

Militant Trade Unionism

*A Re-Analysis of Industrial Action
in an Inflationary Situation*

by V. L. ALLEN



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MILITANT TRADE UNIONISM

A Study of the History and Development
of the Trade Union Movement in Ireland

by V. L. ALLEN

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Preface

This book is intended as a brief incursion into the theoretical and practical implications of trade union behaviour and government action in the contemporary situation. It is more concerned with raising questions than with answering them but raising questions is an important function in the sphere of industrial behaviour for here, perhaps more than elsewhere, both written and spoken statements are dominated by unfounded assumptions and flatulent thinking which goes in the disguise of analysis. Occasionally I point the way to answers. More detailed ones will have to wait until later.

I was encouraged from the outset by Dr. Ralph Miliband whom I wish to thank. During the relatively brief but intensive spell of writing I relied heavily on numerous friends and colleagues to whom I went with my analytical problems, at one stage almost daily. I want to thank them all for their contributions to my work. In particular, I am grateful to Mr. K. J. Woolmer, Dr. J. E. Williams and to Mr. Dipak Nandy who is as intensely interested in the issues raised here as I am and who never tires of discussing them. I am grateful to Mr. E. J. Mortimer and Mr. Harry Newton who read and commented on a draft of the book. I, however, carry all responsibility for what is written. Finally I wish to record my gratitude to Miss Margaret Heaton and Miss Irene Scott of the School of Economics at the University of Leeds who did my typing, retyping, and checking promptly and efficiently thus relieving me of many of the administrative chores which go with writing.

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