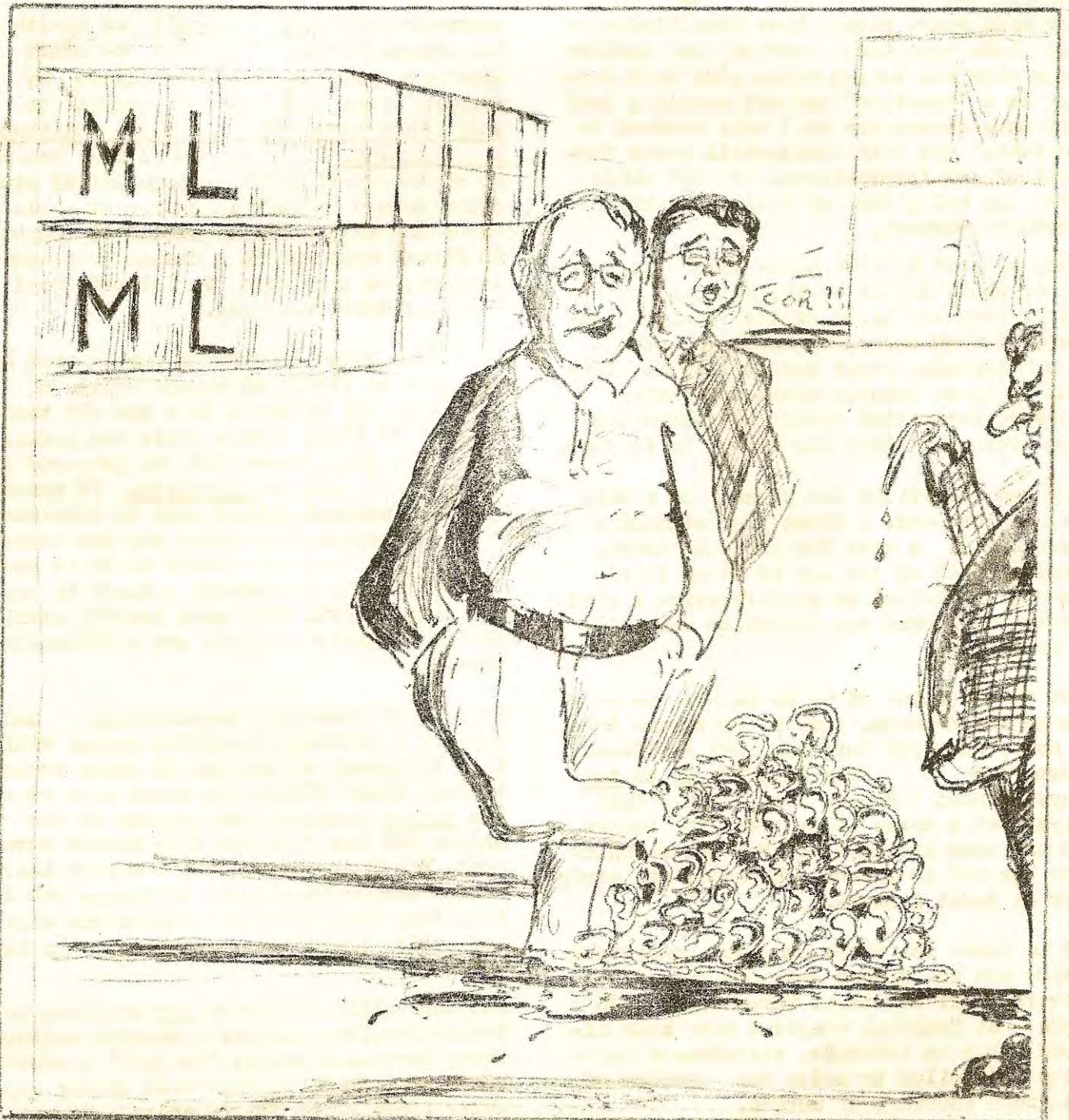


Ship Canal

no. 4



"Good God, Bill - the Trunk has chopped some ears off today!"

VIETNAM

The terrible massacre of hundreds of old men, women and children by US troops at the Vietnamese village of Pinkville is only one of many Massacres. Usually the mass murder is done from aeroplanes which use napalm and splinter bombs to wipe out hostile civilians. What's different about Pinkville is the direct and Nazi-like coldbloodedness - and that the truth has leaked out to a horrified world.

'Pinkville' is only one of the USA's war crimes in Vietnam. The reason is obvious: since the vast majority of South Vietnamese People are against the Americans and their stooge, 'Quisling' Government -- the USA must either get out or go in for mass murder of the people of Vietnam.

It has chosen to be a mass murderer. And Wilson's ^{supports} Government this genocide policy of the US Government. The obscene remarks of the drunken buffoon, George Brown, only put Wilson's policy a little more crudely.

The British People must show that Wilson and Brown don't speak for them: this Saturday a demonstration will start in Albert Square at 1:30. Its slogans will be: **END BRITISH COMPLICITY; FOR THE VICTORY OF THE N.L.F.** DEMONSTRATE:- Don't leave it to just the students

BRANCH

On Saturday 13th December, a special meeting of the branch will be held at the FLYING ANGEL starting at 10 a.m. sharp.

The only item on the agenda is a discussion on work sharing at Vere Street. The idea of a rota system to ensure a fair share-out of work will be discussed. Every docker should be there.

If you are not there then you have only yourself to blame if you don't like what those who do turn out decide. **THIS CONCERNS YOU - BE THERE!**

WHAT NURSES WANT

For many years nurses have been blackmailed into accepting poor pay and conditions with the tear-jerking plea that nursing is a "vocation" and not merely a job! But many nurses are no longer content to be fobbed off with double-talk about "vocation" and "professional ethics" while they are being flogged to a standstill through overwork.

They are fed up with being used as a source of cheap labour by the Ministry of Health. They are tired of the rising pressure of work caused by economic cuts in the hospitals. Their social life is limited by unpredictable hours and their leisure activities restricted since they are often penniless for two weeks in four.

Pay and conditions are in need of a very big improvement. A first year student's wage is £7 a week for about 42 hours, rising to £8 at the age of 21 or third year of training! On qualification a state Registered Nurse can expect to earn £13 a week!

But the question of wages is not the only cause for concern. Working hours are long. A nurse on night duty can work a 12-hour turn, and day duty of up to ten days without a break. Even after a full days work a nurse is expected to return to her room and take out her books (which she has had to purchase herself) and study for at least 2 hours.

It is these low wages and poor conditions which are the direct cause of the present severe staff shortage. Three wards - 66 beds - at Crumpsal hospital have been closed after an intensive recruitment campaign had failed to solve the problem of an acute shortage of nurses.

IMPROVE WAGES AND CONDITIONS.

The health service must be made a higher

economic priority: you can't get health on the cheap. The only way that the staff shortage will be overcome will be by raising wages and improving conditions until they compare with skilled positions IN INDUSTRY. It is a scandal that because of the staff shortage unqualified students should be left in charge of whole wards and that students should be taught in Nissen huts and in a disused basement laundry, as they were in Salford Royal Hospital until recently.

To combat these conditions nurses must be prepared to fight and become militant. They must try to break down the old traditions and ideas within their own ranks. They must join forces and be prepared for action that will be effective. If necessary industrial action must be considered such as refusing to carry out the menial tasks which they are forced to do at present while the Government refuses to pay for extra staff. This must include strike action if their demands are continually ignored.

Because of their bad organisation and lack of a militant tradition nurses will have to depend on the aid of other workers to help their fight. The nurses want to win the active sympathy and support of the unions and the rank and file Labour movement. The fact that on one occasion London busmen struck in support of nurses who felt that they couldn't just abandon the sick and strike themselves, shows what can happen.

But many militant nurses are standing up for themselves. They demand: A shorter working week; Increased wages; 'On Call' payments; Duty rotas to be planned well ahead; Unpopular hours to be fairly shared; Essential study periods to be longer; NO VICTIMISATION! ::::: Jack Sutton (who edits the hospital workers paper GERMS EYE VIEW)

SOLIDARITY

"We care for those that care for us" was the slogan of workers in many industries a few years ago when they went on strike in support of the Nurses' pay claim. Some concessions were gained by the Nurses as a result.

But, as an article on another page shows, Nurses are still scandalously under-paid and are amongst the most exploited workers in Britain.

And they are still hampered by the nature of the job they do, in taking the sort of strike action we dockers take. They can't hit profit as we do - and they don't want to hit the patients; they are not willing to defend their own rights, "at the expense of the patient." Relying on blackmail the government is safe in standing out against the demands of the hospital workers.

Isn't it time other workers took a hand in the struggle? Strikes - even token strikes - in industries like the docks would make the government think again on the hospitals pay.

Like all bullies the government takes advantage of the weakness of its oponents - in this case the Nurses. But our position is not weak. We can afford to butt in to see fair play for the Nurses. And we should.

Earlier this year a national campaign to get a big strike on May Day against anti-Union Laws brought out over a quarter of a million workers including many dockers. And the government caved in.

Now we need a national campaign of the same type for a mass strike in many industries on a given day in support of the Nurses. Then the government would "see reason". The Manchester docks could well give a lead on this issue. Remember: WE CARE FOR THOSE THAT CARE FOR US.

ALBERT'S TIT BITS

P.L.A. FOREMEN

Many men have recently commented on the way the FLA men behave in the Control. When taking men for Vere Street nights they strutt around like foremen, picking and choosing the men they want. They have no right to! They must take any book offered. Foremen with their "blue eyes" are bad enough. FLA men acting in the same way are intolerable. The branch should look into this matter.
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Sir Leslie Roberts, chairman of the MSC Board of Directors, was being knighted. The Queen, watched by a hungry looking Duke of Edinburgh, tapped him on the shoulder and said "Arise, Sir Leslie". At this Sir Leslie jumped up and backed away in horror. "A Rise?", he shouted. "Over my dead body!"
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REDUNDANCIES?

Bro. Mahony has recently declared that he will not tolerate redundancies in Manchester. That's good to hear.

Remembering that there are upto 500 men stamping this week, we should ask the question: What about purge sackings? Which means that a man going into Room 21 has a better chance of getting the chop than when there is a Labour shortage. A much better chance. What are Bro. Mahony and the Union doing about that?
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A Time-and-Motion Study man went on the docks cunningly disguised as a human being. Before long his body was fished out of the Canal. Three days later his last long procession was winding its way into the graveyard, with six men carrying his coffin. Suddenly the lid popped open and up sat the remains of the Time Study man. He turned to the ferman undertaker and muttered: "If you'd put this bloody thing on wheels you could lay off four men." His work done he went happily to his rest.
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A rumor has it that the MSC canteen has put a tender for the queen's oldest horses.

FRENCH PANTS

Sandown Friday. Oedipus Rex, 3.25. Sandown Saturday. Spanish Stone, 7.50

CONTAINERS: LONDON REPORT

Tilbury dockers decided last week by a clear majority on a show of hands to continue to ban the use of the OCL-ACT container berths at Tilbury Docks.

The mass meeting, attended by 1800 men, was convened by Mr. H. Battie, Tilbury delegate to No. 1 Docks Group, TGWU, aided and abetted by Mr. Hughes, fellow union delegate, in an attempt to panic the men into accepting a separate package deal from the rest of London docks.

Mr. Battie was clearly disappointed at the rejection of the grading and shiftwork deal by a majority of London dockers the previous week. The 'giant size' offer provided that men in dispute be replaced by fellow trade unionists. It has been called the "scabs' charter" by many dockers.

Both Brothers Battie and Hughes were pretty confident that the Tilbury men would go it alone and man the containers. Fortunately for the future of docks trade unionism the men were of a different opinion.

The Daily Mail and The Guardian reported that Mr. Battie shed tears at the decision. He should save a few tears for the fact that 4,000 dockers' jobs and 700 lighter-age jobs have been lost since the start of Phase I of the Devlin scheme in London alone.

This is all too often the result of union officials and lay delegates playing at employers' public relations officers and errand boys when a bit of pressure is put upon them. They cannot represent both sides and should stop trying to be chameleons.

The press and television have denounced the dockers as the enemies of progress for refusing to work the containers. They have not attempted to present the dockers' side of the story.

The TGWU put the ban on containers until a wage structure for all London dockers was negotiated with the employers.

Earlier this year the National Port Council declared its intention of reducing the docks labour force by 25% by the end of 1972 - from 22,791 in 1968 to 18,750. Working the containers without adequate safeguards against redundancy will only accelerate this process.

The men are fighting for their jobs. Is that against 'progress'? Is it 'progressive' to throw more than 4,000 men on the scrapheap?

Sir Andrew Crichton, P&O Shipping Co. Director and closely linked with the OCL-ACT Ltd., has endorsed Mr Battie's

view and bemoaned the fact that the OCL-ACT berth cost £5 million in capital development. This pillar of the establishment has never once mentioned the vast amounts of public capital that have been poured into the docks industry.

Since 1908 the govt. has provided cheap loans to subsidise the Port of London Authority, which maintains all the enclosed docks from London Docks to Tilbury.

Mr. Richard Marsh, former Minister of Transport (until Harold made him redundant) has repeatedly said that since 1966 the govt has put £50 million a year into capital development in the docks, leaving the shipping companies free to invest their profits in more lucrative foreign fiddles.

The P&O Co. made more than £9 million last year, increasing their profits by over £1 million on the previous year. Sir Andrew, the super patriot, is not quite at the soup kitchen door yet.

Almost every shipping and wharfing company improved their profits and cut their labour last year. So all the press whinings about the container ban are really farcical.

Since the men's decision the press daily have claimed the OCL-ACT Co. will move their operations to Antwerp.

THIS IS A LIE. Over the last eight months OCL-ACT have in fact been using Antwerp on a trans-shipment basis. They will continue to do so. This is nothing new.

To prove their sincerity in being concerned about the nation's economic welfare, Mr Battie and fellow Union officials should demand the immediate nationalisation of all Britain's Ports. Such nationalisation, to be effective, must be complete, not piece-meal, as the Labour Party intends.

Portworkers run and maintain every operation in the docks now and are successful enough to keep the port employers in luxury. Worker's control would be the only democratic form of nationalisation.

Dockers do not wish to engage in disputes which bring real suffering to their families, but while Sir Andrew and his sidekicks persist in stealing the wealth the dockers create, they will continue to fight them.

From Terry Barrett (T&G) & Alf Waters (NASD), London.