

# Lessons of the Victory

## New Labour Defence Organisation Needed

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the allegation of a sinister conspiracy to incite an illegal strike. The prosecution had persistently tried to hold the defendants up as people who went about the country causing strikes. This was the atmosphere in which the trial took place. Despite this, the Jury had thrown out all the charges of conspiracy and of incitement.

To emphasise his argument that the Judge had misdirected the Jury in law, Mr. Burge quoted from a case in law, Mr. Burge quoted from a case in law, Mr. Burge quoted from a case in law...

Mr. Burge said it was admitted by the defence that Lee, Tearse and Haston had helped the apprentices. But it was denied that this aid constituted a criminal offence.

Burge argued that within the framework of the Trade Disputes Act, organised labour had certain definite rights which must be clearly established, and defended; but these rights would be gravely endangered if the conception of "furthering" a strike can be broadened to include almost any type of propaganda activity which might precede a strike.

use all the propaganda means at their disposal to oppose the Ballot Scheme. Other sections of the population than the workers carry out propaganda when they want something, he said. Take the case of the Social Insurance Scheme put forward by the Government. The big insurance companies don't like it—nor do a section of the doctors. They put forward all kinds of propaganda against it in the press and in public speeches; and by more sinister means.

Such a decision would seriously endanger the democratic right to propagandise a cause.

It was the workers who were being prosecuted under the Trade Disputes Act today, said Burge. But tomorrow, when the conditions were not so favourable for other sections of the community the Government (he warned) by implication a Labour Government might use the decision in this court against the employers, in the event that Cassels's definition of "furthering" is upheld by this court.

### PROSECUTION'S CASE

Paley-Scott, for the prosecution, argued that acts in furtherance of a strike were not only acts committed after the outbreak of a strike, but also before a strike broke out—in preparation for one.

### CONVICTIONS QUASHED

The three judges, after consultation, gave judgment for the defence and quashed the convictions. They stated that they would deliver the reasons for their judgment in writing later.

unholy aid to those who use the Trade Disputes Act against militants.

### REGULATION 1A(a)

Apart from making any strike in "essential work" illegal and increasing the imprisonment penalties to 5 years and £500 fine, the wording of 1A(a) is the same as in the Trade Disputes Act. It reads as follows:

"No person shall declare, instigate or incite any other person to take part in, or shall otherwise act in furtherance of any strike among persons engaged in the performance of essential services or any lock-out of persons so engaged."

The name of Comrade Ann Keen was inadvertently omitted from the Application to Appeal at the Court of Criminal Appeal. Comrade Keen was found guilty of furthering an illegal strike at the Newcastle trial and was sentenced to 13 days' imprisonment after having spent 5 weeks in Durham Prison on remand.

Special application is being made to the Home Secretary to have the conviction against her quashed.

## Labour Defence Organisation Needed Immediately

In the coming days the Law Courts are going to be used extensively by the ruling class to try and intimidate militant Labour. Already victimisation of militant shop stewards is taking place in one part of the country after another. Threatened arrests and prosecutions under Regulation 1A(a) have already been made against miners in the Lanarkshire district, who were recently on strike.

The attack against the Trotskyists was designed to cut off the spearhead of class conscious labour and strike fear into the hearts of the working class. Had it succeeded, many more workers would have been quickly railroaded to jail and victimised by class justice.

Had it not been for a few honest representatives of the working class and the support of widespread sections of the organised trade union masses, this first prosecution under the Trade Disputes Act would have resulted in a defeat for the Trade Union and Labour movement.

## ALBION STRIKE

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under Ramsay's own figures which he gave to the Employers' Federation.

Negotiations dragged on for weeks with no sign of any settlement. Accordingly, on Friday August 11th, the Shop Committee decided to give the Management a further two weeks to make up its mind, failing which a Mass Meeting of the whole works was convened for August 30th.

### WATCH REGULATION 1A(a)

The Albion workers have been warned to expect a hard struggle. But the spirit of both workers and Committee are very high. This strike, however, is taking place under the shadow of Regulation 1A(a). That fact gives added significance to the action of the Glasgow District Committee in officially supporting the strike.

In the event of similar action on the Clyde by the E.C., it is the clear duty of militants nationally to resist and to take a stand with the Glasgow D.C. Through the branches and official

the Trotskyists will therefore apply to all cases under the Trade Disputes Act as well as under Regulation 1A(a).

When 1A(a) was pushed through Parliament, Bevin specifically stated that it was aimed at "outside agitators" specifically pointing to the Trotskyists, who he alleged were "strike agitators". He falsely argued that the wave of strikes arose because of premeditated acts on the part of these "outsiders".

Whatever criticisms we have of the political programme of the different groups who participated in this Defence Committee (the A.L.L.V.D.C.) and we have many on the issue of fighting for organised Labour's rights these comrades showed that they were fighters.

The National Council of Civil Liberties, the Stalinist stooge organisation which evaded the fight on this issue, has long been a fake, whose real role was the support of the Tory coalition. Experience has shown that the workers can't use this outfit in the defence of civil liberties or democratic rights.

A new Labour Defence Committee is necessary for the protection of hard won democratic rights. In the A.L.L.V.D.C. the nucleus exists for such a committee, although it is still only partly formed.

Locally and nationally this should be one of Labour's immediate tasks. Repeal all anti-Labour Legislation including the Trade Disputes Act and Regulation 1A(a).

Form Labour Defence Committees to protect the militants of our class.

## PARIS UPRISING

(Continued from page 1) in civilian uniform to infiltrate into the F.F.I. will be largely defeated."

This is so much balderdash. It is obviously ridiculous to suggest that the fascists, especially the German troops, could enter the F.F.I. How many German soldiers can speak French sufficiently well to pretend to be Frenchmen?

That the ostensible reason for disarming the French workers is false, is shown by an article in the Manchester Guardian of 31st August by their Military Correspondent, headed:

### "DEMobilising THE GUERILLAS"

In this the anxiety of the ruling class at the possibility of an armed people in Europe is revealed frankly: "It would be dangerous sentiment to feel that because a man has been a hero in battle he can be excused if he shows signs of anti-social behaviour when the battle is over."

### SWING TO THE LEFT

Already the masses have begun revolutionary seizures. The Paris press, which functioned as an instrument of Nazi propaganda has been seized by the armed legions of the underground movement. This act alone, which violates the sacred rights of private property, must have sent shivers of fear down the spines of the capitalists.

### THEY REMEMBER THE COMMUNE

It is the memory of French history too, which they fear. Paris is a city of revolution. In 1789, 1830, 1848 and in 1871 the Parisians rose in insurrection. For the first time in history the Paris workers seized power in 1871 and organised the glorious Paris Commune.

Then, as now, in order to retain control, the capitalists had to destroy any independent armed organisation of the masses. This fear of the revenge of the people is also shown by the attempts to divert the anger of the French masses from the real criminals—this is seen by the treatment of women who have had relations with German soldiers.

"merchants" etc., who had collaborated with the Nazis. What she no doubt expressed was that the real criminals should be punished—the big trusts and combines who notoriously have had intimate relations with the Nazi trusts and combines.

France is celebrating in "unity" her liberation from the Nazis, according to de Gaulle and others. That the masses are overjoyed at the defeat of the Nazi oppressor after four years of occupation, is clear enough.

The ruling class will tremble for the coming period. Paris has spoken! In the coming days the full meaning of the uprising of the Paris workers will become clear.

Paris and France will yet present their reckoning for the crimes of French imperialism. Red Paris has spoken, but it has not yet said its final word. The French Trotskyists will play their part in the coming days.

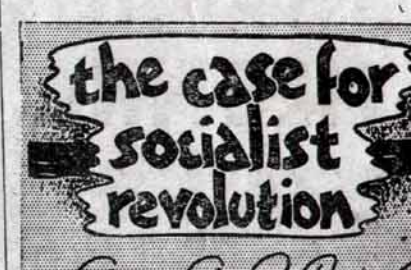
## RUMANIA Changes Sides

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in Rumania, i.e. with the control of the landowners and capitalists. Had the Stalinist regime issued a revolutionary Leninist call to the workers and peasants to take over the factories and the land, it would have altered the situation throughout Europe and the world.

The Stalinists, mortally afraid of the revolution in Europe, participate in the deadly game of power politics. While compelled to defend the borders of the Soviet Union and thus playing a relatively progressive role, at the same time the methods of Stalinist diplomacy inevitably place in jeopardy the last conquests of the October Revolution.

The Imperialists are temporarily tolerating the existence of the Soviet Union, because Stalin stands on the same side of the barricades so far as the rest of the world is concerned as they do themselves. But instead of succeeding in their efforts all these gentlemen are miscalculating.



## Forward for the Repeal of 1A(a)

This victory is a historic victory for labour in a capitalist court of law. It will be quoted for years—as long as capitalist "democracy" lasts—until Labour rights are swept away by vicious outright reaction or are reinforced and strengthened by a workers' state.

But only a small number of the acknowledged leaders of the working class can claim to have participated in this victory. The overwhelming majority were silent or in the camp of reaction when the test came.

For many years the organised working class has believed the Trade Disputes Act to be a reserve weapon of the ruling class only in the case of a General Strike. This naive belief has been rudely shattered as the result of the attempted frame-up of our comrades. It is of the utmost significance that serious workers study this case.

It is laid down in the Trade Disputes Act Section I, (1) that:

"It is hereby declared— (a) that any strike is illegal if it— (1) has any object other than or in addition to the furtherance of a trade dispute within a trade or industry in which the strikers are engaged; and

(2) is a strike designed or calculated to coerce the Government either directly or by inflicting hardship on the community. . ."

This section is qualified or modified later in the Act when in Section 8, (2), the following is to be found:

(c) a strike or lock-out shall not be deemed to be calculated to coerce the Government unless such coercion

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