

comes to pass will depend on whether the Government has the will and skill to rid itself of the twin burdens of trade unionism and a swollen state sector."

In less explicit terms, leading financial and industrial circles have joined Crozier's attack on the Callaghan government, effectively sabotaging government attempts to unite the trade unions and industry behind a joint industrial growth strategy. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the leading employers' group, has mobilized against the controversial Bullock Report on worker participation, which recommended equal representation of trade-union and stockholder representatives on company boards of directors. The CBI demands instead a system of shop-floor co-participation through which productivity, grievances, and other issues could be discussed, but not the company's investment program, one of the key tenets of the Bullock Report. The CBI has also elaborated on a general strategy enunciated by Thatcher on television several weeks ago, which calls for the virtual elimination of the national trade-union movement, substituting instead a tripartite body to determine overall wage increases for a given year which would then be negotiated at the company level.

#### *TUC: Stand Fast*

The Trades Union Congress, has been urging the government to stick with its industrial strategy, even if it

means, as TUC general secretary Len Murray said, the creation of a "new international monetary system." The Congress has called for the creation of a £1 billion industrial investment fund to channel investment into manufacturing industries, as determined by the priorities of the government's industrial strategy. The fund, to be financed primarily from North Sea oil and gas revenues along with private sources, would provide much needed investment for industry, which the TUC charges has not been forthcoming through private channels.

Ironically, the same Labour voters whose abstentions last week paved the way for the Tory victory in the local elections, have made it abundantly clear that the government would receive their support if it followed such a strategy. Labour MP Bryan Gould, whose views the *London Times* of May 13 described as part of "a growing criticism within the Parliamentary Labour Party of the Government's submission to IMF direction," warned the government that it faced certain electoral disaster if it stays in office "simply to meet Treasury forecasts of rising unemployment and depressed living standards." Voicing the criticism made by numerous trade-union leaders throughout the country, the financial secretary of the influential South Wales miners union warned the government that its future depends on renouncing its policy of collaboration with the IMF and international bankers.

## Ulster Protestant Strike Falters

The general strike launched by Protestant extremists beginning midnight May 2 and aimed at halting all but essential services in Northern Ireland has failed to gain the support of Protestant workers and it looks like the strike will collapse before it can do major damage to Callaghan's strategy for industrial recovery in the province. However, the very fact that the strike is faltering has raised the potential for a "violent backlash," says one spokesman for the security forces.

Workers at a power-generating plant decided against walking off their jobs yesterday, after a long meeting, a significant setback to hardline Protestants in the umbrella Ulster Unionist Action Council. The Council organized the strike to press for a return to direct British rule in Ulster and a security crackdown against the Irish Republican Army. According to all reports, at least 90 percent of the Protestant workforce — who were expected to down their tools in support of the economic shutdown — returned to their jobs after a short time. Shops and businesses have reopened, despite widespread intimidation by Protestant paramilitary groups. Both trade unionists and industrialists have denounced the strike action as jeopardizing the fragile progress which has been made to date in

restoring economic stability to the province.

The British Government's effort to keep industry and commerce going by deploying extra security forces to the province has crippled the strike's effectiveness. However, incidents of violence have continued, as members of the Ulster Defence Association, a Protestant private army enforcing the strike, attacked policemen and troops who moved in to clear roadblocks. Several persons were reportedly injured as the paramilitary thugs roamed the streets, hurling stones at buses and hijacking vehicles.

Although it is too early to predict the outcome of the strike, it is significant that the leader of the hardline Protestants and chief organizer of the economic sabotage, Rev. Ian Paisley, has been expelled by his colleagues in the Union of United Ulster Conservatives (U.U.U.C.) group of Members of Parliament. U.U.U.C. spokesman James Molyneaux warned publicly that Paisley was involved in what amounted to a "putsch" attempt, aimed at illegally declaring a provisional government run by Protestant hardliners in Northern Ireland. Molyneaux's identification of this "Rhodesian" scenario will certainly take the steam out of such plans, and probably bring about an early end to the industrial disruption.