

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU?

TWO ANSWERS..

i. It affects all wage earners. What do you think awaits you after university? For most of us it will be a job-teaching, lower or lower middle levels of industry, national or local govt bureaucracies. The pay will be the same as that of many skilled workers and for the vast majority of us lower than most skilled workers. To those who still have them - "cast away illusions, prepare to fight" - for the result of not joining in the fight will be more than a severe financial setback in the not too distant future.....

ii. The government cannot chain the workers (who even if they do not own the newspapers you read, are the majority in society) without there being severe repercussions throughout every level of society. If you think you can retain your present freedoms while these are denied to others you must have a rather stunted notion of freedom.

For example if you want arms to go to the South African Reich you will applaud this bill. Even Eric Lubbock must oppose it since he is active against arms to the murderers of Sharpeville. Under the Bill, he said,

"an ordinary citizen who supports the Anti-Apartheid movement cannot speak at factory gates or write articles urging workers not to help build the arsenal of arms for South Africa"

This is a matter of great urgency. Contrary to popular myth, it was not enlightened middle-class opinion which was responsible for all that is worthwhile in our society. Universal suffrage, the right to free speech and assembly, the welfare (however partial) of the old and sick; all these were won by the organised labour movement and can only be preserved by that movement. If our morality does not force us to join with it then a clear perception of our interests should. One thing is certain, a few years of the Bill would be a powerful stimulus to do so, but by then it may be too late...

OPEN AIR MEETING

12 January
1.30pm

FORECOURT BETWEEN LIVINGSTONE TOWER AND LIBRARY.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:-

BILL NIVEN (D.A.T.A. MEMBER S.T.U.C. GENERAL COUNCIL)
ROBERT WALKER (EQUITY REPRESENTATIVE OF CITIZENS
THEATRE CO.)

MARCH FROM NORTH FREDERICK ST.....ASSEMBLE 2pm.

12th JANUARY DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE AMTI-UNION BILL.

As members of the Student's Representative Council we call on all members of the University to support the 12th January Demonstration and to attend the preliminary meeting in Strathclyde, to be held in the Livingstone forecourt at 1:30p.m.

J.Mackechnie D.Hill S.Pagg.

W.Goodfellow I.Scales F.Grigor

A.Findlay M.McClure A.Ferns

S.Mackintosh D.Tierney K.Richardson

On Dec 8th, 1970 more than half a million workers took part in a national strike in protest at the Tory proposals for the TRADE UNIONS. It was the biggest and most important political strike in this country since 1926. It was just a beginning and another national strike (and area demonstrations) will take place on Tuesday, Jan 12th, ie, TODAY as part of the struggle against this piece of vicious legislation.

More than 95% of today's strikes are "unofficial" which means that at least 95% of today's strikes would, under the proposed Bill, be met by the full force of the law - fines, imprisonment of leaders etc. Workers have no other bargaining weapon than withdrawal of their labour. Once this has been taken away (in all but name) workers are at the mercy of the employers.

The sweeping phrase "unfair industrial actions" includes, and makes punishable by law:-

i. Sympathy and blacking strikes whereby workers out on strike at one plant try to enlist the aid of their comrades at another. So if a boss, faced by a strike, picks up the phone to transfer work to another branch (of his own or other company) the workers may take no steps to counteract this. While the employers can organise and co-ordinate activities between branches for their mutual support, this crucial right is denied to the workers.

ii. It will be "unfair" for anyone to "induce" (i.e. encourage) anyone else to go on strike. Journalists and newspapers that encourage and support strikes could be heavily fined. Freedom of the press, even if already pretty hollow will be completely extinguished in this sphere of industrial relations. If an editor does not wish to attack a strike he will be forced to remain silent.

iii. It would be "unfair" for workers to strike to draw attention to dangerous working conditions. The down tools at the Shell site in Carrington, near Manchester, last year, when a young worker was killed on the site because of what the workers considered dangerous site conditions would, under the proposed law, be "unfair". The employers could sue heavily.

iv. The strike by the Inner London Teacher's Association last year, which sparked off the wave of strikes leading to an interim pay rise of £120 per year would have been illegal on several points under the proposed legislation, one being that this regional executive could not be a registered body entitled to call a strike.