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L U D D

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STRIKE MUST SPREAD

SEAMEN'S CAUSE

WORKER'S CAUSE

IF THE SEAMEN FAIL TO WIN THIS STRIKE THEN THE WHOLE WORKING CLASS WILL SUFFER A TERRIBLE SETBACK. THE WILSON GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO SMASH ANY OPPOSITION TO ITS POLICIES. IT IS THEREFORE THE DUTY OF EVERY TRADE UNIONIST AND MILITANT MEMBER OF THE RANK AND FILE TO ENSURE THE COMPLETE SUCCESS OF THE SEAMEN'S STRIKE - EVERY POSSIBLE SUPPORT MUST BE GIVEN TO THE SEAMEN: MONEY FOR THEIR FUNDS AND INDUSTRIAL ACTION. THEIR STRIKE MUST BE EFFECTIVE!

When the seamen first started their strike they thought that their fight was only against the shipowners. The speeches in the House of Commons of Wilson, Callaghan, Gunter & Co. quickly dispelled this illusion. The Wilson government was only too pleased to regard it as a trial of strength against the State. This is why the workers must support the seamen. The Wilson Government must be taught that any attempt to destroy the unity of the workers is doomed to failure.

At this time any attempt to make political capital out of the strike must be condemned. The rank and file of the Seamen must be able to control those in their union who are negotiating on their behalf, and to ensure that there is not a sell-out. The Seamen would do well to remember that, although at present the leadership appears to be standing firm, many aspects of the present dispute are only a direct result of the 1965 agreement negotiated by this same leadership.

The present paid officials are frightened to death of losing their jobs as a result of the Rules Revision Conference to be held later this year; we think it right to assume that some of their present militancy derives from this fear. In order to guard against sell-outs which will wreck not only the seamen's position, but also that of workers in other industries, workers' strike-action committees should be set up. Drawn

from the ordinary rank and file from each ship and dock, from each workshop, these committees are the only effective means the worker has of actually controlling his own conditions.

The shipowners are well equipped to last out this strike, whether it goes on for two weeks or two months - the Seamen's Union cannot hold out for so long - hence the necessity for rank and file to get together and form their action committees, to demand solidarity from workers in other industries, to explain that their fight is the fight of all workers. **IF WE CANNOT HANG TOGETHER WE WILL HANG SEPARATELY.**

Support the Seamen's Rally in Trafalgar Square

Sunday, 5th. June, 1966, 3.00 p.m.

This broadsheet is the work of a group of printworkers, buildingworkers, electricians and ex-dockworkers who want to see the seamen win their struggle.

Any profit made on this broadsheet will be donated to the Seamen's Strike Fund.

WORKER'S ACTION COMMITTEES

Workers' Action Committees NOW

What can the ordinary worker do to help the seamen in their present struggle with the bosses and the Government? The first thing is money, to be sent to the strike committees for distribution to the seamen whose strike funds are in a bad state. The second thing is to work together with other industries in supporting the strike. Block any movement of goods by road, rail or any other means if these goods would have been sent sea - especially goods such as coal, timber, etc.. Form workers' Action Committees and groups, based on the industry and elected from the shop floor, to resist the incomes policy and its implications.

How can we do this? Already there are good relations between the portworkers and the seamen. But this is not sufficient if the Strike is to be won.

Extend the struggle by getting the support of local trades council in the areas along the water front to call all-in rank and file conferences and meetings for all trade unionists.

The setting up of "Action" committees is imperative - and no time must be lost if the seamen are to win their struggle. You can raise this question immediately in your workshop, with your shop stewards, and your trade union branch. If the trades councils are unable to make a move then there is nothing to stop the seamen and dockers making a direct approach to a major factory shop stewards committee in their area for the calling of a conference of shop stewards from all industries in the area. Act now. We are in it together!

STOP THE STRIKEBREAKERS

Solidarity Must Win!

Even though the strike is entering its third week it is not yet fully effective. Over 70 per cent of the men are still at sea and the shipping companies have only lost 15 per cent of their trade.

Yet already the Union has paid out over a third of its strike fund and no sign of a settlement is on the horizon. Admittedly the coastal ship owners are almost beaten and are feeling the pinch badly. However the ones who really matter in Leadenhall Street are not going to lose much sleep over that. They have already arranged to divert as much of their shipping away from British ports as possible. This will ensure that the ship will go on sailing and the money will go on rolling in. And you can bet your strike pay that the chief offenders will be BP and Shell. These two make the most money and you can be sure that they will dig their heels in harder than the rest.

The N U S Secretary Hogarth has told everyone that all Scandinavian, Japanese and American Seamen have offered practical support in blacking British harbours. The N U S has not taken them up on this because it has been playing footsy with the bosses during the past three weeks. It will have cause to regret this attitude in the weeks to come. The only way to win this strike is to make sure it is 100 per cent effective. Only then will the Government see that the solidarity of the unions cannot be broken. The moderate attitude of the N U S which has been praised by the capitalist press is regarded by the shipowners and the Government as weakness. If the strike is not forced to a head, when the money runs out it will go badly for the seamen, unless they can rely on solidarity from other workers in all industries.

The T U C has been bleating, for the past few weeks, that it can do nothing. In fact, George Woodcock made one of the most intelligent remarks of his career when he replied to a question about support for the Seamen's strike with the remark: "I'd better keep my mouth shut". We hope it stays that way. The workers that the Seamen should contact are the unofficial committees and shop stewards up and down the country, and who are with the seamen all the way. The working class can only expect loyalty from its own members - that is: the rank and file. However it is up to the seamen to go out of

their way to contact other workers and tell them the truth about their case.

Things have changed a lot in the past thirty years! In those days even the union officials would have made some gestures of support - we don't just mean talk either, but active help and solidarity. But today, if the union officials won't offer active support, a hell of a lot of union members will.

There have, of course, been some slip-ups. At a time when solidarity is so essential the actions of the London Dock Workers' Liaison Committee chairman are not very helpful - he has pursued a deliberate policy of trying to contain the seamen's strike.

Stupid arguments have been used to explain why the dockers should not take unofficial action. It is said that if the dockers carry on the ports will be jammed up and there will be no work and the dockers will be able to draw their fall-back money without lifting a finger for it. This is nonsense! Soon the Royal Navy will be moving ships out to make berths available, and the dockers (under the Emergency Regulations) can be used as the Government sees fit. They might as well get it straight even if they did nothing else they could be employed cleaning up the dock on daywork rate for eight hours and also forced to unload any cargo if the Government saw fit to make them do it. Mr. Dash must realise that the fight is with the Government - the shipowners are merely the convenient hook on which the Government are hanging their case. If the seamen had not gone on strike some other section of the working class would have served them as a test case for their Incomes Policy. Poncing about playing Fairy Queen to the Government and earning praise from the most anti-working class papers should not be the role of the Docks Liaison Committee.

It must be understood by the Dockers that if the Seamen's strike is broken, they themselves will have little chance of being able to break the Devlin Report's recommendations. In fact, if they persist in breaking solidarity with the seamen they can only expect the same medicine when their turn comes. And their turn will come.

ALL DOCKERS MUST SEE THAT THE SEAMEN'S STRIKE IS OF DIRECT IMPORTANCE TO THEM. NOW!! AND THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!

TUC & the Prices & Incomes Policy

It is the aim of the Labour Government and the shipowners to keep the waterfront isolated from the rest of transport and the productive industries. And the T U C, instead of mobilising the full support of the trades union movement for this "official" strike, acts instead as one of the forces supporting Mr. Ray Gunter and the Ministry of Labour, in putting through a phony inquiry - on which it is reported the Prices and Incomes Board will have its say. Instead of mobilising the whole trades union movement for supporting action, opening a strike fund, and extending strike action the T U C is merely being Governments tout.

Looking at the T U C General Council's record since 1926 we can have no faith in this so-called "general staff" of the trades union movement.

If the seamen are to win their demands, then we cannot afford to let them and the dockers carry the whole burden of the struggle. It is clear that they are fighting the first round of what will be a long struggle against the Labour Party's policy of wage freezing - which is what the Prices and Incomes Policy amounts to.

The Incomes policy is a license to the bosses to print money at your expense. The workers' wages will be pegged, but the profits and the cost of living will rise leaving you with money which buys less, and less of it in your pay packet. The Union bureaucrats are not going to fight it; in fact most of them have already agreed to it. The T U C is solidly committed to it. If the leadership will not carry the fight through, then it will have to be done from the shopfloors in all industries, by the rank and file themselves. Form Workers' Action Committees NOW to fight the Incomes Policy and to support the Seamen's struggle.

STRIKE FUND

Donations for the Strike Fund should be sent to the Strike Committee, National Union of Seamen, Victoria & Albert Docks, Connaught Road, London, E.16.