

Socialist Worker

No 325 2 June 1973 5p

WEEKLY PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

EXPOSED: two-faced world of the wage freeze hypocrites

TORIES' PANTS ARE

DOWN!

'I HOPE,' said Lord Lambton last Friday, 'to be able to pick up the threads of a normal life.' Asked by his interviewer what he regarded as 'a normal life' the Lord replied: 'I have various business interests, and, of course, the running of the estates.'

It appears that Lord Lambton's business interests are always with him: even when he is in bed with prostitute Norma Levy. 'He told me what he did,' said Norma to the Sunday People. 'He also spoke about his property, and shares I should buy. But I had money invested in something else and I did not buy . . . They did go up in value, however.'

Now Lord Lambton must leave Norma for normal life: running a huge coal-shipping business and 40,000 acres of farmland.

Now Earl Jellicoe must retire to another normal life in his comfortable country house in Wiltshire and perhaps even a seat on the board of his family firm, British and Commonwealth Shipping.

They will join other former Tory ministers engaged in a 'normal life' in and around the City of London. Duncan Sandys, once Minister of almost everything, is trying to scratch a normal life as chairman of Lonrho on £800 a week.

In the excitements about Lambton's and Jellicoe's sexual escapades, few noticed the Sunday Times' revelation that Sandys was offered his famous £136,000 'compensation' by Lonrho because he successfully persuaded the South African government to drop substantial fraud charges against Lonrho directors. Even fewer noticed that one of the men appointed by the government to undertake a 'full and frank' inquiry into the affairs of Lonrho is Mr Dennis Garrett, a senior partner in accountants Turquand Youngs. Turquand Youngs are the sole accountants for Ashanti Goldfields, Lonrho's most profitable subsidiary.

Happy about oil man

Another government appointee, Lord Polwarth, is staying at his post as Minister of State for Scotland in charge of everything to do with the Scottish oil industry in spite of recent revelations that he owns a substantial block of shares in investment trusts which have big stakes in Scottish oil development. The Prime Minister, Edward Heath, is happy about Polwarth's participation in government because, he says, the shares do not bear directly on Lord Polwarth's work as a minister.

The same applies, presumably, to Mr Geoffrey Rippon, who is the Minister of the Environment, and who, according to the most recent (1971) return, owns 11,642 shares in Drake and Cubitt Ltd, master builders. Last August, Rippon's holding was increased by a further 266 shares.

Mr Rippon does not think anyone apart from Lambton and Jellicoe was involved in the call-girl scandal. He told the Daily Telegraph last week that the whole affair was 'very sad'. Like the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the leader of the Liberal Party, all MPs, The Times, the Daily Express, the Daily Mirror and Robin Day, he has nothing but sympathy for the Earls caught with their trousers down.

If a chap wants a whore, clamour these dignitaries, why shouldn't he have one? After all, what are whores for?

Not a peep of protest can be heard from the anti-porn merchant, Lord Longford, one of whose closest friends is Lord Lambton. Not a splutter of indignation from Mary Whitehouse or Malcolm Muggeridge or the Festival of Light.

These people and organisations know perfectly well that prostitution—the subordination of human relationships to cash—is an indispensable part of the social system which they support.

People are bought and sold on the factory floor so that shareholders of the Lambton and Jellicoe breed can grow rich and indulge themselves, among other things, by buying and selling prostitutes.

Shares and whores, in short, are both essential to the lives of an entire class whose other main preoccupation is telling hospital workers, miners and engineers to restrain their wage demands in the national interest.

The answer from the workers is coming back loud and clear: Get Out, go to the Cayman Islands, and take your 'Christian civilisation' with you.



LORD LAMBTON and Edward Heath seen together in happier times. Heath may be dismayed by the revelations of Lambton's expensive sexual hobbies, but they had worked together in pursuing practices far more degrading and scandalous than £50 sessions with prostitutes.

Together they berated 'greedy workers' demanding wages of £30 a week—less than a 'nice time' in Maida Vale. Together they had attacked the unions for 'holding the country to ransom' while their pals like Duncan Sandys and Lord Polwarth were busily lining their pockets. Together they attacked the sleazy pornographic world of Soho and preached the sanctity of marriage and the family.

Until the floodgates burst and the Lonrho-Polwarth-Lambton scandals revealed the real world of the moralising, humbugging Tories.

But Lord Lambton can sink into oblivion with one thought to cheer him: Heath's Phase Two policies which he supported to the hilt will at least prevent his call girls from putting up their prices.

Police probe revealed top Tories: p 2

Fishy profits & crocodile tears

THE SHELLING of the trawler Everton by an Icelandic naval vessel last weekend was greeted with a wave of indignation in the press. Politicians and trawler owners hastened to express alarm about the safety of the crew.

But the indignation and alarm were phoney. Working on trawlers has always been one of the most dangerous jobs. Between 1960 and 1966, 223 men

were killed in the fishing industry.

But until now there have been no expressions of horror in the press, no outraged statements from trawler owners, no official complaints.

Meanwhile their profits have soared. Now, however, the Icelandic government is threatening a portion of those profits. Popular pressure is forcing it to try and preserve Iceland's only natural resource.

Iceland's government fears that if it

takes no action the foreign trawlers will do to the cod what they did to the herring—destroy 93 per cent of the stock in a mere five years.

Profits are more important than the lives of trawlermen or the welfare of the inhabitants of Iceland to our press and politicians, Labour or Tory. That is why they have now turned on the crocodile tears and sent the British navy to impose the will of the fishing monopolies off Iceland.

Blackmail and terror by army

from MIKE MILLER: Belfast

'They are the embodiment of the highest standards of discipline and efficiency and honourable conduct... the army have retained decency and humanity in their behaviour and in their actions.' This was how Lord Carrington, Tory Minister for Defence, described the British Army in Northern Ireland, when speaking at the annual conference of the Scottish Conservative Party on 10 May.

Two days before, Carrington had admitted in parliament that the British Army had been guilty of using blackmail against a 16 years-old hotel porter, in order to get him to spy on the IRA. Two days after Carrington's nauseating eulogy the story of army undercover operations in Belfast broke when it was discovered that the British forces were using deserters from the army as paid informers. In exchange for information on the activities of Republicans the deserters were promised that they would not face court martial for desertion.

In the days since then concrete evidence has come to light showing that far from being isolated incidents, these sordid methods are part of general army practice. Numerous men have now come forward and told of how they were being blackmailed, bullied, and bribed into acting as army spies.

One man whom the army forced to act as a spy for them has since disappeared. He was seen at Castlereagh Police Station and soldiers informed his wife that he was in military custody. The army officially denies that they have him.

Much of the evidence obtained from paid informers is used to lock up Republicans at Long Kesh concentration camp and ensure that hundreds already locked up stay that way. At the time of the setting up of the secret courts which now accept this evidence, Socialist Worker showed how the Tories were opening the door to all the lowest touts of Belfast and how the army was being given a free hand to obtain 'evidence' by whatever means it saw fit.

Brutality

Under these conditions it is little wonder that the army has had growing success in filling the jails and concentration camps of Northern Ireland with the opponents of British rule. Their methods of blackmail, bribery, brutality and double-dealing have been so successful that they now plan to establish a special children's prison.

And the number of young girls imprisoned without trial has now risen to eight. This is the record that the Tory chiefs are so proud of. This is how they hope to bring 'peace' to the streets.

But the disgusting methods of the British Army do not stop here. In the same week that the truth about army intelligence operations came to light, three army officers appeared in court on attempted murder charges.

Again Socialist Worker was the only British paper to cover these incidents at the time of their occurrence, showing how the army had been involved in the shooting of innocent civilians.

The first incident occurred in Belfast last summer when four men were brutally gunned down from a passing car. None of them was armed. Their attackers were travelling in a civilian car, and the gun that was used was a Thompson, the traditional weapon of the IRA.

Last month an army sergeant was accused of attempting to murder all four men, and a captain was charged with him of possessing the gun illegally. The army had to admit that the gun was issued by them to plain



CARRINGTON: nauseating eulogy

clothes soldiers, although such a weapon is not used by the army.

The captain, James McGregor, was an officer in the army's special secret unit, the Military Reaction Force, which also operated a bogus laundry service (which the Provos discovered and destroyed), shops in sensitive areas, TV repair and window cleaning services. It is widely believed that these plain clothes units have been responsible for at least nine of the recent assassinations in Belfast, and evidence exists to link them with these killings.

In Derry another army captain, Michael Lanyon, has been accused of attempted murder. It is alleged that he fired a machine gun from a civilian van, while he himself was in civilian clothes, at a group of innocent people, wounding one. It has also been alleged that he was very drunk at the time. (Had he not been, said one local man, he might have killed everyone.)

A sergeant in the Paras has been accused of attempting to murder Martin Walsh in South Armagh in April. After a bomb exploded, killing two soldiers, Paras 'arrested' Walsh, who was feeding cattle in a nearby field. One of them aimed his rifle at the boy's head and fired. Miraculously the boy lived, although the bullet had entered his head.

Morale

In other incidents in the North in recent weeks soldiers have shot dead a number of Republicans, all of them unarmed. It is now known that the army has established a series of secret observation posts in Catholic areas, and these are used as sniping positions for killing wanted men, whether those men are armed or not. It saves the bother of arresting the men, and boosts army morale by increasing the number of dead IRA men.

Finally, Lord Carrington, the minister responsible for the army in Ireland and the man who sings their praise so loudly, was himself named recently as a defence witness by two British men—the Littlejohn brothers—now facing bank robbery charges in Dublin. They claim that Carrington and his accomplices in the Tory cabinet put them up to it, but the court refused to call the Tory lord and his friends. The two men were paid by the Tories to act as agents provocateurs in Ireland so as to discredit the IRA.

Tory pro-army propaganda should be clearly recognised for what it is: a cover-up operation for the lowest forms of behaviour—sheer terror, blackmail, bribery, kidnap and murder, which characterise the British ruling class's attempt to defeat all opposition to its exploitation of the Irish working class.

Vice probe that

THE REASON WHY EDWARD HEATH is now short of a few members of his government is because over a ludicrous issue—pornographic literature—the Tory government was forced to investigate a 'public scandal'. The rulers of this country spend a lot of time, money and newsprint pointing out that we are all one big happy family. We live under the best of all possible systems, and if anything goes wrong it is the failings of isolated individuals, politically motivated men, mindless militants.

A lot of people believe this. Within the Conservative Party vociferous groups proclaim the need to 'clean up' Britain. Particularly the Conservative Women's conference. They were discussing pornography last week as Lord Lambton was sinking noisily into obscurity.

Because they believe it the government was forced to act. Earlier this year the police launched raids on chains of Soho bookshops. It was surely a safe move: crusades against 'obscenity' are an ideal diversion from the real evils of the system, with a few more inches of newsprint on the vigilance of our rulers in their struggle against the 'wickedness' of a few.

So they dug away, carted out piles of books and magazines and set about locating the source of 'evil'. Then to their horror they found it. They were looking in a mirror.

An indignant policeman was found to have enjoyed holidays with what the News of the World likes to call a 'Vice King'. Then came the Tory ministers.

It doesn't matter at all whether the entire House of Parliament has been engaged in acts of gross indecency for the last 400 years. What is significant is that this is one of those times when the huge gap between what the rulers of this country proclaim and what they do is revealed.

Revealed because they had played around with a trivial and irrelevant issue and were taken seriously by the people who turn up at Tory Women's conferences. Talking to that conference last week Robert Carr, the Home Secretary, said on 'indecent public display' of pornography: 'The sort of display now on view in the Sohos of our big cities is now on view in some high street newsagents' windows. This is not an expression

of freedom, it is the commercial exploitation of freedom.'

If pornography is the 'commercial exploitation of freedom' what is Duncan Sandys' £50,000 on his island in the West Indies? Or Reginald Maudling's dealings with John Poulson and Jerome D Hoffman (now in a US jail) or Lord Polwarth and his £46,000 share in North Sea Oil at a time when he is the government's oil supremo?

The only mistake made by Mr Humphreys, the News of the World's 'Soho vice king', was not to join the board of Lonrho. It is a lot better paid than roaming the continent giving interviews at £100 a time.

Lonrho broke publicly for a similar reason to Lambton and Jellicoe. In the first case the thieves were arguing about the division of spoils and shouted so loud that even Fleet Street could hear them. In the second the thieves were caught buying what they were supposed to be stopping being sold.

Crusader

The Labour leaders have taken a principled stand of course. For them the Lonrho issue bears out what they 'said all along'. Mr Wilson waxes long and eloquent about the 'Augean stables' of capitalism—except when he's given the job of stable boy. As for the sexual activities of the Tory government no one is concerned with this: it is the 'question of national security'.

Like hell it is. If Mr James Wellbeloved, MP, the fearless crusader for our national interests, had been in charge of the Garden of Eden we can assume that Adam's illicit relationship with Eve would have been terminated on the grounds that the snake was a red-Chinese spy.

At times like this the Houses of Parliament close ranks. A suffocating air of self-congratulation at doing the 'decent thing' floats from the building.

The reason is simple enough. For a short time the system has been seen for what it is—a mechanism by which wealth is extracted by fraud and when necessary force and everything is for sale, including substitutes for human relationships.

THE 'FITTING UP' OF GEORGE INCE...

SW Reporter

BUILDER George Ince was cleared of murder last week—a verdict that exploded several tons of dynamite under the reputation of the police.

Ince was charged with the murder of Mrs Muriel Patience at the Barn Restaurant in Braintree, Essex, on 5 November last year. Gunmen broke into the home of Mr Robert Patience adjoining the restaurant and demanded the keys of the safe.

When Mr Patience refused, one gunman shot dead Mrs Patience and then wounded Mr Patience and his daughter Beverley.

George Ince was arrested and then began one of the most amazing trials in legal history. Ince vehemently denied ever having been to the Barn Restaurant—an expensive noshery and night club for the well-heeled of Essex and East London.

It was revealed during the court hearings that the police had shown pictures of Ince to Beverley Patience and her brother David BEFORE they went to an identification parade in an attempt to spot the man who killed their mother. (David Patience was not in the house at the time of the shooting: he claimed he recognised Ince as a man driving away from the Barn in the dark.)

ALIBI

So much for the much-vaunted British legal system in which a man is supposedly considered innocent until proved otherwise. By showing Ince's picture to the younger Patiences, the police were clearly inviting them to choose Ince when they went to the ID parade.

The first trial ended in deadlock, with the jury unable to reach a verdict. Ince at one stage dismissed his lawyers and turned his back on the judge—Mr Justice Melford Stephenson—on the grounds that his conduct of the trial was biased and unfair. A fresh trial was heard before a new judge.

The second jury cleared Ince of all charges. There were wild scenes in the court room at Chelmsford and Ince was dragged away when he yelled at the police:



The Patience family: the vital photograph

'Corruption! It's your turn now for corruption. Tell them about the money.'

Ince was not able to clarify what he meant by 'the money'.

The other startling event of the trial was the appearance of Mrs Doris Gray who provided Ince with an alibi for the night of the murder. She said that Ince had spent the whole of the night with her.

When the trial was over it was revealed that Mrs Gray was the new name of Mrs Dorothy Kray, wife of ex-gang leader Charles Kray. Kray was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in 1969 and is the elder brother of the notorious Kray twins, now in Parkhurst prison.

George Ince lived in the East London Stratford area, where the Krays ran their crime syndicate. Ince has now claimed that he has twice been viciously attacked since 1969.

On one occasion, three masked men broke into his flat and shot him in the leg.

He was tortured and every bone in his hands was broken.

On the second occasion in 1971 Ince was dragged into a car, beaten over the head and had a shotgun pushed down his trousers.

Says Ince: 'I got the impression they were trying to shoot my private parts.' He struggled, the gun went off and he was shot in the leg. He was dumped in the road and later had 93 pellets removed from his leg.

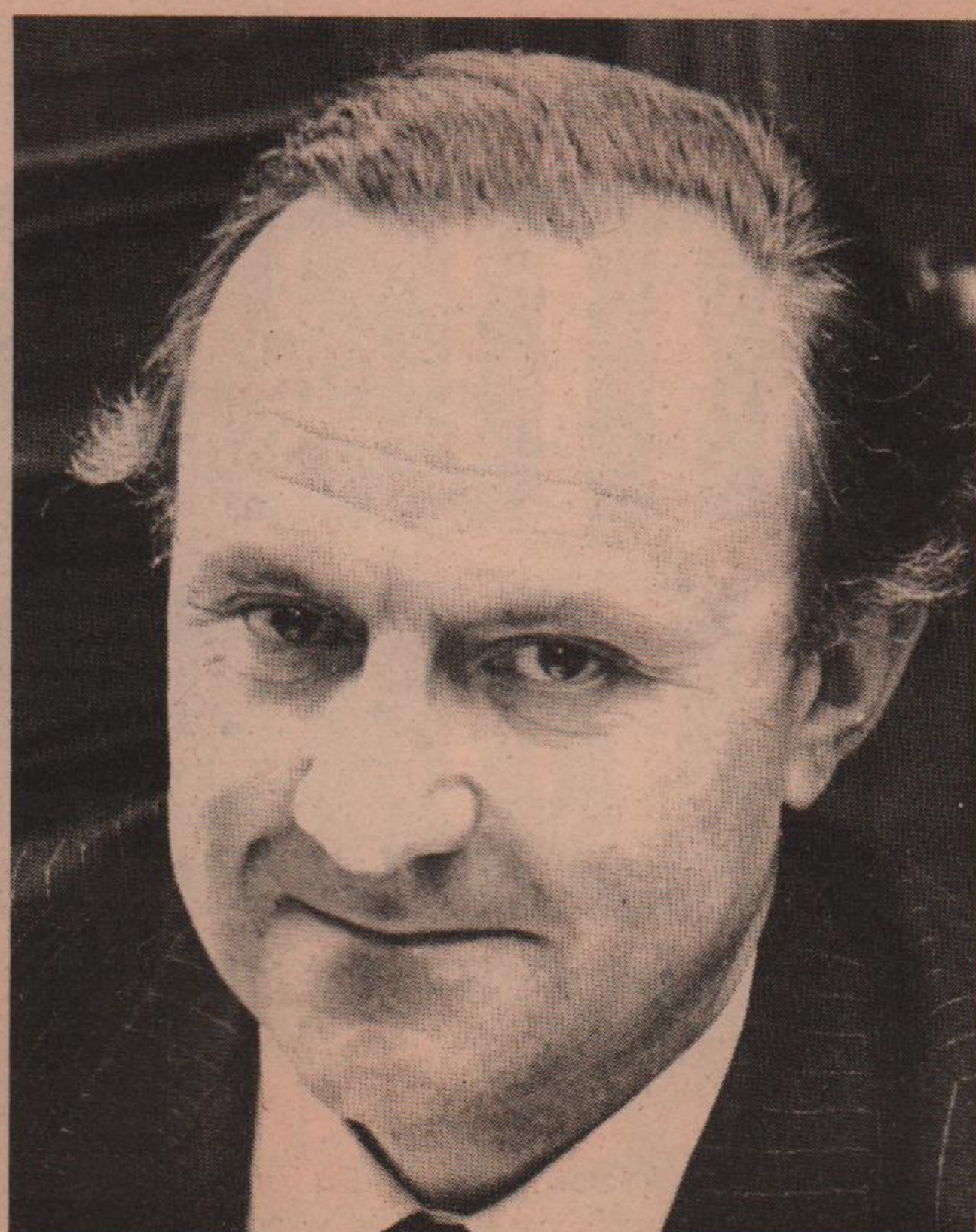
Did the word go out to 'fix' Ince because of his relationship with Mrs Kray? 'Fitting up' Ince with the Barn murder charge could have flown logically from the previous attempts on his life.

But this throws up the unavoidable question: if the police fixed Ince—as seems likely from their showing his picture to Beverley and David Patience before the ID parade—on whose instructions were they working?



revealed top Tories

Watergate scandal not just an ugly face



Lambton and Jellicoe: the police found they were looking in a mirror

IF YOU WERE FEELING SORRY FOR THEM...

LORD JELlicoe

'We cannot afford the strikes we do have': House of Lords, 21 July, 1965.

'Today I should like to direct your Lordships attention to a grave condition in our society: dependence on the misuse of drugs, a condition which can only too often mean a sort of death-in-life... I would not myself favour an immediate change in the law relating to cannabis.

'Unless we recognise that we are also faced with an infectious disease, and one which could all too readily assume epidemic proportions, we are likely as a society to find ourselves in very deep water indeed': House of Lords, 26 March 1969.

'What I am saying makes nonsense of the claim, repeated too often in this debate, that this Industrial Relations Bill is mere union bashing. It is nothing of the sort... It is primarily on those who aim to sap and undermine the fabric of our industrial relations, this small minority, that the Industrial Relations Bill will bite': House of Lords, 21 March 1971.

'We will not walk down the path of economic confrontation with South Africa. In fact, very much the reverse. For we believe that an expansion of trade and commerce between our two countries is not only in our interests but also in the interests of a freer world': Speaking at a lunch given by the UK-South Africa Trade Association, 19 October 1970. The President of UKSATA is Sir Nicholas Cayzer, chairman of British Commonwealth and Shipping and cousin of Lord Jellicoe who is a former director of British Commonwealth and Shipping.

LORD LAMBTON

'We are part of the free world in opposition to the Russian Communist menace which is determined to win by using every method that is known, by subversion, by direct warfare in small places, by limited warfare, by political activity and industrial activity': House of Commons, 1 November 1961.

'We shall no longer be able to trade with South Africa, and it may be that we shall soon not be allowed to trade with Spain or Portugal probably, and as a result of that there will be a very great limitation for industry as a whole. What is exciting, what is advancing, what is progressive in all that?': House of Commons, 10 November 1964.

'We can see that America is very nearly at war with Vietnam and Laos. She clearly believes that unless she proves her determination to fight, and is indeed prepared to do so, the whole of old French Indo-China would come under Communist sway, and that Thailand would follow, which would leave the Malaysian Federation, which we have built up, like a nut between Indonesia and China': House of Commons, 16 June 1964.

'For surely it is desirable to encourage literature and desirable to increase the penalties which can be levied against authors and publishers who write and sell the very basest of literature': House of Commons, 16 December 1968.

No room for Rippon

As Mr Heath rose in the Commons today for what must have been the most painful statement of his career, he was flanked on the front bench by his closest and most trusted Cabinet colleagues.

So tightly were ministers of high and low degree packed on the Treasury bench that Mr Rippon, Secretary of State for the Environment, was unable to find a seat among his colleagues and stood behind the Speaker's chair.

-The Times 24 May

BUT LIFE GOES ON MUCH AS USUAL

IT HAS not been all bad in Britain over the past fortnight. Indeed, there is a lot of evidence to reassure us that the ship of state and enterprise is, despite the odd buffet, sticking rigidly to the course charted for it by a team which regrettably no longer includes Lords Lambton and Jellicoe.

Last Tuesday was the day that Lord Lambton had to resign for 'personal and health reasons'.

That same day at the Isle of Man conference of the Union of Post Office workers it was disclosed that the rich are receiving other special services and attentions which no one but a few awkward workmen would deny them. And they are receiving them free of charge.

What happens is that while everyone else makes do with a worsening postal service, lords and prominent businessmen are getting special collections and deliveries through our much cherished institution the old pals act. (Sad to say, delegates to the UPW conference supported an undoubtedly Communist or Trotskyist-inspired move to make the rich pay for their privileges.)

INTERFERE

That Tuesday the Department of the Environment announced that it would be taking no notice of its own former minister, Peter Walker, who made a silly statement last year condemning the then ugly face of capitalism—property speculation.

Last June Mr Walker suggested that the Tory government might actually interfere with powerful property and construction firms' undeniable right to make millions of pounds by building offices and keeping them empty.

The government has now seen sense and intends to do absolutely nothing about this matter.

Mr Walker himself has now switched to another, equally important job at the Department of Trade and Industry. There he continues to conduct himself in accordance with the highest standards of behaviour.

Just before the Lambton-Jellicoe affair broke, Mr Walker quite properly announced that there would be no public inquiry into the previous week's scandal, *Lombia*.

This is because one of the *Lombia* directors, Angus Ogilby, is closely connected with the Royal Family and as everyone will agree their

reputations must be protected at any cost.

Alternatively last week, Britons could have drawn comfort from the news that the government does not propose to bring any criminal charges against the directors of the well known anti-pollution firm, Purle Waste Disposal.

This is the firm which was paying its drivers special bonuses for dump-industrial waste (mainly cyanide) on tips where there were no charges to meet. Many of these tips were on so called wasteland, like school playgrounds and housing estates.

Coventry and Warwickshire constabulary spent months investigating this matter and sent a dossier to the Director of Public Prosecutions. But he has now wisely decided that no example should be made of the brilliant young millionaire who runs Purle Waste Disposal.

After all he was only doing what everyone in his position does, maximise his profit. Mr Morgan is a close trusted friend of Peter Walker who has just moved from his post as Minister of Environment. When he was at that department Walker promised 'tough action' on the cyanide dumpers. This was yet another public relations job.

EXPENSIVE

On law and order, things also continued to go well last week. For example, Lord Justice James refused legal aid for an appeal to 16 year old Paul Storey—the Birmingham boy jailed for 20 years for mugging. This is British law at its best.

Lord James is helping to increase the chances of sentences standing without actually appearing to do so. He did not and could not refuse the right of appeal. But since an appeal is a very expensive business, denying

legal aid to people from the slums of Birmingham makes one very difficult indeed.

There was only one slight piece of bother in this field last week. Many people were pleased to hear John Edmonds, the General and Municipal Union official, join others at his union conference in appealing for a social contract between employers and employed.

CONFLICT

But Mr Edmonds' hysterical remarks at his telephone being tapped during the gas strike are not at all helpful. They added strength to those who insist that there is a fundamental conflict of interest in society and who believe that the trade union movement might have some alternative course to chit-chats with their masters at Downing Street.

One piece of news which really must have saddened every heart was the death, reported in *The Times*, of the police dog Rex. While in the line of duty, Rex got a sniff of CS gas, which the British army use against human beings, and died.

This great loss should have been given much wider recognition. In fact Rex's death only got slightly less space in *The Times* as two other deaths. Last Tuesday in Derry the British army shot dead 21-year-old Thomas Friel by firing a safe rubber bullet at him at point blank range. He got eight lines in *The Times*.

And Howard Rushton, 31, father of two, got six lines. He was a building worker crushed to death by a bulldozer on a site in Peterborough. Deaths caused by the British army or construction firms are just everyday occurrences. The death of a police dog most certainly is not.

Analysis by Nigel Fountain, Laurie Flynn and Paul Foot

PRESS, radio and television—they're all having a grand time with the Watergate affair. Our perhaps well-intentioned but certainly dim-witted liberal commentators are busy dishing out the dirt and the moralising, and throwing up their hands in horror at the shocking revelations in America.

The champions of clean and democratic politics inform us that this Watergate business isn't typical. It's just the ugly face of capitalism. It's other face—the one they've made up for you—is really lovely.

Please do not think that those miserable little scoundrels baring their breasts to the Senate Committee are representative of capitalist politics. Please! They're only the bad guys, all the others are absolutely honest, upright and sincere and charming.

And the Senate Committee is going to get to the bottom of this disgusting business, even if it means getting right to the top. Like hell they are. What they're really going to do is a fine job of whitewashing. And even if Nixon himself gets the chopper, it will still be a whitewash job.

Defend

Because it is not just a matter of the corruption of this or that group of men, it's a matter of the corrupt nature of capitalism. And those who spend their lives trying to defend this social order are involved in this corruption whether they know it or not.

In any society based on exploitation—that is robbing the producer of the full fruits of his labour—those who rule require two weapons to maintain their power. Violence and fraud.

In an industrial society, where the workers are strongly organised, fraud is the most effective weapon. The capitalist class does not have to fool all the people all the time, just enough for enough of the time.

With two parties contending for office, both of them selling the capitalist swindle, the situation for the capitalist class is ideal. When one slips up on the job, the other steps in, and vice versa.

'Suckers'

So the Senate Committee will see that justice is done and the telly will ensure that it is seen to be done. A few throats will be cut and maybe Nixon himself will have to go, his image too tarnished to fool the 'suckers' any longer.

But one thing you can be sure of—the Senate Committee will utter no single word against the social order that makes sordid affairs like Watergate inevitable.

All the 1001 social injustices that afflict the mass of the people under capitalism have their origin in the basic injustice of wage-slavery. Robbery with violence and fraud.

So long as this system exists there can be no permanent betterment of those compelled to sell their labour power for wages. There can be no justice, no security, no social harmony under this corrupt and decaying order—only constant conflict, constant anxiety for the present, even more for the future.

The way forward is towards socialism or chaos. There is no third road.

Hugo Dewar



BRIEFING

WHY Nixon is good for American business (despite Watergate): The profits of the largest US companies in the first three months of 1973 were up by 27.8 per cent on the same period last year. In the car industry, both Ford and General Motors recorded their highest profits and sales ever. Soaring inflation, led by the skyrocketing price of food and industrial products, has not interrupted this carnival of profits.

Average wage increases in the three months were held down to the 5½ per

cent the Nixon administration set as its phase three incomes policy 'guideline'. At the beginning of May, Congress passed a last minute one-year extension of the president's authority to impose wage and price controls.

The new price controls announced since then were out of date before they were introduced, and are no more than a sop to the fears of big bosses that if inflation gets even more out of hand they will be faced with even more workers demanding wage increases. The real teeth of the 'Economic

Stabilisation Act' remain the same: wage gains will be suppressed and the major industrial unions shackled by their officials' acceptance of the guidelines.

One aspect of the profit boom is that there have been huge increases in production with only small additions to the workforce. Along with the holding back of wages, the unions have accepted important productivity and speed-up drives, notably in the car industry. This year alone, there have been such agreements in railways, rubber, the garment and oil industries.

If, as some economists predict, there is a recession in 1974, workers will face massive redundancies as production is cut back.

TURKISH TORTURERS LOVE UP TO LABOUR

THE destruction of all effective opposition in Turkey continues. Evidence of torture, arrests and mass trials destroys all claims that the regime, after protecting the nation from 'terrorism', is becoming 'democratic'.

But these claims go on being accepted and repeated by Turkey's allies in NATO and the Common Market, not least by moderates who would find themselves in jail if they lived in Turkey.

What is the attitude of Britain's Labour Party? The latest document from the uncompromisingly pro-Common Market International Department at Transport House maintains a discreet silence about Turkey's military regime.

Early in May Labour MP Frank Judd asked for an adjournment debate in the House of Commons on Turkey. He condemned the British government: 'Recent statements by various spokesmen on behalf of the government make me fear that those in Turkey who are actively destroying all serious opposition to its repressive activities will think that they have the support of a country that has a long history of democracy.'

'All those in Turkey, both inside and outside, who against great odds, are trying to oppose the regime will be dismayed that their position is being misunderstood or ignored.'

In fact by now they have got used to it. Socialists in Turkey who are being tortured for their opposition to the regime, or those who are in jail, will not be surprised to hear the reply of Anthony Royle, under-secretary at the Foreign Office, who has dismissed all claims of torture as fabrications of an international conspiracy.

LOYALTY

'It is not for us to try to tell foreign countries how to run their internal affairs,' he said. His reply to torture allegations was ingenious: 'It is always difficult to know whether this kind of allegation has any foundation... We have no evidence of a consistent pattern of violation of human rights, but after all it is the Turkish people who through their democratic institutions are best placed to investigate this kind of allegation.'

The Turkish regime knows that it can expect total loyalty from the Tories, and has recently been trying to extract the same from the Labour Party. Over Easter the Foreign Office, worried that the Labour Party might take up a critical attitude towards the regime, sent prominent pro-Common Market Labour MP Bob Mellish to visit Turkey.

Few, if any, other members of the Labour Party were told. The Foreign Office wanted to keep it quiet, for the intention of the visit was to calm the fears of the Turkish generals.

According to the pro-regime newspaper Milliyet, Mellish had nothing but praise for the way in which the regime had succeeded in destroying socialism. Perhaps Mellish was influenced by the White Paper written by the previous Turkish government which dismissed all allegations of torture as subversive propaganda



Kurdish fighters: their people have been subjected to the most savage repression by the military regime in Turkey

financed by the Kremlin.

Royle and his allies are now impressed by the fact that the military appears to have been defeated in the recent presidential elections and that martial law may soon be lifted in all provinces other than Ankara, Istanbul and Diyarbakir, which is the centre of repression against the Kurds.

The military regime is playing a clever game. The recent criticism in Western Europe has had the effect of strengthening the facade of parliamentary democracy. That Chief of General Staff Faruk Gurler did not become president means that the Foreign Office can brief Anthony Royle to say: 'The recent elections for the president of the republic, when the Turkish parliament chose a civilian rather than a military candidate, would suggest that power in Turkey is still in the hands of the elected representatives.'

Royle did not mention the following facts: Sancar, the general who has replaced Gurler as Chief of

General Staff, is known to be an extreme right-wing sympathiser. Indeed he was mistrusted by Gurler for this very reason. Gurler felt that one way of controlling the extreme right, which has been gaining increasing power within the army, was to become president.

EXTREME

Nor did Royle mention that to talk of 'elected representatives' in Turkey has no meaning when the Turkish Labour Party has been banned and its leaders are serving sentences of up to 15 years' hard labour.

Royle also noted with pleasure that, 'In view of the improved situation in parts of Turkey four of the 11 provinces placed under martial law were restored to civilian control.'

The military have made sure that Turkey cannot return to 'civilian control'. Parliament has happily introduced all the legal and constitutional amendments for which the extreme conservative Justice Party once clamoured before the military inter-

vention of 1971. Opposition to their demands both inside and outside parliament at that time was sufficiently strong to prevent the Justice Party from introducing such repressive legislation.

The military intervened, forced parliament to carry out such a policy and perhaps will be able to hand the new constitutionally repressive machine back to the Justice Party at the next supposedly 'free' elections on 14 October.

But the military does not see its future role as one of nothing more than an outside threat. A recent law states that: 'In the case of the lifting of the state of emergency the duties and authority of military tribunals will continue.' This means that the fates of some 5000 people now awaiting trial will be determined by military judges even if martial law is lifted.

This will give the military sufficient power to determine the future of the new fascist regime which they have helped to create.

Franco regime gives the nod to fascist demo

THE DEMONSTRATIONS held in Spain on 2 May by fascists and secret police have, as expected, led to no reprisals by Franco's regime. The day before, the large May Day demonstrations held by workers in the main industrial centres had been attacked by the police.

The rank and file movement showed its self-confidence by striking (illegally) in large numbers and by the willingness of demonstrators to answer police harassment in kind. Several policemen were injured as they waded in to break up demonstrations, and a police inspector was killed.

The secret police-fascist demonstrations aimed to force the government to launch an attack against the illegal labour movement, and demanded the arming of the police. They also demanded the sacking of Franco's Minister of the Interior, and

of the cabinet. The 'liberal' Catholic organisation Opus Dei was denounced, for permitting the decline of fascist-style law and order.

Opus Dei is a businessman's and technocrat's Mafia, and virtually controls the government and senior civil service. Northern Spain today is overwhelmingly an industrial, mining and commercial area. Most Spaniards live in towns (two million of them are abroad), so titled landowners have lost the grip they had over Spain.

The modern capitalist economy grew from within fascist Spain, changing the State and society increasingly to fit its needs, and attracting tourism and large foreign industries. As the only political party allowed to operate is the fascist Falange, the new capitalist class resorted to Opus Dei as its political instrument.

Opus Dei's conquering of positions

by stealth and its Jesuitical manoeuvres were particularly useful while the new capitalists were too weak to impose their will. Opus Dei was able to steer legislation and state funds in their direction, without a showdown. Now these businessmen and Opus Dei are confident enough to show their power openly and use it for their own benefit.

The situation is worrying for the traditional supporters of fascism (landowners, small businessmen, minor state bureaucrats). The new capitalism is driving the weak to the wall, and already Opus Dei is channelling State protection away from them.

They fear that the power of the Falange may be gone forever, and that the old order is falling apart. They feel that industrial capitalism and Opus Dei's liberal political climate is responsible for the rebirth of sub-

JUST how much abortion laws depend on the wishes of the bosses and the politicians' interpretation of the 'national interest' is shown by the Japanese government's recent introduction of a Bill to change the abortion law there. The existing law is among the most liberal in the world, but the new Bill proposes to delete 'economic reasons' as grounds for a legal abortion and substitute 'the mother's mental and physical health'. This is roughly the law in Britain, where a woman who genuinely wants an abortion has to go through a degrading charade of examinations and inquisitions.

The same government cynically bans the contraceptive pill in Japan though Japanese firms are allowed to manufacture it for export, so that women use abortion as the principle available means of contraception.

The reason given by the government is Japan's labour shortage. The present law was introduced after Japan's defeat in the Second World War when the economy was in ruins. Now, the government claims, with Japan's economy booming, there is a labour shortage. Besides, they say, no one in the third richest country in the world should now need an abortion for reasons of poverty.

Ignoring the class differences in this 'rich' society, ignoring the terrible housing shortage and sardine-packed transport facilities in cities, the government wants to arrange for a population increase, even though the present rate of increase alone will bring the population up from 106 million to 140 million in 60 years.

versive workers' movements.

Opus Dei does not favour independent workers' organisations, as its members have most to gain from the workers' weakness. But they need foreign tourists, foreign capital, foreign markets, and hope to join the EEC. Clashes with the illegal labour movement would put all this at risk, so Opus Dei has avoided it.

In response to fascist pressure, however, they are certain to step up repression considerably.

Last month, it was announced that the police has acquired a new range of weapons and techniques for riot control. All of these have been faithfully copied from the British Army in Northern Ireland.

With one exception: they will use rubber balls instead of rubber bullets. The reason is, the British Army's rubber bullets have been considered 'too lethal' by Franco's fascist police.



Pass the Butterworth

I WAS delighted to see that Sir Neville Butterworth, chairman of English Calico, has stuck strictly to the government's limit of £1 plus 4 per cent when awarding himself a pay increase this year. His salary has gone up from £28,000 a year to £31,000 a year, a rise of about 10.8 per cent. The amount of the rise—£3000—is exactly double the total average wage of English Calico workers.

LORD OF THE FIRES

WHAT with so much scandal about, there's been little time to reflect on the case of Lord Polwarth's 35,000 shares in trusts with large assets in North Sea Oil companies. Lord Polwarth, it will be remembered, is Minister for State of Scotland (£7,500 a year) and was recently appointed special 'troubleshooter' into North Sea oil.

When Polwarth got his troubleshooter job, all the press approved the appointment. 'One of the best brains in Britain', trumpeted the Daily Telegraph, 'is being put to good use'. All the press referred to the noble Lord's deep affection for the Scottish people.

Not one of them referred to his record as chairman of General Accident Fire and Life Assurance, Britain's third largest insurance company.

In 1968 General Accident had a general insurance policy covering the Glasgow firm of B Stern against damage caused by fire or accident. In November 1968, the firm's premises were burned down. 22 workers were killed because the managing director had ordered all the fire doors to be locked and had lost the key.

The tragedy left seven widows and 14 children in desperate circumstances yet the insurance company denied liability on the grounds that Sterns had not informed them of a previous offence under the Factories Act. Armed with this technicality, General Accident persuaded the widows to accept a paltry £25,000 as a 'gift' and forego all legal rights to sue for damages. The widows agreed, against the advice of the furniture workers' union, whose general secretary estimates that they were due about £200,000.

Liability

Profits of General Accident after the Glasgow tragedy, were

1969	1970	1971	1972
£3.1m	£7.35m	£18.4m	£33.4m

The General Accident scandal led to a new Insurance Act in the House of Commons which made employers' liability mandatory.

Speaking on the Bill, Mr Ron Brown, Labour MP for Shoreditch and Finsbury, referred to the Glasgow tragedy, and said: 'The head of that company [General Accident] is a member of another place [The House of Lords] and one would have thought that his standards would have been high enough to be in accord with the expression of this House in this Bill... If the Bill does no more than at least inform this noble Lord of his first duty and force him to understand that he should instruct his insurance company to stand by its word and its bond, some purpose will have been served.' (11 July 1969).

Now Lord Polwarth has moved on to higher things. He is reported to be 'delighted' to be working in his homeland. As he told a Glasgow Herald interviewer on 25 June 1968:

'I try to get up and get some deerstalking in the autumn because it gets me into the kind of country I like; gets me into the big hills.'

Parliament's summer perks

THERE'S a tremendous stampede in the House of Commons to get on one of the lucky summer lists for visits overseas paid for by someone else. First, there are the 'visits to services overseas', which is another way of saying nine days in Hong Kong in September (for six MPs and one peer), six days in sunny Cyprus in September (eight MPs, two peers) and a fortnight in Germany in September for ten MPs and two peers. The lucky ones will be flown out to these places by the RAF, at the expense of the taxpayer.

Even more goodies are available from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association—five MPs can go to Australia for 22 days in October and November.

And another five can go to Ceylon for the first fortnight in December. Spouses are definitely not invited, even if the MPs are prepared to pay for them. This is not necessarily regarded as a disadvantage by all MPs.

The deadline for other such visits to Malta, Mauritius, Canada, Bahamas, Gibraltar and Bangladesh is 2 June. So hurry, hurry, or you might have to stay at home.



MANY A MACKIE MAKES

A MUCKIE

From John Mackie MP

Dear Sir,

My attention has been drawn to a particularly mendacious article in your issue of 28 April. Although normally one would ignore a professional technique of distortion in such a pitiful publication, I feel that the lies must be answered.

Firstly, the whole venom of the article apparently derives from my consistent attitude—in and out of office—towards the tied house system. I am a professional farmer from a long family of farmers and have farmed from the age of 17. Over the years the situation regarding the tied house has changed radically. There are still disadvantages but there are many advantages. A farmworker has to weigh them up and make the choice, and today he has a choice.

I want to allow him and the farmer that choice, although at the same time I helped to initiate and put through legislation to give the worker better resort to the courts and an inalienable right to at least six months

possession of his house after he leaves the job.

Secondly, the value you attribute to the farms I farm with my sons might be relevant if we owned them. We don't. We are the tenants of the Greater London Council and the Church. Even if we did the increase in their value is an irrelevancy as we are farmers not buyers and sellers of land.

Thirdly, the version you give of Oakley's leaving my employment is shot through and through with falsehoods.

He has not been in my employment for 16 years—he could say he had been employed on farms that I had some connection with for about nine years, but no more. He did not complain he was not getting enough

money to live on. His average pay for the last two years was £41 per week, plus a free four-bedroomed modern house, free milk, free potatoes and free use of telephone.

He did not leave in 'desperation'. He left in the middle of milking because the manager, rightly so, told him off for inattention to his machinery. We did not at once apply for a writ—the writ was applied for after more than five months.

Fourthly, as the facts about the clause in the Agriculture Act of 1970 could have been checked from the records, it is not worth while answering your so blatantly twisted paragraph.

The existence of scurrilous political publications has been a feature of British life for generations. It may

Goodie two faces

DID you notice this headline in the Financial Times of 16 May?

The Financial Times Wednesday May 16 1973

Limit profits of land speculators
—Lord Goodman

Two questions:

Which solicitor was responsible for introducing Harry Hymans, the property speculator, to the chairman of the London County Council Planning Committee in 1963—a meeting which made possible the building of Centre Point, St Giles' Circus, which is 31 storeys high and still empty after seven years?

Which solicitor acts for the Hammerson Property Trust, one of the fastest-growing property speculators in London?

Answers (on a postcard please) to Goodman Derrick and Company, Solicitors and Commissioners for Oaths, Little Essex Street, London WC2.

have certain advantages, such as an outlet for the inhibited spite of Paul Foot, and I would not take any steps to suppress it.

But that does not mean that a man who values his reputation should not seek to put the record right when attacked. So, as far as the libellous innuendo in the second last paragraph is concerned and the lying inference that I am a bad and greedy employer, although I have never contemplated suing anyone for libel, I cannot allow this to go uncontradicted.

In our employment remain men who have worked for me for nearly 40 years. We owe it to them as well as to myself to have this matter rectified.

John Mackie

PAUL FOOT REPLIES

Dear Mr Mackie,

Thank you very much for confirming that your attitude to tied cottages differs sharply from that of the National Union of Agricultural Workers and even of the Labour Party.

I'm afraid I cannot agree with you (nor can the union) that there are 'many advantages' to the farmworker in tied cottages, and I wonder what your attitude will be if and when a Labour government fulfils its pledge to give farmworkers the same (minimal) security against eviction as have tenants of unfurnished property under the Rent Acts.

I appreciate that the farms which your companies work in Enfield are not owned by you (though I think you do own several hundred acres in Scotland), but I'm sorry you can't

comment on my impertinent suggestion that the proceeds from farming so many lush acres have made you into a millionaire.

As for your account of the proposed eviction of Mr Oakley and his wife—all I can say is that it differs very strongly from that given by Mr Oakley. Mr Oakley assures me that he worked for Glentworth Scottish Farms in Lincolnshire, which I believe is one of your companies, for seven years, starting on New Year's Day 1957.

He then worked for a nephew of yours, Mr Graham Forbes, whose company, J A Forbes and Sons, farmed land at Nazeing, and in 1967 he moved to Vicarage Farm, which is managed by T J Harman and Sons, in which, I believe, you and your family are the sole shareholders.

He makes that just over 16 years, and so do I.

You say that Mr Oakley was averaging £41 a week for the past two years. He says that out of that money he was expected to employ other labour to help with the milking (which, he says, he could not possibly have done himself). His own pay, he insists, was, as I reported, around £26 a week.

You say that he had 'a four-bedroomed modern house, free milk, free potatoes and free use of telephone.' He says that the house was built a very long time ago, and that he had free potatoes for one year only—1972.

You say that Mr Oakley left his employment 'because a manager' ('rightly so' you judge) 'told him off for inattention to his machinery.' He says, on the contrary:

'The refrigeration plant broke down. I was not responsible for the machinery, and that was in my contract. The manager came down and tried to mend it. In doing so, he blew the whole milking plant, and then tried to blame me for it. I told him where he could put his milking plant and left.'

You say that you did not apply at once for the eviction writ, but waited for five months. Mr Oakley says he has documents to prove that he left

the firm on 7 December 1972 and was served with the writ in the first week in February—a short five months, I think you'll agree. Moreover, if you personally wrote him a letter on 5 January, you personally wrote him a letter on 5 January telling him to be out of his house by the 31st.

I am very sorry that my comments about 'The Agriculture Act were 'blatantly twisted', and even sorer that you did not find it worth while to point out my mistakes.

I gather, incidentally, that there are other tenants on your farms in the area who have been told that they must leave your tied houses. Their names are Mr Victor Goddard, Mrs Joan McCarthy and Mr William Moore (who has five children, I understand).

I do hope that you have better luck with these evictions than you had with Mr Oakley. It really is scandalous the way farmworkers answer back in court nowadays.

You can at any rate rest assured that any further developments on your farms will be fully reported in your favourite pitiful publication.

Yours, in inhibited spite,

Paul Foot

The Midlands: special reports on the struggle of immigrant workers

Blacks revolt over sweatshops

THE SWEATSHOP REVOLT in the East Midlands is alive and kicking. Despite the angry opposition of employers and dithering by union officials, immigrant workers are stirring themselves against their appalling work conditions and giving notice that the days of their being used as cheap labour are over.

Now they're on the move. The struggle in the region is much more than a fight for better pay and conditions, important though that is. It's also about self-respect and the anger of poor people after years of bad housing, lousy education facilities and cultural deprivation. Socialists must see the fight as one that links rank and file control of the unions to the struggle against racism.

The spark behind the revolt came last June when 44 Pakistani production workers at Crepe Sizes in Nottingham went on strike. The men's conditions were a disgrace and they had to work a seven-day, 84-hour working week for the princely sum of £35. They had one toilet and when they asked the foreman to employ someone to clean it out he told them to do the job themselves. One worker was sacked when he refused to do it.

Overtime

The white workers had a separate toilet. After two weeks the strikers won their struggle and joined the TGWU, even though the union had refused to support them.

A few weeks later workers struck at the notoriously anti-union firm of Jones Stroud at Long Eaton after a man was sacked for trying to unionise the factory. For ten years there hadn't been a wage rise and no extra cash for overtime or shift work.

A TGWU official spent time attacking 'outsiders' but declined to make the dispute official because 'he didn't know the men were serious'. After a bitter dispute the men went back defeated but determined to fight again.

Last autumn came the best-known dispute—at Mansfield hosiery mills, Loughborough. Asian workers found themselves excluded from the skilled knitters' jobs by Nottingham Manufacturing Co and the Hosiery and Knitwear Workers Union—the first

union to encourage scabs in an official dispute. The union has a large National Front membership among white knitters but after pressure the firm partly caved in.

Organised

Now Indian and Pakistani workers at E Jaffe's lace factory are on strike—without TGWU support—over the sacking of a machine operator.

It is vital that immigrants get organised. In France in 1968 one of the demands of the strike movement was a better deal for Algerian immigrants. A victory for black workers in struggle is a victory for all workers and a defeat for those who seek to divide and rule in the pursuit of profit.

WE'LL STAY OUT FOR OUR RIGHTS

Three points emerge from the dispute at E Jaffe—the oppression that immigrant workers face, the frustration caused by the union bureaucracy's reluctance to support them, and the workers' determination to fight back. Jaffe has employed immigrants for ten years. Only now have they begun to get organised. Mushtaq Hussain, a shop steward at the lace firm, spoke to Socialist Worker this week.

We all joined the TGWU last June. When the workers at Crepe Sizes won better conditions and rights we thought we could do the same.

Since then we have been trying to get things changed. We did have



On the picket line at Jaffe: Mushtaq Hussain is fifth from left, Mohammed Sawar third right

talks with Jaffe but never with any result. We tried to change things on the inside by negotiating but he would go behind our backs and approach individual workers with an offer of a foreman's job or a rise.

I was offered a foreman's job but I refused. Two Pakistanis were made foremen but they still have to work on the machines like the others.

There is no contract for the job, just a set of written instructions like "make sure no one leaves early". You get 3p an hour more for the foreman's job. We realised that it was just a move to divide us. So we decided that if he approached any of us again he should be told to go and see the shop steward first.

OFFICIALS

He never really negotiated with us. He used to say that we should give him our complaints in writing, knowing we couldn't write English. If we came with a complaint he would say he had forgotten it because we hadn't written it down.

We joined the TGWU last June. Since then we have had four different officials dealing with us.

When we had talks with Jaffe, a union official, Reg Harris, used to come down. Jaffe said he would talk with the steward but would not recognise the union. He would talk but never agree to any changes.

We got no help or advice from the union officials. The union could have called a strike on a number of occasions. Several times Jaffe just rejected our demands out of hand—all the union did was to fix up another meeting.

We started to concentrate on getting union recognition. But we

were very upset when the union kept sending different officials. How could they deal with our case properly?

Before May Day, Jaffe approached many of the workers to get them to work on that day. He put particular pressure on Mohammed Sawar, whom he promised a foreman's job if he didn't go out on strike.

But Sawar refused because he wanted to stick with the rest of us. Then Jaffe said that if the lads didn't work he would pay them only single time for the previous Sunday.

He was trying to scare the lads. But as shop steward, I said he couldn't do this. So we all came out. Sawar was sacked next day.

Jaffe claimed he was asleep at work and also that he was washing himself 20 minutes before the end of the shift. In fact he had been fixing one of the machines and had got dirty with grease, as the machines are never cleaned properly because he doesn't employ sufficient workers.

We fixed up a meeting with the union to get Sawar reinstated. During the meeting I told Jaffe that he had sacked Mohammed Sawar for personal reasons.

Jaffe told me to get out—but the union official stayed in with him for another two hours. When he came out he said Jaffe wouldn't take Sawar back. He added: "Ask the lads—it's up to them."

So we came out on strike. But at our next meeting the union official said we had disregarded his advice. So we asked him: "What was your advice—stay in and get sacked?"

He said, no, we should negotiate with Jaffe. We told him we had been negotiating for 18 months with no results. "If you're not ready for a fight, we are," we told him.

He then said that because Jaffe was owned by Jones Stroud it would take us a long time to win, at least four months. He suggested going to the industrial court but we refused as we might have to go out on strike again. I said we would stay out till we got our rights.

The union refused to make it official because we disregarded the official's advice. We said we were strong enough anyway. After that the union arranged for arbitration with the Department of Employment.

REFUSED

The union drew up one agreement for union recognition with three points: Jaffe to agree to negotiate with the stewards, three days' notice if we wanted talks with the management and, if that didn't succeed, to call in the union.

I refused to sign it. We wanted a contract with specific details on conditions and wages and a statement that Jaffe recognised the union.

We have learnt from the strike that you can't always win in just a few days. You must think you can win quickly but you must be prepared to fight for a year. We negotiated for 10 months and never got anywhere—in the end we had no choice but to strike.

If other immigrant workers are fighting for better conditions they must learn to come out on strike

Some people say we are not discriminated against and perhaps in an all-immigrant workforce it is difficult to prove open discrimination. But because our conditions are always worse than elsewhere this amounts to a form of discrimination.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Social Security for Strikers



and the strange affair of the Labour MP and the anti-union firm

Why Denis is no menace to lump labour pals...

SHAREHOLDERS in Bryant Holdings—the biggest building firm in Birmingham—danced with glee at the announcement last month that their company had increased profits by more than 400 per cent. The figures quickly blew away the cloud which had been hanging over Bryant following recent revelations.

That there were 'familiar relations' between Bryant and the Birmingham Corporation Architect's Department, which might have explained the extraordinarily large number of contracts which Bryant get from the corporation.

That at least two MPs have been employed by Bryant, and hold shares in the company. These include Mr Denis Howell, MP for Birmingham Small Heath, former Labour Minister of Sport, witch-hunter of the International Socialists in his union, APEX.

That 'lump' labour employed by Bryant has led to gerrybuilding on a wide scale.

Conspiracy

That organised gangs have been intimidating and beating up union militants.

That the Birmingham police are more interested in concocting conspiracy charges against Birmingham building workers than in pursuing proved cases of assault and battery, or of hunting down corruption.

The adverse publicity concerning Bryant centred around the suspension of Birmingham City Architect J A Maudsley, CBE, in the course of police investigations into the City Architect's Department.

Maudsley, who has just sold his house for £50,000, is alleged to have been paid £17,000 by private architect James Sharp. Sharp is an ex-employee of the City Architect's Department and has designed a large number of schemes for the department.

Police are also investigating the contract for the £½ million Birmingham Computer Centre at Edgbaston. This was designed by another private architectural firm, Richard Barker. One of Barker's employees is Maudsley's son-in-law, Desmond Hayden, who previously worked for James Sharp.

Since Maudsley joined the Birmingham City Architect's Department in 1964, Bryants have obtained £73 million worth of contracts from the city, plus a further £30 million worth for their civil engineering business.

This amounts to well over 75 per cent of all contracts granted by the city. As a consequence, between 1960 and 1968, Bryant's turnover increased by 41 per cent and their profits by 620 per cent.

It came as a considerable embarrassment to Bryant when it was revealed that their name had been discovered on architects' drawings found in a Jersey, Channel Islands, practice. The practice belonged to Wilfred Ebery, an ex-partner of Birmingham architect James Sharp and the drawings were of Birmingham city projects, including the huge Chelmsley Wood, Woodgate Valley and South Aston estates.

Surprise

Ebery had been given the work by Sharp who in turn had been given it by City Architect Maudsley. Many of the drawings were marked in red for C Bryant and Son Ltd.

When the chairman of the Housing Committee, George Canning, was told about this, he said: 'I know nothing about it and will certainly look into it.' He expressed great surprise that corporation work was being carried out in Jersey.

Chris Bryant, chairman of Bryant, used to own 48 per cent of the company's shares, but he has reduced his holding until he now owns just over 800,000 shares. Other lucky people to share in the Bryant bonanza include Tory MP Sidney Chapman (Handsworth, Birmingham) who has 3360 shares.

Denis Howell was a director of two Bryant companies from 1963-6. At the same time he handled all the publicity and public relations for Bryant. His wife, Brenda still has 700 Bryant shares and Howell maintains his close Bryant ties.

From 1969-70 Howell was Minister

of State for Housing and Local Government and after City Architect Maudsley received his CBE in 1970, Howell was heard to claim responsibility for getting him the award. (A joke current in Birmingham at that time was that the initials CBE stood for Commander of Bryant's Empire.)

More than one senior Labour minister was introduced to the board of Bryant at private functions in Howell's house which is decorated



PETE CARTER: 6000 struck for him annually by Bryant. In addition, Howell still gets his car serviced at Bryant's private garage.

Denis Howell is president of the clerical union APEX. He moved the proscription of IS at the APEX conference two weeks' ago. No IS member may now hold office in APEX.

Other fortunate shareholders include architects Seymour Harris with 3300 and James Sharp and family with 8000, Cumberland County Council with 30,000 and the City of Birmingham with 34,900 itself.

If the shareholders in Bryants have been very well treated, the same cannot be said of Bryants' employees on the sites. Until quite recently,

Birmingham was a weak area for building union activity.

All this has changed within the last two years and there is now a large Building Workers' Charter group in the area. After the magnificent struggle of last year, the workers are determined to maintain their strong union organisation.

Such success was not achieved easily. Leading militant Mike Shillock who led the strike at Bryant's site at Woodgate Valley for 11 weeks was savagely beaten up just before the end of the strike.

Four men visited Shillock 'on union business and, after threatening him with a knife, they broke several of his toes and fractured his arm. To date, no one has been arrested for this crime.

Injunction

Then there is the case of Pete Carter. So determined were Bryant not to employ Carter, who is a member of the Communist Party and a leading member of the Building Workers Charter, that they took out a summons against him and obtained a court injunction preventing him from going on their sites.

They were forced to back down and to employ Carter when 6000 men on 42 sites in the city struck to demand his re-instatement.

When Carter recently applied to the city for a mortgage, he was told that his employers, Bryant, denied that he worked for them. When this was raised with Bryant, it was discovered that an 'office error' had been made.

Carter has been a constant thorn in Bryant's side. He wrote a letter to the building employers' journal, National Builder, (May edition) which told of a visit by the Birmingham shop stewards' committee to some



DENIS HOWELL: introduced Labour ministers to Bryant

...WHO DECORATE HIS HOUSE FREE EVERY YEAR

recently-built Bryant's houses.

'They found the people who built the houses very angry,' wrote Carter. 'Our investigations found large walls two inches out of plumb, internal garage walls in Thermalite as rugged as a Welsh mountain, hardly a tie iron, cavities not cleaned, lintel bearings of one inch instead of the minimum four and a half inches, Compo used below strength, pointing poor.'

'The inside finish of the house was disgusting. All this could be seen. One dreads to think what went on under-

ground. To my knowledge this firm employs no apprentices.'

Bryant's latest move has been to remove many of their hoardings announcing that 'This is a Bryant site'. They have changed the colours of their canteens and lorries in what is presumed to be a feeble attempt to fool militants, but these tactics stand little chance of success.

Building workers are on the march against firms like Bryant—and the MPs who give such outfits a veneer of respectability.

FACTS, ARGUMENTS, ANALYSIS for every trade unionist in the fight against the Tories

ANTI FREEZE

a handbook for trade unionists by Roger Kline



An International Socialists pamphlet price 2p

Single copy 5p (inc. post) 10 copies or more post free. From IS Books, 6 Cottons Gdns London E2 8DN

Report by Martin Tomkinson

Ernie's Utopia without struggle

'AT THE conference of the workers' control movement in October 1970, I made the following statement,' writes Ernie Roberts, assistant general secretary of the AUEW. 'We must fight for workers' control. It is a political struggle. It is the very essence, in fact, of socialism.' Yes, indeed, Ernie Roberts is absolutely right.

Now as it happens this reviewer tried to move a resolution at that conference on behalf of his union branch. It wasn't a screwball or sectarian resolution. It simply called on the conference to endorse, and urge others to support, the call of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions for a strike on 8 December 1970 against the Tory government's infamous Industrial Relations Bill.



by
DUNCAN HALLAS



Not, you might suppose, a very controversial proposition at a conference committed to the view that 'democratic controls can only be defended if they are systematically extended throughout the unions... These controls will be built in the day-to-day struggle of workers in their organisations and at their places of work....'

You would be wrong. The heroes of the Institute for Workers' Control—they are mostly 'left' academics like Ken Coates, Walter Kendall and Steven Bodington—were horrified at the very thought that the IWC should support a call for an **unofficial** strike. Good God, that might annoy some trade union bureaucrats who otherwise might allow their names to be put on the Institute's notepaper! And so they instructed the conference chairman, Bill Jones of the TGWU, that on no account was this or any other resolution to be debated, let alone voted on. We then had to fight, not for the

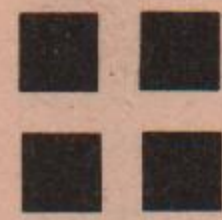
first time, on the issue of 'workers' control of the workers' control movement.'

The incident would not be worth recalling, except that it does illustrate that the IWC is a fake organisation, an organisation that produces beautiful blueprints for workers' control of everything from the aircraft industry to Young's brewery but which shrinks away from the slightest hint of the 'political struggle' that Ernie Roberts writes of. I don't blame Ernie, or for that matter Bill Jones, for the contemptible antics of the IWC fakers. I know very well that both of them supported the 8 December strike. But they wouldn't **fight** the fakers on the issue. That is what is wrong with their politics and Ernie Roberts' book.

There are a lot of good things in the book. Pretty well every reader will learn something from it. Roberts makes short work of the advocates of 'workers' participation'. It is a stunt

'designed to make the present system more tolerable by the condescension of management. The job of trade unionists is not to accept the system... but to change it.'

In passing he criticises the conservative views of Communist Party spokesman Bert Ramelson on the subject and notes the lack of even the elements of workers' control in the USSR—'the state is always above the workers, a thing apart.' He also stresses that a key aspect of the struggle is the fight for workers' control of their own organisations and quotes with approval from the Cliff-Barker IS pamphlet, Incomes Policy, Legislation and Shop Stewards, the statement that 'Union officials are becoming less and less the leaders of the workers and more and more their foremen.' 'The House of Lords,' he points out, 'has been and is bristling with trade union leaders.'



Unfortunately all this and more is marred by the political line of the book. Ernie Roberts tells us again and again that the fight for workers' control is a political fight and to carry it through we need 'a political party which has a real revolutionary theory of marxism.' Good. What can we do about it? We work, says Ernie, for 'a revolutionary leadership in the Labour Party.'

Incredible? Well, there it is in black and white on page 223. And this from a man who tells us 'Without the leadership of a revolutionary party the workers can never take power,' who himself points out 'the weaknesses, the reactionary tendencies, the bourgeois leadership of the Labour Party.' Come off it, Ernie.

The leopard does not change his spots. If you want a revolutionary party you have to fight to build one at the grass roots, not to try to manipulate an electoral machine.

Workers' Control by Ernie Roberts (George Allen and Unwin). Hardback £4.25. Paperback £2.25.

HUMM

WHEN a crime has been committed and the police have someone in mind but can find no proof, beware the Director of Public Prosecution's secret weapon. Or if you have done something perfectly legal but powerful interests want it stopped, beware the Director of Public Prosecutions' secret weapon.

It's called the conspiracy charge. It got Jake Prescott 15 years for addressing an envelope containing one of the Angry Brigade communiques. And it is being lined up to confront every working-class

picket with the post behind bars.

It ensures that an can be linked with the bomb. It puts political of mind in the dock nearly all the legal rules to safeguard the innocent.

Conspiracy is an agreement or more people to do a lawful act by using as many permutations of Conspiracy is therefore

The two-faced and order

BY EARLY SEPTEMBER last year—at the height of the national building workers strike—the North Wales building workers had succeeded in shutting down almost every 'lump' site in North Wales.

Following calls for assistance from the strike committees in the West Midlands, they sent their flying pickets into the area to help strengthen the strike.

On 6 and 7 September Sir Alfred McAlpine's lump-riddled housing contract in Telford new town and other sites in and around Shrewsbury were picketed.

At the Telford site there was some disagreement between pickets, site management and some strike-breaking workers. Site equipment was damaged and some fights took place.

McAlpine management contacted the National Federation of Building Trades Employers immediately after the incident and then got in touch with the police. Straightaway the West Mercia (West Midlands) constabulary launched a major criminal investigation into Telford and other alleged incidents.

Tougher

Twenty officers from this force and from the Gwynedd (North Wales) Constabulary worked full time on the case.

The National Federation of Building Trades Employers was working parallel to the police investigation. By early October forceful representations had been made to the Tory government about the need to make tougher use of existing law against pickets. Various government spokesmen indicated agreement.

Right at the beginning of the dispute, the NFBTE had 'requested' member firms to send in details of 'violent picketing' and 'intimidation' of 'the vast majority of building operatives who had no wish to strike at all.'

How the NFBTE knew in advance that violent incidents were going to take place or that most building workers wanted to work is unknown. But by the end of October 1972, the employers' federation had finished cobbling together its dossier on alleged violence and intimidation during the strike.

The dossier was published on 25 October and lodged with the Home Secretary. Copies were also sent to all government ministers and other key establishment figures, to 'selected' MPs and the press. The dossier was also made available to the police.

More informal discussions with government ministers took place. The precise purpose of the whole operation, a spokesman for the building employers' federation told Socialist Worker, was to get tougher enforcement of existing laws on picketing.

At the beginning of December last year the police sent the results of their inquiries to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The DPP examined the papers and by mid-January this year had decided that a battery of criminal damage, intimidation, demanding money with menaces and fighting and making an affray charges would be brought against the North Wales building workers.

In addition the use of conspiracy charges against some of the men was agreed. The NFBTE's calls for tougher enforcement of existing laws against pickets had miraculously been answered.

The Gwynedd and West Mercia police were informed of the DPP's decision on Friday 2 February and arrests made or summonses issued the following Tuesday and Wednesday, 6 and 7 February.

Some of the men have already been committed for trial. The others will be committed shortly. At the trial the government departments of law and order will be trying to pin individuals to specific acts of damage and the like, and to nail seven of the men for 'conspiring' to organise trade union activities, picketing, or, as the charges put it, 'conspiring to intimidate people to abstain from work.'

THE CASE of the North Wales building workers and their flying pickets was not the only industrial matter under consideration by the DPP last winter. In November last year, the DPP received an opinion from Alexander Miller, a London barrister, concerning the activities of a firm called Central Asbestos.

by La Fly

The company bagged raw asbestos plants in Bern London until 196 up and moved in South Africa where safety regulations workers.

Mr Miller's opinion vitally serious counselled that but defence the relevant Central Asbestos should for manslaughter of

To date an estimated employees of the firm asbestosis or mesothelioma contracted these in diseases as a result deliberate and flag the industrial safety will inevitably follow

Since 1931 in laws, supposedly Factory Inspectorate the operations of a and all processes with The Asbestos Regulation quite simply to inhaling asbestos fibres

For once inhaled a disease process in cannot be treated. In time the disease body and ensures meets a premature

Day in and day and year out from a 1968, Central Asbestos



Solidarity march with the Shrewsbury building workers: watch conspiracy charges. Picture: John Rea

Womens Voice



'If it wasn't for the way rents and prices are shooting up, I wouldn't have to work in a dump like this!'



number 6 5p

Articles on prices, shop workers secretaries and miners' wives plus news and reviews Price 5p plus 3p postage

Subscription 50p for next six issues (inc postage) WOMENS VOICE, 6 Cottons Gdns, London E2 8DN

BUG!

...ility of a stretch
... militant socialist
... explosion of any
... opinions and states
... and it gets round
... which are supposed
... at.
... ment between two
... unlawful act or to
... lawful means. It has
... the football pools.
... the most splendid

catch-all charge for the Director of Public Prosecutions, guardian of law and order, to have at his disposal.

Curiously however, the Director of Public Prosecutions is highly selective about just who he applies his catch-all to. For example he doesn't think it at all proper to apply conspiracy (or any other remotely serious criminal charges) to employers who actually slaughter their workers through years of deliberate neglect. Look at the contrast between the DPP's approach to two current cases.

...priorities of law ...er chiefs

...urie
...nn

and flagrantly flouted those regulations in the pursuit of the maximum profit. As a result workers were exposed to the deadly dust in massive concentrations.

Central's milling system was built and operated unlawfully in such a way that the dust was literally poured into the factory atmosphere.

Legally required safety systems for extracting the dust were either faulty or non-existent. Men were told to clean the mills in a dangerous and illegal fashion.

The firm insisted on bringing the raw asbestos fibres into this country and into the factory in sacks which the law forbade them to use. They used sacks which let air out through the sides because they were easier and cheaper to fill than airtight sacks.

The fact that they let deadly asbestos fibres out into the air for human beings to inhale was neither here nor there. The same illegal sacks were re-used to distribute Central's finished products.

And all this went on in the full knowledge of the relevant law enforcement agency, the Factory Inspectorate. At no time did the Inspectorate even seriously entertain using their statutory powers to shut the place down. The only legal remedy they applied to the firm was one belated Magistrates' Court prosecution for three breaches of the Asbestos Regulations. The prosecution resulted in a £170 fine.

The consequences for those who inhaled Central's asbestos dust were devastating. That's why the regulations existed. Alexander Miller, the barrister whose opinion on the manslaughter prosecution went to the DPP, knew of this at first hand. He was retained to represent the relatives at the inquest last October into the death of Frederick Gibbens.

Mr Gibbens was just 49 when he died last August. He worked for Central for only five and a half years up to January 1957. But that short period of work killed him for during it he inhaled asbestos dust which gave him both asbestosis and mesothelioma.

The post mortem on Frederick Gibbens showed how the disease had ravaged his body, though it recorded no details concerning its impact on his family or his mind.

The asbestos-induced tumour had eaten through his lungs and his stomach and spread throughout the bowel. It was impossible to separate one organ from another by the time he died.

To have worked in the hold of a ship unloading Central's imports or to have lived near their factories might also have been enough.

In December last year, at the same time as the papers on the North Wales building workers and their flying pickets were under consideration, the Director of Public Prosecutions decided on what action to take against the directors of Central

Bob Smith is 47 years old. He is in the foreground. Behind him is his father who is 70 years old. Bob Smith worked for Central Asbestos for eight years and had never heard of asbestosis until he was told that he had got it.

Thickening of the fingers and premature ageing are two of the symptoms of the deadly disease. Picture: Colin Jones.

Asbestos. He resolved on a firm and immediate step and threw Alexander Miller's opinion in the dustbin. No action would be taken on the Central Asbestos file.

It is true that the DPP could not bring murder or manslaughter charges against the directors. The legal formulation of these crimes is such that death must result within a year and a day of the wrongful act for either a murder or a manslaughter to have occurred in law. Those who kill workers slowly by giving them fatal industrial diseases cannot be prosecuted on such counts.

But the fact that there were other charges which could have been levelled and never were indicates that even if murder or manslaughter charges did fit the bill, the DPP would never bring them against an employer.

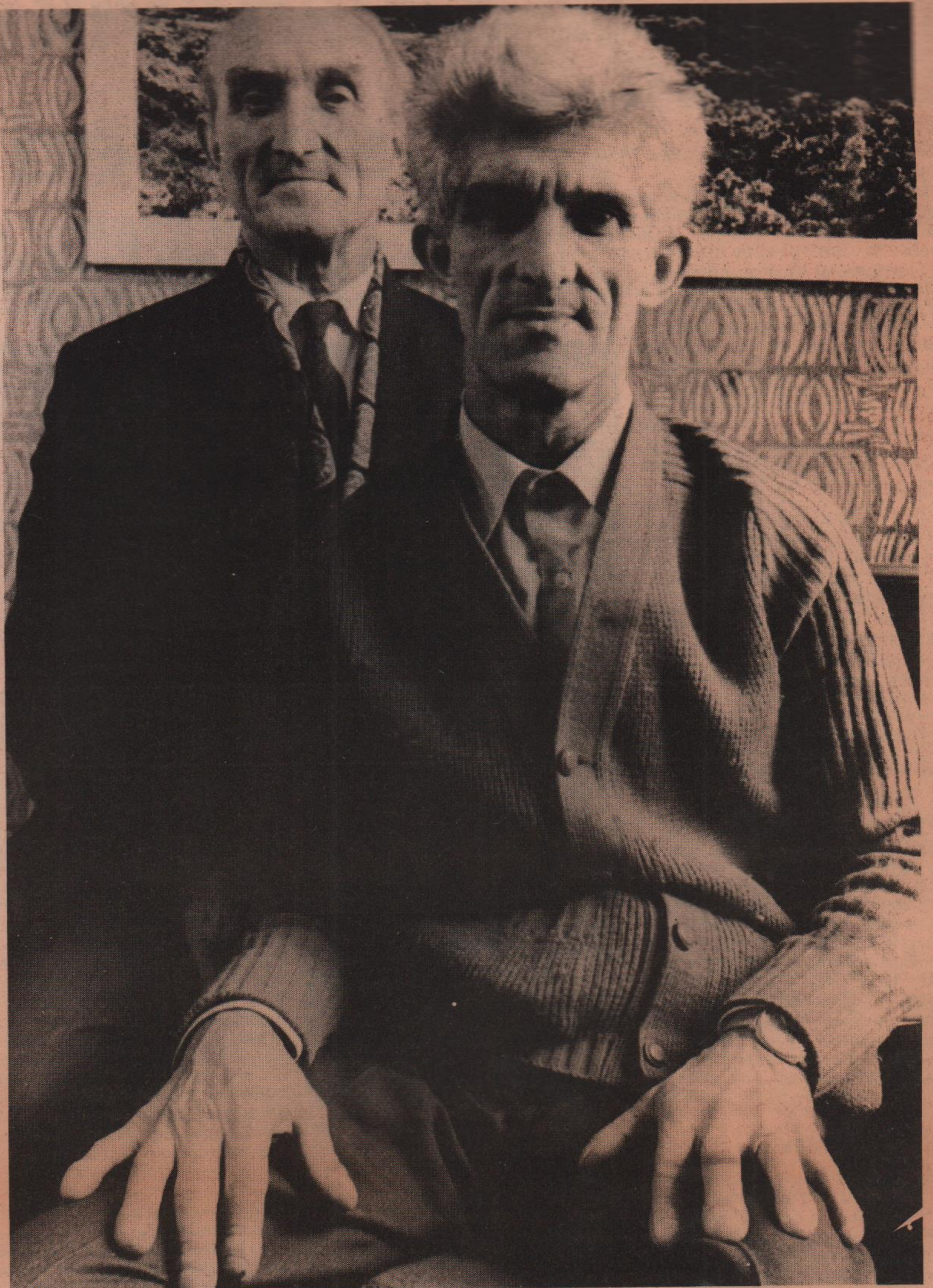
Disguise

The obvious charge to which the year and a day time limit does not apply is causing grievous bodily harm. The relevant directors of Central Asbestos would almost certainly be found guilty of GBH if such a prosecution was launched.

In deciding on no action on the Central Asbestos case, the Director of Public Prosecutions also declined to bring a GBH charge against any director or directors of the company. And he had one other charge up his sleeve which he also declined to use. This was the catch-all he had used against Jake Prescott and is now turning against picketing workers—conspiracy.

When Central Asbestos expected a visit from the Factory Inspectorate, workers were instructed to disguise the existence of a small sample mill which totally lacked any legally-required safety attachments. The men were told to cover over the pit in which it was lodged with floorboards and to cover the floorboards in turn with empty sacks so no trace of its existence could be seen.

And Mr Kenneth Wood, who rose from works manager to managing director of the company over the relevant period, told lies to the Factory Inspectors, presumably so that Central could continue their unlawful but highly profitable activities. He wrote letters stating



that modifications requested by factory inspectors had been made when they had not.

Now here is a clear-cut and unanswerable case of conspiracy to commit grievous bodily harm if ever there was one. This would be on the same legal proviso as a simple GBH charge—that the directors of the company were deemed liable for the deaths, the 'natural and probable consequences' of their negligence.

Or if for some strange reason they were not deemed liable, they could be charged with conspiracy to conceal the sample mill. Or if not that,

deciding to use it. There was also conspiracy of some kind over the use of the illegal hessian sacks.

But the Central Asbestos case is not one where the DPP had the slightest intention of bringing any charge, never mind conspiracy which carries no limit on sentence. The truth is that the DPP as a matter of policy goes for Jake Prescott or picketing building workers with a sledgehammer. And as a matter of policy, the DPP leaves employers alone.

The entire cost to the firm, Central Asbestos, of killing

workers and breaking the law to maximise profits was a £170 fine plus 50p costs.

In short, the saying that there is one law for the poor and another for the rich is faulty in some respects. When it comes to killing, maiming and conspiracy there is no law which applies to the rich provided that they commit their crimes as employers engaged in the pursuit of profits.

International Socialism 59



The June issue of International Socialism features an article by Brian Trench Perspectives for the Irish left that is essential reading for all socialists fighting British domination of the 32 counties. Other features include:
The Electricians—decline of a union: George Russell
Crisis in Southern Africa: Basker Vashee
Memoirs of a revolutionary: Reg Groves
Briefing on wages and the cost of living. Notes of the Month and Reviews.

International Socialism Journal, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN
Annual subscription £2.10



How the Bolsheviks

THE role of a revolutionary party is to develop the confidence of workers, making them aware through daily struggles of their unlimited potential.

The finest example of revolutionary leadership, how it can express the growing discontent of the workers and channel it into the capture of state power, is the October Revolution led by the Bolshevik Party in Russia 1917.

The earlier February revolution had overthrown the centuries-old Romanov dynasty. It was the spontaneous outburst of the Petrograd workers and soldiers, provoked by the suffering and slaughter of war and the unequal way they had to bear this burden. This revolution was welcomed by many middle-class people who had lost confidence in the autocratic government and who set up the first Provisional Government.

The revolutionary parties played no direct role in the making of the February revolution—indeed they did not expect it. A month earlier, Lenin had said at a lecture in Switzerland: 'We of the older generation may not live to see the decisive battles of this coming revolution.'

The creation of the Petrograd Workers' Soviet, in the wake of the upheaval, was the spontaneous action of workers. It was the revival of the St Petersburg Soviet, which had played a brief but glorious role in the 1905 revolution. It was a non-party area organisation elected by factory workers.

All the socialist parties were represented in the Soviet, which was dominated at the start by the Social Revolutionaries, the peasant party, and the Mensheviks, the radical middle-class party. The Bolsheviks were at this stage a small minority.

Soviets were set up in Moscow and other large cities following the example of Petrograd but they did not at first expect to win government power. Their leaders believed Russia was ripe only for a middle-class democratic revolution and not yet for a working-class socialist revolution.

Power

But the authority of the Soviets, especially in Petrograd, was recognised by more and more workers and soldiers. So the Soviets gained influence and authority equal to the Provisional Government. Relations between them swung between co-operation and rivalry.

In Lenin's April Theses to the Bolshevik Party congress, he argued that the middle-class democratic revolution was finished even though no democratic reforms had been carried out. The war still raged, the landlords still owned the land and the Provisional Government showed no sign of holding elections.

Lenin stressed that the middle-class hold on power was unstable and could not last. Power would have to pass to the workers and the poorest peasants.

showed the way

MEMO

Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of the party...

A series by Sabby Sagall

The workers and soldiers, in overthrowing the Tsar, had shown they wanted to end the war, to eliminate growing food shortages and increasing exploitation in the factories. But most did not yet realise that these aims could only be achieved through Soviet power, a workers' state based on workers' councils. Lenin's April slogan, 'All power to the Soviets', pointed to the only way the workers, peasants and soldiers could achieve what they wanted.

By the end of June, a majority of Petrograd workers were convinced that Bolshevik policies were correct. During the July days, the Petrograd workers openly displayed their hostility to the government, which had ordered a large-scale military offensive at the front.

But the Bolsheviks, by now a majority in the Soviet, had to restrain the workers from overthrowing the Provisional Government there and

then. The majority of workers and peasants organised in Soviets throughout the rest of Russia still followed the radical middle-class Mensheviks and Social-Revolutionaries. These parties continued to speak in favour of a partnership between the Soviets and the Provisional Government.

There was a strong danger that the Petrograd workers would become isolated from the rest of Russia.

The Bolshevik leaders remembered what happened during the 1871 Paris Commune, when the Paris workers took power when politically far ahead of the workers and peasants of the rest of France. Isolated, the Paris workers were slaughtered by the capitalist government. The Bolshevik Party in July 1917 acted as the 'memory' of the Russian working class.

But the July days terrified the Russian middle classes, who decided to try to overthrow the Soviets. At the end of August the right-wing General Kornilov attempted a military coup, but his conspiracy failed when most of his soldiers deserted him.

With the increasing war weariness and growing hunger among workers and peasants alike, the Soviets moved further and further to the left. After the Kornilov affair, the Bolsheviks won majorities in the Moscow and other Soviets.

Bloodless

In the countryside, deserting soldiers returned home land-hungry. The ransacking of landed estates became more frequent. The Social-Revolutionaries lost support among the peasants whose demands they had in no way fought for, while the Bolsheviks promised them the land and an end to the war.

This shift in support made possible the almost bloodless victory of 25 October. The insurrection which toppled the capitalist regime of Kerensky was organised by the Bolsheviks through the Petrograd Soviet and its Military-Revolutionary Committee under the simple but powerful slogan, 'Bread, Land and Peace.'

The chairman of this committee, the man who supervised the planning of the final seizure of power, was Trotsky.

As Trotsky put it, the Bolshevik Party was a guiding organisation without which the energy of the people would have dissipated like steam not enclosed in a piston-box.

BOOKS

REVIEW

I will order, you will obey

WORKING FOR FORD, by Huw Beynon, Penguin, 90p.

SO MUCH has been written about Ford in the past few years that some may think this book just another in the long line of rhetorical statements. Huw Beynon has never worked for Ford, he is a lecturer at Bristol University, and sometimes he misses the point.

But it is still a book to be read by all revolutionary socialists and certainly by all Ford workers. I can guarantee it will, in parts, bring tears to the eyes, a lump in the throat, and anger in the breast. It will provoke laughter in places and a fierce pride in a struggling emergent trade union, that fights for its life against appalling odds—and slowly wins.

I do not doubt that Beynon is an ardent socialist but he makes several mistakes. He describes union negotiator Moss Evans in benevolent terms as a 'Socialist', which—as most Ford workers will know—is highly debatable.

The book opens with a brief but incomplete history of the Ford Motor Company. Beynon draws the same conclusion that most of us at Ford drew a long time ago, that Henry Ford was the first fraud and never actually invented anything except a concept of human relationships that must rank with the horror stories of Edgar Allen Poe.

Henry Ford was, as Beynon quotes: 'An industrial fascist—the Mussolini of Detroit.' Nothing proved this more than when the Ford service department at the River Rouge plant in Dearborn murdered four workers by machine-gun fire for protesting their right to work.

The theme that runs through the book is the determination of Ford 'to permit no bargaining on the shop floor, and preserve the right to manage at every level'—even, in some cases, into the workers' private lives.

From experience I know this is true. The attitude of Ford management is always 'I will order, you will obey.'

This attitude runs right through Ford, from the brain-washed management underlings to the 'Ford aristocrats' who consciously exploit their workers on an international scale.

Beynon carefully draws the conclusion, although it is unstated, that the Ford National Joint Negotiating Committee should not be there at all, and I wholeheartedly agree. In 1963 it nearly tottered and fell. As the Cameron Report says, there was then at Dagenham a 'private union within a union, enjoying immediate and continuous touch with the men in the shop, answerable to no supervisor and in no way officially or constitutionally linked with the union hierarchy.'

It is a pity it did not continue. The negotiating committee is of course Ford's cup of tea. Divorce the negotiators from the shop floor and the real problems that concern it and you have a totally useless body on puppet strings. Nothing has emphasised this more than the recent dispute.

IT'S THOSE MEN AGAIN

AUDREY WISE has written a lively little pamphlet, **WOMEN AND THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' CONTROL** (Spokesman 12p) on male domination in the unions, addressed mainly at male trade unionists. She argues that women have an important part to play in the struggle against capitalism, a part which is ignored by the unions (and largely by the workers' control movement too). As a result the trade union movement helps to keep women submissive and subservient and is itself damaged.

It is good to see male domination confronted head on. 27 per cent of all trade unionists are women, but only two per cent of officials are women. More women delegates to the TUC are welcomed—to provide more partners at the Mayor's reception.

Audrey Wise shows how the structure of society—woman's position in the home—helps to undermine her activity on the shop floor and argues effectively that this must be fought by the socialist movement as a whole. Not only is more help needed from men in the home but so is positive discrimination towards



HENRY FORD: Followed in his father's footsteps

It would take too long to recount all the workers' anecdotes but one sticks in the mind, or in the gullet, and that's the story of the worker in Dagenham lying dead on the floor by the side of the track, and the foreman shouting to the men to get back on the line. The dead man is left by the side of the track for 10 minutes unattended, the workers all working, the track revolving.

That's when I got the first lump in my throat, mixed with a feeling it is better not to remember.

The book is not what you could call an original masterpiece, being made up of various reports, workers' anecdotes, and Ford law, but it is instructive to the uninitiated, and could well give some Ford workers an insight into the company they work for—a company founded by an egotistical megalomaniac, built on bloodshed and graft, and perpetuated by fear.

The book is a book to learn from, and most of the lessons come from the mistakes made on the trade union side.

It is a modern horror story, but where you can push other horror stories to the back of your mind, this one you can't. It lives with us, as some of us live with it. This is a book for all trade unionists, because you don't want this to happen to you, do you brother?

But the book draws no conclusion as to the way forward, perhaps because that way can only be determined by the workers themselves and by the unions, of which someone once said:

'Trade unions work well as centres of resistance against the encroachment of capital. They fail partially from an invidious use of their power. They fail generally from limiting themselves to a guerrilla war against the effects of the existing system, instead of simultaneously trying to change it, instead of using their organised forces as a lever for the emancipation of the working class, that is to say, the ultimate abolition of the wages system.'

I forget who said that, but read the book, trade unionists, and fail no more.

TONY BARROW

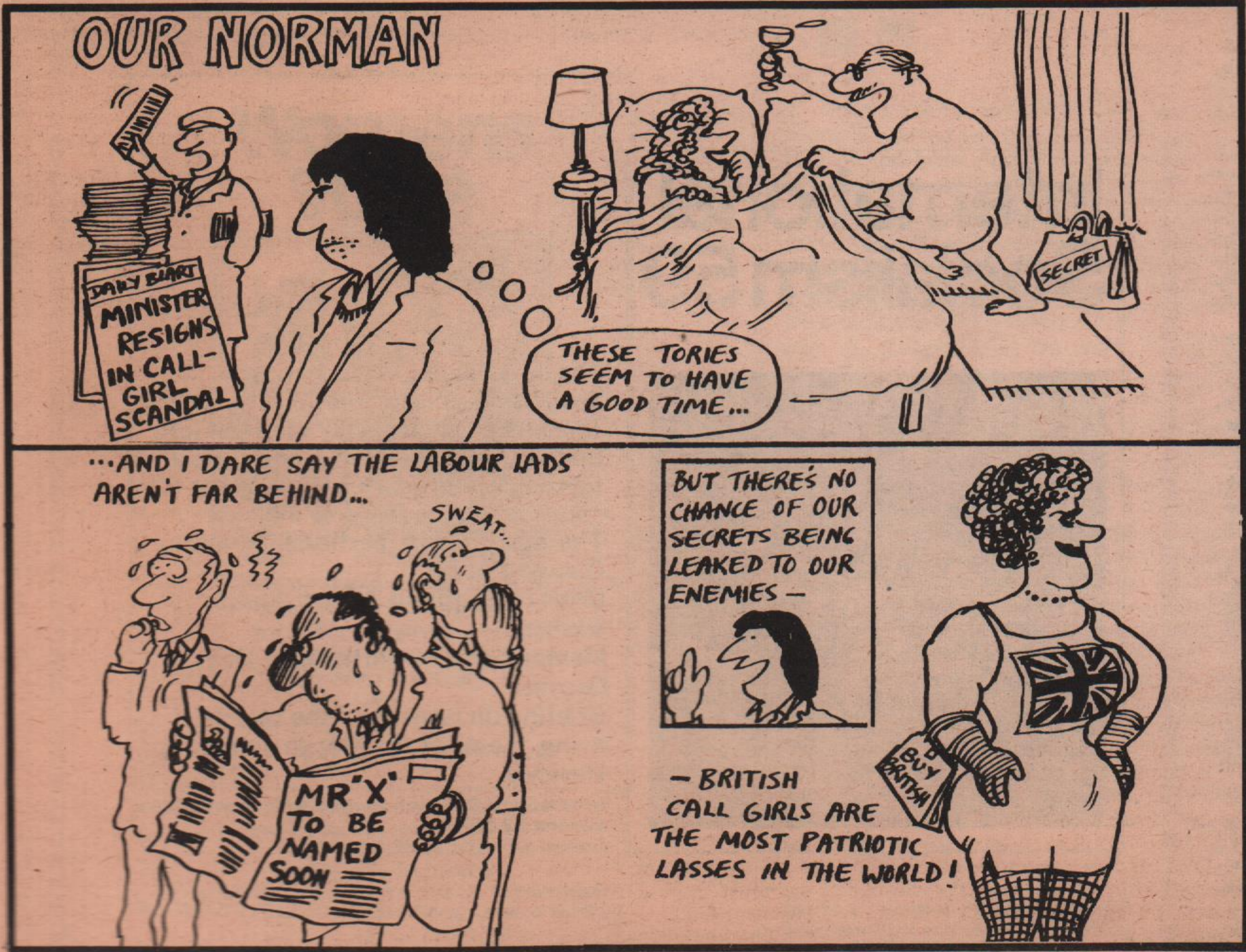
Shop steward, Ford, Leamington

One for the fire

THE RAVENOUS EYE, by Milton Shulman, Cassell, £4.50.

MEMO TO THE EDITOR: Do you really want me to review that boring bloody book on television by Moulting Shulman? Nobody in their right mind is going to buy it, are they? Please phone if you want me to do it, otherwise save the phone bill and I'll have a sacramental burning in Ribby Wood at midnight.

TGM CLARKE



THEMROC: Not such a bad dream



AFTER THE ALARM

I AM writing this article in that appalling moment between the alarm clock going off and going to work, those few minutes which seem like hours, when the glare of the morning is peeling off the skin of your hang-over and the whole meaning of the world is boiled down to a cup of coffee.

Everyone who works knows about this moment of exhaustion and monotony and loneliness. At last someone has made a film about it.

Claude Faraldo—in contrast to most French film directors—is working class. He has made a film about what happens when you wake up in your own bad dream, a film about an anarchist King Kong, Themroc, the hero of the film, doesn't have a language because he doesn't need one. He has an Esperanto guttural, a series of groans and shrieks and yelps.

He gets up when the alarm clock goes, has a cup of coffee in the kitchen, cycles to the tube station, gets a train, sits in those agonising corridors of faces, like we all do, longing to scream or laugh or at least do something.

At the factory he changes into his work clothes and goes off to spend an invigorating day painting the perimeter railings closely supervised by the works security guard. He fancies his sister and hates his mum. He is fed up, pissed off, bored up to here—a middle-aged Our Norman.

One day he freaks out. He decides, while in the works bog and in a moment of sanity, to go mad. He bellows at the Securicor, walks off the job, makes love to his sister and then decides to re-decorate his flat by knocking the walls down. At night he prowls around hunting for food, hijacks the odd police car and strangles the occasional copper whom he roasts for breakfast.

SEXY

The authorities are a bit put out by this behaviour. The chief of police—who also plays the factory manager, head bureaucrat, obsessional car cleaner and other similar roles—decides something must be done about Themroc. So he sends a squad of police, a division of the army, with a large number of sub-machine guns, bombs and uniforms, to root him out.

This only makes Themroc feel better. Indeed the tear gas makes him feel

extremely sexy. When the authorities decide to wall him back into his life, he seduces the bricklayer by caressing his nipples when he is hard at work mixing concrete.

The neighbours, quite respectable to look at, catch on. They start knocking down their front doors, having it off in public and walking around nude. A snooty secretary from work can't resist Themroc's one-man liberation front and moves in. An old age pensioner and a four year old kid begin to demolish their walls too.

MORAL

Of course such an inflammatory story can have no end (until we all do it, together).

Faraldo, the director, makes films because he thinks 'the cinema is the only means of expression open to people deprived of culture like me... I do not believe in the direct influence of films on the public, but rather in the diffusion of a kind of pollution, or the crumbling away of the moral supports that help people accept their condition of life.'

It is a funny and beautiful film, though disgracefully male-dominated, and appears to be too long—until it's over, when it seems like a subversive dream. It's on at the Classic, in London's Piccadilly, but is distributed by the Other Cinema, a radical distribution company, from 12 Great Newport Street, London WC2. Phone: 01-734 8508.

Keeping politics in the theatre

ACTRESS Miriam Karlin is a utopian socialist, Zionist, and left-wing member of Equity, the actors' union, who believes in the revolution from her St John's Wood studio but can't bring herself to join any party because she'd be 'compromised'.

She says she's made left-wing noises since her teens, when she played at the Unity Theatre, and supported Harold Wilson in the rose-pink days soon after he was elected in 1964. She holds Heath and Powell in contempt—Heath for his attack on workers' living standards and for the Industrial Relations Bill, Powell for his racism.

She's also violently opposed to Equity reactionaries like Marius Goring and Nigel Patrick who clamour to 'keep politics out of theatre.' She says: 'Everything is political—the price of Nescafe gold blend, anything. When I asked Goring on TV if the wage freeze wasn't political and wasn't it political to defend his members' interests against the freeze he couldn't answer.'

'If I signed on the dotted line for a party I'd lose my integrity and independence to speak out. I am terribly torn. I know I have double standards living here in such splendour—but I want everybody to live like this. If they'd arrange to start the revolution all around the world a week on Friday I'd be there with the rest of them—but to give up my independence to speak out is a problem.'

So she has that middle-class complex about her 'individuality'. But it doesn't stop her supporting Zionism. 'Very stupid people say Israel is an imperialist country and now it's a dirty word in some circles. But my father worked for this dream and now it's come true.'

Career

'Of course I'm sad about the Palestinian Arabs—but there's one argument that's never put. Jews, wherever they are, rich or poor, always help each other. But Arabs never lift a finger to help their own kind. Look at all the oil rich Arab sheikhs who never do anything. Jews wouldn't let these people get into this condition.'

Compromises? Miriam Karlin says she's made few in her professional career. Recently she received five offers to work in South Africa but she refused even though she could have gone on her own terms when money was tight.

Of the film Clockwork Orange—she starred in the rape scene that upset the Festival of Light blue noses—she says it reflected a chilling plastic world that's already arrived. 'When I did a show at Harlow new town I used to go through the plastic centre and it's unbelievable. I wonder how many Alexes are growing up in those monstrous high rise boxes.'

One's always a bit uneasy listening to people talking about social change from the ease of a chaise-longue. Miriam Karlin answers the criticism this way: 'If there's injustice I feel a need to speak out. If there's anything I hate it's apathy. I don't think all this is doing my career any good. Really I don't care what anyone thinks.'

Neil Hamilton

Leading critics to the slaughter

OVER-ACTED, overdressed and overwhelming—that's the only description for Vincent Price's brilliant tour-de-force in Theatre of Blood (Leicester Square Theatre, London). Oscar Wilde once hinted that the tools of a critic were pen, paper and poison, and it is the antagonism between artist and reviewer that forms the basis of this film.

But as well as satisfying the egoism of actor and critic, it also takes a swipe at the house of slaughter that is Shakespeare.

The film, set in a glossy upper-middle-class world, tells the grotesque history of Edward Lionheart, a Shakespearean hack of uncompromising mediocrity, who sees his life as an expression of genius. Devoid of humour, sympathy or originality, Lionheart's view is shared only by his daughter Edwina.

When the influential London Theatre Critics Circle spurns his season of Shakespearean drama and unanimously awards its annual prize to an unknown actor, Lionheart is so mortified he commits suicide by leaping in the Thames.

Being Price, a grave, no matter how watery, cannot stop him, and he re-emerges to plot the death of the critics with the same enthusiasm with which he butchered Shakespeare.

The film offers the usual bill of fare of the horror epic: continual bloodletting, decapitations, sundered limbs, spurting veins. But its power comes from its touchstone in the worst of Shakespeare—wild ravings and unintelligible language.

Lionheart, jettisoned on the

mudbanks of the Thames, is befriended by a pitiful horde of derelicts, who help him wreak vengeance on the Critics Circle. He establishes a theatre of the grotesque and ensures the murder of nine out of ten of his enemies, their deaths being variations on Shakespearean themes.

The centre of the film is the acting of Price and the glittering dialogue. Instead of using metaphors that float like a butterfly and sting like a bee, Lionheart slugs out Shakespeare with the ferocity of a Joe Frazier slinging right hooks to the jaw.

But don't let the bombast deafen you to the dialogue. Lionheart, after supervising a bloody death, fixes the tottering critic with a baleful stare and gently chides: 'Oh pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth, that I am meek and gentle with these butchers!'

Even if the melodrama is clownish, it's an entertaining and worthwhile film. Lionheart is the only original character, the rest are dummies, but the sheer exuberance of Price's relentless assault on his spectators compels fascination.

BARRY ALMEIDA

'CAPITALIST LACKEY' REPLIES

I ASKED for criticism of my TV column but this is ridiculous! People are calling me names without signing their own. I'm getting anonymous letters yet!

I'm a pusillanimous, liberal, reformist, capitalist lackey and I'm only writing the column to get promoted—promoted?—to the Guardian because I keep telling Socialist Worker readers to make feeble gestures like writing to producers instead of waiting for the Revolution to sweep ITV and the BBC on to the Capitalist rubbish dump and lead the triumphant Viewers' Revolt in a victory dance on Shepherd's Bush Green.

So I'd like to make clear to the postcard militants that my aim is to

stir up critical interest in television, to direct that criticism outward to the programme makers, and to try to dissipate among viewers the twin evils of passive acceptance and passive rejection which are characteristic of the reaction to TV in this country.

These hard-line inactivists all write about 'workers', 'viewers', 'masses', 'the TV audience', as if they themselves were in no way connected with these categorisations. The rest of us, it appears, are corrupted, seduced, anaesthetised by the electronic bosses' brainwasher, but not them. They don't look at it.

One of my correspondents who doesn't think 'the workers' should watch TV signs himself 'a television worker'.

Luxemburg

Reform or revolution 40p
Mass strike 40p
Spartacus 20p
plus 3p per title postage
IS Books,
6 Cottons Gardens,
London E2 8DN

right to urge others to extremes of action I wouldn't undertake myself, and perhaps my correspondent might do the same. Not that any of them have any concrete suggestions to make, apart from not watching television.

Please don't stop writing. But don't be afraid to sign your names to your letters. Your secrets will be safe with me.

Fraternally yours,
A TV CRITIC.

SOCIALIST WORKER television columnist Tom Clarke was awarded the Writers' Guild prize for the best television play of 1972—Stocker's Copper—last Thursday. Guest of Honour at the Guild dinner was Tory minister Sir John Eden. Tom Clarke did not attend the ceremony.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We fight:

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

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

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

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

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

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

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

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

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

Against racialism and police victimisation of black workers.

Against immigration restriction.

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

Against secret diplomacy.

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

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

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

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

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

THERE ARE IS BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

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

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

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

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

NORTH WEST
Barrow
Blackburn
Bolton
Burnley
Crewe
Kirkby
Lancaster
Manchester
Merseyside
Oldham
Preston
Rochdale
Salford
St Helens
Stoke
Stockport
Trafford
Wigan
Wrexham

GREATER LONDON and HOME COUNTIES

Bexley
Camden
Chertsey
Croydon

WALES and SOUTH WEST
Bath
Bristol
Cardiff
Exeter
Gloucester
Llanelli
Mid-Devon
Neath
Plymouth
Swansea
Swansea Valley

Ealing
East London
Enfield
Fulham and Hammersmith
Hackney and Islington
Harlesden
Harrow
Hemel Hempstead
High Wycombe
Hornsey
Houslow
Ilford
Kilburn
Kingston
Lambeth
Lewisham
Merton
North Herts
Paddington
Reading
St Albans
Slough
Tottenham
Walthamstow
Wandsworth
Watford
Woolwich

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

SOUTH
Brighton
Canterbury
Slough
Crawley
Eastbourne
Guildford
Portsmouth
Southampton

THE UNIONS

BIG TASK FOR MILITANTS IN GMWU

SW Reporter

THE 58th congress of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers at Scarborough last week started with pouring rain outside the conference hall, matched only by the success which the executive had in dampening down the debate inside.

The stage behind the platform was adorned with six-foot high portraits of previous GMWU general secretaries, with the photograph of David Basnett, successor since January this year to Lord Cooper, planted firmly in the foreground. It was a splendid symbol of the domination that the GMWU executive exercises over the rank and file.

A swift glance at the union accounts for 1972 provides a stunning illustration of this control at the top. Last year the union paid out of the pockets of its members the grand total of £1,075,875 in salaries to its full-time officers and secretaries. Half that total—£587,552, was returned to the membership in the form of strike and lock-out benefit.

As the congress progressed the leadership seemed to be falling over themselves to sound the clarion call to retreat on issue after issue—the Industrial Relations Act, the freeze, productivity dealing, factory closures—and the lack of any organised rank and file opposition allowed them to get away with it.

PRODUCTIVITY

Speaker after speaker from the executive condemned the freeze because it does not allow them to negotiate productivity deals. Alex Donnett JP, Scottish Regional Secretary, said in his chairman's address: 'I should say that no reasonable scheme for increasing productivity will be disregarded by this union. Indeed we'll continue to suggest improvements wherever we can think of them ourselves.'

Jack Biggin, national industrial officer for the electricity supply industry, was proud of the agreement on pay and productivity reached last year. This agreement, to run for 18 months, gave workers in the electricity industry an increase of the princely sum of £2.65.

It was hailed as a 'reasonable agreement' by Biggin because it brought the labourer's rate up to £21.70. He went on to boast of the fact that 80 per cent of the workers in the industry are now on incentive payment schemes.

INCENTIVE

Productivity dealing in the electricity supply industry was attacked by J Bohanna, a Liverpool delegate, who pointed out that over the past few years 50,000 workers, a third of the labour force, had been lost in the industry. 'When and where is it going to stop?' he asked.

Charles Donnet, national industrial officer for local authority manual workers, claimed, 'One of the reasons we have low pay is that we have allowed too many public authorities to get away without implementing productivity deals.'

Charles Denning (Shepton Mallet branch) proposed a successful resolution demanding that 'the union spares no effort in the struggle to enhance the wages and working conditions of hospital workers.' Attacking the idea of incentive bonus schemes, he said, 'Brother Donnet has talked about these incentive schemes. Most of the people I've talked to don't want them.'

The fact that the freeze has temporarily put a stop to productivity deals was not sufficient evidence of its nastiness for union general secretary David Basnett, who bemoaned the fact that, 'The introduction of three shift continuous working in place of



Donnett: ridiculed £7 demand

day work would be difficult if not impossible under the current legislation.'

This remarkable statement came in Tuesday morning's debate on two resolutions concerning economic policy (see last week's Socialist Worker). One of the resolutions was a special motion from the national executive committee which merely rejected the Tory freeze laws as being 'unfair and unworkable'.

It called for 'statutory control over key prices such as food, rents, rates, fares and fuel' and welcomed the TUC-Labour Party 'initiative on inflation.' The other motion from the Perivale branch stated that 'the TUC should cease meeting and discussing with this government on matters pertaining to Tory financial policy and wage restraint.'

Basnett made it clear that, although he thought the Tory freeze was unfair, his main criticism of it was that it was not effective in stemming inflation and achieving social peace. He called for a 'restoration of voluntary collective bargaining backed by an Industrial Relations Act which is sensible and which will strengthen and not weaken the situation.'

He found the policy of refusing to talk to the Tories completely unpalatable. 'Give to us a role in discussing the social order,' he pleaded.

In a reference to the long tradition of struggle that the trade union movement has behind it he made it clear that for him, at least, that struggle was over. 'We don't forget our history,' he said, 'but since 1960 we have talked together.'

His pre-occupation with the 'corridors of power' was not shared by the Perivale delegate, J Cope, who pointed out that for the first two years of the present government the Tories had refused to talk to the TUC. 'For two years the Tories treated us with contempt,' he said. 'They should now be treated with our contempt.'

The executive's special motion, which avoids any fight against the freeze, in favour of talks with the Labour Party about an alternative strategy to fight inflation, was carried with only a handful of votes against. The Perivale motion was defeated by

NALGO ranks fight freeze

BRANCHES of NALGO have started to push their negotiators to launch a big campaign around this year's pay claim for local government white collar workers.

The claim is for increases of 15-20 per cent. Rises tied to the government's Phase Two norm would result in an across-the-board percentage increase of 6.5 per cent which would mean a real cut in the standard of living of NALGO members.

The NALGO leaders have given no hint that they intend to fight for more than £1 plus 4 per cent. The signs are that

three to one.

Charles Donnet, responsible for GMWU members in hospitals, said, 'For six weeks the hospital workers fought alone a battle which could only be won by the whole trade union movement.' He then went on to suggest that this could have been done if only the TUC had been quicker in reassuring the government that it was prepared 'to see anomalies in low pay rectified without using that as an excuse to maintain differentials elsewhere.'

Commenting on Donnet's report T Thomas (Merthyr Tydfil) asked if hospital workers had to accept their miserable settlement and nothing else. 'The manual worker should be demanding an extra £7 a week to bring them a decent standard of living,' he urged. In reply Donnet ridiculed £7 as though it were asking for the moon. 'Why not £15?' he cynically asked.

A resolution from the Edgware branch called for total opposition to the government's proposed steelworks closures. It called upon the TUC 'to conduct a UCS type of campaign as it appears to be more effective than talking in Downing Street or at Chequers.'

EFFECTIVE

Proposing the motion Stan Gibbs said that he expected the executive's insistence on 'constitutional' channels would lead it to recommend rejection, but he warned, 'Being constitutional so often hasn't proved effective at all.' He went on to say that if trade unionists were not in a position to negotiate security of employment then the answer had to lie in some form of direct action.

Full-time official Frank Cottam opposed the motion on behalf of the executive on the grounds that 'we want a viable, competitive industry that can survive competition from Germany and Japan.' The motion was overwhelmingly defeated.

The conference turned out to be what the executive had intended—an annual jamboree which pays lip-service to the democratic involvement of the membership in the running of the union, but which in fact gives the executive a free-hand to maintain their control. Only when a strong rank and file organisation has been built within the union can this control begin to be challenged.

It will not be easy to build. The GMWU bosses react with alacrity to any challenge. But if the union with its 848,000 members is to play a part in the fight back against big business attacks on the working class it is a task which GMWU militants must set about without delay.

they will settle within the form at the earliest opportunity.

Details of the claim are to be circulated to members, but there will be no posters, leaflets, car stickers and other publicity which aided the campaign in 1970, when NALGO won its biggest ever settlement of 12½ per cent.

Last week, the Metropolitan District local government committee called on the national committee to initiate a big publicity campaign, backed up by special meetings at branch level. The resolution also called for a delegate meeting to discuss the employers' final offer.

What happened on the farm

THANK YOU for your article Farmer John: Always true to his evictions (26 April). I would point out though that the reason for my leaving was due to a difference of opinion with the manager over the maintenance of refrigeration equipment. This came to a head when he blew out the milking plant during milking.

My gross annual income from contract milking at Vicarage Farm was around £2000 a year. Out of this sum I had to pay for all necessary labour needed to look after 100 milking cows, one bull and feed calves until removed from the farm. My net income was about £1200 to £1500 depending on my expenditure for the year. I was also supplied

with the farm house at Vicarage Farm, rent free, free milk and free use of a telephone.

I agree with you that the tied cottage system is a relic of the past that should be abolished. My own thoughts on this are that all tied houses should be taken over by the local housing authorities and farm workers be allowed to pay rent in the same way as any other council tenant. If he then wished to change his employment it would then become a council matter of finding alternative accommodation without having to go through the absurd court rituals that do neither workernorfarmerany credit.-A F OAKLEY, Enfield, Middlesex. See Footprints: page 4.

UNITY IS VITAL

-DON'T

FIGHT

LETTERS

I HAVE been a Communist Party member for several years, I am a TGWU shop steward and a supporter of the Federation of Old Age Pensioners. I support Shelter and almost every other struggle which involves the working class. I support Socialist Worker and I also support the Morning Star. Every week your paper prints What We Stand For. I stand for the same ideals.

As a working-class citizen and a not very educated lorry driver, I strongly oppose your criticism of us Communists. I equally strongly oppose the Communists' criticism of IS.

It seems to me that there is a certain ideology involved which becomes a rift between the two groups. I am far too naive to even pretend to know what this ideology means.

The ultimate ends and aims of both parties appear to seem the same. Why, therefore, the discord between us? We both mean to attain socialism.

I have worked hard to achieve harmony between the CP and IS and have failed to do so because of what I would regard as distrust and suspicion between the two. I can honestly say that I am dedicated to the promotion of the working class and that I believe in Marxism and Leninism as I understand it.

Naive as I may be to the political reasons for this great misunderstanding between the two groups, I still believe that political prejudice is held. Both our parties are supposedly non-biased. Shall we try to sort it out?—M G TODD, High Wycombe, Bucks.



Let's hear from you. Socialist Worker wants to hear from readers—your likes and dislikes with the paper, your disagreements with IS policy, plus thoughts and comments on the multitude of problems affecting working people. Letters must arrive first post Monday. Handwritten letters must be legible and with names in capitals. to avoid confusion.

Tory press until they go bankrupt and so cannot back Heath.—J PREEN, London SW18.

I AGREE with Brian Parsons' statement that grassroots publications are very important. But this is only one of the methods by which we can fight the millionaire-controlled mass media machine.

In our fight against the enormous wealth and power of the press lords it is essential that we should ask ourselves: where does the brainwashing start? It starts in the schoolroom where we sat at our desks reading our history books which taught us about the mighty British empire and of the great battles we fought to win that empire and of how the natives of India and Africa all worshipped the great white king.

As boys and girls we all believed this and, the history lesson over, we would stand up and sing Land of Hope and Glory. Little did I realise as a small boy that one day I would spend several years travelling around parts of the empire and see and learn the truth about British rule in India.

It was during the two years I spent in Calcutta that the wool was really taken from my eyes. Here I saw some of the bloodiest anti-British riots in the history of that city. This was when the notorious Simon Commission visited India. The Indians were infuriated because there was not a single Indian on that commission.

The day Simon arrived all troops were called out, machine guns were set up on the street corners and the Calcutta police opened fire on the demonstrators. Several jute mill strikers were killed and wounded.

But were the British people at home told about this? Oh no. On the contrary the Fleet Street papers reaching India some time later had informed the British public that there was an enthusiastic welcome for Sir John Simon.

All this teaches us the need for socialist schools to be set up to teach the workers' children the truth about capitalist society.—ERNEST OFFEN, London W14.

Women

JULIAN HARBER'S dismissal of radical feminism at the Ruskin College History Workshop (19 May) is much too glib and does no service to socialists active in the women's liberation movement.

The statement: 'Sex oppression is more fundamental than class oppression' cannot be quickly dismissed. Anthropologists have shown that a division of labour based on sex is evident in nearly all tribal societies—long before we can speak of class societies and class oppression.

Our disagreement with the radical feminists is based on a different analysis of how we can change society. However not only is it important for socialists within the women's liberation movement to argue for a 'turn to the class' but trade unionists and revolutionaries must also much more fight against sexual discrimination within their own organisation.

As socialists we fight against all forms of oppression. It is the job of Socialist Worker to advance the cause of all oppressed groups so that when the working class seizes power no people will remain unfree.—JOHN WILLOUGHBY, Cambridge.

Stop the press lies

BRIAN PARSONS (26 May) makes the same point that I made weeks ago—that without the Tory press lies, Heath would be impotent.

But while Parsons advocates grassroots publications I say that he doesn't go far enough. What is really needed is for every one of the 10 or 11 million working class buyers of the Tory papers to wake up to one fact: that no one will give a mugger a hammer to carry out the mugging, so why should the workers give a man like Max Aitken the money to attack socialists?

Every worker should boycott the

UNIONIST ON TRIAL

IN RECENT weeks there has been much publicity about the struggle in South Africa for democratic and trade union rights. The black South African workers, despite police oppression and apartheid laws which deny them trade union and political organisation, have taken part in mass strikes. Major British companies with branches in South Africa have been forced to admit that they pay their African employees starvation wages.

These struggles may seem very distant but now a working class family in Coventry have their eldest son, John William Hosey, on trial in Pretoria, South Africa. He is being charged with offences under the Terrorism Act which carries a penalty of anything from five years imprisonment to the death sentence. His 'crimes' are distributing leaflets and

attempting to pass documents and money to an alleged terrorist. John is a member of ASTMS, his father a TGWU (NUVB) convenor and his mother active in NUPE.

His defence counsel in South Africa has urgently requested that a member of his family go there to give him some moral support against the brutal interrogation of the South African police.

You will appreciate that defence costs alone run into thousands of pounds and the Defence Committee urgently asks for your financial support. The Defence Committee Appeal has been endorsed by the District Committee of the Confederation, more than 40 Coventry Labour Councillors and MPs Bill Wilson and Leslie Huckfield.—COVENTRY DEFENCE COMMITTEE, 32 Falcon Ave, Binley, Coventry.

Those hush-hush profits of the press tycoons

EVERY TIME journalists and printworkers put in for a pay rise, they are beaten around the ears with tales of woe: what terrible straits the industry is in, how staff may well have to be cut back to make ends meet, or even that another pound paid out will stop the machines forever.

Strange, then, that as company accounts for 1972 are published, they all show that newspapers are booming and profits are considerably up on the previous year.

Take United Newspapers Ltd, which owns a string of provincial papers and periodicals from the Yorkshire Post to Punch magazine.

Sir William Barnetson, chairman and managing director of the group, has just announced pre-tax profits for last year of £4,840,275, which is 58 per cent up on 1971. The total dividend to shareholders for the year was 52½ per cent. That is a profit of £52.50 on every £100 worth of shares held.

You can practically taste the tears as Sir William apologises to shareholders for not making their personal profit higher.

Even more unfortunately, Sir William wasn't crying or apologising when he refused to pay his journalists the £2.50-£3.50 a week increase they had been promised BEFORE the freeze.

And when staff at the Sheffield Telegraph and Sheffield Star took industrial action to try to recover the money which had been stolen from them, Sir William stopped their pay for attending mandatory chapel meetings.

For a while, it looked as though the journalists, by sheer unity and strength were going to win—by forcing the management to put their promised pay into a special fund to be dished out after the freeze ended.

Muttered

But the Tory government came to Sir William's aid by issuing an Order forbidding him to do such a wicked thing. Sir William breathed a sigh of relief and thought that was the end of the matter.

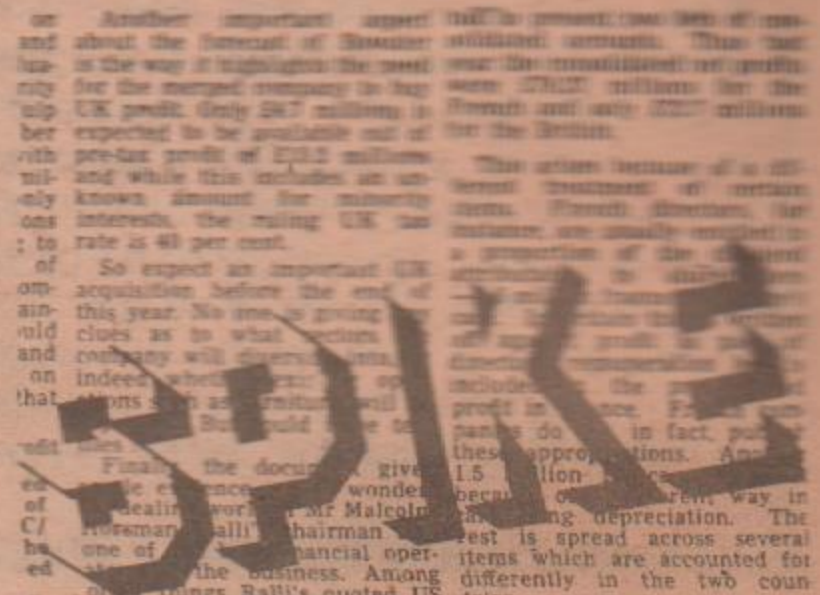
He was right—because the National Union of Journalists' executive muttered something about challenging the Order in the courts, then decided it was all too much for them and slunk away.

The money United Newspaper workers have lost is about £40 a head: that is the same amount that any shareholder in the company owning some £76 worth of shares made in 1972 for doing nothing.

United Newspaper employees might like to know that the Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on Tuesday, 12 June mid-day, in 23-27 Tudor Street, London EC4 . . . just in case they want to remind shareholders that they are thieves.



'CLEARWAY for Barber's Boom' screamed the Daily Mail in a front page splash last week, as the mini-Chancellor announced cuts in public



spending just to prove he was still around.

The story, written by the Mail's Political Editor, Walter Terry, went on to praise the Chancellor in no uncertain terms, and to 'approve Mr Barber's neat handwork.' The Mail also agreed with the Chancellor that the cuts would not increase prices in any way.

Tucked away on page two was the news that the Prices Commission had approved another batch of price increases, this time on tinned and packaged food.

The Sun newspaper, on the other hand, where Tony Shrimley is Political Correspondent, was far less enthusiastic about Barber's latest boom-rattle, and warned that he must do something about subsidising food, or he would be out of business.

Next month, the stories in both papers will reflect the same opinion of the Chancellor whatever he does—but the by-lines above the copy will be different. For Walter Terry is moving to the Daily Express and Tony Shrimley is replacing Terry.

Terry won't have to change his political colours much at the Express, but friends of Tony Shrimley are puzzled by his move. In private life—and in his columns for the Sun—Shrimley is a strong Labour supporter.

He is a Heath-hater and an Enoch Powell-fearer.

How then will he cope at the Mail, which prefers to believe Powell's fairyland figures on immigration to the real facts, and uses every opportunity to discredit even the pretend-socialists?

Everyone will be glad to hear that Shrimley's pangs of conscience will be soothed by an extra couple of thousand a year in additional salary, expenses and other allowances.

And as a 'professional' he believes he will have no difficulty in turning out the kind of political clap-trap that is the speciality of the Daily Mail.

Leonard Hill

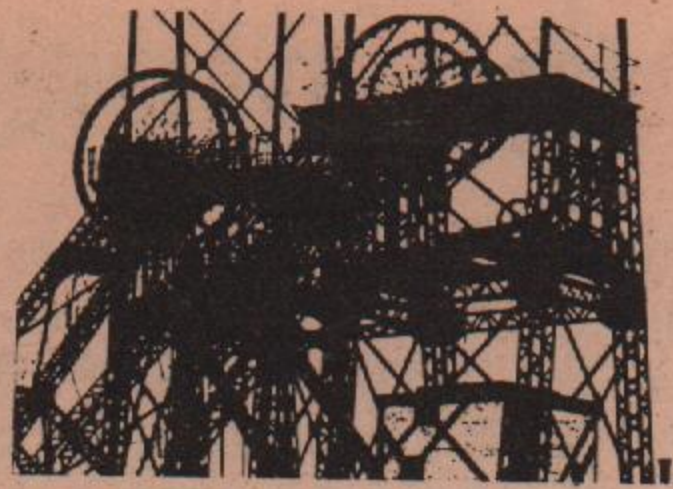
The Meaning of Marxism
by Duncan Hallas

20p plus 3p postage
IS Books
6 Cottons Gardens,
London E2 8DN

The lessons of Lofthouse

WHEN the coal industry costs seven lives in the kind of horrific disaster that occurred at Lofthouse Colliery on Wednesday 21 March, the sympathy extended to the relatives of the dead men is universal. Nowhere does this sympathy appear more highly developed than in the press and on the television.

Last Thursday's documentary on BBC television, Lofthouse—Aftermath of a Disaster, provided a sordid example of this. It was narrated by the BBC's own pet Yorkshireman, Michael Parkinson, and wound its tasteless way through the private grief of the dead men's relatives and friends, paying the customary tribute to their courage and to the courage and determination of the rescue teams who worked gruelling 12-hour shifts in the most dangerous and cramped conditions in a desperate bid to find the seven trapped



miners.

Every pit disaster hits the headlines for a few days at the most, a bitter reminder of the terrible price that the miners have to pay for the coal they produce. It is taken for granted that they have to pay that price, taken for granted that it is an industry which costs one life every five days.

The press and television always seem to ignore two vital questions: Why does such a disaster happen, and could it have been prevented?

The questions are answerable, but perhaps the answers are a little too uncomfortable. The truly horrific aspect of such tragedies is that so many of them are avoidable. In a sane, civilised society that considered the safety of workers more important than high productivity figures where miners themselves controlled the future of the industry, such tragedies would be few and far between.

The bitter lessons of Lofthouse are clear to socialists. To Michael Parkinson they are less clear. His attitude is summed up by the words of the prayer spoken by the clergyman at the memorial service: 'May we learn something more about safety in the mines so that some good can come of this tragedy.'

This attitude, that such disasters are 'an Act of God' and that they may turn out to be 'blessings in

disguise', serves an insidious purpose. It obscures the miner's understanding that his life and safety are within his control if he would only join hands with his fellow workers in other industries to overthrow the rule of society by a tiny handful whose concern with ever greater profits makes him an expendable pawn.

The official inquiry into the Lofthouse disaster opened at Wakefield this week. It may conclude that the tragedy was just a terrible accident, or it may point the finger of blame at minor officials in the NCB. What it certainly will not do is put the blame where it truly belongs—with the handful of people whose lust for ever greater profits dominates the lives of every working man and woman.

BILL MESSAGE

BUILDERS VOTE FOR CLAIM OF £40 FOR 35 HOURS

GLASGOW:—By a small majority delegates at the second Scottish regional conference of the building workers' union, UCATT, rejected the policy of the right-wing union leadership last weekend.

A resolution calling on the executive council to end the present agreement in June and launch a claim for £40 for a 35-hour week was passed by 75 votes to 64.

Right-wing executive member Danny Crawford tried to get the resolution defeated, telling delegates it was 'no use voting for a resolution the executive could not implement.' But rank and file militants, well represented at the conference, successfully argued that such a policy was necessary to beat the lump and give UCATT members a cut of the profits being made in the industry.

Earlier George Gould, the Scottish Regional Council chairman, was hissed by some delegates when he said: 'Militancy is essential to our organisation, but it must be within the organisation not outside it. Splinter groups, activist groups, charter groups, call them what you may, are doing the opposite of what trade unions were founded for, and that is the unification of the working-class movement.'

This witch-hunting of rank-and-file organisation within the union clearly did not wash. Almost all the delegates present, representing 40,000 Scottish building workers, knew that it was the militants who had made the pace during last year's strike.

DEFEATED

The debate on the rise of the 'grip' (as the lump is called in Scotland) was weakened by the absence of any specific resolution for immediate action. Several delegates pointed to the bankruptcy of any attempt to do this through parliament. Sid Paris, from Dundee, said that during the previous week's debate in parliament on Eric Heffer's Bill outlawing the lump, only six Labour MPs and eight Tories were actually in the debating chamber. A delegate from Falkirk called these empty benches 'the biggest stab in the back.'

Jimmy Sheridan, a painter from Glasgow, said: 'The lump will not be defeated in parliament or in the boardroom of the employers' federation. It will be defeated on the site. Either we drive the lump from the construction industry or the lump will drive us from the industry.'

Yet when Hugh D'Arcy, a Communist Party member and member of the General Council of the Scottish TUC, spoke for the executive, it seemed that UCATT's leaders were more ready to fight the lump through the tax authorities than by winning a high basic rate and full trade union membership for building workers. The 'principal cause' of the growth of the lump, D'Arcy argued, was 'tax evasion'.

Justifying this, he said: 'We can quote instances in Scotland where our members are earning more than lump workers.' Donald McGregor, the regional secretary, said that UCATT members working for McAlpine's had earned up to £240 a week.

The vast majority of his members will doubtless be very glad to know this. They are still on a standard basic rate of £26 for a craftsman and £22.20 for a labourer.

An emergency resolution was also passed which pledged full physical, financial and moral support to the Shrewsbury building workers. This was seen by some militants as a substantial shift on the part of the right-wing regional council. The real test will, however, be in action.

Workers pack meeting

CAMBORNE, Cornwall:—Workers packed a meeting last Wednesday to hear Wally Preston, a Manchester militant, speak for the strengthening of rank and file newspapers in industry and the building of a revolutionary socialist organisation. Jimmy Rule, AUEW convenor at Camborne's huge Holman's factory, and Dave Edwards, from the Fine Tubes Strike Committee, who also spoke, both stressed the weakness of the trade union leadership and the importance of rank and file action.

Several workers at the meeting afterwards joined the International Socialists. They will be founder members of Cornwall's first IS branch.

Postal workers defeat leaders

ISLE OF MAN:—The union executive was defeated at the Union of Post Office Workers' conference last week on important issues.

The conference rejected Adpost, the plan for postmen to deliver unaddressed advertising circulars and opposed any further increase in the number of part-time workers employed in sorting offices.

It also called for a review of special services, by which the post office provides special collections and deliveries to some firms and individuals.

One important defeat for the executive was during the rules revision conference, held before the main conference, when it failed in its attempt to make changes in the rules possible only every five years, as opposed to three years as at present.

The attempt to get sorting offices closed on Saturdays was defeated, not, as some papers reported, because it was put forward by militants, but because it would be against the interests of other grades, especially the counter clerks and telephonists. Tom Jackson said later that the executive council would be taking the spirit of the motion and would be attempting to win a five-day working week (spread over six days) as soon as possible.

Record

But the executive defeated an attempt by London district postmen to end all productivity deals until a detailed report of the future plans of the post office was published. This defeat was largely due to the fears of other grades and the false arguments of general secretary Tom Jackson, who compared the pay of the engineering grades with that of UPW members, saying the difference was due to the Post Office Engineering Union's record on productivity deals.

Neither he nor the delegates seemed to realise that this was a criticism of the UPW's record in giving away jobs and accepting new working conditions without any financial return.

The executive decision to go to the Pay Board was also carried, with only one voice against. But the conference was a turning-point for the union: never before were so many amendments carried against the executive council reports.

Jackson's outburst against the left appears to have backfired: he was reported in London's Evening News as saying the campaign against Adpost was a Communist Party plot. In fact the Party was not opposed to Adpost, and Jackson angered those delegates who were.

Delegates must have gone away with the feeling that after all they do have a say in the affairs of the union, but there is still nothing but hard work ahead for the union's militants. The decline in the power of the executive should make their task easier.

Picket against racist film

CHELMSFORD:—A vicious racist film produced by a leading member of the right-wing Tory Monday Club for 'hate sessions' is being shown next week.

The film, called England, whose England? was described by The Sun's political editor as 'one of the most nauseating pieces of racial propaganda which I ever expected to encounter out-

side a street corner fascist meeting.'

Essex Monday Club, with 300 members one of the largest and most virulent branches, is showing the film at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford on Friday 8 June. A picket is being organised outside the hall by Chelmsford International Socialists from 7.15pm. All IS branches in Essex and East London are urged to support

WHAT'S ON

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

IS MEETINGS

MERSEYSIDE IS public meeting
Paul Foot on
WHY THE SYSTEM STINKS
Wednesday 6 June, 8pm
Strand Hotel, Brunswick Street, Liverpool (near Pier Head)

GLASGOW IS public meeting
WOMEN IN THE UNIONS
Speaker Sandra Peers
(member of IS Women's Subcommittee, and Newcastle Trades Council)
Thursday 7 June, 7.30pm
Iona House, Clyde Street, C1

BRADFORD IS public meeting
WATERGATE, LONRHO, POULSON
WHY THE SYSTEM STINKS
Speaker Paul Foot
(Journalist of the Year)
Thursday 7 June
Afro-West Indian Club, 55 Godwin St

SALFORD IS public meeting: Fight the Freeze, Stop the Retreat. Speaker John Deason (AUEW), Thursday 7 June, 8pm, Maypole Hotel (near Pendleton Church). ALL WELCOME.

BARNET/FINCHLEY IS public meeting: Watergate, Lonrho, Poulson... Why the system stinks. Speaker Tony Cliff. Wednesday 6 June, 8pm, Bull and Butcher, Whetstone (Totteridge tube station, buses 84, 134, 104, 260).

TOWER HAMLETS IS public meeting: Is Russia Socialist? Speaker Andreas Nagliati (IS industrial organiser), Thursday 7 June, 8pm, Bromley-by-Bow Public Room.

HOLBORN IS public meeting: Portugal—the longest-surviving fascist regime. Polly Gaster, from the End the Alliance Campaign, will speak on the fight for freedom in Portugal and her colonies. Tuesday 5 June, 5.30pm, The Plough, Museum Street, London WC1.

IS LANCASHIRE REGION Day School: Sunday 17 June, in Wigan. Morning: The Traditions of IS. Afternoon: Why IS? Speaker Tony Cliff. Further details available from branch secretaries.

LAMBETH IS public meeting
THE ECONOMY—BOOM OR BUST!
Speaker John Palmer (NUJ)
Wednesday 6 June, 8pm
Brixton Training Centre, 2 St Matthews Road (near Lambeth Town Hall/ Brixton tube)

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST RACIALISM
picket Monday Club film show
'England, whose England?'
Shire Hall, Chelmsford
Friday 8 June, 7.15pm
Picket organised by Chelmsford IS

TOTTENHAM IS public meeting
THE POWER BEHIND ENOCH POWELL
Speaker Paul Foot
Thursday 14 June, 8pm
YWCA, 629 Tottenham High Rd, N17

WOLVERHAMPTON IS public meeting
MAO'S CHINA
Speaker Nigel Harris
(member of IS executive committee)
Tuesday 5 June, 8pm
The Posada, Lichfield Street

MANCHESTER IS public meeting
WORKERS VERSUS THE LAW
Speakers: Laurie Flynn (SW reporter) and Tommy Dourass (UCATT)
Thursday 7 June, 7.30pm
The Milton Hall, Deansgate
All socialists and trade unionists welcome

OTHER MEETINGS

CONFERENCE for socialist teachers in the ATTI, sponsored by local Rank and File Technical Teacher groups. Saturday 16 June, Room 3, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. ATTI members only. Details from Liz Peretz, 81 Lansdowne Road, London W11.

ALMOST FREE THEATRE
9 Rupert Street, London W1
C P Taylor's political satire on political satire
THE GRAND ADULTERY CONVENTION
8.15pm, nightly
phone 485 6224 (memb)

NAMIBIA DAY: Demonstration Friday 1 June, 12.30-2pm, Rio-Tinto Zinc offices, St James Square, London SW1. Protest against RTZ exploitation and in support of Namibia's fight for freedom from South Africa.

WORKERS FIGHT public meeting: James Connolly and Ireland's Fight for Freedom. Speaker Sean Matgama. Sunday 3 June, 8pm, Golden Lion, Kings Cross Road, Kings Cross, London N1.

SOUTHERN AFRICA IN STRUGGLE LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS SPEAK
Central Hall, Westminster
Wednesday 20 June, 7.30pm
Speakers: MARCELINO DOS SANTOS (vice-president FRELIMO), OLIVER TAMBO (acting president ANC, South Africa), JIMMY REID, ABDUL MINTY, JUDITH HART MP, WINSTON PINDER (chairman)

Tickets at 10p each available from: Anti-Apartheid Movement, 89 Charlotte Street, London W1, phone 01-580 5311, and Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola and Guine, 12 Little Newport Street, London WC2, phone 01-734 9541

CONFERENCE: REVOLUTION AGAINST PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM
Saturday 23 June/Sunday 24 June
Manchester University
Speakers include Marcelino Dos Santos (view-president FRELIMO), Bob Sutcliffe, Fred Halliday and Basil Davidson
Registration (includes set of 10 conference papers) £2, should be sent in advance to: Convenor, End the Alliance Campaign, 'Welfare' Students Union, Oxford Road, Manchester
Floor accommodation 50p, bed accommodation £2 may be reserved at same address
Conference sponsored by Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola and Guine, 12 Little Newport Street, London WC2, phone 01-734 9541

NOTICES

REVOLUTIONARY FESTIVAL IN FRANCE: weekend 9, 10, 11 June. Lutte Ouvriere Fete, near Paris, entertainment and politics. Last year 20,000 attended. IS stall will be present again. 1. WANTED: examples of bulletins, posters, etc, from local IS work; 2. Anyone interested in attending the festival write for details. For both, contact Dept F, International sub-committee, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

IS BOOKS telephone number has changed to 01-739 6273.

LARGE YORKSHIRE ATTIC (bedsit) to spare from October. Cheap in return for minimal reliable companionship of two small girls after school 4-6. Might suit part-time student, writer, etc. Send for details: Carey, 6 Granville Terrace, Bingley.

LEICESTER: Comrades moving to Leicester this year should write to Accommodations, 11 Edward Road, Leicester, for details of accommodation, branch work, etc.

LONG-TIME group member seeks accommodation in West London. Strong supporter of group leadership and Rod Stewart. Phone 262 2670 after 6pm.

THE LONDON CO-OP SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA is looking for capable string players. Please write or ring Rose-Marie Adams, Co-op Education Department, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N7 7QG. Phone 01-263 1127.

WORKERS REPUBLIC: Articles on things that matter, ie, Political Prisoners in England, Housing, Legal drug peddling, 6p from J Durkin, 244 Heathfield Road, Southport, Lancashire.

WORKERS' FIGHT LITERATURE: Permanent Revolution No 1, includes critique of 'Permanent Arms Economy', five articles by Rosa Luxemburg on the Belgian General Strike 1902, and articles on programmes of the Irish Republicans, and History of Trotskyism in Palestine. 30p including postage. Phoenix Pamphlet No 2, 'James Connolly and Ireland's Struggle for Freedom.' 13p including postage. Both available from Phoenix Press, 98 Gifford Street, London N1 0DF.

WANTED: Flat for two in London from end of June to October. Contact Box number SWM, Whats On, Socialist Worker, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

WORKERS WANTED
SW (Litho) PRINTERS requires an apprentice printer
Maximum age 18. Will have to sit NGA entrance exam. Day release given.

SOCIALIST WORKER requires assistant business manager
Typing an advantage. Date of commencement can be negotiated

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS head office requires van driver
capable of driving 2½-ton Austin.
No HGV required.

For all the above jobs, contact Jim Nichol, 6 Cotton Gardens, London E2. phone 01-739 1870

SOCIALIST WORKER requires part-time typist
on Mondays and Tuesdays to take down telephoned copy as well as general typing jobs.
Fast, accurate typing essential, with experience of taking copy by phone an advantage.
Contact the editor, phone 01-739 9043

IS BOOKS is still taking applications for job of Bookshop manager for our new shop.
job will include expanding and maintaining mail order sales as well as overall responsibility for retail sales in the shop.
Application by first post, Tuesday 5 June to Fergus Nichol, IS Books, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN



Some of the 200 members of the International Socialists who attended a London regional conference last weekend. Inset: the platform speakers, from left, Tony Cliff, Nigel Harris and Mike Caffoor. PICTURES: Mike Cohen.

ATTI militants try to ginger up weak leadership

MANCHESTER.—Delegates at last weekend's conference of the 47,000-strong Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions found their national executive which includes members of the Communist Party, trying to head off militant resolutions.

Delegates who had pushed strong resolutions through at local level and campaigned for their support saw them watered down by an executive which was using backward elements as an excuse for its own lack of leadership.

A motion from Outer London branch calling for improved conditions of service was weakened by an executive amendment opposing the starting of sanctions locally. The executive made it clear it wouldn't fight seriously against proposals to reduce staff-student ratios which cause redundancies, and was worried only about 'inadequate research' and 'lack of consultation'.

Merilyn Moos, of the Rank and File Technical Teachers' group, warned: 'This is an attempt at a productivity deal.' General secretary Tom Driver replied: 'Every education authority

will implement these proposals. Are we to confront them everywhere?' There were shouts of 'Yes'.

On salaries, the executive accepted a rank and file demand to consolidate the lowest lecturer grades, but resisted any extension of this principle. The flat rate claim won at last year's special conference was astonishingly overturned by the executive who argued that higher paid members must be won to a pay struggle by offering them something extra.

Executive attempts at rule changes, reducing numbers at conferences and making the calling of special conferences more difficult, were defeated by delegates determined that democracy should not be eroded.

Rank and file delegates fought hard on every issue. In terms of resolutions won and lost, the conference offered nothing spectacular. But it was clear that the organisation and confidence of the Rank and File group had increased immeasurably.

Its magazine, Class Contact, is selling well. A conference meeting was well attended and daily bulletins were issued to delegates. Rank and File policies are now being seen as a clear alternative.

It is now even more urgent to involve members at local level around these policies to build a fighting organisation.

Hospital workers call for action

BIRMINGHAM:—Last Sunday more than 50 hospital workers from all parts of the country met at the first conference called by the new rank and file newspaper The Hospital Worker.

The conference heard that the first issue of the paper had been well received by hospital workers. Most of the 6500 copies printed had been sold.

Most discussion concerned the policy the paper would fight for. Keith Taylor, branch secretary of NUPE, the public employees' union, at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, said the trouble with his union was that many fine resolutions were passed at conference but the executive dragged its feet in putting them into action.

The need to get nurses to join the union was also stressed. Pam Denard, from London, said: 'Nurses are just as much health workers as anyone else. We've got the same problems, the same bosses and we've all got appalling jobs.'

Ronald Pearson, a NUPE steward from Portsmouth and a member of the Wessex joint shop stewards' committee, got the unanimous backing of the conference when he reported that 200 hospitals in his area had put a complete ban on private patients since the strike. He said the Health Service facilities were abused by private patients. They were a threat to the National Health Service and needed to be fought hard.

The message of the conference was that hospital workers have a fight on their hands over a whole range of issues. George Roberts, NUPE chairman at St James's Hospital, Leeds, summed this up when he said: 'It's great sitting here voting and talking about the way we've got to go. But what we vitally need is commitment to action.'

TERROR CAMPAIGN BY RACIST BOMBERS

by Nigel Fountain

ON FRIDAY 27 April, at 1.40am, 14-year-old Velma Murray was asleep in Rotherham Road, Coventry.

Her mother, who came from the West Indies, lives in Birmingham, but Velma was staying with Mrs Bernice Grizzle, who owned the house.

Downstairs somebody placed a 32lb propane gas cylinder, sprinkled petrol around and set fire to it. The

gas went up like a bomb, Mrs Grizzle escaped but Velma was burned to death.

'Somebody tried to murder me,' Mrs Grizzle told a local reporter. 'I don't know why. I have never done anyone in the world any harm.'

Keith Taafe, a 36-year-old West Indian, started a collection for Mrs Grizzle at the Chrysler factory where he works. 'What happened to Mrs

Grizzle could have happened to anyone of us.'

What is worse, it is happening. 'I am treating this case as homicide,' said the head of the local CID. 'I would not like to hazard a guess to the motive at this stage.'

He might not be able to, but a lot of people in South London could do so without much difficulty. Last December the Lansdowne Youth

Club in Brixton was burned down. In March a string of Asian shops were attacked by petrol bombs. The Coach and Horses, a pub owned by a black, was set on fire.

The Unity Bookshop, which had been recently set up as a community centre in Brixton, was totally gutted. 'It could have been the electrical fittings,' said a police spokesman. 'It was an old place.'

'We had just rewired the building,' a representative of the shop pointed out.

In April the Allardyce Youth Club and a community church in Priory Grove, Brixton, were attacked. The Lansdowne Youth Club received a second visit from the arsonists.

OUTRAGES

It is evident that an organised campaign of terror bombing has been going on in South London for the past year. It is also evident that the bombing has spread to the Midlands with the Coventry outrage and another in Handsworth, Birmingham, when the Afro-Caribbean Self Help headquarters were firebombed. Nobody has been arrested as a result of the outrages.

Last week a meeting was held at Brixton Town Hall, organised by local black groups, to protest over the bombings and consider how to fight back. A black spokesman said: 'It was clear that the Unity Centre was bombed in the context of repression against anyone who fights back against repression in this system.'

Jimmy Reid's 'No' to engineering union

by Steve Jefferys

CLYDEBANK:—Jimmy Reid, Communist councillor and shop steward at Marathon Manufacturing, has turned his back on the fight against right winger John Boyd for the post of Engineering Union executive council member for Scotland.

This was confirmed last week when Reid issued a press statement saying he would be standing in the next General Election as the Communist candidate in the new constituency of Central Dunbartonshire, which includes Clydebank.

John Boyd's term of office ends next year and nominations in the union election have to be made by 18 June. Boyd is the leading right-winger in the AUEW and possible candidate for the presidency when Hugh Scanlon retires. He opposed Scanlon in the 1965 and 1970 presidential elections.

In 1968 Boyd was elected for his present five year term of office on a ballot vote of 6442 against his left-wing opponent's 3485. Because of the change in rule to give full-time officers of the union job protection towards the end of their working life, if Boyd wins the coming election he will be there until he is 65.

Publicity

If he is defeated, then the left will have consolidated its position of leadership at every level of the union.

Jimmy Reid's decision, which is supported by the executive of the Communist Party, not to contest Boyd's seat is a damaging blow to the left in the union. Through the publicity he has received he was undoubtedly the best placed to defeat Boyd on a postal vote.

Reid has stood for parliament three times before as the Communist candidate in the constituency of Dunbartonshire East most of which is now part of Central Dunbartonshire.

Many Communist-Party members are

becoming increasingly disturbed by the recent behaviour of Jimmy Reid. The disquiet began when Reid voted on Clydebank Council for the implementation of the Housing Finance Act. At least one nearby Communist Party branch condemned this betrayal and requested that disciplinary action be taken against the three Communist councillors involved.

Last week, when Reid announced his decision to stand in Central Dunbartonshire, concern rose again. On the same night as he issued his press statement, Reid attended a Glasgow district committee meeting of the AUEW. A motion was put in favour of withholding Engineering Union funds from a right-wing Labour councillor who had supported the implementation of the Housing Finance Act on Glasgow Council right from the start. Reid abstained on the vote, allowing the right-wing delegates to win by a majority of one.

Strike over piecework at seafood firm

LIVERPOOL:—62 women workers at Croft Seafood's Netherley factory have been on official strike for three weeks for a guaranteed working week and wages in place of a piecework system which has reduced them to casual workers.

The women, who shell and pack queenies, a kind of crab, say the management's payment system has never given them a full week's work or pay since the factory opened last September. They want a guaranteed working week of 30 hours and a minimum wage of £10.50 and won't be going back until they get it.

The strike has been fully supported by all except a few workers who needed police escort past the picket line and who have now been laid off. Croft's factory in the Isle of Man has been blacked by dock and airport workers there.

Turning point for textile workers' union

SOUTHPORT:—Rank and file delegates to the annual conference of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers last week made it a turning point for the union.

Some delegates met over the weekend to express concern at the wishy-washy attitude of the union, in particular its attitudes to Tory policies. This informal meeting was addressed by Ken Appleby of TASS, the technical section of the engineering union.

At the conference, Con Delaney, the union's parliamentary candidate, made a weak and unconvincing attack on the meeting with a hysterical speech about 'faceless men' and a 'subversive element' within the union. This was a clear sign to the delegates that the executive committee was scared of something that has hardly yet begun.

Rank and file activity unified the opposition to the right wing and gave the platform its worst conference in years. The official policy of secret voting in the executive committee was defeated, the platform was committed to state publicly that the union would offer total opposition to the incomes policy, and to industrial action if necessary in view of the Pay Board's refusal to accept the textile workers' settlement.

The platform proposal to ask the Industrial Society to write a shop stewards' and branch officers' handbook for the union was also defeated, but the manoeuvring prevented a resolution calling for a £25 minimum wage from being put to the conference.

Prospects for creating an effective opposition to the union right wing and for organising at factory level against appalling conditions in the textile industry are now more promising than ever before.



I would like to join the International Socialists

Name _____

Address _____

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

INSIDE:
THE LESSONS OF
LOFTHOUSE—page 14
TERROR CAMPAIGN BY
RACIST BOMBERS—page 15

* Socialist Worker

Steelmen call the bosses bluff

TEESSIDE:—The dispute at the British Steel Corporation's Lackenby Basic Oxygen Steel plant has resulted in an important defeat for the corporation management.

Maintenance workers in the engineering, electricians and boilermakers' unions were demanding payment for the appalling conditions of dust and dirt in the plant and the right of shop stewards to negotiate at shop floor level on particular jobs.

A series of sit-ins had forced production to a virtual standstill, and last week management tried to blackmail the men by threatening to close the BOS plant, laying off most of Teesside's 35,000 steelworkers.

But after two and a half years of being given the run around by an arrogant management, confident of its ability to divide the workforce, the men called the corporation's bluff.

The management, faced with a united workforce, caved in and issued proposals which included a management negotiating team to fix rates with shop stewards for special jobs and also negotiations for an overall conditions payment.

The temper of the men is still smouldering and there is absolutely no doubt that if management hedge, flannel, play for time or in any way fail to come across with good money, restrictions will be immediately reapplied.

Management has been badly shaken by the militancy of the men, militancy that is a welcome change from the squabbling over the past two years. The lesson that militancy and unity pay has been learnt.

March to prison

WAKEFIELD:—Socialists including members of the International Socialists and of the Irish Official Republican movement marched to Wakefield Prison on Saturday where Conor Lynch, who was convicted on the flimsiest evidence of stealing arms for Catholics in Northern Ireland in 1969, is being held in solitary confinement.

Strikers need help

BLACKPOOL:—The women and girls on strike at Empire Pools demanding union recognition urgently need support from other trade unionists. Help on the picket line has so far come from only a few militants. The failure of the Post Office workers' union to back the firm's mail has seriously weakened the 20 strikers' position.

VICTORY BANNERS FLY

HUDDERSFIELD:—Management of Nu-Swift fire extinguishers factory surrendered to the pay claim of 50 women office workers this week. It could have been a long and bitter struggle but for the unconditional support of the 180 production workers who came out on strike in sympathy.

The strike lasted for four weeks and last Monday, in the best traditions of the trade union movement, the men marched back into work, with banners flying, cheered on by the women.

Substantial increases over the original



OFFICIALS of the Tailors and Garment Workers Union in Southall, West London, are meeting management of the Wynuna Corset factory this week in an attempt to unionise the factory.

Wynuna is typical of the many small garment factories in the area that have resisted all attempts at union organisation. There is no minimum wage at Wynuna and the management employs only Asian women on a piece-work system. If a machine breaks down or supplies are held up, the women get no pay at all.

Average rates are £6-£10 for a 40-hour week. All the firm's products are bought by the Dorothy Perkins chain. Picture, by Christopher Davies (Report), shows Wynuna workers leaving the factory.

● **Special feature on Southall sweatshops—next week.**

Front's storm-trooper sets pace in Midlands

by SW reporter

WEST BROMWICH:—Labour won the by-election here last week with a 8325 majority—but the party has no room for complacency. From the outset, the pace was set by the National Front's candidate, Martin Webster, a former goose-stepping Nazi in Colin Jordan's National Socialist Movement.

Webster opened his campaign with a ploy that Goebbels would have been proud of: he queried the right of Pakistanis in the constituency to vote and claimed there were 20,000 'coloured immigrants' in the town. In fact, there are some 7000 people of West Indian and Asian descent.

Powell's stick

National Front propaganda plugged one message constantly—'An immediate programme of phased compulsory repatriation.' The result of Webster's efforts was to win him some 4500 votes from the Tory candidate, David Bell, who had soft-pedalled on the race question and as a result received no support from Enoch Powell. Powell is already using Webster's success as a stick to beat the Tories' 'liberal' leadership.

The Labour Party campaign was lacklustre despite the visits of Barbara Castle and her husband Ted to campaign for candidate Betty Boothroyd. When Ted Castle was approached by local trade unionists to support a leaflet exposing Webster's Nazi past he declined at first,

SHIPYARD LOCK-OUT 2000 ON MARCH

by Mike Miller

BELFAST:—2000 steelworkers locked-out at the Harland and Wolff shipyard marched through the city on Monday in protest at not getting unemployment pay.

The march came only a few days after a right-wing Loyalist attempt to mobilise the men failed lamentably, raising hopes that Belfast workers are rejecting the right-wing bigots who are their worst enemy.

Only three women turned out for the Loyalist demonstration, which was attempting to blame the plight of the shipyard workers on the policy of building factories in Catholic areas, where 45 per cent of adults are unemployed.

The real reason for the miserable wages and conditions of the shipyard workers is the vicious drive by the government and the company to make as large a profit as possible for the benefit of multi-million pound oil firms and shareholders like Aristotile Onassis.

Meanwhile, management and officials of the Boilermakers Union failed in another attempt to end the dispute at the yard, where 2300 men are locked out, and talks were adjourned for a week.

Hoppe, the managing director, is known to be taking a hard line, probably with the government's support. Harland and Wolff is 48 per cent state-owned, and although about £50 million has been pumped in over the past few years, little of it has gone to improve wages and conditions. Wages remain up to £12 a week below rates in other British yards.

A revealing paragraph in the Financial Times shows that the attraction for shareholders of Harland and Wolff is not only the yard's super efficiency, but also the added bonus of workers offering 'their labour, at perhaps under two-thirds the price of foreign competition'. So much for the propaganda that shareholders' and workers' interests are the same.

wavered under pressure and finally agreed to accept the leaflet as part of the Labour campaign.

But when the leaflet went out to dozens of large factories in the area, Castle went back on his support for it. In general, Labour kept quiet about the Front, hoping it would go away.

But the Front and similar fascist organisations will not be daunted by the pious liberalism of the Labour Party. In a situation of recurring economic crisis, inflation and deteriorating standards of living, the racists will be making a major effort to increase their support and attempt to divide workers with the poison of their ideas.

And it will take tough and determined socialist action to stop them, not the wavering of a Labour Party bowed down under its own record of retreats and betrayals.

Plot charges increase

BLACKBURN:—Three more people are in custody on conspiracy charges after police and Special Branch raids on the Irish community in nearby Great Harwood and Accrington. Sean Colley, John McCabe and Michael Kneafsey were charged with conspiring, together with person or persons unknown, to damage or destroy buildings. They were to appear in court again on Friday.

Welders vote 'We strike on'

TEESSIDE:—Welders at Laing's Offshore Pipeline (Graythorpe) have voted to continue their seven-week strike.

The strike is of crucial importance. North Sea oil is becoming a boom industry and companies like Laings see construction contracts as a licence to print money, but are determined to keep the workers' slice of the cake to an absolute minimum.

The welders, who are in the boilermakers' union, want payments for the working conditions and for proficiency. Before starting the jobs they have

to spend three weeks in a training school on reduced rates where they are put through 24 tests. One job for which management are refusing special payments includes crawling 60ft along a 24in diameter pipe to weld a cap on it.

Other employers in the area are watching the dispute closely, since they fear that if the men win, Laings will become a pacesetter for the area. Some strikers believe their full-time officials also fear this. Official backing has still not been received despite promises.

The men are prepared to return to work if the management just agrees to negotiate their claims. But the company seems to want an all-out confrontation to the bitter end.

Laings have now admitted that a rig which was due for delivery this spring will not be ready until autumn at the earliest. They admit that the main reason is not the strike, but their own incompetent planning.

Financial support is desperately needed by the strikers. Please rush donations to Laing's Welders Strike Committee, c/o 59 Auckland Way, Hartburn, Stockton, Teesside.

Subscribe Now!

I enclose £_____ for one year's/six months

Socialist Worker

(£4 for a year, £2 for six months, bulk orders available on request—post free.)

Name _____

Address _____

Socialist Worker Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2