

Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM 224 12 JUNE 1971 2½p

Stricken millions are told:

WORLD CANNOT FEED YOU ALL

Insulting headline in the London Evening Standard based on statement by UN Food and Agriculture Organisation



But they could feed the hungry: World expenditure on arms is 200,000 million dollars a year. The USA spends 70,000 million dollars
Russia 50,000 million dollars
Britain 5,700 million dollars
The USA has given up to 100 million dollars a year in military aid to the West Pakistan military regimes. Britain has given £1,750,000 for food and relief in Bengal—but it will continue to give military aid to Yahya Khan. If the British government threatened to cut off such aid it could force Yahya to stop the slaughter of the Bengalis. Instead it underwrites the massacre and saves its conscience with a miserly £1½ million. Memo to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation: you say you can't feed the hungry. Right now there are 22 million bushels of surplus wheat in Canada....

NEW GET TOUGH CALL TO BOSSES BY TORIES

THE GOVERNMENT is determined to press home still further its attack on workers' living standards. Already prices are rising twice as fast as wages. But this is not good enough for the Tories. They intend to cut real wages still further.

Their aim is to slash wage rises down to an average of 6 per cent by the autumn, although prices are going up by 10 per cent a year.

Employment Minister Robert Carr has called on employers to unite to impose such a policy on their workers. In the latest issue of the bosses' magazine the Director he has written that employers should be 'co-ordinating their wage bargaining and developing counter-acting power'. He is calling for the employing class to unite as never before to hit at our living standards.

The government is tracing out a path it wants other employers to follow. It has forced up unemployment to the highest level for 30 years.

It has abolished welfare services that used to guarantee full nourishment to working-class children. It has forced groups like the postal workers to accept miserable wage increases.

Unfortunately, the official trade union movement has responded to the employers' offensive by trying to hide its head in the sand. The TUC has concentrated its attention on

begging the government to adopt different policies.

TUC leaders are on their knees before the Tory ministers, asking them to allow the TUC to police a policy of 'voluntary wage restraint'.

Such an attitude cannot be in the interest of rank and file union members. British big business cannot solve its problems without pushing profits up still further and cutting wages.

But there is no need for us to accept such cuts. If the minority who have economic power in this country cannot provide full employment and decent wages, then we should fight to take that power from them.

Mr Carr is whipping up the employing class for a further unified attack on the workers. The vital need is to build a revolutionary organisation of workers that can take the initiative in organising a unified working class fight back.

Vital reading for all Socialists and trade unionists

The Fight against Racism by Mike Caffoor

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- The Fight Against Racism.
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MAN can go to the Moon and explore space at a cost of billions of dollars—but nothing can be done to save the lives of the refugees from Bangla Desh. Such are the priorities of world capitalism.

Thousands are dead in Bengal, thousands more face starvation and misery in the mud as the monsoon grips the country. Well-fed statesmen wring their hands in mock horror in the capitals of the world and leave it to charity organisations to raise aid for the stricken while the cash and arms continue to flow to Yahya Khan to finish his extermination of the East Pakistanis.

horror and indignation are not enough. We must argue and shout that the world CAN feed the hungry, CAN house the homeless. The enormous wealth and industrial might of the 'advanced' nations—a wealth and a might made possible by the rape of countries like Pakistan and India—are more than enough to ensure a future for the oppressed millions of the 'Third World'.

But that means planning and co-operation instead of competition and war. It means a redoubling of the efforts by working people to take power from the hypocrites and traders in death who are

Socialist Worker

Unnatural relations East and West: a suitable case for Lord Longford?

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SOMEBODY ought to warn Lord Longford and his pornography bloodhounds. The three nuclear Bigs—the US, Russia and China—are taking to some strange postures these days. The US is bending all the way across the Atlantic to whisper delicious phrases into Russian ears about troop withdrawals in Europe and missile agreements. Across the Pacific it is hoisting its skirts to trade with China and to encourage closer feelers all round.

Both Russia and China have responded—the one with suggestions about European conferences and agreements on Berlin, the other with smiles all round and a lot of ticklish diplomacy.

Something's happening, but what? Are we coming into an 'era of competition for peace' which Denis Healey, Labour's Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, sees around the corner?

For the moment it looks like 'yes'. 'Yes'

for a couple of years, not an era. But still, a positive 'yes'.

The Americans are in a bind. They are running the highest level of unemployment in 9½ years. Their prices are climbing up as fast as ever. Worst of all they are losing out to European and Japanese competition.

They need some speed back in the economy. To get it, they need to shift some of the burden of armaments on to their competitors in Europe.

Eager Russians

But for that they need Russian help—to show it's safe.

The Russians are more than eager. They need to shift their troops to their eastern frontier to face China. They need to keep Eastern Europe in bread and Egypt, the Middle East and South Asia in arms.

And they need to keep their own workers from turning too nasty, as they might easily do in the tight Russian labour market. All this costs money, and more and more each

year. If only they can hold off the new arms race the US is threatening them with, they might be able to manage.

The Americans also need to pull out of Vietnam. The army there and at home is rotting with heroin, revolt and racial conflict. It can't fight in the field and won't fight at home.

To make it safe at any speed, it must be made smaller, healthier, whiter, and more professional. That means that it has to get out of Vietnam, and that means Chinese help.

The Chinese, too, are more than eager. They want the US to get the Russians off their backs. They want the US to open up the world of modern machines and modern technology which the Russians closed to them 10 years ago. They will play along.

What now? It is not impossible that the US and Russia will settle on withdrawal—from Europe. It will mean a heavy round of arms spending here, but that ought not worry them for some time.

It will take years before the puny armed

forces and armaments industries in this part of the world could threaten either.

It is also not impossible that the US and China will fix a deal in Southeast Asia—the Chinese have not been squeamish about national movements and revolutionaries these last few months in Bengal or Ceylon. They can do what they have done before—herd the Vietnamese into a bloody compromise.

New arms race

But however willing, and however inventive their contortions, Russia and China's modern Tsars and Emperors cannot ensure the 'era of competition and peace' that Healey is panting for. For the third and most important reason behind the US's current peace campaign is to clear the decks for a new arms race, the missile race of the mid-seventies, whose strategy and weapons are even now being assembled.

If and when that gets under way, the nuclear Bigs' unnatural troilism will fall apart. Only Lord Longford will be relieved.

'The vice of imperialism and the stranglehold of capitalism has created the holocaust of Bengal'

by Nigel Harris

THE BIRDS have come home to roost. The next chapter in the unfolding tragedy of Bengal threatens to be even more terrible than what has gone before.

To the slaughter of Bengalis by the West Pakistan military is now added the staggering problem of:

Four million refugees fleeing over the border to West Bengal.

A cholera epidemic of mammoth proportions both in East Pakistan and West Bengal.

The onset of the monsoon flooding the areas where the homeless are clustered.

And a possible famine arising from the collapse of the grain distribution network in East Pakistan.

Grim prospects

The Great Powers all twitter and cluck about the tragedy. But the tragedy is of their making. The vice of imperialism and the stranglehold of world capitalism has created the holocaust of East Bengal.

And for the moment the prospects of any political solution appear grim. Serious resistance has ended in East Pakistan for the moment.

The Left wing forces have created a coalition, the National Liberation Front, to prepare and wage guerrilla warfare against the West Pakistan military. The 'Provisional Government' of Bangla Desh sits in Calcutta in India, heavily supported by Indian cash. It is less concerned with military or political opposition to the generals, more with securing diplomatic recognition from some established government.

Yet if the military machine has been able to flatten the opposition, it has done little to create a government acceptable to the generals. The five million Biharis in Bengali East Pakistan—traditionally, the



Mujib-ur-Rahman: arrested by Yahya

shop keepers and petty businessmen of the East, not to mention military spies—have been raised to the position of being the agents of the army in the East.

But this 'colon' community, the foreign settlers, organised in 'Peace Committees' to assist the army administer East Bengal, is even more hated now than before for selling out the cause of Bengal independence. The Bihari heads stay above water only because the army is holding them up. This is no substitute for the slaughtered leadership of the Bengalis.

President-General Yahya Khan has tried to pick off a few of the open traitors to the cause of Bengal independence, men like Nurul-Amin, one of the general's few Bengali supporters in the East. But this is trivial.

Yahya also offered to accept back Awami League MPs, provided they repudiated the League's leadership and agreed to defend 'Pakistan's integrity'. He estimated there might be anything up to 100 such Quislings.

But conditions are not settled enough to give these MPs—if they exist—the courage required. They are liable to be found murdered if they agree to create Yahya's puppet government.

Instability is the reason for Ali Bhutto's indecent haste in the West to gather the harvest of his own sell-out to the generals. There is said to be a serious split developing in Bhutto's party, the Pakistan People's Party.

Bhutto is, more and more urgently, demanding that power be given to his party in the West. Even more shamelessly, he has offered his party as a refuge for traitors from the Awami League. Then he will lay claim to form the civilian government of the East.

But the military is not over anxious to return power to the politicians. It has always been clear that, if they could get away with smashing Bangla Desh, they would have much less to fear from opposition in the West. Without Mujib-ur-Rahman, Ali Bhutto is a paper tiger.

The sordid manoeuvring of the politicians stands in vivid contrast to the appalling situation of the Bengalis. The politicians have done their worst.

But the fate of the economy in the West should not be missed in the tragedy of the East. Economic disaster in the Punjab may yet do what the tiny military forces of Bangla Desh could not.

Already the war in the East has sent prices spinning upwards. The foreign lenders who keep Pakistan's economy afloat and able to slaughter Bengalis are increasingly nervous about their loans (a World Bank special mission is currently in the country to check its loans).

The British government has withdrawn its insurance guarantees protecting British exports to Pakistan because it fears for its profits. The Pakistan government has suspended foreign exchange dealings because the reserves are nearly exhausted. The crisis arises directly from the massive cost of military operations in the East and the loss of export earnings from East Pakistan.

Back to streets

There have already been rumblings of opposition from the industrial centres of the West. The workers there are still far from realising the crimes committed in their names in the East.

It could be that the next phase of the struggle will return to the streets of Karachi.

The vital necessity in the struggle against the generals and Karachi capitalism was a movement in both East and West Pakistan.

Bhutto ensured that the last attempt failed when he sold out the movement in the West to the generals. It might be that despite his best efforts, opposition will again become important in the West. If it does, there might be a return to revolutionary struggle in Pakistan.

All this is trivial at the moment in comparison to what is happening in the East. The anxieties of Bengalis here in Britain for their families and friends can get little consolation from these hopes.

Their aim must be to ensure that the dead were not sacrificed in vain. The inevitable resurgence of the Bangla Desh movement will be fired by the appalling experience of the full crimes of the generals.

Then it will not tolerate the political leadership which betrayed the movement to the generals.



THEIR WEEK

Snakes...At 6.2 per cent US jobless is now the highest for 9½ years. Main victims: blacks (10.5 per cent) and youth (17 plus). On past form black youth unemployment must be 30-40 per cent. Said John Connally, Secretary to the Treasury: 'The standard of living in the US is at stake. No less than that.' And then proposed to export the problems to non-US blacks: 'Many European countries', he complained, 'give preferences to small countries in Africa and the Middle East at our expense. America could retaliate...'

...and Ladders: Another way out for

Washington is to bribe businessmen to do business. 'Technical' tax changes proposed by Nixon in January but only now being discussed will pump \$3,000 million into the boardrooms next fiscal year, rising to \$4,700 million in 1976. Federal spending on education this year—\$3,600 million.

Plague and Profits: Pak President Yahya offered jute farmers in occupied Bangla Desh 0.16 pence per pound more than they got last year. For him and his buddies half a million corpses, 4½ million refugees a cholera epidemic and international

isolation are worthwhile only if they can keep hold of the crop which provided half Pakistan's export earnings, half the market for West Pakistan's exports and a third of all taxes. But this is one battle Yahya can't win. The peasants are planting rice instead. They need it more than money.

The South African Republic celebrated its 10th birthday with short haired, long-armed military parades in major towns. Not invited were 15 million blacks, half in the jobless Bantustans (13.7 per cent of the land area where 945 new jobs—nine hundred and forty five, no noughts missing

—were created in six years to 1968) and half in urban townships where, officially, most live below subsistence. Black mine workers in the Republic's most important industry are worse off than their grandfathers: on £42.60 a year in cash they are getting 60 pence less in real terms than 60 years ago.

Quote of the week: 'The Party leadership want Communism to seem respectable, but for the proletariat it is hardly a very interesting goal'—Communist Party trade union chief in Emilia, Italy.

DOCKERS FACE THREAT FROM

According to the press, the docks industry in this country is facing a major crisis. A number of docks in London have been shut down and there is the much-publicised bankruptcy of the Mersey Docks and Harbours Board. We asked COLIN ROSS, Chairman of the Shop Stewards Committee at T. Wallis & Co. in London's Royal Docks, how he viewed the situation.

COULD YOU explain how such things as the National Dock Labour Scheme affect dockers?

The Dock Labour Scheme, introduced in 1946, is unique in British industry. The Dock Labour Board, which is responsible for intake of labour, training and discipline, is made up half of trade union representatives and half employers.

The scheme has been a thorn in the employers' side in recent years and they would dearly love to be rid of it. It's something that the dockers cannot afford to lose.

How have things changed since the acceptance of the Devlin Scheme in 1967?

Under the casual system which existed before 1967, the NDLB was the main contractor of labour. The Devlin Report brought about drastic changes.

It is to be put into practice in two stages. Phase I in September 1967 saw the end of the casual labour system, an increased fall back guarantee, from £11 to £16, rising to £17, and the introduction of fairly acceptable amenity blocks. But the piecework system and daywork systems were retained.

The situation improved gradually, but one of the main things we were not able to improve was the basic wage (28p an hour). After long negotiations an official strike was called in July 1970 which lasted three weeks.

The settlement gave us a fall back guarantee of £20 and £20 a week holiday money, but left the hourly rate at 28p. The employers were hell-bent on rushing further productivity agreements into the industry, and London was the first casualty. The main benefit we received was the abolition of the piecework system which was replaced by the guaranteed wage.

But why do militants oppose Phase II—surely with a £36.50 basic and a 'No Redundancy' agreement you're laughing?

For £36.50 (or £28.50 in the case of the category B men—who are unable to do the most strenuous work), dockers gave themselves lock stock and barrel: the employers couldn't have expected more. The industry went from day work to shift work, from fixed to free manning with complete mobility and flexibility of labour.

Swallowed

It was the employers' threats of closures, aided by the Port newspaper—the weapon of the employers—that led to the bait being swallowed.

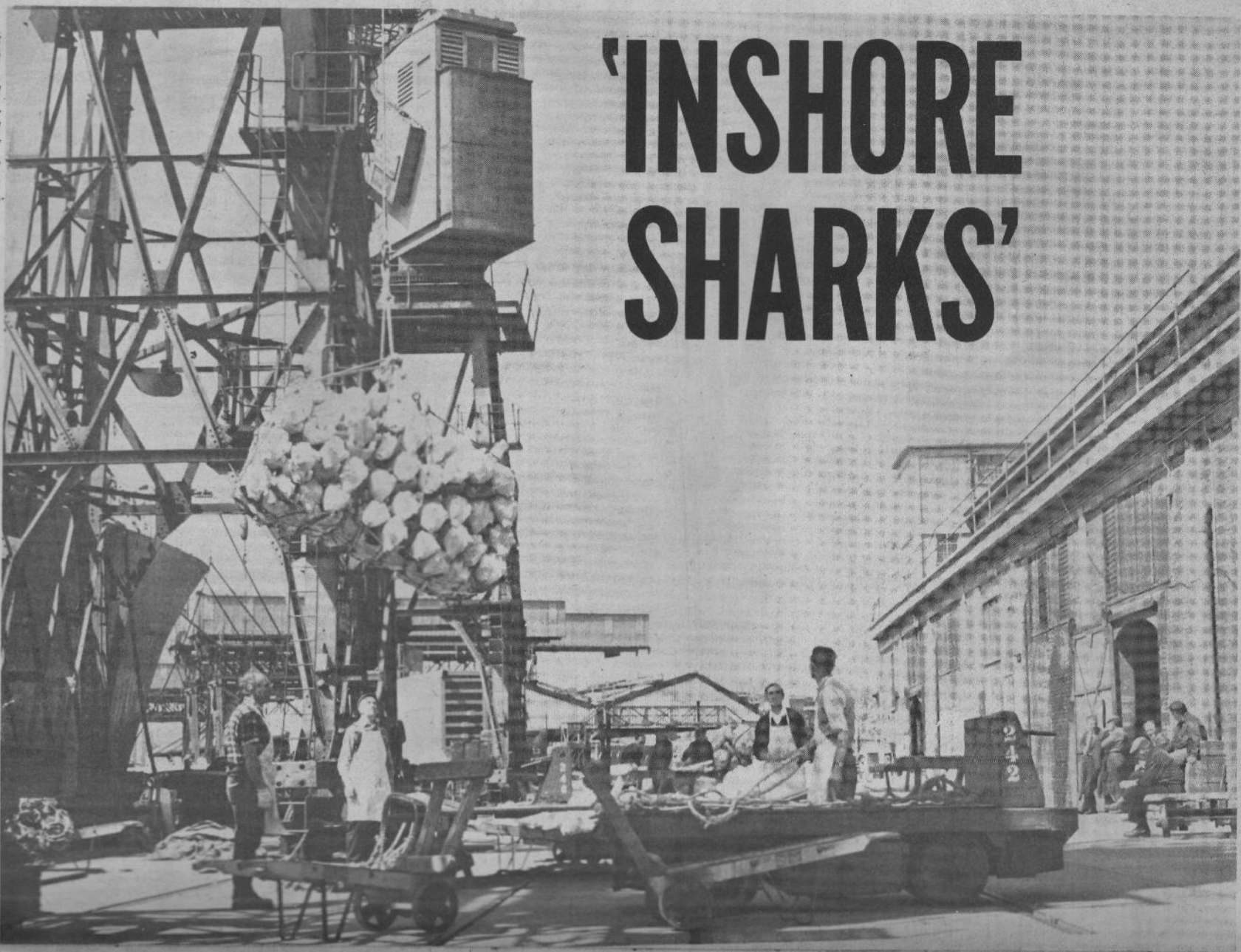
After two ballots in the Transport and General Workers Union, the agreement was accepted. The Stevedores and Dockers' Union (The Blues) had refused to participate in negotiations, but had to accept the agreement weeks before it was implemented.

The higher basic wage was long overdue to the dockworker without all the strings. Critics may think we've done well out of the agreement, but I personally think the employers have done doubly well.

In the last few years the bosses have slashed jobs in London to less than 12,000. This speaks for itself. And the employers have plans to slice this latter figure down even lower, as the latest issue of Port shows.

A recent article in the Sun said the wages had gone up 25 per cent productivity was down 30 per cent and charges had been doubled. Aren't we pricing the docks out of existence?

In reply to the Sun (17 May) I'd like to say that the dockworker has not seen a 25 per cent increase in wages. To do so, they would have to work a normal week, plus Saturday



PICTURE MIKE COHEN

by SW Reporters

and Sunday, and before Phase II they were days of leisure.

Productivity may well have gone down, but so did many dockworkers go down with thrombosis as a result of the ridiculous speeds we had to work under the previous system to achieve a living wage.

At one time the dockworker had an outstanding opportunity of getting thrombosis between the ages of 58 and 61, if he wasn't already maimed through the piecework system.

All the thanks you receive from the employers if you're less active than you may have been years ago is a cut in wages to the B register rate.

As more docks close and more are threatened with closure, inland container depots are getting more cargo. How do you view this?

We've seen many closures within a short period and now we in the Royals are faced with the same threat. The land could fetch astronomical sums of money, and the trade could be redirected to inland depots, where, by coincidence, it's not done by registered dockworkers, though in most cases, by members of the TGWU.

These depots are run by sharks who are answerable to no National Dock Labour Board, and in most cases there is gross undermanning and low wages. The TGWU should strike an agreement whereby the work should come under the Dock Labour Scheme, with the right manning and wages.

Coffin

There'd then be no more need for severance pay and the unattached register. While the depots' share in trade is rising, the dockworkers' share is falling. It's about time the TGWU did something positive about this before we find the final knell has been struck over the dockers' coffin.

The Devlin Phase II agreement comes up for review in a month. What do you think will come of it?

The employers have adopted the

usual tactics of talking about rising costs and falling output, shipping leaving the port etc. This is nothing new, we've always experienced these tactics.

The national press and the Port newspaper will push these and the high rate of unemployment in an attempt to keep the claim low. But we've been caught like everyone else by rising prices so the cost of living rise should be a mere formality, with no more strings.

A recent newspaper report claimed that the TGWU and the employers were plotting to ditch the NDLS. Is this a possibility?

A shop stewards' deputation to Jack Jones last summer posed this question, and we were given a complete assurance that the Dock Labour Scheme would never be tampered with by anyone and any attempt would meet with great resistance. For me, that's OK.

Obstacles

Can you say how the Devlin package has affected union organisation, particularly in the introduction of shop stewards?

Locally they met many obstacles under Phase I, but these were overcome and they settled down without negotiating powers, unlike the shop stewards in other ports.

Since the introduction of Phase II, all ports negotiate their own agreements. The review dates vary, unlike the national agreement we had previously, which cuts our power.

The sooner the national shop stewards committee is reconvened the better. Most employers were trembling when this committee was formed.

Is nationalisation of the docks any solution to the problems?

To nationalise the docks would be easier than the Labour government made it out to be: the dockers have always run the industry anyway. There should be no question of com-

'INSHORE SHARKS'

pensation for the employers—they've had their pound of flesh and more over the last century.

How will the Industrial Relations Bill affect dock workers?

I believe that the IRB was introduced for motorcar workers and dockers in the main. If the unions agree to co-operate, once the dust has settled, we're in for a rough ride.

The port employers are known to be active supporters of the present government—and wouldn't hesitate to carry out their policies. We must be certain that the IRB does not affect the National Dock Labour Scheme in any way.

How do you see the future for dockworkers?

The employers have ensured that the power the docker once held has been severely curtailed. The only way the employers can be given a caning these days is by a national strike.

With local strikes they can always redirect shipping to other ports. A few years ago London held the key

to British trade, but with containerisation the employers have made sure that we don't hold that key any longer.

However I believe that the future for dockworkers in London is not as black as some people claim it is. There are many years left for London dockers and London docks, where we have always provided a service as efficient and fast as anywhere in the world.

A national link-up of ports is essential. We must force the TGWU into embracing all inland depots and cargo-handling into the NDLB scheme.

This can only be brought about by a national effort. The dockworker must be prepared to engage himself in a battle to the last man.

Are we asking too much? Ask yourself how you would feel if the factory where you worked closed down and another one opened up across the road with the workers receiving far worse benefits than you did.

NEW FROM PLUTO

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Four contributions on a key problem 35p plus 5p post

PLUTO PRESS
6 Cottons Gardens London E2 8DN

The 'revolutionary' who campaigned for 'people's capitalism' by Pa

The Cornfeld saga: Do

you sincerely want to be swindled?

AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE, New York, shortly before the 1948 presidential election, the 'soft lefts', of whom, at that time, there were a great many, formed a 'peoples' front' movement to draft Norman Thomas as a socialist candidate for the presidency. The Trotskyist Socialist Youth League at the College opposed the Thomas campaign, and incurred the wrath of the chief Thomas enthusiast in the College, whose name was Bernard Cornfeld.

Cornfeld approached the Faculty Committee for Student Affairs and demanded the expulsion of the SYL from the campus. The motion failed, and Cornfeld promptly joined the SYL.

He was a Trotskyist for a full year. Twenty years later he had swindled his way to the very peak of international capitalism.

Cornfeld's Trotskyist past stood him in good stead throughout the history of his 'mutual fund' firm, International Overseas Services.

'What I have done', he boasted in his firm's bulletin several years later, 'is apply socialist ideas about redistributing wealth in a free enterprise context'.

Or again, demonstrating that the jargon of his Trotskyist background could come in useful, 'We're

in the business of literally converting the proletariat to the leisured class painlessly...It's revolutionary and its goddam exciting'.

Talk of a 'peoples' capitalism' dominated the ideology of International Overseas Services. It was based on the selling of 'mutual funds', that is stakes in a general

fund of money which would be invested by 'experts'.

Only the very rich, ran the argument, can expect a decent return on investment through the ordinary banking-stockbroking capitalist channels. If all the 'small men' get together and buy into a 'mutual fund', the prospects for profits know no bounds.

Bernie Cornfeld and his band of ex-Trotskyists and soft lefties went to Geneva to try their theory out. They went to Geneva because the mutual fund pitch in America had been grabbed by other firms.

Swiss financial law, moreover, offered every opportunity to encourage people in other countries to break their laws, and get their money out into Cornfeld's fund rather than pay tax on it.

So Bernie's salesmen started to work—not among the skilled workers of the industrial world, as implied by their idealistic manifestos—but among the unscrupulous upper middle classes of the underdeveloped countries. In places like Brazil and Chile (especially the former) they found businessmen, lawyers, army officers and priests who had grown rich from the continuing poverty of the mass of their people.

Even the ridiculously low taxation rates in these countries infuriated these gentlemen and Bernie Cornfeld's salesmen, who offered ways and means of smuggling money into a tax haven, were seen as deliverers.

Millions of dollars poured out, often in the suitcases of IOS salesmen, until the authorities were at last provoked into action.

Struck gold

By 1967, IOS salesmen had been flung out of most of Latin America and the Middle East. They had, however, collected some 200 million dollars from the middle class of the Third World.

Then they started on the industrial countries. In Germany, they struck gold.

Since the war, the German middle class had been sceptical of the banks and stockbrokers. Only a million Germans had any shares at all (compared, for instance, with three million British).

IOS offered a quick return through investment via door-to-door salesmen which (in the language of IOS ideology) 'by-passed the big capitalists in Bonn and Berlin'. Hundreds of thousands of Germans bought into IOS funds or life insurance.

Italy proved just as fruitful, and there the IOS salesmen found countless people anxious to avoid tax. Illegal selling continued there for half a decade.

In Britain IOS launched a brand new life insurance scheme entitled the Dover Plan which netted some £25 million pounds in its first year of operations.

At the height of its fortune, in early 1969, IOS had collected internationally some 2,000 million dollars. Cornfeld was one of the most respected men in the international financial community.

But he never forgot his missionary zeal. Under the leadership of 'Big' Jim Roosevelt, son of the 'New Deal' President, IOS launched a series of international conferences under the slogan Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth). The conference attracted 'radical' and religious thinkers from all over

With a little help from a few powerful friends ...

the world, including Senator Fullbright, Professor J.K. Galbraith and the cellist Pablo Casals.

'Our deliberations', trumpeted Roosevelt, 'mark an important breakthrough for all humanity'. And when Bernie Cornfeld went to Rome, he received a 25-minute audience with the Pope.

There was, however, a little difficulty. Instead of hoarding the money in safe investments, the managers of the IOS fortune (and particularly Bernie Cornfeld and his lawyer friend, Ed Cowett) saw to it that as much cash as possible was stuffed back into the pockets of themselves and (later) their salesmen.

Ed Cowett, moreover, was always looking for more and more exotic ways of making a fast buck. IOS went into partnership with a Denver millionaire called John King who had found some interesting ways of salting away a fortune by pretending to drill for gas and oil in the Arctic.

Some of Cowett's other brainwaves for investment included a firm specialising in electric pencil

sharpeners, planned to people's nu hope that Pr what he pro

In Octob public', and the public Every penny from the pu dollars—was sonal bank directors, salesmen.

And by nothing left profit figure began to 're

By now, enormous t alism could collapse. A found to went down rather than

Bernie most of his a millionai

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 through-

out the world.

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

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

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

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

Against anti-trade union laws and any curbs on the right to strike, whether the strikes are 'official' or 'unofficial'.

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

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

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

Against unemployment, redundancy and lay offs. We support the

demand: Five days' work or five days' pay.

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

Against racialism and police victimisation of black workers.

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

Against secret diplomacy.

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

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

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

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

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

THERE ARE 15 BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

SCOTLAND
Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Fife/
Glasgow N/Glasgow S/Stirling

NORTH EAST
Durham/Newcastle upon Tyne/
Teesside (Middlesbrough and Redcar)

NORTH
Barnsley/Bradford/Derby/Doncaster/
Grimsby/Huddersfield/Hull/Leeds
York/Selby/Sheffield

NORTH WEST
Lancaster/Manchester/Oldham
Bolton/Merseyside/St Helens/Wigan

Potteries
MIDLANDS
Birmingham/Coventry/Leamington/
Leicester/Oxford/Nottingham/
Northampton/Redditch/Telford

WALES and SOUTH WEST
Bath/Bristol/Cardiff/Exeter/
Gloucester/Mid-Devon/Plymouth/
Swansea

SOUTH
Ashford/Brighton/Canterbury/
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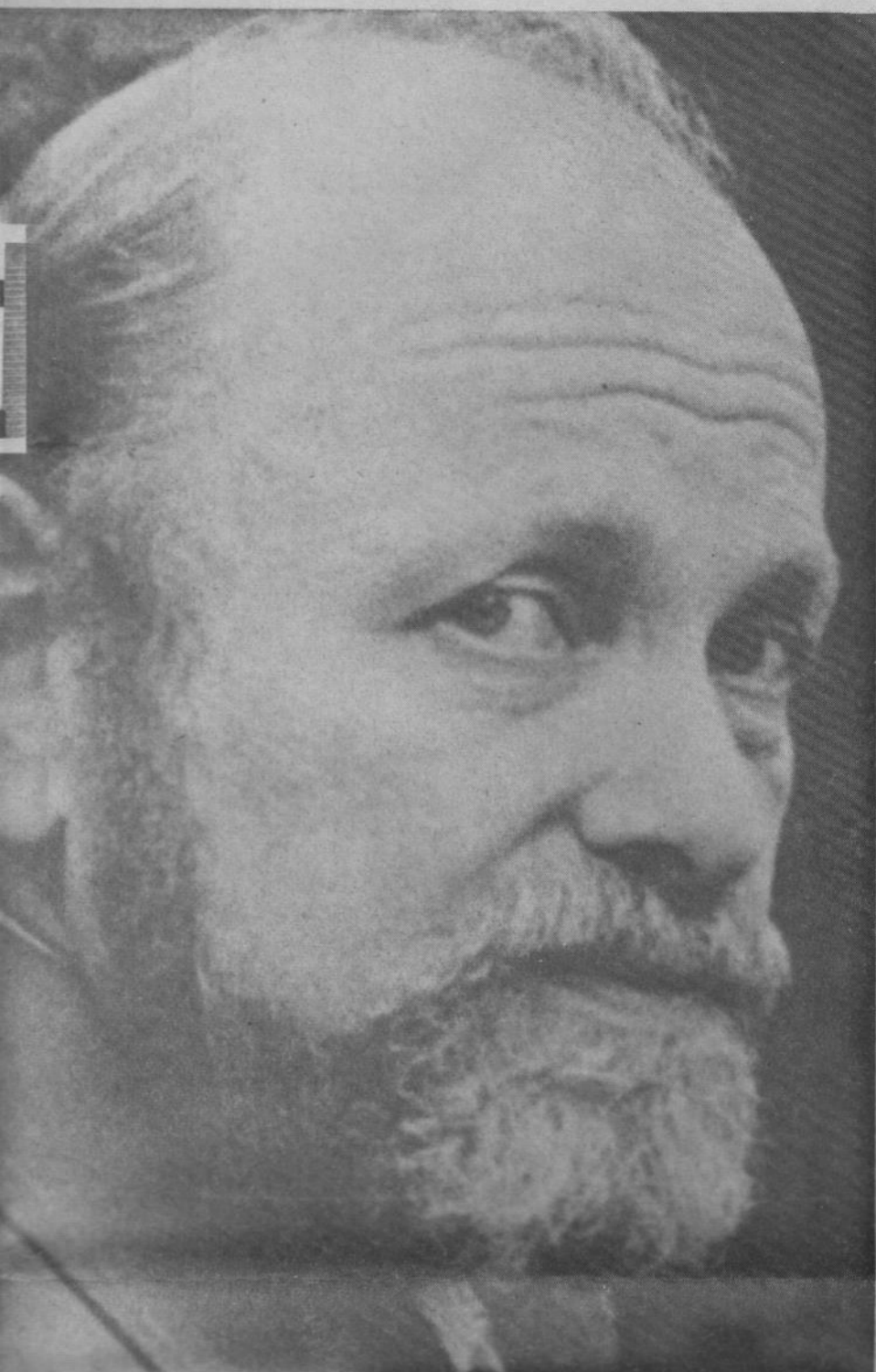


POMPIDOU: he was interested



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RESPECTABLE



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1970, there was the news of bad ed out, investors their stakes. operation was so ernational capit- stand a sudden financiers were the ring'. IOS a slow puncture k burst. eld, who, with directors, is still now suing the

JAMES HELPED



vised IOS

Sunday Times whose three journalists, Charles Raw, Bruce Page and Godfrey Hodgson, have just told this whole story in a fine and exhilarating book, *Do You Sincerely Want to Be Rich?**

Cornfeld will no doubt plead that nothing he did conflicted with the values and standards of modern society.

He can claim with every justification that in his heyday he was not ignored or isolated by the international capitalist community. On the contrary, from the outset he was supported by the most respectable bank in Belgium.

When he wanted advice on how to shift money collected from British investors to America, he was shown the way by Freshfields, the solicitors to the Bank of England, whose partners are all High Tory patriots.

When IOS went public in 1969, every respectable name in international capitalism rushed to underwrite it. From Britain alone

* *Andre Deutsch* £2.75

there were 34 British banks and financial concerns, including stock-brokers Panmure Gordon and Cazenove; Westminster and Barclays Banks; merchant banks, Schroder Wagg, Hill Samuel and Samuel Montagu; and the vast financial investment institution Slater Walker (in which, at the time, the present Minister of Environment, Peter Walker, was one of the two partners).

As for individuals who at one time or another supported IOS, the list is a glittering one. In Germany, the leader of the Free Democratic Party, Dr. Erich Mende, was an IOS director.

The name of Jim Roosevelt had great weight with sloppy radicals all over the world. In Britain Sir Harmer Nicholls, Tory MP for Peterborough, and the Earl of Lonsdale joined the Board of IOS' life insurance subsidiary.

Uncritical press

Cornfeld was well-received in even higher places. Georges Pompidou, then ex-Prime Minister of France was interested in joining; so was former German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard.

In Britain, Mr. Jerome Hoffman an even more fraudulent offshore fund swindler than Cornfeld persuaded former Chancellor of the Exchequer Reginald Maudling to become President of his Real Estate Fund of America (which is now bankrupt).

The plain truth is that all the robbery, cheating, lying and swindling of the International Overseas Services was entirely acceptable to international capitalism as long as it succeeded. The capitalist press, even the Sunday Times, remained uncritical until the final crash.

The same gentlemen who teach their children and their workers about the need to tighten belts, to obey the law and to stand up for Queen and country were happy to subsidise one of the grandest orgies of personal spending lawlessness and crookery in capitalist history.



MAUDLING: he headed another overseas fund

PAUL FOOT's new book* is ostensibly about the A6 murder and the state killing of an innocent man falsely convicted of the crime. But even as Foot piles fact upon fact to shatter the 'successful' prosecution case against James Hanratty, the book becomes something much more than a moving and well-researched plea for the record to be set straight.

Consider just two details from Foot's case. A key prosecution witness changes his sworn statement no less than three times in 10 days. His first effort quite clearly implicates James Hanratty and provides an alibi for Peter Alphon, the other main candidate in the manhunt. But as police attention shifts away from James Hanratty, the same man reverses his first statement, this time implicating the very man he had previously exonerated, Peter Alphon, who had by that time become the named police suspect.

Then as the police shift their tack again and go after James Hanratty anew, the key witness denies his second statement and swears the first is really the true one.

Foot simply poses the question: how did this man come to change his statements so readily and conveniently for the police and the prosecution of James Hanratty?

But even before the author presents an answer to this problem, his readers have already got there thanks to the powerful organisation he has given to the facts. One cannot fail to conclude (as the author does) that the police were able to manipulate their witness to suit their line of inquiry at any particular time.

Establishing James Hanratty's motive for doing the A6 murder also proved a thorny problem for police and prosecution. But sure enough a witness was brought forward to allege that James Hanratty confessed and told him 'it was the woman I wanted' when they were in Brixton prison together. Little did it matter that the man who heard the 'confession' was a known police informer, a bully and a liar.

Pay off

For the crime that took him to hear James Hanratty confess, this gentleman was expecting a three year prison sentence. Funnily enough he was put on probation for three years instead. Again the reader has it in one... that was his pay off.

It is the measure of Foot's achievement that this is true time and time again.

No one can fail to draw the right conclusions: that Hanratty was framed and then falsely convicted through the endeavours of a police force whose sole concern is to close a case, to deliver the goods appropriately wrapped for the courts to prosecute and convict and later for the state to kill.

The two instances quoted above are by no means the most appalling in the book. Time and time again there are examples of the police deliberately withholding information from James Hanratty's defence.

Fearful

As it unfolds, the book takes on more fearful aspects. It becomes a study in microcosm of one arm of the state machine at work.

Later, as the Hanratty family campaign for a public inquiry to prove their son's innocence by probing the abundance of new evidence in the case (including a series of confessions to the murder by Peter Alphon, the first police suspect), the whole state machine is set to work to prevent public scrutiny of police action.

A Labour Home Secretary who had earlier favoured a public inquiry into the case, turns it down on the flimsiest of grounds. Roy Jenkins felt it ill advised to let any sort of sun shine on the morass of conspiracy against James Hanratty. Simply, it was too hot to handle.

Courage

It would be ironic if Reginald Maudling, current Tory Home Secretary were the man to allow a thorough re-investigation rather than another conducted by the police force itself.

The magnificent courage of the whole Hanratty family would at last be recognised. That alone would be no small victory.

I think a public inquiry is still unlikely. Even now there is too much to hide. But such an inquiry could never be enough.

The state crime against James Hanratty, and indeed against all of us, can never be repaid. But it can be offset by a knowledge that

Hanratty: the legal frame-up that led an innocent man to the gallows



PETER ALPHON



JAMES HANRATTY



Two police Identikit pictures of the wanted man: who would you choose?

men cannot come in the night or the day and unleash a process of persecution against those who trust in the due process of law and are therefore powerless.

But Foot does not need to dwell on this undercurrent of his story. His book might speak in silence. But speak it does, and

therefore with an added eloquence.

No reader can fail to be moved by this unspoken plea for a society free from a bureaucracy which strangles, free from the cover up, and free to live.

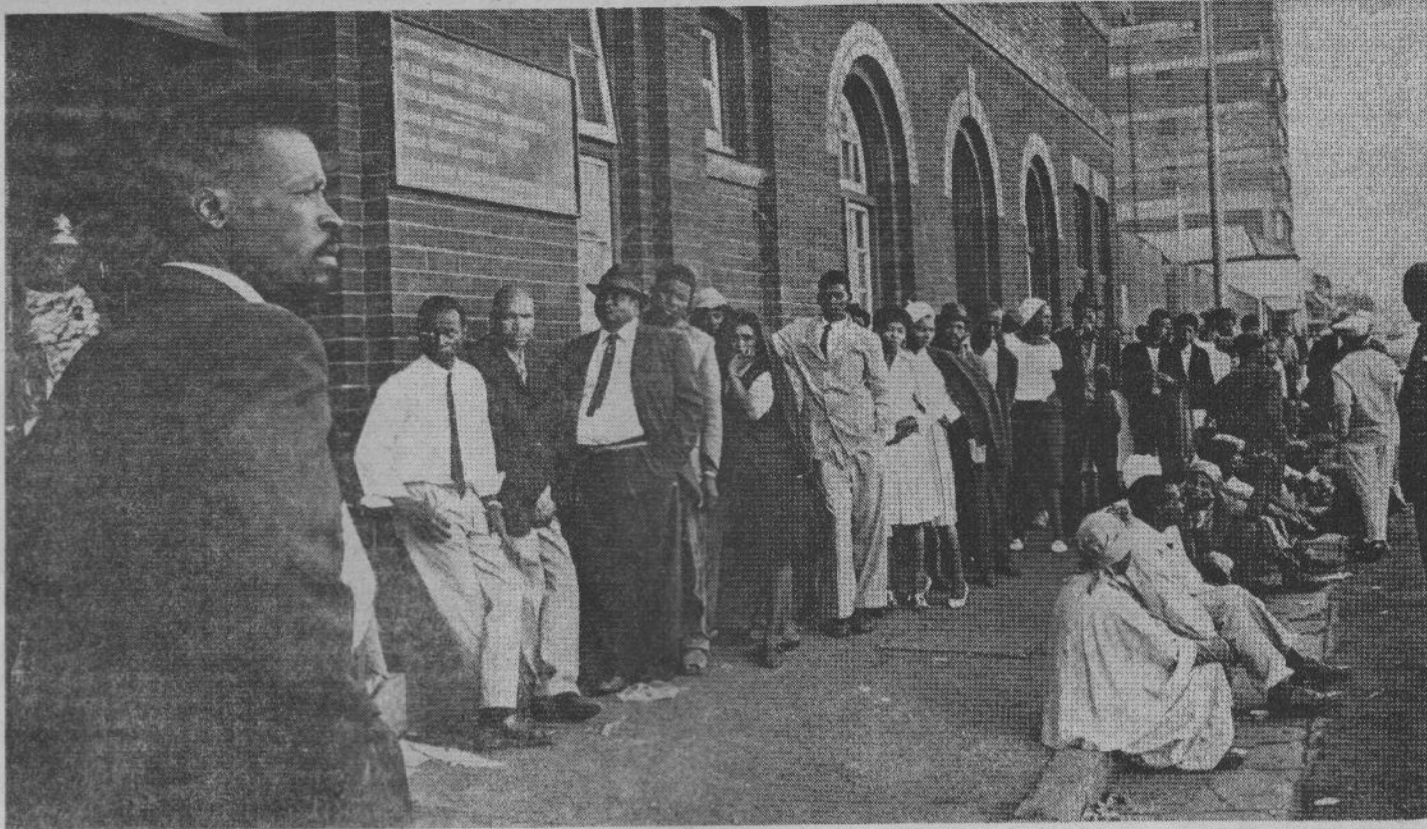
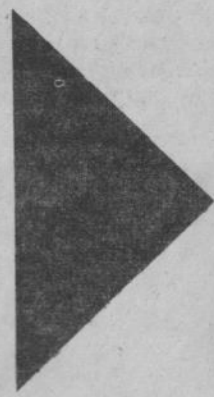
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International Socialism 47

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The brutal face of South Africa that



80,000 Africans are arrested every day in South Africa—mainly for breaking the pass laws. Picture shows the daily queue for passes in Johannesburg.



Lord George won't be shown...

LORD GEORGE-BROWN, the former Labour leader, is visiting South Africa on a trip that is, he says, 'entirely for business and completely non-political'. As he is feted in all-white hotels for all-white VIPs in all-white cities in a land that is 80 per cent black, he is unlikely to come into contact with the hideous oppression that is the hallmark of the apartheid system.

It is a system that breeds a dreadful power—that of the white master over the black servant. In the 'black veldt' countryside, the isolated farmer has the power of life and death over his African workers.

In the Excelsior Immorality case last year, one of the white farmers charged with 'unlawful' sexual relations with a non-white had been convicted two years before of beating an African girl to death. She had clearly tried to prevent him from raping her. He got a suspended sentence for manslaughter.

The death of Africans by beating is common on these farms. The African workers who see such barbarities have to be very courageous to report their bosses to the police.

Revenge

They will be marked as 'uppity Kaffirs—cheeky to the extent of turning the white state against the white man'. And even if the boss is convicted, as in the Excelsior case, the charge will have been altered to the lesser one of manslaughter and a suspended sentence given. The farmer is then free to take his revenge on African witnesses for the prosecution.

Occasionally a murder is so vile and sadistic that it goes below the norm for brutality even of the Afrikaaner farmer. In such cases the killer will get a few years.

Africans, on the other hand, are hanged for rape of whites, armed robbery, serious cases of house-breaking, sabotage, terrorism, kidnapping, child stealing and murder. Half the world's executions take place in South Africa.

Two particularly revolting cases of white brutality were reported in the South African papers last week.

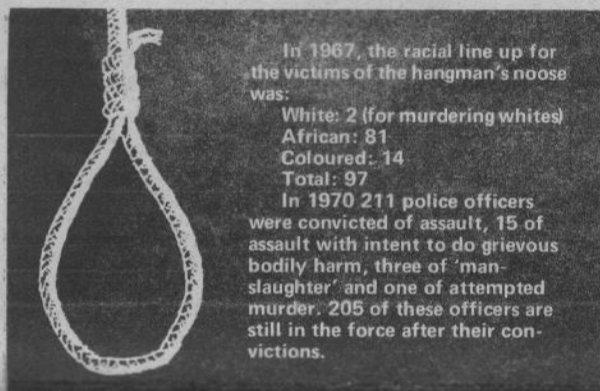
Annoyed

One concerned Schalk van Staden, a well-known farmer of the Hartbeesfontein area. A former elder in the local church and a member of the Hartbeesfontein commando (a white militia) he has the credentials of a good, upstanding Afrikaaner.

Staden was annoyed when one of his shepherds, a 14 year old African boy, failed to turn up for work for three days. He went to the boy's hut and dragged him to the farm house, where he locked him in the bathroom.

He returned with his own original instrument of torture—a castration ring used on sheep. He put the ring on the screaming boy's testicles.

The boy begged him to beat him instead but the farmer said callously that it would 'teach him a lesson' and locked the door again. The boy, in dreadful pain, managed to escape



In 1967, the racial line up for the victims of the hangman's noose was:

White: 2 (for murdering whites)
African: 81
Coloured: 14
Total: 97

In 1970 211 police officers were convicted of assault, 15 of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, three of 'manslaughter' and one of attempted murder. 205 of these officers are still in the force after their convictions.

by W. Enda

through the bathroom window back to his family hut, where the ring was cut off with a razor.

The boy's father reported Staden

to the police. At the trial, Staden was also found guilty of tying an African to a pole, beating him with a stick and—further humiliating him by

removing his trousers and exposing him to his workmates.

He was fined £170 and set free. He complained that the fine meant that his two elder children would not have the money to stay on at university.

Responsible

The second case concerned Harry Sam, the owner of a Johannesburg cafe, who in the last five years has shot and killed five African 'intruders' and wounded another four. Helen Suzman, the lone liberal MP in parliament, has asked that Sam's firearm licence should not be renewed.

Mr Pelser, the Minister of Justice, replied to her request: 'There is nothing wrong with Harry Sam.' Strangely, Sam is always found not guilty when charged with assault. In

the eyes of the racials, he is a responsible citizen who has every right to carry a gun in order to carry out his civic duties.

There is no protection for Africans dragged before the courts. The South African police force is famous for its brutality.

The fate of more than a million Africans is too horrible to imagine. 80 per cent of them are held for offences against the vast web of apartheid laws. More than 350 prisoners died in their cells last year.

As Lord George-Brown's business is about investigating the productivity of Courtaulds' workers in South Africa, we can only hope that he doesn't become too enraptured by the South African way of life to recommend castration rings for Courtaulds' African workers as a measure to cut down absenteeism.

FRENCH STRIKES GO ON

SW Reporter

THE MOST important strike in France this year ended two weeks ago. The workers in the Renault car plants were persuaded by their union leaders to accept a return-to-work agreement with the management.

But the Renault strike has been only one of hundreds of strikes and lockouts that have been worrying the French employing class.

Among factories affected have been the APC (Toulouse), Bourgeois (Dijon), Kodak (Vincennes), and CIT (Keller-Velizy) as well as the Paris buses. At the Polymechanique (Pantin) plant workers have been on strike and in occupation of the premises for six weeks.

Such actions show that French workers have not forgotten the General Strike of May 1968, when they squeezed considerable concessions from the employers.

But the present movement is different in a number of ways from that of 1968. This time the press had hardly reported many of the strikes and lockouts. This wall of silence has meant that the battles taking place in the different factories have remained isolated from one another.

There is another important difference with 1968. The Communist Party leaders, who control the largest trade union federation, the CGT, did not start the movement then.

They tried also to end it on terms which the most militant workers would not accept. But at the same time they did help to spread it to more backward sections of workers. Today they are giving the strikes as little support as possible.

A member of the revolutionary group 'Lutte Ouvriere (Workers' Struggle)' described the situation to Socialist Worker: 'The union bureaucracies are slowing down the movements. That is not new. What is new is that it is obvious to the workers themselves that the unions are trying to break the strikes. It is not like in May 1968 when most workers still had illusions in the union bureaucracies.'

Typical of the behaviour of the CGT was at Renault, where it copied

Robert Carr's tactic of organising secret ballots—three in all—to try and get the workers to end the strike. The other union federations have not been any better, although their local factory branches are sometimes controlled by revolutionaries.

This has meant that it has been up to the revolutionary groups to take the initiative in informing workers about the different struggles that are taking place, as well as pressing for rank and file control

Poly strike leader puts his case

OUR STRIKE has been going for almost six weeks. The original issue was the reduction in the so-called 'profitability' bonus from being worth the equivalent of a week's wages to less than the cost of five packets of cigarettes.

The 1200 workers at the Polymechanique, an engineering factory in the Paris suburb of Pantin, weren't prepared to let the boss justify the reduction with talk of lack of profits for the previous year. Workers had noticed the large-scale investments by the company as well as the speed-up in production and increasing prices of the motor bikes which we make the engines for.

The intervention by revolutionaries of Lutte Ouvriere was decisive in sparking off the struggle. They were the only ones committed to an all-out strike. The CGT union proposed much more limited tactics.

over the running of the strikes.

Lutte Ouvriere says: 'Our comrades are trying to direct things in a different way to the union bureaucracies, especially in Renault. When the workers there went on strike the members of Lutte Ouvriere played an important part in the decision to strike and occupy. They also participated in the election of democratic strike committees, while the CGT was against striking and had to be forced to join in.'

In spite of the attitude of the official

union leaders a large number of workers have been drawn into the strike movement. And some at least are beginning to learn that they cannot rely upon the union officials, even if they belong to a party that claims to be 'Communist' and 'revolutionary'.

They are beginning to listen to those militants in the factories who argue the need for a new revolutionary party based upon a genuinely militant policy.



A strike committee was formed. About the third of the members came from the local section of the Force Ouvriere union, run by supporters of Lutte Ouvriere about half from the CGT and a few from the third union, the CFDT. The committee has been forced to work in a democratic way, which is unusual in France, and the Communist Party members have not shown their traditional attitude to us leftists—insults and sometimes beatings up. In any case, they know that the Polymechanique workers wouldn't let them get away with that kind of thing.

The management has started to retreat

and has offered concessions that still go nowhere near meeting the workers' demands. The CGT leaders have tried to get us back to work on this basis but have so far met the hostility of the majority of the workers. The CGT leaders are discredited even in the eyes of some of their own members.

The militancy of the Polymechanique workers and the role of a group of revolutionaries in the factory means that the strike is far from finished. Whatever the result, it will remain a hard lesson for the boss and a rich experience for the revolutionaries in the factory.

NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN! NOW THEN!



Laughs and lolly from corn porn

WHILE the battle of the filthy books raged and the Whitehouse gang were sharpening their claws for their onslaught on TV, there were at least two areas of popular entertainment where muck was always generously doled out—and no one seemed to mind. The first was radio comedy, the second, using the same talent, the Carry On series.

Take, if you don't agree that it really is muck, the following scene from Carry On Up the Jungle. The company is assembled for a formal dinner in the thick of the forest. During the meal a large snake slithers under the table and begins exploring Joan Sims' skirts.

She gives a little appreciative look around the table, but can't decide to whom she owes the honour. The pleasure on her face becomes intenser—she flashes smiles, purrs with gratification, wriggles a bit and finally registers amazement at the prowess of whoever it is.

Two more

Then the thing becomes too much. 'You have gone too far!' she explodes accusing one of the diners. He stands up. They all stand up. By now the whole enormous length of the snake has disappeared inside and with a scream she realises what, not to put too fine a point on it, is up.

The latest in the series, Carry On Henry, has been based by Talbot Rothwell on a newly discovered manuscript which reveals that Henry VIII (Sid James) had in fact two other wives (Joan Sims and Barbara Windsor). Written by a certain William Cobbler, the m.s. was originally thought to have been an invention of Thomas Cromwell's. But now the whole thing is known to be Cobbler's from beginning to end.

Joan Sims is back, with her puffy attractive face and her motherly figure, and still panting for it after all she's had and all the trouble she's had getting it. The new film is the team's 21st, and a much more polished effort than usual, with almost credible sets and gorgeous costumes probably whipped from the BBC's umpteenth 'quality' Elizabethan serial.

Little bit

The theme is the English hatred of France. Henry won't consummate his marriage with Marie because she insists on eating garlic in bed. So the wily Charles Hawtrey gets his little bit in instead, and causes havoc by impregnating the queen. There's terrible inflation.

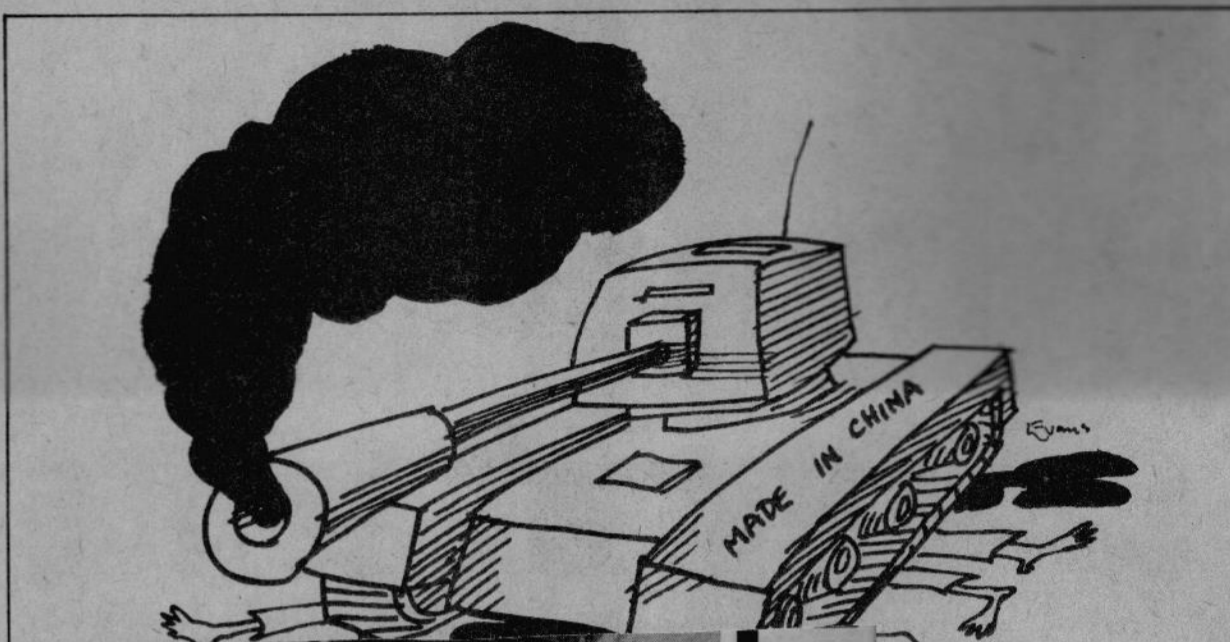
Cromwell is Chancellor and raises his money by means of SET, a Sex Enjoyment Tax.

Everyone boasts on their form about the amount they get in a week.

You can imagine the level of humour ('My lord, the Queen is in labour!'—'Don't you worry mate, they'll never get back'). I like these films for their ribaldry and their sense of proportion.

If you look at the American equivalent, it's bound to be a glossy and expensive job. Start the Revolution Without Me is a good example—filmed in Versailles with Orson Welles as guest star. It's very funny but the point of the Carry Ons is that peanuts and the back end of Piney Wood will give you the same, if not a better, return.

James Fenton



First for the shop is the parcels service—and waiting in the wings is your favourite private police force, Securicor.

During the PO strike, Securicor increased its business by 50 per cent and director Keith Erskine is confident that they could handle at least the packet side of the parcels business for commercial customers. Securicor's special delivery service is used by 5000 bank branches alone and Erskine expects to double this in two years, along with turnover to £8 million.

While the press rages about fiddlers scrounging a few pennies from the social security scrooges, they turn a blind eye to the appalling swindling engaged in by Tory ministers and big business. The Post Office once reasonably efficient and providing a good all-round service, is being pillaged to line the pockets of the rich and powerful.

In case you'd forgotten, Mr Robert Carr is a 'former' (sic) director of Securicor.

CLIVE JENKINS has built up his union, ASTMS, by proudly proclaiming that he will safeguard and widen the 'wage differentials' of white-collar employees over those sweaty chaps from the shop floor. His own life style seems to maintain a substantial differential from the average ASTMS member.

Man o' the people Clive was

Jenkins: there goes a differential robbed last weekend. Thieves broke into his country cottage in Essex and took £800 of antiques and household goods, including a colour TV. Other items lifted included a newly-purchased 1830 eight-day wall clock, statuettes, candlesticks and fire irons.

We understand that Mr Jenkins, a good trade unionist to the last, is not involving the police but has reported the matter to the TUC under the terms of the Bridlington agreement.

Blandishment

UPROAR and outrage in the latest issue of the Journalist, magazine of the journalists' union. Letters from all over the country demand the resignation of editor and life-long Communist Party member Allen Hutt for his biased and leadership-groveling report of the recent NUJ conference, where the executive were given a thorough drubbing by the delegates.

Only man to defend Hutt is the immediate past president Cyril Bland who, under a prominent headline, says he thought the conference report 'well balanced'. Mr Bland's only known claim to fame is his recent remark that there are three London evening papers, the News, the Standard and the Star.

Readers less in touch with press affairs may recall that the Star was axed with the News Chronicle some



THE attack as far as international affairs is concerned has been imposed. In the magazine that ordinary devotees is 10 years ago. But as another NUJ official said recently, you mustn't believe everything you read in the papers.

patrol me! LUCKY Lord Iliffe. He owns two flats in London's posh St James's area. But he's not a greedy chap and one of the flats is now too big for his needs, he's selling it.

If you're thinking of raising a mortgage on it or offering a swap with your council flat, bear in mind that the price is £165,000. It has five bedrooms and four bathrooms. Some flat!

PS: Lord Iliffe also has a country home near Goring in Berkshire.

Miles away

IT IS not often that Sir Miles Thomas, ex-BOAC chairman and head of the National Savings organisation, is out of the news. Indeed he is famed for his sympathy with any campaign against subversive militants in industry and the general decline in moral standards in society.

But Sir Miles has not exactly been hitting the headlines recently on at least one subject of outstanding public interest, namely his relationship with the Pair of Shoes Club in London's West End. This is believed to be not unconnected with two factors: the Pair of Shoes club of which Sir Miles is the chairman is controlled by the Mafia, and Sir Miles is a key figure in the press world as a director of the Thomson Organisation.

Nor is this the first time that his pals in and around Fleet Street have insulated him from his just rewards. Two years ago journalists on the Sunday Times tracked down some instances of roguery in the National Savings outfit, of which Miles is president. Details were never printed, thanks to the timely intervention of other fellow members of the Thomson Board.

THE TROUBLE with telly culture is that those responsible for it are so terribly serious. Three cheers for Aquarius (ITV Saturdays, but not all regions—some of you are just too uncultured) but does presenter Humphrey Burton have to look and sound like the school's Head Prefect: 'Come along, East, put Biggles down—we're going to read Proust now.'

Last Saturday an extract from Harold Pinter's new play Old Times was introduced in tomb-like tones by Burton and preceded by an interminable wrangle between Pinter and director Peter Hall about whether or not they would let us see the excerpt at all: would the camera destroy the meaning, would the characters come across, and so on.

Strip away all that guff and gush and we were left with a free plug for a new West End play. It all boils down to sordid commercialism in the end: why not cut the cackle and admit it?

David East



IF ANNIVERSARIES didn't exist, journalists would have to invent them. There is no better way of filling up empty newspaper space or television time than by stitching together a piece about the 1000th anniversary of the building of Hadrian's Wall or the 150th birthday of The Black and White Minstrel Show.

Even revolutionary events are fair game, because 'they happened a long time ago'. As far as television is concerned, we have nothing to learn from the past except that it took place. Hence Saturday's BBC programme on The Siege of Paris and the Paris Commune.

The Commune was exactly 100 years ago. The working people of Paris, angered beyond endurance by the starvation of the siege by the Prussian Army under Bismarck, the corruption and ineptitude of the Thiers government that followed the surrender and the grotesque swindling and guzzling by the upper and middle classes while the masses rotted, seized power and drove Thiers and his bully-boys to temporary retreat in Versailles.

The Commune was brilliant, heroic, magnificent... and defeated. But it was more than that: it was the first decisive political grasp for power by the organised working class. The Commune was the first glimpse of the boundless potential of ordinary people fighting together to build a society that would enrich minds instead of pockets.

It was drowned in blood and terror by the vengeful ruling class. The Communards made mistakes and paid for them, but the small torch they lit burned into the minds of later revolutionaries and underscored the determination of the Russian Bolsheviks.

Sadly but not surprisingly, little of this came across in the BBC2 programme. It was not primarily the fault of writer Alistair Horne whose books on the subject are a useful contribution. No, the villain here was television-itself. It can only come to life with moving pictures. Deprived of mobility, it falters, staggers and simply dries up.

All the Commune had to offer were still drawings and early, fuzzy photographs. The producer pulled out every stale trick in the book—horses hooves, the BBC Drama Repertory Company rhubarbing in thick accents in the background, but the story failed to come to life.

And the frenzied attempt to be impartial ludicrously equated Thiers' wholesale slaughter with the Communards' shooting of a handful of clerical hostages. If the BBC wants to be impartial, it should start with the present and not worry over much about the past.

Socialist Worker

Move for public sector unity

LEADERS of 17 unions in nationalised industries will consider united action and closer co-operation in filing wage claims with the government. This important move was taken at a conference on Tuesday by union spokesmen representing three million workers.

The decisions were reported to Wednesday's meeting of the TUC's economic committee which may call a national conference of all public sector unions. Leading mover behind Tuesday's meeting was Post Office Union leader Tom Jackson, who had called for

closer unity of nationalised sector unions in the wake of the defeat of the Post Office strike.

Welcome step

The unions concerned will be circulated with a list of questions to see if they are willing to lose some of their independence by agreeing to common expiry dates for wage agreements so that the government will face negotiations in every public sector at the same time. The conference is a welcome step

for closer co-operation to face the mounting offensive by the government against wages. The Post Office strike was broken mainly because other unions failed to give industrial or financial backing to the UPW.

But if the unity moves are to be translated into positive action rank and file workers in the 17 unions concerned must set the pace. Post Office workers in particular should take the lead by organising local meetings now to plan common action in every locality to put pressure on the union leaders.

STEEL STRIKE: NO EFFORT TO MOBILISE RANK AND FILE

BLASTFURNACEMEN in the British Steel Corporation were sent back to work by their union last Friday after just four days on strike. They were called out to back a claim for a 35 per cent wage increase and returned with just a verbal agreement that the steel bosses would 'talk' to the union.

Most Blastfurnacemen are on a basic weekly wage of less than £16—but the union has pledged not to take any further strike action to improve their members' scandalous pay and conditions, even though BSC has given no indication of what its new offer is likely to be.

Many militants are wondering why the union started the strike and if anything has been won from it. It was badly prepared, with no attempt to mobilise the rank and file.

Four thousand of the NUB's 15,000 members work on Teesside and the union's head office is at Middlesbrough in the centre of the region. Yet general secretary Hector Smith made no visits to Teesside blast furnaces or union lodges, let alone the other areas of England and Wales.

At Cleveland works, just five minutes' driving from the union head office, 100 platers' mates declared a week before the strike started that they might not support it. But they received no visit by Smith or any other official. They did not join the strike.

THREATENED

Workers at Skinningrove, North Yorkshire, were reluctant to break the strike. But the plant is due to close soon and the management threatened to take away redundancy money if the men struck.

Nothing was done to counter these arguments. The situation was the same at the Irlam plant, in Lancashire, also due to be chopped by BSC.

There were no mass meetings before or during the strike, no vote to come out and none to go back. Picketing was poorly organised and members were not told if they would get strike pay.

But despite the lack of preparation by the leaders, the overwhelming majority of Blastfurnacemen supported the strike and were ready for a battle with the arrogant steel bosses. There was a wide gap between rank and file and leaders—inexcusable in a union with only 15,000 members concentrated in a few areas.

CRITICISED

The NUB has no tradition of militancy. This was the first official strike since 1926. In 1969 it was strongly criticised for its refusal to support 1000 Blastfurnacemen who struck at Port Talbot in South Wales. Hector Smith was the official responsible for that dispute as well.

The NUB leaders wanted a short strike in order to be the first to negotiate with BSC, rather than be tied to any miserable pittance—that the main union, BISAKTA, may get. But the issues were never explained to the members and the silence of the executive is a disgrace.

The steel industry faces a major crisis as the management, urged on by the government, plan to close plants and make thousands redundant. None of the unions has mounted any fight against the closures—



Hector Smith: no visits to the grass roots

but they have all been willing partners in savage productivity deals in recent years that have sold jobs away in return for miserable increases quickly wiped out by inflation.

The management-government offensive will only be fought if the rank and file campaign for militant policies. One vital step in that direction must be for democracy in the unions, for genuine control by the members.

The four-day farce of the NUB strike that never was must not be repeated. Only unity of all steel workers can stop it happening again and prepare for a real fight against closures and sackings.

Mirror mags journalists vote to strike over pay

NINE HUNDRED magazine journalists packed an open-air meeting in London's Lincoln Inn Fields on Tuesday and voted overwhelmingly in favour of official strike action from 22 June to press their claim for a £465 all-round increase. They are employed by the International Publishing Corporation—the Mirror group—which has replied to the National Union of Journalists' claim with an offer of £143 on the basic rate and some fringe benefits.

1800 journalists are employed at IPC and feeling is running high following a management circular threatening to lock them all out on the day the strike is due to start.

JOURNALISTS from eight branches in the Greater London area attended the first NUJ rank and file reform meeting in London on Sunday. A committee was elected to draw up a draft charter to be presented to a national meeting in the autumn.

In 1967, the racial line up for the victims of the hangman's noose was:
White: 2 (for murdering whites)
African: 81
Coloured: 14
Total: 97
In 1970 211 police officers were convicted of assault, 15 of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, three of 'man-slaughter' and one of attempted murder. 205 of these officers are still in the force after their convictions.

him to his workmates.

He was fined £170 and set free. He complained that the fine meant that his two elder children would not have the money to stay on at university.

Responsible

The second case concerned Harry Sam, the owner of a Johannesburg cafe, who in the last five years has shot and killed five African 'intruders' and wounded another four. Helen Suzman, the lone liberal MP in parliament, has asked that Sam's firearm licence should not be renewed.

Mr Pelsler, the Minister of Justice, replied to her request: 'There is nothing wrong with Harry Sam.' Strangely, Sam is always found not guilty when charged with assault. In

Call for action to aid jobless

SW Reporter

GLASGOW:—One man in 10 has no job in this city, a total of 35,000 out of work. Action is needed urgently by the labour movement to fight this growing problem.

A start was made last week when the Electricians' and Plumbers' Union called a meeting of its unemployed members after pressure from local ETU-PTU branches. Delegates from shipbuilding yards and local authorities joined the 200 jobless workers at the meeting.

Union official Joe Black stressed that the problem was a political one that could be solved only by mass working class action. He called for work or full maintenance and advocated civil disobedience in certain circumstances.

Speakers from the floor pointed out the gap between Joe Black's remarks and official union policies. They demanded tighter control over the overtime ban now operating in the area and a review of all agreements that involve productivity deals.

In contrast to this meeting, the executive of Glasgow and District Trades Council have opposed activity on unemployment. Resolutions from ETU and DATA branches calling on the council to set up an unemployed workers' committee were rejected on the grounds that this was not the way to fight unemployment.

Turned down

At its June meeting, the Trades Council leaders turned down a call for it to start action among affiliated unions to organise the unemployed and to provide facilities for workers without jobs. The executive said that the Trades Council social club could not be used for such purposes.

Instead it will call a conference on the problem 'in the near future'—a meeting that will be dominated by MPs, councillors and full-time officials. The Trades Council is dominated by people who see the main task of socialists as snuggling closer to the 'leaders' of the labour movement.

As big business slides deeper into crisis, no effort will be spared to try to divide workers. In some areas this will be done on racial lines while on Clydeside the nationalist and religious issues will be dragged up.

If such tactics are to be defeated and an unemployed workers' committee built, then a start has to be made now to link those with jobs and those without on a militant class basis.

DELEGATES to the annual conference of the Post Office Engineering Union voted on Tuesday to take their wage claim to arbitration rather than take industrial action. A card vote supported the executive by 79,829 to 36,118. The union has lodged a 13 per cent claim

CH STRIKES

Robert Carr's tactic of organising secret ballots—three in all—to try and get the workers to end the strike. The other union federations have not been any better, although their local factory branches are sometimes controlled by revolutionaries.

This has meant that it has been up to the revolutionary groups to take the initiative in informing workers about the strikes that are taking place,

over the running of the strikes.

Lutte Ouvriere says: 'Our comrades are trying to direct things in a different way to the union bureaucracies, especially in Renault. When the workers there went on strike the members of Lutte Ouvriere played an important part in the decision to strike and occupy. They also participated in the election of democratic strike committees, while the CGT was against striking and had to be forced to join in.'

BENGALIS ON THE MARCH

A THOUSAND Bengalis from all over Yorkshire marched through Sheffield on Saturday in support of the people of Bangla Desh in their struggle for national independence. They marched to the City Hall carrying banners, placards and Bangla Desh flags.

The demonstration was followed by a meeting addressed by Justice Abu Syed Coudrey, an envoy of the Bangla Desh government, and other speakers from

national and local solidarity committees. The speakers outlined the reasons behind the demand of the people of Bangla Desh for independence, told of the terrible slaughter that is happening there and of the determination of the people to throw off the yoke of West Pakistan.

£400 was raised to send aid to the millions of refugees and to the liberation army. There were interludes of revolutionary songs performed by the Biplabi Bangla choir.

NOTICES

COMMUNIST PARTY demonstration on Sunday 13 June: all London IS members to meet at Speakers Corner for leafletting and selling at 12pm.

RANK AND FILE teachers public mtng Friday 25 June, 7.45pm: Michael Duane on the Tory Attack on Education, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

THE SOCIALIST ANSWER: public mtng with Bernadette Devlin MP and CAST. Town Hall, Harlow, Wednesday 16 June 8pm.

IS GRAPHICS GROUP: next mtng 14 June at R. Fior's, 68 New Oxford Street (aluminium bell, top floor) 8.30pm. All typographic, paste-up, photographic, design, graphics and allied workers who need help or want to help are welcome.

WANDSWORTH IS public mtng: John Palmer on the Present Economic Crisis. 8pm Thursday 17 June. The Spotted Dog, 72 Garrett Lane, SW18, nr Wandsworth Town Hall.

IS TEACHERS meeting 20 June 2 Albany Terrace NW1 11am.

RAY PARRY member of Manchester IS and active fighter in ASW and 'Building Workers Charter' died in car crash Thursday 3 June. We extend our sympathy to his family. He will be greatly missed.

TOTTENHAM and ENFIELD IS public meeting: Bernadette Devlin MP and Duncan Hallas, Edmontown Town Hall, Thursday 17 June 8pm.

MANCHESTER IS public mtng: Tony Polan on Left Unity. 8pm Thursday 17 June at the Wheatheaf, High Street, Manchester.

MANCHESTER: demonstrate against the Tory Immigration Bill Saturday 3 July, 1.30pm, Alexandra Park Gate, Alexandra Rd South, Moss Side.

UNEMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE Sat 19 June, Buller Hall, Cowick Street, Exeter, Speakers inc. Joe Kenyon. Further information from 27 Alpha St, Heavitree, Exeter, Conference fee 20p. 10.30-5pm.

ERITH IS: Mike Taylor, Dartford area organiser NUPE on the Revolt of the Lower Paid. Wednesday 16 June, 7.30pm, Nordenfelt Tavern, Fraser Hill, Erith, Kent.

LONDON branch secretaries meeting on Sunday 20 June, 2.30pm, 6 Cottons Gdns. All branch secretaries must attend.

OXFORD IS public mtng: John Palmer on the Common Market, Cowley Community Centre, 18 June, 8pm.

SMETHWICK Friday 11 June, 7.30pm IS public mtng: How to Fight the Tories with H.S. Deol and Roger Rosewell. Windmill pub, Windmill Lane, Smethwick.

NOTTING HILL IS public mtng: Bernadette Devlin MP, Fennis Augustine and Roger

Rosewell on the Growth of Repression, N.Ireland and Britain. All Saints Hall, Powis Gdns off Westbourne Park Rd, Monday 14 June, 8pm.

BIRMINGHAM Clann na hEireann mtng Sunday 13 June 3pm. Digbeth Civic Hall. Speakers Bernadette Devlin MP, Thomas MacGiolla (Sinn Fein), Bowes Egan. Withdraw the Troops—Release the Prisoners.

DUNCAN HALLAS introduction to Marxism lectures change of date: this Sunday 13 June: The Workers Movement, Stalinism and the Revolutionary Movement, 7.30pm, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IS CONFERENCE ON WOMEN 26/27 June. Details and documents available now from branch secretaries.

LAMBETH IS public mtng: Politics of IS, John Palmer. Wednesday 16 June, 8.15pm, Tulse Hill Tavern, corner of Norwood Rd and Tulse Hill. Nr, Tulse Hill station.

HULL IS public mtng: Thursday 24 June, 8pm, The Millionaire Press. Speaker Roger Protz, editor of Socialist Worker. Windmill Hotel, Witham, upstairs room.

Huddersfield IS public mtng: Friday 25 June, 7.30pm: The Millionaire Press. Speaker Roger Protz. The Plough, Westgate.

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