

Socialist Worker

WEEKLY PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

THEIR HANDS IN YOUR POCKETS

**Tory
Britain:
38% for
MPs,
106% for
Lizzie
—no jobs
for 1m.**

HOW MUCH longer are we going to put up with the arrogant bunch of upper-class con men known as the Tory government?

Eighteen months of the Heath regime has meant a savage attack on the working and living conditions of ordinary working people.

The dole queues stretch towards the million mark.

Wages are held down while the price profiteers make a killing.

Pensioners shiver in their cold flats. Young children are deprived of their milk by the 'frightfully naive' Mrs Thatcher.

And the welfare state is transformed into the means test state.

Now, to pat themselves on the back for all these contributions to human progress, Heath and co have decided to give themselves a massive 38 per cent pay increase—after first, with due deference, giving the Royal drones a 106 per cent wage hike.

POVERTY

It is an insult to the working people of Britain, to the old and the sick, the jobless and the poor.

Five million families live below the official poverty line.

Six million people live in condemned housing.

More and more children are suffering from rickets—the disease caused by malnutrition.

Countless thousands of old people quietly and unreported, will die of cold this winter because of the £6 insult known as a 'pension'.

But Mr Heath is worth £20,000 a year. His chubby twin on the Labour benches goes up to £9500. And every gas-bag in the Commons will now pull in £6000 a year.

If you still need convincing that capitalism is a rotten system with twisted, warped priorities, just read these facts and figures again. They mean quite simply this: the handful who control the wealth line their pockets by dipping their hands into ours—the great majority who produce that wealth.

Socialism is not only necessary—it will be cheap at the price.

One last point: the MPs have decided they should have unemployment pay.

THEY'RE GOING TO NEED IT...



BUT TED CARES ABOUT THE NEEDY...

Top stories in the top paper

ONCE AGAIN war devastates the land—and lives—of the poor people of Asia as the ruling classes of India and Pakistan throw expensive armoury and bullets across each other's borders. In the centre of the military nutcrackers

lies 'Bangla Desh', the brave attempt at freedom by the East Pakistanis. West Pakistan wants to crush it, India wants to tame it. Neither are on the side of the Bengalis: **Report page 12, editorial page 3.**

LORD GOODMAN has a fat finger in many important pies: boss of the newspaper barons' empire, lawyer to the powerful and wealthy and 'liberal' architect of the racist sell-out in Rhodesia. **PAUL FOOT: page 4.**

A MAN of compassion—that's our Prime Minister. On Monday, the day the MPs heard about their pay increase, Ted the Teeth went down to London's Victoria Station to open an exhibition about the plight of the needy. We caught him in front of pictures of a pensioner and a young child. We were unable to find any of poverty-stricken MPs or members of the Royal Family collecting their dole. And lucky Ted grinned later when he heard that German industrialists had voted him £36,000 in recognition of his getting Britain into the Common Market. Just whose side is Father Christmas on?

WORLD NEWS

BRIEFING

US workers defy Nixon-union wages freeze

'LABOUR is a powerful force in the US system . . . If the big unions decide to sabotage the Phase Two programme, they undoubtedly can do it. But in the history of the democratic process, power exercised irresponsibly is eventually taken away. Neither the Nixon administration nor any that may succeed it can afford to let organised labour set its interests above those of the whole US economy.'

In these terms Business Week, the leading publication of US capitalism, sums up its assessment of Phase Two of President Nixon's programme of wage control. According to this assessment, the administration has led with its chin in trying to suppress wages and increase productivity by so-called voluntary means.

The alternative threatened by Business Week is an all-out attack on the basic rights of the unions themselves, as opposed to the present policy of 'keeping them in line' by co-opting the union bureaucrats onto the decision-making boards.

Nixon's biggest advantage (the formal co-operation of the union leaders) flows from his success in imposing the 90-day wage freeze (Phase One) and his winning George Meany and other trade union leaders to serve on a Pay Board which has the job of accepting or rejecting wage contracts negotiated between unions and employers.

To gain their participation, Nixon made a procedural concession by granting 'autonomy' to the Pay Board, abandoning his original plan to subject its decisions to

by Dave Finkel
American International Socialists

review by a Cost of Living Council.

Workers' Power, paper of the US International Socialists, explains: 'By agreeing to serve on the Pay Board, the labour bureaucracy has taken on itself responsibility for Nixon's campaign to drive down the wages of American workers. The lynch-pin of the entire Phase Two strategy is the co-operation of the labour bureaucracy—with its ability to strangle the power of the labour movement by attaching it to the government's policy.'

The truth of this analysis became clear at once, when the Pay Board voted 10 to 5 to disallow back payment of wage increases lost during the 90-day freeze.

The weaknesses of the policy—which now threaten to upset it completely—flow from Nixon's failure to stop strikes already in progress when the freeze began. Although he has used emergency legislation against striking dockers, the coal miners of Pennsylvania and West Virginia have scored the first major breakthrough

After seven weeks, the mine operators signed a contract under which some miners receive a first-year increase of almost 16 per cent, far in excess of the 5.5 per cent maximum the Pay Board hoped to allow. In a surprise move the Pay Board approved the contract. The business representatives understood that the miners are not the sector of the working class to be attacked head-on (it was the miners who broke the no-strike pledge

during the Second World War).

Even now thousands of the most militant miners have defied their leadership and refused to resume work, because the contract fails to meet their basic demands, including substantial pay rises for all miners.

At the same time other unions—notably the meat-cutters—have called for open defiance, including the resignation of the union leaders from the Pay Board. The meat-cutters themselves staged a one-day stoppage in protest against the loss of back payment of their own increase and they are demanding similar action by the whole organised labour movement.

In these circumstances, Nixon's power to conduct an independent policy has been considerably reduced. On television a prominent liberal Democratic senator accused the Pay Board of giving in to 'inflationary' demands by the unions. The Pay Board chairman lamely protested that the miners' contract would not set a precedent, and that approving it was the only alternative to a prolonged strike.

As long as the Republicans remain in office, it is unlikely that the capitalists will feel confident enough to attack the American working class head-on. This task will be left to the liberal Democrats, who call themselves the 'friends of labour'.

In the November 1972 elections the Democrats will get their chance to throw out Nixon and manage the economy more efficiently. From this point of view the whole Phase Two policy may be only a softening-up action in preparation for a much more drastic political and economic offensive against the workers' movement.

THE RIGHT WING is rearing its head again in Latin America. In the Uruguayan elections the left-wing Broad Front was heavily defeated. The victorious Bordaberry, a reactionary landowner, will continue the repressive policies of President Pacheco.

Various allegations of fraud during the elections have been made and it is possible that there was interference from the neighbouring dictatorship in Brazil.

Meanwhile Allende's left-wing coalition in Chile is also under threat. Two senior White House officials last week made a diplomatic slip by predicting that Allende would not last long.

Though the statement was withdrawn, it is clear that the US will not be unhappy if Allende's present internal difficulties continue. While a women's march protested against Castro's visit, the Christian Democrats have been winning support in the trade unions in the copper mines.

Both Uruguay and Chile seem to be in far more trouble. Uruguay faces severe economic difficulties, and there will almost certainly be a revival of activity by the Tupamaros guerrillas, who were giving critical support to the Broad Front. As a result repression will be stepped up.

But neither the Tupamaros nor Allende are able to mobilise the only force that can really defeat the right-wing threat—the working class. Until the workers go into action on their own account, violence and repression will continue in Latin America.

WHILE HOME AND SMITH were discussing the Rhodesian sell-out, what was going on in the Rhodesian parliament? The Industrial Conciliation Bill was amended to increase from seven to 10 years the period during which a person (that is, an African), sentenced to three or more months' imprisonment under the Law and Order Act can be barred from holding office in a trade union. Large sums of money were voted for the removal of African squatters from white land, and for assisted passages for (white) immigrants.

THE KING OF AFGHANISTAN visits Britain this week. Afghanistan is one of the 25 poorest countries in the world. This will not prevent the King from bringing some expensive presents for our underpaid Queen. Maybe too he will be getting advice about how to deal with the troublesome national minority who live on the border with Pakistan.

LAST MONTH Tarquinio Fuortes, a leading member of the Italian revolutionary group Avanguardia Operaia (Workers' Vanguard), was arrested in Rome for organising an 'unauthorised demonstration'. The demonstration was a meeting of high school students from various schools to discuss their tactics in preparation for a students' strike. All assemblies and meetings had been forbidden by the Rome police.

THE DOCTORS who went on strike in Kenya in November have now been charged with breach of contract under the Trade Disputes Act, taking part in a strike declared illegal, and conspiring together to effect an unlawful purpose.

THE FRENCH weekly revolutionary socialist paper Lutte Ouvriere (Workers' Struggle) is now available, as a special offer to IS members only, for £2 a year, from IS Books, 6, Cottons Gardens, E2.

'Suicide' of arrested militant rocks Italy

by Mike Balfour

WHEN a bomb exploded in a Milan bank in December 1969, killing 16 people, the police immediately swooped on the revolutionary left groups. Among those detained for questioning was a railway worker called Pinelli.

Three days later he was dead. He had 'fallen' from a fourth floor window of the Milan police headquarters.

His death became the centre of a violent controversy which has rocked Italy to its foundations. In the process the police and the law have become utterly discredited in the eyes of millions.

In 1969 the Italian working class rose in revolt against the employers and the government. All over Italy workers came out on strike to back demands for better wages and conditions.

The struggle soon got out of the control of the unions and became a genuine rank and file movement raising political demands. Pitched battles between workers and police took place in the streets of Milan and Turin.

Frame-up

In July the government fell. Finally in December the workers' movement won big gains.

It was at this point that the bomb exploded in Milan. It signalled the beginning of a counter-offensive by the Italian ruling class.

10,000 workers were on trial for their activities during the 'hot autumn'. Hundreds more were rounded up in Milan following the explosion. An anarchist called Valpreda was arrested and declared the main suspect on what was clearly a frame-up.

Pinelli, in no way connected with the explosion or with violence of any kind, was convener of a local anarchist group. On the evening of 12 December he was asked to come to police HQ for routine questioning. In the early hours of 16 December, the Milan Police Chief Guida (commandant of a fascist internment camp during the war) blandly announced that Pinelli had thrown himself out of the window, and that his suicide was a confession of guilt of involvement in the explosion.

It became clear in the subsequent court cases that his 'suicide' was nothing of the sort. The police accounts were full of contradictions and plain lies. The ambulance which carried the dying Pinelli to hospital was called several minutes BEFORE he fell from the window.

He had no trace of blood after a four-storey fall, but he had a strange bump at the base of his neck and an injection mark on his arm. Many other facts pointed to an obvious conclusion: Pinelli had been murdered and then thrown from the window.

Pinelli's body was hastily buried, his clothes vanished, the hospital record of the time the ambulance was called was

altered by police agents. Then, after months of delay, the Public Prosecutor announced the closure of the investigation, issuing a dossier which completely whitewashed the role of the police.

Pinelli's murder aroused huge protests all over Italy. His case became the symbol of injustice and victimisation suffered by thousands of Italian workers.

Now the case has been reopened. Pinelli's interrogator, Calabresi (who was trained by the CIA) is up on trial for manslaughter and the political chief of police for Milan for illegal arrest. But it seems likely that they will be let off.

Meanwhile the trial of the main suspect of the Milan bomb explosion has dragged on since 1969. Valpreda has been driven insane. Nine key witnesses who had evidence implicating the fascists in the explosion have died in mysterious circumstances which the police have again called suicide. It is commonly expected that

Valpreda will soon 'commit suicide'

The Milan bomb explosion gave the police everywhere in Italy the excuse to crack down on the extra-parliamentary left, starting with its most vulnerable wing, the anarchists. Militants have been harassed, beaten up, imprisoned and sacked.

An ultra-reactionary section of the employers are financing the fascists, while the police, riddled with ex-fascists, are giving them protection. But the Italian ruling class as a whole, especially the big industrialists, have no intention of backing the fascist movement.

They may use the bombings to justify further repression of the revolutionary groups. But the present government has the collaboration of the Communist Party (anxious to participate in the government) and to some extent of the trade union bureaucracy.

Pinelli's murder was merely an 'excess'.

Bosses lock out metal men

IN WEST GERMANY 550,000 metal workers at the moment are locked out in the North Baden and North Wurttemberg area. Firms in other areas are already laying off workers.

The metal workers' union, IG-Metall, the largest union in Europe with nearly 2.3m members, is demanding between 9 and 11 per cent in the different areas. The employers everywhere are offering the same: 4.5 per cent.

Since inflation last year was 6 per cent, and more for the lowest-paid groups, this is a simple offer of a wage cut. It has been backed up with the most enormous propaganda campaign—advertisements in the newspapers, leaflets to the workers, notices in the factories—all claiming that this is the most that can be offered if there is not to be massive unemployment.

Faced with rising costs (unit costs in the car industry were up 8 per cent in the first six months of this year) and increased competition abroad, the employers are determined to accustom union members to a standstill in real wages. They also fear that if the economic situation gets worse and short-time working is introduced this will lead to militancy by the rank and file, and they are determined to head off that danger

with a heavy defeat now.

And the union bureaucracy is prepared to go along with this, for fear of coming into conflict with its friends in the Social Democratic government of Brandt Schiller. In Baden-Wurttemberg, after negotiations had broken down and the employers had rejected the arbitration award of 7.5 per cent they called for strike action.

In the necessary vote more than 89 per cent of the 250,000 voted for a strike which the union called in only a few 'key' factories, including Daimler-Benz. When the employers answered with a lock out in the whole area the union refused to call solidarity strikes or even demonstrations in the other areas.

It had arranged to continue negotiations in the other areas—and succeeded in neatly splitting its own members.

Every German trade union official has one nightmare—that the 'September strikes' are repeated. In September 1969 140,000 metal workers struck in a two-week long unofficial strike wave that forced IG-Metall to re-negotiate the contracts and made a mockery of the whole legal apparatus of ballots and arbitration.

To make sure that does not happen again the union has to seem radical. So the starting point for the strike was

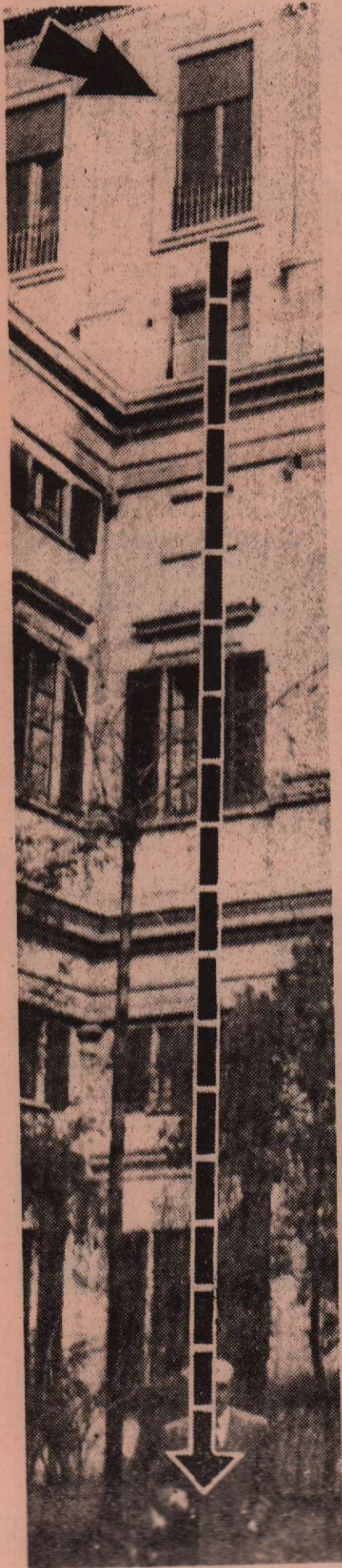
chosen as Baden-Wurttemberg, where the area organisation is the strongest.

This concentration on the strongest area has been the justification for the split. Each area, it is argued, is different, and so the struggle should take different forms and the demands should be different. Which is a clever adjustment to the widespread feeling that the union should take more interest in negotiations at local level, but rather useless when the employers have a clearly worked out common strategy.

The lock out is an attempt to split the union members from non-union members and Baden-Wurttemberg from the rest. To limit the strike is to let them get away with it.

Up until now most metal workers follow the union bureaucracy, but only because they expect it to win something for them. The 90 per cent strike vote, the 100,000 who had made short warning strikes before the official strike started are all signs that there is no resignation before the employers' attack.

But the lack of any opposition inside the union able to offer a serious alternative policy means that, despite all appearances, a serious struggle will not be fought by the IG-Metall, only by the employers.



Pinelli's descent: jumped or thrown?

Socialist Worker

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India - treacherous ally of Bangla Desh

SINCE 1947 the ruling classes of both India and Pakistan have depended for survival upon being able to excite hatred of the other country. They inherited the policy of British imperialism.

The British rulers of the Indian sub-continent fostered Hindu-Muslim hostility in order to divide and rule. Towards the end the British lost control; the policy of divide and rule ended up as just divide.

The result was the religious state of Pakistan, two halves more than a thousand miles apart, divided by language, culture and history, united only by a common hatred of Hindus and other unbelievers.

Twenty odd years of exploitation of East Pakistan by the rulers of the West led to a massive nationalist movement in the East. When the screws of the military dictatorship were temporarily loosened earlier this year, the conservative, middle class leaders of the Awami League rode to overwhelming electoral victory on a tide of nationalist feeling. The Bangla Desh movement was in effective control of East Bengal.

Its leaders, Mujibar Rahman and his associates, allowed the Pakistan army to re-enter the country, in force, under the cover of 'negotiation'. They did so because the alternative was to mobilise the workers and peasants of Bangla Desh for a mass resistance to Yahya Khan. Such a movement, they reasoned, would not stop short at independence. Revolutionary social changes would follow. As a result the Pakistan army was able to bloodily re-assert its authority.

Now the Indian government has gone to war with the aim of destroying the Pakistani army in the East and setting up an 'independent' Bangla Desh under an Awami League government. The rulers of India have two main motives.

First, they want to get rid of the burden of the 10 million Bengali refugees who are a crushing load on India's crumbling economy. Second, and at least equally important, they want to nip in the bud the growth of an armed revolutionary opposition to the Pakistani occupation of Bangla Desh.

They fear, and their fears are well founded, that a successful revolution there would be an ever greater threat to capitalist rule in India than to the military rulers of West Pakistan.

Neither government has the slightest intention of allowing a genuine liberation of the workers and peasants—who make up the overwhelming majority of the people of Bangla Desh—if they can possibly prevent it. The Indian intervention aims at a puppet regime of safe Awami League politicians who can be relied upon to cling to the coat-tails of the Indian Army.

As to the self-styled 'socialist' governments of Russia and China, their support for India and Pakistan respectively is determined exclusively by foreign policy considerations. Neither wants a revolutionary upheaval in the sub-continent. Each backs a reactionary capitalist government.

Socialists must of course support the right of the people of Bangla Desh to national independence. Genuine independence for Bangla Desh will be won by their own efforts. The Indian army will prove a treacherous ally which will soon become an open enemy.

KEPT ANY GOOD SWANS LATELY?

IT IS THE JOB of any negotiator to present the wage claim of those he represents in the best possible light. The Royal Family's representatives are to be congratulated. They have done a public relations job comparable in skill to that of selling the Eiffel Tower to an American tourist.

The Queen, according to their version, has been bravely struggling to make ends meet against the ravages of inflation ever since 1952. Now the poor lady is at the end of her tether. An increase of 106 per cent is absolutely essential if the bills are to be paid.

As for Prince Philip, who is in such reduced straits that he has had to think seriously of giving up polo, he is willing to be content with an increase of only 62½ per cent that will bring his salary to a mere £65,000 a year.

We should not make the mistake of supposing that the Queen is actually going to get much of the increase. On the contrary, we are told, most of it will go to poor underpaid members of the Civil Service Union, and who could object to that? Men like His Grace the Duke of Beaufort KG, PC, GCVO (Master of the Horse in the Queen's Household), Field Marshall Sir Gerald Templer, KG, GCB, GCMG, KBE, DSO (Gold Stick) and even plain Mr F J Turk (Keeper of the Queen's Swans).

It is comforting to know that the sorry tale of royal poverty is not entirely unrelieved. For example, Her Majesty will not be affected by the Tory 'fair rents' scheme. Her 22 palaces are maintained and serviced free of charge by the Department of the Environment. Nor need she worry about the rising cost of private yachts. The Royal Yacht is paid for by the Ministry of Defence.

Since this paper has campaigned consistently against productivity deals, we can hardly object to the absence of any productivity element in the increases. Still, we cannot help but wonder if Her Majesty's Representative at Ascot (His Grace the Duke of Norfolk KG, PC, GCVO, CBE, TD) or the Gentleman Usher to the Sword of State (General Sir William Stirling, GCB, CBE, DSO) have undergone a time and motion study recently.

The Select Committee that produced the recommendations for increases cannot be blamed for not fully investigating such questions. It had more serious problems to resolve.

According to the Guardian 'After many hours of meetings and many thousands of words of evidence and debate, the Select Committee failed to resolve this problem: when the Queen buys a hat, is it a public or a private purchase?' Our sympathies go out to the MPs who so manfully wrestled with problems of such vital concern to the working class.

EVERY TIME THERE'S A COLD
SNAP YOU GET THE
PENSIDNERS OUT....

CAN YOU SPARE A CRUST?



NOTTINGHAM WARRIORS

Extra divi

THE COOPERATIVE Wholesale Society may be interested to know that it is at the moment helping to finance property developers who make a 50 per cent profit out of using the 'Lump'—non-union, self-employed building workers.

F C Finance is an HP and money-lending business. 73 per cent of its shares are owned by CWS. One of the company's activities consists of providing property finance and one customer is an outfit called Galliford Estates, whose chairman is Mr J Donaldson. He just happens to be managing director of F C Finance as well.

Galliford Estates is a goldmine for speculators. In 1968, the shares were worth 30p. A month ago they were worth 160p, and dealing was suspended while details of 'an important acquisition' were prepared. When dealing begins again, the price is expected to touch 200p, which will make a nice little profit for the men in the know who bought the shares before the suspension, pushing their price up from 145p.

A recent circular from a firm of stockbrokers told the City a lot about Galliford Estates. They make their money from property development, but they will only undertake a development if they are guaranteed a profit of at least 50 per cent. Which is being choosy. They make this kind of money by 'employing labour only sub-contractors who work effectively on a piece work system geared to competition'. In a word, the Lump.

The CWS might try and find out how many other people they support in exploiting trade unionists for the benefit of profiteers.

FORTHCOMING VISITOR to the new Daily Record buildings in Glasgow will be Princess Anne, daughter of a bankrupt doss-house keeper in London SW1.

To ensure that Anne is greeted with proper decorum, the Record management has had the entire place repainted and the road surface outside freshly tarmacadamed. Readers of the Daily Record (Scotland's version of the Mirror) are used to banner head-



Anne: royal face-lift

lines like 'Come off it Midlothian'. These are reserved for situations when the Record (true guardian of the public interest as it is) takes down the bold type to expose a council that is wasting public money in needless preparations for a state visit.

As one Record journalist has suggested, it seems unlikely that any such story will appear in the paper about the preparations for this particular visit.

Jack's alright

HONEST JACK DUNNETT, Labour MP for Nottingham, finds time to dabble in the property market as well as fighting the socialist cause at Westminster. He has been active for some time buying up slum properties, 'modernising' them and attempting to sell them at an enormous profit.

In spite of the appalling housing shortage in Nottingham, the high level of Dunnett's prices has resulted in many flats remaining vacant for long periods. A case in point is the most recent of his acquisitions in the Mansfield Road, which has been converted into flats.

A local buyer went to the city council to try to get a mortgage to buy one of the flats. The council, following normal practice, insisted on a valuation.

The surveyor's report indicated that the flats were not worth anything like the value put on them by Dunnett. The prospective buyer backed out of the deal. The flats remain empty and, according to Dunnett, will remain so until the inflation on house prices gives him the required level of profit.

Dunnett is a seasoned campaigner in this kind of profiteering from human need. He is reputedly a millionaire, a fact not unconnected with his ownership of property in London's Notting Hill, an area well-known for its delightful housing. Dunnett supplements his rent income from a thriving legal practice. One of his cases involved the defence of slum landlord Rachman.

For socialist Dunnett, it was, of course, a simple question of solidarity. All of this has not gone unnoticed by the Nottingham Labour Party. At a recent meeting called to consider the nomination of parliamentary candidates made necessary by the redistribution of seats in Nottingham, a move to exclude Dunnett was headed by his agent in the last general election. The vote went in Dunnett's favour thanks to a mass of votes

coming from people that local party stalwarts swear they had never seen before the night of the vote.

THERE IS ONE property swindle in Nottingham that Springheeled Jack has not got his teeth into. The only piece of major property to come onto the Nottingham market in recent years is the old Victoria Station site, at present being redeveloped by Taylor Woodrow into the multi-million Victoria Centre.

The price British Rail sold this major piece of real estate for? It is in the region of the absurdly low figure of £75,000. BR makes a loss and savagely slashes railworkers' jobs. But when it comes to helping the property speculators it knows its duty.

Bloodsuckers

EVEN murder can make a fast buck for the profiteers. You will recall the grisly Charles Manson trial in 1969 when the accused was condemned to death for the murder of film actress Sharon Tate and her friends at the hands of some of Manson's followers.

Now a Los Angeles-based German-American group is buying up the area known as the Spahn ranch, a ghost town used for making cheap Westerns in the 1940s. Manson and his cult lived on the ranch and were alleged to have committed murders there.

The property group plans to build a several million dollar European tourist centre on the site, with holiday lodges, beer gardens, pools and gift shops. Centre of attraction, the group hopes, will be a Manson 'horror museum' with wax effigies of Manson and his 'family' and knives, guns and letters that belonged to them.

Satanic Mills

A GLIMPSE of what the 'technological revolution' means in simple human terms can be seen from a recent report by Professor Ivor Mills, professor of medicine at Cambridge University. He says that excessive competition in life, pay and productivity deals and demands for increased efficiency were driving an increasing number of people to suicide.

He went on: 'The main reason for the vast increase in the number of attempted suicides is that there is excessive competition in life.' He said that in 1964 in England and Wales; 50,000 people attempted suicide and that last year the figure rose to an estimated 90,000.

'During the 'socialist' government wage freeze this problem was greatly increased. Wage increases were paid in return for better productivity. But you cannot go on exerting pressure on people to work harder just for more money. With an increasing number of people they attempt to commit suicide because of the increased pressure.'



The powerful 'liberal' press tycoon who helped draw up the Rhodesia agreement that condemns 5 million Africans to domination by white settlers

LORD GOODMAN -TOAST OF PROFITEERS AND RACISTS

I THINK this meeting will want to send a message of sympathy to Princess Alexandra. There is nothing about Rhodesia in today's Daily Express, nothing indeed in any of the newspapers but William Hickey this morning has a lot to tell us about the Princess.

There is, Hickey tells us, 'extensive dry rot at Thatched House Lodge their new Georgian Home at Richmond...

'Workmen moved in to deal with it five months ago, and since then the Ogilvys have lived a kind of squatter existence. At the moment the Ogilvys are huddled together during the day in the Princess' private living room and at night in one of the six master bedrooms.'

Before I go on and break people's hearts, I would like to assure people here that all is not gloom in the Ogilvy's household.

Mr Angus Ogilvy, the Princess's husband, is one of the leading directors of Lonrho, a company which takes its name from the first three letters of London and Rhodesia.

The shares of this enormous concern rose 26 per cent last Thursday, the day the 'settlement' between the Rhodesian regime and the British government was announced.

Merriment in the boardrooms

Lonrho has been in a little trouble recently. Several of its directors have been arrested on fraud charges. But the Rhodesian settlement will put an end to all their worries.

There is merriment these days in the boardrooms of many other companies. At Tate and Lyle, the directors are toasting the Rhodesian settlement as the greatest political development since they bought the Prime Minister his new boat.

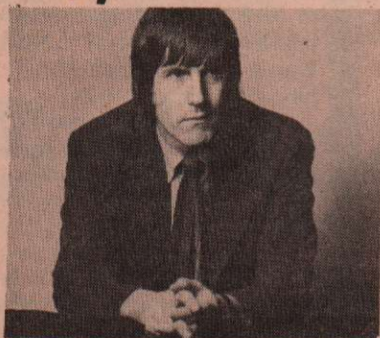
At Turner and Newalls, the asbestos company which causes more death through industrial disease than any other, there are prospects of doubling already enormous profits.

And among all those ordinary people, all the major generals (retired), and senior civil servants, who have followed the advice of the Daily Mail's city editor, Mr Patrick Sergeant, to 'trust Edward Heath, and buy Rhodesian bonds', there is great rejoicing.

Another happy man tonight is Lord Goodman, the friendly lawyer. Lord Goodman is everybody's friend. He is the friend of Labour Party chiefs and Liberal party chiefs.

His favourite business partner is Mr Mark Chapman Walker, who started his rise to fortune in Conservative Central Office as the main protagonist for commercial television, from which he, like his partner

by



PAUL FOOT

who made this speech to a packed Anti-Apartheid rally in London last week. The meeting was ignored by the press—including those in Lord Goodman's Newspaper Proprietors' Association.

Lord Goodman, later made millions of pounds.

Lord Goodman's best friend is Sir Max Aitken, proprietor of the Daily Express, which newspaper has spent the last five decades shrieking hysterically in support of law and order, and the last five years giving strength and support to the greatest illegality in the history of international law—the declaration of UDI in Rhodesia.

Another friend of Lord Goodman's is Mr Alastair Hetherington, editor of The Guardian, which had some claim to being a liberal newspaper before there was trouble in Ireland.

The Guardian's leader about the Rhodesian settlement last Friday, and its leader this morning mark another step in the downward path of British liberalism during the past few years.

Then there is the Hon. David Astor, editor of The Observer for the last 23 years. Mr Astor is not only an admirer of Lord Goodman, he is Goodman's sycophant-in-chief.

It was Astor in last Sunday's Observer who compared Lord Goodman to Voltaire and most other famous people in the history of the

world. Lord Goodman, by the way, is chairman of the Trust which owns the Observer. He is also chairman of the Newspaper Publishers' Association, which owns all the main national daily and Sunday papers.

He does a job for them when they need to keep control of their workers, and they are always ready to do a public relations job for him when the occasion demands it.

All these rich men, businessmen, newspaper proprietors, television tycoons and the like are delighted with Lord Goodman this week, because he has done for them what lawyers have always done for their class. He has translated robbery, violence and racism into the language of 'principles', and he has managed to do it in such a language as to cause the maximum confusion everywhere.

Banning of opposition parties

Ask Lord Goodman what he means by the denial of the basic rights of citizenship to the enormous majority of the people of Rhodesia, what he means by the continued build-up of the Rhodesian police state, the continued eviction of the five million Africans from the few homelands left to them by a racist and imperialist minority.

He will tell you that that means 'unimpeded progress to majority rule'.

Ask Lord Goodman what he means by the continued detention of all serious political opponents of the regime and the banning of all serious opposition parties, all of which is incorporated in his agreed 'declaration of rights', agreed with the Rhodesian government, and he will tell you. That is 'immediate improvement in the status of the African'.

Flanked by Tory peers

Ask Lord Goodman what he means by a settlement 'acceptable to the people of Rhodesia as a whole' and he will tell you: It is a settlement which is acceptable to Lord Pearce, another damned lawyer, who is to travel to Rhodesia, flanked by Tory peers and Uncle Toms, in order to discover that the hatred, bitterness, contempt and fear which the Rhodesian Africans feel for their fascist government is, in modern legal jargon, proof of the 'acceptability' of the settlement to the people of Rhodesia as a whole.

Lord Pearce will discover that because he is chairman of the Press Council. The Press Council deals with complaints from the public about the press.

Any trade unionist journalist will be able to tell you that the record of the Press Council is as follows: any complaint about good journalism is upheld. Any complaint about bad journalism, the invasion of privacy, cheque book journalism and the



GOODMAN: architect of Douglas Home's sell-out

like is turned down.

And why? Because Lord Pearce and his Council are the creatures of the newspaper employers, just as he will be the creature of all employers when he visits Rhodesia.

What is Lord Goodman's definition of honour? He regards all the various components of honour to be joined together in the single body of Sir Alec Douglas Home. Sir Alec has spent the last 40 years scanning the political horizon for a fascist to make a deal with.

Wherever there is oppression, brutality and racism, there is Sir Alec with his outstretched hand and imbecilic smile, ready to reach 'a settlement'.

That is not because Sir Alec likes fascists. On the whole, he does not, for fascists are rather ill-bred people. They went to the wrong sort of school and they do not know how to keep the elbow over the ball.

But there are times when such thugs and racists are required to safeguard the property of Sir Alec and his class and on such occasions Sir Alec shelves his distaste and stands four-square in solidarity with fascism.

This is what has happened in Rhodesia, and we should know that tonight, as in every other night since last Thursday's 'settlement', more and more Africans in Rhodesia are moving out into the bush, to join the resistance.

They are reaching for their guns, and they are absolutely right to do so. Not because they are violent men, or because they like violence, but because the message from Sir Alec Douglas Home is loud and clear. All his constitutions, promises, pledges and agreements are so much hogwash. They are used to give some legal cover to the racial solidarity and class solidarity which Sir Alec and his government and his class feel for the white minority regimes in Southern Africa.

What can we do about it? Cer-

tainly we cannot leave anything to the Labour Party.

The sell-out perpetrated last week was in no sense different from that proposed by Mr Harold Wilson with the unanimous support of the then Labour Cabinet, on Tiger in 1966 and Fearless in 1968.

In 1963 Mr Wilson made a pledge that Labour would not countenance independence in Rhodesia before majority rule. On Tiger and Fearless, he countenanced exactly that.

Political action needed now

When the Rhodesian racists would not settle with him, he returned to his commitment to NIBMAR (No independence before majority rule). Now that the most monstrous and disgusting sell-out has been completed, what has Mr Wilson to say? I have here an exclusive copy of his long and bitter denunciation of the Douglas Home proposals. Here it is. (Holds up completely blank sheet of paper).

It is no longer a question (if it ever was) of waiting till the next election. We need political action now. For there is a revolt brewing outside, in the factories and in the offices, the mines and the mills.

There is a revolt against the values and principles of people like Home and Heath. The revolt is an expression of rage about the way in which those values pinch working people in their daily lives.

What we have to do is to fan the flames of that revolt until people see the relevance of Rhodesian racism to their own situation, until we can achieve a common struggle between oppressed people everywhere to end forever the kind of barbarism which is represented by Sir Alec Douglas Home and build a world where people in Africa and everywhere else can start taking decisions for themselves.

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IRA.

THE PRESS CALLS THEM TERRORISTS AND THUGS —BUT WHAT DO THEY REALLY STAND FOR?

A MASSIVE propaganda campaign of lies, hysteria and distortion has been waged by the British press against the Irish Republican Army, the main force fighting the British Army of occupation in the streets and on the housing estates of the Six Counties' police state.

The popular press pumps out a daily stream of abuse and mangled truth about the way the IRA operates and the motives behind its actions. Cartoonists have revived the racist images of earlier days in the Irish independence struggle, showing men in trench-coats looking like apes.

Socialist Worker has made it clear repeatedly that in the confrontations between the British Army and the IRA, socialists are on the side of the republicans. And we do not put conditions on that support—the Army is an occupying force and we support the efforts to drive it out.

But this does not mean we have to support every single tactic of the IRA. We are not uncritical of their political attitudes or their tactics in the military struggle.

Neither wing of the IRA—Provisionals of Officials—is a revolutionary socialist organisation and they cannot bring about a real victory in Ireland—a united 32-county socialist republic.

When the IRA split into Provisionals and Officials, both groups maintained their military sections and their separate but overlapping political organisations—Sinn Fein.

Both the Provisional and Official Sinn Fein have just held conferences in Dublin. Contrary to the British press image, there was nothing sinister or mysterious about the way they discussed resolutions on the political struggles they are engaged in.

THE PROVISIONALS were created because of the lack of any capable force in the Catholic areas of Belfast and Derry in August 1969, when the people faced a bloody massacre from the mobs of armed Orange men who bombed and burned families out of their houses.

Since then the Provisionals' role has changed from being a simple defensive one. But their campaign, far from being indiscriminate as the press claims, has been directed mainly at military targets, at business premises, state symbols and, occasionally at civilian targets such as pubs and clubs. In purely military terms, none of their actions has been particularly skilled or successful.

REFUSING

Many of those who joined the Provisionals in 1969-70 were people who had not been active in the movement for some time. They clung to the traditional republican ideals of driving out the occupying force and uniting Ireland—often refusing to ask questions about what type of united Ireland that would be.

Others who joined the ranks at that time were young and insisted on the need for militancy in the opposition to British troops. They often had more radical but not fully worked out political ideas.

At the Provisional Sinn Fein conference, leader Ruairi O'Bradaigh recognised these competing attitudes in the movement by concentrating almost all his attention on the campaign against the troops and

by
Brian Trench

against the Northern state—but he declared the final objective to be a 'democratic socialist republic' covering the 32 counties.

But the only current alternative he put forward to the 26 Counties regime is the idea of regional parliaments, while in the North the aim is to make the state ungovernable and to drive the Army into the sea. As an alternative to the Stormont government, the Provisionals call for a 'Dail Uladh'—a parliament for the nine traditional counties of Ulster (three of which are now part of the South).

The plan has attracted only middle-class support and seems largely irrelevant to the majority of those actively engaged in the fighting—workers, unemployed and young people.

The Provisional conference called for the civil disobedience campaign in the North to be stepped up—that is the campaign against internment which has cost the state and local authorities hundreds of thousands of pounds in unpaid rates and rents.

But by 'stepping up' the campaign, the Provisionals mean a refusal to pay HP payments, motor and income taxes. This misses the essential point about the civil disobedience campaign—that it has involved bigger numbers than ever before in political action against the Unionist regime.

It is a campaign that makes possible the building of a movement of workers fighting for certain objectives and setting up rank and file local organisations to maintain the fight.

Some delegates raised the idea of spreading this kind of action to the 26 Counties but the majority thought it a mistake to alienate the '85 per cent' support in the South for the campaign in the North. So while making some verbal concessions to more radical ideas, the Provisional Sinn Fein stayed within the framework of traditional republicanism.

They see Jack Lynch and his Dublin government as an ally of British imperial-



Resistance to the British Army has been built and sustained largely by the IRA

ism, but they do not draw the necessary conclusion—the need to build a movement throughout Ireland actively engaged in the struggle of workers, tenants and small farmers against the grip of imperialism and its local supporters.

ON THE SURFACE, the Officials seem closer to a socialist approach. Tomas MacGiolla, president of the Official Sinn Fein, told his recent conference that the best help they can give to the people in the North in their struggle is to intensify the fight against British imperialism and the Southern government.

But opposition to the Lynch government is based on its 'selling-out' to Britain, not on the need to build a working-class movement that can convince Protestant workers in the North that they will not be forced into a 'united' Catholic capitalist Ireland.

UNDERLINING

The Officials insist much more on the need for a social programme and speak of the power of the capitalist press—but at the same time they call repeatedly for unity of 'all democratic forces, of all nationally-minded people, of all opposed to the Common Market' instead of underlining the independent action of the working class

The Officials oppose the Common Market, recognising its threat to jobs and the livelihood of small farmers—but they phrase that opposition in terms of loss of 'independence' and 'sovereignty'. They put forward the alternative of an 'independent' capitalist Ireland trading with other small nations which.

But more than a third of the delegates supported an amendment to the statement on the Common Market that stressed the only possible alternative to Irish entry is a socialist workers' republic.

TURNING TO THE NORTH, the Officials said that military action can be only one tactic among many to be used by the mass movement against British domination. But their call for a 'democratic administration'

a 'reformed Stormont' would almost certainly be part of such a deal.

The Officials are certainly closer than Provisionals to recognising the need for a working-class movement but they seem to want to avoid immediate socialist and working-class demands.

The achievement of both sections of the IRA in providing defence for the areas under continuous attack in the North must be acknowledged and acclaimed.

REMOVING

But as long as the struggle is confined to the Six Counties, it cannot win. To disrupt the state and annoy the authorities is not enough. Only a movement based on clear revolutionary socialist policies aimed at removing the regimes of North and South can have any hope of building a mass organisation that will break down the sectarian barriers between Protestant and Catholics.

Neither section of the IRA and Sinn Fein, brave and determined people that they are, can build such a force on the basis of their present politics.

That job can be done only by a revolutionary socialist party that, in sweeping away the hideous regime in Stormont and the messenger boys of British capitalism in Dublin, will at long last end the repression and poverty that have ravaged the whole of Ireland for centuries.



The racist caricature: cartoon in Labour Weekly

at Stormont is unreal.

To keep Stormont in some form means inevitably keeping other institutions of the Orange regime. They warn against Britain and Dublin agreeing to some 'federal deal' as a solution to the present problem—but

ELDRIDGE CLEAVER



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Spying on women at home

MOTHERS who are forced to rely on Social Security benefits in order to keep their families together fear that their order books will be snatched from them if they are discovered entertaining a man on their premises.

Co-habiting means living together as man and wife, having a common home, a pooled income or children or being acknowledged publicly as man and wife. Having a boyfriend or sleeping together is not co-habiting.

Special investigators watch over their morality and can walk in at any time to check there is no man about the house. Living on Social Security benefits means being scared to have

men around, terrified to let them stay overnight.

The frequent visits to the Department of Health and Social Security, the hours spent waiting there, the interrogations by hostile counter clerks is enough to weaken the strongest mother. But the scrimping and scraping on the meagre weekly allowance of £5.80 for the mother and £1.70 for children under five is most damaging.

Many unsupported mothers are not aware that they can also be covered by grants for clothing, footwear, prams, carpets and bedding. They are entitled also to free prescriptions, dental treatment and spectacles.

If the mother is lucky enough to secure a place at a nursery for her

child, the low wage she will earn as a woman worker—the average wage for a woman is £12 a week—would hardly be enough to support her let alone her children.

The only way out of this sort of situation that the mother can see is to find a man willing to marry her and care for her and her child. So she is forced out of necessity to depend upon a man for the survival of her family.

Her income from the state or her wage packet is not enough and in this way the system maintains the sacred family unit and undermines any other variety of human relationship that could exist alongside the family institution.

Sue Banks

HOW THE TORIES PU

PLUG OUT ON THE POWER WORKERS

A YEAR AGO, in December 1970, the Tories won the first major success of their war against workers' pay claims. Aided and abetted by the mass media, they took on and defeated the unions who organise the electricity supply workers. The story of that defeat is full of lessons for workers today.

In 1969 and 1970, the 'revolt of the lower paid' developed. Because of wage freeze, rising prices and high rises in taxation, all workers were finding it harder to make ends meet. Many sections moved into battle for the first time for generations, demanding substantial pay rises. Many of their strikes were successful.

In 1969, the power workers took part in this movement, unofficially, and won 10 per cent. In late 1970, they came back for more. The Tories decided to take the power workers on. They were anxious to beat a section of workers decisively, to slow down wage claims generally.

The electricity workers were an ideal target. They work out of the public eye and so would win less sympathy. Their action would mean cold homes, lay-offs in factories, blank TV screens. The public, ignorant of the industry's workings, could easily be deceived about what was happening.

The work to rule was amazingly effective. There were 31 per cent power cuts at peak periods. In Northern Ireland the Stormont government—terrified of darkness in its strife-torn streets—closed nearly all factories down. Everyone in Britain was affected by the power shortages.

SURPLUS

Yet this is odd. In 1964, a work to rule and overtime ban on similar lines had very little impact. But in 1964 average overtime was eight hours while in 1970 it was practically nil.

In 1964 there was a plant shortage, while in 1970 there was a surplus. The impact of the work to rule ought to have been greater in 1964 than 1970.

The reason it was not is simple: the employers themselves took a hand.

In the autumn of 1970, the electricity bosses faced several problems. There was a serious coal shortage. The power bosses sent men to scour Europe and beyond for coal. Much of the supplies they found were unsuitable, and difficult to burn.

And the power cables that link France and Britain broke in October. Most of the traffic on these cables goes one way—to Britain. The cables were still broken in December, so one source of extra power was lost.

Again, over the previous two years, there had been hosts of

SPECIAL
FEATURE
by COLIN
BARKER

Jak's notorious hate cartoon in the London Evening Standard. Printworkers refused to run the paper until their statement of solidarity with the power workers appeared



breakdowns in the big new power stations. Result: more loss of supplies.

But still more important was the power bosses' attitude to the crisis. They were very lackadaisical.

First, they did not use all their available generating resources. Across Britain there are various gas turbines that are saved for emergency situations like peak periods in cold weather. A number of these were not used during the work to rule. For the power bosses, it seems, the work to rule was not an 'emergency'.

Second, in 1964, the supply networks were 'split'. If this is done, supplies to hospitals can be maintained even if the streets around are in darkness. In December 1970 the networks were not split until towards the end of the work-to-rule.

Also, the majority of hospitals

have stand-by generating equipment which can be brought into action in a matter of a few minutes. Power cuts in operating theatres are unnecessary if some warning is given to hospitals in advance. Yet there were power cuts to hospitals. Who was to blame?

OFFERED

One thing needs to be understood: the manual workers in the industry do not control the distribution of electricity. Management does. And management could have prevented many of the blackouts, in hospitals and elsewhere. The unions in fact offered to help the boards make sure that essential services were maintained, but their offer was effectively ignored.

Thus the employers magnified the effects of the work-to-rule themselves. Few people outside

the industry knew what was really going on. The power workers' were blamed for the employers' lack of action, and public hysteria could be whipped up by press, radio and TV.

How successful the policy was! The power workers had an enormous advantage: they were losing little pay through the work to rule, their action had immediate impact, troops would be ineffective at running the power stations, and the law was effectively powerless.

The only card left for the Tories to play was 'public opinion'. Even before it started, Anthony Barber, Chancellor of the Exchequer, declared public war on the power unions. The second day of the work to rule, Sir John Eden, number two in the Department of Trade and Industry gave what the Financial Times called 'one of

the strongest attacks

the Minister': 'Absolutely not the widespread disaster this has caused. I the men themselves to carry this so far human life'.

The press was given the cue, and searched about breakdown supplies. The London Standard published the most vicious anti- ever. The printer presses until the them the right of r The General NALGO, which workers in the reported that his switchboards and were being subject abuse of all kinds. tipped on them, car tyres slashed.

The papers were way to find horror of them utterly woman died in M her electric blanket dering after a power

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Looking back at the great blackout of December 1970—and who was really to blame.

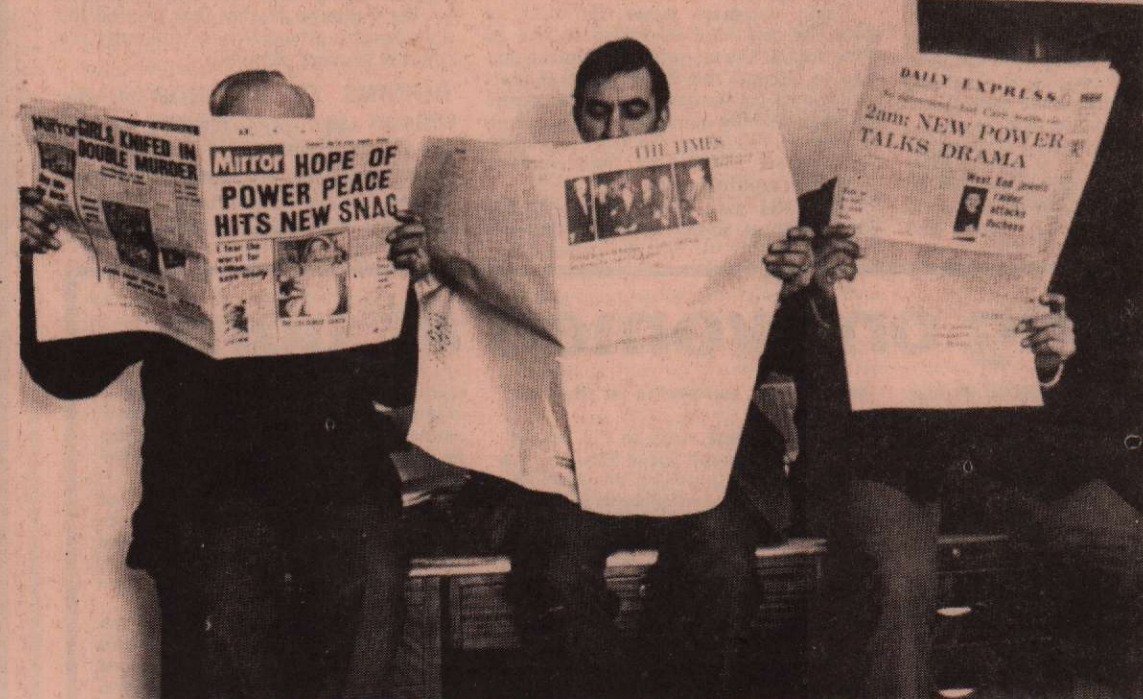
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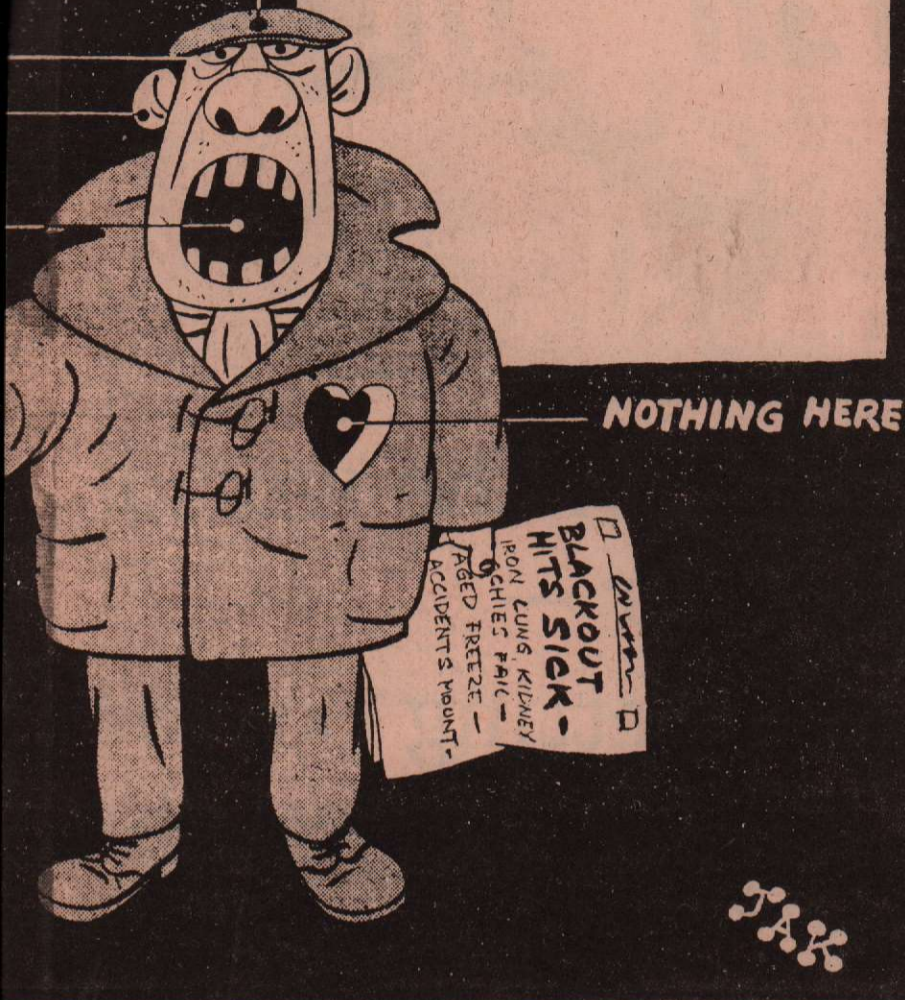
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The press launched a ferocious onslaught on the power men in a bid to isolate and demoralise them.

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DAVID FROST:
lynch-mob attack

people could die of cold if the cuts continued. (He remained silent the year before, when more pensioners than that did die of cold, without power cuts.)

The Daily Mail, perhaps the most vicious of all the press, did its best to whip up the fury further: '... why the hell should Britain always have to take it? Isn't it about time we started dishing it out?'

The Mail's editorial was entitled 'The Power Maniacs'. It ended with these words: 'The question for the power workers is: Do they want to be respected as public servants? Or would they rather be regarded as Public Enemy No 1?'

TV and radio also did their bit to add to the general panic. No programme ever revealed why the networks had not been split, or who was failing to keep hospitals supplied.

On the Sunday night, the David Frost show reached an all-time low when five power workers were faced by a lynch-mob audience,

given no chance to explain their case, and finally one of them was knocked down.

Faced with the barrage of organised 'public opinion', the supply unions backed down, accepting the Tory terms for surrender more or less totally.

The Court of Inquiry which followed dished out one of the worst deals for many a year. But more than the power workers suffered: the postmen were beaten within a month of the Wilberforce Court of Inquiry, and after them other sections too were knocked back.

1971 was the first year since the war that the British working class suffered a real drop in its standard of living. The offensive against the power workers achieved that.

STRENGTH

Could it have been otherwise? The answer is yes—on condition:

First, that the power workers themselves had the democratic strength to determine their union leaders' decisions. The work to rule did not crumble in the power stations: only the union leaders collapsed to the Tories.

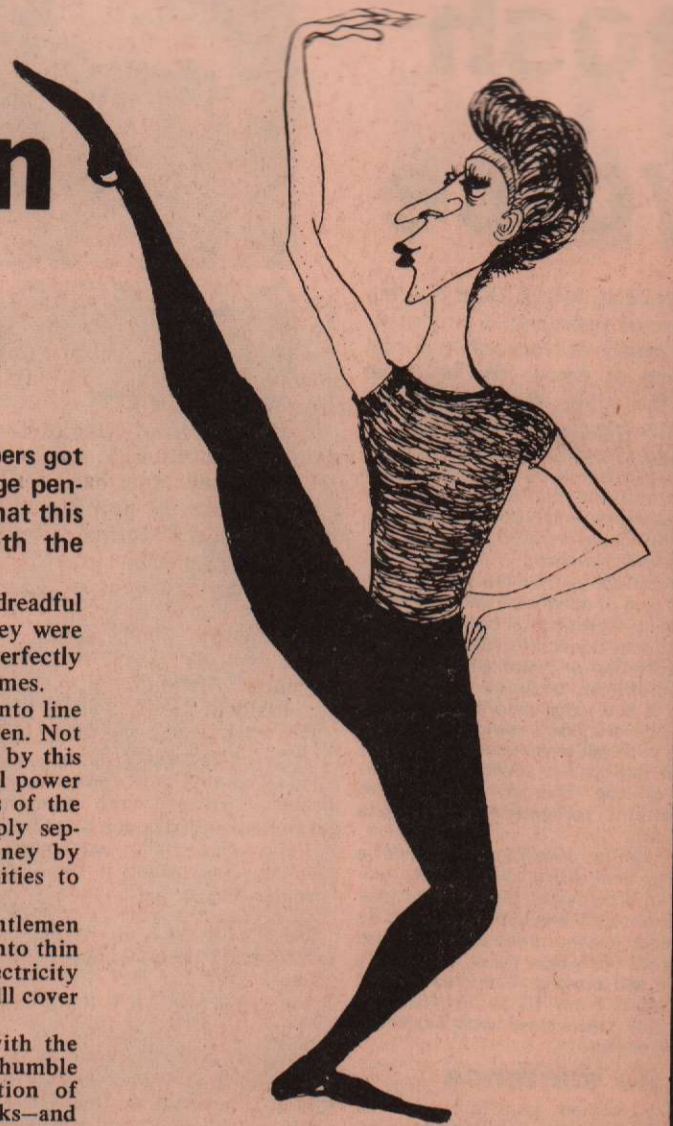
Second, a huge propaganda counter-offensive was needed, to explain to other trade unionists the truth about the power workers' case, who was really responsible for the hospital blackouts.

Millions of leaflets were needed, but only thousands were produced. The defeat of the power workers illustrates one weakness very sharply: no revolutionary workers' party existed in Britain, with sufficient resources to do the job of telling the working class the truth quickly enough.

For lack of connection with the rest of the working class, the power workers were beaten—and the working class as a whole has had to pay the price.

This winter the power workers have another claim. It will be our responsibility to see that they are not again isolated from their fellow-workers.

The ballerina and the pension fund



THIS TIME LAST year the newspapers got very upset over the plight of old age pensioners. It was unanimously agreed that this had nothing whatsoever to do with the appallingly low level of pensions.

The real villains of the piece were the dreadful power workers and their work-to-rule. They were killing the old, who otherwise were perfectly placed to afford electricity to heat their homes.

The power workers were bludgeoned into line and the old age pensioners quietly forgotten. Not the least significant group to be neglected by this inexplicable year of silence were electrical power workers themselves. Thanks to the genius of the grab motive system, they were quite simply separated from rather large amounts of money by financial experts employed for their abilities to conjure cash out of thin air.

It was to transpire however that these gentlemen could conjure only other people's money into thin air while lining their own pockets. The electricity power workers' pension fund and others will cover the losses.

The history of this little fable starts with the deep friendship of Charles Gordon—a humble financial journalist who rose to a position of prominence in one of the big merchant banks—and Sydney Cowton, a financial adviser to the Electricity Council, who was in a position to influence where the pension money was invested.

These two gents moved into action, building an organisation called Spey designed to combine their talents with a star-studded board of directors or rich and powerful men with the funds of the big company pension schemes.

Essential

Charles and Sydney took the pension money and invested it in such essential processes of production as a half share in National Car Parks, hotels, hair curlers, Belgian dress shops, drugs and brassware.

They solicited the confidence and the money of the ICI, Unilever and Barclays Bank pension funds in addition to the rather easier meat of the Electricity Council. All told they got some £50 million to play around with.

The pension funds had a stake in both Spey Investments, and Spey Westmoreland, a company which was owned jointly with a Mr Boris Marmor. In the 1950s Marmor had spent some time in prison for confusing some of his employers' money with his own.

Influential

But the jewel in the Spey crown was Spey Finance. Its board of directors included some of the most influential people in our society. Sir Joseph Lockwood of EMI and former head of the Labour government's Industrial Reorganisation Corporation was brought in. So were Sir Paul Chambers of ICI fame and Lord Chalfont, Minister for 'Disarmament' in the previous Labour government.

The key to this star-studded operation was undoubtedly the lovely asset Charles Gordon had in his wife, the ballerina Nadia Nerina. She was paraded around the offices of various organisations with pension funds. Everybody was suitably impressed by Mlle Nerina and happily handed over their pension funds to Spey.

Spey's offices, too, were to inspire much confidence. £100,000 worth of original paintings were casually hung round the walls.

by Arthur
Malone

Between the old masters, Nadia and the marble-tiled lavatory, who could fail to see that these were the men to look after your pension funds?

Spey was flattered in all the papers, there were constant rumours and gossip about what great coup they would pull and the Spey whizz kids seriously discussed how they were to become the second greatest financial institution in the country after the Bank of England.

And then in March this year, Unilever and its funds pulled out. The schemes and grand dreams were going astray.

Charles Gordon suddenly departed. A 'disagreement over policy' was the gentlemanly euphemism chosen to describe his sacking. Sidney Cowton suddenly left his post at the Electricity Council.

The remaining mugs got the wind up and started to sell off the company, approaching Boris Marmor to see if he would help them out of their little hole. No dice. They were left holding the baby and the estimated £1 million losses.

Saviour

And then a new saviour stepped into the ring, Patrick Mathews of First National Finance, an old associate of the trusty Peter Walker who was now looking after business interests in his disguise as Minister of the Environment.

Patrick offered them £1 million in cash to take Spey's finance interests off their hands. Some shares in First National were thrown in too.

The saviour was accepted and some weeks later Pat sold off part of the Spey Holdings for £6.4 million. This gave him a cool £5 million plus profit on the operation.

Never mind chaps, the power workers' pension funds will be a bit lighter, and anyway, pensioners die every day.

THE BRITISH PRESS
& NORTHERN IRELAND
EAMONN McCANN



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Sadism in a posh voice

A SENTENCING JUDGE is a rare glimpse of reality. It is a moment into which is focused the real meaning of power, the fangs behind the smile, the savagery behind the wig and the pince-nez.

In the Old Bailey last week Melford Stevenson demonstrated this licensed sadism, to prove that behind the robes and spectacles and upper-class vowels is an implacable cruelty.

Melford Stevenson, educated at public school and university, known for his love of good wine and confident enough to let his brutal opinions about the National Council for Civil Liberties' 'dastardly lies' or prison services' 'soft-hearted officials' be well known.

He is the judge who attempted to crush the student movement in Cambridge with jail sentences which shocked the police. An active Tory, chairman of the Bromley Conservative Association, parliamentary candidate in Maldon.

His victim, Jake Prescott, son of a Scottish coal truck driver, was educated in orphanages, Borstals and prisons. From a mining family, maimed by the mines, mother dead at 27, grandad in pits 42 years now dying too of lung disease and poverty. Grandma worked in the pits from 13 to 18 then had eight kids. Uncle dead, with 34 others, in a pit explosion.

Life sentence

Jake worked as a farm labourer, machine operator and factory hand. He took heroin instead of Beaujolais. His politics were his crime: 'I took part in expropriation, stealing from the ruling class,' he told the incomprehending court. 'I am inclined to let hatred obscure tenderness,' he wrote from prison.

Jake is now serving an effective life sentence for addressing three envelopes, for 'conspiring' with people the Crown have yet to find. Melford-Stevenson is back at his club, justice done, with his fine wines.

But the contrast doesn't stop here. The whole trial has shown how fragile are our freedoms, how swiftly 'the citizen's rights' are discarded.

Superintendent Habershon and his top secret squad have had Cabinet level orders to capture people who can be blamed for the Angry Brigade's explosions. 'We have no time for legal niceties,' he said.

In the search, judges' rules were disregarded, suspects illegally held, habeas corpus a bad joke.

Dozens of political homes have been raided and left-wingers dragged off for questioning. Ian Purdie and Jake Prescott were kept in solitary confinement for eight months while the police pieced together evidence which was not just weak but actually had the stink of corruption coming off it.

With an almost sensational lack of facts, witnesses or fingerprints, the prosecution's main positive evidence was two well-rehearsed con-men Mr A and Mr B whose well-scripted testi-



Prescott: addressed envelopes



Stevenson: shocked police

mony was accurately described by Ian's QC as 'a pack of lies'.

The 'evil conspiracy' that Melford-Stevenson talked of in his summing-up, does, of course, exist. It consists of judges like him, Mr Justice Argyll (OZ) and Mr Justice Clarke (The Mangrove Nine) plus policemen like Pulley Habershon, Ellerker and Kitching.

It is a surprisingly widespread conspiracy. And behind it lies a greater evil, a system which cares only for property, profit and its own authority, a system which when it talks of law and order means crushing political dissent.

For the courts and the police and even the judges are in fact tools of something even more sinister. And that is the ruling class itself, an increasingly desperate group of criminals now obliged to imprison and intern not professional crooks like themselves but political enemies.

The Old Bailey sentences may yet be reduced but the meaning is clear: 'I am here as a sort of symbol and deterrent to others not to oppose the prevailing views of society' wrote Jake in September.

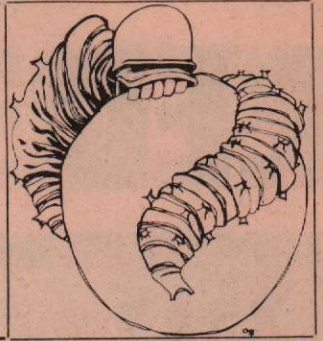
And clearly the only answer that Melford-Stevenson and his kind will take seriously is a growing revolutionary movement. But as we build such a movement, a movement that one day, not too long away, will break down the prison walls of Brixton and Holloway, we should never forget for a second our connection to men like Jake.

As he wrote about a Defence Committee march on Brixton Jail: 'When I heard your voices come roaring, singing over the wall, I felt these incredible vibrations all through every part of me and I stepped up to the window and tried to shout and couldn't because I was choking with this feeling coming rushing right out of me and I was crying—I don't remember the last time—and it was just racking my whole body and the comrades, the prisoners, were shouting up to me from the cells below, "Jake, Jake . . . here's your friends, it's the demonstrators" and I was shouting down to them, "It's for you, they're shouting for you, it's for all of us" and one guy shouted back, "Yes, it's against the whole goddam system".'

David Widgery

WHAT IS IMPERIALISM?

by STEPHEN MARKS



Of the 200 children born each minute in the so-called 'under-developed countries' 40 will die within one year. Most of the remainder will have no access to modern medical care during childhood. More than half will also suffer from malnutrition in the crucial period between weaning and starting to walk.

Of those who live to school age only half will ever enter school, and only four out of each 10 of these will finish elementary grade. And unemployment levels for youth are at least twice those for adults, which are high in any case.

The young are a majority of the population in many of these countries. Why do their societies have such a bleak future in store for them?

There is no shortage of well-meaning and charitable answers and some not so well-meaning ones, too. The most common explanation is contained in the label which many use to refer to these countries: 'under-developed'.

This country, we are told, was once as backward as the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America are now. Thanks to private enterprise and native skill we industrialised, and developed, acquiring an empire absent-mindedly on the way which we promptly gave independence to as soon as the natives were ready.

Caricature

Somehow, despite the sterling work 'we' did by way of building the natives schools, roads and hospitals, they have failed to develop as much as they might, due largely to their superstitious ways, traditional habits, resentment of the countries that are able to help them, and too high a rate of reproducing themselves.

But all is not lost, for foreign aid is doing a marvellous job and soon these countries will catch us up.

Many people would claim to reject this complacent caricature, but in fact they only reject bits and pieces of it: the empire was not entirely benevolent, aid is often not effective or given for 'selfish' reasons, the advanced countries could do more to help the 'backward', by giving them more and by helping them get better prices for their goods, agricultural and industrial.

The advanced countries are often too insensitive to nationalist movements, or allow vested interests too much room in deciding policies towards countries where their money is invested, and there is insufficient urgency in dealing with the problem.

People who make some or all of these points about the 'backward' countries can often be genuinely concerned about their 'plight' and their concern can take up a lot of space from time to time in the press and on television and under our noses in the form of collecting tins.

But their view is still based on the same basic assumptions as the conservative view I dealt with first. Both the conservative and the liberal think in terms of national economies 'developing' at different rates at different times, rather like trains on separate but parallel railway tracks, starting



Asia: modern technology has not freed the peasant

Most of the world is poor — and getting poorer

First of an important new series

their journeys at different times and travelling at different speeds between the same two stations.

The liberal disagrees with the conservative over whether the express train out in front is helping or hindering the trains behind. The radical liberal goes so far as to suggest that unless the train in front changes drivers, the later trains may never reach the destination at all.

But socialists understand that it is the whole concept of 'backwardness' and 'underdeveloped countries' which is at fault.

Robbery

The poor countries are not poor because they have mysteriously failed to develop. They are poor and are becoming poorer because they have been made poor and kept poor by the countries which are now industrialised and which built up their present industry by the systematic and bloody robbery of the rest of the world.

There are no separate 'national' economies developing at different speeds. There is one world economy in which industry has developed in a few places at the expense of the impoverishment of the rest, and where the rulers of the industrialised countries divide the world up between themselves and continually fall out over who is to have the larger portion.

This is particularly important for us to understand here in Britain, the oldest capitalist country in the world. Industry was developed in this country by systematically and brutally exploiting working people at home in town and country.

But a major part of the wealth that was

needed was also got from the looting of India. More was got from the bloody and immensely profitable slave trade, and from the devastation of Ireland.

When industry developed on the basis of the stolen loot, markets were needed to dispose of the produce at a profit. The exploited countries had their native industries and handicrafts smashed so they could not compete with the products of the West.

Their populations were forced back into agriculture, and their economies distorted to provide raw materials for British industry. In 'exchange' they received goods produced with a fraction of the labour in factories their wealth had helped to build.

Other countries industrialised and threatened Britain's lead. Germany, America, France, Italy and Japan all joined in the scramble for colonies. Each wanted to keep open as much of the world as possible for the purchase of their goods rather than their competitors', for the supply of raw materials, and for the investment of capital that could not find a profitable outlet at home. In 1914 this competition between the rival gangs of robbers led to war.

Now a mammoth slump and another war later, the system is as vicious as ever. It operates on a world scale with the same crazy logic as it does at home.

If anything, the plight of the exploited countries is worse still as modern technology makes the industrialised countries less dependent on the raw materials of the 'backward' countries. As postwar prosperity comes to an end, the system fights with no holds barred to keep every source of profit anywhere in the world, from Ireland to Vietnam.

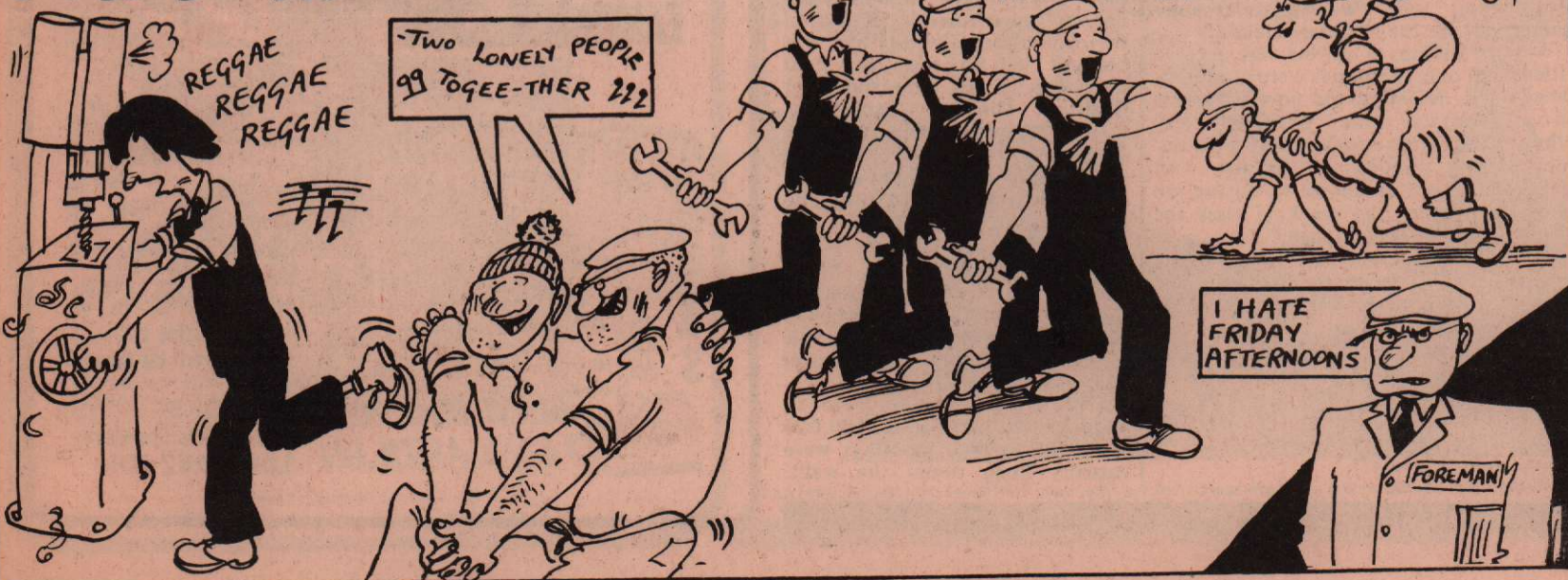
Imperialism is simply capitalism working out its crazy logic on a world scale. To look at its history is to see how that logic has developed over time, and on a larger stage.

SPECIAL OFFER

Paul Mattick's **Marx and Keynes: the Limits of the Mixed Economy** is to be published shortly by Merlin Press at £2.50. Pluto Press has a limited number of copies available immediately which are offered to IS members only at reduced rates in one of the following ways:

1. Mattick on its own at £1.70—a saving of 80p.
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Send orders to Pluto Press, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN—payment with orders.

OUR NORMAN



REVIEW

BLAKE - REVOLUTIONARY POET

Recently 'Tyger' a review/play on William Blake, was produced in London. Blake is the author of the hymn Jerusalem, but as David Widgery points out, he should be remembered for rather more than that. Next week Widgery looks at Adrian Mitchell's 'Tyger'.

THE LONDON of 200 years ago seems a strangely familiar world. The regime is in constant fear of its own downfall by popular agitation and private plotting, by working-class violence and middle-class dissent.

Radical workers, weavers, cutlers and potters are reading The Rights of Man, a banned book whose author is outlawed. A demo of 200,000 obstructs George III's attempt to open parliament with missiles and chants of 'No King' and 'Give us Bread and Peace'.

The successful revolt of black slaves is encouraged and supported by white revolutionaries in London and Paris. In Ireland, British troops and secret police brutally suppress a rising aimed at setting up a revolutionary democracy in the whole of Ireland.

In this riotous world the poet and painter William Blake wrote, etched and saw visions. His work is one of the first yet one of the bitterest protests against life in industrial capitalism.

His longing for social upheaval and an end to individual alienation was a call for revolution of the deepest kind. A socialist before the word was known, Blake grew up in a London which was beginning to assume its present layout, character and importance.

New trading and manufacturing centres were growing up to the east of the city, where the liverymen and freemen who made up 'the monied interest', had once ruled alone. A new labouring class was being born, not into factories yet, but in the tanneries of Bermondsey, the silk looms of Bethnal Green, the docks of Wapping and Limehouse, the printshops of St Giles and the hatteries of Charing Cross.

It was a class born into pain, it died young and unattended from convulsions, consumption and the pox and commonly worked 12 hours a day simply to purchase bread and lodging. Adults dissolved their pain in gin, the babies were comforted with opium.

Pleasure itself was brutal; huge crowds watched female prize-fighters mutilate each other with knuckle-dusters, bears devouring each other alive and turned hangings into holidays. Yet the ordinary people, thrown into new kinds of work, new social relationships, the systems of capitalist trade and wage labour, were

quite capable of scaring the wits out of their 'masters' in the court and city.

What the coffee house wits and the Whig historians called 'the Mob' in fact consisted mainly of wage earners and was bent not on riot but defiant demonstration of working-class anger especially militant at times of shortage and price rise.

In London the periodic demonstrations were often aimed directly at the homes and property of the responsible politicians and the last great outbreak of the century was directed against the 'crimping houses', as the Army recruiting centres were known.

As a child, Blake would have seen the street fighting by the blue cockade-wearing supporters of Wilkes and Liberty. He would have heard the voice of London dissent demanding freedom of the press, a larger loaf and support for the Freedom Boys of Boston and Philadelphia.

He had been near the front of the crowd when Newgate Prison was forced and the gates and hinges dissolved in flames during the Gordon Riots of 1780. Blake's first major political awakening must have been the American War of Independence which he saw as a 'mighty and awful change'.

Popular revolt

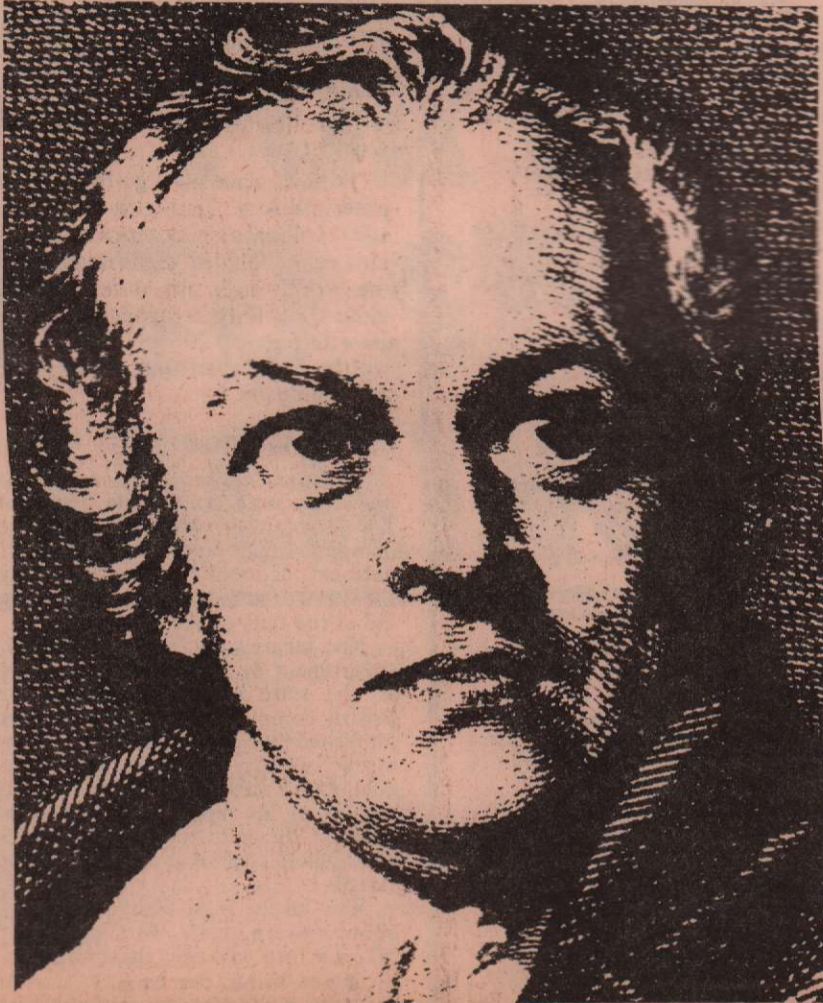
This overthrow of tyranny set him on the path of political poetry. In his allegory 'America, a Prophecy', he asserts that if George III is to re-enact the oppressions of Biblical times then he would take up his Bardic duty and Prostrate the Tyrant with his Art.

In the French Revolution which sent the wave of popular revolt against kingly authority around the world, Blake saw not only the disintegration of despotism but the spirits of Voltaire and Rousseau arising to drive out the priesthood and reassert civic patriotism. 1789 was a year of international revolution no less than 1848, 1917 or 1968.

An American wrote home from Paris, 'Republicanism is absolutely a moral influenza from which neither Titles, Places or even the Diadem can guard their possessor; the Lord preserve us from a hot summer'.

But by the turn of the century the Tory hue and cry against radical societies in Britain and the downhill course of the French and American revolutions had saddened and silenced Blake. His poem on the French Revolution went unpublished. And he increasingly criticised the limitations of the bourgeois revolutions of the 1780s.

He saw that the American Revolution was not solely an act of liberation but the establishment of an independent



BLAKE: a move away from simple religious pity

right to buy and sell. The Declaration of Independence had nothing new to say to women and black slaves.

This was not Blake's idea of a revolution where 'everything is holy and without price and every line and linement is itself and not intermeasurable with or by anything else'. But Blake's attitude towards those who had still failed to free themselves was no longer a religious pity.

Rather his compassion for their plight had moved politically towards an understanding of their struggles and an interest in the means of their insurrection. In the remarkable poem, 'What is the Price of Experience?' he argued, against poetic liberalism:

*It is an easy thing to talk of patience to
the afflicted
To speak of the laws of prudence to the
houseless wanderer.
It is an easy thing to rejoice in the tents
of prosperity
Thus could I sing and thus rejoice; but it
is not so with me'*

Blake was deeply interested in the slave revolt in Santo Domingo which ranked with the Roman Spartacus rising in its power and organisation. It came at a time when revolts had broken out in Peru and Mexico, when the Sultan of Mysore had taken to calling himself 'Citizen' and the Times was talking of 'the instability of rule in India'. The black

revolt was supported by the revolutionary armies of France (the story is wonderfully re-told in CLR James's book 'The Black Jacobins').

Blake was at this time hired to make illustrations for the journal of a liberal English mercenary, Stedman, who had been employed to crush the slave revolts. Blake seems fascinated by the docility of the slaves, their obedience as slaves and their good behaviour as cargoes. In the allegory 'Daughters of Albion', Soumission talks of 'the swartly children of the sun who are obedient that they resist not, they obey the scourge'.

Blake knew what underlay the fears of men like Lord Abingdon, an 18th century Powellite, who had said that the slave revolts had 'dried up the rivers of commerce and replaced them with fountains of blood where, all being equal, blacks and whites, English and French, wolves and lambs, all shall be merry, companions every one, promiscuously pig together; engendering a new species of man as a product of this new philosophy.' Abingdon's fear of French commercial competition, his hatred of revolutionary doctrines of democracy, lay at the roots of his sexual and racial fears and insults.

Racialism was not challenged in the arguments of the 'moral politicians' like Wilberforce, who, with the backing of Adam Smith, opposed slavery because it was no longer economically necessary. But Blake's hatred for the slavery of anyone and his joy in revolt went much deeper.

Crippling code

He saw how slavery, soldiery and tyranny were equally the products of private property and wealth. And he saw how the owners of property preserved their power by a crippling moral code based on religious self-denial; the Priest who 'with branches and briars, Did bind my desires'. He hated the cruel and inflexible school system which defeated the 'happy ones by compelling them; To spend the day In singing and dismay'.

Even more he hated those who cynically 'protect' the innocence of children. He, who evaded formal education, woke each morning to the sound of the regimented London charity school children. He once wrote, as an introduction, 'Those who are offended with anything in this book would be offended by the innocence of a child and for the same reason—for it reproaches them with the errors of acquired folly'.

He saw bourgeois morality, the Thou-Shalt-Not written over the door, as a hypocrisy to cover the realities of colonial plunder, soldiery, harlotry and apprentice slavery. And Blake's constantly stressed experience and instinct against the thwarting of both under capitalist rationality and legalism (which he portrayed in poem and picture as the tyrannical and blind figures of Urizen and Los).

Perhaps this more than anything else has made his poems into slogans once again: Notting Hill Gate and LSE walls carry such Blakean commands as 'The tigers of wrath are wiser than the horses of instruction' and 'The Road to excess leads to the Palace of Wisdom'.

Before Marx and long before Wilhelm Reich, Blake was the first and finest guide to the alienation imposed by urban capitalism. His London was still a garden city whose pillars stood at its boundaries of Islington, Kentish Town, Primrose Hill and St John's Wood.

But in one of his best known and finest poems, he shows how capitalism corrupts his idyll. The streets are now given over to trading and charters, everything in life is reduced to buying and selling, not just of goods but of childhood (the chimney sweep), life itself (the soldier) and the love, the source of life itself (the syphillitic whore):
*'I wander thro' each charter'd street
Near where the charter'd Thames does flow,*

*And mark in every face I meet
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.*

*In every cry of every man
In every infans' cry of fear
In every voice, in every ban,
The mind-forged manacles I hear*

*How the Chimney-sweeper's cry
Every blackning Church appals;
And the hapless soldier's sigh
Runs in blood down Palace walls.*

*But most thro' midnight streets I hear
How the youthful Harlot's curse
Blasts the new-born Infants' tear,
and blights with plague the Marriage*

Hearse.

ROGER PROTZ

DAVID WIDGERY

HOW TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT ON TV

THE TELEVISION TYCOONS like simple images for discussion programmes. Hooked like opium smokers on the television ratings, they are determined that such programmes should latch on to immediately recognisable stereotypes—the politician, the Fleet Street pundit, the radical social worker, the chummy vicar and Mr Enoch Powell—in order to hold on to the millions who have just watched an undemanding comedy or cops-and-robbers show.

Add to this the unwritten law that talk shows should be a confrontation between two different stereotypes—say, square, dark-suited Fleet Street editor and Afro-hairstayed hippie dropout—rather than a serious if unemotional discussion and you begin to see the difficulties surrounding last week's Man Alive on the 'alternative press'.

Producer David Salter wanted to do a programme on the 'alternative press' that reflected not just the flamboyant 'youth cult' papers but the committed revolutionary press as well. He had a tough time convincing the Man Alive moguls that the 'alternative press' extended beyond OZ and IT—they were already drooling at the prospect of a verbal punch-up between Richard Neville and Peregrine Worsthorne, the standard stereotypes for 'hippy' and 'straight' journalism.

The filmed part of the programme strayed dangerously from the usual path. Reporter Jonathan Dimbleby was sympathetic to the aims of the three papers involved—a weakness that will not have gone unnoticed by his employers.

He was unable, however, to draw from the spokesmen of IT (formerly International Times, the oldest and best-known of the 'underground' youth



Protz on TV: cut and badly stitched

papers) any coherent statement of why they produce their paper, except that present day society was bent and IT was 'a bit of a giggle'. By comparison—and you must forgive my understandable bias here—it seemed to me that Socialist Worker came across quite powerfully as the professional printed weapon of a professional political organisation with a clear-cut programme of total social change.

And the Tuebrook Bugle, a community paper produced by housewives, workers and schoolchildren in a decaying area of Liverpool, was both a brilliant example of the writing and organising abilities of working people and an indictment of the rich and powerful Liverpool papers that refuse to take up the question of slum housing and urban neglect for fear of upsetting the advertisers and council bumbledom.

Traditionally, the second half of Man Alive is given over to a discussion on the preceding film. It would have been useful, I feel, to have allowed the spokesmen of the three papers, plus other 'alternative' papers, to have developed their ideas in critical debate.

Certainly Roger Rosewell and myself would have liked to have taken up the lack of any alternative to capitalism in

IT and the limits of 'community reformism' of the Tuebrook Bugle variety. They in return would have had some useful and provocative criticisms to make of Socialist Worker.

Such a discussion was not allowed to take place. Man Alive's editors, Desmond Wilcox and Bill Morton, clearly terrified of any talk of 'left-wing bias', brought in four spokesmen of the capitalist press to add an 'impartial' air to the debate. And Wilcox's astonishing chairmanship steered the debate into the desired 'confrontation' between OZ and IT and the deliberately rude and arrogant Peregrine Worsthorne of the Sunday Telegraph.

Not that you saw the whole discussion. If you thought, as I did, that such programmes were live, I'm afraid I have to disillusion you. No such risks are taken on Man Alive. The debate was recorded a week in advance to give the editors adequate time to cut, slash and distort what actually took place.

As a journalist I am called on constantly to edit, cut and re-write material, but never, I hope, as ineptly as the Man Alive executives. Several of those in the studio were totally obliterated from the final version. I am not too upset that the editor of the Birmingham Post didn't get his oar in, but the removal of the comments of Roger Rosewell, John Newbigin of The Shilling Paper and Vince Hines, a militant black journalist, was quite disgraceful.

Hines was brought on to discuss the 'straight' press's treatment of the black community—and was then edited out. He must remain unconvinced that the media is not biased against the black case. Many of Bugle editor Chrissie

Maher's best points were removed and my one single contribution was in fact two separate statements that had been cut and stitched together. It is unnerving to watch yourself saying something that you didn't quite say in that way.

It is unlikely that the grotesque editing of the programme was due to the political bias of the editors—that would be an absurd overestimation of their intellectual capabilities. Rather, they are happy prisoners of the media's priorities, its inbuilt bias against serious discussion of revolutionary socialist ideas and its high-ratings adulation of often meaningless confrontations between stock visual personalities.

Though I have long been concerned about exposing the myth of a 'free press' and struggled to convince fellow journalists that their duties lie with presenting the truth to their readers, particularly fellow trade unionists, instead of acting as the stooges of the press barons, I have been passive about television. After this first salutary experience I am now converted to the need to democratise this part of the media as well.

The campaign to allow the 'communicators'—television trade unionists, journalists, artists, designers, etc—to control the new fourth television channel is an important one. Yes, of course, it is 'reformist' in the sense that it won't herald the immediate downfall of capitalism. But as it so clearly strikes fear into the current controllers of the head-shrinking machine, it is a campaign that can and must connect with the broader movement against the system as a whole.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations.

We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism.

Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world and owe no allegiances except to themselves and the economic system they maintain.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multi-national firms.

The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A single socialist state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international independent of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist theory with the day-to-day struggles of working people and therefore support all genuine demands that tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight:

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials.

Against secret negotiations. We believe that all settlements should be agreed or rejected by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.

Against anti-trade union laws and any

curbs on the right to strike, whether the strikes are 'official' or 'unofficial'.

Against productivity deals and job evaluation and for militant trade union unity and joint shop stewards committees both in the plant and on a combine basis.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

For a minimum wage of at least £25 a week.

Against unemployment redundancy and lay offs. We support the demand: Five days' work or five days' pay.

For all workers in struggle. We seek to build militant groups within industry.

Against racialism and police victimisation of black workers.

Against immigration restriction.

For the right of coloured people and all oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Against secret diplomacy.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally give support to and solidarity with all genuine national liberation movements.

For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation and under workers' control.

We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers' party in Britain and to this end support the unity of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers' power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing of men's power over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly worth fighting for.

It is no use just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it.' If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.

THERE ARE IS BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS.

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen
Cumbernauld
Dundee
Edinburgh
Fife
Glasgow N
Glasgow S
Stirling
St Andrews

NORTH EAST

Durham
Newcastle upon Tyne
Spennymoor
Sunderland
Teesside (Middlesbrough & Redcar)

NORTH

Barnsley
Bradford
Doncaster
Grimsby
Halifax
Huddersfield
Hull
Leeds
Mid-Derbyshire
Ossett
Scarborough
Selby
Sheffield
York

NORTH WEST

Barrow
Blackburn
Bolton
Crewe
Kirkby
Lancaster
Manchester
Merseyside
Oldham
Potters
Preston
St Helens
Wigan
Wrexham

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Coventry
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Leicester
Northampton
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Rugby
Telford
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Bristol
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Gloucester
Mid-Devon

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Brighton
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Gosport
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Merton
Newham
Paddington
Reading
St Albans
Slough
South Ealing
Tottenham
Walthamstow
Wandsworth
Watford
Woolwich

Crisis hits the computer world

Their Business

TONY POLAN

ADVANCED technology industries — electronics, chemicals, aerospace — hold a special place in the hearts of Britain's capitalists. These industries are those with the most rapidly expanding markets and offer a better chance of realising consistent profits than, say, shipbuilding, where the demand fluctuates wildly in response to trends in world trade.

Pride of place must go to the computer industry. During the next decade it will become, in terms of annual unit sales, the third largest industry in the world, after the motor and oil industries. But its expected annual growth rate of 20 per cent a year will be faster than that of any other major industry.

Concerned

The significance of the industry is not easily exaggerated. The Financial Times recently suggested that 'the computer will provide an index of national economic strength during the 1980s much as the steel industry did at the turn of the century'.

Not surprisingly, then, the British government is somewhat concerned at the state and prospects of the British computer industry. A report published by a Commons Select Committee urgently recommended an annual £50m subsidy and the concentration of all research and development in the industry into the hands of a single Research and Development Board.

Why all the fuss? What's so special about computers? The computer offers a tool whereby those thought-processes which can be translated into mathematical terms can be carried out with lightning speed.

For example, the implications of wind tunnel experiments, revealing a whole series of facts on stresses and strains, metal fatigue and so on, can be interpreted and translated into practical conclusions in a few minutes. The results of six months' experiments can be compressed into a

few hours.

These devices are finding their way increasingly to the factory floor. Computer-directed machine tools, commanded by tapes, are taking over more of the machinery process. Already they control conveyors and warehousing systems.

Some of the new machines on the planning board will be able to do assembly work. The machine tool industry, instead of supplying only tools, will shortly be required to provide entire production systems.

Such machines, clearly, offer boundless possibilities for benefiting humanity: the efficient use of material resources, the lessening of the need for human labour, the ability to rationally plan economic activity.

But these are not the reasons why Britain's bosses are so concerned about the industry. For them, the computer is simply another weapon in the war of competition.

Transform

Such is the importance of the industry, not only as a source of rich profits, but as a machine that is going to transform the basis of industrial operation, that the lack of a native industry would, in the words of Wedgwood Benn, mean a situation where 'industrial, commercial, strategic or political decisions made in America could heavily influence our ability to manufacture, to trade, to govern, or to defend.' Such a situation is clearly worrying to Britain's capitalists.

So far, Britain has been the only country outside America with a significant domestic computer capability. Britain and Japan are the only two countries where the American giant, IBM, controls less than half the market.

But for Britain, it is a losing race. British ICL has 49 per cent of the

UK market, by numbers of computers already installed compared to IBM's 27 per cent. But last year, the sales of IBM (UK) reached £179m; ICL, only £131m.

The problem has constantly been the small size of British computer firms. The development of IBM's latest range cost twice as much as the development of the atomic bomb. Obviously, only companies with massive resources can play in this game.

ICL was the result of a series of forced marriages brought about by the Labour government's Industrial Reorganisation Corporation. It has survived only due to guaranteed government orders and a system of 25 per cent preference in tendering for government orders.

Bleak

As the figures show even this has not been enough. ICL has been impelled to look overseas for allies to beat the Americans. They have been holding 'intensive talks' with AEG-Telfunken and Nixdorf, two West German manufacturers who themselves are planning to get together to produce large computers, as well as with a French company.

It is probably a case of too little, too late, both with regard to mergers and government aid. Reporting a Conference on the Use of Computers in November, the Financial Times found it difficult to disagree with the view of one expert that 'the hardware battle was already lost—in Britain and in Europe—and that within a few years at the most, IBM would hold 90 per cent of the world computer market'.

In this very profitable, and indeed crucial field, for the future, things look bleak for Europe's bosses.

The future for the British working class under capitalism's attempts to utilise high technology is even bleaker: either a high and rising rate of unemployment through destruction of jobs by automation or a high and rising rate of unemployment from stagnation as American economic predominance deprives British capitalism of a place in the technological sun.

IS NEWS

A SPECIAL CONFERENCE of the International Socialists in Birmingham on Saturday voted 2-1 to end the merger between IS and the Workers Fight group. Workers Fight joined IS in 1968 but both sides agreed that the merger had not worked and in view of Workers Fight's determination to maintain a permanent tendency within IS that argued that IS is a 'centrist' (that is, not a revolutionary) organisation, the majority of delegates to the conference thought it best for them to

return to the status of a separate organisation.

The International Socialists remain committed to the need for left-wing unity of revolutionary organisations and the conference voted to work jointly with Workers Fight wherever possible.

KIRKBY, Lancs:- 70 people packed a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the closure

of the local Fisher-Bendix factory. Speakers were Jack Spriggs, Fisher-Bendix convenor, George Harrison, convenor at English Electric's Vulcan Works and Roger Rosewell of IS. They stressed along with speakers from the floor that unemployment needed to be fought with militant policies and that Fisher-Bendix should be occupied when its closure was announced to stop the management moving out the machines. The meeting also raised £7 for strikers at the Kraft factory.

WHAT'S ON

Copy for What's On must arrive or be phoned Monday morning. Notices are charged at 5p per line, six words per line. Semi-display 10p per line. Cash with copy or, if phoned, by first post Tuesday. No insertions without payment — invoices can not be sent.

MEETINGS

BLACKBURN IS public meeting: Chris Davison (TGWU) 8pm Friday 10 Dec. The Duke of York, Darwen Street.

BRISTOL IS public meeting: The Attack on the Welfare State, Speaker Hugh Kerr, Harlow Tenants' Association, Sat 12 Dec 8pm Old England pub, Bath Buildings (behind Henly's Garage), off Cheltenham Road, Stokes Croft.

CAMDEN IS public meeting: Eamonn McCann on The Crisis in Northern Ireland. 8pm Thursday 16 December, Camden Studios, Camden St. NW1.

CROYDON IS public meeting: Laurie Flynn on Pollution, 8pm Thurs 16 Dec. Ruskin House.

DAGENHAM IS public meeting: Mike Caffoor on The Struggle for Socialism, 8pm Friday 10 December, Church Elm pub, Dagenham Heathway.

HACKNEY/ISLINGTON IS public meeting: Bob Deacon on The Fair Rents Campaign Monday 13 December 8pm, Rose & Crown pub, cnr Albion Rd/Church St, N16. Bus: 73.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD IS public meeting: Jim Higgins on The Struggle for Socialism. 8pm Tuesday 14 December, Oddfellows Arms, Apsley.

KINGSTON IS public meeting: Lionel Sims on The Great Housing Swindle, 8pm

Friday 17 December, Congregational Church Hall, Eden Street, Kingston.

WATFORD IS public meeting: Mike Caffoor on How to fight the Tories, 8pm Weds 15 December, Wheatheaf pub, 312 Lower High Street, Watford.

WOLVERHAMPTON IS public meeting: Duncan Hallas on The Labour Party-way forward or blind alley? 8pm Tuesday 14 December, Old Still, King Street, off Princess Street, Wolverhampton.

MEETING of London Rebel supporters and IS members engaged in youth work. 6pm Sunday 19 December, 6 Cottons Gdns London E2.

IMPORTANT meeting for all London IS members involved in tenants' work to prepare campaign against Tory 'Fair Rents' proposals, 2.30pm Saturday 18 December 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

GRAND IRISH SOCIAL: music, dancing and Irish bands to raise funds for the Irish struggle. 8pm Saturday 11 December, the Fishmongers Arms. Tickets from Maureen Maguire, 88 Roslyn Road London N15 or at the door.

BENEFIT concert for the families of the internees with Joan Littlewood, Roy Harper and Red Ladder Theatre, CAST, at Roundhouse, Chalk Farm, Sunday 12 December 2pm to 12pm. 40p.

PRINTWORKER meeting. Tuesday 14 December 1971. The Metropolitan pub (cnr Farringdon St/Clerkenwell Rd), Spkr: Frank Campbell (ASW) on Unemployment and How to Fight it.

NOTICES

SEAMSTRESS—skilled sewer needed for IS project. Phone 01-352 3055. Keep trying.

THE MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP, report on 'Blacks in Brazil' just out, price 35p inc p & p from MRG, 36 Craven St. London WC2.

When writing to Socialist Worker please mark envelopes 'Business' or 'Editorial'. Urgent copy should be marked 'News Editor'.

SOCIALIST WORKER Christmas arrangements: the paper will be published one day early Christmas week (week ending 25 December) and will NOT appear the week before New Year (1 January)



We'll occupy say Lancs workers

KIRKBY:- The management at the Fisher-Bendix factory is threatening the 900 workforce with closure in February or March.

The Lancashire factory is notorious for the undisclosed government grants and tax concessions the management has received, and the workers will find themselves joining dole queues in a new town where there is already 20 per cent unemployment.

There was an attempt to impose 500 redundancies as part of a 'rationalisation' scheme last summer. The Thorn combine, which had recently bought the plant, hoped to shift washing machine production to Spain.

by John Deason

But the stewards managed to defeat this by a long strike, with official support from the Transport and Engineering Unions on the basis of weekly mass meetings to maintain a high level of unity among the men.

Jack Spriggs, the AUEW convenor, explained the situation: 'The strike has made all the difference in terms of confidence. The lads really begin to see that redundancies can be fought and fought successfully.'

In preparation for the next battle, the stewards are attempting to build a combine committee with representatives of all

Thorn's 71 factories. There have been two successful and well attended meetings

At the same time the national executives of the unions involved have been informed of the situation. A 'fact-finding' delegation from the factory has gone to UCS and Merseyside dockers have been contacted and have promised their support.

Local support is being gained through union channels and through Kirkby shop stewards' action committee. Inside the Fisher-Bendix factory a 50p levy is being used to build up a fighting fund.

The stewards are making sure that no plant will be moved out of the factory. 'The stewards' committee has already

warned the management that we'll man the gates now if they try any tricks,' says Jack Spriggs. 'Ultimately our main weapon will be the sit-in strike. This is one factory that is not going to close. The workforce realise that with the unemployment situation as it is, no amount of redundancy pay will compensate for the dole queue.'

'A sit-in here will provide a focal point for the fight back against unemployment throughout Merseyside. It is important that the lads realise the fighting potential of our struggle. A firm and united stand by us will not only save our jobs, but will be another major landmark in the fight against unemployment nationally.'

Miners ready for big pay battle

by Garvin Reed (NUM)

BRITAIN'S MINERS have shown their determination to win a decent pay rise. In their strike ballot they decisively rejected the Coal Board's contemptible offer of 7 per cent—£1.80 a week for the poorest paid surface workers and £1.75 for pit-bottom, face and other surface workers.

59 per cent of the miners voted for strike action. The Tory press and television have tried to say this is a tiny figure, pointing to the 40 per cent who voted against.

But it must be remembered that many of those who voted against are employed by the NCB, but not in the mines. And in January 1972 'parity' will be introduced, giving miners in Scotland and South Wales a bigger increase than has been offered in reply to the current pay claim.

Although the vote for strike action in these areas were lower than last year, both cast the necessary 55 per cent. Traditionally less militant areas have cast better than usual votes and Yorkshire returned a magnificent 75 per cent.

Deserve claim

The rules have been satisfied, and the executive can now call an official strike. The Coal Board may now come forward with a 'better' offer, or suggest arbitration.

It is vital to remember that both Derek Ezra, the coal boss, and the Tories are determined to keep down the level of wage increases. There are no signs of them making a satisfactory offer to the miners' claim.

Since the last pay rise, prices have shot up by 11 per cent. Next year, economic commentators are predicting a rise in prices of at least 7 per cent, and that's without the attack on rents planned for April.

Miners have been subsidising private industry for years and both need and deserve the full claim now.

Strike action remains the only way forward, with the support of transport and other workers, to prevent coal imports and the moving of stocks.

The miners' battle is of vital importance to all workers, particularly those in state industries. A defeat by them for the Tory wages policy will help other workers in the battle to keep up with the ever-increasing prices.

HOPE FADES FOR UCS FIGHT TO STOP THE SACKINGS

by Peter Bain

GLASGOW:- As the struggle at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders drags on, the prospect of it leading a real campaign against unemployment fades.

In the earlier stages of the struggle the UCS shop stewards' co-ordinating committee made some fairly radical statements. But in reality their strategy can be summed up as 'Hang on and hope something turns up'.

So far about 1000 workers have been paid off, with just over half of them 'working in'. The government's original schedule was to close Connell's yard in October, Brown's in March of next year, and to declare 6000 of the 8500 workers redundant.

At present three of the four yards, Fairfields, Stephen's and Connell's, are the subject of a 'feasibility study' by the government-run company, Govan Shipbuilders.

The stewards are now saying that the 'crunch' will take place in January. The next launching is due earlier in the new year, and the yard workers have agreed that it will not take place unless there is discussion about all the jobs and the continuation of all four yards.

Ever since the 'work in' began on 31 July the co-ordinating committee has said that the 'crunch' would come soon. So far it has failed to materialise. In fact, the stewards' avoidance of a confrontation with the government has resulted in many workers leaving the yards while the going was good, and in a tailing-off of support from other workers.

NO THREAT

The atmosphere on Clydeside in the early days of the crisis was one of massive support for the UCS men.

There is little doubt that the government was worried. If at that time the UCS workers had occupied the yards and called on the labour movement to support them, they would have received a tremendous response.

But it is clear that the possibilities of those earlier days have not been developed. Instead of forcing a confrontation with the government, the leading UCS stewards allowed the struggle to drag on, playing into the hands of the Tories.

The much vaunted 'work in' in no way challenges or threatens the government. Work goes on, and ships are still being delivered so why should the Tories worry?

The present tactics of the UCS stewards follow from the policies of the leaders of the organisation to which most of them belong. They could have been lifted straight from the Communist Party's 'British Road to Socialism'.

The result is tactics that cannot possibly work. The UCS leaders have placed undue emphasis on the role of the official leaders of the labour movement and have allowed such people to make the running. But the struggle can be won only if the rank and file of the labour movement is actively involved.

If the stewards are serious about refusing to let any more ships leave the yards until every job is guaranteed, then they must raise immediately the present level of the campaign.

Another conference of shop stewards from throughout the area must be called, and a sit-in strike started before the next launching is due. Only massive working-class pressure, not sweet words, will shift this vicious government.

Public workers vote to accept

A MEETING of London delegates from NUPE, the public employees' union, last Saturday voted in favour of accepting the employers' offer to local government manual workers.

There were fighting speeches of opposition including Bro Sutton, a Lambeth ambulance driver, who contended that a joint strike with the miners after Christmas would be successful.

But the delegates felt that they could not sustain a protracted strike, although many pointed to the need for an alliance of public employees against the government. Ron Keating, an executive member argued that while such an alliance might be desirable, it was impractical. No union, he claimed, was prepared to wait for the others when submitting its pay claim.

A leaflet distributed by Lambeth IS branch was well received by the delegates.

Barracks under siege from marchers



Labour passes buck on milk

by Keith Dobie

THE 'SHOCK' RESULT of examinations of 3000 primary school children in the London Borough of Haringey has revealed that more than half need free school milk on medical grounds.

The examinations were authorised by Haringey's Labour Council health committee in a half-hearted attempt to continue the supply of free milk without coming into conflict with the Tory government.

Mrs Sheila Berkery-Smith, Labour leader of the council and chairman of the education committee, announced that she was surprised that only 50 per cent of the children were in need of milk.

But her 'insight' into the unhealthy predicament of working-class kids did not

prevent her from leading the right-wing majority inside the Labour councillor's group. They opposed taking a firm stand against Margaret Thatcher's callous legislation to stop free milk for the over-sevens.

Instead they effectively passed the buck onto the already overburdened school doctors. Now on the strength of that frightening evidence the council are going back cap in hand to the Tory controlled Department of Education and Science.

The sheepish antics of Labour councillors in Haringey and other boroughs throughout the country have left those prepared to put up a fight, as in Merthyr in South Wales, isolated. The Tories will now try to pick these off at their leisure.

Government auditors have already moved into Merthyr and now each councillor faces the threat of being surcharged to make up for the £2000 they allocated for free milk. But these councillors, to their credit, say they will stand firm and go to prison if necessary.

An important lesson must be drawn from these events. Private and council tenants of every local authority in the country now face a long and bitter battle against the Housing Finance Bill, which, when it becomes law, will slash subsidies and make rents shoot upwards.

There are no loopholes in this law. Labour councils will either have to defy it or collapse into being mere Tory tools.

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY supporters of the Anti-Internment League marched to Woolwich Barracks in South London on Saturday. They were protesting at the policy of internment in Northern Ireland and the torturing of prisoners by the troops. Inset shows Eamonn McCann speaking at a meeting after the march.

A small counter-demonstration was organised by the fascist National Front in support of the terrorism of the British and Stormont governments, but the two marches did not clash.

Students take over college after sacking

SWANSEA:-Several hundred student teachers are still occupying the College of Education building. They are demanding an independent inquiry into the case of a student expelled from the college allegedly for 'academic failure'. The students believe the real reasons are personal and political.

Their protest has been joined by students from other colleges in the town, who have staged sympathy strikes and marched in their support.

The students continue to control the College of Education, despite repressive measures taken against them by its governors, including the cutting off of heating and electricity. They have been in occupation for a fortnight and are determined to continue through the Christmas vacation if necessary.

Swansea ETU and AUEW no.1 branches have given support to the students.



I would like more information about the International Socialists

Name _____

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Send to: IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Socialist Worker

Young steel men set hot pace

by Wyatt Foster

SHEFFIELD'S Tinsley Park Plant is a futuristic steel works of a yellow and powder-blue plastic-coated steel, set in parkland. It was built eight years ago, but is providing the British Steel Corporation's management with a headache.

The young steel workers who man it reject the negative attitude towards struggle found in many of the older steelworks and are a force to be reckoned with.

Two months ago the staff workers resigned from BISAFTA, the main steel union, because of its refusal to join in their fight against redundancies, and joined ASTMS, the technicians' union. But they maintained their close links with BISAFTA shop floor branches who, in turn, refused to support the BISAFTA divisional officer in his request for action against the staff.

They formed a joint shop stewards' committee with the maintenance and production workers last month—the first in any of the local BSC works.

Direct action

The committee is determined to fight the creeping redundancies that the management are trying to impose, and has refused even to negotiate with the management over the most recent announcement of a further 85 sackings. Instead a mass meeting at the site voted for direct action the moment the management issue the first redundancy notice.

Three days later stewards met with shopfloor leaders from the River Don plant and issued 5000 copies of a letter for workers at the Rotherham and Stockbridge works.

It urged the formation of a joint stewards' committee for all four plants to fight redundancies.

The Tinsley Park stewards are introducing a ban on overtime at their plant and are refusing to consider further productivity negotiations. They point out that until last February the BSC management were making £50,000 a week from the plant. To keep up the current mounting levels until the spring of 1973 would cost at most £150,000—a mere three weeks of last year's profits.

Students link up

THE LIAISON COMMITTEE for the Defence of Students' Unions, a rank and file student organisation formed to combat the Tory proposals for restructuring students' unions, had its founding conference at Imperial College last Saturday.

All students' unions and socialist societies are urged to affiliate and help to build a mass rank and file movement. For further information contact the steering committee of the LCDSU, at North London Poly SU, Holloway Road, London, N7

HIGH PRICE

Pub blast shows real motive for internment

by Eamonn McCann

ON MONDAY Southern Ireland's prime minister, Jack Lynch, spoke glowingly about Harold Wilson's 'solution' to the Northern Ireland problem, triggering off a new wave of hopeful speculation among politicians and pundits.

Meanwhile in Belfast and Derry actual events were demonstrating once again the impossibility of any such reformist answer.

The killing of 15 people in McGurk's pub was the latest in a long line of unreported or under-reported attacks on Catholic pubs, schools and churches—evidence of the activities of a right-wing Protestant extremist organisation.

The unhidden existence of such an organisation renders ever more absurd the claim that internment was designed to 'take the gunmen off the streets'. It confirms, if confirmation is needed, that internment was simply a political attack on the Catholic community.

The resistance of the Catholic working-class areas is stiffening, whatever government propaganda might say. At the weekend the ultra-moderate Social Democratic and Labour Party discussed the creation of a full-time paid police force which would take over control and administration of the Catholic ghettos.

Strike solid

The SDLP see this as a double-edged weapon, challenging the writ of Stormont on the one hand, while trying to contain the activities of the IRA on the other. Already both wings of the IRA have made it clear that they will refuse to recognise the authority of any such 'police' force.

The rent strike is still, in the words of independent MP Frank McManus, 'as solid as the rock of Gibraltar'. The new laws to deduct back rent from wages and welfare benefits are being fought line by line, case by case.

Clearly repression has failed, Wilson's solution will not work. The Catholic middle class moderates are inextricably impaled on their fence. The impasse continues.

To break the impasse we have to get on with the job of building a massive campaign here in Britain for the end to internment and the withdrawal of the troops. And we must continue to aid the emergence in Ireland of a revolutionary working class organisation that can intervene decisively and lead to the final victory against imperialism.

Long and bloody conflict spells agony for people INDO-PAK WAR: MASSES PAY A

by EDWARD CRAWFORD

BOTH SIDES in the Indo-Pakistan war churn out lies about their claimed successes. But it looks as if the Indians will succeed in over-running what used to be East Pakistan and establish a government they will claim represents Bangla Desh—a 'free Bengal'.

Indian premier Mrs Gandhi hopes she can then force Pakistan's rulers to accept this situation and to pull back from whatever territory they have succeeded in taking in Kashmir.

But wars have a habit of not going according to plan. It seems likely that the Pakistanis will refuse to accept defeat and will attack more furiously until economic collapse on both sides forces a halt.

SUFFER

The commanders of the two armies are engaging in ludicrous posturing, while referring to each other as 'officers and gentlemen'. Meanwhile it is the mass of starving and dying peasantry in whose name the war is supposed to be fought who suffer.

Neither army represents their interests. For example, despite the Indian government's claim to be 'democratic' there are 50 million unemployed in that country, only one tenth of them registered.

No one should be fooled by the speeches of the great power leaders who claim to be against the war. Nixon has shown himself as the world's biggest hypocrite by rebuking the Indians for resorting to war.

Meanwhile, his own army continues to maim and kill in Vietnam. And over the years the US has done its best to supply much of the military hardware now being used to devastate the populations of both India and Pakistan.

IGNORE

The war is bringing further devastation to a sub-continent that already abounds in poverty and misery. But attempts at intervention by the great powers to freeze the situation and prop up one or other of the regimes will in no way begin to end that.

What is needed is the intervention of the mass of the exploited population themselves. The people of Bengal must fight to build up a real Bangla Desh, independent from the rulers of India as well as Pakistan.

And the only way forward for the mass of workers and peasants in India and Pakistan is to ignore the blandishments of both Yahya Khan's and Indira Gandhi's armies.

Instead they should use the opportunity to take up the struggle for the overthrow of the corrupt and parasitic ruling classes on either side of the battle line.

Out 11 weeks

CLAY CROSS, Derbyshire: The strike at Ingham's factory is now in its 11th week. Called by the AUEW after 10 workers were declared redundant, it now looks like being a long struggle.

Threats of sacking prevented the 130 workers from joining the union at all for years. But when they were given only £28 to cover a week's pay and two weeks' holiday this year, they voted overwhelmingly to join the AUEW.

The management reacted to the prospect of having to pay full union rates for the first time by immediately declaring 10 men redundant with 24 hours notice. They rejected demands from the union district office for short-time working as an alternative.

The strike is getting support from the local Labour Party and from Chesterfield Trades Council.

Donations to J.W. Hawkins, 10 Bestwood Park, Clay Cross, Nr Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

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by Chris Harman and Dave Peers
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Searching for survivors at McGurk's bar

Set-back for BA bosses as court clears militant

by John Hutchinson

REDDITCH: Engineering union workers on the 2-10pm shift at British Aluminium's plant were jubilant last Friday. Their victimised convenor, Pat Gregory, had just been acquitted by the courts of all six charges brought against him by the company. The charges included theft and obtaining property by deception.

This was a numbing blow for British Aluminium's management, who had sacked Mr Gregory eight months previously in the first of a series of attempts to end opposition to a productivity offensive. They claimed that he was away from his bench while being officially clocked in.

In fact his periods of absence occurred when he was dealing with the problems of his members in other parts of the factory.

A move for a strike against his sacking by AUEW members was thwarted by the local officials. After some weeks it was agreed that if the company had evidence of fraud, they should put it to the test in the law courts—if not the union would fight for reinstatement.

Meanwhile although Pat Gregory was given nominal support by union officials, he received no victimisation pay for any of the period after his sacking and instead had to be supported by a levy of AUEW

members in the factory.

The trial is related to the overall offensive being carried on by the government through the Industrial Relations Act. This has given management much greater confidence in their attempt to undermine the freedom of stewards to carry on union business in well-organised factories.

Had Pat Gregory been convicted, a tide of similar cases might well have followed. The workers at the plant must now take advantage of the company's defeat to launch a determined fight for reinstatement and for an end to all productivity deals and redundancies.

Union backs R-R

BRISTOL: The month old strike of 6000 workers at Rolls Royce was made official last week as the men voted overwhelmingly to stay out. They are to receive strike pay back dated to 1 November. This will relieve some of the hardship, particularly for single men who have received no money at all for the last four weeks.

The official backing comes just in time. The local papers have been trying to force the men back to work, first by defeatist talk and then by hysterical attacks on the right to strike. The Western Daily Press even launched a petition demanding a secret ballot.

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