowed law and bewigged judges would be as nothing against the power of the workers on the move.

Just look at the events in Quebec in the past week. After the arrest of three Quebec Leader leaders and the one-year prison sentence meted out to them by the courts, the workers in the town of the Sept Iles came out on strike and set up barricades. They took over the town, for a while, expelled the police and replaced them by 1,000 workers armed against attack with baseball bats! This was followed by a virtual general strike throughout the province, involving 600,000 workers.

A one-day general strike would provide the opportunity to drive home the lessons of the period since the Tories have been in office. The incapacity of this system to give a job, a decent wage, a home and education to working people, could be explained.

CAMPAIGN OF ACTION

The idea of the socialist transformation of society, involving the taking over of the commanding heights of the economy, would be embraced not just by the organised workers, but those not yet organised into unions as well. Once they are on the move, and are able to see their power, not just this government but the capitalist system itself would be finished.

The rank and file of the Labour movement should demand a real campaign of action by the TUC, to force an election and return a Labour government committed to a

We are not for a society of bigots or puritans but neither are we for a society where everything is permitted...and every instinct must be indulged instead of controlled nationally."

These words come not from the mouth of Mrs Whitehouse or Lord Hailsham, but from the speech of Enrico Berlinguer, secretary of the Italian Communist Party, at the pre-election Party Congress last March.

The programme of the largest Communist Party in the capitalist world, was summed up by the *Financial Times* (28/3/72) - hardly an ultra-left journal - as follows: "Never in its history has this Communist Party... renounced revolution so explicitly or stated its bourgeois reformist aims so baldly... The terms on which Berlinguer offered Italy social peace would scarcely cause a ripple in a Tory Party conference... No further nationalisation of industry would be necessary, he said, except possibly for pharmaceuticals and sugar."

He is even prepared to tolerate Italian membership of NATO and the EEC! The same newspaper wrote approvingly (10/5/72) of the CP's "great effort during the campaign to renounce its revolutionary origins and to pose as almost Social-Democratic Party." "This is not 1921, with the myth of a revolution just around the corner," said Pajette, another CP leader. It was just because the Italian Socialist Party in 1921 also regarded revolution as a "myth" and stood aside from the enormous wave of strikes and sit-ins, that Mussolini came to power in 1922



Berlinguer and ground the workers under fascism's iron heel.

The CP today, after 50 years of experience, is repeating the same dangerous and criminal policies. It is so eager to grab at least one or two Ministerial portfolios in the general parliamentary scramble for office that it is prepared to dilute its programme into thin air. The Italian Communist Party has changed from a tool of Kremlin foreign policy to a reformist party with a programme, if anything, to

ITALIAN ELECTIONS

By ROGER SILVERMAN (St Marylebone Labour Party)

STALEMATE

the right of the British Labour Party. The majority of its active members are now not workers, (according to the *Financial Times*, which would have every reason to emphasise the threat of revolution) but "shopkeepers and tradesmen, intellectuals, housewives, notaries, lawyers and other practising professionals."

In a recent opinion poll, only 9.7% of its members opted for "revolution", while 53% favoured "good laws and gradual reforms."

SAINT MARIA GOVETTI

The Party's opportunist collaboration with the Vatican has led the capitalist press to glow that Berlinguer "does not even make a pretence of the atheism conventional to Marxist circles. Not only is his wife a practising Catholic, but he himself has suggested that good Communists should take Saint Maria Govetti as their model of virtue."

For the benefit of those readers who are less familiar than comrade Berlinguer with the "Lives of the Saints", the lady in question was a 12 year old

girl who was raped and stabbed to death, but then appeared in a vision offering flowers to her murderer; the latter was so miraculously reformed that he was released only 27 years later and immediately visited his victim's mother to beg forgiveness.

The CP leaders think that their shining offer of sweetness and light will likewise reform a ruling class that financed the assassins and cut-throats of Mussolini and bring them too to beg forgiveness for their sins. In reality, did the "moderation" of the CP lead to a glorious reconciliation of the parties? Did the rightward drift among the middle classes switch course and meet the CP halfway, under the enlightened banner of "gradual reforms"? On the contrary - the election results show that Italian society moved in step with the CP - to the right.

The Christian Democrats, who have been the major ruling party ever since the war, and who recently moved right to win back votes from the fascist MSI, gained one seat. The MSI practically doubled its representation - from 30 to 56 seats. The Communist Party gained only one seat and 0.3% of the votes. To its left, the PSIUP and the "Manifesto" group, which had 28 seats in the old Chamber of Deputies, was completely wiped out.



Party banners decorate Italian street

Despite its degeneration, the CP, with 27% of the votes, and in some areas the Socialist Party, which got nearly 10%, retains the support of the workers. Comparison of the voting figures for the two chambers (for which there are different minimum voting ages), prove that most Italians between the ages of 21 and 25, support the CP.

The elections were called ahead of schedule, for the first time since 1922 because, in the face of a tremendous awakening of the workers, the bickering politicians found it impossible to patch together a viable, stable government. The results only aggravate the paralysis and doom the state machine to worse political chaos, intrigue and corruption at a time of deepening social crisis.

Dear comrade,

As a regular reader and supporter of *Militant*, I made a promise at the YS National Conference to pay £1 per month to the *Militant* fund. I therefore enclose this month's donation and hope that in some small way it will help, along with further contributions, which I hope to increase the sum of. Keep up the good work.

Yours fraternally,
NEIL PRENTICE,
Stevenage.

Stevenage Strike

Dear comrade,
May Day in Stevenage saw a strike of about 1,000 workers, against the present reactionary Tory government - and in particular the Housing Finance Bill and the present level of unemployment.

Unfortunately, no more than 500 attended a demonstration organised jointly by Stevenage Trades Council and the Federation of Stevenage Tenants Associations - but those that came were clear in their demands; demands echoed by the speakers, who included local trade union and Labour Party officials, and Peter Doyle (National chairman of the LPYS).

Just an example of the general feeling at the meeting, was the fact that Stevenage YS sold nearly 50 copies of *Militant* and 30 of *Left*.

The very successful meeting ended with the passing unanimously of a resolution promising support for "moves to get rid of the Tory government and work for the return of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies."

Possibly the most important thing I gained from the demonstration was to see that there is a rapidly growing number of workers in Stevenage who are becoming increasingly aware that every political issue, no matter how important; eg - unemployment, housing - is part of a far wider political and economic policy and because of this, they cannot be separated; and that this policy is made necessary by the demands of capitalism and are put into action by the capitalists' hirelings in the Tory government.

Best wishes,

St Helens Protest

Dear Sir,
I have always admired militancy and like what you publish. I never thought I'd see the day when the mighty T&G would back down to the Tories and pay the fine. This is all wrong and we should protest strongly over this. What is the good of having a union to fight for your rights if it goes on its knees everytime these Tories bark at them.

There is no doubt the TUC is to blame. All the time, these Heathites have been in power, Feather and co have co-operated with the Tories and let them do as they wish.

Look how they turned away from the miners' strike, and only for rank and file support, these lads would have been whipped. It's time the rank and file demanded, what side is Feather on, and the rest of them, and if they don't stand with us against the Tories, I say we should shift them out and elect men who are worthy of our support.

My father was a docker and I remember how he and his mates had to go down every day to the docks and queue up like a lot of cattle, begging for a few hours' work under the same blood-sucking Tory scabs we have in power now, and the conditions they worked under.

I remember all the poverty we grew up in under the hated Tories; my mother going out to work like a navy.

We should press for a general election now, on this unemployment, and I mean the women should take their part as well. It is up to us all of the working class to support any strikes and not be conned by all the Tory newspapers and the BBC and ITV, who make the strikes out as things bringing the country down. Giving away millions to all their Tory cronies, but refusing the working class a decent wage and a decent living.

Mrs McINEIRNEY,
St. Helens, Lancs.

PS. Can I order the paper?

Dear comrade,

I am a great supporter of *Militant* and was therefore very pleased to see your backing for the miners, dockers and railmen, plus interviews. This showed the great fight against

However, another strike is occurring now against capitalism, not for more pay, but for democracy. I am talking about the schoolchildren who are striking against their individual schools and the way they're run. Support from *Militant*, I feel would give great moral backing to the strikers as only the biased Tory press has given news of the incident, which, I'm sure, inspires no support to their average reader.

So a report and perhaps an interview with the pupils would help them to another victory over Heath and similar capitalists.

Yours fraternally,
MIKE FORSTER,
(Driffield LPYS).

(See article on Page 3).

who are not prepared to break from the ideology of Irish nationalism.

It should be remembered that both sections of the IRA advocate the separatist solution. Although both claim to be socialist, they are fiercely nationalist in outlook. Like the Communist Party in Britain, the "official" republicans base one of their points of opposition to the EEC on the 'loss of sovereignty to the nation' issue. Both IRAs are petty bourgeois in character and organisation and they represent very well this class, who fear for their very existence in the EEC.

Their repeated use of terrorism has alienated protestant workers and by phrasemongering about socialism, they completely discredit it among the majority of Ulster's workers.

been a non-existent one. The Official Sinn Fein and the Official Irish Republican Army, have at all times been active in the protection of the working class against the forces of British imperialism and the aggression of the British military.

Other references in the article dealing with "joint Protestant and Catholic struggles in Irish History" seem rather ridiculous coming from a member of the British Labour movement, the leadership of which, throughout these struggles, have done nothing to help the cause of the Irish workers.

I would also like to ask, what "bold class lead" does P. Taaffe expect the trade union movement to give in the present crisis? Before answering this question, I would like to remind comrade Taaffe of the "bold class lead" given by DATA on the problem of internment - DATA's action on this problem would have finished this union in Ireland had they not relented at the last moment.

Yours fraternally,
K. DESMOND HALFORTY,
Lurgan, Co. Armagh.

Reply from Peter Hadden, Belfast YS

In the above letter, there are a number of misunderstandings of the position of the *Militant*. Firstly, it must be pointed out that we are in no way apologists for the NILP leadership. We agree with the comrade that they have abdicated their class duties on every major question and have miserably cringed behind the coat-tails of the ruling class.

Nor do we see the leaders of the Labour movement in England as worthwhile champions of our cause. It would be wrong, however, to fail to distinguish the leadership from the rank and file. The anti-British attitude which runs through some, if not all, of the Official material, for example a caption in the latest *United Irishman*, of Republican demonstrators chanting 'Anti-British slogans', has nothing in common with Marxism. In fact, it is the duty of Irish socialists to win support of the British working class.

It is not true to say that we outrightly condemn the Officials as sectarian. In fact, with a great deal of what the comrade says on this question, we would agree. In our material, we always try to stress the enormous step forward the move to the left inside the republican movement represents. Rather than dismiss the Officials as sectarian, we salute the attempts they have made to forge links with Protestant workers, as at the moment in the joint agitation with Loyalist prisoners in Crumlin Rd. We also salute the work done by both wings of the IRA in defending working class areas from the rampages of the

LETTERS

In the past few months, *Militant* has received an increasing number of letters. This reflects the growing interest in the paper's ideas. Unfortunately, limitations of space have prevented us from publishing all these letters. This is one more indication of the need for an eight-page paper. We are therefore publishing this week more letters than usual, to indicate how a regular *Letters* column will provide a means of exchanging ideas between the paper and our readers.

Socialist Isles?

Dear editor,
Many contributors to the *Militant* put forward the slogan "a united socialist Ireland" as the only answer to the present turmoil in N. Ireland. However, as internationalists and realists we should recognise that Britain and the two Irish states form a single economic and geographic unit and because of this, to call for a socialist Ireland and leave it at that is as absurd as to call for a socialist Wales.

I would go further and say that those who call for an Irish workers'

Therefore, it is necessary to formulate slogans which are seen in no way as a capitulation to Irish nationalism. I suggest we advocate a socialist British Isles linked to a socialist Europe as the correct solution.

Yours fraternally,
BRIAN DUNLOP,
North Armagh LP.

Sinn Fein

Comrades,
I refer to the article published in *Militant* on April 7, dealing with "the Irish Crisis". I should like to inform Dave Galashan that the stand taken by the Official Sinn Fein has always been a non-sectarian one, in contrast to the stand of

The "residual passia"—resources allocated by Parliament but clogged up in the outdated bureaucratic bottleneck, —have accumulated to £6 billion. Stagnation, bankruptcies, unemployment and the chronic outflow of capital are unchecked. On top of all this, the "hot autumn" that opened up an epoch of strikes, demonstrations and uprisings in 1969, is due to be reopened this year, when 5 million workers in 57 different industries submit their claims for a new three-year contract.

STRIKE-BREAKING CONSPIRACY

The politicians now have the task of forming Italy's 33rd post-war government somehow, out of the nine factions of the Christian Democrats, the five factions of the Socialists and the five other parties now represented in the Chamber of Deputies. They could return to the impotent and sterile formula of the last nine years—a precarious alliance with the Socialists. But the Socialists are now demanding "a more advanced political equilibrium"—i.e. an accommodation with the CP.

Sooner or later, the capitalists will be forced to accept the pleas of the CP and involve them in the government. A "Popular Front" will be a strike-breaking conspiracy, which will disorientate the workers and drive the middle class to the right. But it will provoke a crisis within the ranks of the Communist and Socialist Parties, which will be regenerated with working class militants demanding a break from the stranglehold of the Parties' liberal "allies" in the government.

The Italian workers from Turin to Sicily have risen to their feet and rocked the rotting capitalist state to its foundations. But before they overthrow it and replace it with a workers' democracy, they will have to sweep their leaders aside and rally around a full-blooded Marxist programme.

But, in our opinion, whatever beneficial effects may spring from these actions have been more than fully eroded by the present campaign of individual terror. It is utter nonsense to argue that a policy of retaliatory shootings will have any different effect on Protestant workers, than the Provos' campaign of indiscriminate bombing.

Cathal Goulding, when he stated that this campaign would end with the defeat of both wings of the IRA, was absolutely correct. Despite the heroism of the rank and file fighters, this type of campaign will only strengthen the hand of imperialism.

Undoubtedly, it is correct to say that in words the stand of the Officials has been non-sectarian. Few people would deny that they have advanced class demands and have appealed to the Protestants. But the utterly confused manner in which their programme has been formulated, can only serve to drive the Protestants away.

Instead of consistently raising the class issues, by using the excuse that "Democracy is a prelude to socialism" (Sept. UD), they have relegated the class struggle to second place. Despite the best intentions, this limiting of the campaign to a fight for democracy, will be taken by the Protestant worker, to whom it offers nothing, as a threat to his supposed "privileged" position.

The comrade asks, how can the TUs give a lead in the present situation? In the case of DATA, their action was correct simply because the original decision to give a donation was taken without the consent of their NI members. But the real question which arises from this is, why are the unions in so weak a position? As the Militant has consistently pointed out, it is due to the failure of the leaders to take up the burning political issues and give a class lead.

Many opportunities have already been missed and the Labour movement has been weakened drastically. But this is no excuse for inactivity and abdication now. Even at this late hour, if they were to champion the defence of all areas and to campaign on the economic questions of unemployment, housing, wages etc., the influence of the Labour movement would snowball.

In part, the Officials, by advocating a TU defence force, have recognised that only the Labour movement can provide an alternative. If they were to consistently fight for this idea, and for a full class programme, within the Labour movement, they could play an enormous part in the development of a class movement.

A reply of this length can only touch upon the important points raised in the comrade's letter. For this reason, we welcome further debate on this and other aspects of our position on Ireland. It is only through the fullest possible discussion of all the basic ideas that a Marxist tendency can develop in Ireland.

SCHOOL STRIKES

Last Tuesday (May 9) saw a march of over 3,000 school students from the North London area, to protest against conditions in schools. The capitalist press have tried to present this as a minor, petty move against school uniforms alone—even suggesting that most of the pupils involved are only taking part for a few afternoons off school.

This is simply not true. Those pupils involved face the threat of victimisation, suspension and ultimately expulsion—this has already happened to many, and there has been one arrest.

The feelings motivating a large percentage of the 'strikes' are perhaps best summed up by the words of some girls from Sarah Siddons comprehensive school in NW London, who said: "Nine out of 10 of us don't stand a chance of getting a proper job when we leave school" and "We've all had enough; it is our future which is at stake and we plan to do something about it."

They are beginning to question the education system as a whole and some see beyond that and question the whole capitalist system, of which education is an integral part.

The strike was led by Steve Finch, a member of the Schools Action Union at Rutherford Comprehensive school and from there it spread to other schools in the area. The SAU is a Maoist-controlled organisation, yet it claims to have an "independent line" in order to hide their real identity.

In an interview, a member of the SAU National Secretariat suggested naively that Rutherford had "contributed to the struggle of the international working class."

Among the wider demands of the SAU is one for the replacement of

By ANITA CHRYSANTHOU
(Maida Vale High School & Paddington LPYS).

heads by schools councils, with representatives of the pupils and staff—yet although they claim to want education run for the benefit of the working class and not the bosses, there is no mention of trade union representation; nor have they made any real approach to the broader Labour movement through the unions.

Commenting on the fact that many parents have threatened to punish children if they strike, one of the SAU leaders said: "We must fight adult chauvinism." This kind of attitude is bound to antagonise working-class parents. The SAU, by simply stating that education is a tool of the capitalists, without explaining this fully in class terms, is in no way likely to win the sympathy of the workers.

Nowhere amongst their more widely publicised demands is one for the full comprehensivisation of education and the opening of higher education to all—thus abolishing the need for selective examinations. Nor do they point out that the selective nature of education is used to produce workers educated only to the standard necessary to fulfil their role in capitalist production, i.e. the majority for semi- or unskilled jobs; others for clerical and administrative work, etc.

However, the fact remains that most of the pupils taking part (the majority of whom are not in the SAU) are working class and are looking for a way of expressing their dissatisfaction with the role they are being "educated" into. They are looking for a lead—one which the policies of the SAU cannot provide.

It is necessary for those of us in the LPYS to put forward a clear programme based on the demands agreed at National Conference.



Anti-war demonstrator attacked by baton and dog.

VIETNAM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The mining of Haiphong harbour will not stop the advance of the Vietcong. This sort of move has been allowed for by the North Vietnamese. Stock piles in the North and South had already been built up previously. Quite apart from this, the liberation forces in the South have used massive amounts of captured American arms. Half the tanks which are now used by the NLF, have been captured from the S. Vietnamese.

Supplies can still come over the Chinese border, as in the 1968 Tet offensive.

But it is here where the whole bankruptcy of the bureaucratic elite of Russia and China comes in. While the war has raged in Vietnam, their clashes have held up and in some cases prevented arms reaching the liberation forces.

While American imperialism rains death on Vietnam, photographs of Drobnyin and Patolichev, representatives of the Russian bureaucracy, together with a smiling Nixon, are flashed around the world. They are more inter-

ested in coming to a diplomatic agreement with American imperialism than in the struggle of the Vietnamese workers and peasants.

But the momentum of the revolutionary movement in Vietnam is now too great to let the manoeuvres of the big powers stop them for longer than a short period. Hue is not far from falling. The Vietcong will not let the areas under their control go back to that of Saigon. Even Nixon's call for a ceasefire, without withdrawal of Vietcong troops, indicates the weakness of US imperialism. Even if the two sides compromise in a coalition government without President Thieu, this can only be temporary, before the total elimination of landlordism and capitalism in Vietnam.

In a devastating admission from the point of view of big business, an *Observer* editorial (14/5/72) stated: "Without direct American military intervention, the Communists would long ago have taken over the whole country and, if American military intervention now ends completely, this Communist victory will happen sooner or later... all that the Americans can do is to leave South Vietnam to its fate."

The Vietcong now control the top third of Binh Dinh province, an old stronghold of the Viet Minh. It is estimated that this area provides enough food to feed them for four months.

DEMONSTRATORS SAVAGED

The defeat of the S. Vietnamese army, which has more and better equipment than any other army in Asia, is not due to any inherent cowardice of its soldiers. The rout of that army, its demoralisation, its military inefficiency, reflects the collapse of the whole rotten landlord-capitalist system in S. Vietnam. The peasants have no use for a corrupt bureaucracy and rack-renting landlords.

Why should the ordinary soldiers hang round, when their fat, well-fed superiors are the first to run, with their equally well-stacked civilian counterparts and American advisors? Air-Vice

£5000

Area	Target	% of target raised	Amount Received
	£		£
London	1200		145-17
Merseyside	600		71-78
North-East	400		60-75
Sussex	350		63-50
South Wales	300		200-00
Hampshire	300		7-12
Scotland	220		1-40
Essex	200		28-92
Manchester	200		20-65
Bristol	150		56-40
W. Yorks	140		6-00
Birmingham	120		5-25
Kent	120		11-40
Coventry	100		10-00
Oxford	100		
Nottingham	100		54-50
Ireland	80		5-50
Devon	70		2-00
Gloucestershire	70		
Cambridge	50		1-50
E. Yorks	50		6-00
Leicester	30		7-00
Others	50		4-17
National Events			155-20
TOTAL	5000		924-21

£111 came in for the MILITANT Fighting Fund over the last week. This is a vast improvement and we thank every supporter who has made this possible. But this is still about £45 short of the weekly target of £156, which is necessary to reach at least £5,000 by the end of the year. Where have all our other supporters gone? With the number of readers we have, surely £45 was not too much to raise? A glance at the chart shows that some areas are not pulling their weight, while others are well ahead. ONCE AGAIN: £1 from every reader and we are well over the top.

Why not get your LPYS branch to donate a regular amount? Rochester and Chatham YS have sent us a very good £4; other YSs have given us a big boost in the past. But there are still many more who have not. We are asking every LPYS branch to put this high on the agenda of their next meeting.

Our supporters in Colchester write "We enclose £25 towards the Fighting Fund, which we raised through selling cakes, biscuits etc. By our reckoning, the little black block is now over an eighth of the way to the target." This should be an example to all other areas: raise money and keep a constant eye on your targets.

In addition to the above mentioned, thanks to the following for their excellent donations:

Liverpool £46; Manchester £20; London £8; Bristol £7;

Marshal Ky, the ex-President, has his house conspicuously near to Saigon airport! Major-General Pham Van Phee, 1st division commander, has been reported as telling his troops that they must be prepared to die in the defence of Hue, or they will die anyway; he will have them shot if they run from the enemy.

A major factor in the defeat of the US in Vietnam was the massive opposition to the war in America itself. Now, with the renewed bombing, the country is once again being swept with demonstrations against the war. Just as in Vietnam, the American ruling class is venting its anger on the heads of these demonstrations. Every picture of these demonstrations has been one of the police savagely laying into the demonstrators. This reflects the whole crisis of the American ruling class and it won't be long before the American workers come in for their share.

The position of the Labour leaders in Parliament is a disgrace to the Labour movement. In conformity with their bloody role in N. Ireland, the Tory government has applauded the actions of US imperialism at every stage. But how did the Labour leaders react? Nothing more than as benevolent advisors to President Nixon. In a question to the Foreign Secretary in the Commons, James Callaghan said: "...Would the Minister represent to the United States that, to those who feel for and understand her position, her present policy is leading her to a dead end. Would it not be appropriate

for him to indicate to the US, in terms which he thinks right, that the people of this country would not accept any escalation of the bombing, which would mean tremendous human suffering without leading to any tangible benefits to the ends of American policy."

Weeping enough crocodile tears to fill a bath, he in fact only differs with American policy over tactical questions!

Every member of the Labour movement must condemn this disgraceful attitude. The British ruling class see how their interests are tied up with those of US big business. The Labour movement must black all goods and ships going to Vietnam to help the imperialists. A blow against imperialism in Vietnam is a blow for all the workers and peasants of Asia.

WEAKEN BASTIONS OF IMPERIALISM

The taking over of the land and industry on the basis of a planned, nationalised economy, will be a big step forward. But owing to social backwardness and the nationalist limitations, Vietnam will become a totalitarian, one-party State, along the lines of N. Vietnam.

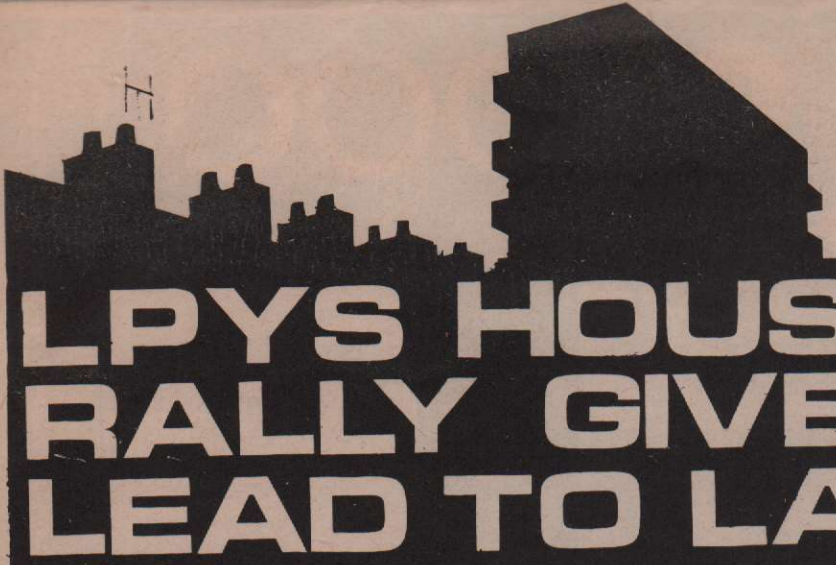
The Labour movement bears a big responsibility here. Only by spreading the revolution to the advanced industrial countries, the weakening bastions of imperialism, can we eliminate the heritage of backwardness represented by the Stalinist bureaucracy.

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LPYS HOUSING RALLY GIVES LEAD TO LABOUR

By TED GRANT

The Labour Party Young Socialists are giving a fighting lead to the whole of the Labour movement, with their National Housing Rally in Manchester on May 20.

The Tories are attacking the standards of the working class on all fronts—the cost of living is going up while they try and keep wages down; democratic union rights are being violated and now the Tories want to take away the last refuge—a place to live without exorbitant rents. The Tories are pushing through a Bill to abolish subsidies and, with the usual double-think and double-hypocrisy of the Tories, it is being called the "Fair Rents" Bill.

That this is a vicious and anti-working class piece of legislation, is proved by the fact that subsidies to home-buyers will be continued. There will be no means test or rebates for house-buyers, but a straight subsidy, which, on average, is already far higher than that received by council tenants. Surtax payers on a £40,000 mortgage over a 25 year period, paying £3,200 interest and £278 in the last year, will get an income tax rebate of £2,414. (or roughly £46-40 a week) on the first year.

PROFIT-MAKING ACTIVITY

Subsidies are continued for house-buyers not because the Tories are sentimental about those sections of the working class, and middle class particularly, who have been forced to buy a house to get a place to live, but to drive even more people in sheer desperation to get into debt and to scrimp and deprive themselves, in order to have the illusion of owning a house; this is for the benefit of the landlords, bankers, landowners and big building firms. Even before this savage attack on council tenants, the price of houses has increased 52% in two years in Britain.

Rents will be doubled by 1976. Even in the year ahead, in spite of the government's pretended limit on price increases of 5%, rent increases will be 15% to 25%. For the first time since council housing was introduced, it will become in many parts of the country, a "profit making activity" and the profits will be taxed by the Chancellor at the rate of 50%! In addition to the £100 per head which will be taken from the pockets of most working class families as a result of this Bill, there will be an increase in rates, not only for council tenants, but for all tenants.

Nor will private tenants benefit. Their rents will shoot up sky high, when what was once the cheapest sector, council housing, becomes the dearest. The price of housing will shoot to astronomical levels. It is now virtually impossible for skilled workers to afford the price of housing. As a consequence of this Bill, it will become impossible.

As Housing Minister Amery explained when justifying the Bill in Parliament, without such an Act, "by the middle of the decade, the (subsidies)... will have risen from £350,000,000 to £600m." That is enough for the capitalists. Apparently this is an immense sum to raise. But of course, the payment of over £15,000m in interest on the National Debt last year, nearly five times as

taken for granted. (The National Debt is payment in interest for the last four wars waged by British capitalism, beginning with the Crimean War).

In the last war, the workers made payment in "Blood, toil, tears and sweat", in the words of Churchill. Now, like Shylock demanding his pound of flesh, the Tories are demanding more blood, more toil, more tears, and more sweat.

£1,000m TO MONEYLENDERS

What are these Housing subsidies? Of every 100p paid in rent, 80p go to the grasping money-lenders, mainly the banks as the interest is guaranteed; 10p goes to the land-owners and approx 4p for the builders' profits. Of every 100p paid by the tenant, 6p is the real cost of housing. If money is required for upkeep and rebuilding, it could be increased to say 10p in every 100p paid by the tenants now. The bankers and money-lenders make over £1,000m in interest every year on council housing.

This is what stands in the way of cheap housing and low rents. It is the forces behind capitalism—the insatiable demand for Rent, Interest and Profit. In the housing debate in Parliament, unfortunately, the Labour leaders as well as the Tories spoke as if this system was for all time.

In the discussion on housing, in Parliament and within the Labour movement, the most striking feature is the failure to point out to the working people that the system of Rent, Interest and Profit is not eternal.

In all the countries where landlordism and capitalism have been abolished—in Russia, China, Cuba and E. Europe—in spite of the totalitarian system, and where bureaucratic dictatorship and inefficiency prevent the maximum use of resources, rent still remains only 5% of the workers' wages. Why? Because of the removal of the vested interests which stand in the way of solving the housing problem at cheap rents.

We must follow the example of our fellow workers in these countries and nationalise, with minimum compensation on the basis of need,

LPYS NATIONAL RALLY ON HOUSING

Manchester, Sat. May 20.

1.30pm: ALEXANDER PARK

3.30pm: HAULDSWORTH HALL

Deansgate, M/c 3.
Speakers: Frank Allaun MP.
Frank Taylor (AUEW)
Tony Aitman (LPYS NC)
Chairman: Peter Doyle (LPYS Nat. chairman).

Dance: Hauldsworth Hall, 8pm.
Adm. 25p.

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the land, banks, insurance companies and big building firms, but under workers' control and trade union democracy.

There are over 155,000 unemployed building workers at a time when many sections of the workers have to put up with slum housing, yet Amery, with crocodile tears, pointed to the plight of the private tenant in the borough of Camden. Thus this Tory Minister uses the scandal of high rents for private tenants, not to introduce legislation to improve their lot, but to try and bring council tenants to the same terrible conditions.

The attack on the seven million council tenants is an attack on 20m people directly, and in reality, an attack on the whole of the working class. Cheap housing is possible—but not under this system.

The working people have never gained anything without sacrifice and struggle; that is why they must shrug off the lamentations of Crosland that... "There are threats of extra-Parliamentary action on the Bill. There is talk of defiance and non-implementation. No honourable members should countenance unconstitutional action..."

MASS ACTION

It was only through extra-Parliamentary action by the workers of Glasgow, that rent reforms were brought in during the first World War. It was only mass action that resulted in large scale council house building. Mass demonstrations and mass action, including industrial action, by council and private tenants, can defeat the Tories and force a withdrawal of the Bill.

The local council elections, which resulted in the Tories, at local level, being thrown out in most of the main industrial regions, was an indication of the feelings of the working class. Labour councils should take this as a starting point.

The example of the LPYS should be taken up and a mass campaign organised to defeat the Tory Bill. ALL Labour Councils should refuse to operate it and local Labour Parties should bring together tenants organisations and the trade unions into a mass force, capable of bringing the Tories to their knees.

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DON HUGHES

The death occurred on Monday, last May, he represented Fairfield May 15, of Don Hughes, vice-chairman of Walton Labour Party, Many Labour Party members will aged 36. Don, a plumber by trade and a member of the EEPTU, was a supporter of the ideas of Militant

and a member of the EEPTU, was a supporter of the ideas of Militant almost as soon as he joined the Labour Party in his early teens. He was an activist shop steward and a prominent delegate on the Liverpool Trades Council. Since

ward on the Liverpool City council. Many Labour Party members will remember him for his clear, consistent speeches at the annual conference. The movement has lost an able fighter who will not be easily replaced. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife Joan and the children in their tragic loss.

'Sparks' Conference Shows

Fighting Mood

By An EEPTU Shop Steward.

This year's National Conference of shop stewards for the Electrical Contracting industry held at Hastings on May 5, was an indication of the fighting mood of "Sparks" in the industry.

A motion from ETU area no. 24, Maidstone, Kent, called upon the Executive Council to: "...negotiate an end to overtime in the industry and to bring about an up-standing weekly wage based upon at least £40 per week for an electrician."

It further urged: "...the early implementation of a guarantee of 48 weeks' pay, which is necessary to provide security for our contracting members."

Another motion from area no. 17, Cardiff, called for "...the Executive Council to negotiate a 35-hour week for the Electrical Contracting Industry, without loss of wages."

In other words, to those trade union officials whose only answer to unemployment is the "golden handshake", severance pay awards, the shop stewards (and who better to talk about the problems of unemployment) replied in no uncertain terms what they considered to be a real alternative to unemployment: a shorter working week, with a decent rate of pay, or full maintenance.

A number of other motions calling for better wages, an increase in holidays, extensions of benefit payments, a pension scheme and local negotiations for shop stewards were also carried.

The conference finished on a militant and bitter point by supporting the right to strike, with a motion from the Liverpool stewards demanding that penal clauses in the National Agreement be deleted. It was pointed out that the penal clauses were used against an ETU member, Bro. J. Byrne, recently, for his part in leading an unofficial strike at the IRO site in Bootle, in support of a pay claim.

Bro. Byrne who, along with his fellow electricians has been on strike for 15 months, has been banned from receiving all JIB benefits for a period of six months after he resumes work.

One of the obnoxious points about the disciplinary procedure, as was pointed out by one of the stewards, is that the trade union officials combine with our "class enemies" the bosses, to hand out discipline, thus becoming the judge, juror and

executioner, with no right of appeal. The Executive Council, in one of their now famous speeches on "anarchy", recommended the conference to be men of steel and vote against the motion.

The conference, rallying to the call made by Bro. E. Sabino, who called for Bro. Byrne to be the first and last ETU member to be tried under this despicable penal clause, overwhelmingly voted in favour of the motion.

Such is the nature of the ETU Executive Committee that if allowed to, they will on the one hand declare how democratic the union is, due to themselves. On the other hand, they will throw resolutions carried by a democratic vote, into the proverbial dustbin, because those resolutions happen to offend the Executive Committee's own particular policies, which entail agreements like selling the tea breaks and other hard-won conditions, for measly pay rises.

The workers in the Electrical Contracting industry should not allow this to happen; they should elect shop stewards on every site. They should work in their branches, moving resolutions supporting the conference decisions and debating their implications. They should, through their shop stewards, charge their Area Industrial Committees to bring pressure to bear on their Area and National officials for the early implementation of the Conference decisions.

All this should be done in conjunction with raising the issues of a need for real democracy within the ETU and the need for the next National Conference of the contracting industry to have on the agenda resolutions calling for the nationalisation of the industry under democratic workers control, as the only alternative towards ending the problems facing the workers in that industry.

Organise, debate, educate and fight, or else be smashed and shackled by the unholy alliance that exists between the ETU Executive Committee and the money-grabbing employers.