

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

UNITED WE FIGHT

A GREAT STEP FORWARD—that was Sunday's impressive march through London by 8000 against the vicious provisions of the Tory Immigration Act.

The marchers—Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, West Indians, socialist and trade union organisations—declared their determination to fight a law that threatens black workers with deportation and attempts to divide the labour movement with the poison of racialism.

Behind the banner of the Joint Action Committee Against Racialist Legislation came branches of the Indian Workers Association, Pakistani Associations, and Bangladesh Associations from many parts of the country.

Two and a half thousand members of the International Socialists, the biggest-ever IS contingent on a national demonstration, formed a solid core of the march, red banners waving, chanting slogans against the Tory 'pass laws'.

Trade union branches on the march included No 1 Region of the Transport Workers, ASTMS, Camden AUEW and London building workers.

SOUR NOTE

The Communist Party, Young Communist League, Labour Party Young Socialists and International Marxist Group supported the march, which went from Hyde Park to Downing Street.

The only sour note came at the pre-march meeting in Hyde Park, when Liberal peer Lord Avebury and Southall Labour MP Sidney Bidwell—a supporter of strict immigration controls—were allowed to speak while IS spokesman George Peake was squeezed out by the organisers.

The organisers' fear of militant speakers was not shared by the blacks on the march. Banners and slogans proclaimed: 'We're here to stay', 'Black and white get united'.

Yes, a great step forward—but only a first step. At a time of rising industrial and political action by many sections of workers, the Tories and employers will spare no effort to drum up a racist scare in a bid to detract attention from our real enemies.

TAKEN UP

A racist witch-hunt must be fought. But not by timid appeals and reliance on the Race Relations Board and Liberal peers.

The call by the Southall branch of the Indian Workers Association—fully supported by the International Socialists—for local action committees must be taken up in the black communities. Such committees are vital to organise local demonstrations and meetings against the Act, to set up defence committees against police attacks, to back black workers fighting to unionise their workplaces.

And the fight must be taken into the heart of the trade union movement, rousing workers to the dangers of this latest Tory attack. (See anti-racist appeal—page 2).

It is up to socialists and militants in the months ahead to forge a real fighting unity of blacks and whites. Sunday's demonstration showed that the will to succeed is there.

● On Monday, the executive of the International Socialists congratulated all IS branches on their 'magnificent response' to Sunday's march.



A SECTION of the big crowd in Hyde Park on Sunday waiting to march to Downing Street. The IS banner on the left announces a new paper: 'Chingari—militant paper for Indians and Pakistanis in Britain.' The lettering is in Punjabi and Urdu. Picture: Christopher Davies (Report). Another picture: back page. Details of Chingari: page 13.

Hunger strike bid by two Irish socialists

MICHAEL FARRELL and Tony Canavan of the People's Democracy movement in Belfast are lying in hospital in Crumlin Road prison after three weeks on hunger strike.

When Tony Canavan's mother visited him last Sunday, he collapsed and had to be carried out.

Orla Farrell, Michael's wife, told Socialist Worker: 'Michael is very weak and cold, but he is coherent and determined to continue his fight.'

The two men are protesting against the refusal of the authorities to grant them political status in prison, although they were imprisoned for organising a political demonstration.

The demonstration was held last February to protest against the wave of sectarian assassinations in Ireland, for which no one had been brought to trial. Michael Farrell was sentenced to eight months, Tony Canavan to six. The 'minimum sentence' for political treatment is nine months.

Both men have been bundled into solitary confinement in the notorious 'D'



Farrell: wants political status

wing of Crumlin Road jail, which is frequented by 'six months prisoners', most of them Loyalists convicted of possessing arms. The standard sentence for Republicans convicted of the same

offences is five years.

Last week, two Loyalists escaped from their cell onto the roof. While in 'D' Wing, Farrell and Canavan are in permanent danger of sectarian assault.

Last Saturday, a demonstration of more than 1000 people marched through Belfast demanding political treatment for Farrell and Canavan. Speakers pointed out that political treatment—which brings substantial privileges in terms of more visits, more letters and freedom to wear civilian clothes—has been granted to the worst of the Orange sectarian murderers.

The three Loyalists who raped Mrs MacLenaghan in Belfast three months ago after shooting dead her mentally defective son have been granted political status.

Michael Farrell and Tony Canavan, who have done more to protest about

sectarian violence than anyone else in the city, are being treated as common criminals.

When their case was raised by a handful of Labour MPs in the House of Commons last week, Mr William Whitelaw, Tory overlord of Northern Ireland's police state, contemptuously refused to grant the two men political status.

The London branch of People's Democracy is organising a demonstration, starting from Speakers Corner at 2.30pm this Sunday (29 July) to protest against the treatment of Farrell and Canavan.

Socialist Worker readers throughout the country must raise the matter in shop stewards committees and trade union branches and demand that Labour MPs keep up the pressure on Whitelaw and the Northern Ireland office.

Great profits bonanza for top firms and banks

THE SHAREHOLDERS' bonanza during the freeze goes on and on.

In the past week three of Britain's top 40 companies have announced their annual profits. Three of the four large clearing banks have announced half-yearly profits.

Great Universal Stores, the retail group, which is Britain's 22nd biggest company, had profits of £77.71 million compared with the record £60.68 million the year before. £14 million of that money was handed out to lucky GUS shareholders.

Thorn Electrical Industries, the electrical and engineering combine which has been cashing in on the colour television boom, had profits of £69.76 million compared with

SW Reporter

£84.81 million the previous year.

Eight million of that went tax-free to Thorn shareholders, who include Sir Jules Thorn, chairman and managing director. Sir Jules owns 16 million shares in his company.

Distillers, the drink combine, which marketed and advertised thalidomide in the early 1960s, has reported profits of £69.02 million the previous year. No less than £21 million, half their profits after tax, have been handed out tax-free to Distillers shareholders.

In other words, Distillers are paying out almost as much to their shareholders in one year as they

have agreed to pay after much protest to all the parents of thalidomide babies over 20 years.

These profits are chicken feed compared with those of the large clearing banks. Barclays profits for the first six months of the financial year are up from a record £56 million last year to £95 million this year. £7.2 million of this was handed straight out in tax-free dividends.

Taking these six concerns together, they paid out £55 million in one week to a few thousand lucky shareholders.

That is enough for a £5 a week increase to 250,000 old age pensioners for a whole year. It would be enough to double the pay rise accepted last April by a quarter of a million hospital workers.

NO CREDIT FOR NEW TAX FIDDLE

by JIM KINCAID

LAST WEEK, by a majority of five to four, the House of Commons Select Committee approved the government's new tax credit scheme. Designed for use as a propaganda gimmick in the next general election, the scheme survived the Select Committee only because Labour MP Douglas Houghton joined the Tory members of the committee in voting for acceptance.

Tax credits are a substitute for the present system of family allowances and tax-free child allowances. But it will be five years at least before the new credits start to be paid.

Meanwhile, the promise of the new credits will be a convenient excuse for neglecting the increasingly desperate situation of millions of lower-income families in poverty.

DOUBLED

There has been no increase in family allowances since 1968, since which time the cost of living has more than doubled. And if prices continue to rise at the present rate, then by 1978 the tax credit of £2 per child will be worth less than the present family allowance of £1 a week.

The tax credit scheme would mean an extra £1300 million a year paid out in family benefit as compared with the present tax and family allowance arrangement. But only £150 million of this would go to families with a total income of less than £20 a week. Families with £40 a week and more would get as much as £425 million of the extra handout.

The table below—calculated from the government's own figures—shows the extra benefit per week per family.

Weekly Income	Extra benefit per week
Under £20	0.29p
£20-40	0.70p



Barber: tax credits his brainchild

£40-100 0.83p
Over £100 1.33p

The government have not explained how the extra £1300 million is to be raised. If expenditure taxes are used then the poorer groups in society could end up paying out more in higher prices than the extra benefit is worth.

Most experts believe the tax credit scheme would be financed by levying extra income tax over the next few years on the mass of workers, then handing part of this back as a benevolent gesture in the form of the tax credit scheme.

Even if tax credits could be introduced tomorrow, there are still a heap of snags which the Tories are trying to play down in their propaganda.

At present, workers who fall sick, become unemployed, or who go on strike are helped by the payment of

tax rebates. This practice would end under the tax credit scheme. There would be no rebates, because tax credit works strictly on a week to week basis.

At present about three out of ten men continue to work after the official age of retirement. A man who works after 65 can earn more than £4 per week without paying any income tax or losing any of his pension. Under tax credit, all income above a minimum of £8.73 would be taxed at 30p in the £.

The tax credit scheme would only cover 90 per cent of the population. The 10 per cent to be excluded contains most of the poorest and most vulnerable social groups. Two million households, the majority pensioners, would be left dependent on means-tested supplementary benefits, compared with three million at present.

SUSPICION

More than a quarter of a million unemployed would not qualify for a tax credit—ie those who are not entitled to a national insurance benefit usually because they have been unemployed for more than a year.

A total of 160,000 sick and disabled would not get the tax credit. Most of these are the handicapped who have never been able to work long enough to qualify for national insurance.

Tax credit schemes should be viewed with suspicion by all trade unionists. In part their function is to protect the ability of employers to pay starvation wages in a broad sector of the British economy, the excuse being that family men get an extra welfare benefit to supplement an inadequate wage.

Tax credits in the dim and distant future are of no use to the millions of low paid workers who need higher wages now.

The recent campaign on family allowances forced the government to concede that when the child tax credit is introduced it will be paid to the mother at the Post Office just like the present family allowance.

But so far the government has resisted all pressure to raise family allowances from their present miserable level. This is the really urgent battle that faces family allowance campaigners.

Five million live in poverty—see centre pages.

Law and order brigade get conspiracy bit in their teeth

THE TORY GOVERNMENT and its law officers are continuing to gear up the conspiracy laws for increasing use against trade unionists and political protestors.

In a decision two weeks ago the House of Lords dismissed an appeal against conspiracy to trespass from nine students from Sierra Leone.

The students had occupied the Sierra Leone embassy in January 1971 in London in protest at repression at home. They were speedily convicted on various charges including conspiracy to trespass. In October last year the Appeals Court turned down an appeal against the conspiracy conviction. They took the matter to the House of Lords.

The Lords' judgment upholding the conviction states quite plainly that 'political motivations' turn simple trespass into

criminal conspiracy to trespass.

In the current issue of its journal, the National Council for Civil Liberties warns of 'the dangerous political overtones' in the House of Lords' decision. The journal also indicates that the decision is closely connected with the government's current prosecution of five Birmingham building workers for conspiracy to trespass after they occupied a lump labour office in the city.

The Law Lords who gave this final decision two weeks ago included the Tory government's own legal boss, Lord Chancellor Hailsham. The decision also indicates that the Tory government intends that the Law Commission (to which it referred the 'morass' of the conspiracy laws in 1971) should in no way advocate changes which prevent the broadest possible application of the conspiracy laws to strikers and political protestors.

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

SO NOW WE KNOW. The government's Phase Three strategy is to go for 'threshold agreements', a system of automatic pay rises linked to a cost-of-living indicator. This is one of those schemes that can look very attractive to many workers and we can expect a big propaganda campaign in favour of it.

The rate of inflation is now pushing up to 10 per cent a year and pay rises under the freeze have been held well below this figure. Why not settle for a deal on threshold agreements which, on the face of it, will help workers to keep pace with the prices explosion?

The short answer is that in fact it won't. First of all, as pretty well everyone knows by experience now, one third of any increase, on average, disappears in stoppages. It never reaches the pay packet at all.

Each time workers get an 'automatic' rise following a rise in a cost-of-living indicator they fall behind in real terms by a third. How far back do three such increases put you? To get an increase that actually compensates for price rises you need a good deal more than the percentage price rise.

Next, any threshold agreement automatically ensures that you are always lagging behind, you never have a period when you are ahead of price increases. This is very important. In 1972 most workers succeeded in pushing money wage increases well above the rise in prices and they did so by straight-forward claims for fixed sums, backed by the threat of action.

The victories of the miners, the railwaymen and the builders blasted such a hole in the government's 1971-72 strategy that the whole working class benefitted. The ground gained has now been lost but for a good many months the great majority of workers were actually better off. This would never happen under a 'threshold' system.

Then there is the question of the index. When most or all wages are tied to an indicator the manipulation of the indicator is certain. This is not speculation. It is proven fact. In the late 1940s there were quite a lot of 'threshold' type agreements and so the government's cost-of-living index was a constant source of controversy.

Making cost-of-living indicators is a complicated business and the scope for 'bending' them is enormous. To take a notorious example, on one occasion during the post-war Attlee Labour government, the indicator showed a fall of a point though no prices had fallen. The 'explanation' was that the strength of beer had allegedly increased and the index takes quality into account!

Since those days the statisticians had become more sophisticated and can find much more subtle ways of getting the result they are ordered to produce. The point is that wages under the 'threshold' system are tied to an index over which workers have no control whatever.

It is also true, as the printers have found out to their cost, that the government can step in with some 'emergency' measure to stop a cost-of-living increase that has already been agreed if it wants to. There is and can be no guarantee against this. The only guarantee is to get the cash in your pocket by winning a flat increase.

Above all, the 'threshold' system ensures that the fruits of all increased wealth production go automatically to the employers, to the shareholders, to the rich. Even if 'threshold' agreements did really compensate for inflation—and they never do—the effect would be to make the rich richer at the expense of the rest of us. That is why the government and the CBI want them. This latest Tory scheme must be rejected by the unions.

GAGGING THE TRUTH

FIVE geriatrics in the House of Lords have ruled that the Sunday Times cannot print the facts about Distillers' peddling the most dangerous drug of the last decade—thalidomide—because the article might interfere 'with the due processes of law'.

When 500 babies were crippled for life because their mothers took thalidomide, the 'due processes' of law did not intervene. No one was prosecuted. No papers were sent to the DPP. There was no police inquiry.

When some of the parents sued Distillers for negligence, the due processes of law intervened—at once to delay the action and protect Distillers for 12 expensive years. Now, when the press has finally caught up with the thalidomide scandal, the law has intervened once again to protect Distillers from criticism.



Here we work and sell with no boss

THE LIP watch factory at Besançon in eastern France, is still occupied by the workers, who are producing and selling the watches themselves.

All over France works committees are buying these watches, which are of course much cheaper without all the middlemen and advertising costs, for sale in the factories. The first month's sales were enough to guarantee a flat-rate basic wage of 1000 francs for the month (£22 per week) which was more than the wages which they would have had under the bosses' plans for the run-down of the factory.

In the end LIP's bankers paid up for the full wages plus holiday bonus without the workers having to draw on the kitty they'd built up. Now the local court has put LIP into liquidation but has accepted that production should go on. This is a first victory for the LIP workers.

The entrance to the factory is guarded by pickets sitting under a banner that reads, 'Here we work and sell with no boss'. In the entrance are the day's plans, the meeting time and place of the committees running the factory and a statement of the accounts, all for the public to see. The entrance hall is decorated with posters and a pictorial and written account of the struggle.

Also on exhibition are documents found in the offices showing the management plans for future 'rationalisations', together with choice photos of former boss Fred Lip in sports cars and at posh dinners.

On the assembly line the automatic control system run by a supervisor has been replaced by a workers' delegate who decides the line speed after meetings of the workers concerned. Safety and maintenance are also run by the workers with no supervisors.

Support

It is hot in Besançon in summer and only the offices are air-conditioned. So now the workers have created their own cooling system. A relay of workers cool the roof with a fire hose and water the lawns—and any workers who happen to come past.

The lawns and gardens are now open to the workers who have set up a barbecue and a bar. The lush carpeted offices are used for committee meetings—or simply to relax in.

At 2pm everything stops for the daily meeting. Reports from the committees, requests for people to help, letters of support read out, a union official from Renault gives a pompous fraternal address and demonstrations of support are announced.

From all over France invitations are coming in for LIP workers to have a free holiday. Normally the whole factory would close down at this time of year, but the workers are determined not to abandon the struggle so they will take their holidays in relays. Camps are being arranged for their children.

Other factories in Besançon are involved. Workers at Rhodiaceta and CEMPA have given notice to their bosses that they will strike immediately if there is any sign of a police intervention at LIP. This they did when riot police tried to evict the occupiers at the beginning of the struggle.

The French bosses reacted at first by screaming about the 'attack on property' but now they are being conciliatory and trying to reduce the significance of the occupation. Some union officials too are busy shouting, 'No politics'.

Both bosses and unions are worried about the possibility that the message will spread from LIP—'We can run things better without the bosses.'

BRIEFING

IN MOST big French towns the traditional left parties have held meetings against the banning of the Ligue Communiste. But in every case revolutionaries have been barred from the platform—even representatives of the Ligue.

In Toulouse, the 'Left' Radicals have appeared on revolutionary platforms as well as in the joint meetings with the CP. But the CP has refused to have anything to do with the 'ultra-lefts'.

It is nonetheless significant that for the first time local CP and CGT union leaders

have spoken out in favour of a Trotskyist group.

THE MOTHER of two young black American girls was tricked into signing a form which led to their sterilisation. She was told that she was giving permission for them to be given temporary contraceptive injections. Being illiterate she signed with a cross.

John Dean and Erlichman, of the Watergate bugging affair, are among those

being sued by the girls' lawyers. They are accused of failing to issue guidelines to hospitals.

It is implied that the hospital involved was using the girls as guinea pigs. Laws permitting the 'forced sterilisation' of anyone termed mentally defective exist in 22 American states.

A NUMBER of workers were seriously hurt when fire recently ravaged the Gevelot cartridge factory in the crowded Paris suburb of Issy-les-Moulineaux. Despite the modern machinery much of the factory dates back to 1900 and the factory bulletin put out by supporters of the revolutionary socialist paper Lutte Ouvrière (Workers' Struggle) has spotlighted the absence of proper safety measures.

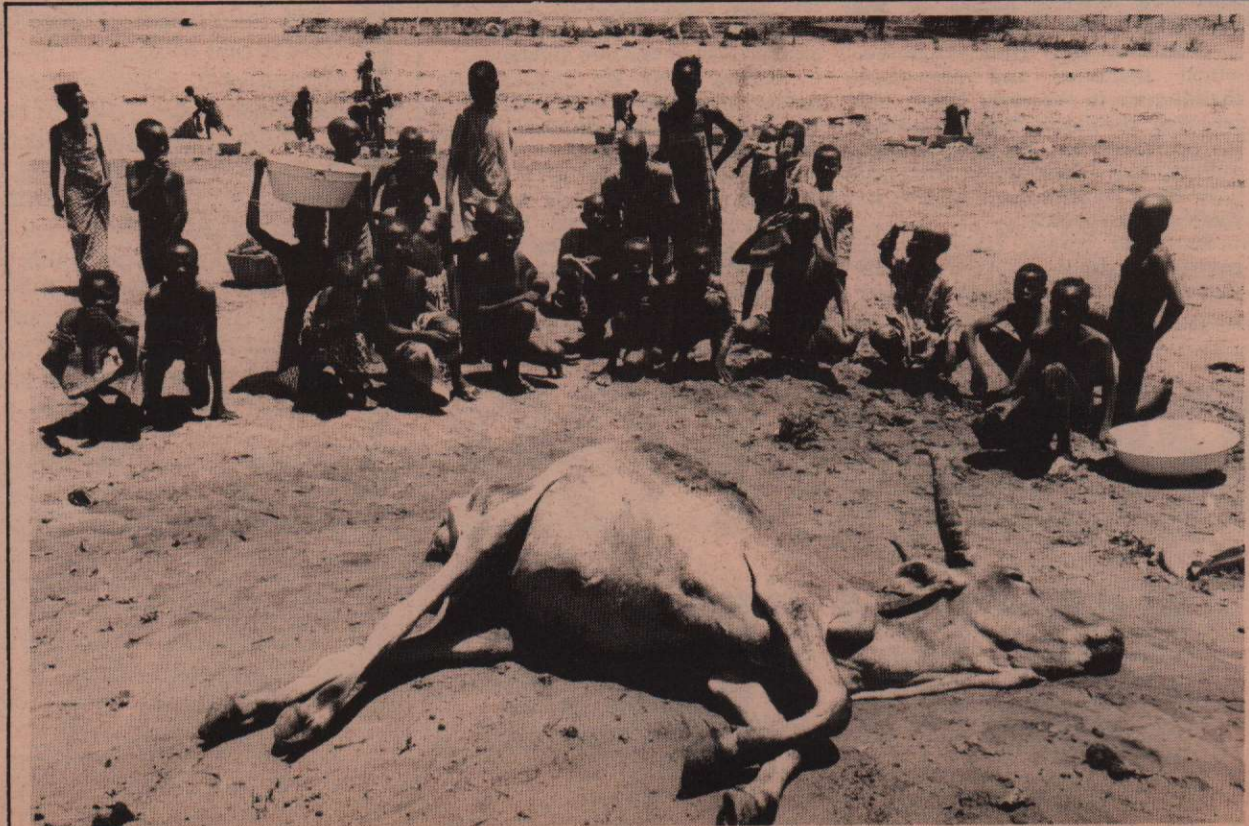
Now the question is what is to be done after the fire. A meeting of local people has expressed concern at living on top of a 'powder-barrel'. But the Communist Party controlled union, the CGT, claims that the factory isn't all that dangerous and demands that it should reopen after modernisation. The CP council has failed to take any clear position.

Lutte Ouvrière says it is madness to maintain a factory in a crowded area and is supporting demands that if safety measures are not improved the factory should be closed and the workers given work elsewhere.

THE most interesting results of the bloody events in Iraq, with the kidnap and attempted murder of several government ministers followed by 35 executions, is that the Communist Party has been made legal, for the first time since its foundation in 1934.

The leader of the attempted coup, Nazim Kazzar, is being presented as the 'Beria of Baghdad', who supervised torture over breakfast and was personally responsible for the murder of thousands of communists, left Ba'athists, Jews and Kurdish nationalists. The aims and circumstances of the plot are still unclear, but Kazzar is said to have demanded military action against Israel, renewed war against the Kurdish minority in Iraq, and a purge of left-wing elements from the Ba'ath party.

President Bakr instead invited both the Communist Party and the Kurdish Democratic Party into a broad alliance with the Ba'ath movement to 'defend the revolution'.



Famine is sweeping across West Africa following the worst drought in living memory, and thousands—mostly children—have died. In drought-stricken West Mali, where the RAF is flying in 50 tons of food each day, the town of Nyoro, population about 17,000, had a temporary reprieve—RAIN! But now rain alone is not enough: there are no crops and they still need the grain and cereal that make their basic food. It is seven years since the last monsoon, and the rain was too much for this cow, which drank and drank until it died.

Gadafy's comic opera is no joke

AS the comic opera of the Libyan 'unity march' to Cairo unfolds, relations between Colonel Gadafy's Libyan regime and Egypt seem to have reached a crisis.

Libya is a small but relatively wealthy country. It is three times the size of France, but its population is only two million and vast oil resources bring in more than £1000 millions a year. Its ports are choked with foreign trade, many imported consumer goods are on sale, and the government can afford expensive desert cultivation schemes and steel and chemical plants.

But Libya is desperately short of labour, especially skilled and professional workers, and it is for this reason that its rulers want economic and political union with Egypt.

Though union has been agreed, the Egyptian government keeps stalling because of Gadafy's peculiar brand of puritan nationalism. Since last April this has become in Libya itself the 'cultural revolution', with popular 'revolutionary committees' in the universities and public sector, but it is entirely reactionary.

In keeping with a long Libyan tradition of Islamic sectarianism, Gadafy calls for a return to the principles of the Koran, the Islamic bible, and for the elimination of marxism and communism. His views of women, for example, recently angered a meeting of Egyptian women's organisations, which included a woman cabinet minister.

It is sad that many Egyptians think Gadafy is just mad, but his attempts at resignation show that his views have wide support in Libya and his clique of army officers are still in control.

Egypt has plenty of problems of her own. The government has recently imprisoned dozens of worker and student militants, and is going through another period of strained relations with Russia. Various groups are pressing the unwilling President Sadat for military action against Israel, which Sadat feels the country cannot afford.

To unleash Libyan propaganda in this situation, and in a country with grave economic problems, would invite ruin for the government, despite the economic advantages to be gained from union.

BLACK VICTORY OVER COLLEGE

BLACKS won a significant victory in South Africa last week when they forced the reopening of the University of the Western Cape, which is for coloured people, and the unconditional readmission of the 1600 students.

This resulted from the tremendous solidarity and support for the students in the month since the university was closed by the authorities in panic response to complaints from the students about the rigid power structure in the university.

The government opened the confrontation to counter student militancy and has been forced to back down.

Apartheid has applied to higher education since 1959. Separate universities have been created, three for Africans, tribally segregated, one for coloured people and one for Asians. These are totally dominated by political appointees, almost entirely Afrikaner Nationalists, and by the official ideology of apartheid and bantu education.

EXPULSIONS

These 'bush colleges' have always been attacked by blacks, since they have no other chance of higher education, they have to use them to get qualifications. They have been the birthplace of the new militant black students' movement, the South African Students' Organisation (SASO), which is the spearhead in the growing understanding by blacks of their oppression. All have seen struggles in the past two years often followed by victimisation and expulsions.

Several SASO leaders have been banned by the government, but this has not restricted the organisation's growth and influence.

by Alan Baldwin

The latest incidents indicate the power which blacks can mobilise and the permanent contradictions within apartheid. Since the closure of the university in mid-June there has been a wave of meetings and demonstrations of support throughout the country. A rally of 10,000 blacks on 8 July in Cape Town launched the idea of a Free Black University in total rejection of inferior apartheid education and a white-controlled system.

CONDEMNED

It was the success and militancy of this meeting that forced the government to order the reopening of the university. For the first time in public, rank and file black leaders co-operated with black leaders in government-created institutions such as Bantustans. Some of the Bantustan leaders claim to be trying to use these institutions to attack the government policy. SASO has rightly condemned them for, at best, deluding themselves and the people.

But SASO is having an important influence on these leaders. Now it seems that, on a specific issue, they have formed a united front, and the government has got cold feet.

The dangers in this are clear. The Bantustan leaders must inevitably tend to distract attention from where power really lies. Students and workers must reject this and focus the struggle in the industrial working class. The way forward in intensifying the struggle must be through black workers' organisations.

At times a contradiction in the government's 'separate development' policy can be exploited. The very limited power and relative protection from state suppression of Bantustan leaders such as Chief Buthelezi can be harnessed in support of workers

and students over specific issues.

The role of black students is more crucial. Their oppression as blacks has tended to create nationalism, but some understand the need to go beyond this and to root themselves in the black working class. The dramatic wave of strikes in Natal in February owed nothing directly to SASO's influence, although the students did intervene to press for solidarity between Indian and African workers.

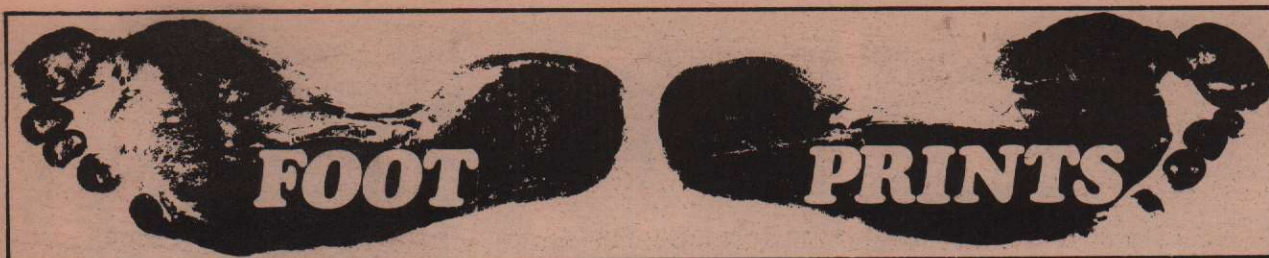
There is a feeling that through increased black awareness of their oppressed and exploited position, positive action will flow more or less spontaneously. This is limited, and if the student movement is to play a really significant role, it must relate this awareness to the organisation of black workers.

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FREDERICK ENGELS
THE CONDITION
OF THE
WORKING CLASS
IN ENGLAND
INTRODUCTION BY ERIC HOBBSBAWM





LESSER EVIL

MORE about the Lesser group of building companies whose magnificent luncheon party at Greenwich last month was exclusively reported in these columns. One of the guests at the binge, it will be remembered, was Mr J A King, borough engineer of Slough, who informed Slough Council a few days after the binge that he had successfully negotiated a £1 million contract for the building of Slough council houses with . . . the Lesser group.

I understand there's been some trouble in Slough about a group of houses built by Lesser on another council estate at Colin Way, Chalvey Grove.

It seems that in several of the houses, where the rent is just under £7 a week, the roofs are leaking so badly that rooms are unfit for small children. One man narrowly escaped serious injury when he plunged from the top of some stairs after a bannister rail fell away. In other houses the toilet system had broken down completely.

One curious feature of these complaints is that they have not been passed on to the members of the housing committee by Mr John King, the borough engineer, who has known about them for some time. Mr King has told the Slough Observer that he has 'passed the complaints' on to the architect.

A spokesman for Lesser told the newspaper: 'We will be correcting the defects, but there has been a shortage of labour.'

Quote of the Week

'Illegal immigrants who feel frightened or worried by the Law Lords' ruling on the Immigration Act should go along to their nearest police station.'
—Home Office spokesman, 4 July.

Keeping up with A Jones

IT IS rare that a shocking case of unfair dismissal is handsomely settled, and I am delighted to be able to congratulate Laporte Industries, the chemicals group, on behaving like gentlemen.

Last year, after a disagreement about management policy, they unceremoniously sacked Mr Aubrey Jones, the Tory minister who was head of the Prices and Incomes Board under the Labour government. Mr Jones' prissy tones could be heard almost nightly for six years urging workers to 'restrain themselves' in the national interest.

When the Tories disbanded the board in 1970, Mr Jones went on to the board of Laporte with an immediate rise of £80 a week. His salary was £20,000 a year.

Less than two years later he was sacked.

A few weeks later he joined the board of Albright and Wilson, another chemical group, without a drop in salary.

Compensation has, at last, been agreed. Laporte will pay Mr Jones £63,000 for sacking him so rudely, and at negligible loss.

While we're on grand gestures, it would be quite wrong not to mention the sacrifice of Sir Ronald Edwards, chairman of Beechams. Sir Ronald puts his money where his mouth is. Not for him mere verbal declarations in support of pay freezes. When Beecham workers have to suffer during a national economic crisis, Sir Ronald suffers too.

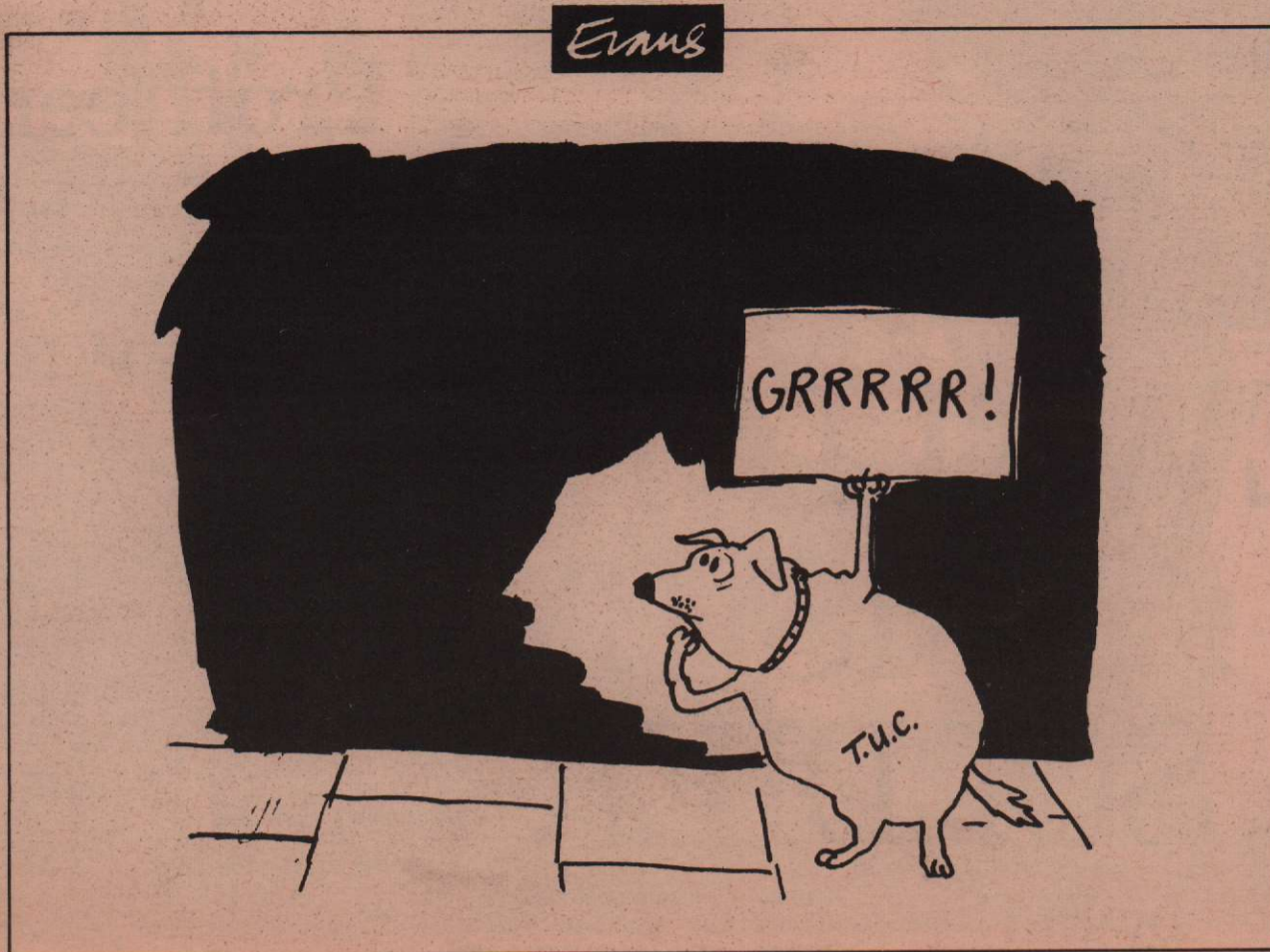
Beechams' annual report, out this month, reveals that Sir Ronald voluntarily waived a £7500 (£150 a week) wage increase promised him last September.

I am happy to announce that, in spite of this sacrifice, Sir Ronald has been able to hang onto his charming Belgravia home at 49 Lowndes Square, as well as his country seat at Nothe House, Dorset. Somehow he has been able to manage on his existing salary, which is £41,000 a year—about £800 a week.

THE following advertisement appeared in the Evening Standard for 9 July:

HEATED CAR SPACE nr. Marble Arch. Will house Rolls-Royce, £24 p.m. Tel. 262 2200.

I gather that it is quite useless for homeless families to apply, since the 'heated space' has now been filled. I am also sorry to hear that some subversives who cannot afford £6 a week in rent for their whole families have been ringing the number in the advertisement giving advice to the polite folk who answer about where to put their Rolls-Royce.



ZANZIBAR COLOUR BAR ASSOCIATION

NOT much has been written in the newspapers about Ahmed Seif Kharusi, the mysterious 'agent' for the Portuguese government who organised the handing out of Portuguese propaganda by the Alfred Marks Bureau during the recent visit by the country's dictator, Dr Caetano.

Kharusi was a hanger-on of the Sultan of Zanzibar, who, before his overthrow in 1964, rivalled even the Portuguese in the Butchery-in-Africa league.

Since escaping to Britain after the 1964 coup, Kharusi has involved himself in right-wing politics of the nastiest kind. He associated closely with leaders of the National Front, the Racial Preservation Society and the Festival of Light.

At a meeting with representatives of the Racial Preservation Society and the Greater Britain Movement, a right-wing splinter led by Colin Jordan, he tried to muster a mercenary force to invade Zanzibar and restore the Sultan (and himself) to power. Each mercenary, he promised, would get a parcel of land for reward. The meeting, however, was packed with Special Branch

representatives, and the plan came to an end.

Mr Kharusi's Anglo-Zanzibar Society is a breeding ground for the most curious creatures on the extreme right. The Guardian last week quoted as a 'spokesman' for the society a certain Mrs Greig.

This lady is the wife of Ian Greig, author of the standard McCarthyite work, Today's Revolutionaries, which was published in 1970. The publishers were the Foreign Affairs Publishing Group, which also publishes the East-West Digest, a monthly bulletin full of ill-informed witch-hunts against socialist organisations.

Terrible

Mr Kharusi's obvious devotion to right-wing politics has, of course, nothing to do with the Alfred Marks Bureau. Alfred Marks spokesmen, after they had been exposed in the press, were quick to deny all political associations. This political impartiality has been doubted in the past by black people applying to the bureau for jobs.

Alison Langan is employed by the Alfred Marks Bureau and worked until recently as a clerical assistant and interviewer at the firm's

Fenchurch Street office in the City of London.

One day the bureau was short of staff. Following the usual practice, the manageress telephoned the company's Southend branch. Southend was able to oblige and a young woman was promptly sent by train to the Fenchurch Street office.

When she got there, she was shown in to see the manageress—who discovered that a truly terrible thing had happened. The young woman was black. She was promptly dispatched on some pretext or other and the manageress got back to serious business.

Her counterpart in Southend was telephoned and Fenchurch Street explained that this must never happen again.

The Fenchurch Street manageress, however, was acutely aware of the anti-discrimination provisions of the Race Relations Act. She knew she had to find a device to achieve her ends without giving the game away. 'I know,' she told Southend, 'If I ring for a replacement and it's a coloured girl you have in the room, then say: "It's a sunny day here today".'

Alfred Marks employees, according to Alison, are under phenomenal pressure to get high targets and big profits. This, incidentally, is the real explanation why they took on the Caetano job and why they collaborate in supporting racism not just in far-off Angola but in the even more lucrative territory known as Central London.

Gathering nuts in Mais

PROBABLY the most sycophantic speech made to the fascist Caetano during his visit came from Lord Mais, Lord Mayor of London, at a banquet at the Mansion House held in the Portuguese Prime Minister's honour. Lord Mais grovelled before Caetano, referring to his country as 'an old friend of Britain' and apologising for

The Times revelations about the atrocities in Mozambique.

Normal stuff, you might think, from a Lord Mayor of London, whose office is traditionally associated with barbarism in Africa except that Lord Mais is an enthusiastic supporter of the Labour Party. When he took office he was described as 'Labour's first Lord Mayor'. In 1967, he was made a life peer on the recommendation of that well-known Caetano-hater, Harold Wilson.

Time Out for the censor

EVERYONE knows that the shareholders in a newspaper company have absolutely no influence on editorial policy, and no one was very worried when rather more than 40 per cent of the shares in the courageous London weekly magazine Time Out were bought recently by that radical/hippy merchant bank, Rothschilds.

One of Time Out's big 'scoops' in recent months has arisen from their interviews with the Littlejohn brothers, who have just been convicted of Ireland's biggest bank robbery, after claiming that they had done it on the instructions of the British government.

In last week's issue Time Out told of the important men and women who, the Littlejohns suggested, had given the orders for the bank robbery, like this:

When the Defence case opens this week he is expected to name [redacted] the [redacted] involved in the brothers' activities.

The deletions, apparently, were made 'on legal advice'.

Two days later, the Sunday Times, a fearless underground paper without the responsibilities weighing on Time Out, published the names of the mysterious Ministers: Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, parliamentary under secretary at the Ministry of Defence, and Lady Onslow.

DE NEWS 6

THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT NEWSPAPER

TH ISSUE JULY 1973

THE DOLE QUEUE DISAPPEARS

The above headline in this month's Department of Employment News has startled readers all over the country. Can it really be that unemployment, the scourge of millions for two centuries, has now finally come to an end? No. The headline refers to the fact that the unemployed will now receive their benefit payments by post.



Guns against the Catholic ghetto: one reason why Dave Cunniffe opted out

FAREWELL TO ARMS BY SOLDIER

by Bill Message

DAVE CUNNIFFE joined the British Army in September 1968 at the age of 18. He had just left school in Pembrokeshire with six O Levels, but there were not many jobs in rural Wales.

Explaining why he joined the army, he told me that he fancied the life of a helicopter pilot as shown in the army's advertising, with all the money, travel and glamour associated with it.

He signed up with the South Wales Borderers for nine years. It was explained to him only after he had joined that before he could be a helicopter pilot he would have to do his training as an infantryman.

He was promised a transfer to the Air Army Corps, but this never came, so about three months after his training he went absent without leave for two weeks. But he spent all his money and drifted back to camp.

In August 1969 he and his fellow soldiers were sent to Ireland with the Royal Regiment of Wales. This was at the time when the B-Specials and the Orange mobs were terrorising the unarmed and so-far unorganised Catholic workers and their families.

He told me of the time he was sent in to the Catholic Falls Road.

'We'd been told to expect to be shot at and stoned, but there were these people on the barricades cheering. They thought we were there to protect them from the B-Specials and so on. The Catholics were bringing out trays of sandwiches and coffee and tea.

'We had a few brushes with the B-Specials. They came up to us in the early hours of the morning in three armoured cars. This pompous

pig jumped out and demanded to be let through.'

They were not allowed through, but they returned on several occasions. Dave Cunniffe went on to tell me:

'All night long there was shooting and the rattle of machine guns. The Catholics were telling us of people being shot by the B-Specials just as they were coming out of their houses.'

Dave's second tour of duty in Ireland lasted from October 1971 to February 1972. This time he was with the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in the New Lodge Road area in Belfast. The atmosphere was totally different.

'We were in a totally Catholic area and they despised us. They took us to be the tools of the Tory government oppressing them while the government tried to appease the Protestants.

'Most "lifts" took place between three and four in the morning. What would usually happen is that a

platoon of troops would leave camp on foot with their faces blacked, carrying little equipment, and surround the area.

'The troops who were to do the actual "lifting" would leave by truck or "pig" and screech to a halt outside the address. They would rap on the door a few times, but if there was no answer after a few seconds they would kick the door down.

'If they found a guy of "military age"—over 15—no matter who he was they would take him.'

Talking about riot control, Dave described it as 'organised chaos'.

'Sometimes the army contrived to create a situation by having numerous patrols in any one area at the same time—stopping everybody and searching them to incense the population.'

Dave explained why he thought the IRA had come to receive so much support from the Catholic working class.

'The Catholics were truly frightened of the Protestant mobs—and later of the troops. I know I'd be scared—with armed troops marching around kicking doors in in the middle of the night.'

Dave was in Belfast at the time of the Bloody Sunday massacre.

'We had a disco that night. Some guy came into the disco and said that 13 Catholics had been killed in Derry.'

'All the Protestant girls cheered and the soldiers from the Ulster Defence Regiment who were there were laughing and making jokes about it—'13—Unlucky for some', and other comments.

'A friend had been in Ballymurphy when the Paras were doing a search there. He was present when a Para fired a rubber bullet at a woman and blinded her.

The pressure of doing the British government's dirty work told on some of the soldiers too.

'A guy I knew blew his brains out. They put it down to the fact that he'd got engaged to a local girl and a couple of weeks later she broke it off.'

Dave Cunniffe was sent back to Ireland in July 1972. Initially it was just supposed to be for the July parades, but once he got there it was extended to a full four months' tour.

It was in July that he put in his application to get out. As soon as the tour was over he bought himself out.

'I'd had enough. I was just pissed off with it.'

Since he left the army Dave has been taking an interest in politics for the first time. What he did and witnessed in Ireland opened his eyes to a lot of things.

Ghost

Profiteers in South Africa have strong links with the past

TOP BRITISH BOSSES with world-wide interests have been giving evidence to a House of Commons Select Committee concerning the pitiful wages they pay African workers employed by their subsidiary companies in South Africa.

One thing all the representatives of big business who have attended the committee are agreed upon is that they are very nice people indeed. They are mainly engaged not in sweating labour and piling up profits but in the mission of bringing work, and if possible civilisation, to their African employees.

They have been sad to report to the committee that there are many things standing in the way of their mission, and in particular of boosting starvation wages above the misery line.

Mr R J McAlpine, boss of the big construction firm Marchweil Holdings, which operates in South Africa, told the committee that no firm can afford to make 'grossly disproportionate increases' in the shameful wages paid to African employees.

Mr McAlpine told the committee that his company would like to pay higher wages. But he added the real answer was wage increases throughout the whole of industry.

'If we can get the industry to raise wages then it will be the same for all firms in the industry... We cannot exist as a company if we basically pay widely different wages to those of our competitors,' he said.

Among the other tragedies Mr McAlpine bared his chest to the committee about—leaving aside the most important one that his firm can only afford to pay its unskilled African employees £5 a week—was the low rate of return on capital: an average of only about 5 per cent, though with a best year of nearly 15 per cent.

Another factor which Mr McAlpine highlighted was that overall his company's activities in South Africa had been 'beneficial'. After all a job (even at £5 a week when white workers are getting 10 times that) is better than no job.

The spirit of this statement was upheld by several other witnesses who graced the committee with their presence, their charm and their obvious sense of social responsibility. Not the least of these was Sir Val Duncan of Rio-Tinto Zinc.

Excess

Sir Val made it known that several African leaders had told him that they preferred more jobs to higher wages. Sir Val did agree that the Palabora mine, where the biggest single slice of RTZ's profits is produced, has no poverty line covering it, though he avowed that African workers there were not paid starvation wages, but he thought a little in excess of that.

Perhaps the most forthright of all the contributions made to the committee came in the evidence from Mr R H Dent, chairman of Cape Asbestos.

Only by maintaining a profitable and efficient operation in South Africa could the company afford to uphold its policies of taking Africans to positions of greater responsibility and justify increased capital investment, he declared. This would ensure the continued employment of its own workers and help to provide employment in other companies which supplied the firm.

Mr Dent was quite unashamed in insisting that high profits were far more beneficial than high wages. All



RTZ's Duncan: no starvation

these great philanthropists agreed on that.

Evidence from J Donald McCall, a director of Consolidated Goldfields, is even more moving in its breadth of vision concerning the African's future.

The reason for the firm's contract system of hiring is not to avoid the needless luxury of housing and supporting families, not to put workers in a position of near slavery in the prison-like labour camps and not to get out of any responsibility for the contract worker, whose main parting gift from the company is a lungful of fatal industrial disease.

No, the contract system is something which 'has a strong basis in tribal needs', a 'necessary and desirable step into manhood', helping young African males to put together the capital, to set themselves up in married life.

Slender

The employers appearing before the committee are thoroughly modern. Everything about them is up to date and progressive.

Mr McAlpine, for example, regrets that his firm cannot unilaterally increase wages and pleads that the return on capital is slender enough.

But strangely, Mr McAlpine's ideas are not new. To say the least they are derivative.

In the 1830s there was fierce, popular agitation for a ten-hour day. The employing class used many arguments to counter this.

The first proposition was a simple one—it would be an interference with the fundamental liberty of individual workers to prevent them selling their labour for 18 hours out of 24. (For some strange reason the vast majority of workers wanted their freedom to sweat for endless hours curtailed).

But slowly the increasing disclosures concerning the brutalities and depravities inflicted on young children, on men and women workers in factories, mines and mills were taken up by a few members of the ruling class with any human compassion at all—who also incidentally were landed aristocrats interested in curtailing the wealth, power and influence of the manufacturers.

The absurd, widely propounded ideas about slavery being freedom were beaten back. Some of the more bloodcurdling excesses were subjected to state regulation and supposedly curbed. The manufacturers shifted tack.

Jane Cousins
TURKEY
Torture and Political Persecution

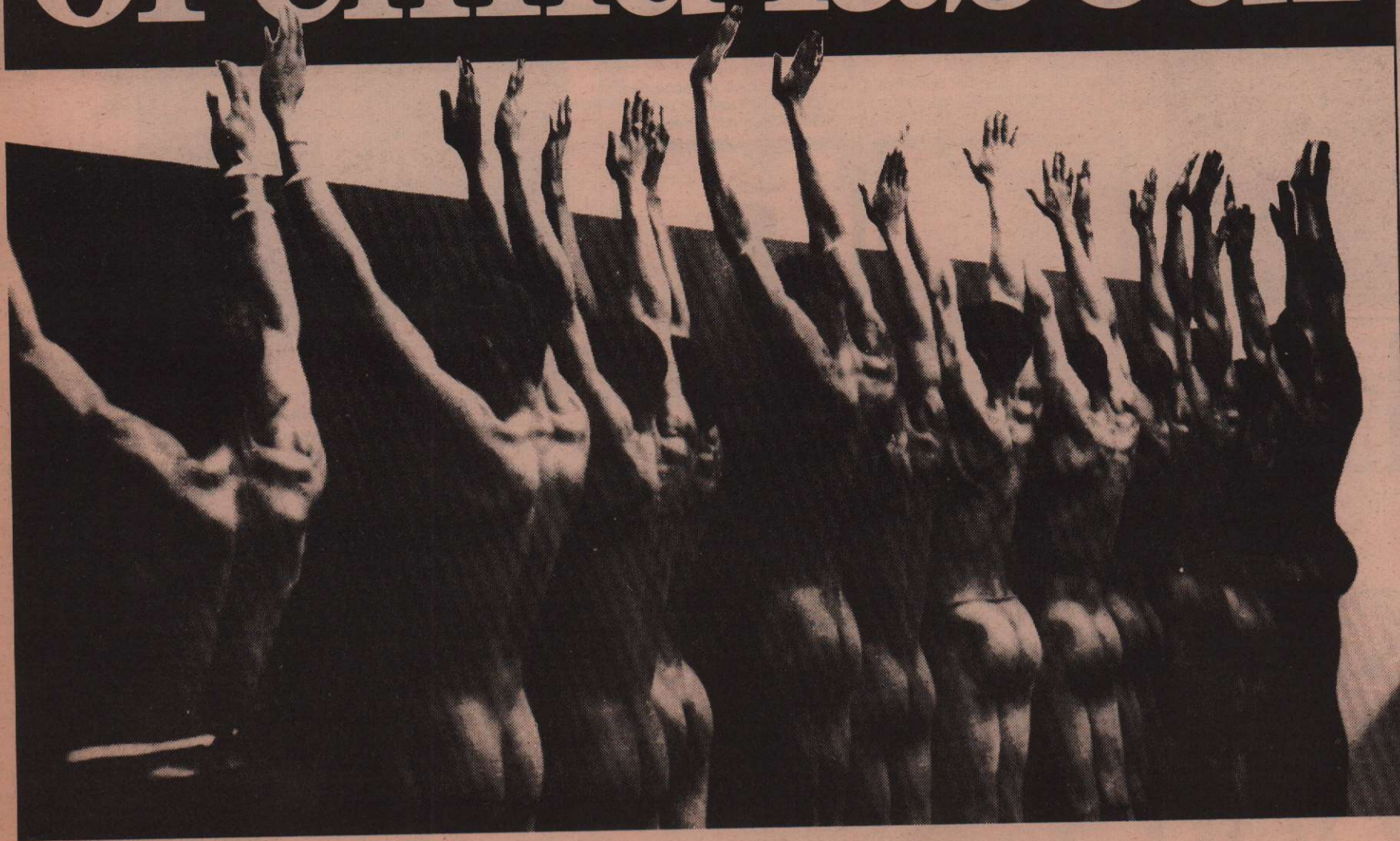
This book documents in detail the torture of political prisoners in Turkey, and the staggering brutality of the methods used. It documents the political trials with which the regime hoped to destroy the left.

Faced with a virtual blockade on real news from Turkey, Jane Cousins went there to interview politicians, trade unionists, academics, lawyers and many ex-prisoners. She was given access to papers and documents which are here published for the first time.

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of child labour



by LAURIE FLYNN

They adopted two new arguments. The return on capital was perilously low and it would be highly dangerous to interfere in any way since it would lead to the 'beggary of both manufacturers and operatives.'

The other argument was that no single employer could make concessions on shorter hours, ending the employment of child slaves or whatever the issue was.

After many years' bitter resistance, the Ten Hours agitation finally met with some parliamentary success. In 1847 a Ten Hours Act was passed. But it was resisted to the bitter end.

Joseph Hume, John Bright and many others in the House of Commons made impassioned speeches on the dangers of reducing, or interfering with return on capital. Any job was better than no job.

Ten years' later, after a move to regulate the horrors of bleaching and dyeing works had failed, a House of Commons Select Committee was set up to measure the problem once again. William Cobbett was chairman and he produced evidence from masters of factories that they were opposed to the long and dangerous hours of work.

Evil

But just like McAlpine and the other modern men, they explained that they engaged in it because others engaged in it. Only Karl Marx drew out the real significance—the system of competition itself was evil.

Still, that was long ago and things have changed.

But at least the question of exploitation and misery in South Africa has been raised by the Commons committee. But as the chairmen and directors of virtually every company have explained, often their interests in South Africa are subsidiary companies over which they do not have much control.

And, further, they are operating in a foreign country and have to obey the law. They ignore the fact that they have helped to shape South Africa and its laws in the pursuit of profit.

Neither do they describe the real nature of the misery and horror they inflict in South Africa. They have well-trained teams of public relations



men fronting for them. Their so-called evidence is a farce.

Consolidated Goldfields, in its evidence, glories in the free medical assistance they give, in the housing they provide for migrant workers.

But a report last year by the radical research group Counter Information Services, shattered the pretensions of Consolidated. It showed up the lying and the deceit about wages, about living conditions, and about how the apartheid laws have been drawn up by the mining industry in the interests of the mining industry.

Consolidated Gold talks about health. As the CIS report noted, 19,000 men, virtually all blacks, died as a result of 'accidents' in the South African goldfields in 30 years between 1936 and 1966. Accident deaths do not include the countless thousands who have died from lung diseases contracted courtesy of Consolidated Gold and others.

Victor Feather, TUC general secretary, told the committee that British investment in South Africa could lead to the eventual development of similar social conditions to those which exist in Britain.

'I do believe there are a number of firms which like to project the British image of being concerned with the dignity of workpeople as well as the cash return,' he told the committee.

One wonders what he would have said to a committee on the regulation of child slavery. Exploitation stops at Dover, in all probability.

(Above): black gold mine workers in South Africa stripped and searched in case they steal from their robbers.

(Right): Children being winched down a coal mine in the 1840s. How much real progress in the last 130 years?

Young militants

set bosses

quaking

IT IS RARE that apprentices take a full and active part in a strike, but during the 13-weeks' dispute at the Gardner engineering plant in Manchester, the vast majority of apprentices were either on strike or occupying the works.

As a result, the management are now trying to discourage or victimise some of the most militant apprentices by sending letters to their parents complaining of 'your son's attitude during the strike' and inviting them to discuss the matter 'at their earliest possible convenience'.

Following a meeting with parents junior workers were threatened with a three-day suspension if they took part in another mass picket at the local SEI factory in Salford, where women clerical workers are striking for equal pay.

The threat was just the latest move in a long series of attacks on apprentices over the last few months.

Police

One Gardner apprentice who has joined the International Socialist told me: 'It really started during our own dispute when the management brought the police in several times and even started a court case to try and curb our enthusiasm.'

'After the return to work the attacks were stepped up when we came on to work late after supporting an official mass picket called by the district committee. Obviously the management are trying to quash the Junior Workers Committee, which in the early stages of formation are looking ahead to the time when we will hold AUEW posts in the factory.'

'They must be quaking in their boots at the thought of the effect the militancy of the apprentices will have on the factory as a whole.'

Once the JWC is properly formed the days will be over when apprentices can be looked on as mindless cheap labour.

Struggle

The integration of the apprentices into the factory organisation, linked to the fact that the militant apprentices have already shown that by involving themselves in the struggle they can win significant gains will further strengthen the organisation of the factory as a whole.

Two other apprentices summed up the feeling of the young workers. (They all have to remain nameless because of the risk of victimisation.)

'If the bosses think they can treat 18-year-old blokes like children and get away with using their parents' foremen, they've got another thing coming.'

'We have been pushed round long enough and we are now going to stand as a united body to show our attitude at the attitude of this antiquated management. For the first time apprentices are ready to fight back and we'll win.'

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Carve

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Roche: hooking a nation

'MR A: It's my nerves, doctor. I can't seem to settle anything. Nothing seems to get done. Mr A is anxious because his apathetic and depressive state is affecting his work performance—things are piling up and he feels unable to deal with them.'

So runs a Roche drug advert. The answer Mr A got, on 5,453,000 separate ECIO prescription forms in 1970 alone, was a pill called Valium. When Aneurin Bevan prophesied in 1945 an avalanche of pill rattling down the throats of the British public, it was Valium he foresaw. In 1970 about 1596 million pills were taken, something like ten for every adult in Britain.

When Aldous Huxley wrote In Brave New World of a drug called Soma which kept people quiet, it

was Valium he foresaw too. For Valium does one thing for those who take it. Its effect is to produce a kind of numbness.

Valium is a drug of our time. Laudanum was widely used in the mid-19th century to douse the pain of the slums and overwhelm hunger with sleep.

Valium's numbness is the consolation for the intolerable ailments caused by modern capitalism. For the office worker herded into rush hour trains Valium Roche relaxes mind and body, helps prisoners of the society of stress. For the depressed housewife the doctor is encouraged to say to himself, 'This is a case of Valium. You better have some anxiety.'

For it is Roche products which serves the people who are convinced that things can't be changed. And it's part of what

VALIUM ROCHE

helps your patient to enjoy his work. Formerly nervous and tense, he takes a greater interest in his job and is better able to meet and solve daily problems. When the clinical picture is complicated by insomnia, Valium* Roche restores sleep without the use of hypnotics.

* registered trade mark for preparations containing diazepam



keeps them that way. An advert for a similar product puts it with utter frankness, 'She can't change her environment but you can change her mood with Serenid-D.'

Roche have achieved every drug firm's dream, they have hooked a

nation. Through the sixties, as the health service quietly rotted, the drug business expanded. Total sales doubled in ten years and the health service drug bill trebled.

Roche's three main products were introduced just as this phenomenal growth was gaining momentum and at a time when the risks of barbiturates in overdoses, addiction and suicide were becoming appreciated. Librium was launched in 1960, Valium in 1963 and the sleeping pill Mogadon in 1965.

By 1970 Roche commanded 88 per cent of the British tranquilliser market and the Swiss based firm's annual turnover had passed £500 million with a declared annual profit of £84m and £1 shares standing at £23,000 each on the stock market.

'Research'

The reason for this scale of profit making is the enormous overcharging of the health service. A simple sum was painstakingly worked out by the Monopoly Commission's report from figures wrung out of Switzerland. Each kilogram involves about £100 in real chemical costs. It is sold for £1962. One doesn't have to be a research chemist to observe a difference.

Even when allowing generous costs for 'research' (mainly on patents to prevent rivals producing them) and 'distribution' (mainly pestering GPs with adverts and

Roche adverts in the medical press: prescription for addicting people to capitalism

bribing them at lunches) the report calculates that Roche must clear £1210 per kilo, a return on capital of 70 per cent. Between 1966 and 1970 Roche had a total sales revenue on Librium and Valium of £28,706,000. If one works on the extremely modest basis of the Monopoly Commission report's estimate of 40 per cent overcharging for Librium and 50 per cent for Valium, in four years Roche have embezzled about £12,877,000 from the NHS.

To protect themselves this respectable Swiss ethical chemical company uses business methods which would scandalise a second-hand car salesman.

Its offices are in Switzerland, Uruguay and Canada for tax purposes and when the commission challenged some of the fraudulent figures they served up, they refused to provide more information.

Embezzled

In one year £1,495,000 was spent on promotion with 66 full-time pushers, 11 of whom were actually qualified pharmacists making 58,000 separate visits to encourage what Prescribers Journal calls 'liberal and sometimes indiscriminate use' among doctors.

In America Timothy Leary, a radical psychology professor who enthused about LSD, a drug taken voluntarily for pleasure, faces a ten year jail sentence.

In Basle Dr A W Jann, a medical businessman who has addicted over 14 million people to a drug and who has embezzled millions out of the taxpayer is still at liberty.

The final black joke is that when a Conservative government finally asks Dr Jann to behave like a gentleman and reduce his profits to something more acceptable (25 per cent is the suggested figure), Roche refuse point blank.

The Law Lords and the newspapers back up Roche's courageous stand. And what will Harold Wilson do about a company which is 60 per cent foreign owned anyway? For Roche is a kingdom quite out of our control, obeying no laws but its own.

In a poetry competition sponsored by Roche and some other companies, the winning effort was written by Mr A V Kinsey called In Praise of The Medicine Makers.

In part it ran:
Their bounty of capsules, tablets, potions and pills
Bring low the deadly bacteria and also many grievous ills
A murrain on their enemies, the foxes
Who decry their honest profits from soapboxes.

Perhaps if more of those people taking Librium and Valium realised what is being made out of their unhappiness, they might yet find their way to a soapbox.

International Socialism 60

International Money Councils of Action China July 1973 15p

The July issue of International Socialism features an important article by Chris Harman on the experience of Councils of Action and their relevance to the current struggles of the working class. Other articles include:

Monetary Crisis: John Ure
India and China: Nigel Harris
Fourth International: Duncan Hallas
Why did you join the Party?: Robert James

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by Dr GERRY DAWSON

IF POLIT ended with parliamenta the prospect a decent Britain wou

But the welfare legis vividly illust importance of the parliamen

The major the 19th cent health mov systems were kept separat supply. Stre drained. Cem from the ce start was clearance.

All this hap because of hu for the suffer but because began to epidemics and be confined to the big cities.

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Why our welfare is in a state

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1911 insurance unemployment and fit were started. elopments lay two es. r of the rise of the ent and the spread y socialist ideas. ling class decided actics of Bismarck e 1880s, had ial insurance in n attempt to buy support for the democratic move- ngly influenced by

uture leader of the J Balfour, put the nutshell: 'Social not only different legislation—it is its osite and effective

kness

during the early 20th century, the n Britain became low standards of the working class ing British military with the greatest he guerrilla forces en defeated in the war of 1899 to

ess of the British her underlined by established that ve of the potential armed forces were iminum physical ilitary service. e insistence of the he Liberal govern- in legislation for

JIM KINCAID, author of an important new book *Poverty and Equality in Britain* (Pelican, 60p), which estimates that five million people live in poverty in Britain, writes here of the crude economic and political reasons behind the employing class's conversion to 'welfare' this century and why such reforms cannot cure the cancer of poverty.

the feeding and medical inspection of school children. In this period, too, the more forward looking industrialists began to appreciate that Britain could not develop a modern economy, able to compete with Germany in world markets, unless the health of workers and their political commitment to the system were improved by social reforms. Hence big business was not unsympathetic to the introduction of old age pensions and sickness and unemployment benefits.



Lord Beveridge, founder of the post-war welfare system. In his book, Kincaid says that Beveridge, far from being revolutionary, was concerned to use welfare as an antidote to working-class agitation

In the period from 1918 to 1926, there were a series of modest but useful developments in welfare. Local councils began to build houses for workers.

From 1926, men who had a wife and children got extra unemployment benefit instead of the old flat rate. In 1925 social insurance benefits for widows and orphans were introduced.

After 1926 and right up to

the outbreak of World War Two, there were virtually no significant improvements made in the social services. On the contrary, for most of this period, the main concern of the government was to attack and limit the financial provision made for the army of the unemployed.

It is not hard to see why 1926 was the turning point. Until the General Strike of that year, the ruling class, with the example of Russia fresh in everyone's memory, feared the onset of working-class revolution in Britain.

The outcome of the General Strike laid those fears to rest for a generation. The working class was heavily defeated, and fell into deep demoralisation. The leadership of the trade union movement had proved themselves ready to fight in the last ditch in defence of capitalism.

Inflicted

For the next decade and a half the ruling class remained firmly in control of the social order. They had no need to generate popular support for their rule by making any serious concessions on welfare.

The implications for the 1970s are plain enough. No one who cares about the miseries inflicted on the old, the handicapped or the unemployed need fear the rising tempo of class conflict in Britain.

On the contrary. It is not the case that old age pensioners and other welfare groups can look for

of the socialist revolution.

In the past the ruling class have shown themselves willing to make concessions in welfare and in income redistribution—but only when they feared increasing popular opposition to their rule.

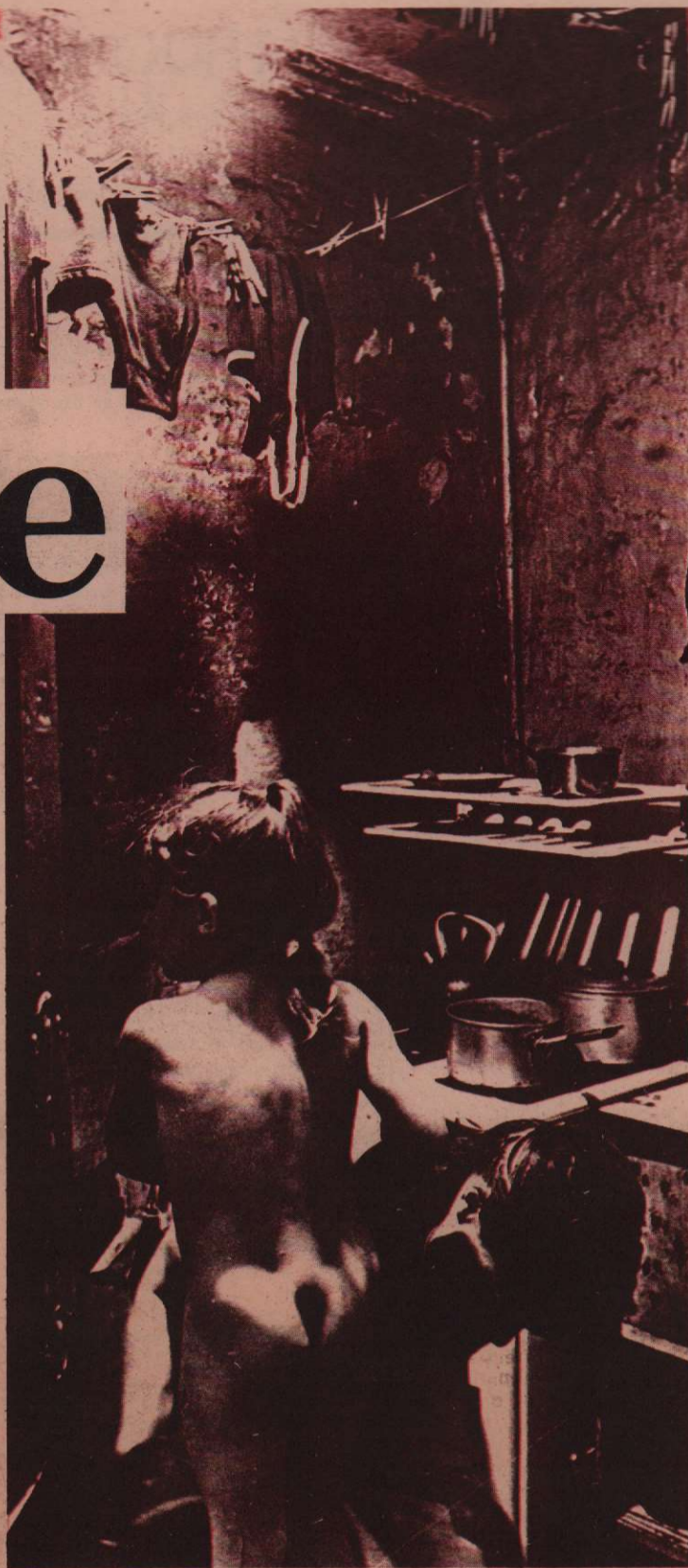
Such a threat is posed as industrial militancy begins to find direct political expression in a revolutionary party rooted in the factories and in the trade unions.

Even then, the ruling class will concede as little as it thinks it can get off with. Poverty could be abolished—but not within a capitalist society. Any serious effort to reduce poverty endangers the whole competitive structure of present society.

The viability of the existing economic system rests partly on the maintenance of a large sector of the labour force who are subjected to exceptionally low wages and harsh working conditions.

Improvements in benefits paid to the old and the sick directly threaten the low wage sector, if only by encouraging trade union organisation and militancy among the lower paid. In all sorts of ways, the social security system has been distorted in order to back up the disciplines exercised by the labour market and the employers.

In the same way, social security rights for women have been severely restricted so as not to threaten the present system of marriage, and to sustain the inferior status of women. The miserable treatment of separated and deserted wives, and of women with illegitimate children is hypocritical to the core.



Exactly how many people are under the official poverty line is not known with any certainty. In the most recently published study of the available evidence, A B Atkinson arrives at a very substantial estimate:

"It seems fair to conclude that the proportion of the population with incomes below the Supplementary Benefit scale lies towards the upper end of the range 4 per cent to 9 per cent. In other words around five million people are living below the standard which the government feels to be the national minimum."

The leading British authority on poverty research, Peter Townsend, is convinced that the situation is rapidly worsening.

"Poverty is certain to increase sharply during 1971. Prices are rising quickly. The reduction in the standard rate of tax in the 1971 spring Budget will bring small help to poor families. Some earners below the poverty line will continue to pay tax . . . Five dependency groups—retirement pensioners, long-term unemployed, middle aged disabled, fatherless families and families with four or more children—have grown substantially or slightly in proportion to population in recent years. They cover a total of over 13 million people."

According to popular mythology the tax system in Britain is progressive—ie the higher a person's income the higher the proportion of that income which will be removed in taxation. The reality is quite different, namely that taxation in this country is virtually non-progressive.

The system has become even less progressive in the past decade. The biggest increase in taxation (up by 8 per cent of income) was registered by the group with the lowest income of all, £5 a week. The very large group of people with £16 to £28 a week . . . had their taxation increased by 7 per cent. On the other hand, for those with over £50 a week, the increase in tax during the 1960s was limited to a 5 per cent rise.

Although it was the smallness of the family allowance increase which caused consternation on the left of the Labour Party, nevertheless the strategy adopted [by the Wilson government] was one which had been enthusiastically canvassed

The family allowance had been increased for everyone but since this benefit is subject to income tax a proportion of the increase was drawn directly back into the Exchequer from millions of families paying income tax. When the 35p increase was announced in July 1967, the arrangement proposed by the government was simply to continue the usual procedures

For the vast majority of people this meant that the 35p increase in the family allowance would be subject to the standard rate of income tax . . . This practice whereby the Treasury presents money to people as a welfare benefit and then reclaims it from some of them in taxation, has become known as the clawback. Its effect in reducing the cost to the state of the family allowance increase was quite substantial. The 35p increase would cost £150 million gross, but of this £67 million would be clawed back, leaving a net cost of £83 million.

—From *Poverty and Equality in Britain*.



POVERTY AND EQUALITY IN BRITAIN

A Study of Social Security and Taxation

J. C. Kincaid

A critique of the capitalist-administered Welfare State

A Pelican Original 60p.





YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!

CHRIS HARMAN on the importance of socialist ideas

REVOLUTIONARY socialists are often accused of being opposed to democracy. This is because we do not believe socialism can come through the parliamentary system.

But the present system is hardly democratic at all in matters that most concern people. They are compelled to spend most of their waking lives in factories, offices or army barracks where they have to obey orders without question. They can be thrown out of their jobs and have their livelihoods taken away, merely because the seven per cent of the population who own 84 per cent of the wealth consider profits are too low.

Voting and 'parliamentary democracy' plays no part in any of this.

'Democracy', as we know it, amounts to putting a cross on a piece of paper once every five years. That done, there is no guarantee that the policies the majority voted for will be put into action.

In 1964 and 1966 a majority voted Labour, because they were promised improved welfare benefits, less unemployment and so on. What they got were cuts in welfare benefits, wage freeze and higher unemployment. In 1970 many people were fooled into voting Tory by their talk of cutting prices 'at a stroke' and denunciations of any statutory wage freeze. What they got was massive price rises and a legal freeze on wages.

The struggle for socialism is in fact a struggle for people to have real, meaningful democratic control over every aspect of their lives.

This cannot be brought about merely by putting a cross on a ballot paper once every five years. There has to be a struggle in every part of society, challenging a system under which a few people give orders and the rest obey them.

Collapsed

The sort of struggles that are necessary took place in Hungary in 1956 and France in 1968. In both cases the workers showed they were the most powerful force in society, not by voting in elections, but by taking direct action—going on strike, occupying the factories, erecting barricades in the streets.

When hundreds of thousands of Hungarian workers took such action in 1956, a seemingly all-powerful police state collapsed overnight. Only the intervention of half a million Russian soldiers and the shooting of 20,000 workers was able to restore its power.

In France in 1968, the general strike of 10 million workers made de Gaulle's government virtually powerless for nearly a month. The workers won more as a result of those four weeks than they had in 10 years of parliamentary haggling.

But in situations like these, organisation is needed as well as strength. Large numbers of workers

'X' MARKS THE SHAM

who have no previous experience of even the most elementary trade unionism become involved in the struggle. If they do not feel part of a united movement, with leaders they have helped to choose, the old authorities can easily divide them one against another and slowly reassert the power of the old system—which in fact eventually happened in 1968.

The Hungarian workers of 1956 began to develop the sort of organisation that was needed. Workers in the different factories elected delegates to councils which took control of the struggle.

These delegates, who lived and worked alongside the workers who had elected them, could be replaced at any time. Of necessity they had to do what their fellow workers wanted.

In this way, every worker could feel directly involved in the organisation and direction of the struggle.

Organisation

When the workers' councils from the different factories began to meet together, a single directing body for the whole working class was formed. The workers themselves decided which factories would work and which would stay on strike, what transport services would operate, how food would be distributed. In short, the workers, through workers' councils,

began to take over the whole running of society.

The form of organisation they had created was far better for ensuring working-class control than any parliamentary majority could ever be. Parliament is a debating chamber where those who claim to represent the workers argue with representatives of the ruling class. It is as useless for organising a mass struggle of workers as a joint negotiating committee with the employers is useless for running a strike.

By contrast, the workers' council brings together representatives of all those involved in struggle and enables them to hammer out a common policy.

Parliamentary representatives are cut off from the people who elect them, have higher living standards, and cannot be replaced for five years. Delegates to a workers' council have no privileges and can be replaced at any time.

Involved

Parliament is concerned only with certain limited areas of our lives and has nothing to do with many of the questions of most concern to workers. A workers' council leads a struggle which involves the whole of society, challenging the power of the boss in the factory, the officer in the army barracks, the police on the street. It provides the basis for a new, higher form of democracy, in which every worker is involved in making the decisions that affect the most vital aspects of his life.

Revolutionary socialists are not opposed to democracy. What we are opposed to is a hollow, sham democracy, in which workers are merely expected to put a cross against the name of one or other politicians every five years and then leave them to do whatever they like.

What we want is a real, workers' democracy, in which the mass of the people are involved, day in and day out, in controlling the conditions of their work and their lives.

BOOKS

REVIEW

Terrorism that's born of despair

MY PEOPLE SHALL LIVE, by Leila Khaled, Hodder and Stoughton, £2.50, and GREEN MARCH, BLACK SEPTEMBER, by John Cooley, Frank Cass, £3.50.

MENTION Leila Khaled's name to most marxists and they start frothing at the mouth. The achievement of this absorbing biography, assisted into print and introduced by George Hajjar, is that it will force English revolutionaries to face up to and understand the political desperation which took their Palestinian counterparts away from the refugee camps and small holdings of their people into the cabins of El Al airliners with hand grenades.

Leila Khaled is passionate, scornful, impatient and extremely determined. She scoffs at Western student revolutionaries, sneers at the 'old fashioned', 'decadent' leaders of the Arab states, and snarls at 'the vampire Nixon'.

Her spirit comes from the day in November 1947 when she was expelled as a small child from that most beautiful of towns Haifa. Her defiance comes from efforts to be taken seriously politically as a woman in an utterly male-dominated society where even the revolutionary organisations assigned her to baby work.

Her impatience was tempered in the nationalist movement which despite its ritual denunciations of Nasser remained tied to nothing more than an unstable and ineffective variant of his policies.

The picture she gives of Al Fatah, the main Palestinian guerrilla organisation, is devastating. Although the organisation had immense prestige, it found no way of organising between pure propaganda on one hand and pure conspiracy on the other. Leila's only work for it, besides listening to lectures, was the public collection of money.

When, as a young girl, she was forced to attend a meeting in pyjamas to outwit her mother, the branch halted all business to condemn her for lewd display.

Her longing for action is only satisfied in the commando wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine who organised the skyjack. In characteristic mixture of pride and foolery, she boards the aircraft clutching Richard Rojas' book My Friend Che and a floppy hat, drops her gun when seizing control and after instructing all seat belts fastened reads over the intercom a solemn manifesto on the liberation of Palestine.

Even when the plane is safely landed, the PFLO photographer parachuted in to record its destruction is so excited he forgets to take the cap off his camera.

But the later failed hijacks and the increasingly desperate and futile stunts of Black September tell their own dark story. The hijackers were obliged to raise the stakes continually in a game where the authorities held all the trumps. The worldwide publicity soon curdled as

audacity turned into isolation. Soon after the first hijack Leila wrote: 'We act heroically in a cowardly world to prove that the enemy is not invincible. We act "violently" in a violent world in order to blow the wax out of the ears of the dear Western liberals and remove the straws that block their vision. We act as revolutionaries to inspire the masses and to trigger off the revolutionary upheaval in an era of counter-revolution.'

The sentiment is magnificent, the result a disaster. Now the Israelis have never been stronger or further to the right. Hussein gloats over the remnants of the guerrilla armies and the Palestinian people are no nearer taking charge of their own liberation.

For all the power of its appeal, the terrorists' perspective offers nothing but a violent martyrdom.

Green March, Black September is a different kind of book, sober, informed and illuminating.

Cooley is an award-winning Christian Science Monitor reporter who has grown fascinated by Palestine. He provides reliable potted history, direct reporting on the growth of the guerrilla movement which reached its pitch in the Jordan Soviet of September 1970, and a complete account of the Israeli response.

He is especially interesting on the diplomatic double-dealings of the Soviet Union and his evidence on the official leaders of the Arab cause make it doubly clear why the road to Tel Aviv lies through Amman and Beirut. There is useful, if dated, material on Hawatmeh's Democratic Front, the most promising of the Palestinian groups. The excellent bibliography includes Arabic sources.

Like most reporters, John Cooley has his own absurd solution to the world's problems. Unlike most reporters he writes well.

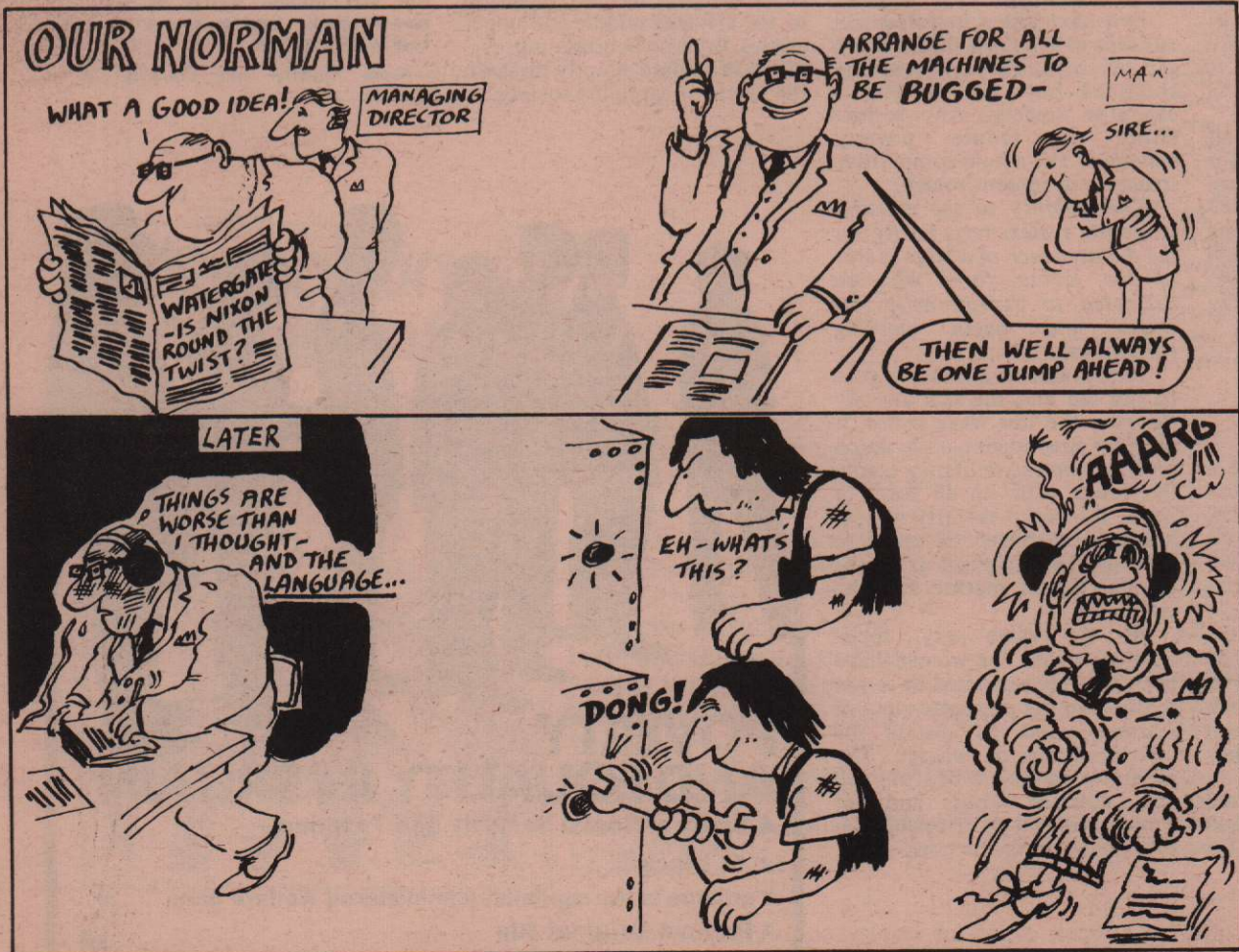
There is a remarkable chapter of the part of the Fedayeen, the guerrilla poets. One, Mahmoud Darwish, wrote:

Our poems
Have no colour
Taste or sound
If they bear no lanterns
From house to house.

DAVID WIDGERY



Palestinian children in the ruins of a refugee camp.



LENNON, NOT LENIN

LENNON REMEMBERS, The Rolling Stone interview by Jann Wenner, Penguin, 40p.

THE contradiction that is John Lennon comes over in this rambling, often incoherent, painful and absorbing interviews he had with Jann Wenner, editor of Rolling Stone.

Lennon, the working class hero, the most famous of the Beatles, who was asked to cure cripples, won the MBE, took up hallucinatory drugs and meditated with a randy Indian guru, woke up one day and decided he'd had enough of this nightmare.

He is now clearly angry about his own servility when mayor's daughters and middle-class smarties used to laugh at his working-class ways at the great Beatle junkets. He would really prefer being a fisherman than an artist, and fondly sees himself at 64 living in Ireland with his wife Yoko 'looking at our scrapbook of madness.'

But hasn't Lennon replaced one madness for another? He's moved from establishment culture to those ludicrous 'bed for peace' campaigns, into a swish New York apartment, mixes with the bohemian Greenwich Village group, and still he's lonely for contact.

Lennon's got too much independence of mind to be accused of 'selling out' but unless he ends his artistic alienation and stops flirting with revolution from

without he could end up totally disenchanted.

That would be criminal because Lennon, for all his egomania, neurosis and naivety, remains a delight among the sycophants of the pop world. He genuinely feels and has a sardonic wit that gives his music that extra edge. Anyway, someone who writes Strawberry Fields Forever and A Day in the Life can't be all bad.

In these interviews he reveals to a waiting world how he realised he was a genius at 10 and describes life on the Beatle road-shows when drugs and women were there for the taking. Business people, journalists and hangers-on all joined this train of pleasure and nobody wanted to get off. Dutch police even escorted Lennon to brothels to avoid publicity.

Lennon tells how the dream had to end, how he found fulfilment in one woman and the need to write the rock anthem Revolution for the workers. The book is also about the Beatles' split-up, the sordid business deals, the backstabbing, hostility over McCartney, regard for timid Ringo and business hustler Allen Klein.

Lennon's now 32 and his disdain for capitalism is as biting and undisciplined as ever. But for all the conflicts in lifestyle, working-class kids will always feel that he'll be writing for them.

NEIL HAMILTON

Bird on the wing

CHARLIE PARKER, black jazz musician, is one of the great tragic geniuses of our time. Almost singlehanded, he wrenched his people's music from the clutches of white commercialism, transforming it into a vibrant expression of black anger and determination.

But the pressures and frustrations of being a lone black revolutionary in a racist society brought a terrible turbulence to his personal life that was to kill him when his views, musical and political, were still those of a small minority.

Charlie Parker was born of poor working-class parents in Kansas City in 1920. Kansas City was a peculiar oasis, both economically and musically. It managed to avoid the worst excesses of the Depression and sustained a string of clubs devoted to jazz.

And it was a distinctive jazz, almost unknown to the outside world until the great Count Basie band burst its boundaries. Its contribution to jazz was as rich and inventive as the earlier centres of New Orleans and Chicago. And it kept *real* jazz alive when it seemed threatened with extinction by the commercial world's attempts to pretty it, parody it and degut it. Kansas City, in short, saved jazz from Paul Whiteman and Benny Goodman.

From an early age Charlie was determined to be a musician. To the 13-year old clutching his first saxophone, second-hand, battered, some of the keys held together with rubber bands, jazz music offered an exciting route out of the ghetto of poverty.

Rhythms

He was impatient, cutting music classes, preferring to sit backstage at all-night jam sessions, studying at first hand the style of giants like Lester Young.

His first public appearance was a disaster. He had no knowledge of music theory and his inability to translate the surging rhythms in his head through his saxophone caused him to be hooted and jeered from the stage.

He set out to teach himself music. Music had 12 keys: right, he would learn them all. He did not know that most jazz musicians got by successfully by just playing in four basic keys. He learnt all the scales, committing to memory a vast storehouse of harmonic ideas that was to help revolutionise jazz within a few years.

Charlie—nicknamed Yardbird or just Bird because of his fondness for fried chicken—got his union card and jobs with a few unimportant bands in Kansas City. Although he was still fumbling his way towards a coherent style, other jazz musicians who heard him were struck by his undoubted talent and daring search for new sounds and harmonies.

WE ARE ALL ANGRY

'THE Angry Brigade' got the BBC documentary treatment last week. Fifty minutes of film, reconstructions, interviews with members of the defence committee, with Roy Habershon of Barnet police force, with Ernest Bond of the police bomb squad.

The film argued that the police, at the beginning of the investigation, had little idea of what they were dealing with and were distant from the 'life style' of those they were pursuing. The communes they visited were 'far from the standards' of hygiene of the West German establishments the film featured.

But, the film concluded: 'They now understand the politics behind the violence and they'll need to.'



The two faces of Charlie Parker

RIGHT: The tired, fat, disenchanted Parker of five years later, only 32 but looking 10 or 15 years older.

LEFT: Charlie Parker in flight: 1947, after he had come off heroin, and bounced back into jazz fresh with ideas and vitality.



But Bird learnt other things besides harmony. Drugs were part of the jazz scene and it was inevitable that the raw and impressionable teenager should ape his elders, perhaps hoping that marijuana, then heroin and cocaine would stoke the fires of his talent.

Ross Russell's magnificent biography of Bird*—strangely, the first major study of him and by a white man—records in detail his maturing in the clubs and dance halls of Kansas City, his dazzling musical innovations that turned the teenager into a man old before his time, so restless and hooked on hard drugs that his moods and temperaments lost him job after job.

It was in 1941, after a stay with the Jay McShann band, whose recordings had brought Bird to the attention of a wider audience, that he arrived in New York to begin the musical revolution known as Bebop.

Contempt

Home of the revolution was a shabby club called Minton's Playhouse. To it came a small dedicated group of black musicians—Kenny Clarke, Charlie Christian, Thelonius Monk, Dizzy Gillespie—bristling with new ideas. Allied to their musical innovations was a determination to use jazz as an expression of their contempt for racialist society.

With Bebop, jazz rediscovered its roots. Once again it was a black music, but instead of speaking of the

**BIRD LIVES!* by Ross Russell, Quartet, £1.75.

humiliation of the southern slaves it spoke of the frustration and bitterness of the northern ghetto.

It was a hard, restless music, casting aside all the restrictions placed upon early jazz. Bird, with his enormous fund of harmonic ideas, quickly became the leader of the Bebop revolution, which got its name from the way the new school of musicians would stress the second and last beats in the bar in sharp distinction to the old school's *One-two-three-four*.



A candid photo of the 'Yardbird'

The new jazz caused uproar. For the younger generation, especially young blacks, it was *their* music, a voice crying out against the oppression and brutality of American society. Crowds poured into the new clubs and halls that sprang up to accommodate the Bebop groups.

But to older America, to white America, to conservative jazz critics, Bebop was a nightmare. It dared to be different. It challenged the status quo. It sparked of wild enthusiasm from an untamed young generation in the black ghettos.

Abuse rolled out from the respected jazz journals like *Downbeat*. A tough, abrasive man like Dizzy Gillespie could shrug aside the ignorant rubbish with a cynical gag. It had a more profound effect on Bird. Bebop, he once said, was 'searching for the pretty notes', yet his efforts were reviled. He was told that his music was ugly, shapeless, anarchic, tuneless.

The assault on Bird's musical integrity fused with his growing awareness of the reality of American society. He, and his people, knew long before Watergate that America was profoundly undemocratic and brutal, with the white man's boot firmly on the black man's neck.

The tragedy of Charlie Parker was that his burning desire for change, musically, economically and

politically, was ahead of its time. There was no mass movement to use his enormous talents and energies.

So he turned in on himself, seeking comfort in drugs and drink, wrecking his health. While other Bebop stars like Gillespie went on to fame and wealth, Bird drifted into obscurity, often turning up for gigs looking like a tramp, his last dollars spent on heroin. But to those prepared to listen, he would talk.

Pianist Hampton Hawes said of him: 'Bird was like a god... He talked to us about things I wasn't read until later years in books by Malcolm X and Cleaver. I heard all that in his music...'

'Bird felt deeply about the black-white split. He was the first jazz musician I met who understood what was happening to his people. He couldn't come up with an answer. So he stayed high. His only outlet was his music.'

Sometimes that music could be frightening. Russell set up his own recording company, Dial, to produce some of Bird's work. He released one session when Bird was too sick to hold his sax and Bird never forgave him for this insult.

Scream

I have one record from that session, 'Loverman'. Bird, fumbling, playing like a novice, is quite terrifying. It is a long, musical scream, a call for help that knows it will get no answer.

On other occasions, all the great glory is still there. Dried out and healthy after a long stay in a sanatorium, Bird would once again play music that nobody else could match.

But Bird couldn't shake off his dependence on drugs and alcohol. Gradually his sickness returned and with it the calamitous public scenes, quarrelling with musical partners, storming from the stage, throwing his saxophone from a hotel window. He knew he was ill and on New Year's Day 1955 he told a friend he had not expected to see the year in. He quoted a stanza from the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam:

*Come, fill the cup, and in the fire of Spring,
Your Winter garment of Repentance fling;
The Bird of Time has but a little way
To flutter—and the Bird is on the Wing.*



He died three months later. The doctor put his age down as late fifties or early sixties. He was 35.

As soon as news of his death leaked out, the slogan 'Bird Lives' began to appear, chalked on the walls of black areas of New York. His music and his message lived on, buried for a while by the tepid reformism that came after the first wave of the Bebop revolution, personified by the discreet tinklings of the Modern Jazz Quartet, clad in pin-striped trousers and cutaway coats.

But Bird was to fly again, through the music of John Coltrane and the 'New Wave' musicians of the 1960s, allied this time to a conscious mass movement fighting against a corrupt and tottering racialist society, a society that had snubbed and derided Bird and inwardly consumed him, but not his cause.

Read this book, the best *political* book I have read this year. Above all, listen to Bird (there are many albums now available) and understand why one sympathetic critic said on his death:

'If Bird hadn't been black, he wouldn't have suffered the way he did. But if he hadn't been black, he wouldn't have played the way he did.'

Roger Protz

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'.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

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 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 man'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
Glasgow
Dumfries
Edinburgh
Fife
Glasgow N
Glasgow S
Greenock
Perth
Stirling

NORTH EAST

Belfast
Dumfries
Glasgow
Newcastle upon Tyne
South Shields
Sunderland
Teesside

NORTH

Barnsley
Bradford
Doncaster
Grimby
Halifax
Huddersfield
Leeds
Preston
Sheffield
York

EAST

Basildon
Cambridge
Chelmsford
Colchester
Fakenham
Harlow
Ipswich
Leiston
Lowestoft
Norwich
Peterborough

SOUTH

Brighton
Canterbury
Crawley
Deal
Guildford
Maidstone
Portsmouth
Southampton

NORTH WEST

Barrow
Blackburn
Bolton
Burnley
Crewe
Kirkby
Lancaster
Manchester
Merseyside
Middleton
Oldham
Preston
Rochdale
Salford
St Helens
Stockport
Sunderland
Wigan
Worthing

WALES and SOUTH WEST

Aberystwyth
Bath
Bristol
Cardiff
Exeter
Gloucester
Llanelli
Mid-Devon
North Devon
Plymouth
Seamans
Swansea Valley

GREATER LONDON and HOME COUNTRIES

Barnet
Barnet
Camden
Chertsey
Croydon
Ealing
Enfield
Fleet Street
Fulham and Hammersmith
Hackney
Harrow
Hemel Hempstead
High Wycombe
Hillingdon
Holborn
Hounslow
Ilford
Islington
Kilburn
Kingston
Lambeth
Lewisham
Mid-Herts
North Herts
Newham
Paddington
Reading
Slough
Tottenham
Tower Hamlets
Walthamstow
Wandsworth
Watford
Wood Green
Woolwich

MIDLANDS

Birmingham NE
Birmingham S
Coventry
Derby
Dudley
Leamington and Warwick
Leicester
Loughborough
Luton
Mid-Derbyshire
Milton Keynes
Northampton
Nottingham
Oxford
Rugby
Warley
Wolverhampton
Worcester

THE UNIONS

Protest at TUC rents slide

HACKNEY Trades Council is trying to rally all other trades councils in London to protest against the TUC general council's unilateral change of line on the Tory Housing Finance Act.

The general council has departed from the terms of last year's Congress decision of total opposition to the so-called Fair Rent Act and in a circular issued at the end of June calls on trades councils to seek positions on the Rent Scrutiny Boards set up under the Act. This, the general council argues, will 'moderate' the savage rent rises.

Hackney Trades Council has called on TUC general

secretary Vic Feather to withdraw his circular to trades councils explaining the general council's stance. This it describes as 'a form of open collaboration with the Tories in a most vicious piece of anti-working class legislation.'

According to Feather's thinking concerning trade unionists 'helping to moderate' the rate of rent increases by going on to the scrutiny committees, the TUC should also nominate representatives to sit by Sir John Donaldson's side at the Industrial Relations Court. This presumably would 'moderate' the size of the fines he imposes on trade unions and their members.



From The Sunday Times, 29 March 1970. Now, three years later, Ebbw Vale is for the chop

STEELMEN ARE CONNED ON TO DUSTHEAP

NOW that the British Steel Corporation has succeeded in closing down production at its Newport Tubes plant, it is worth looking at the methods used by the BSC to deceive the men into accepting a place on the scrapheap.

The ace card was to offer jobs at the Llanwern works to 180 men—fewer than a quarter of the Newport Tubes workforce. In addition, half-promises about new factories moving into the area were made, redundancy and retention money was used as a carrot—and resistance collapsed.

When shop stewards visited Llanwern they made an interesting discovery. During the summer about 200 students and other casual workers are normally taken on to cover the holiday and shut-down period. This year none are expected to be taken on. Their places have been taken by redundant Newport men being led like lambs to the slaughter.

BSC will probably have the tact to extend temporary employment to the Newport men for a few months. But it is a pound to a penny that the jobs will be axed before long.

The Newport Tubes fight for jobs was severely handicapped from the start as the struggle was purely sectional and based on an attempt to prove to the BSC that the plant was or could be profitable.

SAVED

Other steelworks seem to be set on re-running the tragedy. Ebbw Vale, Newport, Hartlepool, Consett and East Moors have all come up with convincing and well-documented arguments that they are 'special cases' which should be saved because of individual profitability, plans to modernise or the fact that they produce unique products.

East Moors is a typical example. Peter Davies, chairman of the works committee, has outlined in detail all the influential people who have been approached, lobbied about the plant's profitability, informed of the production records broken and told that BSC has got its sums wrong.

The only thing wrong with this argument is that BSC is not interested in the profitability of individual plants. It is concerned to compete with the other international steel giants. To do this BSC wants to concentrate production into an ever-decreasing number of giant, so-called heritage units producing huge quantities but with workforces slashed and whittled away to nothing.

It is quite useless to mount the 'special case' argument against this.

It helps to divide plant from plant and in no way cements links with those few plants where closure is not threatened and which may even be expanded—but which are threatened by another prong of the productivity offensive.

The situation in the industry has grown more, not less serious in recent months.

The prediction by Steelworker, the rank and file newspaper, that the BSC workforce was to be chopped to 100,000, not the 180,000 'promised' by Peter Walker, is already receiving confirmation. A careful study of the latest statistics issued by the BSC and circulated by the Electricians Union shows that the 30,000 redundancies announced at the end of last year have now 'grown' to 36,000.

STRATEGY

The battles of the past few months have shown that the Tory-employer offensive cannot be resisted piecemeal coupled with lobbies of parliament or BSC headquarters. A real fighting unity is needed, based on opposition to all productivity deals and in support of the right to work.

Such a strategy means the whole workforce must be involved, with regular mass meetings and an end to decision-making behind closed doors.

That there are now severe steel shortages as a result of the closures and redundancies already pushed through, and fantastic increases in productivity at other plants not

threatened, exposes the insanity and waste not only of BSC's strategy. But in the system of which BSC is part, human considerations mean nothing. The pursuit of profit is all.

The National Action Committee recently formed by steelworkers is concerned to build an industry-wide strategy uniting all steelworkers. If it can win steelworks away from the 'special case' arguments and the constitutional protest, and can develop a united struggle for the right to work, then the Tory-BSC plans to murder whole communities—with the consent of union officialdom—can be frustrated yet.

The secretary of the National Action Committee is K Monti, 25 Chester Close, Shotton, Deeside, Flint.

Socialist Worker has drawn heavily from the latest issue of the rank and file paper Steelworker for this article. Steelworker is available from 47 West Lane, Middlesbrough, Teesside.

To front of the class

THE editorial offices of The Teacher, the publication of the National Union of Teachers, has suddenly and unexpectedly moved office. The journalists are now housed in Hamilton House, NUT headquarters itself.

It is thought that this is entirely unconnected with newly-elected NUT president Max Morris's desires to increase his control over censorship of the paper.

Engineers, Don't forget equal pay

LETTERS

ROGER ROSEWELL'S otherwise excellent article on the engineering pay claim (14 July) omitted a few vital points. As he rightly states, no new wage increase can be paid within 12 months of a previous one under Phase Two—but with one exception. He forgot to say that women workers are legally entitled to an extra payment of up to one third of the differential between men's and women's rates.

It is an important point to consider. The current claim for a £35 guaranteed wage for skilled workers (less for other grades) is unlikely to mobilise the best organised, most militant sections of engineering workers who already earn above this figure. The present claim, if it is to be fought at national level at all, will essentially be a fight for the 35-hour week.

It is a difficult demand to mobilise around—and has particularly little relevance for women workers who do little overtime and often work a short week anyway.

As Roger points out, this may mean that local struggles will again be seen as the only way to fight for real money increases in engineering. Given the demoralising experience of Manchester last year and the obvious fact that one factory stands less chance of smashing through the wage freeze than 2.5 million engineering workers, the significance of the equal pay increase becomes obvious.

Union representatives, who may be hesitant to take on the government, will be looking to get every increase allowed by law to get their members any wage increase at all. The extra equal pay increase will necessarily be used.

It is important that socialists in engineering should not overlook or ignore the equal pay issue—particularly at a time when the Engineering Employers Federation is busy circulating details of how employers can avoid paying equal pay and, the office workers union, APEX, the only union at all prepared to fight on the issue, does so by encouraging job evaluation studies.

We must include the demand for equal pay in our perspectives. Roger Rosewell suggests that a demand for an across-the-board increase would unite engineering workers in a national fight for a wage increase.

Correct. But what he should have said was that the demand must be for more money across the board—and even more for women workers!—ANNA PACZUSKA, Wigan.

THE article by Roger Rosewell on the lessons from the last engineering pay claim and the problems of generalising the next one was absolutely correct and published in

March with us against internment


THE next few weeks have two important dates in the continuing Irish struggle. Tuesday 31 July is the anniversary of Operation Motorman, when the British tanks crushed the no-go areas in Belfast and Derry. A year later the schools and sports grounds remain occupied.

Thursday 9 August marks the beginning of the third year of internment. Although the name has been changed to 'detention' the numbers involved are reaching pre-direct rule levels.

Internment might appear to be no longer an issue, judging by the press. The internees are the forgotten men. The only time Long Kesh (the Maze) is mentioned is when another tunnel is discovered—what other exercise is available as yet another 'riot' is quelled. Even the recent death by suicide of an internee was hardly mentioned.

The second anniversary of internment must not be allowed to pass without the maximum protest by socialists, republicans and trade unionists throughout Britain and Ireland.

We in the Coventry Seven Prisoners Defence Committee have been active in attempting to secure the unconditional release of our own political prisoners here in Coventry. Indeed



Socialist Worker wants to hear from you. What you like about the paper—and what you don't like. Your thoughts and comments on problems facing working people. Your experiences at work.

But please be brief. We receive so many letters now that we cannot publish them all. We could publish many more if writers restricted themselves to 250 words at the most.

Letters must arrive first post Monday. Handwritten letters must be legible and with names in capitals please to avoid confusion.

plenty of time to make a serious attempt at giving a lead to rank and file engineering workers.

The one lesson which must be hammered home is that wherever the issue is raised it must be done on a Confederation basis. This will tend to unite workers of different unions, unlike the many cases of majority unions at various plants going it alone and thus removing any feelings of solidarity that may have existed.

Mass meetings of all shop stewards in the areas under Confederation agreements must be fought for and the leadership of the claim kept firmly within that body. No plant-by-plant bargaining. All settlements must be vetted by the Confederation.

Many strongly organised shops will still have the illusion that they can do it on their own. This must be exposed as the policy of the suicidal.

this struggle is only just beginning—the trial is not until October at the earliest.

But we do not distinguish between political prisoners in Long Kesh, in the Curragh or in Winson Green. We call for the unconditional release of all Irish political prisoners, the ending of internment and an amnesty for all those involved in the struggle as an essential part of any acceptable settlement to the Irish situation.

To further these ends, we have called a march and rally in Coventry on Sunday 12 August. We will assemble at Hearsall Common, next to All Souls Church, Earlsdon, Coventry, at 2.30pm before marching to the Precinct in Coventry for a rally. All organisations that actively support the march and rally are invited to send a speaker.

We urge all socialists, republicans and trade unionists throughout the Midlands to participate. We must combat the increased repression in Britain, the use of conspiracy laws, and show those struggling in Ireland for self-determination that we have not forgotten them.

For further details please contact the Defence Committee.—WILLIAM THOMPSON, Coventry Prisoners Defence Committee, c/o 27 Paynes Lane, Hillfields, Coventry.

In the long term the strongest of shops can be undermined if they isolate themselves and do not exert their strength on a collective basis. Other workers in weaker shops become demoralised and lose not only their will to win but their desire to fight.

In this situation the Engineering Employers Federation can concentrate all its resources on defeating the militant shops. The example of Manchester highlights this tactic. Manchester or any other area must not be left isolated again and neither should any factory be allowed to opt out of a general call to fight the issue. To succeed, all areas should be organised to gain from the example given by Manchester. If this happened the employers could not possibly win.—MARK BLISS, engineering worker (CSEU), Leeds.

'BURTON craned his neck round as his wife was propelled towards him. If Liz had planned to hesitate she had no chance. A beefy chauffeur pushed her into the car, and slammed the door. Burton's lips moved and then suddenly he grabbed her and kissed her full on the lips. Wet-eyed, Liz threw her arms round her husband ...

'Their 13-day separation was over. Altogether AHHHH.

From some women's magazine? No—the front page of the Daily Express, 21 July. And if that does not keep your mind off high prices, low wages and fat profits, nothing will.—JACK D MARTIN, Huddersfield.

ATTI: A reply

AS THE WRITER of the ATTI Conference report I cannot allow Les Brook to spread his own confusions to other readers (Letters, 14 July). In reporting a two-day conference in 300 words one has to be selective both in material and emphasis. My emphasis on the role of the executive and the emergence of an effective rank and file organisation was, in my opinion and that of many militant delegates, absolutely correct.

Les agrees that the executive, which includes Communist Party members, played a reactionary role, and then accuses me of innuendo against the Party. The fact is, the Party has no policy except to support the 'left' union leaders—which renders the Party impotent in the face of rank and file pressure, including that from its own militant members.

Ours is not the only union where Party militants on the floor vote differently from members on the platform.

Of course the motion to blacklist Kent was a progressive one, supported by the executive and carried with no votes against. This in itself should lead us to doubt the effectiveness of such a motion unless backed up strongly at local level, especially as Les admits himself 'disappointed with their attitude' when later the executive displayed much less enthusiasm at proposals for rank and file action on the same issue.

It is true that conference rejected the flat rate claim in spite of Les' fine speech, but to place responsibility for this squarely on the leadership seems to me in no way inaccurate of misleading.—BRIAN ROSE, Middleton, Manchester.

ENTER THE SOCIALIST SCARE

THE press launched its political scare season this week as the preliminary agenda for the Labour Party Conference was published.

Reaction from the right to the call from 65 constituency parties for overwhelming public ownership was typical. The Daily Telegraph on Monday, under a headline 'Old-Time Socialism', produced an old-time leader:

'To judge from its provisional conference agenda, the Labour Party is continuing to move away from any serious encounter with the problems that actually face this country. Once again we have the same old motions calling for more state ownership, "democratic control" of industry, more taxation of "the rich" and the end of freedom in education.'

One of the problems that actually faces this country is the Daily Telegraph, for the leader continued:

'Yet Labour seems to show a pronounced tendency to bury itself in the past, in the time when Britain really was a class-ridden society, with great wealth and great poverty co-existing side by side, when socialism really could be made to seem like a moral crusade.'

'This is bad for the Labour Party and bad for Britain, since it impoverishes the democratic political debate.'

What the Telegraph really means is that socialism might impoverish a few of its rich readers.

It is easy to laugh at this sort of poison and say that the only people to read it are of Telegraph type anyway. But the Telegraph is much respected by other Fleet Street editors and because it usually gets in first with political comment, sets the level of debate.

The papers of the so-called left, in other words those which reluctantly brought themselves to recommend people to vote Labour at the last general election, tend to mull over their golden words on important issues just in case they let their emotions run away with them and they mistakenly come out with something so extreme that, on the one hand, advertisers are frightened off, and on the other, their employees tell them to put their money where their mouth is.

COLLAPSE

The Daily Mirror, for example, gave the agenda a mere six inches of space as if it were tired of the whole thing. And the Sun mentioned it not at all.

Socialists received even less comfort from this week's Sunday papers. Reading the mass circulation pop papers, a visitor to Britain would have believed that the elderly Lord Hailsham was on the right track when he announced the economy was collapsing because of sex.

Terry Lancaster, for whom Transport House can do no wrong, was there all right in the Sunday People, agreeing that the 'country is in a bigger mess than ever.'

But on another page, in the 'Your Money' column, Charles Lloyd was dishing out advice to the paper's 4,428,598 working readers on how to invest their savings. And Mr Lloyd, who earns about £5000 a year plus expenses, came up with this incredible sentence: 'Take a sum like £10,000—which many people

Another important aspect of the forecast of Bowater is the way it highlights the need for the interest company to buy up UK profit. Only £4.7 millions is expected to be available out of a pre-tax profit of £12.2 millions and while this includes an unknown amount for minority interests, the ruling UK tax rate is 40 per cent. So expect an important UK acquisition before the end of this year. No one is going to call it a profit as yet, but it will be a profit in fact. But would it be to the benefit of the workers? Finally, the document gives the details of the proposed C/Chairman's salary. It is £100,000 a year, plus expenses. This is spread across several items which are accounted for differently in the two cases.

have saved anyway.' Meanwhile, the News of the World was paying Enoch Powell a nice fat fee for trying to improve his murky image by supporting the housewife in the prices struggle.

Its only other political comment was an attack on Willie Hamilton for being honest about 'plain and pricey' Princess Anne.

Sadly, it was left to the Sunday Express and Sunday Telegraph to reveal the most disgusting and explosive story of the week—the enormous profits announced by the big banks. And they both, of course, presented the story more in sadness than in the anger the rest of us feel. With old-time capitalism like that, we need more of the old-time socialism the Telegraph despises so much.

PROFIT

On the domestic side of Fleet Street, poor Rupert Murdoch is in trouble again. Last Saturday, his journalistic staff held up production to have a chapel meeting to discuss ways and means of persuading the management that they really ought to talk about rises in the form of merit money, which is allowed under Phase Two.

The journalists who helped Murdoch knock up more than £9 million profit last year ought to realise that he has been digging deep into his pocket recently.

Only the other week he was forced to start employing a full-time butler to staff his penthouse suite on top of the News of the World building so that executives can get their lunchtime drinks at the right temperature. And last week he was generous enough to offer four Sun executives, who had been grousing about the meagreness of their large salaries, a company car each up to the value of £1800.

None of these executives drives to work. All are taken home by office car at night, except one, who frequently finds it convenient to book in overnight at the Savoy hotel.

With expenses like this to fork out, Murdoch can't possibly afford to pay his editorial staff merit money for pushing the circulation up above the three million mark, let alone pay the printers the 8 per cent increase due to them. Or can he?

Leonard Hill

On Black Nationalism and Self-Determination 45p
Fascism What it is and how to fight it 25p
On the Trade Unions 40p
Plus 3p post on each or 6p on the three.
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LEON TROTSKY

IS branch backs locked out newsmen

NOTTINGHAM:—50 people attended a meeting last week called by Nottingham International Socialists in support of 300 locked-out printers and journalists at the local newspapers, the Guardian-Journal and Evening Post. The workers are now publishing their own paper, The Press, in competition with the blackleg Post.

Four speakers from the joint liaison committee representing the journalists' and printers' unions, spoke at the IS meeting on the background to the lockout and the production of The Press.

Several speakers from the floor stressed that while the production of The Press was excellent, the emphasis must be on how to win the dispute. Members of the engineering and builders' unions said the only way to hit the employers was to stop materials going in and the papers coming out—and that meant mass picketing.

Picketing at the moment is sparse and unless the Post is shut completely there is a danger of the workers becoming demoralised.

Geoff Johnson, an IS engineering union member, said that to get the AUEW members out who were still working at the Post, a picket should

be placed on the local union offices. It was the officials' responsibility to see that their members did not scab.

John Kennedy, London IS printworker in SOGAT, was the invited speaker at the meeting. He congratulated the Nottingham workers but also stressed the need for effective rank and file organisation to win the dispute.

Copies of the rank and file paper Printworker were sold at the meeting.



Speakers at the conference (from left): Tony Cliff, Mike Smith, district secretary, Glyn Carver and Gerry Jones

AGAINST THE ARMY

BEVERLEY, East Yorkshire:—The market square of this small town was crawling with plain-clothes policemen when a small group of members of Clann na hEireann and the International Socialists gave out leaflets during a ceremonial retreat by the Green Howards, the Yorkshire regiment, on Tuesday last week.

The regiment was formerly in Northern Ireland, where they earned a reputation as the 'Green Cowards' among the Catholic population. Leaflets handed out gave details of low army morale, the manipulation of working-class youths by the army, and the attacks by the army on the working-class people of Ulster. They called for troops to be withdrawn.

The heavy police surveillance may have been prompted by reports of the proposed leafletting in the local paper, the Hull Daily Mail, which printed an editorial calling this 'a squalid demonstration'.

Plain-clothes police were observed looking around a car belonging to a member of IS shortly after he had parked, although those in the car had carried no banner or leaflets. Altogether police, including many uniformed men, must easily have outnumbered the Green Howards band and the leafletters combined.

Onlookers at the ceremony were probably not aware of police activity, any more than they would have realised that the soldiers in their red jackets were the same men who charged into Belfast homes.

MANCHESTER:—Members of the International Socialists packed a conference last week to discuss plans for extending activities in the area. They heard national committee member Tony Cliff stress the importance of building factory branches of the organisation in order to raise political questions such as racism on the factory floor.

Cliff said there were now fantastic opportunities for building a revolutionary party and added that it was not 'out of this world' to expect to recruit 20,000 industrial workers in the next few years.

Gerry Jones, a transport union shop steward at Chrysler's Stoke plant in

Coventry, spoke on the important role of the Ryton Action Group during the recent battle at Chrysler. He also pointed to the important role played by the rank and file paper The Carworker in the parity fight at Perkins at Peterborough.

Frank Brooks, of the new IS factory branch at Gardners engineering works, said the recent strike there would have been much more effective if the IS branch had existed before the strike instead of afterwards. Mike Smith, electricians' union convenor at Ferranti, chaired the conference and more than £50 was raised to help finance IS activities in the area.

Punjabi paper launched



TEN THOUSAND copies of Chingari (Spark), an International Socialists paper for Indian Punjabis, were printed last week and large numbers were sold on the big anti-racist demonstration in London on Sunday.

The first issue contains articles on the struggle of Asian workers against sweatshop conditions in London and the Midlands, an interview with an Asian shop steward leading a strike in Nottingham, a Know Your Rights column of advice on welfare claims, a look-back at the Mansfield Hosiery dispute in Loughborough, an analysis of the House of Lords ruling on the Immigration Act and a piece on why Chingari is being published.

Special Chingari posters are also being produced for display in the Asian communities and IS branches will be making a major effort to get Asians to take bulk orders of the paper.

The paper costs 2p a copy and orders and inquiries should be made to Shafiq Khan, Chingari, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. An Urdu edition of the paper will appear in the next few days.

FORDS INTO GEAR

DAGENHAM:—The founding meeting of the Ford branch of the International Socialists was held last Saturday. Members expressed the view that this was long overdue and an important step forward. A meeting of the branch will be held immediately after the annual holidays to elect officers and decide policy.

Lock-out sparks total shutdown

HULL:—Workers have been locked out at two factories, and one has developed into a major confrontation.

At Mysons' radiator factory virtually the whole workforce are on strike after 48 maintenance men, members of the engineering and electricians' unions, were sent home and then sacked. The dispute arose when management attempted to drop a bonus payment.

Workers blacked a new part of the factory and were then locked out. Members of the transport union and the engineering union supervisory section (TASS), which has made the strike official, have come out in protest. The fight is absolutely solid and the factory will be shut down and closed to deliveries until the 48 are reinstated.

Meanwhile at the Manufacturing Equipment Company, a subsidiary of

Fenners, 18 TASS members are in their fourth week of another lock-out. They had put in for a merit increase, were refused anything until September and so applied sanctions. They too were locked out.

This is a small works, and the TASS members are a majority of the workforce and the only organised group. Management have put up a fraudulent notice inside the grounds claiming that 'only a few draughtsmen are out' and that members of the TGWU, ETU and AUEW were working normally. There are only one TGWU, two ETU and four AUEW members in the plant!

This propaganda has not fooled many people and the TASS men, who have official backing, have successfully turned back most deliveries to the works. They are confident they can stick out until they win.

WHAT'S ON

Copy for What's On must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 5p per line, semi-display 10p per line. CASH WITH COPY. No insertions without payment. Invoices cannot be sent.

IS MEETINGS

LAMBETH IS public meeting: IS and the Trade Unions. Speaker Gerry Jones (TGWU steward, Chrysler, Coventry). Wednesday 1 August, 8pm, Lambeth Training Centre, (opposite Town Hall).

CARDIFF IS public meeting: Why the Trade Union leaders won't fight. Monday 6 August, 8pm, The Blue Anchor, St Mary Street, Cardiff.

PONTEFRAC AND KNOTTINGLEY IS public meeting: Wages and Prices—the great confidence trick. Speaker Ken Appleby (member of IS national committee). Thursday 9 August, 7.30pm, Pontefract Town Hall.

MIDDLETON IS public meeting: The Communist Party—can it build socialism? Speaker Malcolm Garfield (former member of Communist Party). Thursday 2 August, 8pm, Asheton Arms, Long Street, Middleton, Manchester. All trade unionists and socialists welcome.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD IS public meeting: Shop stewards. Speaker John Barrett. Thursday 2 August, 8pm, 105 Turners Hill, Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead.

BARNET IS public meeting: Whose law? And for whose order? Speaker John Palmer. Wednesday 1 August, 8pm, Bull and Butcher, High Road, Whetstone, Everybody welcome.

IS NALGO members meeting Saturday 28 July, 10.30am, at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Admission by IS membership card only.

BRISTOL IS public meeting THE UNACCEPTABLE FACE OF CAPITALISM. Speakers: Paul Foot and John Evans (NGA). Thursday 2 August, 8pm, Shepherds Hall, Old Market.

GLASGOW IS public meeting TRADE UNIONISTS AND THE LAW. Speaker Bob Light (London docks shop steward). Saturday 4 August, 10.30am, IS Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1.

ENFIELD IS public meeting RISING RENTS AND HOMELESSNESS—THE HOUSING CRISIS. Spkr Hugh Kerr (Harlow Tenants Association). Wednesday 1 August, 8pm, The Kings Arms (corner of Hertford Road and Green Street, buses 135, 135a, 279).

EDINBURGH IS public meeting THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENTONVILLE FIVE AND THE STRUGGLE AHEAD. Speaker Bob Light (London docks shop steward and member of The Dockworker editorial board). Saturday 4 August, 3pm, Zetland Halls, 11 Pilrig Street. All welcome.

EDINBURGH IS social and dance Friday 10 August, 8pm, Cairn Hotel, Windsor Street, Late licence to midnight. Tickets 40p single, 70p double.

OTHER MEETINGS

WORKERS FIGHT public meeting: What is Happening in Northern Ireland? A report from Belfast. Speaker Austen Morgan, Workers Fight correspondent will report from Belfast on the latest events and developments in the situation. Sunday 29 July, 8pm, Golden Lion, Kings Cross Road, London N1.

NOTICES

FLAT REQUIRED for two IS comrades in South East London from September 1973. Contact Gordon Stewart, 31 Cannon Street, Colchester, Essex.

COPIES OF HOSPITAL WORKER, issue no 2, still available—contains vital articles on bonus schemes and the NUPE Conference. Send 3p plus 3p postage (orders for 12 or more post free) to Hospital Worker, 86 Mountgrove Road, London N5.

TWO COMRADES urgently seek flat in North London area. Please ring Shirley 226 2491.

IS BOOKS has limited stocks of the following pamphlets, long since passed into the realms of mere historical interest, which SW readers may be interested to have. After this offer they will be consigned to the pulp. Unemployment, by Paul Foot; Taking London for a Ride, by rank and file busmen; How to fight the Tories, by Paul Foot; In Defence of Strikes, SW pamphlet (Manchester); The Postal Workers and the Tory Offensive, by Paul Foot. Send 2p per title plus 4p post and packing, or 12p post free for all five.

'There will be no women's liberation without revolution... There will be no revolution without women's liberation.' 2-colour poster, 25in x 18in, 15p including postage and packing, 5 or more 10p each. Payable to KILBURN SOCIALIST EDUCATION FUND. From Celia Green, Flat 6, 13 Cleve Rd, London NW6.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY March in support of Tony Canavan and Michael Farrell, on hunger strike for three weeks in Crumlin Road jail, Belfast. Sunday 29 July, 2.30pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London, for march to Whitehall.

STUDIO ASSISTANT required by SW (Litho) Printers. No experience necessary, but neat, clean working essential. Apply to Jim Nichol, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Phone 01-739 1870.

TYPIST required by SW (Litho) Printers. Interesting work. Must be accurate. Apply Jim Nichol, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Phone 01-739 1870.

LARGE YORKSHIRE ATTIC bedsit, low rent from October in exchange for being in the house most weekdays from 4pm-6pm with two small girls aged 5 and 7. Contact Carey, 6 Granville Terrace, Bingley, Yorkshire.

GAY SOCIALIST GROUP All IS members welcome. Contact Sue Bruley, 18 Dickenson Rd, London N8.

Don't leave it to chance: take out a postal subscription to SW

Kodak workers fight for union

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD:—A 10-year battle for union rights at Kodak, the photography giant, came to a head on Friday last week when 50 men walked out for a factory gate meeting, causing a two-hour shutdown.

The men, in the colour processing division, are members of the film and television union, the ACTT, which Kodak refuses to recognise.

They face not only an anti-union management, but a company 'puppet' union, the Union of Kodak Workers, which was set up with the aid of Kodak money and Kodak Industrial Relations Department advice, and is run by a former personnel manager. Said ACTT convenor Peter Ingram: 'It was designed specifically to avoid the embarrassment of TUC-affiliated unions in the company.'

The walk-out was the latest move in a productivity dispute. Kodak wants the men to operate a new machine which will raise processing capacity from 80 films to 1325 films—yet refuses to pay the men a penny more.

Kodak made £20 million profit in Britain last year. World-wide, it makes £1 million profit every day.

Kodak had already refused to pay extra for two innovations that increased productivity six-fold, and this third refusal was the last straw. The men blacked the new machine and started working strictly to their jobs as set out in the firm's job evaluation scheme.

It meant a one-third cut in productivity. Kodak retaliated by switching from two shifts to three, so stopping all overtime—on which the men depend to pay for their summer holidays.

Then, to give overtime to the six men willing to be blacklegs, they switched men off the night shift. Faced with loss of shift allowance on top of loss of overtime, the men walked out. 'Some are having to cancel their holidays,' said Peter Ingram. 'But this has just made us more determined.'

The men have now told Kodak that any discussions must go through the union, which the company is still refusing to recognise. 'They say: "If you join the UKW we can guarantee this and this, but if not . . ." They are using the UKW to blackmail us,' said Charles Bruce, ACTT branch secretary.

'Without our own union, the UKW could sign us away tomorrow. All the UKW can do is agree to company policy. It is essential we establish our right to belong to the film world in general and get the same sort of wages as other film workers,' he said.

The men are trying to get backing from ACTT members in Kodak factories at Harrow, Stevenage and Kirkby in Lancashire.

150 join picket at tools factory

SHEFFIELD:—100 Engineering Union members at Footprint Tools, in their third week of strike against the victimisation of a shop steward, were joined on a mass picket by 150 workers from nearby factories last week.

The dispute began when management suspended two workers over a piecework disagreement. The steward asked for the men to be taken back to work, but management refused. After a mass meeting during working time, the steward was sacked.

The men have been picketing the factory gates ever since, with official union backing. Local factories have supported the strikers by blacking supplies of steel for the factory and with a 5p-a-week levy of Engineering Union members.

UNION LEADERS WELCOME RAILWAY BOSS

IN AN atmosphere of fellowship, Sir Sydney Greene and the executive of the National Union of Railwaymen presented Tory transport minister John Peyton to their union conference at Exmouth on Tuesday last week.

Harold McRitchie, president of the union, bent over backwards to make Peyton welcome at the conference. Avoiding any reference to industrial militancy, McRitchie set the tone by talking about an 'upsurge of public opinion in this country that no government can afford to ignore' and even using good old-fashioned Tory language, saying that Peyton 'must say that the interest of the nation is paramount.'

Peyton's speech in turn was a public relations job designed to win the confidence of the NUR Executive in preparation for future Tory rail cuts. He thanked them for 'the patience and restraint that your membership showed during the talks with British Rail,' noting that in the past 'a remarkably peaceful rundown of manpower . . . had been achieved in co-operation between your union and the board.'

He defended the private property development around main line stations in big cities as 'in the long-term benefit for the nation and the railways.'

Not all delegates were taken in by this eyewash. A Scottish delegate, in a

blistering attack on the Tory record over the Rent Act, the Counter-Inflation Act and the Industrial Relations Act, warned Peyton that Scottish railmen would not allow the railways to be axed and their jobs threatened by the 'narrow profit of a Tory government and big business.'

Peyton refused to answer these attacks, while the union executive looked extremely uncomfortable and tried to damp down political criticism of the government.

Such action by the NUR leaders confirms the lesson for railmen from Peyton's visit: that their executive and the Tories are searching for a compromise formula to ease the rail cuts through peacefully. This must be resisted with utmost vigour.

MINERS IN CLOSURE ROW STRIKE FOR DAY

NORTH YORKSHIRE:—Miners at Gomersall pit came out on strike for one day last Thursday.

After the disaster at nearby Lofthouse Colliery, where seven men were killed, the Coal Board used old disused shafts as an excuse to close Gomersall, but has refused to pay redundancy money to miners unwilling to travel to work at Lofthouse.

Originally the Coal Board had said no one would be forced to go there, but on Thursday went back on its word. It was revealed that it had already star-

by Pete Elliot

ted negotiations with the West Riding Bus Company to re-route the local buses so that the Gomersall men could travel to Lofthouse without the board having to lay on a special bus.

The men are at the end of their tether. Most have already had their fill of being shunted from one pit to another. Each time they had been told that the pit had a long life. They were even told this about Gomersall, only to see it closed within months, or for some—within weeks of their arrival.

They have been fed the same story about Rothwell, Newmarket and Lofthouse, the pits the Coal Board want to transfer them to. Yet in the past two months faces have been closed at each of these pits under the same excuse: they are near old shafts.

The real reason for the closures is nothing to do with the danger to the men, which has always been there, but simply the Coal Board's main concern, productivity.

In most of the pits in the west of the North Yorkshire coalfield seams are at most 3ft thick.

This makes the use of modern machinery difficult and unproductive. Until recently at Gomersall most of the coal was cut by hand. For several years the Coal Board has intended to concentrate production in the east of the coalfield, where the seams are thicker and therefore more profitable.

The men at Gomersall want the Coal Board to pay them their redundancy money and let them get jobs outside the industry while they are still young and fit enough. Many, especially those in their early 40s who have no skills outside mining, see this as their last chance to get out and start a new life, rather than wait to be dumped on the scrapheap in a few years time.

SLAVES

In some cases, where a man can hardly breathe because of chest troubles, or his knees have packed up, the Coal Board has paid up. But as Barry Wilson, president of the National Union of Mineworkers at Gomersall, said: 'We are sick of being nomads and gypsies, slaves to the NCB. What future has a man got who is 40 now and will probably be nearly 50 when the NCB have finished with moving him from pit to pit?'

'We want the NCB to pay us what we've earned in all the years we've spent working in some of the worst conditions in this coalfield.'

But the NCB won't cough up. They are sticking to the letter of the redundancy agreements. Any men who refuse a job in a pit within 12 miles or 45 minutes travelling time from their homes are not entitled to a penny.

The men at Gomersall want the right to decide their own future and compensation for a working life spent crawling round on their hands and knees in some of the foulest conditions in modern mining. If they are to win their fight.



Police fight back pickets as the factory manager cuts chains to let blacklegs through

Boss climbs down after mass picket

OLDHAM:—Four members of the engineering union at Henry Love Lifts, Royton, returned to work victorious this week after a five-week strike. The men, three of them apprentices, had walked out when a semi-skilled man was given a skilled man's job.

After three weeks agreement was apparently reached over their main demands. But management ratted on the agreement and they were out again within a few hours. So they stuck out for a full list of 12 demands and tightened up the strike.

A mass picket last Wednesday was supported by local members of the International Socialists and local engineers, particularly from Ferranti's Cairo factory. A picket of 50 and chained gates prevented scabs from getting into work for an

hour and a half and then they only got in with the aid of a dozen policemen and a large pair of bolt cutters rather inelegantly operated by the manager.

A day later the management decided they had better take negotiations a bit more seriously and on Friday they agreed to all the strikers' demands, including that skilled work was to be done by skilled men, a longer tea break, regular meetings between the stewards and management and a wage increase to give the strikers parity with the fitters who instal the lifts.

This victory should show what can be done with determination in small engineering shops, where the union's traditional advice to young militants has been: 'Get out into an organised shop.'

Martyrs turn in their graves

TOLPUDDLE, Dorset:—Trade union leaders used this year's Tolpuddle Rally as a chance to justify their continued talks with the government. Herbert Pitman, of the Dorset Agricultural Workers Union, set the theme when he stated bluntly: 'I don't want to criticise any union, but we should be glad that Jack Jones is continuing to talk with the government.'

The message must have warmed the hearts of his members who, during more than a year of talks between the TUC and the government, had a meagre pay increase frozen for 10 weeks and then cut by half, while profits of the giant food firms have shot up.

Jones himself spoke passionately of the vengeance taken by the ruling class on the Tolpuddle Martyrs 140 years ago. He

even said: 'Laws are still being used against us—maybe not so vicious—but still designed to prevent the progress of the workers.'

'We have to build up for a change in society and the sooner the workers organise to fight for higher wages the better,' he said. Referring to the £25 for 40 hours claim of the agricultural workers, he argued: 'I believe you will get no justice from this government.'

'Then why are you talking with them?', someone shouted. Jones lamely replied that he was trying 'to present the desires and needs of the ordinary people.'

Bert Hazell, of the Agricultural Workers Union, gave much of his speech to attacking workers who had been heckling the speakers' apologies for inaction. He said it was easy to heckle at such a rally, but it was the workers' failure to vote Labour in 1970 that put the Tories into office. He

did not mention a more important reason for the poor Labour vote—the demoralisation of many workers after getting wage freeze, unemployment, and an attempted anti-union law from a Labour government.

The platform speeches, in fact, proved the point of a leaflet which had been distributed at the rally by the International Socialists, which said that platform speeches alone would not bring the memory of the Tolpuddle Martyrs to life.

'To honour them needs not just words but actions. The Tolpuddle Martyrs were ordinary rank and file trade unionists who had guts. Then as now they are the ordinary lifeblood of trade unionism . . . At this very moment 26 building workers standing trial for conspiracy at Shrewsbury—for fighting for basic trade union rights—truly honour the tradition of the Tolpuddle Martyrs . . .'



I would like to join the International Socialists

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Prices: Something to beef about

THE continuing rise in the price of beef is caused by butchers' profiteering.

From Norman Buchan, Labour spokesman on food prices, come figures which give the lie direct to the government's claim, reinforced by a hastily-called Commission of Inquiry a year ago, that rising beef prices are the fault of 'forces beyond our control'.

Mr Buchan has produced United Nations figures to show that the wholesale price of chilled Argentine rump steak—which forms the bulk of imported meat into this country—rose by a mere 10 per cent between June 1970 and May 1973, while the shop price rose by 45 per cent.

In other words, at least two-thirds of these huge increases went in clear profit to the butcher. Over the past year the profits of the Fatstock Marketing Corporation are up by 90 per cent, the Co-Op Food division by 32 per cent, Tesco by 32 per cent Associated British Foods, which includes Fine Fare supermarkets, by 29 per cent.

Mr Buchan told Socialist Worker: 'The butchers have been very angry since we published these figures and have gone on all sorts of programmes trying to discredit them. I don't think they've had much success.'

'They've complained that imported rump only makes up a small part of what we eat, but of course every other cut has gone up in price too—for the same reasons.'

At the time Selective Employment Tax was abolished, Dewhursts the butchers put out a statement saying: 'The abolition of SET enables Dewhursts to slash beef prices... We don't believe in gimmicks. We believe in genuine massive reductions in the housewife's favourite meal—beef.'

Since the statement, prices in Dewhursts shops have risen by nearly 10 per cent.

Private patients dispute ends

PORTSMOUTH:—Hospital workers at St Mary's General Hospital have returned to work after forcing management to withdraw threats of victimisation, but they have agreed 'under protest' to do work with private patients. The ban on private patients is continuing at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital.

This set-back in the struggle against private medicine shows the difficulty of maintaining the fight in isolation without official union backing and the need for action in other hospitals throughout the country.

Union pays strikers

ECCLES, Lancashire:—Clerical workers now in their ninth week of strike at Salford Electrical Instruments over an equal pay claim are to be given full pay by their union, APEX. This will apply to all the pickets still out, except those on social security.

The nearby Agecroft Colliery has given the pickets a hut which has already weathered many of the miners' disputes and last week the pickets received promises of backing by GEC factories all over the country.

Victory for sit-in

COWES, Isle of Wight:—A sit-in by the 350 shop floor workers at J S White forced management to reinstate men who had been laid off. For the first time on the island, not noted for its militancy, there was complete solidarity among all unions involved, with the action organised by a joint shop stewards committee of the AUEW, TGWU, UCATT and the GMWU.

250 IN DEMO OUTSIDE COURT

BIRMINGHAM:—250 building workers demonstrated outside court on Monday when the five Birmingham building workers and three ATV cameramen accused of conspiracy were charged with breaking into the offices of a lump labour firm.

Workers came from all the major sites in Birmingham, including Bryants, Taylor-Woodrow, Elvins, Wimpeys and Stubbings. The strength of

the demonstration was good because it is the middle of the city's industrial holidays and many of the big car and engineering firms were unable to send delegations.

The demonstration was addressed on behalf of the UCATT Defence Committee by David Adshead, a member of the International Socialists. This case, he said, was part of a big Tory offensive against the working-class movement. The trial of

24 building workers at Shrewsbury, the Industrial Relations Act, the freeze, and now the racist Immigration Act were all part of a strategy designed to split and weaken the trade unions in the interests of higher profits for the bosses.

The case is likely to be sent to be heard at the Crown Court, and the defence committee is planning a much bigger demonstration for the trial itself. 'We are going to make this a second Saltley,' he said, to cheers from the crowd.

Victory for builders' pickets

FLINTSHIRE:—Four more building workers were acquitted at Mold Crown Court last week on charges of intimidation, affray and assault. Their acquittal came a week after the most serious charges against eight other building pickets were dismissed.

The Mold prosecutions, brought under the 1875 Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act, are the first phase of the massive legal assault on picketing which will come to a climax in the Shrewsbury conspiracy trial in October.

Last Thursday the jury returned not guilty verdicts on Arthur Murray and Leslie Hooson, who had been accused of intimidating workers, causing damage to property and threatening to damage a car. The prosecution brought 17 witnesses against Murray during the seven-day trial.

After the trial Murray said: 'These trials are nothing but witch-hunts against pickets. Building workers in small towns and villages have been picked on in the hope of creating case law against picketing

with which to attack the big battalions in the trade union movement.'

Last Friday Peter Moroney was acquitted on similar charges. No evidence was offered against Kenneth Thomas on the intimidation and assault charges. But he was fined £15 after pleading guilty to pushing over three breeze blocks.

On Friday defence lawyers in the Shrewsbury conspiracy trial were due to make an application for the case to be heard outside the town.

DOCKER FINED

LONDON:—Charlie Alexander, a docker in the Royal group, was found guilty and fined £60 in London on Monday for offences supposedly committed on the May Day march.

Seven people were arrested on the march—five of them dockers. Charlie and the other dockers were arrested by the Special Patrol Group but only Charlie and docker George Scott were prosecuted.

George, who was remanded on bail until September, is alleged to have assaulted a woman police officer in the back of a police van in front of six other police officers.



A section of the International Socialists' 2500-strong contingent on Sunday's anti-Immigration Act march in London. FULL REPORT: Page One. Picture: Christopher Davies (Report).

Slave labour men get strike boost

CRAWLEY:—Indian engineering union members at Crawley Mouldings, an ICI and Imperial Metals subsidiary, are on strike against their near slave labour conditions and for union recognition.

The men have to work five 12-hour shifts a week for about £25. Until the union got a foothold in the plant two months ago, they had no tea breaks and only 30 minutes for lunch.

For some time ICI and Imperial Metals management have been scheming to boost their profits still further. Last Wednesday management dictated that the speed of the machines would be increased by 50 per cent.

Some workers said this was just impossible, explaining that it was also a severe safety hazard and that in any case at such a speed the end products, plastic moulds for the flashing lights on police cars and ambulances, would be quite useless.

But management calculated that the fear and insecurity produced by lousy jobs and racism would make the Indian workers knuckle under. They insisted that the speed-up would go ahead and in classic fashion informed the workers that 'if they

didn't like this sweatshop, they could always go and work in another one.'

The 22 Indian workers on the day shift then went on strike and started to picket the plant to stop night production. Management relied on casual student labour and strike breakers on nights—some white, a few Indians—to weaken the strike.

But the Indian strikers, after contacting the new Crawley Joint Shop Stewards Coordinating Committee, received widespread backing in support from the well-organised factories in the town, including APV Paramount, Brentford Electrics, Stone Platt, Edwards High Vacuum and Post Office engineers.

The strike has been made official by the AUEW and the other plants are helping to man pickets and giving financial support.

Students from Brighton immediately responded to an appeal to send pickets to stop the casually-employed students strike-breaking. Steve Parry, secretary of the National Union of Students, visited the factory and the students have now walked out.

Effective picketing has reduced production to about 20 per cent and frustrated management's plans to move machinery to another factory in Crawley.

Strike over racism

LONDON:—Standard Telephone and Cables, Southgate, where 120 night shift workers in the machine shop struck against racism, is a classic rathole of racist division on the shop floor. STC employs 2000 manual workers and about half are black. Yet the blacks are to be found mainly in a few shops, while in others the management operate a 'thoroughbred only' policy.

In the words of personnel director A P Elliot, they put coloured people in 'a rather special category'. The inevitable result is a difference of £5 to £8 a week in wages between black and white.

The management describe allegations from the workers that it is operating open racial discrimination as 'a load of balderdash'. Yet Ted Corbett, the engineering union's works convenor, said on Monday that the walk-out was sparked off by two incidents. A night supervisor said that 'the only way to treat black people was to work them to death', and a

management official called a group of West Indian shop stewards 'niggers in the woodpile'.

But the most disgusting thing about this dispute is that the electricians union is collaborating with the management in this discrimination. The dispute came to a head over the training of a black worker as a machine setter—to which the management agreed only after threat of strike action by fellow AUEW workers. This was eight months ago.

Now, because of pressure from the electricians' stewards who believe they are upholding craft status, management has taken the man off training and offered him full pay to stay home or work in another shop.

120 night shift workers walked out in his support and their stewards are trying to get the day workers out in solidarity against racial discrimination. Meanwhile the management is trying to present this as an inter-union dispute.

UNION-BOSS ALLIANCE

LOWESTOFT:—Last week the management of the Pye television factory and the electricians union official for the area formed an alliance to get rid of a militant shop steward from the factory.

Some weeks ago management suspended 10 workers for alleged indiscipline—they had been relaxing after finishing a job early. In the past the most that had happened to any worker for this 'offence' was to receive a warning. This time four, including steward Derek Calvert, were sacked. It was a clear case of victimisation.

Mass meetings in the factory decided to ban overtime and to work just fast enough to get basic pay but to refuse to work for bonuses. When five men continued working for bonuses, 70 men came out on strike.

The strike so shocked management and the union that they put out a joint statement urging a return to normal working.

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