

Socialist Worker

WEEKLY PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Tories ready for new attack on unions as £ flounders

WAGE FREEZE THREAT

**...as TUC goes cap
in hand to Heath**

by ROGER ROSEWELL

Socialist Worker Industrial Correspondent

NOTHING reveals the bankruptcy of the TUC leaders more clearly than their grovelling to Heath on Tuesday in search of industrial peace—just three weeks after the Chobham Farm dockers' victory showed that militant action can defeat the government.

INCOMES POLICY—the polite name for a wage freeze—is back on the agenda as the Tories battle to survive a mounting financial and political crisis. So serious is the run on sterling that the government may be forced to shackle wage claims with or without the co-operation of the TUC.

The government would dearly like such co-operation from the leaders of the trade union movement in order to help sell this latest policy swindle to working people. But as the Floating Pound threatens to become the Drowned Pound, Heath is left with little room for manoeuvre.

The Tories' get-tough policy with the unions has been dented badly by miners, railmen and dockers. They need a new, soft-sell approach that will crack down on wages and once again force working people to pay for the chaos of the capitalist system.

Such a policy will be dressed up in fancy clothing. Government spokesmen will stress their concern for pensioners and the most poverty-stricken sections of the community. They will appeal to the 'better-paid' workers to hold back their claims in the interests of the worse off. And Labour's discredited Prices and Incomes Board—once derided by the Tories in opposition—will be dusted down and renamed.

Above all, the propaganda machine of press and television will work overtime to convince us that an incomes policy is fair and in the 'national interest'. It is a monstrous confidence trick—but the danger is that without a fighting lead from the top many trade unionists will go along with it, for the ideas of equality and fairness have deep roots in the working-class movement.

Lost for ever

The Tory proposals have nothing in common with the aspirations of working people. Tories don't want to redistribute wealth—they want to push down the living standards of the majority in order to boost the profits and wealth of the minority.

It is only wages that will be planned. Even if there is a move to restrain dividends, as under the Labour government, the rich can recoup their losses in the form of capital gains at a later stage. But once a worker gives up a wage increase it is lost for ever.

The most dangerous argument of all, and one that is peddled with equal fervour by Labour politicians, is that 'well paid' workers must hold back to help those lower down the wages ladder. It sounds a reasonable argument—and that makes it all the more vital to explode it.

If you are a Midlands car worker who has won a better-than-average wage because of your powerful union organisation and you decide to forego a pay increase to help the lower paid, where do you imagine the money goes—to a nurse, a farmworker, a seaman? Or straight into the copious pocket of Lord Stokes? We offer no prize for the first correct answer.

Far from aiding the poor, incomes policy is a smokescreen behind which the rich get richer. Labour's record shows that it was precisely the worst-paid sections like nurses and dustmen who were clobbered by their Prices and Incomes Board. It was only when the dustmen took a leaf out of the car workers' book and organised for tough industrial action that they broke out of the wages straitjacket.

There must be no compromise with the Tories. The 57 varieties of incomes policy will not stop rocketing prices or rents. It will not aid the poor but instead will drive them further into misery and destitution.

Heath may hoodwink the TUC leaders as they tug their forelocks in Downing Street. He mustn't hoodwink the rank and file.

Working people are not responsible for the economic crisis—and working people must not once again be forced to foot the bill.



DON'T THEY KNOW THERE'S A WAR ON? Union leaders Feather and Scanlon on the steps of 10 Downing Street on Tuesday. While workers are fighting and beating the Tories' anti-union laws the TUC chiefs appealed to Heath to put the Act 'on ice' because it was damaging the economy!

Instead of mobilising their forces to kick out this reactionary government, responsible for rising prices, unemployment and crippling rent increases, the union leaders begged Heath to put the anti-union law 'on ice' and help set up an 'independent conciliation service' to settle strikes.

Heath was in no mood to compromise. The more the TUC chiefs crawl, the more he will put the boot in.

He instructed them to accept the Industrial Relations Act and all its trappings, with a vague promise to iron out some of the snags at a future date.

The TUC has tried desperately to avoid a conflict with the government from the day it announced its Industrial Relations Bill in 1970.

TUC opposition to the Bill was confined to meetings, pamphlets and petitions and a Sunday rally in London. If the miners and railmen had petitioned the Tories instead of using industrial action they wouldn't have won a penny extra.

The TUC leaders know these elementary truths about trade unionism but they have refused to apply them in the struggle against the anti-union law. Terrified of unleashing the massive strength of the organised working class for fear of jeopardising their own privileged positions, they have sought all along to reach a compromise with the Tories.

Rescue

THAT is why they are floundering around in an attempt to rescue the government from its present plight instead of building a campaign out of the dockers' great victory that brought Heath and Co to the brink of defeat.

THAT is why they are now cuddling up to the Confederation of British Industry and suggesting a new conciliation service.

A conciliation service is a sham. It cannot defend the working class against inflation and the employers. It cannot contribute to a genuine increase in living standards.

It is designed to suck the strength of militant trade unionism, reduce industrial conflict and prove to the government that the TUC leaders must no longer be excluded from positions of influence.

The rank and file of the trade unions must tell the TUC to stop retreating and start fighting. They don't want the Industrial Relations Act 'on ice'—they want it in a coffin.

And with further massive cuts in the standard of living following the floating of the pound, the Fair Rents Act and entry into the Common Market, there must be an aggressive policy aimed at winning wage increases of 25-30 per cent.

The TUC must be told in no uncertain terms to stop talking with the Tories, to prepare for all-out action to smash the Act and break through any attempted wage freeze.

The government's retreat over the dockers showed they will back down before the threat of a national strike. Just think what could be achieved by the united action of the whole trade union movement.

THE TRUTH ABOUT INFLATION: EDITORIAL PAGE 3

Chilean government swings further to the right

THE SITUATION in Chile is one of great revolutionary potential. As the programme of parliamentary reform grinds to a halt, large sections of the working class and rural poor have come into conflict with the ruling class.

But a revolutionary party is lacking. This can partly be explained by the confused ideas still current among Chilean revolutionaries, including the Revolutionary Left Movement, the MIR.

Although the MIR no longer believes that small guerrilla groups can make a socialist revolution, they still hold that the revolution will start in the countryside. They therefore concentrate on starting and supporting land seizure movements by poor peasants. This leaves the field open

for the reformist parties of the 'Popular Unity' government to organise in the towns and mines.

The dangers of demoralisation are being increased by the actions of the Communist Party. Their answer to the growing threat from the right has been to dampen the movement that brought them to power, and to make concessions to the right-wing Christian Democrats.

Excuse

Now they are seeking a 'tactical alliance' with the Christian Democrats, to show that they are in earnest they are clamping down on the revolutionary left—and in particular attacking the MIR.

This could turn demoralisation into a rout, and open the door to a military

by Vic Richards

dictatorship, which would seize on the excuse of 'anarchy'.

The following extracts from the Chilean revolutionary magazine *Punto Final* of 23 May show how the Chilean Communist Party is leading the attack on the left.

ON WEDNESDAY 10 May Volodia Teitelboim made a speech in the Senate: 'There is an extreme right wing, which is involved in gun-running and which is preparing for civil war. There are other extremist groups, self-styled 'leftists', which follow the same course and are partners in this duo of hatred, from the opposite end. Both feed each other ...

'We are against any form of violence that might lead the country into a civil war. But, as you must have at least two to start a fight, you need at least two to avoid a clash.

'And in this sense we believe that not only does the Popular Unity government have a duty to perform, but also the Christian Democratic Party and all the people who are concerned with the Chilean crisis and who think that honourable men can save this country from going down in a catastrophe.'

Forty-eight hours after this speech, Vladimir Chavez, the governor of Concepcion and a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee, gave orders to the riot squad to break up forcibly a demonstration called by workers and students in Concepcion. The dis-

banding of the riot squads was number 37 of the intended 'forty initial measures' of the Popular Unity government.

In its intervention the riot squad killed the 17-year-old student Eladio Caamano Sobarzo, and wounded another 40, some seriously—all members of the left-wing parties. Governor Chavez had authorised only one march for that day, that of the Christian Democrats, behind whom hide the fascists [in fact mainly reactionaries rather than fascists].

Banned

The parties of the Popular Unity (with the exception of the Communist Party and the API) and the MIR met and decided unanimously to call for a mass counter-demonstration, to put a stop to the fascists' series of successful demonstrations. This immediately obtained the support of the provincial CUT [the Chilean TUC], the textile and mining unions, the students' unions, the peasant committees and the land occupation committee.

A few hours before the fascists' march was due to begin, the federal government overruled Governor Chavez and banned the march. In view of the Christian Democrats' call for civil disobedience, workers and students came out into the streets to show their strength.

It was at this point that the riot squad attacked the assembled people in the most ferocious baton-charge since the Frei government.

Since then the Socialist Party, PR, MAPU, and the Christian Left (all the government parties except the Communist Party and the API) and the MIR have continued to act together.

Riot squads

A statement they issued after Eladio Caamano's death said: 'What is the point of the people's participation in power through the popular government, if the door is left wide open for the state's machine of oppression—set up and organised by the middle class to defend its own interests—to continue to ignore the people's rights and to unite with the right wing? It is as if nothing had happened in Chile.'

The five parties also called upon the government to dissolve the riot squads and to dismiss Vladimir Chavez.

On 16 May, the political commission of the Communist Party issued a statement, supporting Governor Chavez.

The same day a group of about 100 peasants in Lautaro was fired upon by the carabinieri. Several were wounded, two seriously.

The peasants' communal council had met to discuss problems affecting women, children and old people in particular due to the scarcity of medical assistance in the area. They decided to march to the local hospital to deliver a note of protest.

But the police cordoned off the area at gun-point and opened fire as soon as the peasants arrived, with many women and children in the crowd.

The agricultural workers lay the blame on the governor of Lautaro, Alfonso Neira, a prominent Communist.

When 36 peasants were jailed by a local landowner and judge in Mellipilla, in a bid to discourage the local peasantry's fight, the national agrarian commission of the Socialist Party had to refute in public the statement made by the Communist leaders of the peasant and Indian confederations, in which they accused the peasants of provoking incidents in order to weaken the government.

FRENCH LEFT VOTE PACT HEDGES BETS

from a correspondent in Paris

TWO general strikes—'national days of action'—have been called by the largest of the French union confederations, the CGT, in the past month.

The union leaders—the CGT is Communist Party-controlled—present this as a challenge to the government, but that's not what the Communist Party is up to.

For though the CGT called the general strikes, it made little effort to get them supported. Since trade unionists are in the minority among French workers, any successful general strike would need the support of millions of non-unionists.

Yet the CGT, in many cases, made no effort to bring out any non-unionists and their own members only struck out of political loyalty. In some factories, the strikes were only a token one or two hours.

The strike on 23 June was also called by the CFDT, the second largest union federation, and was even less of a success. The figures for strikes and demonstrations sound impressive—but many were only two-hour strikes and the numbers were inflated by the employees of Communist-controlled local councils, who, in effect, were given a compulsory day off.

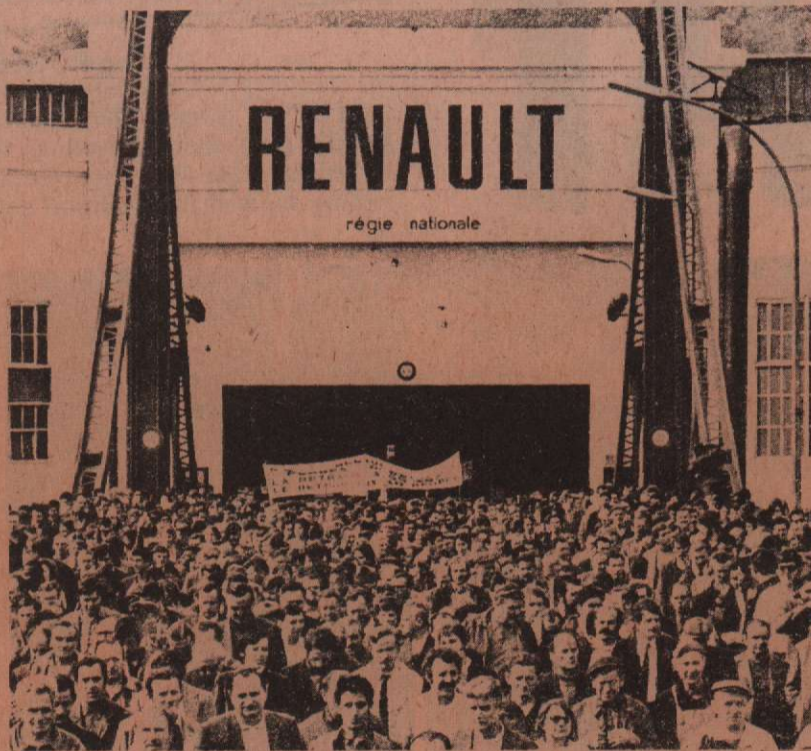
DISCONTENT

The CGT uses one-day token strikes so often that many workers see little point in losing the day's pay.

The Communist Party is more concerned to use such strikes to channel popular discontent than to fight for industrial demands. For next year is France's election year—and the Communist Party has been trying desperately to get the reformist Socialist Party to agree to a common programme.

The actions of the past month were part of their negotiations—to show the Socialist Party that the Communists still have the base in the factories that the Socialists lack.

Nonetheless, the very fact that the strikes could be called shows the popular discontent with the govern-



A strike meeting at Renault, Billancourt

ment and gave militant workers a chance to express this.

Now the Communist Party has got its common programme. To get it the Party has given way on several crucial points even within its own limited demands.

Only a limited number of 'key firms' are listed for nationalisation, and some of these will be only partly taken over—by state buying of shares. The owners will be compensated 'by equitable agreement'.

BRIEFING

ONE of the reasons why the United States is withdrawing troops from Vietnam and 'Vietnamising' the war is that it's cheaper that way.

It has been calculated that the cost of one US soldier fighting for one year in Indochina is 13,000 dollars (£5000). A Vietnamese soldier costs an eighth of this.

Troops from other Asian countries are also cheaper: a soldier from Thailand (there are more than 10,000 in Indochina) or from South Korea (40,000) costs £1500 a year.

The need to economise becomes clear when one looks at the total amount spent by the US on waging war in Indochina since 1963. This is about £46,000 million—about £140 a year for every man, woman and child in North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Reckoned another way, the past six years of the war has cost £150,000 per square mile of Indochina. This is three times the gross product of all the countries of Indochina together.

THE RECENT shooting of Scotsman Iain Macleod by West German police is a symptom of the anti-left hysteria being

Neither the Communist nor the Socialist Party wants real workers' control and the paragraphs on participation are suitably vague. On disarmament the common programme merely proposes progress in this direction. France will not leave NATO and will only give up the manufacture and use of independent nuclear weapons—existing stockpiles are not mentioned.

As far as day-to-day questions such as raising the minimum wage or

pensions are concerned the Communist Party's programme was already so limited as not to need watering down. On health, for instance, the programme talks about 'moving towards' a free health service.

In practice, if the 'Left' wins the next election, even these limited reforms would face considerable resistance from the ruling-class, which would certainly succeed in severely watering them down further. Nothing is said in the programme about how this could be prevented.

ALLIANCE

Of course workers will welcome the possibility of a united left which could defeat the present corrupt and reactionary government. But what they want to get out of it is real changes in their lives—not the empty phrases of a sordid electoral compromise.

It now seems likely that there will be a large number of revolutionary candidates in the coming elections. Alain Krivine of the Ligue Communiste has announced that his organisation will put up between 100 and 150 candidates, probably in co-operation with Lutte Ouvriere, though the details of the alliance are not yet known.

Lutte Ouvriere recently issued an open letter to Communist Party supporters in which they put forward their main demands. These include a minimum wage of £123 a month, an all-round wage increase of £12 a month, a sliding scale of wages, the immediate establishment of the 40-hour week, and workers' committees to control hiring and firing.

whipped up there. One of the main sources of this hysteria is the newspaper chain owned by Axel Springer.

Recently *Die Welt*, Springer's prestige paper, denounced a paperback book called *The Anarchists* which, it alleged, contained a plan to set up a 'marxist-maoist dictatorship' in West Germany.

The next day *Die Welt* apologised to its readers. The book in question—by Oxford academic James Joll—is in fact completely hostile to anarchist politics. *Die Welt* failed to add, however, that Joll's book was published by a company owned by ... Axel Springer.

MAO TSE-TUNG, who had not been seen in public since Nixon's visit in February, made an appearance last week to greet Mrs Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon.

Mrs Bandaranaike's government recently introduced the Criminal Justice Commission Act. This sets up special courts which are empowered to hold secret trials, and accept as evidence confessions obtained by torture. There is no right of appeal against them.

THE RECENT struggles by British dockers were widely reported in Scandinavia, where there are repressive labour laws similar to the Industrial Relations Act.

In Gothenburg, Sweden, a Scandinavian Committee of Solidarity with Britain's Dockers was set up. Its aim was to spread information, organise solidarity action and raise financial support. The committee issued leaflets talking of the need to link North European dockers.

A STORY recently published in *Izvestia* gives a picture of how Russia's so-called planned economy works. A Leningrad museum had installed two electrical substations with four transformers. To start them working all that was needed was the switches.

On approaching the manufacturers, the museum learned that the only way to get the switches was to buy more transformers, take out the switches and throw away the rest. A government official confirmed that switches could only be sold with transformers.

Izvestia comments that it is as if a man

asking for buttons in a shop were told to buy a new suit, cut off the buttons and throw it away.

SOUTH AFRICAN police on an early morning raid to check workers' passes recently got a shock when 28 African building workers started pelting them with bricks. Fourteen escaped before they could be arrested and two more got away in handcuffs.

THE NIGERIAN Union of Teachers is conducting a militant campaign on wages and conditions, demanding a 100 per cent rise for the lowest-paid teachers, who get only £200 a year. They have struck and are threatening mass resignations if their demands are not met. Five hundred teachers demonstrated outside the government buildings in Ibadan.

General Gowon has said that his government will not allow itself to be blackmailed by any organisation undertaking 'hasty actions not in the interests of the State'.

Gramsci

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Inflation con game

EVERY television viewer 'knows' what causes inflation—it's those greedy workers who are always after more pay for less work. But like so many things that 'everybody knows' it just isn't so.

There are a number of causes of inflation. Some of them have nothing to do with wages at all. Some are not 'local'—they don't depend mainly on what happens in Britain. Some are the direct result of government policy.

In the last category, we have the deliberate manipulation of food prices to push them up to Common Market levels preparatory to British entry, 'Fair Rents' and Value Added Tax. VAT will come into effect next April and will give a hefty upward push to a wide range of prices.

Another factor is speculation. The land boom scandal is the prime example. Since 1965, according to Barclays Bank (who ought to know) house building costs—materials and wages—have risen by 42 per cent. But the price of land for house plots has risen by 108 per cent. There is no wage cost at all involved here. The soaring price of building land is a direct consequence of private ownership and private profiteering.

The new devaluation, the floating pound, will naturally push up the prices of all imported goods, like tea and coffee, and of all those things—including most manufactured goods—that include imported materials. Here again, the television commentators and millionaire press pundits are telling us, this devaluation is caused by rapidly rising wage costs in Britain.

Here again it is a myth. Take shipbuilding, one of the 'lame duck' industries that is 'being driven to the wall by wicked trade unionists'. A recent piece on Harland and Wolff in a big business weekly contains the following information:

'Japanese shipyard wages are now rising faster than wages in Europe. Most Japanese are now paid more than comparable workers at Harland and Wolff in Belfast . . . But Belfast wages are now only half those in Sweden and lower than anywhere else in Europe outside Spain and eastern Europe.'

Perhaps shipbuilding is an exception? Nothing of the sort. As the Economist was forced to admit last week 'although wage inflation in manufacturing industries has been staggering in Britain, it has been markedly worse in Japan, a little worse in France and Italy and nearly as bad in Germany.'

Propaganda war

That is not what you will hear on television but it is the truth. It is worth looking at the actual figures. Average hourly earnings rose, from mid-1967 to the first quarter of 1972, by 101 per cent in Japan, by 64 per cent in France, by 62 per cent in Italy, by 58 per cent in Britain and by 53 per cent in West Germany.

Contrary to what we are constantly being told, there is no simple connection between wage earnings and 'international competitiveness'—and our rulers and their hired 'opinion formers' know it very well.

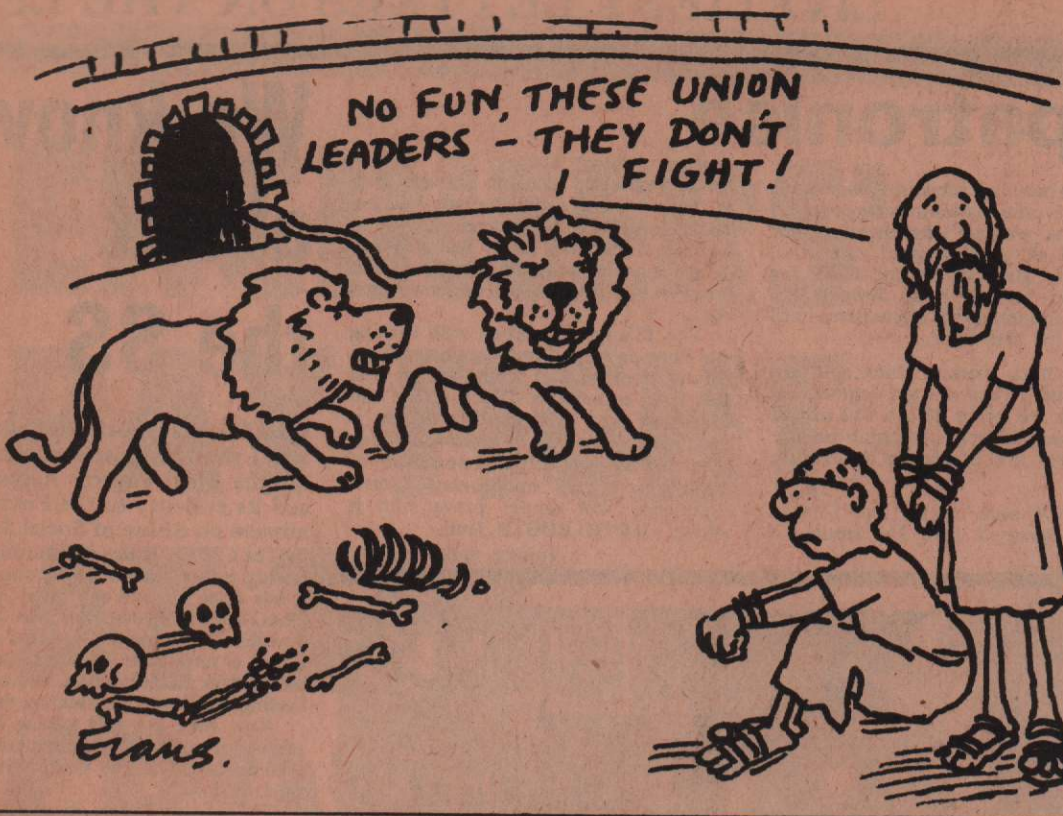
Why do they tell us these lies? For a very simple reason. Under capitalism goods are not produced because people need them. They are produced to make profits and for no other reason. Other things being equal, the less the employers have to lay out in wages the bigger their profits. The lies that television and press pour out every day are part of the propaganda war that is directed to dividing and confusing workers in the interests of the owners of industry.

The boss class is always, in all countries, concerned to keep down real wages. They have a tough job where workers are organised and aware of their interests. Inflation, which has many and complex causes, is now built into the system. It makes it easier for the bosses to keep down real wages by keeping money increases below the rise in prices.

But to do this it is essential to deceive workers and set them against one another. We should work harder and accept 'pay norms' so that British industry can compete with the Germans and the Japanese, the hired 'experts' of the capitalist class tell us. And of course German and Japanese workers are told exactly the same tale: their employers claim to be hard pressed by the Americans, the British and the French.

It doesn't need much expert knowledge to see that there is no way out for workers, here or anywhere else, in competitive wage cutting. Quite the reverse. We have to get together internationally to resist it and that means, first and foremost, against our own employers and their government. And we need to do much more for those without muscle of their own—the pensioners and others.

Instead of hob-nobbing with Heath, the TUC leaders should be organising a real fight to protect them, to push up pensions to a decent level and keep them there by an escalator clause.



NOTTINGHAM WARMS

Razers' edge

WERE you surprised by last week's blistering attack by Environment Minister Peter Walker on Harry Hyams, the millionaire property man behind the infamous Centre Point in London? It looked very much a case of death-bed conversion.

Ever since the Tories came back to office in 1970 they have been handing out development grants like Smarties to their property pals. That policy continues unabated—and it is controlled by the Department of the Environment, headed by Peter Walker.

The result is that vast areas of central London will be torn down, with hundreds of thousands of people evicted to make way for more empty office blocks, luxury hotels and conference centres. This laying waste of London is a scandal of such giant proportions that Hyams' little enterprises seem like acts of charity in comparison.

But Hyams is an outsider, a recluse who shuns publicity and who is unconnected with any of the really big property firms who are leading the assault on the city. Walker's attack was designed to use Hyams, a deservedly unpopular figure, as a convenient whipping boy to detract attention away from his bosom friends in the big firms.

Firms like Town and City Properties who are redeveloping Cambridge Circus, a minute's walk from Centre Point. They plan a massive office development there and have already torn down flats to make way for the more socially-desirable office blocks.

All over London the story is the same—Covent Garden, Piccadilly, Tooley Street, Queen Anne—communities are being wrecked and housing destroyed for the greater glory of the profiteers.

On all these scandals Mr Peter Walker stays silent. And his own activities in this field are not simon pure. Readers may recall the famous 'squat' at 144 Piccadilly two years ago when a 'hippy commune' was set up in that large, empty house for a



Windsor and friend

few days before being brutally smashed by the local gendarmes. They were, after all, invading private property.

Now 144 Piccadilly is to be razed to the ground. So are the fine houses of Hamilton Place behind it—and all with the planning permission of Mr Walker's ministry.

The houses in Hamilton Place were listed as 'A' type dwellings, which meant they should be secure from the speculators' vengeful bulldozers. But Walker has ignored the listing and given permission to tear them down to make way for yet more edifices to enrich his buddies.

All of this goes on behind a smokescreen of empty abuse on Harry Hyams. Another explanation for Walker's spleen is that his own multi-million combine, Slater-Walker, tried to reach an agreement with Hyams a few years ago and failed, since when they have been deadly business rivals.

Perhaps it was that attempted deal between the two outfits that explains Walker's total silence on the scandal of Centre Point when he was in opposition.

LAST WORD (for the moment) on Harry Hyams: he has just spent £650,000 on his new house. A lot of money—but then it does cost a bit extra to have a moat and a draw-bridge put in.

Last Post

THE Sunday Post, a paper produced by the infamous D C Thomson non-union, Beano and Dandy firm of Dundee, has got its kilt in a twist over the infiltration of Scottish schools by 'avowed marxists'.

The Post, which has perfected a prose style based more on Neanderthal grunting than the human tongue, begins its piece: 'A 17-year-old Glasgow school boy was late for tea. He came home with a newspaper his mother had never heard of. The title, in bright red, was 'Socialist Worker'. A left-wing publication preaching revolution and the overthrow of our way of living.'

We like that 'our'—the Sunday Post acting as the voice and conscience of its readers. Well, we freely confess to wishing, with some fervour, to overthrow the way of life expounded

by D C Thomson—vicious anti-trade unionism, the hounding and witch-hunting of print workers who attempt to organise the place, the vilification of members of the labour movement who dedicate their lives to improving the lot of their fellow workers and, above all, the profiting from puerile publications that treat their readers like morons.

The long and illiterate denunciation of IS and other socialist organisations ends with the advice: 'Every parent should have a good look at what his teenage son or daughter is reading this weekend. The trouble-makers are battling to control their minds.'

Wrong. We're trying to free minds from the grip of poisonous rags like the Sunday Post.

NEWSPAPER placard: 'New light on the Duke of Windsor—THE RISE OF MRS SIMPSON.' So that was her hidden fascination . . . Meanwhile, for your archives, we reproduce a press picture of old Windsor Knot seen visiting Herr Hitler in 1937. It was reprinted in South African papers following Windsor's death but did not see the light of day here when press and establishment decided that a dead duke was a good duke.

Marking time

ONE ARGUMENT used in the now notorious speech by Metropolitan Police chief Robert Mark demanding tougher measures against criminals was that 49.7 per cent of people brought before courts were acquitted. Figures on people charged with breaking and entering in 1970 tend to show that Mark has only a brushing acquaintance with the truth.

Of 20,374 charged, 11,000 were convicted by magistrates and 8473 were sent to higher courts, of whom only 379 were acquitted. Total acquittals: 1027—less than 5 per cent.

Even more dishonest is the way Mark plays around with the terms 'charges' and 'acquittals'. When the police arrest someone they usually stick four or five charges on him, some of them quite ludicrous, on the assumption that they'll send the man down on at least one of the charges.

If a man is charged with five offences, cleared of four and sent to prison on the fifth, Mark would count them as four acquittals. Take the case of Roddy Kentish, the black man from Notting Hill, reported in Socialist Worker a few weeks ago.

He was charged, ludicrously, with attempted murder, acquitted and then found guilty of having an offensive weapon (his welding tools) and was sent to jail for two years. In Mark's book, he would appear as an acquittal.

Isn't cooking the books a crime as well?



Point the way—don't patronise

DUNCAN HALLAS' article (What Happens if the Tories Fall...? 1 July) was rightly billed as an important one. But it missed the main point about the slogan 'Labour to power on a socialist programme.'

True, the slogan is too vague and not clearly related to the immediate worries of working people. True, and most important, it suggests that the Labour Party is capable of putting a socialist programme into effect—something it cannot conceivably do.

But what Duncan Hallas doesn't mention is that many people who use the slogan (for example the Socialist

Labour League), fully agree with the International Socialists about the nature of the Labour Party. The vital question is: why do they go on using a slogan which misleads?

The answer is that they feel that through the struggle to change Labour's programme workers will be radicalised and come to recognise the need to get rid of Labourism. The obvious failure of the Labour Party will make clear the need for a revolutionary alternative.

Of course this argument betrays a complete lack of political sense and a patronising attitude to workers. If the failure of the Labour Party were sufficient to spread revolutionary ideas,

we should have had socialism years ago!

What revolutionaries must understand is that the workers' movement is not composed of psychologists' rats who, having been given an electric shock for taking the 'wrong' path through the maze, go on looking for alternatives until they find the 'right' one.

For a start, workers think and talk about politics. They also get demoralised when they are led to defeat. The role of revolutionary groups is to point the way forward and not to prepare the electric shock.

I wish I were certain that Duncan Hallas understood this. The trouble is

that IS's agitation falls into the same trap as that of the Socialist Labour League. The main point to be hammered home in the present period is surely that a change of government will not solve even the bread-and-butter problems of the working class.

Yes, IS's preoccupation with bashing the Tory party and putting demands on Labour *does* mislead workers. It is true that it is 'experience' which in the end will show who is right. The danger is that, unaccompanied by agitation which points to the necessity and possibility of challenging the middle-class *state*, experience will simply prove who is wrong!—DAVID BOOTH, Hull.

We know about the SS

I FEEL that Cottons Column (23 June) shows a misplaced admiration for the Child Poverty Action Group and its evidence to the Fischer Commission on Abuse of Social Security.

The CPAG's policy of reforming means-testing rather than outright opposition to it has done no one any good. It was the CPAG's campaigning that was partly responsible for giving the National Assistance Board a new lease of life renamed Supplementary Benefits (and one of its then leading members took a seat on the board).

Now they are still talking about 'the stigma of claiming', 'the problem of low take-up rates' to the Gaffers Propaganda Commission.

There is no future in such a dialogue for working-class people. It is of no interest to the Claimants' Union whether five or 50 per cent of the Social Security budget is 'fiddles': we are quite aware of the truth about the SS and don't need a government to tell us it doesn't live up to the 'liberal ideals'.

The Poverty Actioners are as guilty as those bodies who gave evidence to the Royal Commission on Trade Unions. (Whatever the liberal gloss in the report, we all know what that was about now!) Your readers will be pleased to know that the national Federation of Claimants' Unions put in its 'evidence to Lord Fischer about a year ago, short and sweet: 'This Commission is a load of bullshit'. A Counter Report is to appear in a few months time.—ANDREW CAPP, Newtown (Birmingham) Claimants Union, Birmingham 19.

THE DANGERS OF 'COMMUNITY CONTROL'

JOHN LEA is quite correct (27 May) to point out that in America 'integration from the top' in the form of busing or any other court-imposed mandate is not the answer for either black or white working-class people. However, a note of caution is necessary.

The struggle of black Americans for 'community control' of their schools and other facets of their lives was an important step forward from the appeasing, middle-class led 'integration' movement of the early sixties.

But, as socialists pointed out, 'community control' is not really a possibility under capitalism. It has, in fact, been callously manipulated by both government officials and demagogic 'leaders' to co-opt the justified anger and militancy of black Americans.

Interestingly enough, examples of both the 'politicians' and the 'nationalists' came together at the Gary Black Political Convention. 'Community control' advocate Carl Stokes, a featured participant, is the former black Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, who called in the police to squelch a black uprising.—LAURIE LANDY, US-International Socialists.

Attack on IRA 'sheer bloody nonsense'

BRIAN TRENCH's article (17 June) can only be answered in full by an ongoing debate between Republicans (Republicans are socialists) and British socialists. I hope this letter can contribute to the initiation of such an important development.

In the past it seems to me that your reporters have been overtly sympathetic to the Provisional Alliance. This astonishes me. Any brief analysis of the origins, actions and policy of the alliance must expose them as an anti-people's force simply hell-bent on the promotion of an Ireland 'liberated' by the blood of her martyred dead.

A study of the forces which encouraged the present mindless bombing campaign—Fianna Fail, Taca (their financiers), Roman Catholic powerites—should immediately send socialists hurrying in alarm to their textbooks for comparisons elsewhere. There is sufficient documentation of the emergence of the Provisionals for the laziest reporter to

be fully informed. For a socialist there is no excuse.

I need say no more, except that I distinguish between many of the young men who have been taken in by the Provisionals' 'programme' and their leadership.

Trench accuses the Official Republican movement of 'left rhetoric', mentions that a planned paper has not as yet been produced, sneers at Derry's new small co-operatives, and tries to insinuate that the Republican movement is politically confused and wrong in laying the blame for sectarianism 'on the Provisionals alone'.

I will try to deal with these points and other inaccuracies in turn, but, as I understand Trench, it seems he wishes deliberately to misrepresent the Republican movement by the use of half-truths and innuendo.

The Republican movement is sufficiently historically aware to know that the Provisionals alone are not responsible for sectarianism and nowhere has it ever said so. But it has said that the mindless bombing, not simply of Courtaulds and the Belfast Co-operative, but Donegall Street (six dead), Mountainview Bar (two dead), Oxford Street (one dead), hundreds of innocent civilians grievously injured, loss of limb, eyes etc., have brought the Six Counties to a state of inter-communal hatred and despair which must make any socialist weep.

What do the Provisionals claim is the purpose of this activity and has Trench ever faced this question?

Openly they admit that their purpose is to engage in talks with British representatives in Ireland in order to extend the 26 Counties concept to the 32 Counties. It could not be any other way, as the Provisionals have been devoid of political action or content other than intimidating members of the Republican movement in their efforts to build people's organisations and to develop the people's resistance to repression and exploitation.

DON'T KEEP NALGO DOWN!

AS A militant NALGO member employed in the Health Service I read with some dismay the out-of-date and misleading definition of the union's membership as 'the Town Hall workers'. NALGO is the fourth largest white collar union in the world and in this country covers workers in all the public services from clerks in gas board offices to nurses and social workers.

As such it is of some crucial importance in the trade union movement and our decision not to register is a major victory for that movement as well as within the union.

That the union is already involved in militant struggle, which I hope will be



Rescuers search the rubble of a bombed bar.

Certainly there are Provisionals who claim to be socialists but one can truthfully say here that this is left rhetoric.

On points of detail in Trench's article: 1. The very fact of the Provisionals' campaign was sufficient to distract the people from the issue of the Common Market, particularly when Fianna Fail was giving the Provisionals covert support. It should be noted that their anti-market campaign was both minimal and ambiguous.

2. Trench's faint praise for the Republicans as the major obstacle to the Tories' plans is sheer bloody nonsense. It is the people's resistance as expressed through the rents and rates campaign (begun by the Civil Rights Association) which is the chief obstacle to Tory paternalism. Certainly the Republicans are playing their part, but not in the way Trench says.

3. There is no contradiction in the Republican position on the suspension of Stormont: to try to show that this must not be understood as a victory and also to attribute the suspension to the people is coherent within the Republican philosophy.

4. For Trench to link the IRA's ceasefire with the civil rights movement in the way he does displays no understanding of popular struggle and revolution. Or does he think that revolutions are the result of overnight decisions of revolutionaries or waged in some world apart from the class struggle?

5. To suggest that the Provisional Alliance is naive about the 26 Counties government is deliberately to ignore the still strong links with the Fianna Fail Party and Taca.

In general Trench ignores that the movement has been working within a situation of increasing communal strife. It has resisted all pressures to become a Roman Catholic organisation, maintained the clubs, papers, educational activity and, in spite of internment, has continued to develop as a socialist organisation.

supported by all trade unionists, is shown by the withdrawal of stand-by services (night duties) by social workers in several London boroughs. The average rate for this service is about 3p per hour and negotiations are almost at deadlock.

At last public service workers are seeing through the old blackmail about 'harming the clients', ie the public, and are fighting for a better service for all in the long run.

Our union's consciousness is changing so let's at least keep up with this and drop the out-of-date title!—SANDY ROSE, medical social worker, Salford, Lancs.

But is there a socialist solution?

I FIND your treatment of the conflict in Northern Ireland very puzzling.

You repeatedly call for a 32-county socialist solution to the conflict, yet I can't possibly see how this can come about in the present circumstances.

As you rightly point out, both Northern and Southern Ireland are under the influence of imperialism. But the Provisional IRA is not presently engaged in an anti-imperialist war: it is defending Catholic areas against possible Protestant attack, while until the ceasefire it was carrying on an offensive campaign against the British Army.

The fact that the Ulster Protestants are presently protected by the British Army does not automatically render the Provisional IRA campaign anti-imperialist, since the Ulster Protestants and doubtless some Catholics regard themselves in matters of defence to be an integral part of the United Kingdom.

The long-term objective of the Provisional IRA is a united Ireland, but not a socialist Ireland. Why should the Protestant working class wish to join such a state under the control of an alien middle class?

Furthermore, the Provisional IRA are merely pursuing Lynch's policy in a more realistic way, since they recognise that the Ulster Protestants will resist by force any attempt to coerce them into a 32-county Republican Catholic-dominated state.

While 'nationalism' is the overriding political factor in Ireland, whether of the Catholic or Protestant variety, in my view there is no hope of a strong socialist organisation emerging which would be capable of uniting Protestant and Catholic workers.

All genuine socialists want to see a united socialist Ireland. The question remains of how it can be achieved and I have yet to see a convincing strategy outlined by the International Socialists.—SIMON PARTRIDGE, Beaumaris, North Wales.

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

Very important at this time is that they are not accused by the Protestant working class of participation in sectarian actions and the Protestants seem to appreciate the socialist nature of the movement. This will be borne out in the coming decade of the people's struggle to build a socialist republic.

Criticism is welcome and necessary if we are to transcend our present condition, but it must be objective, based on the actions and declared policies of the forces engaged in the Irish struggle.

No purpose, or rather no socialist purpose, is served by the sort of article written by Brian Trench.—DES O'HAGAN, Long Kesh Concentration Camp, Lisburn, Northern Ireland.

Des O'Hagan's letter took 10 days to reach Socialist Worker, had been opened en route and the envelope defaced by obscenities. We print it in full because of the importance of the issues raised.

'The huge sums of money being spent on Concorde will only serve to save a few hours for businessmen or to carry on pleasure trips a tiny handful of privileged people. We have to ask what sort of society refuses to spend even a small amount of money providing a reliable and efficient bus service for ordinary people while at the same time wasting millions on Concorde.'

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ENGINEERS' PAY FIGHT AT THE CROSSROAD

BY ROGER ROSEWELL
Socialist Worker Industrial Correspondent

A CRITICAL STAGE has been reached in the engineering wages dispute. When the annual conference of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions met in Llandudno at the end of June it began by giving 'a cautious and restrained' welcome to a letter from the Engineering Employers Federation suggesting a resumption of national talks.

The conference ended with Hugh Scanlon—the President of the Engineering Union—telling the delegates that another letter had been received from the employers rejecting the unions' view that exploratory talks were desirable and re-iterating their continued 'unwillingness' to come anywhere near to meeting the claim.

The claim was presented originally to the employers in August last year. It called for: A £6 increase on the minimum rates (£25 instead of the present £19 a week for a skilled man), a 35 hour week, four weeks' holiday, equal pay for women, better lay-off pay, improved overtime and shift work premiums—and all without any productivity strings.

The employers responded by offering a mere £1.50 on the minimum rates—worth about 3 per cent.

From then on, the employers refused consistently to improve their offer and in January the union leaders decided to break off the national talks and pursue the claim on a plant-by-plant basis.

But before this Scanlon told the employers that if they would concede the increased minimum rates then the unions would drop their other demands while reserving the right to continue negotiating on them.

Several months ago a two-year agreement along these lines was signed in the shipbuilding industry and although it gave increases of £2.50 a year it was in no way a victory.

The employers have confirmed this by saying: 'The total cost of the settlement to the industry is in percentage terms substantially below what is generally understood as being the government's norm at the present time.'

The January plant-by-plant decision of the unions not only avoided a national strike but has proved to be a failure. Instead of organising a national campaign the unions refused to give a lead.

They did not pick any areas, select any major firms or seek to involve the mass of the membership in a real fight against the employers. Many parts of the country have remained inactive or lukewarm while others who have fought have been isolated.

The first major battle in support of the claim was fought in Manchester. At its height there were more than 40 sit-ins and strikes but now only a few are left.

Suffered

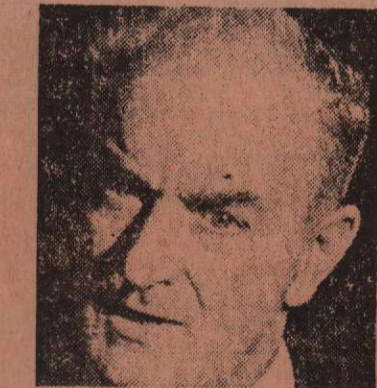
The Manchester struggle was sabotaged by some of the union leaders. The General and Municipal Workers Union publicly criticised it, the Electricians complained about it and the Boilermakers weakened it by offering their members only £1 a week strike pay even though their own rule book specified that it should be £5.

In comparison the Employers Federation gave considerable aid to their Manchester firms. So far they have paid out £2 million in compensation for loss of profits and have distributed this at a rate equivalent to £10 a week for every man on strike and £5 for every apprentice or woman worker.

The Manchester campaign also suffered from the fact that differing settlements were allowed and that the demands for a shorter working week were effectively dropped after six weeks of struggle.

This second retreat occurred when the union leaders stated that claims could be settled without any improvement in hours—a decision that not only demoralised many groups of workers who had remained on strike for the shorter week but also changed the whole character of the plant-by-plant strategy.

Faced with the determination of the employers and their own lack of success the unions said that agreements on money



SCANLON: drop demands



McGARVEY: go-it-alone threat

and improved holidays were the priority. As such, the current factory-by-factory claims are not being fought in support of the full national claim but are merely an attempt to get more pay.

Commendable as this is it is nevertheless a fact that it has been interpreted by the

employers as a sign of weakness and has further underlined the retreat of the unions.

This retreat and the various manoeuvres of certain unions was responsible for the employers making the approach that was given the 'cautious and restrained' welcome at the Confederation conference.

The current situation is now extremely complex. The employers have decided to fight the unions. Their management board has said: 'The Board recommended that member firms should adopt a policy of maximum possible escalation when faced with industrial action, on the basis of making the action as costly to the unions as possible, as quickly as possible... Member firms would in this way be taking a positive step to support other members of the Federation.'

Wriggle

Instead of combatting this provocation with national action the union leaders have attempted to wriggle out of a major confrontation.

No better example of this exists than the case of the shipbuilding settlement. Although it was in defiance of the Confederations' own policy of no long-term agreements and was extremely prejudicial to the engineering wages campaign, the settlement was nevertheless

The Manchester engineering struggle was run on a 'plant-by-plant' basis without leadership from the top or a national campaign of support. Red Saunders' picture shows workers wearily waiting at the Social Security office for the usual wrangle over benefits. Next week Socialist Worker's North West Industrial Correspondent **GLYN CARVER** will analyse the results of the Manchester campaign.

accepted by a majority vote of the union leaders.

This was due partly to Dan McGarvey—the Boilermakers' president—threatening to sign it irrespective of the Confederations' views. But it was also a demonstration of the union leaders' willingness to publicly retreat on their own policies.

The hesitancy of the union leaders, their refusal to either organise a national strike or campaign, their public retreats on hours and shipbuilding together with unemployment, internal divisions and a complete lack of any tradition of fighting for national claims by plant-by-plant bargaining have combined to demoralise their own members and delight those right wing union leaders anxious to extend their influence at the expense of the failings of the Scanlon leadership.

The future of the engineering wages dispute is now at the crossroad. Either it will slither into a messy defeat or the union leaders will be forced into a national fight where the prospects of victory will be greater.

From rags to riches...

FOR MANY YEARS UK manufacturers of textile goods—cloth, fabric and clothes—have claimed that it has become increasingly difficult to make money because foreign-produced imports, largely from Asia and other low income countries in Africa, have been much cheaper.

This has been made an excuse for low wages and terrible working conditions and it is more than possible that if the management had complained less and worked harder the situation would not have been so bad.

Invented

Recently the campaign has become more virulent and there is every reason to believe that the employers have just invented figures to successfully persuade the government to make it easier for them to make money—often at the expense of the underdeveloped countries—and easier to persuade the unions (again successfully) to accept more redundancies and moderate their wage claim.

The campaign, the Textile Industry Support Campaign, backed by the unions, has claimed that 50 per cent of all cotton and allied textile consumption is imported, that this comes from Asia, that it is causing massive

IN THE CITY



with T.H. Rogmorton

redundancies and that in the Common Market the figure is only 20 per cent.

It was the Financial Times that pointed out in fact that:

1. Well under half the imports come from developing countries.
2. The 50 per cent figure does not cover clothes, yarn or man-made fabric. If it did it would be much lower.
3. That Germany imported much more

from both developing countries and the rest of the world and three other European countries' percentage of imports from developing countries was greater than Britain's.

Why are the UK textile bosses inventing these figures? First, and fairly obviously, the worse the situation seems the more likely the government is to act to prevent the import of foreign goods.

But the bosses' problem is that they don't want to appear to be attacking the developing countries. So they try to show that the situation is worse in Britain than in Europe so that a clever policy of 'spreading the load' can be devised.

In fact at the moment the leaders of all the Common Market textile industries are, under the leadership of Tory MP, Tom Normanton, planning a policy to regulate Asian imports when Britain joins the Common Market. In other words they are co-operating so that all Europe acts together in keeping out the products of the underdeveloped countries.

At the same time the workers have been conditioned into accepting redundancies. So when the government acts to stop imports, management can still go on sacking workers and make greater profits.

In the last four years of the 1960s productivity in the textile industry increased by 30 per cent. This record

figure for British industry was continued in 1971 when it increased by 8 per cent.

At the same time wages have been among the lowest in the country: a male worker's average wage before deductions is £23 and a woman's is £12. Redundancies are also high.

So are the profits: Last year Courtaulds made £45,000,000 pre-tax. They also managed to pay only 12 per cent tax instead of 40 per cent, but that's another story.

Damage

It is important to remember that imports of textile goods are increasing, though the size of the problem has been hideously exaggerated to fool the workers and damage the economies of countries that are struggling to keep themselves from starving to death because of the ravages of imperialism.

It is also important to remember that this action by the capitalists is inevitable: they will always do what is necessary to boost their profits. And it is important to realise that under capitalism it is inevitable that an individual country's industry will try to benefit at the expense of another country.

If they are not sacking people in this country they are sacking them in Hong Kong.



Some of the sit-in strikers: they have managed to keep going by making and selling handbags and skirts

PICTURES: Tony Skipper

Fakenham: the shoe is on the other foot

IT'S STRANGE that Ted Heath has never got around to sending a telegram to the women shoe workers of Fakenham in Norfolk. There he is, telling us all to stand on our own two feet, yet when the Fakenham women did just that and occupied their factory to stop its closure there wasn't a whisper of support from the Tories.

The occupation started on St Patrick's Day—17 March—when the new management of Sexton Sons and Everard said the women had to go as they were part of the 'wastage' necessary to make the company, with its main plant in Norwich, profitable again.

A property speculator, Jack Taubman, and his son-in-law had bought the firm to make shoes more efficiently. But many workers suspect that their real intention is to sell the main factory site for development as it is conveniently placed near Norwich's Inner Link road.

'Narked'

The number of women involved at Fakenham has dwindled over the weeks but they have managed to keep going by buying leather and making and selling handbags and skirts.

'I would never work for a boss again after organising our own work for the last few months,' Eileen English told me. 'It's funny looking back—we had no alternative but to occupy since there was no other work round here at the time.'

'We were also narked by the way the other workers at Sextons in Norwich and the unions had treated us. I have heard workers at Sextons in Norwich say they wish they had occupied.'

'Old habits die hard,' said Edna Roach. 'Unemployment won't go away under the present system. It looks like our kids will have to fight it too.'

'Although what we have done is a step forward, workers should control their own destiny. They should have a say since it is their sweat that makes money for those born with the silver spoon in their mouths.'

I asked them about their advice to other workers, particularly in the shoe industry in Norwich, where other firms are now in trouble and are standing people off and declaring redundancies.

'They should occupy the factories if possible and either work-in or sit-in,' said Edna.

'Look what happens, though, if the unions organise it,' said Eileen. 'Look at Manchester. The union officials only want to go so far then they get cold feet and back off.'

The women have been very critical of the unions and constantly stress the need for officials to realise who pays them. They feel officials lose touch with the rank and file and even a good official becomes scared by his 'superiors' in the union.

The fact that they are women has been thrust down their throats right from the beginning.

'Women can be more determined and fight harder because they have to, right from the start through school,' said Pat Dewing. 'They think that all girls are fit for is domestic science.'

The other women pointed out that the fight begins at home for equality. There had been some trouble between the girls and their husbands at the start.

Donations

Their husbands had been kidded on at work and some of them really did not like the idea of wives being in the limelight and fighting 'as if Fakenham was in the Midlands.'

But when they saw how determined the women were they came round and spent hours working with them in the factory.

With little local support, the women rely on donations from trade unions and organisations like the International Socialists. The Engineering Union sent

£1 while the UCS fund donated £250.

In the short term they realise that the shoe industry is being allowed to develop into a mess. While production was up 10 per cent between 1960 and 1970, the number of operatives in Norwich factories declined from 8500 to 6000.

Cheap imports from Italy, Spain and Portugal, the lifting of protective tariffs and the role of the British Shoe Corporation are seen as the factors which are bringing about the attack. This is due to Tory government support for the regimes of these countries—it's not due to the high wages of workers in these countries.

The need for a strong trade union to fight unemployment and these political moves is of paramount importance. The feeling at Fakenham is that while NUFLAT, the footwear union, and ASTMS may be good at negotiating pay and holidays they must take a more militant stand on fighting unemployment.

The Fakenham women have started the fight back—and that's why their enterprise wins no Tory praise.



COUGH

BY LAURIE

ALL the capitalist political parties, the police and the judges are agreed that marijuana ('pot') is a serious threat to civilised behaviour. Quite what it does that is so damaging for the human race is never stated in any detail.

Indeed there is a considerable body of medical knowledge which says that marijuana is not addictive or damaging to health.

Its militant opponents, with some little truth, claim that it launches people 'down the hill'—into a situation where they will turn to harder drugs which are both addictive and damaging. This section of opinion is backed by the full power of the courts and the police, who do have a special drug squad for preventing the import, sale and use of marijuana.

But it is no crime to produce and peddle tobacco on such a gigantic scale that two-thirds of the men in Britain and half the women are addicted to it. That is socially acceptable, and economically bountiful, not least to the state, which relies heavily on the tobacco tax.

Deaths

And the social consequences of the tobacco industry are disastrous. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that the tar content of tobacco smoke causes lung cancer on a massive scale. Other by-products of smoking are coronary heart disease, emphysema (distended lungs), damaged sight, difficulty in digestion, more miscarriages by pregnant women and even damage to the body's DNA, the very basis of human biology.

It is reliably estimated that smoking causes 80,000 unnecessary deaths each year in Britain alone. The scientific evidence on the intimate links between the cigarette and undertaking industries is overwhelming and unchallengeable.

It has been demonstrated that two in every five heavy smokers die before the age of 65, compared to one in five non-smokers. A man who smokes 15 cigarettes a day at 30 and keeps right on will shorten his life by 5½ years.

Those who kick the habit steadily reduce their risk and after 23 years abstinence get back to 'normal' life expectancy, which, it should be

remembered, is not smoking habits, but a diet and general social

People smoke if they are stressed. People use tobacco, alcohol, and stress. But tobacco provides relief, it is highly addictive.

Smokers develop an addiction to nicotine. One or two puffs per cigarette draws 15 millionth of a gram of nicotine into the body of a 70kg man as direct injection, quick getting to the system.

And after 20 minutes the stimulation has faded, and the smoker feels the need for a cigarette.

But the incidence of lung cancer in the population is not high. As Andre Maclean, a proponent of the prevention of

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How Labour st...

THE LABOUR government of 1964, it was thought, offered brighter prospects. The leaders of this outfit were decked out in an abundance of rhetoric about their social concerns. Tough anti-smoking legislation was talked of.

The advertising of cigarettes on television was banned, an agreement was made with manufacturers against the promotion of gift coupon schemes, and by 1967 there was talk of a voluntary curb on advertising expenditure.

The manufacturers were not too bothered about the TV ban. They simply switched their expenditure into the coupon schemes they had agreed not to go in for. The voluntary curb on advertising expenditure went out the window too.

The Labour government continued to spend £100,000 a year on health education against smoking. It was Sir Stafford Cripps, second post-war Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer who had seen penal taxation as the way to discourage the social evil of smoking. He quickly found it an indispensable way to finance so-called 'social goods'.

Government revenue from the tobacco tax now amounts to £1100 million a year, or nine per cent of total revenue. This is almost enough to pay for Britain's share in that other, more efficient means of self-destruction, the arms race.

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ot uniform. As Dr
minent researcher
cancer, explained

to me: 'It is the poor man's luxury,
readily obtainable, socially acceptable
and while expensive, within reach.
'Quality of life, particularly
occupation, has much to do with it, as
well as what pressures are available
in adult life,' he adds.
This is certainly borne out in all
statistics, 75 per cent of all semi-skilled
workers smoke compared with 42 per
cent of professionals. Tobacco does
seem to be one soul in a soulless world.
Even when information about health
risks does get through it tends to be
set aside with a certain fatalism about
life in general. This is highly convenient
for the cigarette manufacturers, but
nonetheless has a certain ring of truth.
Under the present system of society,
the protection of all citizens is
supposedly vested in the state, which is,
again supposedly, outside and above
sectional interests. And it is to the
state that informed scientific opinion
has looked for action on smoking.

The first Royal College of Physicians
report on smoking and health was
published in 1962. It contained nothing
which has not previously been published
elsewhere.
The response of the tobacco barons
is most revealing. Their reply to the
report was to say that there was a
growing body of evidence that 'smoking
has pharmaceutical and psychological
effects that are of real value to smokers.'
In short, they denied all the health
'scars'.
Until the Royal College of Physicians
got to work, public knowledge about
tobacco was very much the product of
the tobacco monopolies' image-making.
And there has probably never been a
cruder example of how ideas are shaped
by material interests.

Paid

For instance, an impartial professor
called Hans Eysenck wrote a book on
smoking which totally denied that there
was a definite link between smoking
and cancer. Rather, he argued, some
people are biologically predisposed to
smoking and to cancer.

In fact impartial Professor Eysenck
was working for the Tobacco Manu-
facturers Standing Committee, the
tobacco cartel. They selected him to
write his book, paid him highly for it
and dished out contracts to an opinion
poll outfit to provide him with a few
facts to back up his theories.

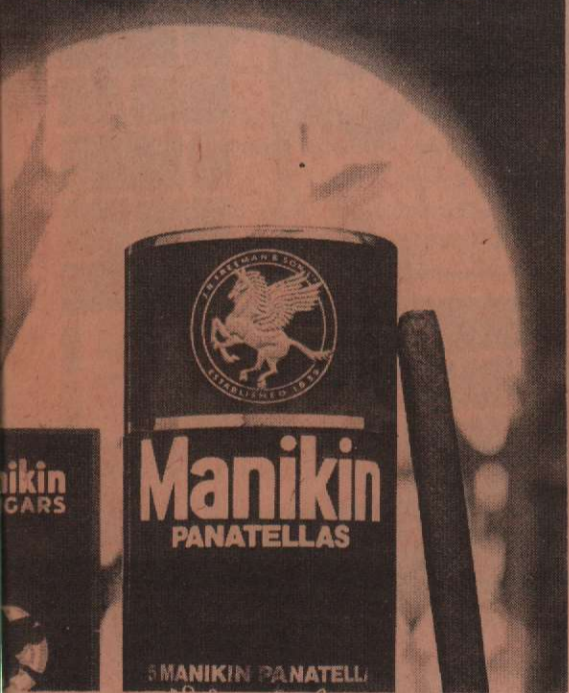
Eysenck's contributions to human
knowledge have included other develop-
ments of his biological determinism:
blacks are biologically inferior, he says,
tough-minded people are biologically
prone to end up as socialists and
totalitarians.

The tobacco industry devoted
immense resources to this alleged
science. Then along came the Royal
College of Physicians who with no new
information demolished the tobacco
men's 'facts' about smoking. Its report
was accepted without qualification by
the government of the day, which then
considered action.

This amounted to a few anti-smoking
clinics and one or two anti-smoking
films which were shown in the schools.

Expenditure on this kind of health
education soared to £100,000 a year.
Meanwhile tobacco advertising expendi-
ture was well on its way to today's
figure of £55 million a year. Within
months cigarette sales recovered. There
was a gigantic switch to the more
profitable filter tips which were sold
along with illusions that they were
safer.

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content. The rate of return on capital
was significantly boosted.

And then came the Tories. They too
had their anti-smoking militants,
headed by that well-known friend of
the working class and part-time racing
driver Sir Gerald Nabarro.

In May last year Sir Gerald
introduced into parliament a private
members' Bill to put tough health
warnings and nicotine and tar strength
statements on every packet. His warning
would have read: DANGER—THESE
CIGARETTES CAN HARM YOUR
HEALTH. Cigarettes are known to
cause lung cancer, bronchitis and heart
disease.

The Westminster mafia got to work
and Nabarro's Bill was sabotaged. It was
not for nothing that the big tobacco
monopolies had funded the Tories and
the Economic League.

It fell to Sir Keith Joseph, Tory
Health Minister, to bring in the
compromise the tobacco industry itself
had promoted. Loyal to the interests of
capital and his class, Sir Keith came up
with: WARNING BY HM GOVERN-
MENT, SMOKING CAN DAMAGE
YOUR HEALTH.

Nor did Sir Keith insist on nicotine
and tar tables on the packet.

Doubtless Sir Keith's class interests
were not confined to his mind. He
would perhaps be mindful of the £8
million contract his family building
firm had for a new Players factory in
Nottingham at the very time Nabarro's
Bill was before parliament.

Now that the relationship between
smoking and disease is irrefutable, the
tobacco industry has changed tack and

no longer troubles to deny the health
risk. Stock exchange speculators even
sell tobacco shares just before a smoking
and cancer report is published, in order
to buy them back cheaper after the
storm has settled.

The industry itself is trying to
develop tobacco substitutes. The last
Labour government quietly announced
these would be taxed at the same level
as tobacco—hardly an encouragement
to people to give up tobacco.

In any case, tobacco substitutes do
not hold out any definite hope for
smokers. They would have to be tested
for 10 years on something like 10,000
adults before any conclusions about
safety could even begin to be drawn.
Even then, there are no guarantees.

While the human and social
consequences of tobacco are still
marginal for the tobacco barons, who
still rely happily on the fact that people
will continue to smoke even when
aware of the disastrous consequences.

Campaigns

Thanks to medical education the
market has fallen a little. But those
who give up smoking are almost
exclusively from the professional
sections of society who feel close to
medical opinion and do not suffer the
unremitting boredom of unskilled
factory work and the life that grows up
around it.

So even the best and most radical
anti-smoking campaigns do not get to
the root of the problem.
Prohibition of tobacco is not on the



"I lit a cigarette
and walked home.
It seemed a
natural thing to do."

EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

RED SAUNDERS

'Political and social freedom
are not two separate and un-
related ideas, but are two sides
of the one great principle, each
being incomplete without the
other.'



JAMES CONNOLLY

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 - LABOUR IN IRELAND
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FIRST OF THREE ARTICLES BY JOHN LEA
PICTURES BY JOHN SILVER

BLACK IN BRITAIN



THE OFFICIAL attitude to the race problem of Tory and Labour spokesmen alike has been simple: 'It's a problem of education. Of course people react to strangers in their midst with hostility and distrust.

'But give it time, and with some enlightened education on the subject, and a few Community Relations Officers to bring blacks and whites together into a dialogue and we'll get over it.'

Such are the public sentiments of the very politicians who designed the Immigration Act, one of the most blatantly oppressive pieces of racist legislation passed in any country. Under the Act new immigrants have to register with the police and carry papers.

The police are able to demand these papers at any time. So they now have a free hand to harass anyone who is black, not just immigrants.

Cynical

The 'liberal hour' in race relations has passed. Black people have become completely cynical of the mouthings of liberals who still urge that if only we would keep up the 'dialogue' there would be no race problem.

Despite the dialogue, and ineffective legislation that makes race discrimination illegal, the situation worsens.

Black people today face an increasing discrimination in housing and employment. On top of this there has been an increase in the level of physical violence against them.

Most often this is at the hands of the police. Recently the Standing Conference of West Indian organisations reported that: 'The practice of some London policemen to go "nigger hunting" has been intensified since... 1965'.

The report continues: 'Such references as "Black bastard", "monkey" etc are often accompanied by physical blows. Any attempt on the part of the victim to defend himself invariably results in further charges of assault.'

To any black person living in the

Race Act gives green light to the police

ghetto areas, all this is part of everyday life. You have to learn to live with a brutalised, racist police force, and to expect no justice at the hands of the courts.

Racism is increasing *not* because people are suspicious of strangers. Black people in this country long since ceased to be 'strangers'.

It is increasing as a result of deliberate and conscious attempts by the ruling class to provide a scapegoat for unemployment, poverty and the frustrations of life under capitalism.

Racism is being stirred up systematically. What was once the preserve of a small minority of maniacs like Enoch Powell is now built into government policy.

The Immigration Act has no other discernable purpose than to divide the working class by attempting to force immigrant workers into the position of being a scab labour force.

The Act also seeks to associate

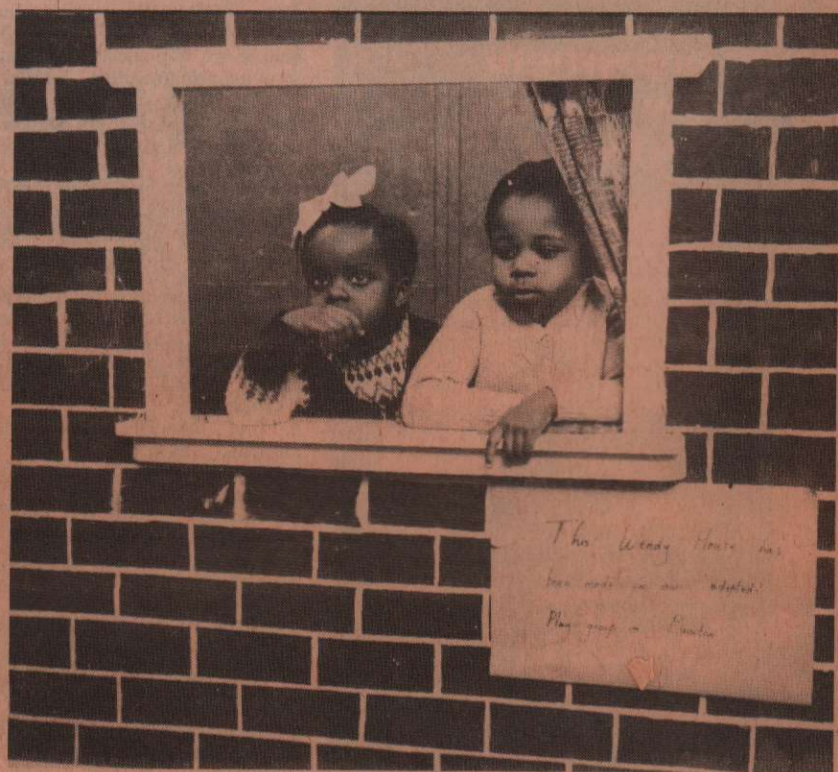
immigrants with 'trouble' by giving the police the opportunity to detain them without charge.

The unions and the Labour Party have failed to mount an effective campaign against race discrimination and police violence. In this situation, black workers have to fall back on the strength of their own community.

Failed

They have to form their own defence organisations against racist attacks. In doing so, they develop a spirit of solidarity which has traditionally existed where working-class people have to fight poverty, exploitation, and violence from the forces of the state.

This spirit stands in complete contrast to the competitive, self-seeking attitude of the capitalist class. It forms the starting point for revolutionary consciousness.



Pernicious—this 'scientific' racism

A HUNDRED years ago the doctrine that there are inbuilt and insurmountable differences in intelligence between human beings was popular with the ruling class. It enabled them to rationalise away the vast inequalities of wealth, power and living conditions under capitalism, because they could claim that such inequalities were due to the differences in intelligence between the working class and the rich and nothing to do with capitalism.

It also provided them with a rationalisation for colonialism. Black people, so the story went, were less capable than whites and could do nothing but benefit from colonial domination.

The doctrine began to fall into disuse in the 20th century when psychologists

were encouraged in their research to show that the doctrine of innate differences had no basis in fact.

But times are changing again. In America the militant black movement has emerged and is beginning to turn to socialism. In Britain the fear of a united militant revolutionary working class movement is becoming a reality for the ruling class.

Hardship

It is more important than ever to justify the rule of the rich and to divide the working class on other issues. And so the doctrine of innate differences is beginning to be given a hearing again.

These ideas are all the more pernicious

because they hide behind the cloak of 'scientific' impartiality. But their implications are quite clear: working class kids get a lousy education and go on to live lives of struggle and hardship not because of capitalism but because of their incapacity for anything else.

One peddler of this dangerous rubbish, HJ Eysenck, claims that evidence supports his case in this way: In a number of 'intelligence tests' in which both black and white children of similar ages have participated, whites do better than blacks. Therefore, concludes the 'expert', it is likely that there are innate racial differences in intelligence. No such conclusion follows.

In fact IQ test scores say next to nothing about an individual's intelligence.

They are based in the main on the speed with which the individual can solve test puzzles compared with the average of people in his age group.

Since IQ tests are used as the basis to allocate people to grammar schools or to the top streams in comprehensives or at the bottom end of the scale, to educationally subnormal schools, once you get your badge as 'bright' or 'dim', then teachers start reacting to you on that basis.

Eysenck and co ignore the importance of environment. Children from different class and race backgrounds have different vocabularies and are used to seeing and talking about different things. It is useless to give the same test to children from different backgrounds. Certain words and objects will be more familiar to one group and so they will do better in the test.

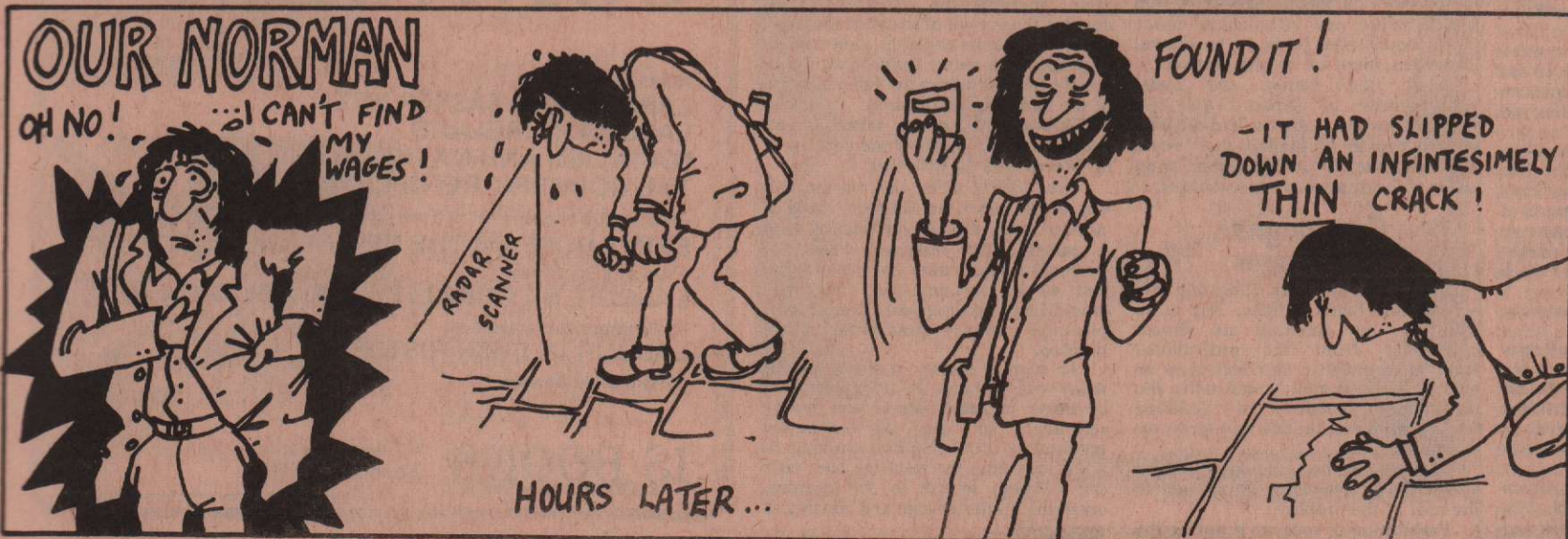
Message

Environment affects, above all, children's motivation to do the tests. And for the school pupil the most important single part of the environment is the teacher. When the same test has been administered by white teachers and black teachers, black children scored lower with the white and higher with the black teacher.

And if you come from a middle-class background you will have got the message from dad at an early age that the main thing you are here for is to 'get on in life', to 'succeed'.

A four-year-old black girl in America told the psychologist Mary Goodman: 'The people that are white, they go up. The people that are brown, they have to go down.' If you know you aren't going to 'go up' then your attitude to the test will be that it's just another con.

Yet it is the results of these sort of tests that go to make up the 'evidence' which our new generation of 'impartial experts' glibly quote in their sham 'scientific' rehabilitation of racist lies.



BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME

THE LEFT is too suspicious of film and sound, preferring the simpler and less corruptible medium of the leaflet, newspaper and speaker to pass on its ideas.

Despite the pioneering work of Cinema Action, the average primary school probably still uses visual aids more effectively and frequently than most branches of the International Socialists. So an especially strong welcome is due to a new 30-minute film on the work of the Anti-Internment League called *Bringing it All Back Home*. Lushly produced by the much-maligned *Time Out* magazine, this colour film explores the difficult but rewarding work of building a movement against internment and the

British Army.

It pinpoints the special problems involved in re-involving Irish people in England in their country's ancient attempt to decide its own future. And it shows how the Tories have replied to the League's modest success with arrests, searches, dawn raids and the ban on Trafalgar Square rallies.

Worried

Because this is a film, one is able to catch the mood of the campaign and judge its problems for oneself. You can sometimes tell more from one shot in this film than you can from a library of leaflets.

Eamonn McCann is there, contorting himself physically as he

labours to answer a really difficult question about Aldershot from a sympathetic but worried Catholic mother. There is a scene from an eloquent street theatre which simply re-enacts the torture routines of the army, and stops shoppers in their tracks.

A hilariously discomfited Special Branch man is cornered and cross-examined in *Time Out's* offices—and really put on the defensive for once. Irish building trade workers are seen discussing the Irish question outside the job, a little stiff and posed, but they are the people the campaign is all about.

And Bernadette Devlin talks about Ireland with that remarkable blend of calm and passion, that

mixture of political precision and political emotion which make her such a direct and effective speaker.

We also hear and see Bowes Egán, who says that the British police seem bent on imitating the worst aspects of the B Specials.

Trial

The film is already dated and is slightly distant and glossy. Socialists used to Cinema Action's grainy and committed realism will find its colour and titling lavish.

And it could have been longer and more political.

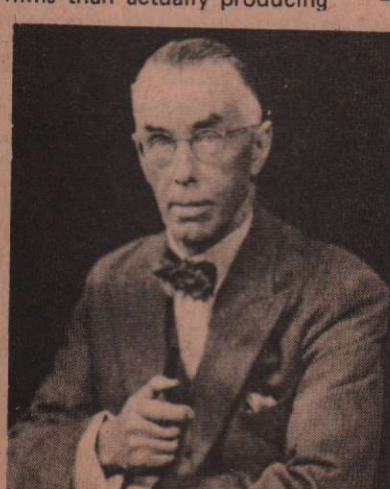
But the Left has tended to be better at talking about the need for Irish films than actually producing

them. So let's hope *Bringing it All Back Home* is really useful in renewing the Anti-Internment League's campaigning energies and building support during the coming conspiracy trial of AIL organiser John Gray.

And, whatever else, don't miss a rare chance to glimpse Eamonn McCann in his best suit.

The film, which lasts 28 minutes, is available in 16mm colour from The VPS Film Library, 269 Kingston Road, London SW19 3NR. Phone 01-542-4291. Hire charge £4. They also have a 16-minute interview with Bernadette Devlin.

David Widgery



Best-selling writers whose xenophobia, understated violence and upper-class heroes tallied exactly with public illusions: from left, Guy Thorne, Erskine Childers, Ian Hay, Warwick Deeping and Michael Arlen.

EVERYONE knows what great literature looks like. It's *Middlemarch* and *Dostoevsky* and *Charles Dickens* and *James Joyce*. You can also have a fairly shrewd idea what the bloke on the bus is reading. The Brothers *Karamazov*?

No, probably *The Godfather* or *The Love Machine*. Books that sell heavily for two years in paperback, then sink to tuppence on a stall in a bring and buy.

The classics go on selling, but the garbage sells too. *Jaqueline Susann's Valley of the Dolls* got through about nine million in about a year.

Why?

Modern 'serious' novels don't sell. A few cult figures like *Margaret Drabble* can trot out their bi-annual about the agony of caring on £4000 a year and they'll do all right.

But if you want to do well out of writing it's better to get into training as the prime minister and spend your declining years writing long explanations of how you meant to do it, and it wasn't your fault anyway...

The mass-produced alternative comes in several forms. Big American Sex epics, *Black Magic* (Dennis Wheatley's semi-fascist mumbo-jumbo), *Kill a Commie for Money/Kicks/Country* (Spillane, Fleming, Deighton), *Get laid by Mick Jagger* four hundred times (Jenny Fabian's *Groupie*), *Don't get laid by Lord Juggers* four hundred times (Barbara Cartland, Denise Robbins).

Insight

The origins of the British 57 varieties can be found in the pulp novels of the nineteenth century, but come primarily from the novels published between 1900 and 1930. The popular fiction of this period is analysed by *Claud Cockburn* in his new book, *Bestseller*.

He takes 15 books, published between 1900 and 1939, and relates them to the readers, their fears, prejudices and occasionally their aspirations. The books may be crummy, but the insight they provide on the thought processes of the middle classes is fascinating.

Lord Montgomery claimed that *Guy Thorne's When it was Dark*, published in 1903, was a formative influence on his development.

One can well believe it. Sinister Jewish financier *Melmoth* rigs proof that Christ never did rise from the dead. Result? Indifference? No, collapse of society, rocketing rape figures, murder, dissolution, India revolts, Russia mobilises.

The villain, *Cockburn* points out, is the archetype from the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* which was to dog European literature

AT LAST IT CAN BE TOLD

Nigel Fountain reviews *Bestseller*, by *Claud Cockburn*, published by *Sidgwick and Jackson*, hardback £2.50

and life all the way to Auschwitz. The middle classes were threatened by the rising tide of working-class militancy, the workers were British for God's sake so why were they being so unreasonable?

Cockburn provides the obvious and ultimately catastrophic answer: 'Because he was the dupe and victim of foreign agitators.

And whence did these agitators, who must evidently be operating on a gigantic scale, get their money? Who could they be getting it from except the devious, over-brained, ruthless and essentially un-English Jewish financiers?

The ideas of *When it was Dark* reflected directly into British politics. Apart from the threatening financiers, the Jewish immigration into the East End provided a rash of lies pumped out by the Tory Party in areas such as Stepney, suggesting that the centre of the international Jewish/Anarchist conspiracy was London, from where the bombers directed their missiles at the governments and crowned heads of Europe.

The First World War shattered something of the old complacency. *Erskine Childers' Riddle of the Sands* fixed the image of the German Empire, waiting to expand into Britain in the public imagination (it had taken some effort to shift the nation's hate-object from France to Germany) and was highly successful at the task.

The war years provided *Ian Hay* with the chance to show the good old British amateur muddling through bureaucracies and military red-tape to successful annihilation of the Boche—and, of course, annihilation of the class war:

Battered

'Labour and capital is a meaningless and misleading expression. With the coming of peace this country will be invaded by several million of the wisest men that she has ever produced—the New British Army... They will flood the old country, and they will make short work of the agitator and the alarmist and the profiteer.'

It didn't work out quite like that. Militancy grew, in the East the Russian Revolution stood as a red warning to a middle class battered by war, living on shrinking incomes, apparently spurned (if they had returned from the Front) by the 'lounge-lizards' and 'profiteers' who had inherited the 'old country'.

Responses varied. *Michael Arlen's* novel *The Green Hat* portrayed an international jet-set (minus jets) rooted in the English aristocracy. *Beau Geste* and *The Sheik* provided all-English boys and girls killing, being killed, raping and being raped in a North African dream-landscape.

When the dreamers returned home they could seek refuge in *Warwick Deeping's Sorrel and Son* with its picture of a returned officer struggling through a career in hotel management. His aim, fulfilled, needless to say, is to see his son raised above the common herd, sex, and all other obstacles to a decent life:

'We are fair game to most of them, we who have anything, or can do anything better than the crowd. We are to be lied to, blackmailed, slandered...'

'Some of us have the remnants of souls. I have good people here; I know it. They don't look on me as their natural enemy. To

me it is the individual that matters. Breed. Oh what is it? A fastidiousness, a sense of humour and a sense of proportion, a knowledge that hitting a better man than you with a pickhandle doesn't make progress.'

Those of us with the remnants of souls continued to read this crap for the next 50 years. The rank and file of the Tory Party survives on its residue to this day. A merrie Englander proud of its ill-defined heritage staggering into the world of *Ted Heath* and floating currency, hanging on to *Enoch Powell* and wishing the blacks would go away.

Cockburn himself rather runs out of steam after dealing with the post-First World War reaction. Overtly fascist fiction like *Sapper's Bulldog Drummond* fits outside the scope of his book, as does the eternal *Biggles*, who has been teaching endless generations of schoolboys the virtues of the old country, and the vices of everybody and everything else.

Also outside the book is the period after the Second World War when a pale pink Labour government could send spasms of outrage and fear through the middle classes. Anyone who watched the recent *Anna Neagle* movies on BBC-1 could have seen an astounding Tory dreamworld where an old order of hunt balls and cads in Park Lane was conjured up to offer some ideological protection from the Red Horrors of *Sir Stafford Cripps* and *Clement Attlee*.

In literature, *Angela Thirkell* wrote her novels of the old landed gentry fighting off the Reds on one hand and inter-breeding with the lower orders on the other. All this represented the dying gasp of a literary tradition which had begun with the brilliant works of *Mrs Gaskell* and *Jane Austen*.

Cockburn's book is well worth a read—and a lot easier than wading through the originals and their modern descendants.

THE OTHER CATALOGUE

The Other Cinema, which specialises in radical and underground movies, has published a new programme. It covers South American revolutionary cinema, American newsreels and features, and various British productions plus some of the later (and more obscure) works of *Jean-Luc Godard*.

Anyone interested in this aspect of the cinema, or who is planning film shows on political themes, should get a copy. It costs 20p and is available from:

The Other Cinema, 12/13 Little Newport Street, London, WC2H 7JJ, Telephone: 01-734-8508/9.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We fight:

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

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

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

Against anti-trade union laws and any

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

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

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

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

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

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

Against racism 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

<p>SCOTLAND Aberdeen Cumbernauld Dumfries Dundee Edinburgh Fife: Dunfermline/ Cowdenbeath Glenrothes Kirkcaldy Glasgow N Glasgow S Greenock Stirling St Andrews</p> <p>NORTH EAST Bishop Auckland Durham Hartlepool Newcastle-upon-Tyne South Shields Spennymoor Sunderland Teesside E Teesside W</p> <p>NORTH Barnsley Bradford Doncaster Grimsby Halifax Huddersfield Hull Leeds Ossett Scarborough Selby Sheffield York</p> <p>NORTH WEST Barrow Blackburn Bolton Crewe Kirkby Lancaster Manchester Merseyside Oldham The Potteries Preston Salford St Helens Stockport Wigan Wrexham</p>	<p>MIDLANDS Birmingham NE Birmingham S Coventry Dudley Leamington and Warwick Leicester Loughborough Mid-Derbyshire Milton Keynes Northampton Nottigham Oxford Redditch Rugby Telford Wolverhampton</p> <p>GREATER LONDON and HOME COUNTIES</p> <p>Acton Bexley Camden Chertsey Croydon East London Enfield Fulham and Hammersmith Greenford Hackney and Islington Harlesden Harrow Hemel Hempstead Hornsey Hounslow Ilford Kilburn Kingston Lambeth Lewisham Merton Paddington Reading St Albans Slough South Ealing Tottenham Walthamstow Wandsworth Watford Woolwich</p>	<p>EAST Basildon Beccles Cambridge Chelmsford Colchester Harlow Ipswich Leiston Lowestoft Norwich Peterborough</p>
<p>WALES and SOUTH WEST Bath Bristol Cardiff Exeter Gloucester Llanelli Mid-Devon Neath Plymouth Swansea</p> <p>SOUTH Ashford Brighton Canterbury Crawley Eastbourne Folkestone Guildford Portsmouth Southampton</p>		

Green Tories shaken by wages defeat



Report from the South by BRIAN TRENCH

THE POLITICAL situation in the 26 counties has taken an unexpected turn with the decision of a special conference of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to reject a second National Wage Agreement.

This decision, taken two weeks ago, overturns that taken at another Congress four months previously which mandated the executive to enter negotiations with the government for a second agreement. The difference now is that the rank and file has had a chance to make its

feelings known.

The first National Wage Agreement was concluded by the employer-labour conference in December 1970. It was to run for 18 months.

But last week the agreement covering a large section of craft workers expired, and the motor mechanics took advantage of the new situation to table a claim for a £4 a week rise—roughly three times the rate of increase proposed under a second National Wage Agreement.

The effect of the first agreement was to tie wage rises below the level of price increases. Price inflation in Ireland is running at a rate higher than anywhere else in Europe.

This agreement also served to make the Irish Congress of Trade Unions even more obviously a policeman for the labour movement than it was before.

Congress suspended unions which took part in disputes which contravened the agreement. It called on workers to cross picket lines during unofficial strikes, and to do strikers' work.

Against this background, with uncertainty about the effects of Common Market entry and with restrictive clauses in the proposed second agreement which would make negotiation of fringe benefits impossible for up to three years, the vast majority of trade unionists moved into opposition to any new deal.

A growing number of craft unions and the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union are now opposed to the very principle of National Wage Agreements.

Prison

But a breach has now been opened in the government's anti-working class economic policies, and it must now be turned into a gaping hole. This can only be achieved if the opposition in the unions is properly organised.

Irish workers have many times demonstrated spontaneous militancy. But if they are to get the bureaucracy off their backs, they must give this a political direction.

Eighty socialist republicans demonstrated for two hours last Sunday at the gates of The Curragh army camp, 20 miles south-west of Dublin.

About 24 republicans are held there in military custody. They are on remand awaiting trials before the Republic's special courts for political offenders, which do not try defendants by jury. The demonstration, in solidarity with the prisoners and for the ending of such political trials, was organised by People's Democracy.

The demonstrators were faced with a line of armed soldiers, with riot gear and CS gas as well as normal weapons. While some demonstrators were met with brutality, the soldiers on duty outside this internment camp were confused and bewildered at having to oppose republicans inside and outside the camp.

Electricians' union still on register

by an electrician

IN DEFIANCE of its own delegate conference decision and TUC policy, the Electrical, Electronic and Plumbing Trades Union has not deregistered under the Industrial Relations Act.

Latest move in the saga came last week when union president Frank Chapple announced that the union would ballot its members on the issue, a vote that he obviously expects will go in favour of registration.

Important lessons for the left in the coming fight in the union lie in Chapple's victory in the recent presidential election.

His victory came as no real surprise to participants or observers of the internal struggle in the union. Chapple polled more than 44,000 votes in the presidential election, beating the total votes of all five other candidates by a margin of about 6000. This is a sure sign of the amount of work still to be done by the union's left-wing.

Certainly Fred Gore, the main rank and file candidate, lost many votes due to the Communist Party's vacillation on whether to support him or 'left' executive councillor Eric Hammond.

But even so, Gore's votes combined with those that went to Jim Dormer, the other left-wing rank and file candidate, only total 16,000, a poor performance for the left.

But the results of the 30 per cent poll (high for a union election) are not totally bleak. 38,000 did vote against Chapple,

and this does indicate disenchantment with his conception of trade unionism. The problem is how to organise and channel this discontent.

In the recent past the Flashlight group has largely concentrated its strength in fighting elections. This tactic has met with little success—though there are exceptions in the case of both Charlie Montgomery and Fred Gore, who both came close to winning executive positions.

While fighting elections cannot totally be discarded, it is of value only when it is a part of the general campaign to build rank and file opposition to the leadership of the union.

There is considerable dissatisfaction within the union over the executive's attitude to the problems facing the working class today, particularly over their equivocation on the Industrial Relations Act.

There is a serious possibility of organising activity in electricity supply where the executive accepted an eight per cent wage rise (the lowest wage settlement this year), and in contracting, where the strikes at the Lynemouth smelter and the Bootle Inland Revenue sites have really shown up the anti-working class nature of the Joint Industry Board agreements.

Undoubtedly Flashlight has the organisational ability to co-ordinate this activity. But if there is to be any lasting impact in the union, then it will have to concern itself with getting the whole complex of issues through to the average rank and file member. There are no electoral short cuts.

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.

MEETINGS

HACKNEY TENANTS March and Rally against the Housing Finance Bill, Saturday 8 July starts at Hackney Town Hall 2.30pm, march to Clapton Common. All support welcomed, bring banners.

STEVENAGE FILM: Angela Davis, Portrait of a Revolutionary. Followed by discussion. Friday 14 July, 8pm, Family Centre, Stevenage (near bus station). Organised by North Herts IS.

SWANSEA IS: A shop steward from Chrysler, Coventry, discusses the struggles of rank-and-file carworkers. Thurs 20 July, AEU House, Orchard Street, Swansea. All welcome.

BEXLEY IS public meeting: Speaker: Jim Higgins, on Why we need a revolutionary party. Wed 12 July, 7.45pm. SOGAT House, Essex Road, Dartford.

LAMBETH IS: Speaker: Kevin Whitstone, on The Labour Party. Wed 12 July, 8.15pm. Brixton Training Centre, St Matthews Rd (100 yards from Lambeth Town Hall).

WALTHAMSTOW IS FIGHT THE TORIES RALLY
Speakers: Mike Cooley (TASS), Paul Foot (NUJ) and Roger Protz (editor of Socialist Worker)
Ross Wylid Hall, Church Hill, Walthamstow, London E17
Thursday 20 July, 8pm

IS PSYCHOLOGY GROUP DAY SCHOOL
Sat 15 June, 10am-6pm
A Revolutionary Psychology?
The class struggle and the IS group
Ladbroke House, Highbury Grove, London N5
Details from branch secretaries or from Alan Phipps at 01-226-5625

NEWCASTLE IS public meeting: Laurie Flynn on Law and Order. Sun 16 July, 8pm. Bridge Hotel, near High Level Bridge.

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM IS public meeting
HOW THE DOCKERS BEAT THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT
Speaker: Bob Light (TGWU, Royal Docks, London)
Sunday 9 July, 8pm
New Inns, Bromsgrove Street City Centre

NOTICES

IS BOOK SALE! Saturday 8 July, 11am-1pm, 2-4pm. 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

ACCOMMODATION (own bedroom plus part-board) for female comrade, preferably student, in IS member's home. West London area. Please write Box 1B, Socialist Worker, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

PAUL and ROSIE MACKNEY (Exeter) announce the birth of Sean Leon, weighing in at 10lb 2oz on 26 June.

TWO COMRADES require two rooms/flat in north or west London from end of July. John Willman, 11b New Road, Oxford.

MACHINE TOOLWORKER, new R&F paper, 5p each, 20p for ten, subs 60p, c/o 17 Winifred Avenue, Coventry.

BED AND BREAKFAST available to comrades in pleasant seaside town on East Coast. Main rail and bus termini, parking space. Phone Lowestoft 62865.

CARTOON ARCHETYPAL SLOGAN THEATRE
CAST has split up—but the play Mr Oligarchy's Circus continues. We need urgently a committed actress. Any other socialist actors/actresses interested in workshop activity please phone 01-734-9083 between 10am and 6pm.

INFORMATION WANTED by comrades researching into the underlying relationship between labour exchanges and industry, particularly with regard to the effects of rationalisation. Information about racism especially useful. Contact Labour Exchange Research Group, Department of Sociology, Letters Faculty, Whiteknights, Reading University, Reading, Berks.

TONY CLIFF is in the final stages of his work on Lenin and urgently needs a typist. No money, but interesting work (as they say). Contact Penny Parkes on 01-739-1878 if interested.

BED AND BREAKFAST: Comrade on East Coast, 100 miles from London, needs to pay rent. Country house, four miles from the sea. No public transport—car essential. Write Box 159, Socialist Worker, 6 Cottons Gdns, London E2 8DN, for rates and dates available.

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LABOUR READY TO ABANDON TENANTS

THE RENTS BATTLE

THE MAJORITY of the big Labour councils came down off the fence at the weekend and voted to go along with the Tory rent Bill.

A resolution at the recalled conference of Labour councils in Sheffield, calling for councils to refuse to implement the Housing Finance Bill, was defeated by 41 votes to 20. Most of those that voted for refusal were smaller councils.

This decision sets the stage for Saturday's official Labour Party conference for local councils in London. The conference has been called by Transport House to whip Labour

SW reporters

councils into line. More than 500 are sending delegates.

Labour Party leaders will advise the conference not to defy the law, saying that they should implement the Bill and try to reduce the size of the rent increases. It is a foregone conclusion that the official party line will be accepted, so giving the big majority of labour councils the chance to put up rents in October.

A minority of mainly smaller councils will not implement the Bill themselves, but will leave the Housing Commissioners to introduce the so-called 'fair rents'.

The Labour Party was strongly condemned for failing to give a lead in the fight against the rent Bill when tenants' activists and trade unionists—mainly Labour Party members and Labour councillors—met at Camden Town Hall in London on Saturday.

The feelings of the majority of delegates was summed up by Greenwich councillor Jim Spencer, who said: 'We don't need a lead from the Labour Party. It's up to the tenants to refuse to pay and we must back them. The increases must not be paid and I'm prepared to go to prison to stop this Act being implemented'.

Several delegates spoke of the farcical situation where Labour general management committees had decided not to co-operate with the Bill, yet stood powerless to stop their councillors voting to implement it.

One answer to this, said Hackney councillor Gerry Ross, was the mass resignation of councillors throughout the country, to force elections on this issue.

He also said that if tenants were to state now that they are going to go on rent strike in October it would force councillors to commit themselves to a fight in support of strikes.

PLEDGE

Although many speakers emphasised again and again the need for industrial action and their support for militant action by the tenants, no one could answer the problem of the Labour executive's obvious intention to sell out the tenants by telling them to accept the increases and vote Labour next time.

The conference concluded by calling on the Labour executive to advise immediately all Labour Councils not to increase rents, to give full support to rent strikes, and to pledge that no tenants will be evicted for refusing to pay higher rents.

This makes it ever more important for tenants and the trade union movement to organise and prepare for militant mass action to defeat the rent increases. Instead of concentrating on getting Labour councils to refuse to implement the Bill, tenants' associations should now concentrate on building their organisations for mass rent strikes in October.

A big turn-out for the National Association of Tenants and Residents conference is essential. The call from that conference must be that every rent rise must be answered with a rent strike.

The conference is on Saturday 29 July at the Central Hall, Westminster. Credentials can be obtained from 283 Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

SCOTLAND:—Labour councils are more militant over the rent rises than those in England, and the majority are refusing to implement the Bill.

While opposition may crumble if the government acts against defiant councils, there is a growing tenants' movement. In every town and city, tenants, trade unions and socialist organisations have been mounting campaigns.

HACKNEY, London:—The overwhelmingly Labour-dominated council is still stalling on its attitude to the Bill, but Councillor Gerry Ross is not. 'Whatever the councillors decide, Hackney tenants will not implement the Bill,' he told a Hackney United Tenants' Federation press conference last week.

'The deadline is 1 October,' he said. 'Then trade unionists should work to rule or go on a one-day strike. Tenants should withhold two weeks rent and subsequently pay only the old rent. I am prepared to be fined, surcharged or imprisoned.'

CORBRY:—More than 2000 workers struck last week in protest at the rents Bill. After the two-hour token stoppage, 1000 marched to a rally at the Civic Centre. Ernie Roberts, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers assistant general secretary, said: 'Workers will have to take industrial action to defeat the Bill.'

KIRKBY:—150 tenants, in a demonstration organised by the Tower Hill Estate Unfair Rents Action Group, stormed the council's housing committee meeting and confronted committee members over the council's lack of a decision whether to implement the Bill.

They had come to present a petition signed by 1500 tenants from the Tower Hill estate and demanded that the councillors also sign the petition. Faced with the crowd, they did. But they would not commit themselves to support a rent strike. Eighteen of the 21 councillors are Labour.

SWANSEA:—The Federation of Tenants' Associations marched through the town last Saturday in protest against the Bill. Hugh Kerr of IS and the Harlow Tenants Association addressed the rally.

LLANELLI:—150 attended the first meeting of the Llanelli tenants' association and agreed to organise militant action.

SOUTHAMPTON:—Faced with rent rises of 78p this week, the Tenants' Associations are organising a series of rolling rent strikes. Each estate will strike for two weeks in turn.

NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME:—A local conference against the Bill last weekend was attended by delegates from 23 tenant, trade union and political organisations. A resolution was passed calling for all Labour councils to refuse to implement the Bill or to co-operate with the Housing Commissioners. It also called for a national rent strike against the increases.

REDDITCH:—The Tenants Association has called on all tenants to withhold their rent increases from the beginning of August. Rents are already among the highest in the country. A meeting with the Trades Council and local shop stewards is being organised to secure the backing of industrial action.



Anywhere is home for the homeless: squatters Bill and Diane (above) live in the basement of a condemned house in Lesly Street (right).

Social workers back squatters

by Mike Heym

HOMELESS families and tenants involved in a struggle with Islington Council, London, which is attempting to evict squatters from council-owned property, are getting all-out support from the borough's social workers.

A meeting of more than 100 social service department employees decided this week to stop work and support Wednesday's demonstration against evictions and homelessness in the borough and to fight for a national housing policy.

Centre of the Islington battle is Lesly Street, where barricades to prevent further demolition work were erected last week. These were forcibly removed after the Labour council obtained a High Court order against three families living in the area.

The whole area is now watched by heavy police patrols to prevent the erection of any more barricades.

Growing

Islington's decision to obtain a High Court order is unusual, such cases usually go to the County Court. This shows the determination of the council to harass homeless families and get on with piecemeal redevelopment of a borough once working class, but now increasingly a 'fashionable' area.

Support among social workers for the fight of the homeless is growing constantly. A union spokesman for the social services department told me: Social workers are in a conflict situation. We are asked to be involved with the community, promote community action and support people in distress like families with young children who are evicted by private landlords. Yet when the council carries out the eviction we are supposed to stand idly by.

'We are sick and tired of being apologists for policies we don't believe in, he added. 'From now on we are going to be ourselves and respond to people's needs in ways we believe can actually help to solve their problems.'

'We realise that social problems can only be solved by massive resources being made available. In housing we need a national housing policy, with land and the building industry nationalised.'



Protesters picket big army recruiting show

by Colin Falconer

SEVENTY members and supporters of the International Socialists picketed the giant Army recruiting exhibition in Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, last weekend.

'Armex '72' was the biggest-ever display mounted by the British Army in a non-military area: 2500 troops, with 250 vehicles, and equipment worth more than £1 million, were on show in an attempt to recruit young workers and school leavers and to boost the Army's tarnished image.

Visitors were treated to an 'Infantry Anti-Tank Competition' and 'Modern Battle Scene' as well as the usual gymnastics and parachuting displays. It is understood that the exhibition did not include a life-like re-creation of the Bloody Sunday massacre in Derry.

In a statement, the International Socialists pointed out that spending on arms amounts to more than £2,500 million a year, money that would be better spent, in an area like the Black Country, on improving housing conditions and building new schools and hospitals.

The connection between unemploy-

ment, which forces many young workers into the Army at the age of 15, and recruitment was clearly made.

On the picket, which lasted three hours, a series of speakers described the part played by British troops in suppressing the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland, and explained why it is necessary for workers in Britain to support the IRA against the British Army.

Refusal

Passers-by, and even some young soldiers, stopped to discuss the issues raised in the IS leaflet, but were quickly moved on by the police.

But the most disappointing response was from other socialist and republican organisations in the Birmingham area who refused to support the picket, arguing that it was 'dangerous' and 'adventurist'. The 'militancy' of some who call for 'Solidarity with the IRA' was exposed as purely verbal.

In the event, the International Socialists were the only organisation to raise a protest at the Army's blatant propaganda.

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ANGER AFTER STEEL STRIKE

THE Teesside steel strike, although called off by a mass meeting of BISAKTA members without securing the required agreement from British Steel management, was not by any means a total defeat.

So strong was the feeling locally that the BISAKTA executive made the strike official retrospectively—the union's first official strike since 1926.

Main purpose of the strike was to secure an agreement from BSC that shift managers on the new Lackenby con-cast plant should be members of BISAKTA and not the Steel Industry Management

Association, a professional association not affiliated to the TUC.

This was not achieved.

With one exception the full-time officials recommended that the meeting accept 'new' proposals, though these had been twice rejected by branch delegate meetings.

Bitterness against the full-timers was not confined to left-wing militants after the meeting. Most of the branch officials went straight to district office to protest about their conduct and end of the strike.



I would like more information about the International Socialists

Name _____

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Socialist Worker

Steward: We've been betrayed

WEMBLEY:—Workers from Stanmore Engineering, who have been five weeks battling for the national engineering claim, came away disappointed from their meeting with AUEW president Hugh Scanlon on Monday.

The Stanmore workers came to the London Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions shop stewards meeting shaken by a High Court order to end their sit-in strike in pursuit of the claim. Attempts to get parts blacked at their sister Zenith Carburettor plants in Lewisham, Deptford and Honeypot Lane have so far failed, and last Saturday a union-backed solidarity demonstration collapsed through lack of support.

So Stanmore shop steward Tony Linton was speaking for all the workers when he told the stewards' meeting: 'We feel we have been betrayed. We've been sacked and we want to know what Scanlon is going to do about it.'

In his reply Hugh Scanlon hinted that perhaps it was a mistake to pursue the claim at this particular plant. 'When the campaign was launched in the area, was it based on a preconceived plan?' he asked.

Shambles

This is a telling question, but it remained unanswered, with responsibility for this disastrous London beginning to the wage campaign being tossed back and forward between the local and national leadership.

At Monday's meeting Scanlon spoke to 500 London stewards about the claim. He defended his union's retreat over the shorter working week, and went on to declare that extra holidays might be more effective in combatting unemployment than the 35-hour week.

Speakers from the floor stressed that the plant by plant campaign had proved a shambles. Scanlon replied that a national campaign was not desirable because of the Industrial Relations Act and the unemployment situation.

Other speakers accepted that the strategy, right or wrong, had been settled and they had to fight to make it effective. But why, for example, had GEC not been picked off as a national combine? Scanlon replied that it was down to GEC stewards to organise that.

● Socialist Worker regrets that in reporting the Stanmore dispute it was incorrectly stated that the strikers were not receiving strike pay and that the local AUEW official had advised against blacking because it was illegal under the Industrial Relations Act.

Meanwhile the 100 workers at the plant face an indefinite lock-out and money is urgently needed. Donations to Convenor E Bogle, c/o AUEW District Committee, 1 Woodlands Road, Southall, Middlesex.

BUILDING WORKERS SET FOR A LONG FIGHT

by Glyn Carver

MANCHESTER:—Five miles from the city centre and only 10 minutes from the airport by motorway, the construction giant John Laing should be putting the finishing touches to a new hotel. But now Trust House Forte will have to wait a while before it can start picking up the £7.50 a night for each bed.

The site was one of the first half dozen in the North West that came out on strike in the first stage of the building workers' fight for a £30 basic weekly wage, the 35-hour week and an extra week's holiday.

Overtime has now been completely banned on organised building sites throughout the country. And this weekend another round of sites will be brought out in what is likely to be a long and bitter fight for half-decent pay and conditions in this industry of brutal and ruthless employers.

The feeling of the men on this site is typical of building workers' growing militancy. They are united and quite prepared to stay out for as long as it takes to knock the bosses into line.

Bill Bishop, site convenor and Hollinwood UCATT branch secretary, said: 'The executive of the union is at last in line with the feelings of the rank and file. We are determined to gain our just demands.'

At present the men on strike are being supported by levies on men still at work. But as the number of sites shut down rises, there is no doubt that building workers will need the active support of all trade unionists if their victory is to be guaranteed.

In the Midlands 125 sites struck for the day on Monday in solidarity with the 12 sites so far called out. 2500 men attended a rally outside the employers' federation offices.

WHISKY BLACKED

SCOTLAND:—Dockers are backing the strike by 2750 workers at the six Distillers Company whisky plants. Women strikers have been travelling up to 50 miles daily to picket the main Scottish container bases at Greenock, and now London and Liverpool dockers are blacking all DCL whisky—Haig, Black and White, Johnnie Walker and Dewar. With four-fifths of all DCL whisky destined for export this is the key to victory.

GLASGOW:—80 workers at the Charles McNeill forge are now in their third week of occupation to save their jobs. The dispute started in February and donations are needed. Please send c/o E Reilly, 18 Elliston Avenue, Glasgow G53 6UN

NOW LOYALISTS TAKE TO THE BARRICADES

by Mike Miller

BELFAST:—On Monday night thousands of uniformed men in the Ulster Defence Association, armed with pick-axe handles and riot shields, converged on one of the loyalist Protestant areas off the Shankill Road with the intention of putting up permanent barricades.

They hijacked buses and cars from every part of the city to travel to the area, where a few hundred soldiers waited for them.

Tory overlord William Whitelaw had given the order

that no barricades were to go up, directly countering an agreement arrived at earlier in the day between the local Army commander and the UDA. This proposed to give the loyalists complete control over the area where 50 Catholic families live.

After four hours of confrontation and as UDA men stockpiled bottles and broke up paving stones to use against the Army, a compromise was reached. This permitted barricades—provided the Army is allowed behind them.

The long-awaited crunch between loyalist workers and British troops was averted—for the time being.

The UDA is demanding the dismantling of the Bogside barricades in Free Derry. But no one should be fooled into

thinking that the UDA would disappear if those barricades were to come down. For it isn't so much the barricades they object to as what lies behind them—opposition to Tory Unionism and the Six Counties set-up.

The UDA is pledged to wipe out such opposition. They have stated plainly enough that they are not interested in peace but want total victory.

This means a restoration of the Stormont government with increased powers and the total 'liquidation' of all who refuse to accept the Unionist dictatorship. There can be no opposition to their 'democratic right to rule' and they plan to use all the force necessary to ensure that this is so.

The UDA talks of 'flattening' the Catholic working class areas of Belfast. They want to 'squeeze the life out of republican areas' and 'wipe out rebel scum'.

But to the public they present their case in respectable language, with such phrases as 'law and order', 'the restoration of democracy' and 'preservation of our British heritage'. In fact they want a return to the old world when the Orange Order ruled supreme and when opposition was effectively suppressed.

Although the UDA is almost 100 per cent working class in composition and leadership, it is totally under the political and ideological control of disgruntled middle-class politicians, petty businessmen and ex-army officers—the class that fears any reform of Six County life will reduce its power and prestige by removing the corrupt and brutal system on which it depends.

CIVIL WAR

The Unionist Party can only continue to exist as a political force if the clock is turned back to pre-civil rights days. Deprived of political power, it has mobilised an extra-parliamentary army of frustrated loyalist workers under the leadership of William Craig.

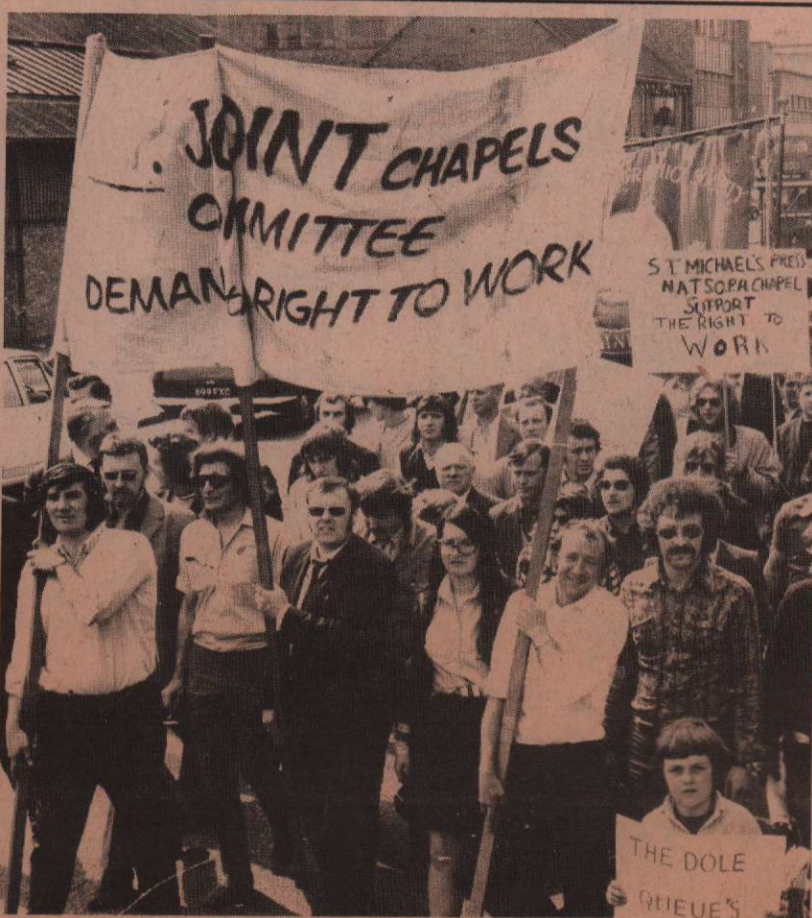
Craig and his desperadoes hope to plaster over the cracks which have appeared in the Unionist bloc with the very lives of Protestant workers. In the civil war which he advocates, the class differences which have begun to appear will be submerged in workers' blood for another generation. And even if the Unionist Party doesn't regain power, at least the working class will not replace it.

To keep the dying embers of old-fashioned Unionism aglow, the loyalist section of the working class has been armed by its political masters and urged to liquidate 'the enemy'. Over the past week-end the bodies of six Catholics were found inside UDA-controlled areas. More Catholic families have been burned out of their homes. And in spite of the IRA ceasefire, tension everywhere is steadily mounting.

Nevertheless, for the first time for generations loyalist workers have had to question their relationship with Britain and their own 'ruling class'. Britain has betrayed them; no clearer proof was necessary than Monday's confrontation.

The enormous task facing socialists is to ensure that Protestant workers can escape from the political blind alley in which they have been dumped. They must be won to the anti-imperialist camp.

Loyalist workers have only one way in which to benefit from the present crisis—and that is by seizing power with the rest of their class throughout Ireland. It is to this end that socialists must organise.



Printers marching in solidarity with Briant's occupation. PICTURE: Morning Star

A thousand on Briants' march

LONDON:—Nearly 1000 workers marched on Briant Colour Printing in Old Kent Road last Friday to show solidarity with the printworkers occupying the firm. At a rally outside the factory, speakers, including Bernie Steer, secretary of the National Ports Shop Stewards Committee, and representatives from UCS and Plessey, Alexandria, called on the whole trade union movement to support the struggle against redundancies which is being waged by Briant Colour workers.

Other printworkers can make an enormous contribution to the success of this struggle through donations and industrial action.

The workers at Briant have produced their own paper. Most of the articles are written by the workers themselves, describing their experiences and their reactions to the struggle.

Copies can be obtained from Bill Freeman, chairman Briant Colour Joint Chapels Committee, 651 Old Kent Road, London SE15.

SOCIALIST WORKER will appear without a break this summer but will be reduced to eight pages each week during August.

WE'LL DEREGISTER—PRINTERS

DESPITE manoeuvres from the leadership of the National Graphical Association to postpone a definite decision on deregistration under the Industrial Relations Act, the union's delegate conference in Scarborough last week voted overwhelmingly to come off the register.

But the matter now has to go to a ballot vote of the entire membership. While the conference decision was an important victory over the leadership's

stalling and equivocation, delegates face a long struggle to ensure a deregistration vote in the membership ballot.

● NUM annual conference: full report next week.

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