

SMASH TORY WAGE FREEZE

THE TORY GOVERNMENT has introduced a wage freeze: nothing more, nothing less. Heath's claim that his new Act is fair to everyone is a lie.

The Act pretends to freeze prices, BUT:

- Prices of meat, vegetables and fish can be raised without permission from the government.
- Prices of goods made up of raw materials from abroad can be raised without permission from the government.
- Government permission to raise other prices will be available to anyone who can show that the cost of his goods has been raised by 'external forces'.
- In the four days before the freeze, the prices of 6000 household goods and food items were raised by the manufacturers.

The government has set up a 'watchdog body' to survey prices all over the country. It consists of 25 men, a telephone operator and a secretary. It will not function for the first 28 of the 90 days.

The Bill promises to control dividends, BUT:

Dividends due to shareholders will be salted away in safe investment for 90 days and will emerge at the end even more profitable than when the 90 days started.

The Bill promises to control rents and rates, BUT:

The only important current rent rises, those ordained by the Housing Finance Act, are legal. Rate restraint will only emerge if the local authorities respond to government 'discussion'.

The Bill does not even pretend to control the fantastic fortunes made by property speculators.

It does not even pretend to control the rise in value of share prices, up £28,000 million, since the Tories came to power, that would work out at £500 for every man, woman and child in the country.

For the wealthy and privileged, the exceptions in the Bill are more than the restrictions.

For the workers, there are no exceptions. All wage awards and all attempts by strike action or by threats of strike action or inducement or influence of strike action are punishable by £400 fines from magistrates and unlimited fines from judges.

PROMISED

As a final feudal insult, Lord and Master Heath produces a £10 Christmas bonus for his pensioner serfs.

Who will fight this class legislation and the class government which produced it?

Harold Wilson and his colleagues have promised a fight in the House of Commons. It will be as violent and passionate as the fight made by Edward Heath and his colleagues when Harold Wilson introduced a wage freeze in 1966.

Wilson and Co will urge their supporters to keep the fight in parliament and on television, where nobody will get hurt.

The trade union leaders are taking the same line.

In the hours before the freeze was announced, hundreds of thousands of workers were sold to their employers for wage increases which would have been dismissed as contemptible if the freeze had not been mooted.

900,000 local government workers, whose jobs are among the filthiest and lowest paid in the country, were forced to accept £2.40 of their claimed £4, with no change in hours worked.

WATCHDOG ON PRICES

Socialist Worker is setting up a special Watchdog Unit on prices. We appeal to all readers to send us details of every price

increase, 'special offer' fiddle or decrease in the contents of goods during the 90-day freeze. We will publish information weekly.

At Swan Hunter, on Tyneside, in Fleet Street, in the power stations, and in the industrial sector of the civil service workers were sold for equally paltry concessions.

Their union leaders preferred to settle for a pittance rather than fight the government for what their members deserved. They have abandoned the class battleground to the triumphant Tories.

Even worse is the plight of the workers who have got nothing before the freeze, but whose claims are in the pipeline.

ADVICE

What will Jack Jones of the TGWU or David Basnett of the GMWU do about the 200,000 hospital workers, 50,000 gas workers and 30,000 water workers who have always received increases similar to those of local government workers?

What about the quarter of a million teachers, 170,000 bank workers and countless thousands newly-organised white collar workers who imagined that trade union organisation meant better wages and conditions?

The advice to these people from their union leaders appears to be as follows: WAIT FOR 90 DAYS.

The union leaders will make angry statements about the freeze. They will

march furiously to lobby parliament. And they will try to ensure that negotiations for claims are prolonged for more than 90 days.

None of this will help the lower paid. Not a single pensioner will benefit

The way to beat the freeze has been mapped out by the miners last winter and the dockers last summer. The miners showed that industrial strength could beat government policy, and the dockers showed that solidarity could make nonsense of Tory laws.

The freeze will be beaten only by a union onslaught on behalf of the lower paid. Claims for lower-paid, claims for equal pay for women, claims for pension increases should be pursued through union branches with haste and vigour.

The claims must be backed by the

full industrial strength of the trade union movement. Vic Feather, Jack Jones, Clive Jenkins and the rest who have proclaimed contempt for these laws must also make it clear that they will give full official support to any group of workers that goes on strike against it.

The government must be told that from now on trade unionists are prepared to talk to them, provided the conversations are limited to the words:

GET OUT!

WHAT TRADE UNIONISTS SHOULD DEMAND:

- Recall the Trades Union Congress to demand all-out action to smash the freeze.
- No more talks with the Tories.
- Industrial action in solidarity with all groups that fight the freeze.
- Mobilise the entire labour movement to fight now for:
 - £25 a week minimum wage
 - £16 a week pension
 - Equal pay for women

Striking mother who gets 20p a week Social Security



If Ted Heath is concerned about the low paid he should concern himself with Beryl Matthews. She is one of the Fine Tubes strikers in Plymouth, out for 2½ years.

And Beryl gets 20p a week from the Social Security to augment the strike fund. She is divorced and is entitled to benefit only for her 3½-year-old daughter.

The Plymouth strikers, still battling on, are in urgent need of industrial and financial support. Send to: Fine Tubes Strike Committee, c/o Breton Side, Exeter Street, Plymouth, Devon.

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FIGHT THE TORIES! BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!



BRIEFING

THE Israeli authorities have been pursuing illegal Arab workers from the conquered territories. Many are children, aged between eight and twelve, working without permits for Jewish employers.

When Arab children were discovered loading a truck with olive conserves for delivery to the Israeli army, their employer said: 'What can I do? I have no other workers and I work for the army.'

There are open markets in Haifa and Nazareth for Arab workers from the Gaza Strip, Samaria and Galilee, who are forbidden by law to enrol in the local

labour exchanges.

The employers are said to like these markets 'because no procedure is involved'. The Arab workers are hired by the day for construction, cleaning house yards, gardening and similar work.

When illegal workers are caught they are expelled from work, have their identification cards confiscated (without which they are forbidden to leave their homes and can be arrested by any policeman), and are tried by the Israeli military authorities in their own occupied villages or towns.

Israeli minister Dayan's comment: The rule of the Israeli army 'raises the Arab worker from the feudal condition'.

ON Sir Alec Douglas-Home's arrival in China, the Central Band of the People's Army played 'A Hundred Pipers an' a', a 'in honour of his Scottish birth, followed by 'The Eton Boating Song', in honour of his old school.

'BOSSSES' STRIKE' IS THREAT TO ALLENDE

by Ian Roxborough and Vic Richards

THE reorganisation of Chile's government last week has put in jeopardy all the gains won by the workers of that country over the last two years. Allende—a would-be Marxist dedicated to the 'parliamentary road to socialism'—has given three posts to officers of the armed forces.

For more than a fortnight there has been talk of the 'threat of civil war'. A strike of lorry owners and other bosses has shut down most of the country's transport. Now Allende has tried to placate the extreme right wing by putting the maintenance of public order into the hands of those who can be relied upon to protect the interests of the privileged and well-to-do. He has appointed as his new Minister of the Interior, and second in charge after himself, army general Carlos Prats.

Chile is already in serious financial and economic difficulties due to boycotts and credit freezes by international financiers and the US government. Chilean capitalists are sending all their money abroad.

COUP D'ETAT

The aim of the striking shopkeepers, professionals and factory owners—aided by street disorders provoked by fascist squads—is to create a situation of political chaos and promote economic collapse, which would then justify a military coup against the Popular Unity government.

The middle-class opposition is encouraging the state of disorder to continue up to the Congressional elections, due in March 1973. Some aim for a coup d'etat: the Christian Democrats seem to want to discredit Allende so that they can win a large majority in the elections and possibly force him to resign.

Throughout the crisis, Allende has appealed to the patriotism, rather than to the class solidarity, of Chilean workers.

But the muscle behind the government has been that of the army, not the workers. The military, having occupied 21 of Chile's 25 provinces for almost three weeks, have in fact been in control.

The Christian Democrats sense Allende's weakness.

THREATENED

He made serious retreats in the past when under pressure, and was offering to scrap the transport authority to end the bosses' strike. Allende depends on the armed forces of the capitalist state to uphold an essentially capitalist 'law and order'.

So the Christian Democrats threatened to use the parliamentary majority at their command to impeach four of his senior ministers.

Allende accepted the resignation of the four ministers concerned and of four others. His new cabinet will have three army officers, including the commander-in-chief, besides a general as cabinet secretary. This is a victory

for Allende, the Communist Party and the Radicals over their coalition partners, MAPU and the Socialist Party, who find army officers unacceptable in a 'socialist' cabinet.

Allende has succeeded in keeping the military on his side, but at the price of leaving political initiative in the hands of the right wing and letting the army set the limits for government action.

At the same time, there has been a partial mobilisation of the

workers, taking over factories closed down by their owners and breaking the lorry owners' strike. They have fought attempts at economic sabotage by keeping the economy running during the bosses' strike.

But despite widespread workers' support for Allende's government the mobilisation has been incomplete, without clear direction and entirely defensive. The reason lies in the conciliatory and at best defensive attitudes of

the Popular Unity coalition.

Most serious of all, the workers have been cast in a secondary role, completely circumscribed by the capitalist law and order Allende has chosen to abide by. The active role has been given to the army, promoted by Allende himself as the defender of the constitution and embodiment of patriotism.

The workers, in this atmosphere, cannot test their own strength, and even less go on the offensive. The army would love to uphold the capitalist constitution against the workers. After all, the army is duty bound and obeying Dr Allende's orders.

Trudeau on the brink

by Norah Carlin

PIERRE TRUDEAU, Canada's jet-setting prime minister, may yet hang on to power, even though in the elections his Liberal Party won won only the same number of seats as the Conservatives.

The balance is held by the New Democratic Party (Canada's labour party) and the Social Credit Party, a rural based right-wing group, but a coalition government involving either of these minority parties is unlikely.

It is widely believed that Trudeau lost votes because he has favoured his fellow French Canadians. The majority of his cabinet and well over half of the Liberal MPs are French-speaking.

But while a few top posts have gone to French Canadians, most of the French-speaking population remain underprivileged in income, education and employment.

In October 1970, Trudeau sent the army into French-speaking Quebec when a British diplomat and the Quebec minister of labour were kidnapped by the separatist FLQ (Quebec Liberation Front). Civil liberties were suspended, and the 492 people arrested within a few days included a broad cross-section of left-wing political and trade union leaders, writers and artists, most of whom had no connection with the FLQ.

In April and May this year, Quebec erupted in a wave of strikes, starting with a public service workers' strike against the provincial Liberal government. When the strike leaders were imprisoned, massive sympathy strikes followed.

Trudeau himself did nothing—any intervention would have worsened the situation by rousing bitter memories of 1970—but the local Liberals bore the brunt of the workers' anger.

The Liberal Party still dominates Quebec, despite nationalist and working-class disillusionment, but in the English-speaking middle class, Trudeau has clearly made the Quebec problem worse, not better.



Canadian premier Trudeau the day the votes went against him

Italy: workers' struggle hots up

by Mike Balfour

DURING the hot autumn of 1968, when labour contracts in the major Italian industries were renegotiated, millions of Italian workers won big advances in wages and conditions after violent struggles in the factories and on the streets.

This autumn the contracts are being renewed and although the negotiations have not so far given rise to anything like the militancy of 1968 there are signs that the Italian workers are ready to fight.

The engineering unions have planned a series of national and rolling strikes during November. Overtime has been banned and starting this week there will be two-hour strikes with mass meetings.

Last fortnight 14 million workers struck in protest against the fascist bombings of trains carrying workers to a labour rally in Southern Italy, showing the militancy of the working class, since only one day's notice of the strike had been given.

The fascist bombing is the latest in a series which have rocked Italy since 1969. Their main purpose was to discredit the revolutionary left, which had been making great advances during the autumn. The violence culminated in the bank explosion in Milan which killed 14 people.

Now at last the fascists are being accused of the bombings.

But the three anarchists imprisoned since the explosion are still waiting for a trial. A few days ago the Appeal Court, using a 1930 fascist law, decreed that the trial should be held in Catanzaro in Southern Italy.

The implications of this are clear. Firstly it will mean a delay of at least another year, due to the bureaucratic problems of moving all the papers to a new court. Secondly, if the trial is even going to take place, it will be as far as possible from the support and pressure of left-wing groups and political organisations who have been demonstrating and sending petitions demanding the release of the three anarchists.

Finally, Catanzaro is a backward city, near Reggio di Calabria, which has become a centre of recruitment and training for fascist squads.

FREEZE—RICH WILL GET RICHER

HEATH'S new wage freeze has been presented as an unprecedented attempt to stop rising prices by hitting equally at 'wages, prices, dividends and rents'. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Not all sections of the population are going to be hit equally in the months ahead. The very rich are entering the period of the freeze with a massive start over the rest of us. Tax changes made in the last two Tory budgets, and further changes planned for next April, will increase the wealth of the very rich at an enormous speed. Nothing Heath's freeze does will alter this.

Tax changes made by the Tories since June 1970 have given away more than £480 million to those fortunate few who have incomes of more than £5000 a year. Such a handout would have been enough to have given every one of the seven million old age pensioners an extra £1.30 a week.

For the very rich, next April, like last April will be a date to remember. Under a plan to merge together income tax and surtax anyone earning £15,000 a year will pay £324 less in tax than at present.

In other words, company directors, top management and High Court judges will all get another £6.50 in their pockets every week—three times as much as Heath wanted the rest of us to accept.

WEALTH

But some of them may still complain. Despite this windfall, they will not gain nearly as much from the tax changes as those who get £15,000 a year without even pretending to work for it. Someone raking in that amount from rent or profit or their investments will find themselves no less than £1430 a year or nearly £30 a week better off.

The wealth of the very rich will grow in another way as well. Dividends are frozen at their present level—which is not very low, since they grew by 17 per cent last year.

Dividends are profits that are handed out to shareholders. But if the law restricts the sums that companies can hand out for a period it does not mean that the excess profits go to cut prices or to benefit those in need.

All that happens is that they are hoarded by companies, increasing the value of shares to be distributed later on.

SUFFERED

A wage increase that is 'frozen' disappears for ever. No employer saves it up to give to his workers at a later date. With profits it is quite the reverse.

The last time a government attempted a freeze like the present one was in 1966. Wages and living standards certainly suffered. For three years after that freeze, according to The Economist, 'real disposable income per head rose by barely 1 per cent a year'.

In July 1966 Harold Wilson, like Edward Heath this week, announced 'a six months standstill on wages, salaries, and other types of income' including dividends.

In January of the following year 'the treasury was given power to prevent excessive distribution of dividends'.

Between July 1966 and December 1968 the average value of shares increased by 75 per cent. While wages stagnated, anyone who was worth one million pounds in 1966 was worth 1½ million a mere 2½ years later.

Prices: vital loopholes for profiteers

ONE THING is certain: the freeze will not stop the upward movement of prices.

During the last 'prices and incomes' freeze, under the Labour government, prices continued to grow at the same rate as in previous years, at 2.5 per cent a year in 1966-67 and 4.7 per cent a year in 1968-69. Big firms found it easy to dodge government controls.

The Tories' own White Paper admits as much. It provides an escape clause for manufacturers who can 'prove that their costs rise'. And it exempts food from any control at all.

Things like bread, potatoes, meat, that every working-class family has to buy before it can even think of buying other things will not even face the pretence of price control.

Experts are predicting that over the next year food prices will increase by rather more than 5 per cent. The government itself has deliberately chosen to increase them by between 2 and 3 per cent as 'preparation' for the Common Market. It turned down without hesitation a TUC suggestion that it postpones the imposition of 'food levies' which are meant to raise prices to European levels.

Fiddles

It is also going ahead with its plan to introduce Value Added Tax, which will increase by large chunks the cost of necessities like shoes and children's clothes. Again, experts calculate that VAT will, by itself, add about 1 per cent to the overall cost of living.

But that is not all. The prices of all goods will be changed by VAT. It will be difficult for most people to tell whether prices have risen by more than is necessitated by the tax. As with decimalisation two years ago, in the general confusion it will be easy for firms to raise their profits without anyone noticing until it is too late. Meanwhile, the housewife and the wage earner will suffer.

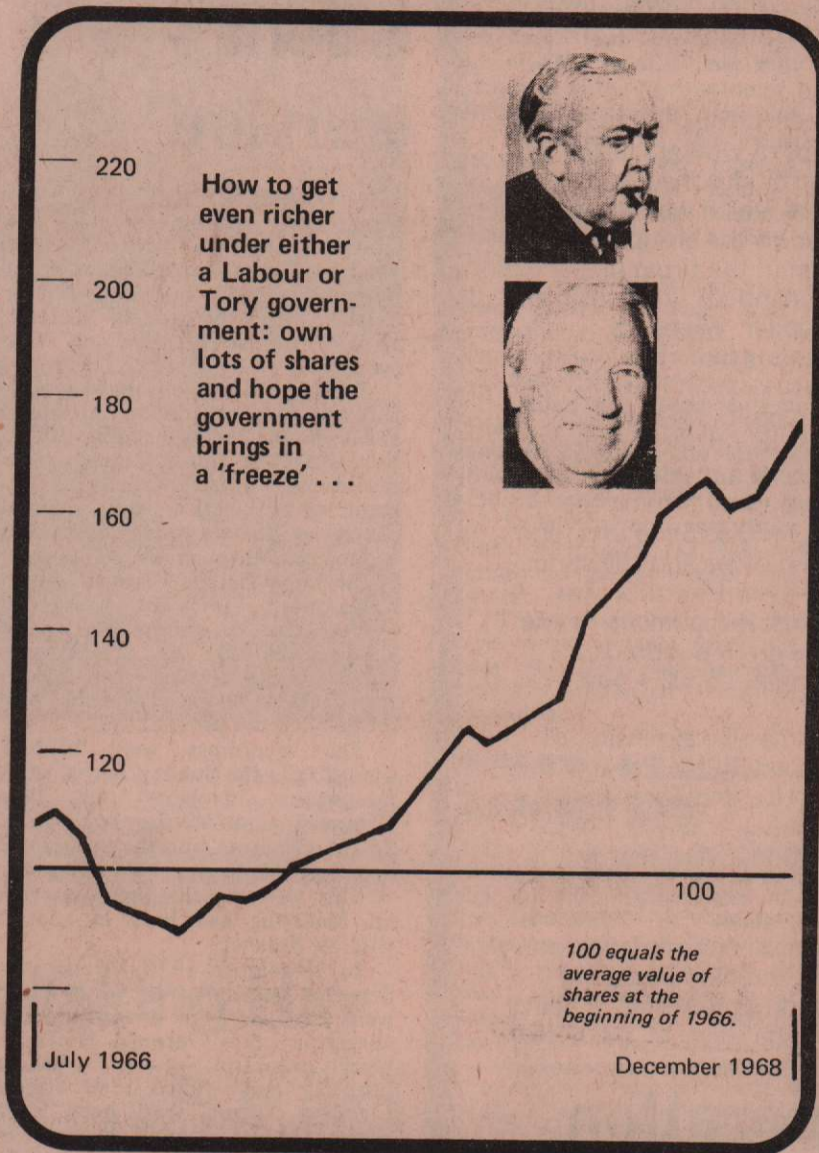
Finally the freeze on rents is one of the biggest confidence tricks of all time. Here the behaviour of the government is like that of the burglar who informs the police of a robbery when he himself is safely away with the loot.

The rents of four million people went up last month by nearly £1 each week. The increases remain in force. The rents of a million more people are due to rise by 50p each next April—the week after the freeze will have ended, even if it is extended for another 60 days.

It is not difficult for the Tories to be 'fair' by stopping rent increases in a period when very few are due to take place.

Meanwhile, workers who have just had to fork out an extra pound a week will have to keep paying it. And they will be prevented, if they obey the law, from fighting for a pay increase to compensate them for this extra burden.

GET RICHER



HOW FREEZE AIDS SHARES

In July 1966 the Labour government imposed a freeze. From that date to the end of December 1968 the value of shares rose by an average of 75 per cent. 80 per cent of shares are owned by just 1 per cent of the population, so the very rich did very well out of the Labour government. Exactly the same will happen under the Tory freeze.

Reshuffling the board of Britain Limited...

TO PREPARE for the wage freeze and the Common Market, important changes have been made among the board of directors of Great Britain Ltd.

Peter Walker, the Minister for Slater, whose former bank, Slater Walker, hopes to treble its profits in its first year in Europe, has taken charge of all British trade and industry.

John Davies, former director of Hill Samuel merchant bank, which has been one of the City's most enthusiastic backers of the Common Market, moves into more practical fields as 'Mr Europe', or to use his correct title, Chancellor of the Duchy of Hill Samuel.

The well-known building contractor, Geoffrey Rippon, former chairman of Holland, Hannen and Cubitt, whose shares in Drake and Cubitt had doubled in value since the Tories took power, takes over the department of state which deals with building and construction. He will be known as the Secretary of State for Holland, Hannen and Cubitt.

There is promotion for Farmer Joe, Joseph Godber, whose family's enterprise, Isaac Godber Ltd (a delightful little horticultural establishment in Bedfordshire) hopes to prosper hugely from the increased food prices of the Common Market. Mr Godber, who used to answer questions in the House of Commons on Rhodesia, is now responsible for agriculture.

In Godber's place answering questions on Rhodesia is Julian Amery, who, like his father before him, used to be a director of the British South Africa company.

The company was formed by Cecil Rhodes, who tricked the African tribes into selling him the rights for all minerals

in Northern Rhodesia. Before Zambian independence, the company was offered £40m in compensation for mineral rights in Northern Rhodesia. They turned it down.

After independence, the rights were nationalised and £2m compensation paid. Amery and his fellow-directors have never forgiven the Zambian government for this 'robbery', which explains Amery's almost hysterical support for Ian Smith's regime.

Amery's new title is Minister of State for the British South Africa Company.

Into Amery's place at the Housing Ministry comes the youngest member of the new team, Paul Channon. Channon is MP for Southend West, a seat held in turn by his father, 'Chips' Channon, his grandfather and grandmother since 1918.

Channon's mother was the eldest daughter of Lord Iveagh, the Guinness King, and his wife is the first wife of Jonathan Guinness, chairman of the Monday Club.

Channon's two million shares in Guinness made him a multi-millionaire. He is particularly well qualified to deal with housing, having two very lovely ones of his own. His little place at Kelvedon Hall, Brentwood, Essex, is renowned as one of the finest stately homes within easy reach of London.



Old Bailey trial: eight say police framed them

THE FOUR-MONTH-OLD 'Angry Brigade' trial of eight young people at the Old Bailey on charges of a conspiracy to cause explosions and possession of gelignite and guns is nearing its end. All this week the State Prosecutor has been summing up the police case.

But after more than a year holding the defendants in custody on remand and months of Old Bailey police evidence covering 100 pages and including 800 exhibits, the State's case remains one of hearsay and innuendo. For despite the obstructive efforts of the police authorities and their own lack of legal knowledge, the three militants in the dock who are defending themselves have made a penetrating reply to the voluminous but inconclusive prosecution case.

John Barker, Anna Mendelson and Hilary Craek have put forward explanations of the large collection of research material which the police claim as major evidence of the conspiracy charge. They have also argued that the Special Branch police squad which made the arrests in Hackney had both motive and opportunity to plant the explosives they now claim to have discovered once the defendants were hustled out of the room.

Clampdown

The lawyers representing the other defendants later arrested have argued that the evidence of conspiracy is inadequate and highly circumstantial. And the defence as a whole has told a wholly working-class jury that the trial and the intensive and often illegal police activity which preceded it are part of a general clampdown on the rights of political activity and trade union organisation and a new viciousness towards the left.

The defence team has attempted to challenge the prosecution case at all levels. The police's explosive experts have had their complex charts attacked as well as their impartiality. Colonel Shaw, a defence expert witness, has challenged the explosive evidence as incomplete and at times incompetent.

The defence has called statisticians and handwriting specialists who have challenged the reliability of the police evidence and exposed some rather surprising omissions and the blushing admission that more than one important exhibit has 'disappeared'.

The police also make much of the lists of directors, politicians, companies and property firms found in Amhurst Road, arguing that such documents indicate possible targets. The defendants have replied by calling a series of witnesses, including journalists, academics and activists, who compile similar information.

Weapons

Laurie Flynn of Socialist Worker, Philip Knightly of the Sunday Times, who made public the Freshwater Housing Company's misuse of the Rent Act, and David Robins, editor of an issue of the underground paper Ink which illustrated the pattern of interlocking company directorships, all testified they often made use of the type of source information being used to cast suspicion on the defendants.

The defendants alleged to have harboured explosives at Amhurst Road have consistently asserted that they had never seen the gelignite and weapons until confronted with them in the police station. They say instead that the police were under cabinet-level pressure to find a scapegoat for the explosions and, frustrated after more than 50 unsuccessful raids, decided to frame 'a suitable candidate for an outrage'.

Several political militants who have worked with the defendants have been called to establish the seriousness of the accused's political activity. Two car industry shop stewards have also discussed the shop floor response to the bombing of the home of the Ford executive William Batty and their impressions of why it is that hostility might be expressed toward Home Secretary Robert Carr, another target.

And the defendants have continually explained their political disagreements with the explosions and insisted that, while they want to see revolutionary social change, they believe it will only come about by mass working-class action.

PAUL FOOT

ROBIN MCKENZIE

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Socialist Worker Leopard's new tack

IT IS AS WELL to remember that the Heath government has **always** had an incomes policy. When it swept away the Prices and Incomes Board and other relics of the Labour government's incomes policy, it did so in favour of an alternative incomes policy.

Part of that alternative was the notorious 'Norm minus one per cent' strategy. Key groups of workers in the so-called public sector were to be bludgeoned into accepting pay settlements, each of which was one per cent lower than the one conceded to the group of workers immediately before them in the firing line.

The strategy was enforced by stand-up fights with any section that refused to knuckle under. When the government smashed the postmen's strike, it believed that it was well on the way to success with N minus one.

Another part of the alternative policy was the Industrial Relations Act. This was to tilt the balance in favour of the employers by imposing a measure of state control over the unions and above all by forcing the executives and full-time officials to 'discipline' the rank and file in the interests of the employers and the state.

A third part of the alternative incomes policy was direct legislative action to redistribute income in favour of the rich. Barber's budgets have given hundreds of millions to those receiving more than £5000 a year—£355 million in 1971 alone.

Cuts in social services and the massive extension of means-testing for benefits have created the 'poverty trap' for low-paid workers. Under the Housing Finance Act, council tenants are already beginning to pay the first instalment of the extra £300 million a year that the government intends to screw out of them. National Insurance contributions have been massively increased.

Now, on top of all this, there is a return to a statutory wage freeze. And to justify it, all the old nauseating claptrap about 'fairness' and 'working together' is being trotted out again. This change is the result of the defeats the government has suffered from miners and dockers.

Needs co-operation

The leopard has not changed its spots. It has merely changed its tactics. N minus one plus the Industrial Relations Act failed to cut real wages significantly. Now the same objective is being approached on a different tack. Heath needs the co-operation of the trade union leaders and he needs it very badly. Indeed his government could not survive for very long without it. The lengthy attempt to get an agreement with them through the Downing Street talks was not just a public relations exercise.

Even right-wingers like Cooper, Greene and Allen could not accept the manifest swindle of the Downing Street package, much as they would like to have done so. The government would not even guarantee that the prices of a limited range of foodstuffs would not rise by more than 5 per cent over 12 months—a sure indication that they will rise by much more.

The devaluation of the pound will ensure that. The Common Agricultural Policy of the Common Market will doubly ensure it. Next year's rent rises stay, VAT is coming in. Barber's proposed 'tax reforms' will give another £300 a year to the rich in 1973. The menace of the Industrial Relations Act remains.

In spite of all this the TUC chiefs still hanker after a settlement with the Tories. All they are really asking for is a few more crumbs to help them to sell a deal. The fight against the latest Tory attack necessarily includes a determined struggle to force the union leaders out of Heath's embrace. No incomes policy fraud, statutory or not, can work without government connivance.

PLAIN DUTY

MR JAMES GOAD is a politically motivated man. Explaining his determination to use the Tory National Industrial Relations Court against the AUEW he said: 'The issue is not merely between me and the union. It is over whether the law of the land is supreme or the law of the union.' In other words he is determined to make his fellow workers grovel before the Tory Judge Donaldson.

In this latest test case it is the plain duty of the AUEW leadership to show the same determination as the black-leg and his Tory backers. And it is the duty of all trade unionists to support the AUEW to the hilt.



Silent service

THE INDEPENDENCE of the law from the government was well illustrated by the article in The Sunday Times last Sunday about Detective Chief Inspector Victor Kelaher, formerly head of Scotland Yard's drug squad, now on 'sick leave'.

Tape-recordings of conversations between Kelaher and his informant had been obtained by customs officers on the track of a drug shipment. The recordings exposed Kelaher's involvement with American drug control officials in schemes to pay informants and to 'allow through' drug shipments in the hope that they would lead to bigger ones.

Yet the recordings were not disclosed at the trial of Kelaher's informant in July last year, though they constituted crucial evidence both for defence and prosecution.

The recordings were banned, according to the Sunday Times, 'after discussions involving the then Commissioner of Metropolitan Police, Sir John Waldron, and the then Home Secretary, Mr Reginald Maudling.'

This was not the first time that Mr Maudling had been in contact with Mr Kelaher.

In November 1970 Kelaher and Sergeant Bassett of the drug squad were ordered to investigate an allegation that Jerome Hoffman, chief executive of an offshore property fund called International Investors Group, had been given access to the criminal records of Scotland Yard.

The allegation had been made by two solicitors in London's West End, Peter Moore and Andrew Lloyd. They represented staff men of IIG who were suing for salaries and stocks owing to them by Hoffman. Twice the solicitors had been told by Hoffman's senior executives that their clients had criminal records.

Accurate lists of these records were produced from IIG files. The records could not have come from newspaper cuttings, as some of the offences had not been reported.



Reiss: cementing South African relations

The solicitors complained about this to the Home Office, who set up an investigation under Kelaher and Bassett. Their report was submitted on 14 December 1970. It went straight to the Home Secretary, Reginald Maudling.

Maudling was the first president of the Real Estate Fund of America, which was later renamed the International Investors Group and whose chief executive was Jerome Hoffman. Hoffman is now in a US jail for fraud offences.

The Kelaher report was never published, nor were any of its findings made public in any way.

THE CAMPAIGN of the Sunday Times about the treatment of the victims of Thalidomide by the British marketers of the drug, Distillers Ltd, did not deter the Sunday Times Colour Magazine from publishing full-page advertisements, on 28 October for Johnnie Walker and on 5 November for Haig. Both whiskies are Distillers Products.

White Reiss

OCTOBER'S Outstanding Hypocrite of the Month award was won handsomely by Sir John Reiss, the chairman of Associated Portland Cement, Britain's biggest cement firm. Sir John is also chairman of the 'free enterprise' pressure group, Aims of Industry which filled a large amount of space (including two pages in the New Statesman) on and around 27 October with an advertisement proclaiming its aims.

A 'message from Sir John' included

a passage reading: 'Industry should be responsible as well as enterprising'.

The fourth aim of Aims of Industry printed above Sir John's message, reads: 'To provide employment and to recognise that where possible work should make the fullest possible use of men and women's creative abilities, intelligence and experience. To enable men and women to achieve satisfying lives at work.'

Associated Portland Cement is one of the largest British investors in South Africa. On 30 July 1971 the Rand Daily Mail reported that the company's minimum wage rate at its plant at Lichtenburg was £2.47 a week, one of the lowest wage rates for industrial workers in the whole of South Africa.

Sir John Reiss is a member of the Council of the UK-South Africa Trade Association.

Room boom

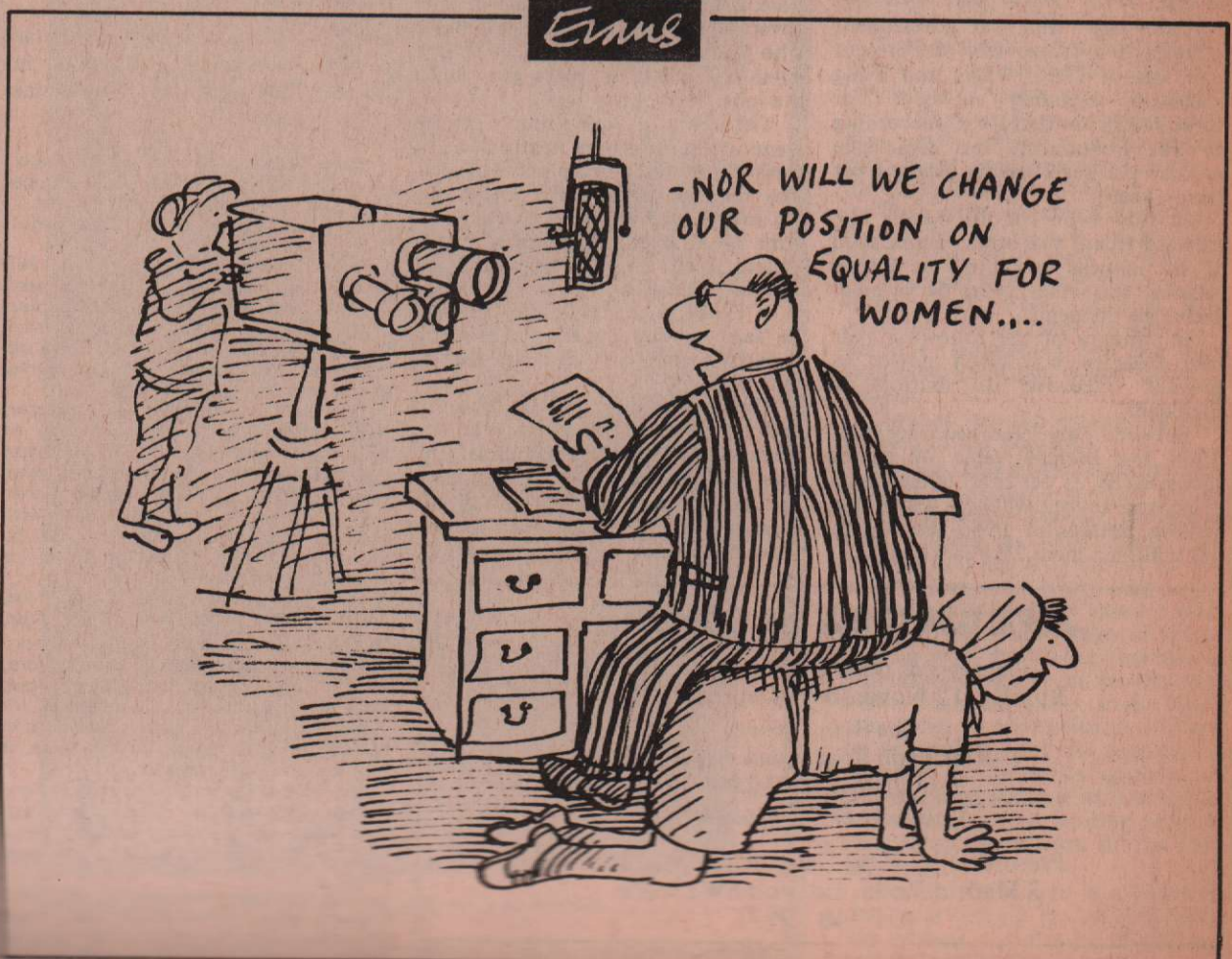
ROBERT ADLEY, Conservative MP for Bristol North East, is very worried about the spread of militancy in the building industry, and has been trying to alert ministers to the 'allegations' in a 'dossier' recently published by the National Federation of Building Trade Employers, which 'lists' all kinds of horrid acts perpetrated by building workers during the recent national strike.

Adley is concerned about these things because of his love for his country and his passion for good industrial relations.

He learnt a lot about industrial relations as an executive of Maxwell Joseph's hotel group for eight years, 1958-1966, and as sales director of the May Fair Hotel from 1959 to 1964. He is a director of Commonwealth Holiday Inns, which has a number of hotels under construction in Britain.

It was Adley who pointed out in the middle of the building strike that the strike could mean that several hotels under construction would not be eligible for the £1000-a-bedroom subsidy granted by the Labour government to all hotels completed by March 1973.

That is enough to drive any patriotic hotel director wild with rage. Which appears to be the effect which it has upon Robert Adley MP.



PRINTS

No joyride for Jones

THE prolonged 'inflation' talks in Downing Street meant the cancellation of a number of very important engagements for top trade union leaders.

Jack Jones of the Transport and General Workers Union and Lord Cooper of the General and Municipal Workers Union had both been keen to accept an invitation from the Birmingham car dealers, Bristol Street Group. (Profits last year £2.6m—a 137 per cent increase on 1971.)

The union leaders had been invited with their wives on a three-day cruise on Britain's most modern luxury liner, the Cunard Ambassador.

The trip included a free first-class flight to Rotterdam to join the liner. The cruise ended, suitably, in Lisbon.

The 'party' was held to celebrate the 'breakthrough' of the Bristol Street Group into Europe and the purchase by Bristol Street of the Dutch Volkswagen dealers, Hoogenboom. The guests included 300 business executives and their wives and a handful of millionaires.

The cost of the operation was estimated, conservatively, at £20,000.

The Sunday Mercury, Birmingham's local Sunday newspaper, carried a double-page spread on 'Harry Cressman's annual party—one of the most glittering social occasions the Midlands business world has ever seen.' (Harry Cressman is the American chairman of the Bristol Street Group.)

The Mercury reported the deep disappointment of Jack Jones and Lord Cooper at not being able to attend the three-day cruise, but all was not lost. The trade union point of view was put to the guests by George Evans, Midlands organiser of the National Union of Vehicle Builders, now part of the Transport Union.

George Evans is currently introducing trade unionism into Midlands garages, including those owned by the Bristol Street Group.

He told the Sunday Mercury (29 October):

'I wondered what the membership might think about my being on a voyage like this. I asked some of my colleagues and they said: "Go ahead. We think it can only do good." I think it was a sensible decision.'

Evans and his wife, Doris, had a wonderful time on board.

P.S.: The name of the Bristol Street Group sales director is Mr Con Justice.

Vic's kicks

ANOTHER disappointed host was Lord Mackintosh, chairman of the toffee firm of the same name and also chairman of the Norwich Savings Committee, who had hoped to entertain Victor Feather, general secretary of the TUC, at the Committee's annual meeting on 26 October.

Feather had agreed to attend the meeting and stay the night in Lord Mackintosh's stately Norfolk home.

For the following morning, 27 October, Feather had arranged a packed itinerary, which included a tour of Mackintosh's toffee factory in the morning, and another tour of the new headquarters of the arch-reactionary Eastern Counties Newspapers in the afternoon. A recent headline in the Eastern Daily Press summed up the views of the chairman of the paper combine, Timothy Coleman of the Reckitt and Coleman family.

The headline, about the arrival of Ugandan Asians, read: 'Kampala New



Wish you were here: guests on the £20,000 PR cruise

Town in Suffolk.

In between times, Feather was to have squeezed in lunch with the local branch of the Institute of Directors.

After strong representations from Norwich Trades Council, Feather had agreed to answer questions from representatives of the trades council between 6pm and 7.15pm on the Thursday evening.

Due to the Downing Street talks, all this had to be cancelled. Len Murray, the TUC's deputy general secretary, deputised for his chief at the Norwich Savings Committee meeting.

Unlocked

HUMANITY has always been the central feature of the giant American Westinghouse Brake and Signal Company which has a factory at Chippenham in Wiltshire.

Some days ago a young worker at Chippenham called Philip Wicks left the factory for another job. He was handed an envelope containing several locks of his own hair.

The hair had been ripped from his head by an unguarded machine in the factory several months previously. The management dutifully put the hair on display to 'persuade' other young workers of the 'dangers' of long hair.

Philip's father was furious. He stormed up to the factory to demand an apology from the management.

SANKEY PANKY

BIG PROFIT FROM SANKEYS bellows a headline in Coal News, the public relations sheet for the Coal industry, boasting about the profit which the Coal Board collected from J H Sankey and Son, in which it holds a 77 per cent share.

Lord Robens, in his book Ten Year Stint, explains how it was that the nationalised Coal Board became interested in builders' merchants Sankey. The board, he explains, were increasingly worried about how to sell their wares through the shops, because of the restrictive practices of the builders' merchants.

'I came to the conclusion', wrote Robens, 'that the only way to circumvent this threatened boycott was to acquire a builders' merchants business ourselves and this we did. When I travelled to Rome on one occasion, my fellow passenger was a merchant banker, to whom I explained the situation . . .'

The consequence was that the Coal Board bought a majority share-

A spokesman for the firm was reported as saying: 'I understand the father has been to the factory and that he was told he could see a senior official of the company but so far he has not done so.'

Making Hay

CONGRATULATIONS to Sir David Burnett, chairman and managing director of Hay's Wharf, which owns huge expanses of land on the South Bank of the Thames which it plans to develop at the expense of the jobs of several thousand dockers, several hundred old houses and shops and an entire working-class community.

Sir David has bought the Tillmouth Park Estate, in Douglas-Home country near Berwick, which includes a hotel, a seven-acre farm and seven miles of salmon and trout fishing on the river Tweed. The cost was a mere bagatelle—£895,000.

Sir David, whose plans for the South Bank envisage the destruction of more existing buildings than any other speculator's plan in the country, proudly told the Glasgow Herald (30 September):

'The estate will continue to be run as it is. I am interested in conservation and preservation of the countryside, and this is one of the reasons I have bought the estate—to save it from being changed.'

holding in Sankeys, which, according to Robens, soon became the third largest builders merchants in the country.

Apart from the £2,300,000 worth of shares which the board holds in Sankeys, it has also loaned the company some £3,425,000 of its money (that's the same money that wasn't around when the miners wanted a pay increase last January).

The profit for the board from Sankey's £20.2 million turnover last year (not including the interest on loans) was £389,000, that is, 3.3 per cent of the turnover.

Compare that with the profit made by Dowty mining machinery division from selling pit props and spare parts to the Coal Board. Last year the division made £3,707,000 profit, which was 16 per cent of turnover.

Which all goes to prove the old rule: When the Coal Board takes over private enterprise, it doesn't do too well, but when it supplies private enterprise, that enterprise flourishes.

RAYMOND CHALLINOR



IT'S ALWAYS fascinating to examine the ancestry of the British aristocracy. Take the Villiers, for example. More than 300 years ago, Barbara Villiers, the Duchess of Cleveland, became mistress to Charles II.

She must have been rather ugly for Charles maintained that his mistresses 'were imposed upon him by his priests as penances'. After his death, King James II came to the throne and frequently did 'penance' with Arabella Villiers, Barbara's sister.

When James, weakened by his excesses and showing signs of premature mental decline, was deposed by the Revolution of 1688, William of Orange became king.

He turned to the Villiers to provide the royal mistress. As Professor Maurice Ashley says, 'Elizabeth Villiers maintained a tradition almost beyond the dynasties.'

The Villiers girls might not have had hearts of gold, but they nevertheless amassed immense wealth. They also added greatly to the size of the aristocracy.

Among their descendants are the Dukes of Marlborough, Devonshire and Buckingham, the Marquis of Bute, the Clivedens, the Pitts and the Churchills. With the exception of Labour governments, there has been a member of the Villiers family in every cabinet for 250 years.

This continuity of political power and wealth vividly illustrates the way the ruling class has remained virtually unchanged throughout the centuries.

WHAT LABOUR CANNOT DO

THE WAY councils capitulated to government pressure is just another sign of the degeneration of the Labour Party. It should be remembered that the Tory Housing Bill is simply another turn of the screw, a measure designed to further enrich financiers and landlords at the expense of the working class.

While obviously capitalists want it introduced, they are not fighting as desperately for it as they would in a situation where their whole economic system was threatened. Then all the stops would be pulled out.

Fighting for its very existence, the ruling class would become really ferocious, a much more formidable enemy.

So if the Labour Party cannot defeat the Tory Housing Act, there is no possibility whatsoever that it would be able to accomplish the much more difficult task of overthrowing the capitalist system.

THE PRICE OF A PREFAB

SELLING Socialist Worker recently, I came across two instances of the operation of the government's housing legislation. One regular reader, who is faced with a rent increase of a little over a pound, lives in a house that was built immediately after the Second World War.

Largely a pre-fabricated structure, it was supposed to have a life of 10 years. But now, 17 years after it should have been knocked down, she is told she should pay more rent and has the prospect of further increases in the following two years.

How can this be reconciled with any definition of the word 'fair'?

At another house, I found a man angry over the Housing Act because

Bed and board for the Villiers

it prevented him from putting the rent up! He is a bachelor and did not need much of his house.

So he had rented part of it. His tenant, who pays a little over a pound a week, works in the Borough Treasurer's department.

The local government officer, knowing all the wrinkles of the law, was able to stop the rent being increased on a technicality. While the house itself was well-maintained and decorated, part of the wall at the front has fallen down. This gave him the pretext to get a certificate of disrepair.

'How can I afford to put up the wall?' asked our reader. 'I am a boilermaker at Swan Hunters and have been on strike for seven weeks.'

It would seem obvious that government legislation, primarily out to re-distribute wealth in favour of rent, interest and profit, is designed to help the big man very much more than the small, as the boilermaker ruefully pointed out.

JUST WHO IS PAYING WHOM?

ONCE UPON a time a young man was being shown round a factory when the following conversation occurred:

Young man: 'What did you tell that man to do just now?'

Employer: 'I told him to hurry up.'

Young man: 'What right have you to tell him to hurry up?'

Employer: 'I pay him £25 a week and expect him to work as fast as he can.'

Young man: 'Where do you get the money from to pay him?'

Employer: 'I sell products.'

Young man: 'Who makes the products?'

Employer: 'He does.'

Young man: 'How many pounds worth does he make a week?'

Employer: 'About £60 a week, discounting cost.'

Young man: 'Then instead of you paying him £25 a week, he's paying you £35 a week to stand around and tell him to hurry up.'

Employer: 'But I own the expensive machinery.'

Young man: 'How did you get the machinery?'

Employer: 'I sold products and bought them.'

Young man: 'Who made the products?'

Employer (annoyed): 'Shut up, he might hear you!'

VICTOR SERGE

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TRANSLATED BY PETER SEDGWICK

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OXFORD: behind those dreaming spires...

THE International Socialists' Fight the Tories campaign is now going full blast in every major area of the country. With the government attack on workers' living standards reaching a crescendo, IS meetings and demonstrations are emphasising the urgent need to build a mass socialist workers' party. This week, in our special series of articles, we look at a city that most people think of as just a major seat of learning. But like every town in Britain, it has a working-class population feeling the lash of the Tory-employer offensive...

OXFORD is clearly divided into two parts. One is a university of 12,000 students with a reputation for being the snobbiest in the country. The other produces millions of pounds worth of cars each year.

Cowley has built up a reputation as one of the most militant areas of the British Leyland combine. The two major plants—Morris Assembly and Pressed Steel Body—which between them employ more than 15,000 people, have the highest number of disputes in the country and also the highest rates of pay. The basic rate at the moment is £44.20.

When Lord Stokes decided he needed measured day work if management was to try to control production, it was at Cowley that he staged one of his first attacks. Although nearly all sections in the plants are now on MDW it is quite clear that it has not yet solved management's problems.

At the moment there is a battle on to reduce the manning levels on the Marina, British Leyland's latest baby, which management has so far lost. But they are now threatening to take the new model (the ADO 76), which should begin production at Cowley next year, to Coventry if they don't get what they want.

Unemployment

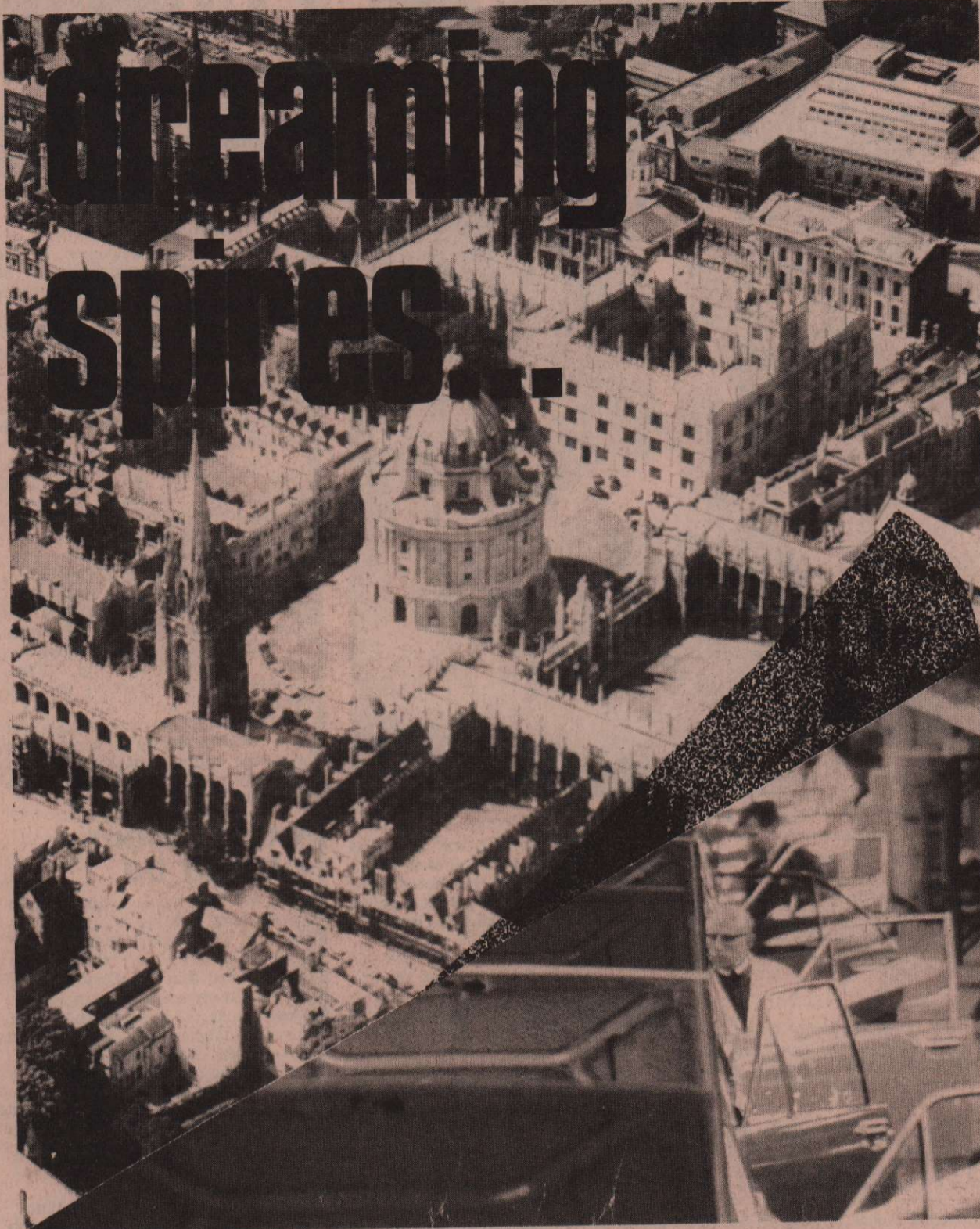
But this is not the only fight. There is a growing fear that British Leyland's rationalisation plans will hit Oxford soon. Several plants might be affected: one is Radiators, which produces car components. There will also probably be an attempt to merge the Service Division (Export packing) and the CKD (Module packing), drastically reducing the workforce.

If you compare the level of unemployment in Oxford with the national average, then it seems as if Oxford has been quite lucky. Nevertheless the rate is much higher than it has been for several years. If there are massive redundancies in the car factories, there are few alternative sources of jobs.

There are a few printing and engineering works but these are small and scattered and the rates of pay are much lower.

The university is no source of employment for anyone who has a wife and family to keep. The handymen and cleaners in the colleges are paid abysmal rates and few dare join a union.

But a fight for union recognition and better conditions has just begun and there was a strike at one of the colleges this week.



FIGHT THE TORIES

The university is not the only institution of further education in Oxford. The Polytechnic, which is more than a mile away from the city centre, is growing fast but has nothing like the facilities of the university.

That does not simply mean that the Poly has no boat clubs and fewer rugby pitches but also that the libraries and the teaching facilities are inadequate. The accommodation facilities are abysmal; while Poly students have smaller grants than the university students they are forced to compete with them for lodgings. And the rents are high.

Oxford has a chronic housing problem: two families a day approach the city's social services department because they are homeless. It is surprising that with a tradition of working-class militancy there has not been a serious struggle against the 'Fair' Rents scheme. The reason is that although there was a rent increase in April the next one is not due until April 1973.

Because Oxford city housing department made a profit of

£300,000 last year and because Oxford tenants pay the fourth highest rents in the country, there is a possibility that the rent increases may be postponed even further.

The local Labour Party's role in the rents issue is interesting.

Before the local elections they accepted a motion from a local Engineering Union branch committing them to fight the increases.

Since the elections, when Labour won control of the council for the first time, they have interpreted 'fighting' as arguing with the housing

Behind the facade of the university, the picturesque Oxford that draws all the American tourists, there is another City—that of the workers. Not just the car workers, now facing big cut-backs, but the whole army of college servants—all massively under-paid.

commissioner not to increase the rents too much.

It is already clear that 'Fair' Rents will begin to affect Oxford soon. Labour will not fight and there is more than ever before an urgent need to build tenants' associations which will fight.

It is not surprising that the local Labour Party is running away from a real fight on the rents, for it is dominated by middle-class university intellectuals and not many of them live in council houses.

Monday Club

It is worth noting that the candidate who won the nomination for the parliamentary constituency is Evan Luard, who lost the seat in 1970. His renomination was rejected by the 5/60 branch of the Transport Union. This branch has over 6000 members—one would have thought that in a town of 100,000 people that its vote would have counted for something.

Almost all the left-wing political organisations are active in Oxford. But the right wing is also large and active.

Not only is there a member of Bennion's (the man who prosecuted Peter Hain) organisation spying on left-wing activists but the Monday Club is planning to hold its annual student conference in Oxford. This is scheduled to take place on 17-18 November.

The left have united to stage a demonstration against the Monday Club and its fascist supporters on the Saturday. There will be a march from Cowley to the city centre for a rally. Anyone who can get to Oxford on that day should come and march with us.

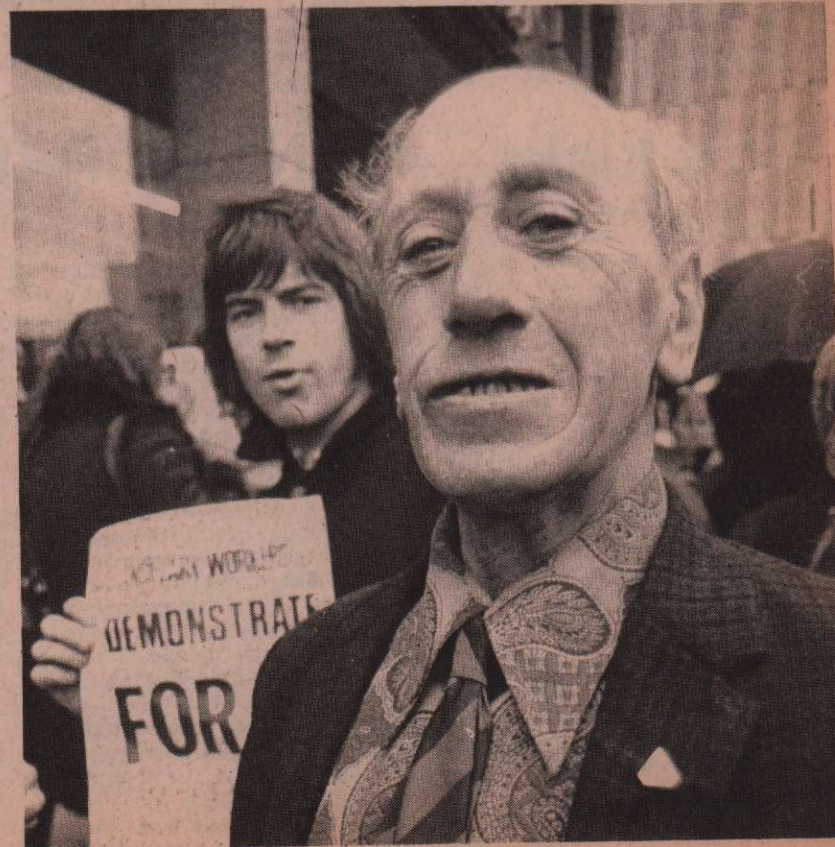
It is worth remembering that the last time Enoch Powell came to Oxford, he was met by such a large, militant demonstration that he has hardly dared to show his face here again.

EMILY WALLACE

The £25 headline

THIS IS Mr S. Hoppit of London SW17. He works on the dustbins at Westminster Hospital. He's worked there for 25 years—a significant figure, for that's how much he earns before deductions: £25.

Cameraman Mike Cohen caught Mr Hoppit on the lively, 200-strong demonstration outside the hospital workers' union offices at the Elephant and Castle. They were demanding that the union withdraw a £4 a week pay claim and submit one for £8 instead. It's the only way that workers like Mr Hoppit can see of keeping abreast of inflation in the next year.



Trotsky's HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

'The language of the civilised nations has clearly marked off two epochs in the development of Russia. Where the aristocratic culture introduced into world parlance such barbarisms as czar, pogrom, knout, October has internationalised such words as Bolshevik, soviet... This alone justifies the proletarian revolution, if you imagine it needs justification'—Trotsky.

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THE MYTH OF A LABOUR ALTERNATIVE

EVERY DAY more and more working people are convinced of the need to kick out this vicious Tory government. But what do we put in its place? Cashing in on the mounting anti-Tory tide is the Labour Party, making 'left-wing' noises about wealth taxes, nationalisation and even some degree of workers' 'participation' in running industry. Many militants

who remember with bitterness Labour's record when last in office are saying: 'Give 'em another chance—they'll be better next time.' It is an argument that must be countered. Take a look at Labour's record, for they'll play the same songs next time too. Whatever Labour's verbal radicalism in opposition,

in office it is just as committed to propping up the existing order of society as the Tories. In an important series of articles Socialist Worker writers will examine Labour's record from 1964 to 1970 on the crucial issues facing workers both in Britain and overseas and will attempt to bury the myth that it offers some alternative to the Heath regime.

by James Fenton

IN 1970 Harold Wilson went to the country with the notion in his head that his personality, and that alone, would pull in the votes.

Not only was no radical programme put before the voters: the ministers of the old government were actually discouraged from making 'important' speeches.

Only one did, and that was a disaster. Anthony Wedgwood Benn took on Enoch Powell, and came out rather worse.

Several ministers were rather annoyed at being left out of things and complained—but only after the event. One of these, Richard Crossman, would have been delighted to talk to the voters about his new pension scheme, which was supposed to earn him his place in the history books.

As it was, Wilson concentrated on 'meeting the people'. He met them, and not surprisingly they were not very taken with what they saw.

Crossman and his colleagues found themselves kicked off the stage of history, and went back to managing their large farms, and other profitable pursuits. They are still there now, wondering what hit them.

When Labour came into office, it had various great schemes to put across—technological revolution (meaning rationalisation), a planned economy (incomes policy), and greater emphasis on welfare and social services.

PUNDITS

When Labour went out of office, incomes policy was 'in ruins', welfare and social services had in many respects deteriorated, in other respects they had barely kept up with the rising cost of living.

Only one element of Labour's policy remained shining bright: productivity dealing and rationalisation were the order of the day. Yes, Wilson would say to the tele-pundits, wages are rising fast—but in most cases this is linked with productivity.

In other words, the workforce was being reduced, and more work was being done at lower rates.

If the incomes policy of 1965 had one selling point for the trade unions, it was that the lower-paid were supposed to benefit—inflation was to be reduced and 'Exceptional pay increases' should be confined to the following circumstances... where there is general recognition that existing wage and salary levels are too low to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

How did this work out? Well, when a pay claim involving higher and lower-paid workers went before the Prices and Incomes Board, the lower-paid would be allowed a higher percentage increase only if they took it at the expense of the higher-paid workers in their factory.



PROGRAMME FOR POVERTY

If this sort of horse-trading, which divided the working class, was not possible, then productivity was bound to come in. The trouble is that for many low-paid workers there was not even any chance of such a bargain, since they have no chance of being more productive.

So even in the later stages of the Wilson government the number of low-paid workers remained fairly constant as the following table shows:

PERCENTAGE OF MEN MANUAL WORKERS EARNING UNDER £15 A WEEK GROSS IN SEPTEMBER 1968 AND £17 IN APRIL 1970

	1968	1970
National agreements, private sector	5.2	4.9
public sector	11.5	11.5
wages boards/council orders	22.6	22.8

What is worse, unemployment was rising in precisely the regions where there was a large proportion of

low-paid workers.

There was one solution to the problem of the low-paid, and that was the solution that the trade unions themselves adopted after the collapse of incomes policy: they simply campaigned for better wages for them. And in this they eventually had some success.

It seemed a long time since, in

1964, Wilson had promised a guaranteed income below which nobody was allowed to fall.

The Labour Party had grown to believe that increased wages for the poor were not in the national interest. But there was one thing they could do. They could increase social security, to keep it in pace with the rising cost of living.

They did increase it from a total of £2115 million in 1964-5 to £3679 million in 1969-70—which represented a proportion of 9.3 per cent of the Gross National Product, as opposed to a previous 7.2 per cent.

But these figures conceal various changes in the country at the time—unemployment rising, and an increase in the number of old people. In real terms, social services spending grew very little within this period.

SALARIES

If there was greater demand for social security during the period of Labour government, the same was true of every other social service provided. Yet between 1964 and 1968 expenditure on housing rose by only 0.2 per cent of the Gross National Product. More money was spent, but that money was worth that much less.

The spending on the health service rose by 0.7 per cent, much of which was taken up by increased salaries for doctors and dentists, whose wages rose 10.4 per cent in 1967-8 while nurses got an extra 2.6 per cent.

Meanwhile the wealthy continued to grumble at high taxation levels. In fact they were not doing at all badly. In 1968 a man earning £60 or more a week would pay about 35 per cent in taxes, all told—which is one per cent less than someone earning £23.

The subsidies to the rich, tax concessions on mortgages and so on, continued as ever. Death duties had a decreasing effectiveness, capital gains tax produced only a minute proportion of total revenue.

Not only the revolutionary left are unimpressed by the Wilson government's record on welfare, the social services, the redistribution of wealth, the incomes policy swindle. Labour economists themselves are hard put to find a good word to say for it.

As Peter Townsend and Nicholas Bosanquet wrote recently: 'Democratic socialism did not fail in the 1960s: it was not tried.'

Yet the economic climate, and the means of achieving a greater equality of wealth, were not always entirely lacking. Why should we believe the present prospectuses for change any more than the last?

As many Labour politicians—such as Richard Crossman—are perfectly prepared to admit, their interests lie in the better management of capitalism, not its abolition. For such people the abolition of poverty was a low priority.

Rip van Winkle union at Little Snoring

by Jenny Hawke

THE total workforce of 13 men have been made redundant at Norvic Engineering, at Little Snoring, Fakenham, Norfolk. Their work, making milling machine driver heads, is to be transferred to the parent company, Baldings, in Norwich.

Baldings have decided they can make bigger profits by increasing productivity in the larger Norwich and Yarmouth factories than by exploiting the cheap labour in a small factory in the country.

Baldings are trying to get the men in Norwich to accept a change to two eight-hour shifts. They are promising a higher basic rate (£30.35)—but with no chance of overtime or bonus, the basic pay would be less than at present.

The men have refused so far, but have no organised opposition. A few are in the General and Municipal Workers Union, but the management refuses to recognise the union or

negotiate with it.

The Little Snoring factory had only three union members until recently. The other 10 workers joined a month ago, so they could force the management to talk to the union official.

The men at the Little Snoring factory had not received a penny of the pay rise they were due to receive 11 weeks ago. The regional official, H B Williams, was partially successful in getting the back pay due.

It is worth noting that he came only after being called by the shop steward. Williams had made no attempt to check all members were getting the pay rise. He had never tried to tie the three factories in Little Snoring, Norwich and Great Yarmouth together. He had not attempted to increase membership

within the factories, or to give assurances that victimisation of men joining the union would not be tolerated.

So a factory which once employed 30 men in the depressed area of Fakenham has been deliberately run down and is now being closed—without a fight.

The men have always been isolated and vulnerable. They are trapped by the lack of public transport. (To be fair, Baldings did offer jobs in Norwich to six men—but this would have meant 50 miles travel to and from work daily—13½ hours per week in good weather, more in winter fog and snow. The offer was turned down.)

The men have accepted the closure passively, and it is too late to do anything for Little Snoring now.

This case points out the vital importance of organising small factories. The GMWU should get to work.

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Justice wilts

in the Garden

1: A VERY GRAVE OFFENCE

ON 13 FEBRUARY 1970, the Garden House Hotel in Cambridge was hit by catastrophe. Two windows, valued at eight guineas, were broken, and two tables bearing plates of delicious Greek food were overturned.

The outrage was caused by what all the newspapers described as a 'mob' of demonstrators protesting against a £3-a-head 'Greek week' dinner, whose main purpose was to promote tourism and foreign currency for the colonels' junta in Greece.

The Cambridge Evening News, whose advertising manager had been instrumental in arranging the banquet in the first place, labelled the demonstration 'a riot'.

Six people were arrested at the demonstration, and charged with an assortment of minor offences. But Mr Frederick Drayton Porter, the chief constable of Mid-Anglia, was determined that left-wing Cambridge students must be taught a lesson once and for all.

On 14 April, the six were indicted with a further set of more serious charges, and another 14 people were charged with offences arising from the demonstration.

Horror

One was chairman of Cambridge University Socialist Society, two were ex-chairmen and another chairman-elect. All others except one (who was eventually released for lack of evidence) were known in Cambridge for their political views.

Explaining his decision to charge only left-wingers for an offence which presumably applied to some 1000 other people on the demo, Mr Porter told the Observer: 'When we were fighting the Germans and took prisoners, we didn't take Americans, did we?'

On 15 June nine days before the trial, all the defendants were charged with the additional, more serious offence of riotous assembly.

The trial was presided over by Mr Justice Melford Stevenson, who found it difficult at any stage to disguise his horror of and loathing for the defendants. The judgment was as follows:

Rod Caird, Guilty (on the identification evidence of one policeman who had never attended an identification parade, much less picked Caird out on it) of riot, assault, and carrying an offensive weapon: **EIGHTEEN MONTHS IN PRISON.**

Suicide

Peter Household, Guilty of unlawful assembly and assault, although he had been arrested long before the hotel had been broken into and although no one could explain why the original charge of obstruction had been escalated to assault: **NINE MONTHS IN PRISON.**

Nick Emley, Guilty of riotous assembly and assault: **BORSTAL for a minimum of six months, maximum of two years.**

Richard Lagden, Guilty of riotous assembly and malicious damage. In mitigation the court was told that Lagden's parents had both committed suicide. Mr Justice Melford Stevenson sent him to prison, for **FIFTEEN MONTHS.**

Phineas John, Guilty of riotous assembly and malicious damage: **ONE YEAR IN BORSTAL.**

Derek Newton, who was not questioned until six weeks after the demonstration, Guilty of unlawful assembly and possession of an offensive weapon. **NINE**

PAUL FOOT REPORTS...



Above: a GardemHox examines the broken after the Greek Feast tion. Left: fireman body of a victim at House blaze that tight

MONTHS IN PRISON.

Miguel Bodea, Guilty of unlawful assembly. The only evidence against him was from one proctor who said he thought he saw Bodea pushing in the crowd. **NINE MONTHS IN PRISON.**

All the above sentences were upheld on appeal. Lord Justice Sachs made it clear what was the limit of the 'freedom to demonstrate' which most people believe still exists in this country.

Unlawful assembly, he agreed, took place when more than three people were gathered together with an intent to take part in a gathering which might result in a breach of the peace.

Said Sachs: 'It was the law—and in commonsense should be the case—that any person who actively encouraged or promoted an unlawful assembly or riot, whether by words, signs or actions, by participating in it was guilty of an offence... On these tumultuous occasions, each individual who took an active part by deed or encouragement was guilty of a really grave offence.'

2: NO ONE TO BLAME

ON 24 APRIL this year, the Garden House Hotel, Cambridge was burnt to the ground.

Mrs Caroline Billington, of Heswall, Cheshire, was poisoned by carbon monoxide fumes before she could get out of the hotel.

Miss Barbara Allen of Kirkby Moorside, Yorks, died in agony from similar poisoning.

Several other guests suffered serious injury jumping from upstairs window in flight from the fire.

The inquest on these two deaths took place on 25 October at Cambridge Coroner's Court. The coroner, Mr Dudley Durrell, was extremely anxious not to blame anyone for the disaster.

'I think,' he said, 'the tragedy is one which was emphasised by certain factors which were beyond anyone's control.'

The following facts came out at the inquest:

The fire raged for nearly an hour before anyone noticed it.

There was no alarm system, let alone detection system in the hotel. The first the guests knew of the fire was when they heard, saw or smelt it. The doors and ceilings were not in any way resistant to fire.

The fire started in a service room on the first floor. In this room there were two water urns for making early morning tea. The urns were not thermostatically controlled.

Shocked

Mrs Janice Macbeth, who works in the hotel, told the court that she had been in the service room the previous evening. She could not be certain that both urns were switched off when she left the room.

There was nothing to stop any of the guests going into the room and switching on one of the urns during the night. There were no instructions how to use the urns, and no instructions to staff or guests as to what to do in case of fire. There were no fire escapes.

Mr Paul Breen, for the hotel management, told the court:

'With this type of premises, we had made it possible to get people out through windows and across the flat roofs.'

All this was entirely within the law. Even if Mr Frederick Porter or Mr Justice Melford Stevenson were as shocked at the deaths of two old ladies as they were by the breaking of two windows, there is nothing whatever they could have done about it.

For on 24 April there were no regulations in any law which laid down even minimum requirements for precaution against fire in hotels.

Fires in offices, shops and railway premises were covered by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, fires in factories by the Factories Acts, fires in cinemas by the Cinematographs Act, and in theatres by the Theatres Act.

But for hotels there were, last April, no legal requirements at all. The Public Health Act 1936 laid down fire restrictions on hotels of more than two storeys, but only for the storeys above the second floor, and then only

if the rooms in these higher than 20 feet built since 1936 correspondingly, be rooms or upper floors 20 feet high.

On 1 June this year Precautions Act, 1970 into force.

It gives power to authorities to insist:

- All bedrooms resistant to fire for
- Enclosure of stairs
- Adequate means of
- A fire alarm system in some cases, smoke detectors
- Adequate fire-fighting equipment.
- Training of staff in fire-fighting.
- Display of fire-fighting equipment in bedrooms.

Six weeks or so however, the Garden failed on almost every above tests.

Pessimism

Mr Arthur... divisional officer Cambridge Fire... Socialist Worker... House did not comply regulations in any... The fire precautions were very, very poor 90 per cent of the boarding houses in the

Mr Matthews... Cambridge hotels have inspected with enforcing the new... some cases, the extra than the management. The Glengarry Hotel for instance, has been close, allegedly the new, 'tough' regulations.

But Mr Matthews... about the general of the new regulations town like Blackpool it could take up to the fire authority; all the 20,000 hotel

Eamonn McCann on Whitelaw's Six Counties plan



'THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT have a clear objective in Northern Ireland. It is to deliver its people from the violence and fear in which they live today and to set them free to realise their great potential to the full.'

So says William Whitelaw in the foreword the Green Paper on The Future of Northern Ireland published last week. This is nonsense, of course.

The clear objective of the Tory government is to find a solution to the Irish problem which leaves British big business free to continue the exploitation of the whole island in as peacefully lucrative a manner as possible. An examination of the Green Paper demonstrates this.

The longest section of the paper is Part Two, entitled 'Proposals and Possibilities'. In it Whitelaw sets out the plans put forward by the various Northern Ireland parliamentary parties and the ideas of certain commentators and private individuals who, he claims, have written to him.

THREE-WAY

Part Three, 'Towards a Settlement' and Part Four, 'The Way Forward', examine various combinations and permutations of these plans.

All the plans considered involve some sort of rearrangement of the three-way relationship between the London, Belfast and Dublin governments.

The Unionist Party, for example, proposes that Northern Ireland should remain within the United Kingdom but retain control of security and that there should eventually be a 'Council of Ireland' on which matters 'in the economic and social field' could be discussed with the Dublin government.

The Social Democratic and Labour Party suggests that Northern Ireland should be run jointly by the Dublin and London governments but, strangely enough, that it should not be represented in the Dublin or London parliaments.

GUARANTEED

Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party urges the 'complete integration' of Northern Ireland into the United Kingdom after the model of Scotland and Wales. The Alliance Party and the Northern Ireland Labour Party want a 'reformed Stormont' elected by proportional representation in which Catholics would be more or less guaranteed a place in the government.

Alliance wants an Anglo-Irish Council, including members of all three parliaments. Labour wants a Council of Ireland of the Unionist model.

What all these plans set out to do in their various ways is to discover a method whereby Orange and Green Toryism can peacefully co-exist in Ireland. The Way Forward indicates which aspects of the suggestions the British Tory government considers most likely to achieve this aim.

Whitelaw rejects Paisley's plea for complete integration and the



GREEN PAPER, ORANGE FLAVOUR

SDLP's 'condominion'. He says specifically that control of security will remain with Westminster in the foreseeable future. Thus we can see emerging more clearly the final Tory plan which is scheduled for unveiling early in the new year.

There will be a regional assembly in Belfast with limited power. Almost certainly it will be elected by proportional representation.

The government, or regional executive, or whatever it will be called, will be formed from both majority and minority parties in the assembly—'Giving minority interests a share in the exercise of executive power.' There will be some all-Ireland body containing members of both the Northern Assembly and the Dublin

government.

It would be seriously wrong to dismiss this plan as an irrelevancy, as some have done. It is the most determined and intelligent plan yet put forward by British big business to guarantee the security of its investments in Ireland, North and South, to stabilise the rule of the Orange and Green Tory parties and to undermine the potentially revolutionary forces.

All three parliamentary parties in the South of Ireland have indicated general acceptance of the outline scheme. 'Moderate' leaders on both sides of the religious fence in the North have given it a guarded welcome. Both front benches at Westminster are in favour.

We are witnessing the beginning

of a massive propaganda campaign to convince us that only lunatic extremists oppose the Whitelaw plan.

When Whitelaw talks of giving Catholics a 'share in power' what he means is giving the Catholic middle class a share of office—a

handful of regional ministries. (There is obviously no intention to give Catholic workers—or Protestant workers for that matter—any power.)

The hope is that this will satisfy most of the Catholics, thus isolating the IRA, enabling the army to smash it. The commitment to the retention of the border, it is hoped, will satisfy the Protestant masses so that they will not object too strongly to the removal of security powers to Westminster.

This could happen and the reason why it could happen is the bankruptcy of the political leadership in Ireland. The reformist SDLP, for example, cannot counter the Whitelaw plan—even if it wanted to—having steadily lowered its sights month by month since the introduction of internment.

BALANCE

The leadership of the Official Republicans has had the ground cut from under its feet. Having insisted that 'full democracy' guaranteed by a Bill of Rights is 'the next stage in the Irish struggle', it finds now that the Tories are enacting something remarkably akin to this demand.

The Provisional leadership, with its lack of class politics, cannot break out of the Catholic ghettos and mount any across-the-board challenge.

What the Green Paper portends is that the Tories have struck the balance they want between their Orange and Green counterparts in Ireland. They are evolving a single strategy towards Ireland, not resting on any one section of Irish capitalism but on both.

Only the tiny revolutionary socialist forces, attempting through the trade union movement to build a revolutionary working-class party, North and South, have the potential to take on and defeat the designs of Whitelaw and his cronies. It has never been more necessary that they receive the active support of British socialists.

Men the Tories consulted...

Whitelaw consulted the parliamentary parties in Northern Ireland before publishing his Green Paper. Their views differed in detail but not in

principle: that British domination of the whole of Ireland must continue with a few sops to the Catholic community.



Faulkner, Unionist: Keep security



Paisley, Democratic Unionist: Integrate with UK



Fitt, SDLP: Each way bet

International Socialism 53



Lessons of the Sit-in
Decline of Reformism
Chile: Time for decision
'Marxist' Left in India
The Fourth International

October issue now out: 20p, or £1 for a year, from IS JOURNAL, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

'Parliament is largely a show, to deceive the public into believing its elected representatives govern the country, or at least decide on policy

OUT OF YOUR MIND

Duncan Hallas on socialist ideas and capitalist myths

IN OCTOBER the Heath government completely reversed its strategy on the wages front. After two and a half years of trying to bash the union leadership into acting as its agents by the Industrial Relations law and by pitched battles with selected unions to 'prove' that the state will always win, Heath and co were forced to backtrack.

Co-operation, 'partnership' became the order of the day. As one Conservative commentator put it, Heath's new policy became 'to ask responsible union leaders to come into partnership with him and to take a genuine share in the management of the British economy.' And to this end, all sorts of concessions, previously 'out of the question', were offered.

Leave aside the immediate outcome. What concerns us here is the role that parliament played—or rather didn't play—in the operation.

Here we have a fundamental change in government policy on what is, by common consent, the key political questions of the day: inflation, prices, wages and wage negotiations.

How does the government attempt to trap the organised working-class movement into supporting its line? By direct negotiations with the representatives of the TUC and the representatives of big business. Not by parliamentary debates and resolutions but by private talks in Downing Street with men who are not even backbench MPs.

This single fact tells us more about the real power relationships in Britain today than any number of textbooks on 'The Constitution'.

Package

The parliamentary Labour Party was not even invited to send an observer to the tripartite talks, let alone to participate. Mr Wilson was left watching the touchline.

Not that he has any grounds for complaint. When the Wilson government produced its famous National Plan in 1965, which was to lay the foundations of the 'New Britain', not a single MP outside the cabinet was consulted in advance. Big business was consulted. The civil service chiefs were consulted. The TUC was consulted.

Parliament was not consulted. It was presented with a package, negotiated in advance, in private, and

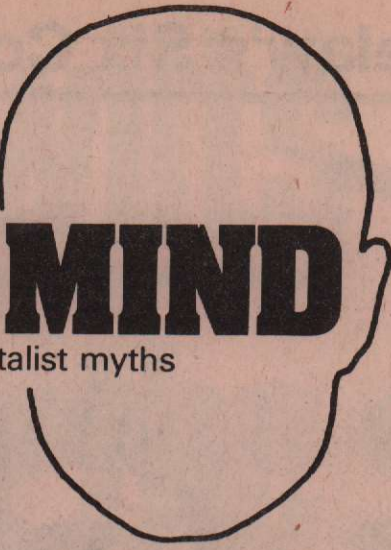
The sham that they call parliament

allowed to go through the motions of debating it.

In short, parliament, in spite of its legal sovereignty, is not the place where the real decisions on matters of moment are taken. Parliament is largely a show, the aim of which is to deceive the public into believing that its elected representatives actually govern the country or at least decide on policy. They do neither.

Let us consider the testimony of Professor John P Mackintosh, MP, constitutional expert, Labour right-winger, supporter of Hugh Gaitskill in the past and of Roy Jenkins today and an ardent upholder of the 'British way of life'.

In a book entitled *The Government and Politics of Britain*, he admits, 'The old nineteenth century role of parliament as a body which chose the government, maintained it and could reject it, which operated as an intermediary between the electorate and the executive, has gone.' Professor Mackintosh goes on to tell us, on the basis no doubt of personal experience, that 'the life of a backbench MP soon becomes unsatisfactory and offers so little scope for achievement, for registering even the smallest impact on a restricted area of public life...'



This state of affairs has come about as the inevitable result of the growth of the labour movement and the extension of the right to vote to working people. There was a time, roughly from the end of the revolutions of the seventeenth century until the beginning of this century, when parliament was in fact as well as in law the supreme policy-making body.

Those were the days when the House of Commons was described as 'the best club in Europe'. Lords and Commons together actually contained virtually everyone with real power.

'It is doubtful,' writes the historian of the eighteenth century, Professor Plumb, 'if any member of the ruling class, no matter how odd or eccentric his political views, was ever kept out of parliament if he really wanted to get in.' In these circumstances parliament could and did function as the natural forum in which the ruling class debated and decided its policies.

Bosses

The extension of the vote, under threat of revolution, to the middle classes after 1832 and even its extension to the working class in 1867 and 1884 did not immediately alter the role of parliament. The class composition of parliament changed very little for a long time.

But of course this could not last indefinitely. Today parliament does not contain most of the big-business bosses, bankers and financiers. Nor for that matter does it contain the important trade union leaders.

And therefore all important decisions are taken outside parliament. The legal forms remain, the reality has changed out of all recognition.

Parliament still matters but its importance is largely ideological. It serves as a front behind which the ruling class and its state machine conduct the struggle to preserve their wealth and privilege against working-class encroachment.

And the role of the parliamentary Labour Party is to give this charade some credibility in the eyes of working people.

BOOKS

REVIEW

That sound like snapping concrete

FIRE WORDS, edited by Chris Searle, Jonathan Cape, 50p.

POETRY doesn't often appear in *Socialist Worker's* pages. And there's not much working-class readership for poetry. No wonder, really.

'Poetry', like many other art forms, including painting, sculpture, ballet, theatre, is tied up in our minds with the culture of the ruling classes. It's a form of luxury consumer goods, along with dinner jackets and fine old burgundy.

And 'poetry', too, has a cissy image. It's all those 'hosts of bleeding daffodils' we got at school. It's irrelevant to our experience. It's alien.

But because the 'English literature' taught to most of us at school does put us off it for life, we've been robbed by our schools—of a way of speaking to each other, which only a few pop songs have begun to rediscover fairly recently. Our imagination has been stamped on.

I won't try to analyse how exactly a poem 'speaks', how simple rhyme and rhythm can give extra meanings to a statement, and so forth. But a poem can make you laugh, or feel angry, in a quite different way from a statement in prose.

These poems, anyway, are by school-children. They were collected by Chris Searle, an English teacher in Stepney who was sacked for, basically, being 'too friendly' with the kids in his classes. He published a small collection of his classes' poems, *Stepney Words*, and the governors of the Sir John Cass School heaved him out for this hideous immorality. The kids struck in his defence, but lost.

This collection was sent to him by kids all over the country. I think some of those printed below (the ones I liked particularly) will interest, amuse, even hurt a lot of readers who would normally say that 'poetry's not for me'.

COLIN BARKER

TRIUMPH

The world hears Wall Street wailing
It's slipping down the charts
That sound like snapping concrete
Is tycoons' breaking hearts.

Is that infection spreading
Will Hunger Marchers tread
Past pale and silent children
Who wait in line for bread?

So open up the window
In the highest building
Let the rotten system
Tremble on the ledge.
If it don't want to jump
We'll just have to push it
Right on over the edge.
ANNA CHINQUE, 14
Hackney, London

I live in a block of flats where people
do play I have no friends day after day
if I have no friend I can't play
so I stay in and look after myself

I noticed they started to talk to
Me it was because I was black
and they were just saying to themselves,
let's speak
Don't be rotten
ANONYMOUS, 14
London

I think I'll be an executive.
That's what I think I'll be.
My Dad says I'll be on the bins.
That's what he thinks of me.
ALAN TWIGG, 12
Widnes

BOOKWORM'S EYE VIEW

THE Bristol radical publishers Falling Wall Press have several new and beautifully produced pamphlets out which keep up their reputation as one of the livelier of the small political presses.

This month they publish some newly translated essays by ALEXANDRA KOLLONTAI, *Sexual Relations and the Class Struggle*, and *Love and the New Morality*. The essays argue that the changes in sexual morality which took place after the Russian Revolution are an integral part of the struggle of the working class coming to power. They are set by translator Alix Holt against the background of the wars of intervention and the economic crisis.

Falling Wall also publish two essays on the modern WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT from a marxist viewpoint, *Women and the subversion of the community*, by Mariarosa Dalla Costa, an activist in the Italian group Lotta Femminista, and for contrast *A Woman's Place*, written by Selma James for an American syndicalist paper in the early

SNAILS

Snails are hermaphrodite
(Which doesn't mean they hunt at night
Or that baby snails are excessively fat
No, it doesn't mean anything like that)
It means something like this;

First they kiss
Then they mate
Then they separate

Then they BOTH reproduce
To some people this idea may be new
But I can vouch it's perfectly true
If only God had had the foresight
To make us all hermaphrodite!
DOMINIC HODGKIN, 12
Spitalfields, London

My teacher sat there
when we come in.
We get on with our work
why do we work for him?
He sat there playing around
why can't we play around
Like he do?
He play like a little baby
Why can't we play like a baby
like he do?
He makes aeroplanes and fly them
around.

Why can't we play around like he do?
When he play he make us work
While he play with aeroplanes
like a little baby
GLENN NOLOTH, 14
Ipswich

For a shorter working week

THE NORTH-EAST ENGINEERS' STRIKES OF 1871, by E Allen, J Clarke, N McCord and D J Rowe; Frank Graham.

THIS book deals with the first and most important struggle by skilled engineering workers for a shorter working week after the formation of the amalgamated engineering societies in the 1850s. It is the first serious attempt to describe a 19th century engineers' strike on a local level.

But it is disappointing, since it fails to locate the central problems and deals with a set of more boring topics in a rather naive and glib way.

The first chapter, *An Introduction to Industrial Tyneside*, is competent and non-controversial, plotting the rapid rise of the engineering industry on Tyneside.

But then the book begins to deteriorate. The second chapter, by D J Rowe, on movements to reduce working hours before 1871, accepts the evidence of the 1833 Royal Commission on factory conditions as valid, when it was largely boycotted by trade unionists.

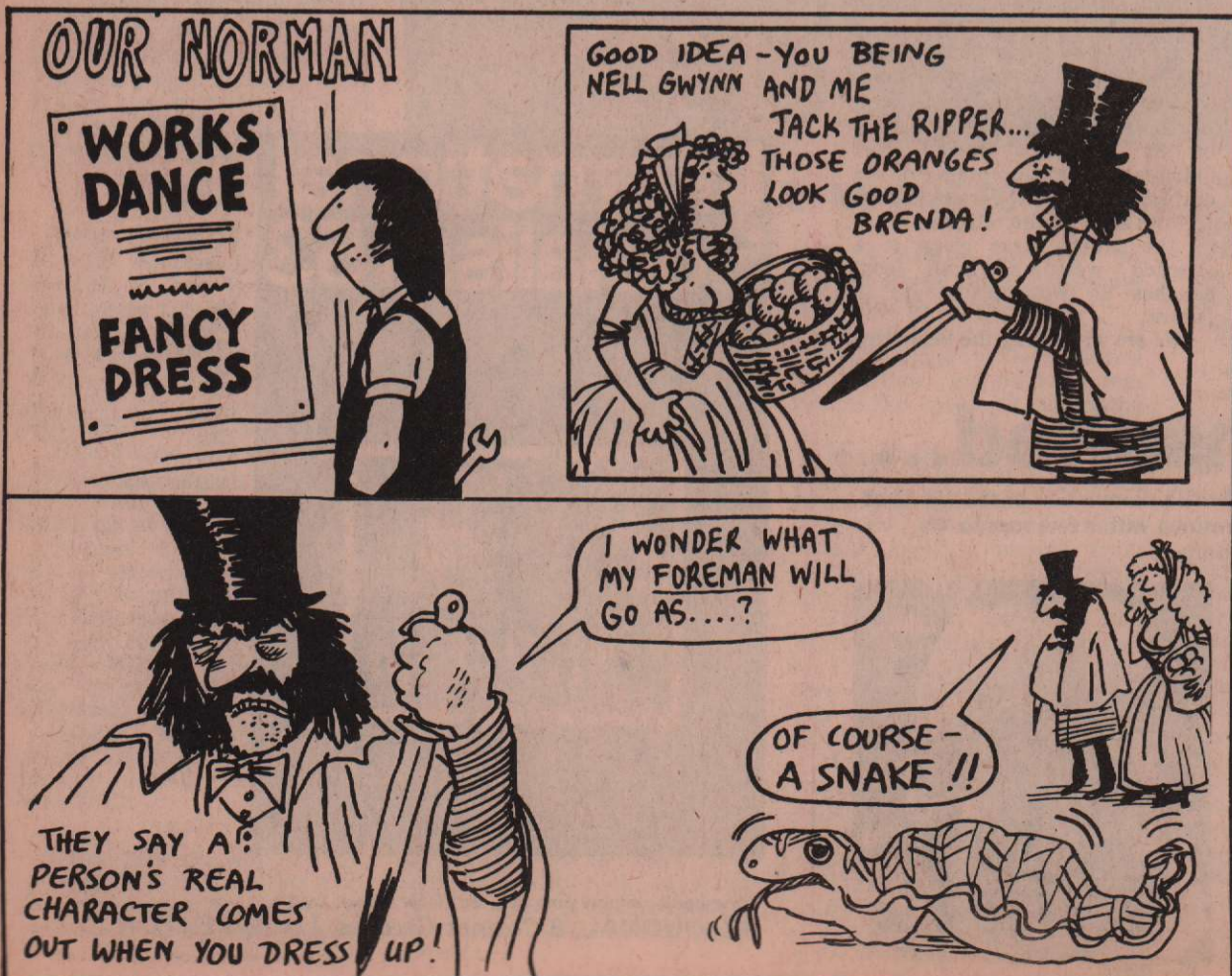
The chapters by N McCord on the strikes themselves are marginally more interesting. McCord shows that the local newspaper, the *Newcastle Chronicle*, owned by a local industrialist, was comparatively friendly to the craftsmen.

Even more interesting than the local newspaper's residual paternalism is the role of the executive of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, which remained aloof from the strike until it was almost over—but the author does not even mention that the strike was run by workshop delegates.

This combination of vigorous shop floor activity and executive inertia was in fact typical of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, which, on a workshop level, was based on extremely tight craft-restrictive organisation.

The 1871 strike may well have been the first and last relatively autonomous shop floor organisation in the North East before the First World War, but this awaits further investigation. This book does not even consider such questions.

R CROUCHER



THE BUILDERS STORY



RIGHT: a cartoon account of the building strike illustrating UCATT's demands and first printed in the Manchester community paper Mole Express

POW! CARTOONS AGAINST TORIES

STRIP cartoons are as old as cave painting. The Bayeux tapestry was a sequence of illustrations and words to glorify the Norman invaders of Britain.

But only with the invention of cheap printing did the strips go pop. In 17th and 18th century London critical, mocking broadsheets boldly illustrated with woodcuts provided a pungent and popular expression of political dissent.

Hogarth etched his famous moral sequences with their elaborate illustration of the consequences of drink, greed and ambition. His countless imitators often drew and printed and then hawked the cartoons outside their printshop.

Their pictures were more biting, cruel and effective than words could ever be.

But the modern adult newspaper strip, pioneered in America, has been less radical. Its heroes and heroines, with their stylised craggy jaws and inflated breasts, were all-American.

Little Orphan Annie, eternally plaintive and youthful, has been pitted against, in turn, The New Deal, the Nazi Fifth Column, the Communist menace and the radical students.

And Al Capp's saga of the yokels of Dogpatch, Lil Abner, is an allegory about the threat to Nixon's America from the kids, the

corporations and the Commies.

The trouble is people believe them. More than 500 American high schools celebrated an annual Sadie Hawkins Day based on Lil Abner. American servicemen were consciously encouraged to think of themselves as Superman.

For in the strip cartoon world violence is an unrealistic ZONK to the jaw and sex is curves and cleavage—and politics is always somebody else.

In Britain strip cartoons for kids were profitably pioneered by a drunken Australian called Baxter who drew 'Ally Sloper's Half Holiday' in 1870. Cecil Harmsworth then launched Comic Cuts and Chips and was said to 'kill the penny dreadful with the ha'penny dreadful'.

Despite the complete ban on girls in the boy's mags and vice versa, comics were a working-class kid's snoot at authority. Stuffed shirts were made fun of and teachers, policemen and parents were under continual seige from Dennis the Menace and the Bash Street Kids.

But it was all just to let off steam: when the tables were turned in the comics the authorities replied with terrible vengeance and horrible punishments.

John Kent's Varoomshka cartoon (now issued as an annual by Eyre Methuen at £1.25) is part of the modern political comic

revival. It's a mixture of Jane of the Daily Mirror, and Vicky, the political cartoonist, an amalgam of idealised and innocent super-female and the vile and vicious Tories.

Kent draws Heath's gilded jowls and whisky sideboards with every bead of sweaty insincerity showing. And Varoomshka's fine form is closely drawn too (a nice liberal paper like The Guardian has to have an excuse for its pin-ups).

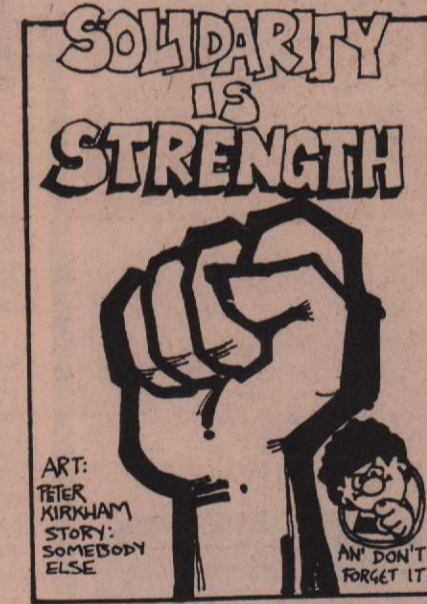
Hopefully one day Varoomshka will, as The Woman's Newspaper once drew her, join Beryl the Peril and Mrs Andy Capp to start their own cartoon while Steve Clayton and Desperate Dan do the washing up.

We have other favourites. Frank Dickens' Bristow is read and enjoyed by thousands of London office workers. His struggle against the Chester-Perry Empire is a continual triumph of bloody-mindedness and skilled skiving.

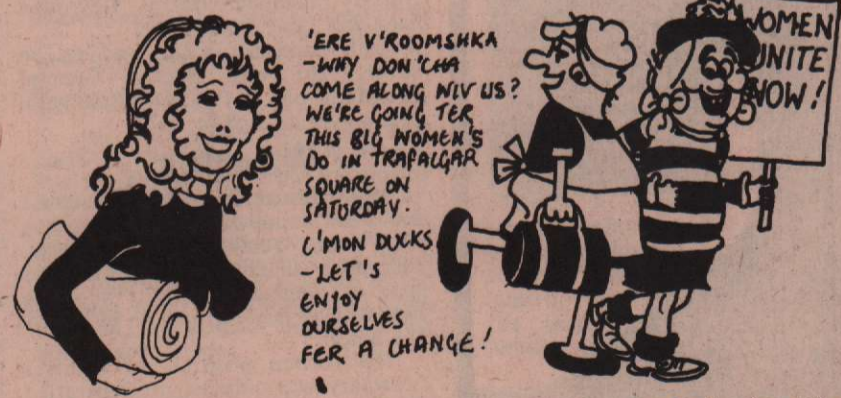
And for our money, Our Norman is a weekly triumph of marxist draughtsmanship, whatever Yours Disgusted says in the Letters. One day Norman, Brenda and Bristow and tens of thousands ill-used workers will inherit the earth.

Until then follow this strip . . .

Dave Widgery



The Industrial Relations Act from the Liverpool Big Flame broadsheet



Varoomshka, Beryl and Florrie off to the Women's Liberation Rally, from The Woman's Newspaper.



Varoomshka, the original, from The Guardian

END PIECE

THE UNKNOWN ORWELL, by Peter Stansky and William Abrahams (Constable, three quid), is a disappointment. Orwell's widow has made their work impossible by denying them the right to quote from his published work or the Orwell Archives.

We get a lot of paraphrasing of Orwell's autobiographical bits, and some extra interviews with people who remember Orwell in different phases up to 1933.

Some of the new witnesses of Eric Blair (Orwell's real name, dropped for purposes of book-authorship) are good: Note especially that Orwell's fine essay, A Hanging, written as though it were a personal report, is actually fiction, since Orwell confided in a friend that he had never attended an execution.

The authors tend to make over-sweeping judgments which are then partly withdrawn: for example, that Blair's prime intention in becoming a down-and-out in London and Paris was literary (to gather writing material) rather than political (to purge his guilt after serving imperialism in Burma; or that his marriage in 1936 was 'the first time in his life he entered a deep and passionate bond'—when for a start there are two meaningful emotional involvements with prostitutes on record.

And they do go on about the trappings of Eton and the parish register of Blairs, rather in the vein of heavy-footed tourists in Olde England. Orwell remains more unknown than before in these lifeless pages.



ON TO Imperial College Department of Mechanical Engineering, where a Conference of Radical Scholars of Soviet and East European Studies fills a biggish lecture-theatre.

The title may evoke images of beardies in mortarboards and academic robes sporting the New Statesman as they discuss who's 'in' this year at the Kremlin. But it is a young, unestablished audience: to judge from the attendance, the Russian Question is rearing its ugly head again, as another politicised horde looks for some theory to get under its belt after a diet of demonstrations.

Other signs that the Russian Question mark is at it once more: the lousy (no misprint) movie about Trotsky's murder; the new-found interest in oppositional currents surfacing in Russia; and somebody in the interval tells me that a playwright friend is writing a drama all about the Kronstadt rising of 1921. I can only add my hopes that it will be written for performance on ice.

Peter Sedgwick

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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
Cumbernauld
Dundee
Edinburgh
Dunfermline/
Cowdenbeath
Glanrothes/Kirkcaldy
Glasgow N
Glasgow S
Greenock
Stirling

NORTH EAST
Bishop Auckland
Durham
Hartlepool
Newcastle upon Tyne
South Shields
Spennymoor
Sunderland
Teesside E
Teesside W

NORTH
Barnsley
Bradford
Dewsbury
Doncaster
Grimsby
Halifax
Huddersfield
Hull
Leeds
Pontefract/
Knottingley
Scarborough
Selby
Sheffield
York

EAST
Basildon
Beccles
Cambridge
Chelmsford
Colchester
Harlow
Ipswich
Leiston
Lowestoft
Norwich
Peterborough

NORTH WEST
Barrow
Blackburn
Bolton
Burnley
Crewe
Kirkby
Lancaster
Manchester
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THE UNIONS

'BLACKSHIRT' SMEAR ON PRINT UNION MILITANTS

JOHN LAWRENCE, Father of the Chapel [shop steward] of the NATSOPA clerical workers at the giant Press Association news agency in London, has been suspended on full pay after his union had urged strikers to return to work 'pending negotiations over his re-instatement'.

Lawrence was sacked in the course of unofficial action by Press Association members to gain the same wage increases that had been granted to the firm's journalists. Management's only offer to NATSOPA members was £1.50-£2.50 a week less than they had agreed with the journalists.

DISTURBING

NATSOPA contended that John Lawrence and other members had acted in breach of their contracts of employment in withdrawing their labour, and also in breach of union rules. The union also stated that Lawrence was not



Lawrence: demanded parity

being victimised and instructed its members to return to work, leaving John Lawrence outside the gate.

The most disturbing aspect of the union officials' behaviour is the kind of tactics they adopted to isolate its PA members and John Lawrence.

London Machine Branch secretary Ted O'Brien sent out a warning circular to all NATSOPA FoCs in London. PA members were accused of 'blackshirt [ie fascist] tactics' to ensure that

union officials 'were not able to adequately speak to the members...' at chapel meetings.

The circular argued that the union itself was under attack and asked all members for their loyal support in 'trying to control this chaotic and anarchistic situation.' 'No support, moral or financial, should be given to these people either by chapels or individuals', it concluded.

OPPOSITION

The NATSOPA leadership is making an increasing number of such statements which represent the activities of individuals and organisations with differences of opinion and principle as alleged agents of right-wing, anti-trade union elements.

John Lawrence is well known for his opposition to the NATSOPA leadership, in particular for his stance on such questions as internal union democracy and the way the NATSOPA-SOGAT amalgamation was broken off.

Power-man Chapple -key pillar of the right

by an electrician
WITH the collapse of the power talks last week, it is a good time to take a look at one of the leading power workers' negotiators and 'his' union.

Frank Chapple of the Electricians and Plumbers came to prominence in 1961 when, after a lengthy and expensive ballot-rigging trial, the High Court ruled that John Byrne, a violently anti-communist full-time union official from Scotland, should be declared general secretary of the union.

Chapple, an ex-Communist Party member, and the rest of the 'reform group' that helped Byrne to victory, quickly assumed control. Key man then was Les Cannon.

But Cannon's reign was to be short. He was elected General President but before he could gain real power he died in 1970.

Wrangling

Many thought his departure would see a softening of union policy but they were quickly proved wrong. Chapple assumed the role but not the title of General President allowing him to lead negotiations on behalf of the union.

His formal position of General Secretary was only an administrative one, but this situation was cleared up this year when, after months of wrangling on the union executive and a court case led by Mark Young (former reform group member and full-timer who had fallen out with Chapple), Chapple won the election for the vacant post.

This means that Chapple is now both General Secretary and General President. He is likely to look at the role of the General Secretary closely and may even decide to ask the executive for a ballot of members on whether the post should be abolished.

Since the ballot rigging case and the takeover by the reform group, the union has moved from a relatively democratic union of the left to a pillar of the autocratic right, with appointed officials and the removal of important rank and file bodies such as the appeals committee.

Chapple has played his part in creating the image of a 'respectable' union. On many occasions he has



Chapple: respectable image

installed a computer at head office and is in the process of closing and amalgamating branches up and down the country in the name of efficiency and cost effectiveness. Some think it strange that most of the 'modernised' branches are in the large towns and have a left-wing viewpoint.

Rank and file opposition in the union is centred around the paper Flashlight. It has had few successes so far, but there are signs that sparks and plumbers are beginning to realise the real nature of their leaders.

They see miners, building workers, car workers and others fighting and winning big increases, and compare them to Chapple, nuzzling up to the bosses and getting little but publicity for himself.

Changing the union will take a lot of hard work and rank and file organisation, but EPTU members must ensure that the union is theirs, not Frank Chapple's.

been first to the rostrum at TUC and Labour Party conferences, putting the right-wing point of view on the Common Market, the Industrial Relations Act and incomes policy.

Under his leadership, the union has pioneered productivity deals, especially in the electricity supply industry, where many workers know to their cost that prod deals mean pay offs. He also pushed through the Joint Industry Board agreement, cribbed from a similar set-up operating on sparks in New York state.

This union-boss agreement divided sparks and now plumbers into grades with different hourly rates and has successfully kept down the wages of electricians on the large sites.

Organisationally the union is trying to present a modern face. It has

Strikes

by Richard Hyman

Price 50p, postage 5p

FROM

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Keeping fingers off the Pulse

AS A SIDELIGHT to the Sunday Times' campaign to bring the plight of Thalidomide children to the attention of the public, I would like to add an experience which happened to me while I was chief sub-editor on a weekly newspaper which was sent free to general practitioners, 'Pulse', published by Morgan Grampian.

One of my jobs was to search out pictures for articles which arrived unillustrated, a task which sometimes proved very difficult and led to some tortuous caption writing. One article in particular was impossible to illustrate, with the paper's limited resources, except for a very brief allusion to Thalidomide children. I went to the picture file but to my surprise found absolutely no

pictures on the subject.

I asked the editor about this and he replied that they did not keep any pictures of Thalidomide children, and never published any. When I asked why he said: 'It doesn't do to remind the advertisers of their mistakes, does it?' Needless to say, the paper is financed almost exclusively by drug company adverts.

When this sort of situation occurs on a paper which purports to serve and inform the medical profession it seems not all that surprising that the general public, until very recently, have been left in the dark as to the plight of these unfortunate victims.—PHILIP JACKMAN, London N17.

Don't blame union chiefs

SOCIALIST WORKER on 28 October, published a congratulatory reference to the workers at Hawker Siddeley Aviation, Chadderton, blacking work to Fine Tubes and this was compared with the allegedly unsatisfactory attitude of the AUEW executive council.

As the district secretary representing probably 80 per cent of the trade union members at this factory, I hope you will permit this correction. The reason why our members at Hawker Siddeley Aviation, as loyal members of our union, are blacking the work from Fine Tubes is because this is the official policy of our union as defined by our executive council and implemented by our district committee, and so I cannot understand why you find it possible to counter-pose the actions of our members at Hawker Siddeley Aviation with the AUEW executive council.

Perhaps a further comment should be made. The essential problem, of course, at Fine Tubes, has been the inability to stop production and, therefore, compel the employer to sack the blacklegs, and this cannot be because of the attitude of the executive council of the AUEW who have paid dispute benefit strictly in accordance with Rule 29, Clause 9, which states:—'that in no case shall the benefit be paid for more than 52 weeks.'

I am sure International Socialists would not wish a position where an executive council of full-time officials should be permitted to ignore the rules that are laid down by rank and file members working at the trade. Our executive council have power to give 'benevolent grants' in 'cases of distress' under Rule 15, Clause 9, but, of course, 'benevolent grants' are not what are required to win the Fine Tubes dispute.

The more disturbing feature is the information that I have received that the Plymouth district committee have, on two occasions, used their power, under Rule 13, Clause 15, to 'forthwith (without further approval by executive council) to take a ballot vote of the members of the district upon the advisability of assisting the strike committee in the district by a local levy' and, on each occasion, they have unfortunately failed to secure the support of the members in the Plymouth district, and this cannot, of course, be blamed on the AUEW executive council.

Certainly, I would hope that Socialist Worker is not suggesting that the answer to the problem could be for full-time officials such as the AUEW executive council to ignore the rules of the union as defined by our rules revision committee which is composed solely of members working at the trade.

Everyone in the trade union movement of course must have sympathy for the workers at Fine Tubes but Socialist Worker is totally unjustified in its implications that the weaknesses in winning the struggle are because of the actions of our executive council. There are other and much more important objective considerations.—R WILLIAMS, AUEW, District Secretary, Oldham, Lancs.

East's best

THE NOTION that 'for all its failings, Russian society is much fairer and more equal than the West' is disproved, according to Chris Harman's review (4 November), by Mervyn Matthews' Class and Society in Soviet Russia. Nothing which Harman quotes demonstrates

LETTERS

'TWO NATIONS' THEORY IGNORES IRISH REALITY

THERE SEEMS to be a regular campaign in your letters column against Mike Miller's reporting from Belfast. But the real object of the attack is surely the whole political stand of Socialist Worker and the International Socialists on Ireland.

IS stands, as did James Connolly, for the united Workers' Republic of Ireland and we hold that the main enemy of the Irish working class, Catholic and Protestant, is British imperialism and its bourgeois agents in Ireland (both Faulkner and Lynch, in different ways). From this flows our policy of critical support for the IRA in so far as they are fighting British imperialism.

Clearly Mike Miller's critics reject this perspective. Their demands for 'fairness' and 'objectivity' in reporting and for outright condemnation of the Provisionals are based (certainly in the case of John Newsinger) on the view that the Northern Ireland Protestants constitute a separate nation from the Catholics, and that consequently their 'national rights' need defending against the 'bullying' of the IRA.

This so-called 'two-nations theory' has been adequately dealt with by Brian Trench in International Socialism No 51 and cannot be answered here. One point that can be made however is the advantage which supporters of this theory derive from sniping at Mike Miller's reporting without having to put forward any consistent position of their own—for it is the lack of any positive revolutionary strategy that is the fatal weakness of the two-nations theory.

What is the policy of these critics on the British Army? Do they call for its withdrawal? Are they neutral in conflicts between the IRA and the Army?

What is their attitude to the UDA? Critical support perhaps? Or do they stand aside from the actual struggles that are going on, contenting themselves with purely abstract propaganda for socialism.—JOHN MOLYNEUX, Southsea, Hants.

anything of the kind and indeed Matthews does not appear to have dealt directly with this question at all.

There is no need to dispute that working-class living standards in the USSR are low in comparison with western levels. The point, however, is whether relative inequality is greater. Harman offers no evidence at all in support of this assertion, which is, of course, the crucial question for socialists.

It has, however, been dealt with elsewhere. David Lane's End of Inequality (Penguin 1971 p74) suggests that top incomes in the USSR may be as much as 300 times the minimum and 100 times the average income. Top incomes in the USA, however, were respectively 11,000 and 7000 times the lowest and average incomes.

Wiles and Markowski, in Soviet Studies January 1971, looked at income differentials in the USA, USSR, Poland and Britain. They concluded that income equalisation had been 'particularly striking' in the USSR. Capitalism, they noted, produced 'extremely rich people with a great deal of capital' and in their view this

KEITH DAULTREY'S analysis (4 November) of Stuart Morgan's letter is a mixture of half-truths and deliberate mis-interpretation. To state that 'this uneven economic development [between north and south] provided the basis for the different "national" identities of Protestant and Catholic Irishmen' without any further explanation as to what he considers to be national identity leads the writer into the fallacious arguments of the two-nation theorists.

The root cause of the divisions between Protestant and Catholic worker is the policy of 'divide and rule' which British imperialism has employed throughout the world and perfected in Ireland—the agents of this policy being the Unionist Party and the Orange Order.

Would Daultrey deny the 'Machiavellian Tory plot' of 1912 when the Tory Party decided to 'play the Orange card'? Would he deny the manipulation and control over jobs and housing exercised by the Orange Order up to 1969? Would he deny the existence of the Catholic and Protestant working class ghettos created by this policy and the gerrymandering needed to maintain them?

What is sadly missing from Daultrey's letter is any attempt at a class analysis of how the Orange statelet came about and how it is maintained. Its early history of sectarian hatred, pogroms and hysteria whipped up by the Orange bosses effectively prevented Protestant and Catholic workers making common cause on class demands. Protestant workers have so far been unable to extricate themselves from this Orange spider's web.

For socialists to give any credence to the lies and half-truths on which the Orange statelet was founded is to propagate an illusion which can only confuse and distract the anti-imperialist, anti-Unionist forces of the present day.—KEVIN O'DOHERTY, London SW6.

was the 'most striking difference between the two systems'.

If indeed there is 'enormous confusion' about soviet society, the evidence suggests that Harman himself may not be immune from it.—STEPHEN WHITE, Glasgow C4.

Sick society

IF only Mary Whitehouse and Lord Longford would direct as much effort to helping alleviate the financial and physical maladies of the disabled and chronic sick, which are not optional, as they do to salvaging morals from pornography and television, which are optional, I can assure them that they would have the eternal gratitude of us all.—JACK D MARTIN, Secretary, Huddersfield Branch, Disablement Income Group.

● Letters to Socialist Worker must arrive first post Monday. They should be typed or written on one side of the paper only and should not exceed 250 words. Letters may be cut for space reasons.

Don't ignore party that's a barrier to socialism

A LOT is written in Socialist Worker about the Labour Party and the trade union bureaucracy, showing them up for what they really are. If Labour's red it's out of their effort to avoid being pushed into committing themselves on anything relevant, not their working-class policies, and the 'left' union bureaucrats are worse than Jekyll and Hyde with their smooth talk and lousy actions.

But what have you got to say about the Communist Party? And why don't you say it? When you're talking about the need for a fighting socialist alternative shouldn't there be more emphasis on how the Morning Star doesn't provide militants

with any real political leadership, so that the situation can arise, as between some of the dockers and lorry drivers, where sections of workers under Communist Party leaders are confronting each other and not their real enemy, where they cover up for the wheelings and dealings of the trade union leaders (eg Vic Turner on the dock strike in the Morning Star, in early September)?

I'm not saying you've totally ignored the party, I'd be obviously wrong. But why don't you spell out more clearly in your coverage of strikes the way in which it is no vehicle on the road to socialism and is in fact a barrier?—JUDY SMITH, London NW5.

Viyella's warped priorities: fewer jobs, bigger profits

WORKERS at Gainsborough Cornard in Great Yarmouth have been occupying the plant for eight weeks now, defending the 340 jobs threatened by the closure plans of the parent company Carrington Viyella, which is itself owned by ICI.

Sacking workers and increasing profits is a practice that Carrington Viyella, run by £30,000 a year Jan Lewando, is getting rather good at.

In August Carrington Viyella announced a profit for the first six months of 1972 of £3,070,000, against £2,440,000 in the first half of 1971. Expectations in the City are that for the full year profits will be around £7½ million, against around £5½ million in 1971 and less than £1 million in 1970.

As the Investors Chronicle said: 'The chairman has done a good job in streamlining the company, with the labour force reduced by 14 per cent.'

Some of these redundancies have been in the warp knitting division, the same division that includes a Gainsborough Cornard. In 1971 factories at Chorley and Charlestown were closed.

This was not because there wasn't any demand for the products. As the company's report and accounts said: 'Although sales for warp knitted fabrics . . . showed a considerable increase over those for 1970, margins were adversely affected.'

In other words, it isn't profitable enough: not that it is losing money—a high level of activity was maintained throughout the year at Gainsborough Cornard—just it could make even more money if workers were sacked.

Anyone reading the report and accounts was left, therefore, with the impression that things were improving at Gainsborough Cornard and in the warp knitting division generally. And, to reinforce optimism, the company said that it was developing new fabrics.

Extolled

So the closure of Gainsborough Cornard came as a surprise. But not to the clients of Sterling and Co, a leading firm of stockbrokers, who, in a circular marked 'For private circulation only' and encouraging their clients to buy Carrington Viyella shares, wrote: 'Jersey Kapwood, the warp knitting subsidiary, is no longer loss-making but neither is it earning a reasonable return. Scope exists for making it as profitable as Carrington Viyella's other warp knitting subsidiary—Gainsborough Cornard—with which it is now integrated.'

Another firm of stockbrokers, Laing and Cruickshank, went further in extolling the virtues of Gainsborough Cornard: 'At Gainsborough Cornard the increased activity (in 1971) counter-balanced the fall in margins.'

Now this contrasts oddly with the decision to close the factory at Great Yarmouth. But Carrington Viyella are the largest manufacturers of warp knitting in the country and control more than 30 per cent of the market. They are powerful enough to restrict the supply of



fabric and so push up prices and increase profits, or 'margins' as they are delicately called.

It is irrelevant to them whether they close the most profitable factory, as production can be switched elsewhere, where there is excess capacity.

The factory at Great Yarmouth is an administrative inconvenience to Carrington Viyella, for it is far from most of their production units. They can also sell the factory: in 1971 the company sold a total of £7 million worth of property.

In making their decision they have paid no attention to the welfare of the area. They have made no attempt to provide extra jobs in the fields they claim to be expanding.

Anyway, judging from the experience of 1971, when the company's foreign labour force increased by 300, and that in Britain fell by 500, there won't be many people in Britain getting those jobs. Labour is cheaper elsewhere.

In 1973 Carrington Viyella are expected to make £10 million profits. These will, incidentally, be tax free, as the company have 'played the property reshuffle game'. This ten-fold increase in profits will have been achieved by a series of decisions similar to the Gainsborough Cornard decision.

It will do wonders for Jan Lewando, who has an option, on extremely favourable terms, to buy 60,000 shares.

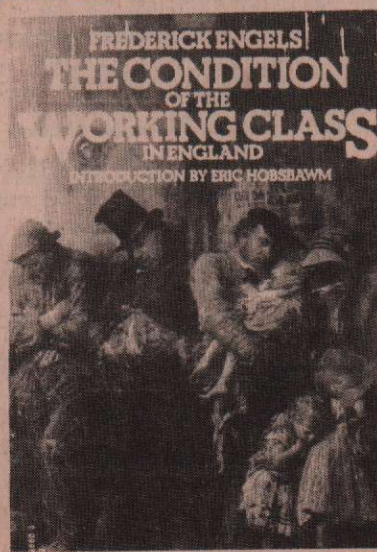
T H Rogmorton

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ENGELS

It is common to think of Friedrich Engels as the shadow and rich benefactor of Marx, and nothing more. He was, however, a man of outstanding ability in his own right—and much of Marx's work was based on Engels' knowledge of 19th century working conditions.

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POWER CLAIM SELL-OUT IS BIG SETBACK

THE word 'sell-out' is often loosely used, but it springs readily to mind connected with the new power workers' deal.

by Colin Barker

The power workers have lost a third of their jobs over the past five years. Thanks to their four unions, the engineering, transport, general and municipal, and electricians' they have been working under 'productivity deals'.

It is doubtful whether they have made any monetary gains at all, in return for seeing their jobs and working conditions eroded, once allowance is made for taxation and inflation.

This spring the miners showed the impact of electricity cuts on Britain's bosses. It was above all power station picketing that won the pits strike.

Potentially, it seems, the power workers themselves ought to be the best-paid workers in Britain.

They would be—if they had union leaders who would fight. They would be—if the power workers themselves had any control over the settlements their leaders accept.

DEAL

But they don't—and they aren't. The latest deal gives them £2.65 from September, plus another 40p in March, extra days off and three days extra holiday.

Compare this with their claim: for £5.50, a 35-hour week, and an extra week's holiday.

Power workers' union leaders who will point to the fact that they got

their pay rise through before the freeze. Some advantage! The deal runs for 18 months—and in those 18 months they'll get £3.05—almost exactly Ted Heath's first offer to Vic Feather.

When you allow for tax, which knocks off almost one of their £3 straight away, rising prices—at a conservative estimate 15 per cent over 18 months (food prices rose 13 per cent in 1971)—plus rent and mortgage rises, and higher pension contributions, it's as good as guaranteed that in 18 months time the power workers will be worse off in real terms than they are now.

And when they come to negotiate again, they will have lost a further advantage. The next negotiations will be in the spring. If they take action—and it's always a big 'if' with 'militants' like Frank Chapple and Bob Wright at the helm—they'll be causing power cuts... in June.

The four unions, between them, have given the Tories the best gift they could. They've set Heath's freeze off to a flying start.

Every employer now facing a pay claim should be sending telegrams of congratulation to the leaders of these four large unions. In 1970 the defeat of the power workers set the working class back 15 months. Militant workers in other industries will have to work hard to make sure it doesn't last that long this time.

What of the power workers themselves? Their own rank-and-file organisations are in disarray. It is essential, now, that they learn—yet

again—that they cannot rely on their leaders to get them anything worth a button.

The key to change in the industry lies in organisation of rank-and-file workers, who are ready to break with the fake militancy of the Bob Wrights as much as with the open betrayals of Frank Chapple.

In the meantime, there is a danger from another quarter—breakaway unionism. In Yorkshire many power workers, disgusted by their unions, are looking to the 'Electricity Supply Union'.

LEAFLET

Militants in the industry are going to have their work cut out to show that this organisation offers no way forward for the power workers.

Its appeal is obvious. But a few points need stressing. The ESU has issued a leaflet on the Industrial Relations Act (under which it is registered) which begins: 'DID YOU KNOW you are now FREE?' It argues that the Act has opened the way to a union for supply workers alone, and refers to the membership of the four unions, in other industries, as 'UNCLE TOM COBBLEIGH AND ALL'.

With such clarity about the Industrial Relations Act, which is presented more or less as a gift to the working man, the ESU is hardly likely to present any militant challenge to the Electricity bosses.

Breakaway trade unionism is a blind avenue. But militants who want to argue this cannot sit back and theorise about it—they must begin to show that combine organisation, which cuts across union boundaries and links the rank and file, can be effective.



Owen McSweeney (right), carpenters' steward at the World's End site, and John Fontaine, strike committee treasurer, outside the site last week.

Boss uses strike to get more cash

LONDON:—Shop stewards on the World's End strike committee this week got definite confirmation that their employers, Cubitt's have deliberately prolonged the three-month-old strike there in order to get still bigger contract payments from the client, Kensington and Chelsea Council.

At a meeting with council representatives last week, Cubitt directors demanded a substantial increase on the negotiated tender price. If this was not granted, they said, they would withdraw from the contract.

Cubitt's would of course use 'bad industrial relations' as their excuse.

The World's End strike committee, faced with this situation, has now merged its organisation with the strikers on Lovell's Guildford Street job.

The Lovell's strike began seven months ago when two steel fixers were sacked for presenting their insurance cards and P45s to their employer, a subcontractor.

Previously the site had been worked by 'lump' labour—that is, by men not paying insurance and tax contributions. This system is outlawed by the National Joint Council for the Building Industry in the

Working Rule Agreement, a document to which Lovell's and every other main employer are signatories.

Despite many long-winded and 'militant' speeches by union leaders about the evils of the lump, only in the past four weeks has the transport workers' union, to which the steel fixers belong, given the strike official backing. Now the union is trying to persuade the men to end the strike.

The regional secretary, Bob Johnson, is arguing that Lovell's do not have to re-employ the two men because the subcontractor who took them on is no longer on the site. He is also claiming that, in any case, the strike is ineffective because scabs have been able to get on the site.

The works committee is refusing to accept either of these points. They maintain that the refusal to re-employ the two men is a blatant case of the blacklist being operated and known trade unionists being victimised. And far from the strike being ineffective, in fact the only scabs at work are two labourers.

Both the Lovell's men and the World's End men urgently need financial support to continue their struggle. Donations to: J Fontaine, Treasurer, Joint Strike Committee, 25 Westbank, London N16.

WHAT'S ON

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

IS MEETINGS

BUILDING WORKERS Fraction: meeting Saturday 25 Nov, 1pm, Milton Hall, Deansgate, Manchester. Important that all IS building workers attend.

POST OFFICE WORKERS Fraction: meeting Sunday 19 Nov, 2pm, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. All IS members in the post office should attend.

THE FIGHT AGAINST LOW PAY IN EAST ANGLIA
Sunday 12 November, 7.30pm
Labour Club, 59 Bethel St, Norwich

HORNSEY IS public meeting
THE FIGHT FOR EQUAL PAY
Speakers: Florence McGowan
Cris Davison, Margaret Renn
Tues 14 Nov, 8pm
Duke of Edinburgh pub, Fonthill Rd, London N4 (close to Finsbury Park tube station)

LLANELLI IS: Harry Wicks, active in the marxist movement since the 1920s, speaks on its early years and its lessons for us now. Tues 21 Nov, 8pm, Dynevor Castle Hotel, Llanelli. All welcome.

HACKNEY and ISLINGTON IS public education meeting on Origins of the Shop Stewards Movement 1910-1920. Speaker: Julian Harber. Mon 13 Nov, 8pm, Rose and Crown, corner of Albion Rd and Stoke Newington Church St, London N16.

LAMBETH IS public meeting: Prices and incomes. Speaker John Squire. Weds 15 Nov, 8.15pm. South Island Library, South Island Place, Brixton.

NORTH WALSHAM: The Fight against the Industrial Relations Act. Speaker: Bob Light. Fri 17 Nov, 8pm, Black Swan.

SWANSEA IS: Informal discussion 'Has the system solved its problems?' All welcome. Seabeach Hotel, Oystermouth Road, Weds 15 Nov, 8pm.

OTHER MEETINGS

END REPRESSION IN BRAZIL: public meeting. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 (near Holborn tube station) Fri 10 Nov, 7.30pm. Speakers: Vincent Flynn (SOGAT), Ernie Roberts (AUEW), Tracy Ullzeit-Moe (former holder of the Brazilian desk at Amnesty International), a Brazilian trade unionist and a student leader, both former political prisoners, Nan Green (Communist Party of Great Britain) and a speaker from the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation.

SOUTHERN AFRICA DAY SCHOOL
at Bath University
Speakers—Films—Seminars
ON
South Africa, Mozambique, Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe
Sat 18 Nov, 10am-8pm
Room AE.3.10 Admission 50p

NALGO ACTION GROUP NATIONAL MEETING
at SOGAT Club
Fri 17 Nov, 7.45pm
4 Great George St, Salford 3.
Sat 18 and Sun 19 Nov, at 10.30am
Details from Barry White,
4 Litchfield Rd, Sutton, Surrey
All NALGO members urged to attend

RANK AND FILE TEACHERS
The Crisis in the Schools
Speakers: Kelly Beadle (R&F), Irene Lane (parent) and representatives of SAU and NUSS
Fri 17 Nov, 7.45pm
NUFTO Hall, Jockeys Fields, London WC1 (near Holborn tube station)

Stop the Bombing, end the blockade, US out now! End British support for US aggression! Self-determination for the peoples of Indochina!
INTERNATIONAL VIETNAM PROTEST
Sat 18 November
GLASGOW DEMONSTRATION
2.15pm Blythswood Square
Donations urgently to P Fryd, Glasgow Indochina Committee, 52 Belmont St, Glasgow, G12 8EY

PHARMACY IN THE NHS: Socialist Medical Association meeting. Weds 15 Nov, 7.15pm, House of Commons. Speakers: Bob Edwards MP, Stanley Blum MPS, J T Kerr MPS, Dr David Stark Murray. Admission free.

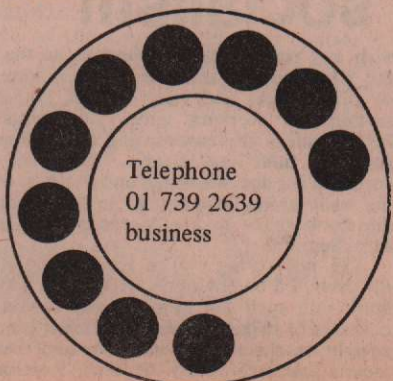
FIGHT THE TORY RENT RISES: Demonstrate Saturday 18 Nov, 10.30am, BLYTHSWOOD SQUARE, GLASGOW. After the rally hear Hugh Kerr (Harlow Tenants' Association) and other tenants' speakers at IS and SW BOOKS, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow G1.

NOTICES

UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFTS? Chinese woven-silk portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao (7in x 4in) 22p each. Karl Marx: The Civil War in France, Lenin: The State and Revolution, 33p each. At once delivery—D Volpe, 16 Belmont Court, London N16 5QD.

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Strike threat saves jobs for 400 printers

SOUTH LONDON:—400 workers at Southwark Offset printers successfully fought off an attempt last week by the multi-million pound Reed-IPC combine to throw them out of their jobs.

The Offset site stands in the middle of the South Bank Redevelopment Area. Reed-IPC have a substantial share in the property company redeveloping the King's Reach section of this area and, if they can close Offset, stand to reap a substantial profit by including the site in a large office and hotel complex.

Unfortunately for them, 400 printworkers think their jobs are more important.

Using the excuse of a dispute with the engineers and a paper loss of £250,000 a year, caused by under-costing on printing for IPC magazines, IPC gave notice a fortnight ago that the plant would have to close.

The reply of the Electricians' Union members at Offset was that if IPC closed the plant for allegedly losing £250,000 a

year they would make sure IPC lost £250,000 a day by calling on their fellow trade unionists to close all IPC plants throughout London.

It became obvious that the print unions would not accept the closure without a fight. The workers were told last week that IPC had 'reconsidered' and the plant would remain open.

But this is the second time IPC have threatened closure and no doubt they will try again before long. The details of the negotiated settlement were not known at the time of going to press. They could include an alteration in the shift system and staggered voluntary redundancies which would reduce the strength of the Southwark workers in the next round of their fight.

If the jobs at Southwark are to be saved then the workers must learn the lessons of the present dispute. There must be regular joint meetings of union representatives with a report back to the chapels, and a combine committee representing all IPC plants in an urgent necessity.

IS NEWS

SOUTH WALES:—Paul Foot launched the IS Fight the Tories Campaign here last week with a fighting speech to 75 Neath workers, many of them shop stewards.

Also on the platform were two local miners—Rowley Thomas, a militant Communist Party member from Glynneath, and Ben Davies, leader of the Labour group on Ystradgynlais Rural Council. Both men congratulated IS on organising the meeting and pledged their support to the fight against the Tories.

Ben Davies spoke mainly of the negotiations between his council and the government over the rent rises. He revealed that Labour councillors had been offered jobs on the Rent Scrutiny Board at £15 a

day if they muted their criticisms of the rent Act.

Rowley Thomas described his experiences in the miners' strike and said that it had demonstrated that the Tories could be defeated if the working class was mobilised.

The following day Paul Foot spoke to more than 100 people at a public meeting in Swansea, chaired by Alan Morgan, a local Engineering Union shop steward. He also addressed a 250-strong meeting in the university.

The substantial gains made for IS at the meetings are to be followed up by regular discussion meetings of workers and tenants and by mass leafletting of local factories and estates.

analysis of the struggle against the Tories and the bosses

THE RENTS BATTLE

Tenants strike in more than 80 towns

TENANTS are on rent strike in more than 80 towns and cities. The number involved runs into hundreds of thousands.

This is undoubtedly the largest number of tenants that have ever been on rent strike at one time, more even than the famous rent struggles of the past, such as Glasgow in 1915 or 1938-39, or more recently in London in 1968. The strikes have been ignored by the national press, television and radio.

At least 4000 council tenants in SWANSEA are committed already to withhold an 88p rise. A packed meeting of 300 tenants at Dynevor School, Swansea, heard this news from Bill Jones, chairman of the Swansea tenants' federation.

Swansea Corporation stands to make £24,000 from the rent rises, in the first year, the first time in history that a profit would be made out of council housing.

Don Hayward, Miners' Union executive member for South Wales told the tenants the NUM was already pledged to industrial action in South Wales if any tenant was evicted or victimised.

Ban

Len Arthur, secretary of the federation, said: 'The "Fair Rents" Act is merely a government instrument aimed at solving the economic crisis at the workers' expense. If we don't start to hit at the people who really control society then we will continue to be attacked.'

Six Labour councillors at HALSTEAD, Essex, have prevented the council implementing the Act by consistently voting against it. Now they are threatened with being surcharged, removed from the council and banned from office for five years.

This move was initiated by a local so-called 'independent' ratepayers association which has written to the Ministry of the Environment. The association is dominated by local businessmen and landlords, such as Councillor Roy McDowell, who owns four shops in the town, and ex-councillor M Pontway, owner of a local iron foundry and a slum landlord.

In SALFORD a commando raid on Regents Road Estate, the last estate unorganised, succeeded in forming a tenants' association and committee pledged to fight the Act. Some 60 people attended the meeting and 13 came forward as committee members. Tenants are now concentrating on getting pledges from local trade union branches for industrial action if there are evictions.

Last month EDINBURGH Town Council reversed its previous decision not to implement the Act by a majority of one and to raise the rents for its 42,000 tenants by up to £1 a week from 20 November.

Abstained

The decision marked the end of any real fight by the city's 34 Labour councillors and stank of outright collaboration among some Labour and Tory councillors. Before the council meeting the Conservative group leader stated in the local paper that if necessary one of the councillors could be flown back from America to vote for implementation at the meeting.

Labour saved them the expense, for the Lord Provost, Jack Kane, famous for driving his Rolls-Royce at the head of a march at this year's miners' rally, abstained while another two Labour councillors did not arrive for the meeting.

The Labour group on the council also decided, with only one vote against, not to support any illegal action tenants may take.

After the council decision, the All-Edinburgh Tenants' Association voted to organise tenants to withhold the increases. Already more than 700 tenants in the Muirhouse, Pilton and Westerhailes areas have pledged to withhold the increase—and 5000 window stickers have been produced.

After weeks of work among tenants on the Cambridge Road estate in KILBURN, London, Paddington International Socialists saw their work bear fruit last week when more than 50 tenants set up a tenants' association.

TRANSPORT & GENERAL WORKERS' UNION



Registered Office:
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Gen. Sec: J. L. JONES, M.B.E.
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REGION No. 1
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Regional Secretary: D. FRY
Telephone: 01-800 4251/7

Your Ref: AA/FRB
Our Ref: JM/120

Please quote Ref. No.

4th October, 1972

DISTRICT OFFICE
COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. A. Aberdeen,
Managing Director,
Dagenham Storage Co. Ltd.,
Pooles Lane,
Ripple Rd.,
Dagenham,
Essex.

Dear Mr. Aberdeen,

I have your letter of the 3rd instant, and in reply would repeat that the blacking and picketing being carried out against your Company is completely unofficial and does in no manner receive the support of this Union. Any notice displayed suggesting that the pickets are official is done without any authority whatsoever.

We are not and never have been in dispute with your Company, and I would repeat views I have expressed many times in the past that the activities of a very small number of people, many of whom are not even members of this Union, have resulted in the loss of employment of many of our members and unless it stops to inflict considerably more damage to employment prospects in the area.

It must be clear that it is to our advantage, as well as yours, for this action to be brought to an end, but unfortunately we have no influence over the people concerned. We have, however, circulated our members pointing out the position and will continue to use every endeavour to inform them that there is no dispute with your company.

Yours sincerely,

J. J. Millichope
General Workers'
District Official

The letter to Dagenham Storage boss Alwynne Aberdeen, signed by a secretary for J Millichope, TGWU District Official

Letter shows how far union is betraying dockers

SPEEDY RETREAT—this is the consistent line of the Transport and General Workers Union leaders when an employer even threatens to take them to the Industrial Relations Court.

The letter reproduced on the left shows just how far they have sunk in their desperation to keep the union's funds intact. It is addressed to Alwynne Aberdeen, managing director of the Hays Wharf subsidiary Dagenham Storage, and is an open invitation to the firm to lay off the union and concentrate its fire on rank and file dockers.

The letter also contains certain deliberate untruths, again designed to keep the union out of the NIRC. It states that the picketing of Dagenham Storage is entirely unofficial. In fact the dispute was officially backed by the highest bodies in the union and picketing operations were co-ordinated from the union's West India Dock Road offices in London with the aid of a TGWU executive member.

The letter also uses the tactic of the deliberate smear. It claims that the picketing at Dagenham is the activity of a few, 'many of whom are not members of this union'.

This is either a suggestion that they are 'outside agitators' or a derogatory reference to dockers and Stevedores and Dockers Union. It could be argued that in this way the TGWU is suggesting that the employers do a brother union under the Industrial Relations Act.

But even more serious is the allegation that the blacking and picketing is resulting in 'loss of employment' to TGWU mem-

bers. Such statements mean that officially the TGWU has totally surrendered to the employers.

It is ironic that this statement should be made to the managing director of a Hays Wharf subsidiary. Hays Wharf really led the pack in sacking dockers on London's riverside in order to clear the land for the massive profits of property speculation.

Hays Wharf sacked 2000 dockers in the Upper Pool alone to make way for luxury office and hotel building. Their work was transferred down river to an inland cold store, Dagenham Storage.

It is understood that Lord Vestey, boss of the Midland Cold Storage firm which put spies after dockers and had them jailed under the Industrial Relations Act, has received an identical letter.

It must be comforting for the good Lord Vestey to know that when he shuts down Nelson's Wharf and transfers the work to a cheapjack inland store, then dockers who picket the place in pursuit of the right to work, are, in the view of their own union, causing unemployment.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

FIGHT THE TORIES campaign

GRIMSBY
Monday 13 November, 7.30pm
Duke of Wellington, Pasture St
Speakers: John Palmer and Keith Jackson

HARLESDEN
Tuesday 14 November, 8pm
Willesden Junction Hotel
Speakers: Paul Foot, Tony Cliff and Roger Cox (president AUEW No 5 Chiswick branch)
Chairman: Harry Tait (TGWU shop steward)
plus musical entertainment

EAST LONDON
Wednesday 15 November, 8pm
Lister room, East Ham Town Hall, Barking Road, E6
Speakers: Jim Higgins and Roger Rosewell

HALIFAX
Wednesday 15 November, 7.30pm
The Beehive and Crosskeys pub, King Cross Street
Speakers: Duncan Hallas and Ken Appleby (TASS)

CROYDON
Thursday 16 November, 8pm
Ruskin House,
Coombe Road/Park Lane Junction
Speakers: Nigel Harris and Dave Percival (UPW)

NORTH BIRMINGHAM
Thursday 16 November, 8pm
Co-op Meeting Rooms (opposite The Swan), Erdington High Street
Speakers: Wally Preston (AUEW) and Roger Protz

ILFORD
Friday 17 November, 7.45pm
Co-op Hall, 110 Beacontres Ave, Dagenham
Speakers: Tony Cliff and Jim Higgins
Chairman: Tom Kelly (TGWU)

LONDON REGION RALLY
Friday 1 December, 7.30pm
Camden Town Hall, Euston Road,
Musical Entertainment: The Combine
Speakers: Tony Cliff, Paul Foot and Chris Davison (TGWU)

BLACKING CALL IN FIGHT TO SAVE 1200 JOBS

LIVERPOOL:- 'The whole thing is going very well. We've been working on the fund raising side of things for the last two weeks. But we realise that to win we've got to involve the whole working-class movement. We're determined to bring the whole Lucas combine to a standstill.'

These are the words of Dave Martin, AUEW convenor at the CAV fuel injection pump plant at Fazakerley on Merseyside where 1200 workers are now in the fifth week of their occupation to prevent the Lucas group shutting the plant down.

After the most recent meeting, where Lucas representatives again insisted that the factory must close, the occupation committee is seeking the widest possible blacking of Lucas products.

Already Standard Triumph in Liverpool has put the black on in their support. Other car plants are expected to follow shortly. Workers at the nearby Lucas Industrial Equipment plant are contributing £1 a week each and there is massive

by Roger Rosewell

support from Fisher Bendix in Kirkby.

The occupation followed a typically deceitful and ruthless rationalisation operation engineered by the Lucas combine. Shop stewards first became suspicious of management's plans for the factory more than a year ago, when the firm started stockpiling.

Then in September this year their suspicions were re-awakened. One Monday morning nine senior supervisors and heads of department did not report for work. Management stated that the whole thing was quite accidental, with people sick or away on courses.

PLEDGE

But the stewards discovered that the nine had been attached to another Lucas factory in London. They demanded a meeting. Management agreed. At that meeting on Monday 3 October, CAV simply announced that the factory had long been a 'lossmaker' and would close in April 1973.

The shop stewards denounced 'the barbaric decision' to close the factory and pledged themselves to fight the closure. Diligent research by the stewards showed the closure decision in an entirely different light.

The Strife Makers: another lie

LAST Sunday the News of the World, being short of stories about prostitutes, juicy divorce cases and randy vicars, continued to expose the 'red plot' to 'wreck Britain' in its series 'The Strife Makers'.

No doubt many of its readers were shocked to read about subversion among the miners, but no one was more shocked than John 'Angus' Martin. For much to his surprise he found himself as a witness for the prosecution.

The idea put forward by reporter Alan Hart was that infiltrators and subversives—known in the article as 'Trots'—are so bad that even Communists are terrified of their activities. What more proof was needed than the word of communist Angus Martin. There was, however, one little difficulty. Angus Martin said nothing of the sort. He

told Socialist Worker what actually happened.

Some weeks ago Hart visited Scawthorpe Club, near Doncaster, and told Angus that he was doing an article on extreme militants. Angus denied being one, knowing what the News of the World meant by that term.

He told the reporter: 'You are wasting your time,' and refused to pick out militants from a set of photos shown to him by Hart. Angus gave no interview and did not think that anyone else would either.

But a little thing like this was not going to stop the News of the World. They invented words to put into Angus' mouth condemning other militants.



I would like more information about the International Socialists

Name _____
Address _____

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

TWO MORE PAGES OF INDUSTRIAL NEWS

Socialist Worker

COURT THREAT TO ENGINEERS' UNION

FOR UPHOLDING its own rule book and its members' rights to discipline a blackleg, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers this week faces the prospect of massive fines imposed by the National Industrial Relations Court for defying the law.

The union's funds may even be seized and a state official appointed to run it.

Socialist Worker reporter

The issue for every trade unionist is crystal clear. Trade unions and trade union rule books are the property of the membership—not of any government or its front men in the courts of so-called justice.

The court threat to the AUEW and the entire trade union movement arises out of the behaviour of one James Goad, employed along with 400 AUEW members at the CAV diesel injection plant in Sudbury, Suffolk. In

August 1967, all the men, except Mr Goad, came out on strike over a bonus dispute.

Ever loyal to his masters and to his so-called principles, Mr Goad chose to blackleg. He later allowed his union dues to fall into arrears and was lapsed from the union.

Now this doughty upholder of principles wants to get back in to the AUEW because he feels that non-membership might damage his promotion prospects.

Union members at CAV Sudbury, their shop stewards and Sudbury branch officials do not want him back in the union because he is a blackleg. Under the union rule book they are perfectly entitled to take this stand.

But now James Goad and his concern for his promotion prospects are backed by an order from an Industrial Tribunal that he is and must be treated as a member of the AUEW. An injunction restrains lay union officials from treating him otherwise.

If the union and its officers do not comply then the NIRC will see to the union, attacking its funds, its organisation and its members.

Union officers have so far stood firm both against this blackleg and his court orders. At the 20 October branch meeting at the Bear Inn, Sudbury, Michael Stares, a shop steward at CAV Sudbury, met Mr Goad at the door and told him that he could not come in.

'Do you realise that this is a high court injunction?' whined Mr Goad.

Michael Stares quietly replied that he understood that Mr Goad had a high court order and he still would not be allowed to enter the room or the union.

Michael Stares' calm message is that trade unions are the property of the membership—and not created by the orders from tribunal chairmen or high court judges.

Every trade unionist will know what to do if the AUEW or any of its members or funds are touched.

By direct action five dockers were released from Pentonville. A repeat dose will ensure that trade union democracy is the law of the land, trade union funds the property of the union, and union organisation will never be run by state appointees.

Victory over the Lump

MANCHESTER:—Workers on Bryant's Dial House site have achieved an important victory in preventing management bringing in lump labour. After two weeks of official strike, the men, who had been summarily sacked, have all been reinstated.

Backing for sparks

BOOTLE:—Strike committee members from the Inland Revenue Office site near Liverpool have visited the Drax power station site near Goole, Yorkshire, and enlisted support from the strike committee there.

The IRO electricians have been on strike for 18 months over their demand for wage parity with other workers on the site. Twice electricians have been conned into returning to work while their claim was to be considered. Twice they have found that no real consideration was given to it.

Two of the strikers, John Byrne and Tommy Henderson, explained that the Joint Industries Board, made up of

management and union nominees in the electrical contracting industry, seems determined to smash the strikers.

The JIB rates fixed for electricians mean that those on the site earn £17 a week less than labourers. The JIB seems determined to maintain this situation, to the benefit of employers throughout the industry.

As Tommy Henderson put it: 'The JIB would rather shut the site down than pay the electricians the extra.'

Donations, messages of support, and requests for speakers to: IRO strike committee, c/o J Byrne, 44 Sidney Road, Bootle 20, Lancs.

Mass walk-out after sacking

COVENTRY:—The sacking of Engineering Union deputy convenor Johnny Worth at the Chrysler engine and transmissions plant at Stoke on Monday led to an immediate walk-out by the 3000 workers.

John Worth was sacked and escorted from the factory on arriving for the morning shift. The management accuse him of continually refusing to meet them for negotiations.

Duncan Simpson, chairman of the joint shop stewards' committee, said the

men would stay out until Worth was reinstated. No further mass meeting is planned until next Monday.

The nearby Chrysler Ryton assembly plant is shut down over a manning dispute. With both factories closed, that at Linwood in Scotland will soon be laid off.

Chrysler were the first major car firm to buy out the piecework system in 1968 and replace it with Measured Day Work. The continued drive to rationalise is leading them into further confrontations with the shop floor. The sacking of Johnny Worth, a leading militant, was obviously planned by top management.

There must be no return to work without him.

Teachers robbed by pay freeze

SIXTY THOUSAND teachers are among those hard hit by the government's pay freeze.

They have been negotiating for an increase from £118 to £300 a year in the allowance they get to cover the increased cost of living and working in London. They had been offered a meagre £82 a year increase. Now even this will be vetoed.

This is not the first time recently that the teachers have been on the receiving end of the government's efforts to hold wages below the rising cost of living.

Last year teachers were due for a rise in April. Eventually they were given—six months late—an increase well below that given earlier to civil servants. Many teachers resented the refusal to back date the claim to April.

In the wage negotiations this spring the question of the London allowance was excluded. But a categorical promise was given that there would be an increase this November.

Now, once again, teachers find that promises are being broken and they are whipping boys for the government.

London teachers are furious. Greater London branches of the National Union of Teachers called a big protest meeting at Central Hall, Westminster, on Thursday 9 November and a petition is going the rounds.

Eric Porter, editor of the left-wing NUT members' journal Rank and File, told Socialist Worker: 'A large body of teachers agree with Rank and File that mere protest will not be enough. Demands for militant action are already coming in. Half-day, one-day, even extended strikes have all been suggested.'

'Rank and File supporters will give support for demands for direct action but will at the same time insist that this just London demand will be linked with an essential struggle for a substantial increase in the salaries of all teachers, who have fallen behind in the past few years.'

RUSH TO A BAD DEAL

THE press has made much play of the way in which, it claims, local government manual workers managed to get a wage increase just before the freeze was imposed. But they do not mention that the increase means next to nothing for many of these very low paid workers.

After tax and social security deductions, and loss of entitlement to means tested benefits are taken into account, even the union's original claim of £4 would have been worth little. The £2.40 agreed will be next to useless.

It leaves men on a minimum wage, before deductions, of only £21.40. Take-home pay, on which to keep a wife and family, will be considerably less than £20.

Health service manual workers will be even more severely hit by the freeze. Usually their negotiations follow immediately after the local government ones, and they get the same rise. Now they will be told that they have to wait three or even five months.

In the meantime, many workers will not continue to accept these conditions without a fight. Rank and file militants have been demanding that the unions press for an extra £8 a week, not a mere £4.

An all-out strike for this began in Bristol, until the union talked the workers back to work. In London and Manchester there have been one-day token strikes.

ANTI-INTERMENT LEAGUE

Demonstration

Sunday 12 November

Assemble Speakers' Corner

(Marble Arch) 2pm

Speakers include: Bernadette

Devlin, MP, Michael Farrell, Eamonn

McCann

FREE ALL IRISH POLITICAL

PRISONERS!

BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF

IRELAND NOW!



Indian women workers picket outside the factory

Solidarity strikes spread

WORKERS at several East Midlands factories of the Mansfield Hosiery company are preparing to strike in solidarity with 200 workers on strike in Loughborough for higher wages.

The Loughborough workers, mainly Indians, have been sent letters telling them they are sacked for 'withdrawing labour in contravention of the Industrial Relations Act'.

The workers have, without exception, returned these letters. They are determined to spread the strike and win.

Already 80 women at the Clarence Street works in Leicester have walked out in sympathy. At Whigston and Shepstead, workers have given notice of strike action beginning next Monday, and there is talk of similar action at the Nottingham and Mansfield factories.

The poor pay and conditions are a direct result of management efforts to 'divide and rule' through the use of racial discrimination.

The striking workers at Loughborough get only £20.35 for a 40-hour week feeding and servicing machines. The only

shift allowance is an extra 12½ per cent on nights. Yet the knitters who supervise the machines get more than £35 a week. Management reserves this job for whites only, with the exception of a mere handful of Indians, and prefers to take on and train unskilled whites than give more better paid jobs to the Indians.

The firm used to employ three women to each machine. Now it is making one Indian man two machines. In this way it has raised profits fantastically. Last year alone it made £11 million from its 10 factories.

PLEGGED

Racialism is being used in various ways to weaken the strike. Transport drivers who are breaking the picket line have been wearing Enoch Powell badges.

But the strikers understand the need for solidarity with white workers if the employers are to be beaten back. They have pledged support for any dispute by white workers in future, even if these workers do not help them now.

The strike committee has been produc-

ing daily leaflets, putting out collection sheets, and organising picketing on a rota basis. A weekly strike bulletin is planned for all factories involved in the strike.

The struggle of these workers against poor wages and racial discrimination will be one of the first to clash with the government's new wage freeze law. It is essential that they are given maximum support from the trade union movement.

Donations and messages of support to: The Strike Committee, 31 Station Road, Loughborough, Leics.

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Published by the International Socialists, 6 Cottons Gdns, London E2. Printed by SW (Litho) Printers Ltd (TU all depts). Registered with the Post Office.