

Two weeks ago workers of the Baumann Biscuits factory met to discuss the failings of their liason committee. After such discussion they passed a motion of no-confidence in the two workers on the liason committee, and in the liason committee system as a whole.

The workers are dissatisfied with their representatives on the liason committee because after six months of being on the committee all that they have been able to achieve is to drink tea and smoke cigarettes with the management.

The two workers resigned from the liason committee and the meeting decided to try to set up a factory committee. It doesn't take much to guess what the management feels about the situation! It is obvious that management prefers a liason committee where it can appoint the chairman (as happened at Dorman Long) or up to half the committee members. A factory committee is completely elected by workers with a worker chairman. This protects the committee from manipulation by the management.

#### LETTERS REQUESTING AN INCREASE IN WAGES

1. The manager promised that he would consider our request (i.e. workers at Anchor Yeast) for an increase in wages. However he pointed out that according to the regulations of the directors, an increase in wages is only given once a year. But out of sympathy to the workers he would disregard these regulations and grant the increases himself.

2. Cloak Room: On the request for an improvement to our cloak room position, he agreed to enlarge it and have the necessary furniture brought in. Had the manager in charge of the staff necessities, a certain Mr Brown, been present a decision would have been reached there and then.

3. Transport for 'shift boys': The request for some means of transport for the 'shift boys' met with great difficulty as it would lead to a lot of expenditure if it was claimed:—1) a driver who has to be paid. 2) certificate of conveyance. 3) The rise and scarcity of petrol. But he added that he would try to see to the situation.

4. Annual leave: On this request he made it plain or clear that a worker is entitled to a month's leave after completing a year's service with the firm. But should a worker be confronted with a certain difficulty in coming back, the said worker could always inform him in writing or by telegram that he intended extending his leave, he would accept the explanation.

The formation of workers committee at Anchor Yeast: The employer of the above firm one day instructed a certain worker. He instructed this particular worker to approach the other workers with a view to forming a liason committee. The employer suggested to this worker that they, the workers, should elect five men who would sit with the employer whenever there is any matter affecting the workers in his firm.

After the worker had approached his fellow workers, he informed the employer that they had all registered at the Advice Bureau office in Athlone and that the Advice Bureau organiser had presented them with forms to fill in. The organiser had also given them a letter to the employer, seeking his help in seeing that his workers form a works committee. This obviously shocked the employer who denied any knowledge of the existence of the Advice Bureau. He showed us some papers that had been sent to him by a certain government official. He threatened to call this official. He agreed that he should be called. He thereupon told the workers that he would hold a meeting on the 4th October 1974, and that they should all attend as the government official would be present.

On the appointed day the official arrived; but the workers had already elected seven men to represent the workers on the works committee. They presented the official with the names of these workers and that was accepted without argument.

MR. HUGHES Recently Mr. Hughes, the head of a worker education organisation in England, paid a visit to Capetown. He also went to Durban and Johannesburg to see what conditions were like. He is to go back to England to report on his findings. At the meeting in Cape Town, Mr. Hughes sent greetings of solidarity from the workers of Britain. In a short address he asked workers to remember that the struggle was a long and difficult one.

The front page also includes a photograph.