

Socialist Worker

No 335 11 August 1973 5p

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Government swindle robs pensioners' increase

TORY INSULT TO OLD FOLK

THE MASSIVE advertising campaign launched by the Tories this week that claims the government is generously helping old-age pensioners is an insult and a lie.

For at least 100,000 of Britain's old-age pensioners will not get the full increase in their incomes promised by the government for this October.

Compare the smiling faces of the models in the newspaper advertisements and the distorted statistics of Prime Minister Heath with the real world of Tom Nicholson, a retired clerk who lives in Glasgow, and was 70 last Monday.

Tom draws a retirement pension of £7. This is going up to £8 with the pension increase in October. Tom was looking forward to another £1 in his pocket.

But Tom also draws £2.05 a week supplementary benefit to keep him up to the poverty line.

Two weeks ago, his local Department of Health and Social Security sent him a form, which told him: 'When the pension or benefit is increased, your supplementary benefit must be reduced.'

As requested, Tom sent his pension and supplementary benefit books into the Department. They came back last week.

From 1 October his supplementary benefit will be cut by 80p—to £1.25. His total income from the department will be £9.25 compared to £9.05 previously.

Wiped out

Tom told Socialist Worker that he pays £4 for a room and a morning cup of tea. From the remaining £5.05 he has to meet all his other expenses, including food.

The extra 20p, he points out, will not go a long way to meet price increases since pensions were raised last year. 'The price of a piece of fish,' he says, 'has gone up from 10p to 15p in the last two months.'

If Tom has a fish supper four days a week (as is his custom) the Tories' 20p will be wiped out.

A spokesman for the Department of Health and Social Security said that Tom's case was 'exceptional'. About 100,000, or 5 per cent of all pensioners on supplementary benefit, would have their benefit adjusted downwards so that the total increase in their income would be less than the standard £1 for a single person and

by
PAUL FOOT

£1.60 for a married couple.

These included 40,000 people living 'as members of someone else's household', 9000 people who pay an 'inclusive charge for board and lodging' and 16,000 people in 'Part III accommodation and hospital' whose 'pocket money allowance will be increased by 20p.'

The supplementary benefit swindle affects thousands of retired workers who have small occupational pensions, but are still on supplementary benefit.

About 30,000 retired miners, for instance, who draw supplementary benefit, will not receive the full increase in their miners' pension handed out last April under the Coal Industry Act. In some cases the entire increase of £1.50 a week has been clawed back by the DHSS.

Miners and other retired people in local authority homes will also have to fork out in increased charges.

David Knight, a retired miner who lives in Bassett House, an old people's home run by Derbyshire County Council, received a letter from the council on 19 July informing him that the charge for accommodation was being increased by £1.50 a week from the date of his pension increase last April. The letter demanded payment of 'arrear charges' of £24.

Gets worse

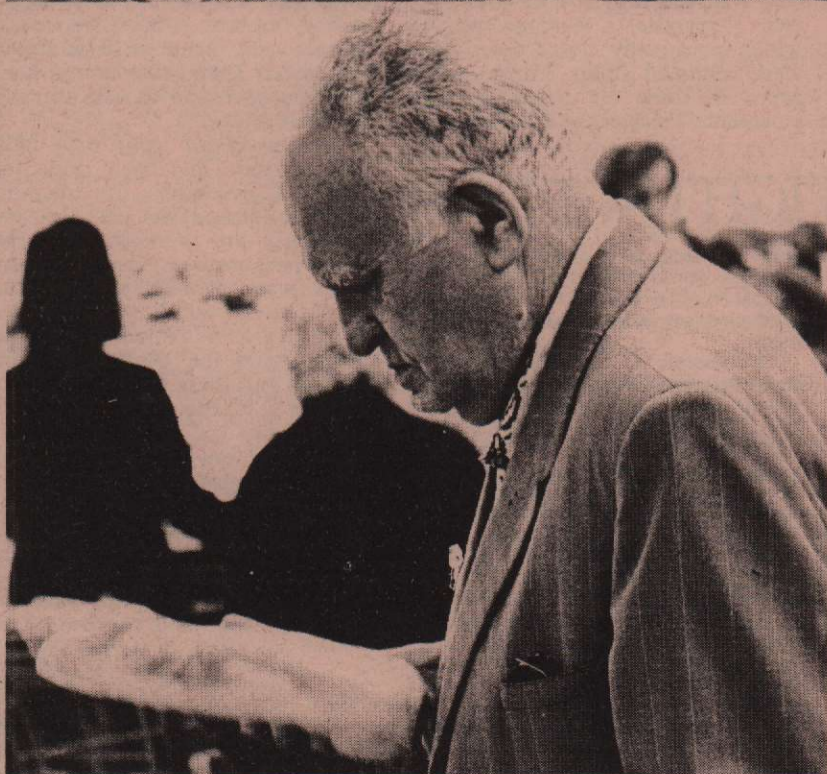
David has not got £24 and doesn't see how he can ever get it.

These pensioners on supplementary benefit and small occupational pensions are the poorest people in the country. They are the people most desperately hit by the 35 per cent rise in food prices over the last three years.

Their poverty gets worse with each increase in food prices, rents, rates or fares sanctioned by a Tory government whose every Minister makes more from investment every hour than pensioners collect every week.

Yet, while 'money-for-nothing' incomes from investment, property speculation and rents are leaping up at an annual rate of more than 10 per cent, the poorest pensioners of all are to be denied even the £1 a week extra boasted about by the government.

**PRICES AND PAY
—THE GREAT TORY
FRAUD: EDITORIAL P3**



THE WORRIED FACES tell their own story—pensioners anxiously studying food prices in shops, wondering if their miserable pittance will allow them to buy enough food for the week. And at the same time, as the government is cutting many pensioners' increases by a backdoor dodge, prices go on soaring. Further increases were allowed this week—including a 10p in the pound jump for Kellogg's, the breakfast cereal firm under examination by the Monopolies Commission! If the shoddy swindle of the 'incomes policy' makes you feel violent—be warned, even the price of explosives is going up. Pictures: PETER HARRAP (Report).

INSIDE
the top
socialist
paper

THREE HUNDRED people died on Monday as US planes attacked towns in Cambodia. The war in South East Asia goes relentlessly on but now it is the forgotten war, ignored by press and television. But Nixon's crimes in Cambodia reduce the Watergate affair to the level of a village bun-fight.

On page 2 Ian Birchall analyses a war that kills in one day as many people as died in an average British city in the whole of the Second World War.

THE LIBERALS are cock-a-hoop after their recent by-election successes. They are busily presenting themselves as radicals and friends of the working man. In fact the Liberals' policies are identical to those of the Tories.

And the 'left wing' gloss of workers' participation is a cheap gimmick to tie trade unionists more closely to the capitalist system. On the centre pages, Paul Foot looks at the two-faced wheeler-dealers running the junior Tory Party.

'HISTORY? That's kings and queens'. How many times have you heard that? And that is the history that is still taught in most schools.

But the working class has a history, too. A history of brutal oppression and magnificent struggle. On page 5 Alastair Hatchett starts a special series of articles on the industrial revolution and the birth of the modern working class.

**MASS ANTI-INTERMENT
DEMONSTRATION
2.30pm, Sunday 12 August
Speakers Corner, Marble Arch
Rally at
Temple (Embankment)**

Speakers from Sinn Fein (Provisional) Clann na hEireann, Bob Purdie (AIL) a relative of an internee, Paul Foot (IS), Orla Farrell (People's Democracy Belfast).

Organised by the Anti-Internment Ad-Hoc Committee

The man who sat at Stalin's feet

THE East German Communist leader, Walter Ulbricht, who died last week, was one of the last representatives of a generation of Communists who put loyalty to Moscow above everything else.

Ulbricht was already a leading member of the German Communist Party before Hitler came to power. In 1932 he was one of the authors of the disastrous perspective which stated: 'At present Hitler's party is losing support in the working class, and the Social Democratic Party is the more important tool of capitalism's fascist policy.' When Hitler came to power over the heads of a divided left, Ulbricht took refuge in Russia.

At the time of the pact between Hitler and Stalin in 1939 some German Communists were handed over to the Nazis. But Ulbricht was too useful—he was saved for better things.

In 1945 he returned to Berlin to lay the foundation of the East German state. He moved quickly to dissolve unofficial workers' committees that had been set up and to get everything under Party control. The new Party programme made no mention of Marx, members were strictly discouraged from singing the 'Internationale'.

Slowly Ulbricht built up the so-called 'socialist' regime in East Germany. The regime showed its true colours in June 1953, when Berlin building workers stopped work and demonstrated against a move to increase productivity. As the strikes spread Ulbricht brought in Russian tanks to restore 'law and order'.

In 1961 Ulbricht made his greatest contribution. He went further than Stalin. Stalin had merely proclaimed the idea of 'socialism in one country'. Ulbricht built the Berlin wall to make sure the inmates of his socialist paradise could not get out.

Many things are changing in Eastern Europe but socialism will not revive there till it is made quite clear that men like Ulbricht have nothing to do with it.

PUPPET REGIME

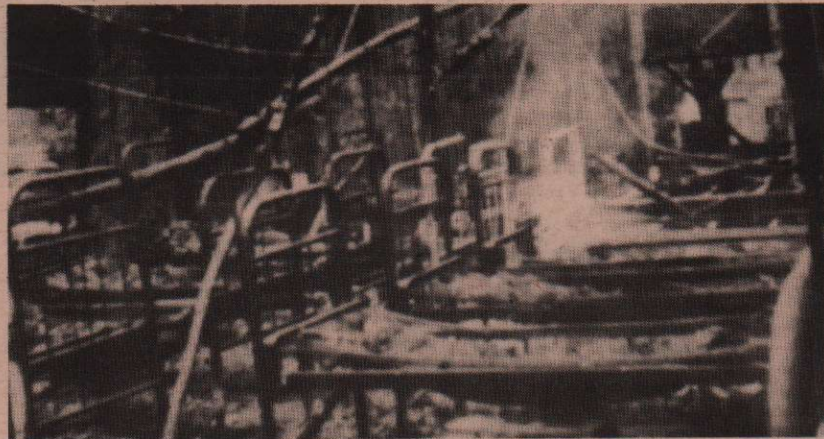
TOTTERS ON BRINK

by Ian Birchall
THE TRAGIC futility of the American attempt to keep a grip on Cambodia is obvious to everyone. Despite American bombing, the liberation forces are closing in on the capital Phnom Penh, where the US puppet regime of Lon Nol is still in power.

The Lon Nol regime is now collapsing. The members of the ruling clique are sending their families abroad, the Phnom Penh police chief and the commander-in-chief of the army have already done so.

Illegal visas are fetching up to £300. Son Ngoc-Thanh, who only last year was Lon Nol's prime minister, is now in exile in Saigon, and has accused Lon Nol of surrounding himself with 'card-players, alcoholics and plotters.'

Naturally it is the workers of Phnom Penh, for whom there is no exit visas, who are bearing the heaviest burden. Over the last few weeks



The results of US bombing: This was a hospital

rents, food and clothing prices have risen by more than 20 per cent, while wages have stood still and unemployment rises.

Phnom Penh workers earn about £8 a month, and spend at least half that on food. Since the spring the workers' cost of living index has risen by 60 per cent, while the upper or European index has increased by

less than 25 per cent.

Lon Nol only survives because of the massive US bombing. In recent months there has been an average of 1800 B-52 sorties a month over Cambodia, as against only 1000 a month in 1971 for all Indochina (including Vietnam).

In April the French paper *Le Monde* quoted a Western diplomat

as saying: 'The Americans drop their bombs just anywhere, like a mad woman. They don't even know the effects of their bombing.'

But on Wednesday the bombing is expected to stop. The reason claimed is expense, but also, according to the *Washington Post* on 31 May, there is 'an increasing morale problem among B-52 bomber crews at bases on Guam and in Thailand who talk of being 'mercenaries' caught up in a war 'not in my country's national interest'.

America is increasing military aid to Lon Nol, and there is a possibility that South Vietnamese troops may be sent in. But there seems little hope of Lon Nol being bailed out.

The debacle in Cambodia coincides with the revelation of a number of facts about the past conduct of the war in Cambodia.

These include the evidence of a bomber pilot about the deliberate bombing of hospitals, and the disclosure that 81 US soldiers officially reported killed in Vietnam in fact died in clandestine missions in Laos and Cambodia.

False

Last week Melvin Laird, US defence secretary until January, defended the secret bombing of Cambodia between 1969 and 1970.

He admitted that congress had been given false reports about the raids as recently as three months ago, that pilots had filed false reports on higher orders, and that only congressmen sympathetic to the war had been given full information.

Laird also claimed that the bombing up to 1970 was approved by Prince Sihanouk, then head of state in Cambodia and now leading the opposition to Lon Nol.

Sihanouk has, naturally, denied the charge. Doubtless Laird dragged it up for two reasons.

One, to divert attention from the scandalous conduct of the US in Cambodia. Two, to try and drive a wedge between Sihanouk and the Cambodian guerrillas just when these seem to have achieved unity in a congress held last month in the liberated zones.

This issued a declaration calling for the unity of all classes in the demand for national independence and neutralism.

Overthrow

But whatever Laird's motives, the charge has a ring of truth. On 5 January 1970, about two months before he was overthrown, Sihanouk wrote a letter to the *Guardian* in which he stated, 'For the present, for instance, we are fighting with our weak resources against Americans who bomb and machine-gun our border areas—and against Communist Vietnamese who, taking advantage of the military situation, infiltrate into and settle in our territory.'

Sihanouk has now been forced out of this attitude of neutrality to US imperialism, but it would be wrong to build him up as a consistent revolutionary.

In power Sihanouk was a play-boy—one of his favourite activities was making films with himself starring as a guerrilla leader. Recently he described his programme: 'Our internal policy will be socialist and progressive, but not communist. State and private enterprise will coexist.'

The Lon Nol regime has not long to go. What will follow is not clear, for Sihanouk will certainly be willing to discuss compromise. What is clear is that for the workers and peasants of Cambodia, the revolutionary struggle is only just beginning.

LETTERS

Socialist Worker wants to hear from you. Letters should be brief—no more than 250 words please—and should reach us by first post Monday. Handwritten letters must be legible, with names in capital letters to avoid confusion please.

RAF was ready to take over dockers' jobs

I WAS interested in the recent article by Chris Harman on the myth of the neutrality of the state and I thought an experience of mine might be of interest.

As I was serving in the RAF at Linton-on-Ouse, near York, during the dock strike of 1970 I was able to see from the inside sections of the armed forces being organized

into an 'emergency labour force' which was intended to man the docks in the event of the strike lasting any considerable time.

I was sent up to RAF Ouston, near Newcastle, a wartime station which is normally closed down. We were crammed about a dozen to a room in these old buildings and emergency kitchens were set up.

NYERERE'S TIGHTROPE

THE article by Bob Cant headed 'Sincere Nyerere takes the wrong road' (*SW*, 4 August) takes the position that the Tanzanian president is 'building up a state capitalist economy' and assumes that the 'ujamaa villages' propounded in his Arusha Declaration of 1967 are actually working in accordance with the official principles of the regime.

The basis of Nyerere's politics is not state-capitalist in the sense normally used by the International Socialists—to enable the state to fulfil the role of industrialisation and urbanisation that was played by the capitalist classes of 19th-century Europe and America. On the contrary, his policy is to hold back urban development, discouraging the flow of labour into towns and glorifying the countryside as the true repository of Tanzanian ideals.

Ujamaa villages do nothing to correct the profound inequalities of Tanzanian rural life, since the squalid self-sufficiency of a poor village is just as much in accordance with 'Ujamaa' as the prosperous self-help of a rich farming community. The Arusha Declaration is just as much moonshine as all the other brands of 'African Socialism'.

Nyerere survives as an orator and diplomat holding together the various elements of Tanzanian society and of the single governing party, TANU, an in-

coherent federation of careerists and mindless nonentities which has proved incapable of mobilising the masses or producing any programme for development.

To assume, as your reporter does, that Nyerere's curbing of the more ostentatious forms of wealth effectively modifies the distribution of income in this impoverished country is to mistake shadow for substance. Tanzania's bureaucracy has money-income and the means of access to higher education—which is being held back generally in favour of a primary schooling for the rural masses. Tanzania's peasants are kept static and have little or no money.

To mention Tanzania's working class without pointing out that they are organised in state-run 'trade unions' whose officials are part of the government is a serious omission.

So far Nyerere has been able to neutralise the competition between elites and peasants, town and countryside. He has also performed the remarkable feat of being the favourite African leader of both Tory Britain and Mao's China.

'Sincere', says your headline, and 'takes the wrong road'. On the contrary, all the indications are that he is extremely wily and knows—for the present—the correct path along a tightrope. PETER SEDGWICK, York.

We were all handed a leaflet explaining that we were not in fact strike-breakers but were there to move supplies 'vital to the country'. Soon after this people came round to find out who could drive cranes, operate and maintain machinery, and so on. There were several hundred of us there and we were of many different trades.

We stayed for three days only but provision had been made for weeks if necessary. In order to minimise the effect of the unpopularity our work in the docks would have aroused, members of the forces were not sent to the docks nearest their base. For example, we went from York to Newcastle, people from the North East went to Hull, and these actions were duplicated at all the docks affected by the strike.

We were not used on that occasion, I am glad to say, but, make no mistake, the government of this country is prepared to use the armed forces against the workers to enforce their support of the management in the event of any strike of this magnitude and the procedure I have described, or something like it, is always put into operation in such a situation.

As an ex-serviceman who has had first-hand experience of the mobilisation of the armed forces in order to undermine the industrial strength of workers in struggle, I should not be surprised to see them being used by the government to man any section of industry in the event of future industrial struggles. MICK BLACKBURN, AUEW shop steward, Leeds 14.

THRESHOLD DEALS—ON OUR TERMS

YOUR editorial (*SW* 28 July) is correct to indicate the dangers of threshold agreements of the type Heath and the CBI want. However, instead of rejecting them completely, the International Socialists should call for threshold agreements, on our terms, not theirs.

Combined with normal flat increases, instead of replacing them, threshold agreements could benefit workers provided firstly that prices indexes are tied to items like food and rents that figure highly in workers' budgets and are assessed by workers' organisations such as housewives' committees, and secondly that increases are tied to take-home pay to avoid the loss that usually accompanies any increase because of extra tax and lost benefits.

Threshold agreements on those terms would prevent conventionally-gained increases being eroded by inflation, and avoid the demoralisation that can result when a hard-fought increase disappears through price rises. For example, if the miners' settlement last year had included a threshold agreement, the miners might have been keener to strike again this year knowing that any increase gained would be a real increase.

If Heath means business on threshold agreements he must grant them on the terms above. If every normal increase automatically included such a threshold agreement it would be a great step forward.

To achieve this it will be necessary to organise rank and file workers for a long hard struggle. If the International Socialists take up the demand for the type of threshold agreement outlined above, they can give a clear lead to workers on the chief problem that worries them today—prices.—STEVE RUTHERFORD, Hove, Sussex.

WALTER KENDALL, who is preparing a lower-deck account of the 1931 Invergordon Mutiny, would like to hear—in confidence—from anyone who was involved. Please write to him at Nuffield College, Oxford.

BRITAIN'S WATERGATE—AT LAST THE STORM BREAKS

AS THE newspapers at last begin to take notice, more facts are emerging to confirm the allegation of Kenneth and Keith Littlejohn that they robbed the Allied Irish Bank in Grafton Street, Dublin, last October as part of their work for British Intelligence.

The Littlejohn brothers have now been sentenced to 20 and 15 years in prison, but not before they repeated their allegations in open court.

Press inquiries have revealed that the brothers' 'link-man' with British intelligence was John Wyman, who was convicted of espionage in Ireland and immediately released a few months ago. Wyman was arrested on 21 December, and the Littlejohns the next day.

There, as the brothers claimed, is an Inspector Sinclair in Scotland Yard's Special Branch—Detective Inspector Cameron Sinclair who joined the Special Branch from the CID three years ago 'to inject new blood and wider experience' (Sunday Telegraph).

The brothers did meet junior defence minister Geoffrey Johnson Smith in 1971, as they alleged. This has been admitted in writing by the Defence Ministry.

Every fact which has so far been checked corresponds to the brothers' story. The British authorities are maintaining a tight-lipped 'no comment', but the questions from MPs and newspapers are becoming shriller every day.

The News of the World calls the brothers' case The Littlejohn Affair, and the Guardian argues that it could 'develop into a major embarrassment for the British Government'.

The press interest is welcome, but would have been even more welcome when the brothers' case was being heard in secret in Bow Street magistrates court last December and January. Press inquiries then might have prised more information from government departments and lawyers than it can now.

Only the 'underground' newspapers treated the case with any interest. Socialist Worker carried a long article as long ago as 20 January, and splashed the story on its front page on 24 April.

Big cover-up on Tory link with Irish bank raid

WITH THE CO-OPERATION of the entire British press, the Bow Street magistrate Mr E Macdermott has helped cover up what appears to be British government involvement in Irish bank robberies.

On 11 January the strange extradition case of the brothers Kenneth and Keith Littlejohn was held in secret after an application from the Attorney General's lawyer. Mr Macdermott asked for 'precedents' for holding the case in camera and the Attorney General's barrister cited a number of divorce cases in the last three centuries which were held in secret under an outdated law which was designed to 'protect the public' from 'obscene or lewd' disclosures in court.

In desperation, the barrister also cited the case of civilians after the Easter Rising in Dublin who were tried in secret by court martial.

This was enough for the magistrate, who decided that the case should be heard in camera. The press were ushered out, and none of the press had anything to say about the incident.

The Littlejohn brothers are 'wanted for questioning' by the Irish police in connection with the robbery of the Allied Irish Bank, Grafton Street, Dublin on 12 October last year—the biggest bank robbery in Irish history.



Carrington: not in court the IRA?

A. I have heard that from them.
Q. Have you been in contact with

When Socialist Worker first broke the Littlejohn story—on Saturday 20 January

Funland fire: Guilty men still at large

FIRST it was 'three little girls playing with matches'. Now it is 'three youths' who were 'acting suspiciously' by 'running away from the fire'. The police forces of the Isle of Man and the whole of Britain are hunting for those 'probably responsible' for the fire at the Isle of Man's Summerland fun palace, which has killed more than 50 innocent holidaymakers.

In the meantime, the following people are still at large.

MR CYRIL PEARSON, Chief Fire Officer of the Isle of Man, who has spoken to the press about the lethal acrylic (perspex) material, 800 sheets of which were used on the walls and roof of the fun palace. 'I wish now,' he told the Daily Telegraph last Saturday, 'that I had had the material tested, but the assurances that it was fireproof were given to me by people who were supposed to be authoritative.'

MR JAMES LOMAS, the Isle of Man architect who sold the design to the Isle of Man government. Mr Lomas was not available for comment on the day after the outrage. He was cruising in the Mediterranean on his yacht.

MR PETER SARGENT, partner in the 'go-ahead' Leeds architects firm, Gillinson, Barnett and Partners, which has designed the Merriem Centre at Leeds, the Bristol Central Mecca, the grandstand at Leeds United Football Club and scores of council house blocks, especially in Leeds, and, together with Lomas, the Isle of Man Summerland Palace.

Mr Sargent has spent a lot of time over the past four years recommending acrylic for use in big leisure buildings. In an article in the magazine Building Specification in October 1971 entitled, 'Why specify Acrylic?', Mr Sargent outlined the seven main 'advantages' of the material, modestly leaving out the main one: that acrylic costs half as much as glass.

by SW reporter

'Acrylic has a much greater resistance to vandalism,' he wrote.

Mr Sargent was decent enough to admit, however: 'The major disadvantage is that it is a combustible material, and that under the present British Building Regulations it cannot be used under normal circumstances.'

Mr Sargent's article goes on to describe his firm's 'efforts at overcoming this Building Regulations problem.'

He arranged for films to be shown to the local fire authorities of fire tests carried out on acrylic in America—by the firms which manufacture acrylic.

'We have subsequently been able to obtain waivers or the promise of waivers on more than one scheme in the British Isles,' he wrote.

The main waiver was in the gutter of British capitalism, the Isle of Man, which is regarded as a testing ground for any firm which wants to avoid any form of regulations over private enterprise. The massive Summerland palace was built without the local fire authorities testing the acrylic material.

Handful

It was built, according to one contemporary description, 'in a highly exposed position overlooking Douglas Bay at the north-east end of the 1¼-mile long promenade where wind gusts of 110 mph have been recorded.'

The total building costs worked out at £990,000. Of this, just £2000 was spent on fire-fighting equipment. There was no 'sprinkler system' in the roof—the minimum fire-fighting requirements for acrylic buildings in America. The total installations amounted to no more than a handful of regulation fire extinguishers on each floor.

By comparison, £6000 was spent on a 'rustic walkway', £2500 on signs directing people which floor contained which 'leisure

activity', and £2800 on vinyl floor coverings.

The puny expenditure on fire-fighting equipment was approved not only by the Isle of Man authorities and by the architects but by the chief beneficiaries of the building—Trust Houses Forte.

SIR CHARLES FORTE, chief executive of the company and close friend of the prime minister, told the Daily Telegraph last Saturday: 'We were told it [the fun palace] was safe in every way.'

No one at Trust Houses Forte has explained why such a small sum was spent on fire-fighting equipment when the architects knew that the main material used was 'combustible'.

Exciting

Nor have Trust Houses Forte been able to say exactly how much profit was made for the company in the two years of Summerland. When the palace was burnt down, however, it was taking nearly a fifth of the total tourist revenue of the Isle of Man.

Basil Gillinson, the architects, have plans for similar fun palaces at Rotherham, Sunderland, Whitley Bay, South Shields, Southend and the Isle of Wight.

As Mr Sargent had written in his famous article: 'As this type of building becomes more common, we have no doubt that the problem of Building Regulation Approval will be overcome by more research and more suitable tests. We may then see more use of this exciting material.'

The Summerland outrage is not the first such incident to have disturbed the calm at Trust Houses Forte recently.

On Whit Monday 1972 five children were killed on the Big Dipper at Battersea Funfair. A public inquiry discovered that the crash was caused by negligent maintenance. The Battersea Funfair is leased from the Greater London Council by Festival Gardens Battersea Park Ltd, which is a subsidiary of Trust Houses Forte.

No one at Trust Houses Forte has been charged with anything.

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

WHAT can we do about prices? Is there no way that ordinary people can protect themselves against inflation except by fighting for bigger wage rises? And what is going to happen in the future?

Everyone is looking for answers and, naturally enough, many are not happy with the view that inflation is here to stay and that we have to take that as our starting point. So various half-truths and various downright lies are widely believed. We need to go through the facts again.

Will the rate of price increases slow down in the near future? All the evidence available points the other way. The Prices Commission has now let through 113 increases in manufactured food prices alone and some firms have been allowed two and even three increases. Moreover, many of the other price increases that have been allowed, on various raw materials, for example, have yet to work their way through to retail prices.

Inflation on a world scale shows no sign of slowing down. All the big industrial countries are booming and so long as the boom lasts the pressure on prices is all one way—upwards.

The boom will, in time, give way to a recession which will mean redundancies and higher unemployment. But it will not mean an end to rising prices, though the rate of increase will slow down. This was the experience of the recession of 1970-71 and it will be repeated. Nothing short of a really catastrophic slump will end inflation under modern capitalism.

There are those, Enoch Powell, for example, who look to this as a 'solution'. It would be like curing a headache by cutting off the patient's head.

Can inflation be checked or modified by greater output and greater productivity, as the government argues? The fallacy in this line ought to be obvious. Greater output means greater demand for fuel and raw materials which have already risen by some 80 per cent in price over the past 12 months. Greater demand means still higher prices.

Again, we do not have to rely on theory. We can point to experience. Japan has the highest rate of growth both of total output and of productivity of all the big industrial countries. Japan has the highest rate of inflation of all the big industrial countries.

Calculated action

Can government action check inflation? Yes, indeed it can, though it cannot stop it altogether. But government policy has promoted inflation.

Take rents. There is no question of higher import prices here. Rents are being forced up, and the next round comes in October, by deliberate, calculated government action.

Take the Common Agricultural Policy of the Common Market which is specially designed to push up food prices. The government operates it as a deliberate act of policy.

In fact the only 'price' that the government has seriously tried to hold down, and with some success, is the price of labour power, wages.

This is the heart of the matter. The argument about inflation, like every other economic argument, is an argument about who gets what. Wealth is produced by work. The government's 'anti-inflation' policy, like all its other policies, is aimed at increasing the proportion of the wealth produced that goes to the owners of industry, to the rich, at the expense of the proportion that goes to the workers.

Government policy can be changed. But it cannot be changed by appeals to the government or by talks with the government. It can be changed by working-class action, by making it too risky for the government to carry on with its policies.

Take rents again. The Housing Finance Act could and would have been wrecked if the big Labour councils had made a united refusal to operate it and backed this by organising their tenants to refuse to pay. Real food price controls, with subsidies, can and will be introduced (as they were during the war) if and only if there is a massive strike action for big increases in defiance of 'phase three'.

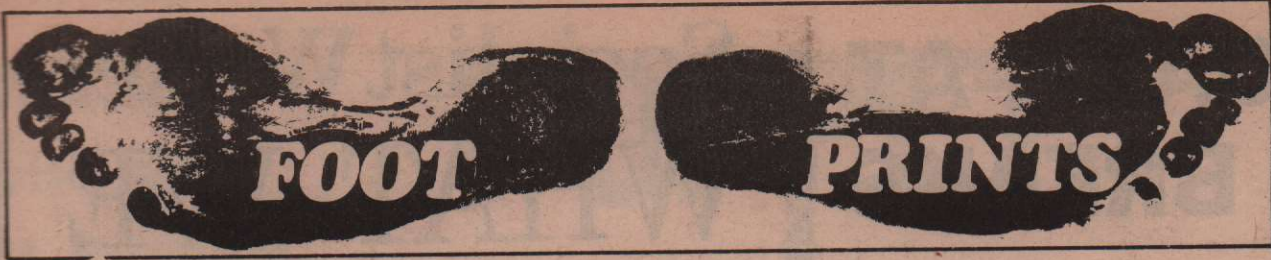
The old Daily Herald, which was a socialist paper before the TUC got hold of it, once wrote in a somewhat similar situation: 'We have considered the matter. We have considered it in all its aspects, and after careful deliberation we give this advice. Prepare your forces and then strike and strike hard.'

This advice cannot be bettered today. Either working people fight for their interests or they are trampled on.

Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2



Editorial
01-739 9043
Reporters:
01-739 0185/6361
Circulation:
01-739 2639



PARKIN RESTRICTED

HERBERT PARKIN, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers North Derbyshire area, has, by agreement with local Coal Board officials, a telephone by his bedside so that the authorities can reach him if anything drastic happens during the night.

The Markham Colliery outrage in which 16 men were killed happened on Monday 30 July at 6.23am. The Coal Board in the North Derbyshire area heard about it immediately. Herbert Parkin first heard about it on the eight o'clock radio news.

Serving overtime

AT Horfield Prison in Bristol they are building a new maximum security cell block for 'dangerous' prisoners. Don Nicholls, who is secretary of the steelfixers' branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union, is working there.

He tells me that four of the labourers on the block have been recruited from the inmates of the prison. They are paid by the contractors—Nielcotts Ltd—at the basic union rate of £22 a week, but they receive 50p a week by order of the prison authorities.

Said Don: 'One of them came to me the other day and laid out on a table two packets of cream crackers, half an ounce of tobacco, one packet of prison-issue cigarette papers and a couple of packets of Polo mints. That's what he'd bought with his weekly wage.'

Last Sunday Don was asked to go into the prison to keep an eye on all the equipment. He asked the agent for the job if he could have some assistance, and the agent agreed that one of the prison workers would be allocated to the job. The prisoner complained that Sunday was a holiday in the prison and that he should get some overtime.

Demands

Don Nicholls passed on the demand, which was at first refused. Eventually the agent went away to discuss the matter with the prison authorities. He came back beaming: 'I've got them to agree,' he declared. 'The bloke can have overtime. He'll get 1p for every quarter of an hour's overtime.'

Don is hoping that this will turn out to be the worst overtime agreement he'll ever negotiate. I rang the Home Office to find out what happened to the money which was paid for prisoners' work but which they never received. A spokesman said: 'There are no prisoners employed on the new maximum security cell block.'

I pointed out that my information had come from a trade unionist working on the site. The spokesman replied: 'Well it must be wrong, because I've spoken to the Department.'

Socialist Worker readers are free to believe whom they please.

At any rate, the spokesman confirmed that the difference between the union rates paid to prisoners for work done and the rate which they receive is 'normally' paid into the prison service.

GEORGE'S LOLLY

LORD George-Brown, after resigning as productivity director of Courtaulds because he disagreed with the company's policy of raising wages in its South African subsidiaries, is a little more hard up than usual. He is greatly looking forward to a 'celebrity lecture' which he plans to give at the invitation of the Borough Librarian of Whitehaven in April next year.

The going rate for such a lecture, I understand, is £150 minimum, though experienced agents can get much more. Miss J Marsh, Lord George-Brown's secretary, wrote to his agent earlier this year asking them to get 'the best possible rate of "pin money" for the job'.

'Perhaps you could tell them how difficult it is to "capture" him, etc, and how busy he always is,' she wrote.

So the next time Lord George comes on the telly complaining about greedy trade unionists, remember how difficult it is to get decent pin-money nowadays.

FACT TO REMEMBER: The Labour MP for Whitehaven is John Cunningham, son of Andy.

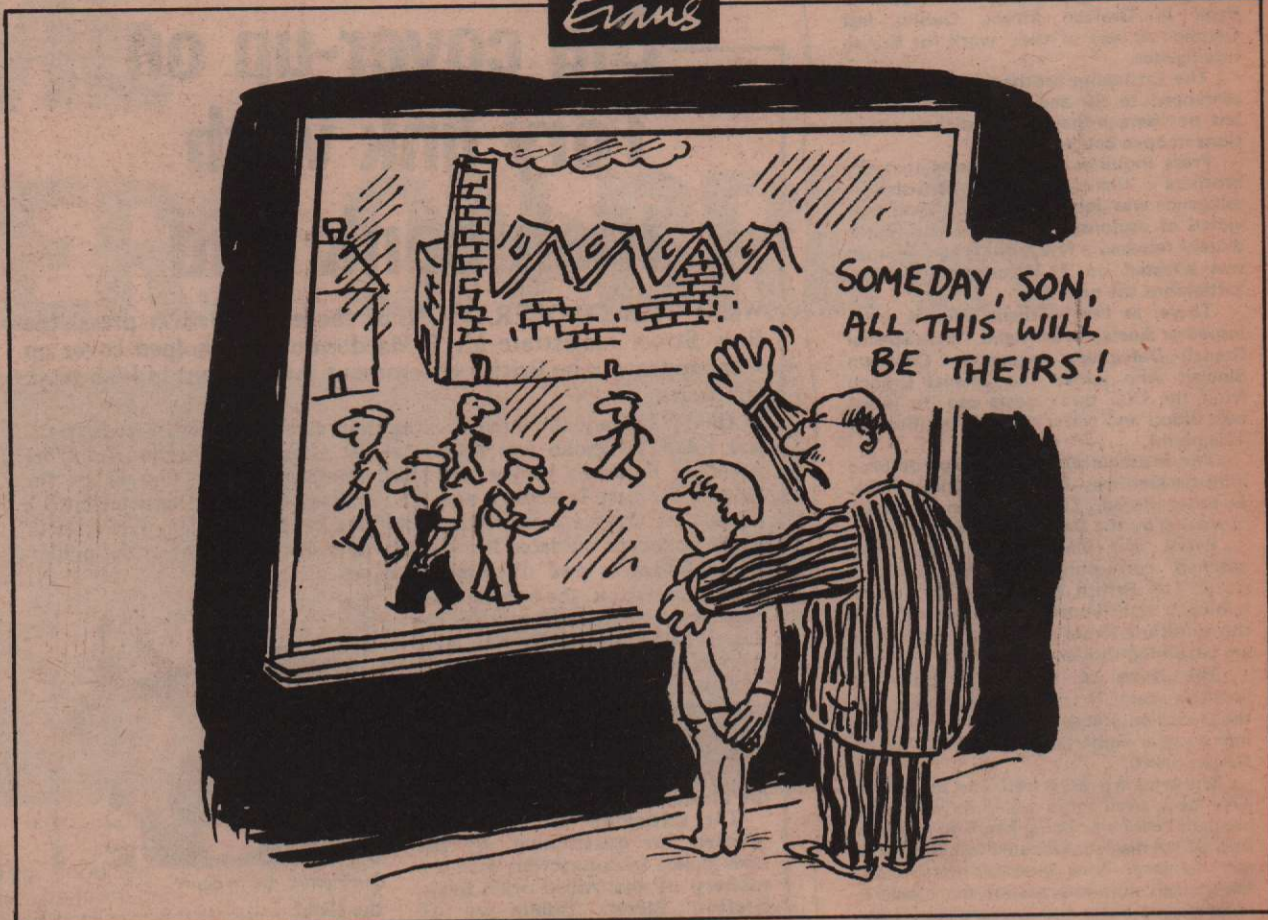
FOR SALE

FOR SALE, 62% PARTICIPATION IN LEASED SEWING PLANT IN OPORTO PORTUGAL

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Interested parties please write to Box No. 44-121/062 Publicitas, Postfach, CH-9021 Zurich/Switzerland.

READERS with £32,000 to spare may have missed this exciting prospect in the Financial Times last Friday. Cynics may wonder how it is that the firm achieves its 'excellent



trade union relations' while paying 20p an hour.

The answer may have something to do with the fact that Portuguese 'unions' are branches of the state, and union leaders are appointed by the government. Strikes for higher wages are illegal. Aureliano Santos, a Lisbon docker, has been in prison without trial since 1971 for organising a strike for higher wages.

HANDS OFF HANSARD

THE HANSARD reports of House of Commons debates for the period between 11 and 30 June are still being published. They weren't printed at the time because of a work to rule in the Linotype section of St Stephens Press, which publishes all parliamentary papers.

The workers there demanded an increase in piece rates which took them above the 'permissible' £1 plus four per cent. The management refused even to discuss such a thing, and the workers started a go-slow, which meant that the daily Hansard reports—plus all the emergency Order Papers which are usually printed at all times of the night—didn't see the light of day.

The House of Commons was in a terrible flutter. Their precious, pompous papers were denied them! How could orderly business continue

if the House didn't know which Honourable Member was to speak at which time?

Two terrible Tory baronets, Sir Evelyn King, a former Labour MP, and Sir Gerald Nabarro, the careful driving enthusiast, started to demand that the printing contract should be put out to private enterprise.

Then a curious thing happened. The work to rule went on, but the workers at St Stephens noticed that the copy for the Order Papers wasn't arriving any more.

Shortly afterwards, the Order Papers appeared in the House of Commons, and everyone was happy again. After three weeks, the work to rule collapsed, largely because of the 'scab' work on the Order Papers.

This work was done, it now transpires, by our old friends the Alfred Marks Bureau, who supplied labour to print the Order Papers on a hitherto unidentified machine. The total cost of this work, and the materials, amounted to £22,000—paid by the taxpayer.

None of the three print unions with members at St Stephens—the NGA, whose members were working to rule, SOGAT or NATSOPA—attempted to discover where the scabbing was going on, and to picket accordingly. Their silence was equalled only by that of the parliamentary Labour Party, to whom the Order Papers were more important than the fact that non-union labour was doing the work of trade unionists

in dispute with their employers—and all at the expense of the taxpayer.

David Stevens, a SOGAT member at St Stephens, says the workers there are very bitter about the episode. They are particularly angry with their unions. 'If this had happened to one of their precious daily newspapers there would have been an uproar,' he said. 'But the general print can go to hell.'

OLD-TIME CORRUPTION

SEE if you can place this quotation, which describes the Watergate scandal rather better than most commentators:

'Nowhere do "politicians" form a more separate and powerful section of the nation than in North America. There, each of the two major parties which alternately succeed each other in power is itself in turn controlled by people who make a business of politics, who speculate on seats in the legislative assemblies of the Union as well as of the separate states, or who make a living by carrying on agitation for their party and on its victory are rewarded with positions.'

'It is well known how the Americans have been trying for thirty years to shake off this yoke, which has become intolerable, and how in spite of it all they continue to sink ever deeper in this swamp of corruption.'

'It is precisely in America that we see best how there takes place this process of the state power making itself independent in relation to society . . .'

'Here we find two great gangs of political speculators, who alternately take possession of the state power and exploit it by the most corrupt means and for the most corrupt ends . . .'

It is Frederick Engels, writing in 1891 in his introduction to Marx's pamphlet The Civil War in France.

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST MANIFESTO by Kuron and Modzelewski. The famous open letter to the Polish Worker's Party, written in 1964. A vitriolic analysis of the Eastern European regimes and a call for social revolution. 29p postage included, from PLUTO PRESS Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road London NW1.

Cut—because the boy was black

WHAT a nasty, meanminded paper the Daily Mail is. Last Friday, it carried a story of a boy savagely attacked by an Alsatian guard dog. His life was saved only by the quick action of his brave 13-year-old friend, who beat the dog off with a broom handle.

All the popular papers carried pictures of the two boys, except the Daily Mail. Editor David English ordered them to be withdrawn . . . because the hero of the tale was black.

And the Daily Mail, which revels in stories of immigrants causing trouble, drawing social security when they're out of a job and being involved in crime, would hate its readers to be aware of the other side of the story.

THE Sunday Times showed a picture of a black boy who was a victim of a racist attack by a white boy. The picture was taken by a black boy who was a victim of a racist attack by a white boy.

Another important aspect about the forecast of Bowater is the way it highlights the need for the merged company to buy up UK profit. Only £4.7 millions is expected to be available out of a pre-tax profit of £15.2 millions and while this includes an un-known amount for minority interests, the ruling UK tax rate is 40 per cent.

So expect an important UK acquisition before the end of this year. No one is giving out shares as to what they will do with the money.

Times, despite its condemnation of the Portuguese fascist regime, still accepted advertisements directed to readers to visit Portugal on holiday.

What a meanminded paper the Daily Mail is. Last Friday, it carried a story of a boy savagely attacked by an Alsatian guard dog. His life was saved only by the quick action of his brave 13-year-old friend, who beat the dog off with a broom handle.

subject of worker participation in industry. This should be carefully noted and analysed because what Sir Don says today, the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, Sunday People, Daily Record and a chain of magazines stretching from here to the West Indies will be saying for the rest of the year.

Sir Don doesn't dictate to his editors in the do-or-die manner of a Beaverbrook, Thomson or even Cecil King, but he is a man who doesn't like to be crossed, especially when he has a vested interest.

In short, the response of our larger circulation papers, which aim to speak for the working class, will be just as mealy-mouthed to suggestions of participation as the suggestions themselves. Or in Sir Don's words: 'We need to be imaginative but should be chary of being bold.'

Nevertheless, he did ask some relevant questions, the kind of questions every worker should ask himself when considering proposals for worker boards, share purchase options and all other

schemes geared to steer us away from our objective real—which is not workers' participation but workers' control.

Ryder asked: 'Why has the subject assumed such importance so recently? Is it because of the European Commission's proposed Fifth Directive?'

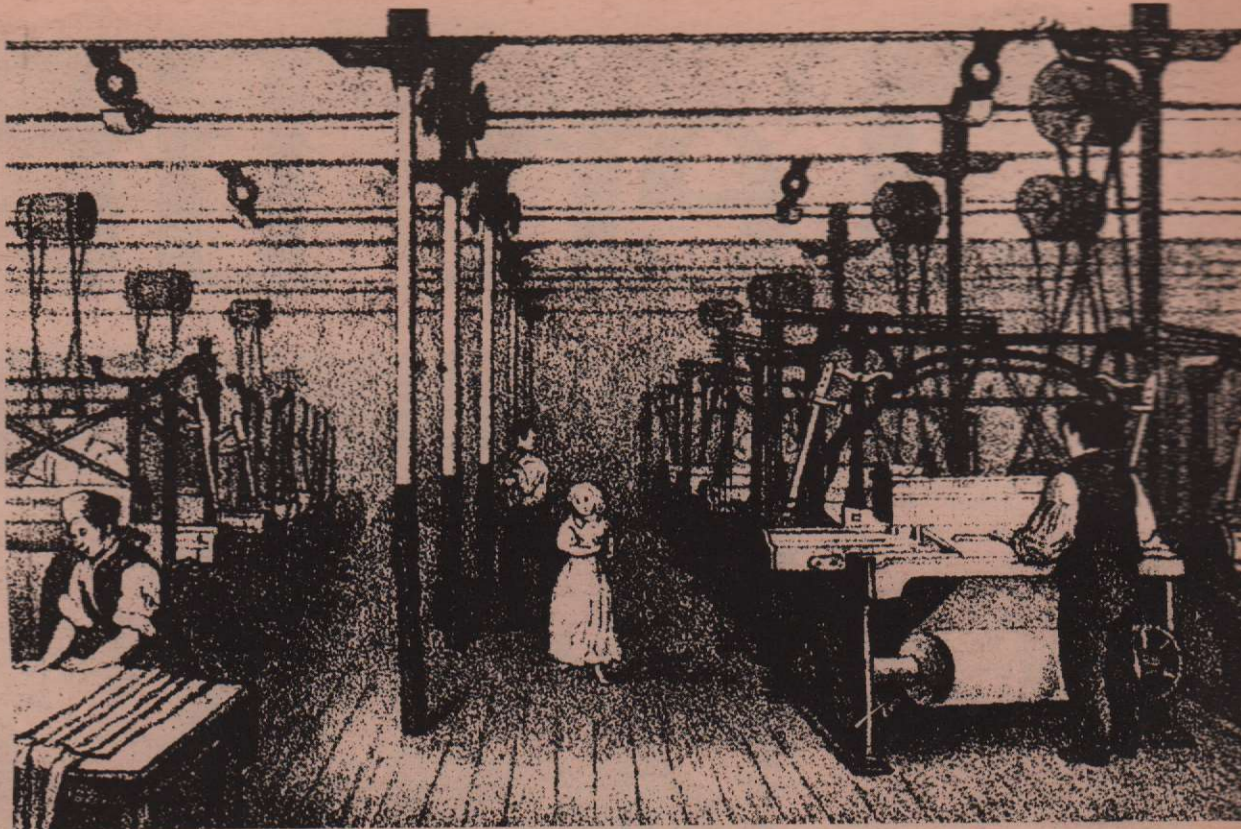
'Is it because of the political mileage that it is thought can be gained from it? Is it an as yet impractically thought through response to recent industrial strife?'

'Or is it a genuine attempt to involve employees to a greater extent in understanding the business they work in, in the formulation and execution of policies that affect them personally, and in sharing the risks and responsibilities that today are essentially management's?'

Sir Don forgot to mention that for accepting those risks and responsibilities of management, he is paid £40,679 a year.

Leonard Hill

The prisons they called factories



A cotton mill in 1840—cotton was the key industry of the industrial revolution and vast fortunes were made by the mill owners by the systematic oppression and exploitation of the workforce—40 per cent under 18 years.

The system of industrial capitalism has existed for two centuries. Nine or ten generations of workers have suffered the consequences. How did the first generation of workers face up to the new factory system?

Industrialisation brought a total transformation of life to the men, women and children who were forced into the new discipline of work in mills, factories and mines. Absenteeism became rife in the conditions of semi-slavery: despair, demoralisation and extreme poverty took their toll.

Leaving the peasant holding or domestic workshop, typical of the 18th century, the worker entered a new culture, no longer working for a subsistence living, but now forced into obedience to the machine and to wage slavery.

The new economic system required soulless, depersonalised beings. Entry into the new system was made worse by the fact that many factories were modelled on workhouses and prisons, and this was recognised with bitterness by the workers.

Under these conditions, manufacturers—especially in the cotton industry—found discipline difficult to impose. One employer had to admit: 'I have not half my people come to work today, and I have no great fascination in the prospect I have to put myself in the power of such people.'

Severe

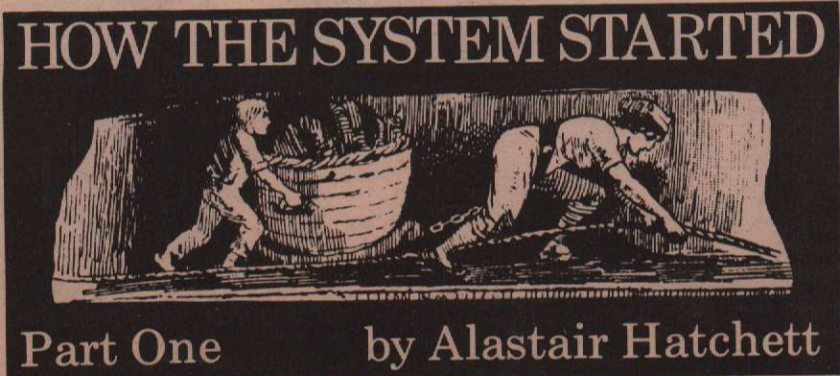
And in the Catrine cotton mills in Scotland managers admitted that, 'the children were all newcomers, and were very much beat at first before they could be taught their business.'

There was constant conflict between workers and employers over the enforcement of strict time-keeping, a 'virtue' that the managers attempted to impose by every means possible. Beatings and severe fines were the most common forms of punishment for bad timekeeping.

Under the domestic system the workers had some control over their own work and time. Under the factory system workers lost all command over their daily lives and were made to feel it.

But despite measures taken against them, workers in many trades continued to honour the 'St Monday' holiday, partly to recover from Sunday's drinking. In South Wales as late as the 1840s it was estimated that the workers lost one week in five and that in the fortnight after the monthly pay day, only two-thirds of the time was being worked.

Hostile employers reported how spinners and weavers would be missing from the factories on



Part One by Alastair Hatchett

Mondays and Tuesdays and one owner observed that, when they did return 'they would work desperately, night and day, to clear off their tavern score and get more money to spend in dissipation.'

In the Staffordshire Potteries workers who didn't work on Mondays and Tuesdays were imprisoned as a result of prosecutions by their employers, on the pretext that they had broken their contracts. But, despite a campaign of prosecutions, the custom of keeping Saint Monday was still noted in the report of The Children's Employment Commission in 1863.

Although the employers won on the major issue, the conflict continued, taking new forms. As Edward Thompson, author of *The Making of the English Working Class*, points out, the first generation of factory workers were taught by their masters the importance of time; the second generation formed their short-time committees in the ten-hour movement; the third generation struck for overtime or time-and-a-half.

They had accepted the categories of their employers and learned to fight back within them. They had learned their lesson—that under capitalism time is money—only too well.

In the constant drive for the accumulation of profits, employers sought to keep their machines in continuous use, driving their workers for six days a week for 14-16 hours a day. Children, as well as women and men, worked these hours.

In mining, textiles, and the light metal trades the proportion of young workers was very high—starting their lives of endless toil at the age of six or seven. In the Cumberland mines children started work at the age of seven or eight.

Josiah Wedgwood, in 1816, had 30 per cent of his employees under 18, one third of these being under 10 years old. The silk mills were almost

entirely dependent on child labour with two-thirds to three-quarters of the hands under 18.

In the key industry of the industrial revolution, cotton, the proportion of children and adolescents under 18 was around 40-45 per cent.

Effects

It was the appalling conditions of poverty that forced parents to accept that children should work from such an early age, but it was the employers who cruelly exploited their defencelessness. A nineteenth century writer described the effects of the early factory system on children:

'I see them pining, failing, falling, struggling against hell and death, knowing not what to do for relief, knowing not where to ask for aid, dying by agonising inches, and blest when the end comes; wondering dully, no doubt, in their day long torture and night-long feverishness, what they are, and where they are, and how they came to this fate; and thus they exist—alive, but breathing and eating slow deaths, sleeping in death, with no flowers, nor grass, nor toys, nor any childish joy in their lives; not knowing that they are being crushed in the mortar wherewith to build the commercial glory of England, that shall rise to such admirable splendour over their dust.'

One estimate suggested that in the early days of the factory system, one quarter of the children became crippled or otherwise deformed. In 1832 John Doherty published *The Memoir of Robert Blincoe*, a biography of a boy who had been 'apprenticed' out of a London workhouse to a northern cotton mill.

The machine set the pace and any boy who was slow was savagely beaten. Once, when one of Blincoe's fingers got crushed in a machine, he was not allowed to stop working.

And on one occasion, a sadistic overseer had punished Blincoe by

hanging him over a machine, so that he had to lift his leg, to avoid losing it, every time the machine turned.

Punishments took a variety of forms. In addition to beatings, dismissal and the threat of dismissal were deterrents in enforcing discipline. One child reported that: 'Have worked here two years. I am now fourteen, work sixteen hours and a half a day. I was badly, and asked to stop at eight one night lately and I was told if I went I must not come back.'

However, when labour was short, dismissals were ineffective, but when jobs became scarce, a sigh of relief went through the ranks of the employers at the restoration of their power.

Fines were another form of enforcing control. They were often very high and were meant to hurt—ranging from 6d to 2s—the equivalent of from two hours to a day's wage.

In some mills, swearing, singing or being drunk were punished by a fine of 5s. The average weekly deductions from a miner's wage packet of 13s were often as much as 2s.

Resistance to the beatings, dismissals and fining came in the form of riots, insurgency, machine breaking and the demonstrations of revolt, and in more organised forms of combinations and early union organisation, but here the workers faced the full force of the law, which was at the service of the employer.

Even when the law was not explicitly against combination—the Combination Acts were law from 1799-1824—employers treated the organisation of workers as a criminal

conspiracy. In 1833, one employee rule stated that: 'Any hands forming conspiracies or unlawful combinations will be discharged without notice.'

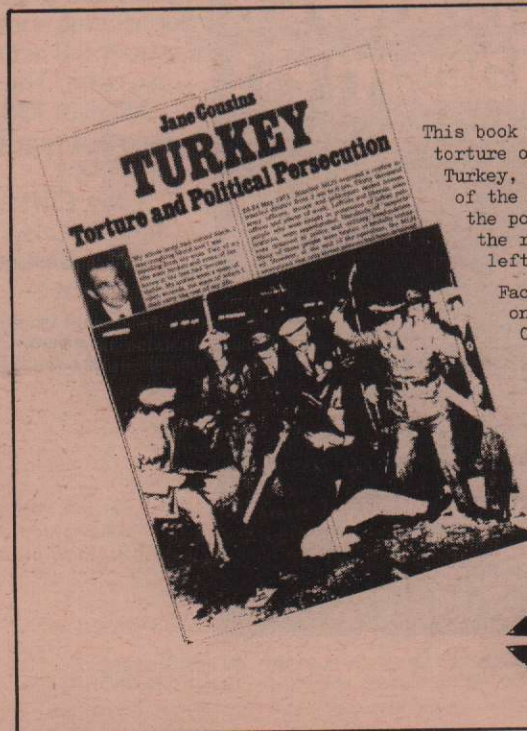
In this situation employers were unchallenged masters, able to do they liked with their own. Workers became part of their property and girls were especially vulnerable to the more unbridled lusts of their owners.

Many employers, particularly in the cotton mills of Lancashire, made seduction one of the conditions which females could work at the factories. If they refused they had quit. Single or married women made no difference and the same practice applied to the girl of 16 the woman of 30.

But in addition to the use of the stick to enforce discipline, the car was also used—although on a less scale. Bonus incentives and promotions were used on a few occasions, but rather than use 'kind persuasion' keep children at work snuff would administered to keep them awake the evening. Piecework rates were also introduced as an incentive individual effort.

Symbolic rewards for outstanding effort were commonly used, especially for children, and the best known example of this system was the 'silent monitor' introduced by Robert Owen. He awarded four types of mark in four colours for the day's work, black, blue, yellow, white ascending order of merit.

These were painted on the forehead of a piece of wood and mounted over the worker's machine. The superintendent on each section would then 'reward' a worker with appropriate colour for his effort.



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

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

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NEXT WEEK: religious terror backs the bosses

Ten little Tory

THE Liberal Party is another Tory Party. That elementary fact needs to be restated after the recent by-elections at Ripon and Ely, following so closely on other Liberal victories at Rochdale and Sutton.

Many workers in these areas tried to take refuge from the dull debate between the two major parties by voting Liberal.

The enthusiasm of hundreds of glittering young people in Liberal colours, large public meetings, talk of 'community politics' and 'the fight of the small man against the big battalions' have fooled at least a few trade unionists into believing the cause of working men and women can best be served by the parliamentary Liberal Party.

But the truth is that when the rhetoric is stripped away, the Liberal Party is as hostile, and in some cases more hostile, to working-class interests than the Tory Party.

The Liberal Party supported, and still supports, the Industrial Relations Act. Many of its worst aspects, notably the 'cooling-off period' and mandatory ballots, were borrowed direct from Liberal Party policy. So was entry into the Common Market on any terms. So was Value Added Tax.

Surcharge

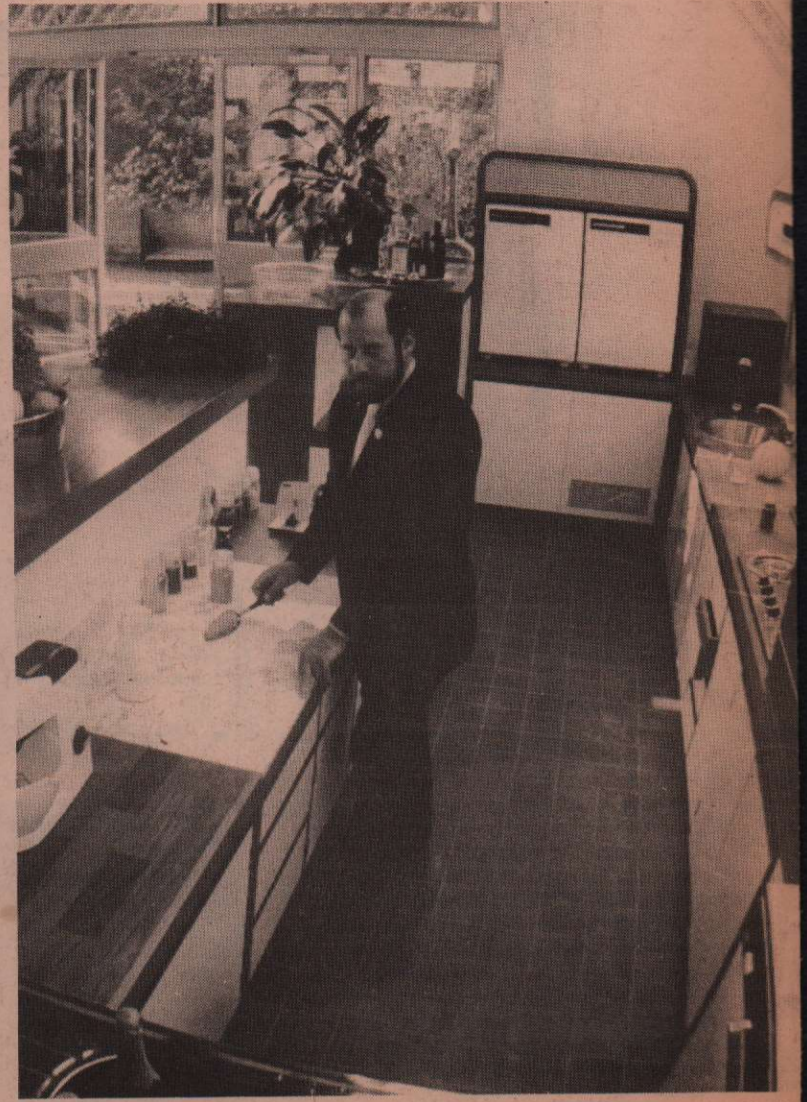
The Liberal Party supports the freeze. Its MPs voted for every round of the Tories' Counter-Inflation policy. It demands that statutory control over trade unions should go on forever.

Speaking on the second reading of the Counter-Inflation Bill last January, John Pardoe, Liberal spokesman on industry, said: 'I have consistently supported a compulsory and statutory prices and incomes policy . . .'. He later demanded that workers who get a substantial wage increase as a result of trade union pressure should be surcharged on national insurance contributions or in taxation.

In other words, the Liberals want permanent restrictions on the free collective bargaining of trade unions, and, in case any trade union slips through their net and gets a heavy increase, they want the workers taxed extra to pay for their rises!



JEREMY THORPE, the Liberal leader, whose 'community politics' meant involvement in a 200 per cent interest second mortgage racket.



CLEMENT FREUD in the kitchen of his home in the exclusive St John's of London. He is a director of the Playboy Club

Over their deep antagonism to trade unions the Liberal Party draws a veil called 'co-ownership' or 'co-partnership'. They propose elected Works Councils to approve or reject 'all plans, arrangements and situations likely to result in hardship'. Workers are also to become 'members of the company', like shareholders, and are to have a stake in company profits.

The intention is in effect to destroy the independent organisation of the workers—their trade unions—and replace them with statutory bodies which will become part of management.

The right of management to take all the main decisions about investment and employment is never challenged. The only change

is in the workers' independent power to resist.

The Liberal Party strategy is the same throughout its policies. Behind the smokescreen of the 'rights of the individual' they defend the rights of property. They are implacably opposed to any new form of public ownership.

Champions

In perhaps the most important area of public ownership—council housing—they show a sublime indifference. When the Tories first introduced the principles that were to be the Housing Finance Act—fewer subsidies and higher rents for council tenants—the Liberals

voted in favour. They later voted against the Act, but without speaking on it. They have always made it clear that their housing policies involve higher council house rents.

The key to Liberal success is summed up in two words: 'Community Politics'. They have swarmed into middle-class constituencies and posed as the champions of ordinary people. They have highlighted the niggling local problems of individual families, exposed the corruption and bureaucracy of councils and governments and pretended that they, when elected to these councils and governments, will sort these problems out.

Liberal councillors and MPs have proved no better nor less corrupt than Tory or Labour MPs and councillors. The cause of the problems with which the Liberals promise to deal is beyond the

scope of parliaments or councils. The frustrations of individual families or 'communities' are society split from top to bottom by class, and in which decisions are taken by a tiny minority, ever more reckless and powerful in its greed.

Defence

That power, recklessness and greed will not be solved by a bunch of impotent ombudsmen trying to get on the council or into parliament.

On the contrary, the Liberal Party plans above all to weaken the organised strength of the workers—the one bastion of defence against more greed and more recklessness. It takes its stand as it has always taken its stand, with property against workers, and a vote for the Liberal Party is just another vote for the Tories.



JO GRIMOND: Fa



JOHN PARDOE: M

Liberal finger in

THE Liberals are proud of the fact that they have a 'register' of their MPs and councillors' interests. They are not so proud of what appears on it.

JEREMY THORPE, for instance, is a director of London and County Securities, a finance house. The company had some unwelcome publicity late last year when it was exposed as the chief racketeer in the 'second mortgage' racket. Exploiting a loophole in the law, the company was charging householders up to 200 per cent interest rates on second mortgages.

When these facts were publicised by the Daily Mail, Mr Thorpe made a statement in the House of Commons and some of the interest rates were brought down.

A more interesting enterprise of London and County was its purchase in 1969 of the Realmdeal property company from a family who are in the London night club business. While under London and County management, Realmdeal flats in Liverpool ran into a little difficulty with the authorities at Liverpool University. Realmdeal were insisting on a down

payment from students' parents to cover a year's letting before allowing the students to rent the flats. Many parents, anxious to see their sons and daughters properly provided for, were putting up the money. In one case where four students were sharing a flat, their parents had coughed up £500 a year each.

This scheme ensured that the students were not covered by the Rent Act. The flats were not 'let' under the terms of the Act, and the students could be evicted at will.

The Liverpool authorities warned parents off Realmdeal, but there was no comment from the company or from London and County Securities about this new form of 'community politics' in a city where the Liberals have been doing so well.

LORD BYERS, for many years leader of the Liberals in the House of Lords, and chief Liberal policy-maker since the war, was for most of the time a director, and for a few years chairman, of Rio Tinto-Zinc, one of the most ruthless multinational companies in the world.

The rate of exploitation was highest in the company's enormously profitable Palabora mine in South Africa, where profits were twice as high as the total

wages paid to thousands of miners.

Lord Byers, who is a devastating speaker and is also a director of subsidiary, Palabora H

In 1968, one year after the military coup in Greece, five offers to visit Greece were turned down by the expense of the fact there. There were two Tories—and a Lib JOHNSTON, MP for Johnston has loyal Greek government occasions since. He consultant to the Federation.

Inver

With the election of FREUD as the Liberal party wins the service, prosperous businessmen

Clement Freud is trustee of the Playboy makes millions out of nude women. He of the prosperous Restaurants company some of London's expense-account resta

International Socialism 61

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ies

How to get rid of an overdraft

IT WAS symbolic that every guest at the glittering society dinner party where Jeremy Thorpe MP, Liberal Party leader, met his new and royal wife, was a substantial contributor to Israeli Zionist causes.

Perhaps the single most consistent theme of Liberal Party foreign policy over the past few years has been its hysterical support of Zionism, and its refusal even to recognise millions of dispossessed Palestinians, Zionism's victims.

The Liberals' championing of Zionism has brought many new names to the party's secret 'Golden List' of contributors, which has in a few years wiped out a massive overdraft and replaced it with an even more massive balance. Ben Harris, of the London Liberal Party, and David Brooke, managing director of Brooke Furniture Stores, have been prominent in drumming up support among rich Zionists for the Liberal cause.

Mr Thorpe has been keen to preserve the party's image as chief hammer of the Palestinians. He strongly opposed the nomination of Michael Steed, a Manchester election expert, as Liberal candidate in the recent Manchester Exchange by-election. Steed is a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause, and founded Liberals For Palestine in 1969.

When Steed was beaten, Thorpe openly expressed his relief. One more Liberal member of parliament was a poor substitute for the denting of the Liberals' Zionist image.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'SOME people have asked me why, as a Liberal, I recommend South African shares. I am strongly opposed to apartheid, but I am a full-blooded free trader and the one way to harm the coloured people in South Africa is to withhold capital. Anyway, hats off to Jim Slater for his courageous stand over the low wages paid to African workers in his South African company.'

—Richard Lamb, chairman of the Monopolies and Consumer Affairs Panel, writing in the City Press (which he owns) of 7 June.

the pie

lands of African
the party's most
against apartheid,
of Rio Tinto's
holdings.
after the fascist
MPs accepted an
with their wives at
fascist government
Labour MPs, two
eral, RUSSELL
Inverness, Mr
defended the
on a number of
is also a paid
Scottish Police

consultant to New Mauritius Hotels. His most interesting directorship is in Specialistics Ltd, which provides lists of rich people to companies who want to send out advertising material. Recently the company provided a list of more than 750,000 people who, it claimed, receive a credit card from their bank. The figure almost exactly corresponds with the number of people who have Access credit cards. Hugh Cameron, the chief executive of Access, told the press that the list from Specialistics had 'either been invented or stolen.' He was, in any case, informing Scotland Yard, he said.

JO GRIMMOND, former Liberal leader and MP for the Orkneys, has inherited an enormous family fortune and is a director of The Guardian, while JOHN PARDOE is a director of Gerald Metals, international traders in metal, and a consultant to the arch-reactionary, anti-feminist National Association of Schoolmasters, and DAVID AUSTICK, the Liberal victor at Ripon, runs a profitable book business in Leeds, paying some of his assistants the enormous wage of £14 a week.

Paul Foot

Power policies that backfired on the US

THE WAR in Indo-China will soon enter its 14th year. It does not get much publicity now. But the giant US bombers continue their daily missions over Cambodia, dropping their deadly payload, burning villages, maiming and killing people at random.

This book attempts to tell the history of American involvement in Vietnam, showing the greatest power in the world sucked ever deeper into a conflict it could not win.

It begins with the inauguration of John F Kennedy as president back in 1961. When he was assassinated, the liberal press throughout the world treated him as a hero, as a man who had fought courageously to improve the world. Halberstam tells a different story.

He shows Kennedy as a cynical politician, concerned with maintaining US power internationally and with protecting himself against any charge of being 'soft on Communism' within the US itself. His first major action as president was to give the go-ahead for the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. Eighteen months later he threatened the whole world with nuclear destruction if Russian missiles were not withdrawn from Cuba.

His policy in Vietnam was similar. America had to prove it was the most powerful country in the world. If the people of Vietnam refused to accept a government of US puppets, they had to be taught a lesson. Kennedy told James Reston of the New York Times: 'We have a problem in trying to make our power seem credible and Vietnam looks like the place.'

To prove the point, he was prepared to use the most barbarous methods of warfare—napalm, defoliation, the 'free fire zone' where bombs could be dropped at will to kill anything that moved.

The trail blazed by Kennedy was followed with equal vigour by Johnson and Nixon. At Kennedy's death there were 20,000 US armed 'advisors' in Vietnam. Johnson built this up to half a million troops and bombed the North. Nixon spread the war into Laos and Cambodia as well, where it still drags on.

Slaughter

The aim at first was to do what had been done in Guatemala and was to be done later in the Dominican Republic: send in armed forces, smash the popular resistance and shore up puppet regimes. For the Kennedy clan such activities were the everyday stuff of politics. Bobby Kennedy could assert, with cool indifference to the slaughter: 'Vietnam, Vietnam... We have 30 Vietnams a day here.'

But the US government soon found it faced a problem not so easily solved. The struggle for the liberation of Vietnam had been going on for more than 20 years, a struggle with such a strong base that even when Communist leaders tried to bring it to an end with compromises in 1945 and 1954, the popular movement continued.

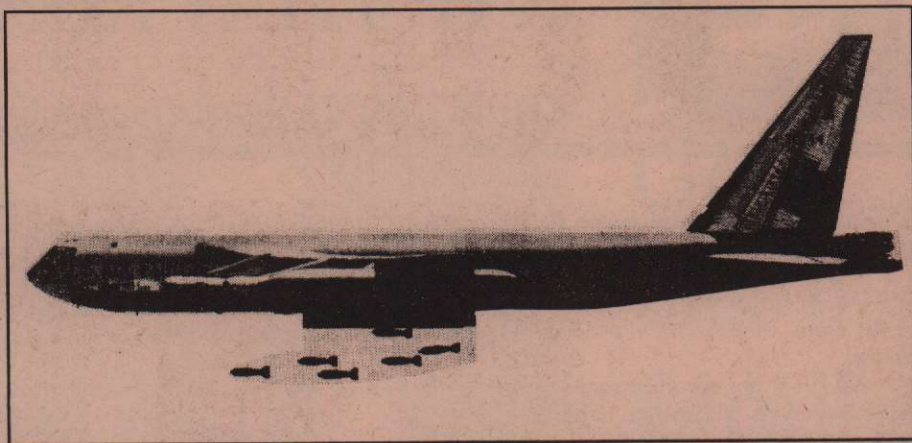
Weakness

American troops could just about prevent the overthrow of the regime. They could not successfully destroy the armed struggle of its opponents. More and more troops were sent in to Vietnam. But the Saigon government remained on the verge of collapse, a collapse which would have exposed the real weakness of American power throughout the world.

The main aim of US policy became to avoid a defeat at all costs. A state department document in 1964 assigned 70 per cent of the reason for the US being in Vietnam 'to avoid a humiliating American defeat... The official reason, the one for the high school history books, to aid the South Vietnamese have a better life, was given 10 per cent,' writes Halberstam.

At its start the American establishment was virtually

*The Best and the Brightest, by David Halberstam, Barrie and Jenkins, £4.50.



THE VIETNAM ROAD TO WATERGATE



KENNEDY: 'We have a problem in trying to make our power seem credible and Vietnam looks like the place.'

unanimous in support for the war. Almost all the politicians who later turned against the war voted for it: Fulbright, Eugene McCarthy, McGovern, and, of course, the Kennedys.

But by 1968 it was clear there would be no easy victory, even though Vietnam had pushed up the American military budget by 30 per cent.

The rats began leaving the ship. Those who had been fervently in favour of the war four years earlier turned against it. 'In late March, Johnson summoned his Senior Advisory Group on Vietnam, a blue chip establishment group. These were the great names of the cold war... And over a period of two days they quietly let him know that the Establishment—yes, Wall Street—had turned against the war; it was hurting us more than it was helping us, it had gotten out of hand... it was hurting the economy, dividing the country, turning the youth against the country's best traditions.'

To ram the point home, a section of the Establishment backed Eugene McCarthy for presidential candidate against Johnson.

Rebuff

Under such pressure, Johnson opted to abandon the presidency. But the problems facing America's rulers in Vietnam were not over.

A whole section of the ruling class, increasingly powerful among the owners of the most important newspapers and in Congress, opposed the pouring of any more resources into the war. But they had no answer to how the US could withdraw without the power of American capitalism throughout the world suffering a clear rebuff. A ruling class which would have united without a twinge of conscience if its methods of mass murder had won the Vietnam war,

began to split down the middle because it could not win.

It was out of this conflict, with the White House, the Congress and the press increasingly at odds, that the Watergate Affair was born. Congress threatened to cut off funds to the war. The press printed secret government documents—the Pentagon Papers. And the presidency tried to protect its chosen role of defending the international power of American capitalism, by lying to Congress, by burgling its political opponents and spying on the press.

The illusion that the state machine operates according to the democratically expressed will of the majority of the people holds sway under capitalism while the state in fact follows the policies laid down by the ruling class. But when the ruling class splits, the undemocratic nature of the state machine is clearly revealed. This is what has happened in the US.

Power

When New York Times reporter Neil Sheehan read through the Pentagon Papers he 'would come away with the impression that the government of the US was not what he thought it was; it was as if there was an inner US government, what he called "a centralised state, far more powerful than anything else, for whom the enemy is not simply the Communists, but everything else, its own press, its own judiciary, its own congress...'

'It has survived and perpetuated itself often using the issue of anti-

Communism as a weapon against the other branches of government and the press... Secrecy was a way of protecting itself, not so much from threats by foreign governments but from detection by its own population on charges of its own competence and wisdom.'

This was not new, but what was new about the Watergate affair was that methods traditionally used against the have-nots were used in an internal feud among the haves. And the feud arose because of the inability to terrorise the Vietnamese into submission.

Halberstam describes the way the American ruling class became involved in Vietnam, the dead-end it came to, the attempts to conceal its difficulties, and the splits inside the ruling elite that followed.

But he seems to have a misconception of his own, that somehow the Vietnam War was a 'mistake' which the US government could have avoided with a bit of forethought. He does not link the foreign policy of US governments with the economic power of American capitalism, a power which concentrates in its hands 60 per cent of the earth's resources.

So he does not see that the US had to fight in Vietnam because it had to show it could protect its economic domination of any part of the so-called free world, whether against popular movements or against foreign big business rivals.

Chris Harman

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YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!

CHRIS HARMAN on the importance of socialist ideas

A LOT of people sympathetic to the aims of socialism do not really believe that it can come about. 'You socialists can say what you like, but the majority of workers are just plain apathetic,' they tell you.

Ninety per cent of workers don't go to union meetings. If there was a general election tomorrow, Enoch Powell would get many times more votes than the International Socialists. But this argument ignores the way people's ideas can change.

In April 1968 the revolutionary movement in France was very small indeed, with no more than a couple of thousand members altogether. The students were more interested in passing exams than politics, and the number of workers in trade unions was less than half the figure for Britain.

Yet less than four weeks later, tens of thousands of students and young workers were fighting the police on the streets, there was the biggest general strike in French history, with 10 million people out, and everywhere there was talk of 'revolution'.

In the summer of 1956, students from Budapest University tried to interest workers in the big factories in their leaflets. They got no response. Yet in October that year the workers occupied their factories, elected workers' councils and began an armed uprising.

In America in the early 1960s there was no black movement. There was instead a movement of white middle-class students who went to the Southern states to take action on behalf of black people, who they could think of as passive victims of oppression and not as people who could fight back. Yet within a few years massive movements of black workers and unemployed had erupted in every major city, shaking the US to its core.

Impossible

In Britain, we have not witnessed transformations in people's behaviour and ideas on such a scale so quickly, but there have been some big changes.

Five years ago, every militant trade unionist took it for granted that there were some sections of workers and some unions which were irredeemably backward—the postal workers, the dustmen, the civil servants, the hospital workers, to name but a few. Yet since then all these groups have shown a completely new militancy, upsetting the plans of both their union leaders and the government.

You cannot understand how such changes in attitude can take place unless you understand why people are apathetic in the first place.

The answer to apathy

The main cause of apathy is the feeling that it is impossible to change things however much the effort.

Working people are told all their lives that they are not capable of taking decisions themselves, but must obey the instruction of their 'superiors'. As children at school, they are taught to keep quiet, obey often ludicrous instructions and to look up to the teachers. When they start work, they are expected to keep to an even more stringent discipline. Even in the trade union movement, they are continually being urged to 'show loyalty' to the union leaders by letting officials hold well-paid office jobs for as many years as possible.

It is hardly surprising that after so much brain-washing, many workers leave politics and trade unionism to others. Most of the time, their own experience reinforces the feeling of powerlessness when it comes to big social and political issues.

People know that the way a vote goes in an election is not going to change their lives much. After the election as before, they will still have to clock on and obey the orders of the foreman, they will still live in homes that are too small, they will still have to run harder to remain in the same place. It is hardly surprising

they do not put much effort into understanding the issues involved in the election or into backing one or other of the candidates.

Similarly, it is not difficult to see why few workers are deeply interested in what their trade union leaders are doing. Their own experience has taught them that the activities of the union leaders are not going to lead to any really massive change in their living standards or working conditions.

When workers do find that their own efforts can improve their lives, apathy can disappear overnight. Workers who hardly seemed interested in trade unionism before will stay out for eight or nine weeks or even longer, once they feel they are getting somewhere.

Influence

In the early 1960s the British ruling class's own industrial relations experts were disturbed to discover that workers were not completely apathetic about trade unionism. The majority showed little interest in national union elections, but when it came to their own shop stewards their attitude was rather different. The overwhelming majority of workers voted in shop-floor elections and four-fifths of stewards had to face annual re-election.

The reason was simple. Whether or not there was a good steward had an immediate effect on the ability of workers to influence their own working conditions.

Despite management efforts to cut the powers of shop stewards, the trend is quite the other way. The big strike movements of the past few years have begun to show workers that they can affect developments on a national scale, as well as in the local factory.

That is why many more people are interested in revolutionary ideas now than ten years ago. If socialists can ensure that workers win the even bigger strikes likely soon, we can expect the trend to continue.

BOOKS

REVIEW

May Hobbs: Fodder for the liberals

BORN TO STRUGGLE, by May Hobbs, Quartet, £1.25.

THESE days May Hobbs is a personality. She appears on telly, is having a film made about her, and is accepting an invitation to the Women of the Year do despite criticism from Women's Lib. Newspapers fall over themselves to quote her earthy comments word-for-word and a shrewd publisher has persuaded her to write her life story.

Yet four years ago nobody had ever heard of May Hobbs. She was then a working-class woman who left home every evening to earn money cleaning London's offices at night. Like hundreds of others, she received meagre pay and poor treatment at the hands of the cleaning contractors with a Victorian attitude to labour.

But May saw the only way to improve things was to get a union organised that would fight for better wages and conditions. She was determined to try. Her early efforts met with little success. She and her mate were victimised.

But May was not beaten. She approached the left-wing groups she saw selling papers in her local high street on Saturdays and asked them to help her. Volunteers were also enlisted from the newly-emerged women's movement and soon small groups were roaming the streets of the City at night, handing out leaflets about the union to night cleaners, arguing with them, and persuading them to join the Transport and General Workers Union.

Union officials found the whole thing rather embarrassing. Unwilling to work outside office hours, they limited themselves to discouraging comments. One friendly official from Transport House even told May (unofficially) that the cleaners were too much trouble for the TGWU and would probably be better off in the General and Municipal!

But despite the obstacles, the campaign continued and enormous progress has been made. The cleaners now have their own branch of the TGWU in the City and May is pushing the idea of a full-time official for night cleaners, preferably someone who has worked as a cleaner. Possibly she sees herself as a likely candidate.

The campaign to get the night cleaners into a union was important. It showed the cynical union officials what hard work and enthusiasm can achieve. It gave the women's movement a chance to do something concrete to change women's lives and ideas. Groups worked hard to raise money, obtain publicity and enlist support for the campaign.

And it gave May Hobbs an escape route from the dreary life of a night

cleaner. May rapidly became a favourite speaker at meetings all over the country. Her lively Cockney speaking style, full of emotional description, and her colourful East End language went down a bomb. She was real and a woman. The women's movement lapped her up. She became a centre of attention, a much-courted heroine. Baby sitters, chauffeurs and political mentors competed to render their services.

And May tried them all. In four years she shot through the ranks of the Labour Party, International Socialists, the International Marxist Group (Socialist Woman), the Women's Liberation Workshop, addressed the serried ranks of the All Trade Union Alliance, and has ended up in the Communist Party—which she criticises loudly and publicly, presumably as a substitute for debate within the party itself as she says she rarely attends meetings.

The story of May's campaign, and the lessons she learned, would be of interest to socialists and trade unionists all over the country. Yet the lessons and experiences of the campaign are left out. Why?

Altogether this is a surprisingly unpolitical book for someone so deeply involved in politics. It's a double shame that May decided against telling the story of the night cleaners in detail. Not only would it have made the book useful, it would also have considerably brightened what is a spirited but not particularly brilliant account of life in the East End.

But the obvious defects of the book probably won't prevent high sales. May provides just the right fodder for the liberal with a conscience. Her 'frank' style and uncomplicated generalities about the 'system' will undoubtedly charm a good number of £1.25s into her publisher's bank account.

For all this it's a miss not a must. Let's hope her promised follow-up on the life of a night cleaner is more interesting.

ANNA PACZUSKA



MAY HOBBS

HEFFER'S HOARY THEORY

THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN PARLIAMENT, by Eric Heffer, Gollancz, £3.90.

THIS is a story with a moral.

The story is a blow-by-blow account of the conflict inside the parliamentary Labour Party over the Wilson government's attempt to introduce its own anti-trade union law and the later opposition in parliament to the Tory Industrial Relations Act.

The moral, for Eric Heffer, is 'There is no viable alternative to the Labour Party... A Labour government can be elected which is genuinely socialist and which will be bold enough to carry through its programme.'

How is this miracle to be achieved? 'The task of the Left of the Party,' Mr Heffer tells us, 'is clearly to win the whole party for a genuine socialist policy. The policies advocated by Tribune today often become the policies of the party tomorrow.'

They do indeed, but what effect did this have on the last Labour government? Mr Heffer tells us that Wilson's policies of wage freeze, social service cuts and attempted anti-union legislation were 'utter folly'. But Harold Wilson was the Tribune's candidate for party leadership. Like Ramsey MacDonald and Clement Attlee before him, he won the leadership with the enthusiastic support of the parliamentary 'left'.

This problem does worry Mr Heffer a little. Why did some of those in the [Wilson] government who had previously been stalwarts of the left agree to introduce some of the policies they did? I have been asked this time after time by workers... The question is not an easy one to answer.

In fact it is only too easy to answer. Labour governments come into office

with the idea of running capitalism more efficiently and then, maybe, introducing a few modifications. The ministers soon discover that to run capitalism means to accept its priorities, and that means accepting capitalist policies.

Mr Heffer cannot bring himself to face this even though it has been proved to the hilt by the experience of four Labour governments in this country and umpteenth Labour and Social Democratic governments in other countries. He prefers to dream dreams.

Michael Foot writes in his introduction to the book: 'Sometimes history is made on the floor of the House of Commons... This is what occurred in the debates on the Industrial Relations Bill... The actual verdict, the vote at the end, was not altered. But the terms of debate in British politics were transformed...'

Could there be a more apt comment on the political bankruptcy of the Labour Party lefts?

Fortunately the opposition to operation of the Industrial Relations Act was not left in their hands. It was taken up by workers determined that 'the actual verdict' should be altered. Industrial action, not 'the class struggle in parliament' freed the five dockers last year and clipped the wings of the Industrial Relations Court.

Some 14 years ago a writer in an article in Socialist Review, a forerunner of Socialist Worker, said of a 'New Left' pamphlet: 'In place of class struggle we are offered the hoary theory of the "democratic transition to socialism...". The authors... demonstrate their complete break with marxism and revolutionary politics.'

That writer was Eric Heffer. What he said then will stand as a fair comment on his own book. DUNCAN HALLAS



Miss Marie Lloyd.

Music hall star the ruling class knocked about a bit.

By Kathy Sims

Matilda Alice Victoria Wood was born on 12 February, 1870 at Hoxton in London's East End. She was destined to become one of the most revered and loved stars who ever emerged from the working class, and she made her mark on musical history as Marie Lloyd.

Marie Lloyd and the world of music hall were both the direct result of the desire of working people to be entertained. Its origins were rooted in London's East End, in the penny gaffs and drinking taverns, but most of all in its people who hungered for amusement, for warmth, for companionship and for a feeling of being protected against the harsh world outside.

The real essence of music hall was that it reflected the realities of working-class life, but it made fun of things that in truth were tragic. One of Marie's most famous songs was about a poor old char lady and her husband doing a 'moonlight flit':

*'We had to move away
Cos the rent we couldn't pay.
The moving van came round just
after dark.*

*There was me and my old man
Shoving things inside the van
Which we'd often done before, let
me remark.'*

Marie always had a lyric that would sum up the general feeling of hostility towards the landlords, the bailiff, the school board or the mother-in-law. With a nod and one of her famous winks she'd take the audience into her confidence.

Battered

She was a great character actress, too. In one of her most brilliant songs she would reel onto the stage and give a vivid and touchingly desperate account of the plight of the battered wife:

*'It's a bit of a ruin that Cromwell
knocked about a bit.*

*One that Oliver Cromwell knocked
about a bit.*

*In the gay old days there used to
be some doings.*

*No wonder that the poor old
Abbey went to ruins.*

*Those who've studied history sing
and shout of it.*

*And you bet your life there isn't
any doubt of it.*

*Outside the Oliver Cromwell last
Saturday night*

*I was one of the ruins that
Cromwell knocked about a bit.'*

The battered wife was a popular theme on the music halls but it was a problem many working people were really worried about.

When John Burns gave his speeches to his dockers on Tower Hill prior to the great Dock Strike in 1889, only a small part of his speeches were

devoted to union demands. A large section was devoted to urging them to behave like human beings—not to beat their wives, not to fight one another savagely, not to drink themselves stupid at the first opportunity.

'The most oppressed and unhappiest of human beings, those who were nearest to the animal, now had recovered their humanity and demanded their rights'—G D H Cole, *The Common People*.

The rise to fame of Marie Lloyd coincided with an incredibly optimistic period of working-class history. In 1889 when she was only 19, and already a rich woman, the match girls had won their famous battle at Bryant and May, Will Thorne was leading his gas workers to victory and the dockers were sparking off the 'new unionism'.

The lower-paid workers, just like today, were beginning to make their voices heard. Marie was around at the right time to cock a snook at the ruling class, and this she did brilliantly.

She always dressed extremely well—as glamorously as any 'lady'—but she'd soon indicate which side she was on. Floating onto the stage she'd attempt to open her parasol, which she held in a very suggestive position.

Eventually it opened. 'Thank gawd,' she'd say, 'I haven't had it up for months.' Wearing a really grand dress she'd have the audience in fits reciting the most inane verses:

*'We went gathering carslips
Moo-cow came to me
Wagged 'is apparatus
And I said unto he—
Rumptiddly-umtiddley-umtidd-
dely-ay*

*Our little lot so gay—we don't
care what we do or what we say.'*

Marie's act wasn't appreciated by everyone and she soon came into collision with the licensing authorities. They particularly objected to a certain song where a young lady had a garden. Reference was made to the phrase 'She sits among the cabbages and peas'.

Marie obligingly changed it to: 'She sits among the cabbages and leaks', but somehow this didn't satisfy the authorities. Eventually she was asked to perform before a London County Council committee.

Marie did all her numbers perfectly 'straight' and was officially declared decent. She then proceeded to sing 'Come into the Garden Maud' and 'Queen of my Heart' in her most suggestive manner. The watch committee was stunned...

In 1907 music hall went on strike. For some time there'd been dissatisfaction over forms of contract and rates of pay. Music hall was booming and proprietors were getting rich at the expense of the lower-paid artists.

Matinees crept in at no extra pay. The recently formed Variety Artistes Federation took up the challenge and on 1 July 1907 the management



Miss Lloyd and parasol—always anxious to get it up

found they had no artists to play the halls. They desperately hunted up old-timers who were glad of the jobs and gave contracts to those who didn't join the strikers.

The stars, who were losing big salaries, gave large donations to the 'war' funds. Marie held strike meetings in her Hampstead home and stood on the picket lines outside the theatres, much to the delight of the 'fans'.

Blackleg

During one picket session Marie did her best to persuade another woman, a minor performer, to give up playing that night and stop being a blackleg. The woman, Bella Elmore, never much good as a performer, decided to go in despite the protests of the picket.

Marie got fed up. 'Go on,' she said, 'Let her go in, let her play. She'll do more bleedin' good for the strike by playing than by stopping out.'

In 1912 King George V 'commanded' that all professionals of music hall should appear before him and Queen Mary at the Palace Theatre. Marie was not included. She

was too notorious for royalty.

Marie was enraged and so was the public who adored her. Not to be outdone, on the same night of the Command Performance, she played to a packed house at the London Pavilion just a few yards from the Palace. A triumphant billboard announced, 'Every performance by Marie Lloyd is a command performance.'

In 1914 a new show swamped the old halls—the First World War. Music hall had never been a hotbed of revolution but now it began in a sickening manner to wave the flag of patriotism and Marie was no exception.

With the end of the war Marie was unable to reflect the bitterness of the soldiers who had returned from the trenches. Her wry optimism had belonged to another era.

The new mass entertainment came from the dreamland of Hollywood. Like music hall, Marie suffered a quick and painful decline, while the workers fought another kind of trench war, against the class which had sent so many of them to their deaths in the fields of France.

THE MILLION POUND STRIKE

THE strike in defence of trade union rights at Roberts-Arundel, Stockport, in 1967-8 was a victory for working-class solidarity. Millions threatened to strike in solidarity, thousands blacked the factory's products, and management was forced to climb down. The firm made such losses in the confrontation that it later went out of business.

Trade unionists won the first round at Roberts-Arundel, and lost the second at Fine Tubes. Be ready for the third.

THE MILLION POUND STRIKE, by Jim Arnison, introduction by Hugh Scanlon 45p (postage included) from

IS BOOKS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Good clean family mayhem

IN the Daily Mail last week a gentleman by the name of David Lewin argued that the public are sick to death of films portraying blood and lust. Like most writers for the Mail, Lewin has an uncanny knack of gauging what the public does or doesn't want at any particular time.

As an example of the public's distaste for such films, Lewin cites the huge audiences that are flocking to see the latest James Bond film, *Live and Let Die*, a film which he says has little to do with 'blood and lust'. It has an A certificate, which means all the family are welcome.

James Bond, who is played in this film by 'Saint' Roger Moore, clearly shares Lewin's distaste for all this violence. He feels so strongly about it, in fact, that after four of our lads are killed in the first few minutes of the film—one stabbed, one tortured and finally bitten by a poisonous snake, another killed by unbearable sound, the fourth shot in the neck with a dart gun—Bond proceeds to teach the perpetrators of this outrage a lesson.

The problem is that there are all these blacks who intend to flood America with initially free heroin to destroy the Mafia's



Moore: saintly blacks basher

grip on the market, which they will then take over. This appalling scheme to rob good Italian-Americans of their livelihood so outrages the powers that be that Bond is sent to deal with it.

Bond, sickened by the violence the blacks indulge in, deals with the problem very simply. He kills them all.

Brilliant camera work emphasises the complete senselessness of the violent ways of the blacks as Bond shoots them and throws them out of fast trains, leading to a finale in which the leader of the blacks is inflated by an ingenious shotgun cartridge until his body bursts and flesh splatters all over the screen.

Good clean entertainment fit for all the family.

Don't be fooled into thinking that while Bond is seen in bed with three different girls, there is any lust in it. I can reliably report that they had their trim jeans on under the sheets.

The only thing that puzzles me is that if David Lewin thinks there is very little 'blood and lust' in *Live and Let Die*, then where does he go to see the films that in his view have too much?

Ross Pritchard

Building union backs bosses' clampdown

A MOVE by the building employers to crack down on militants has been backed by the main building workers' union UCATT. From 3 September, a new 'working rule' for the industry will set down that no worker can become a shop steward unless he has been employed on a site for a month.

At present a building worker can be sacked at two hours' notice during the first six days of employment on a site. This rule has been a vital weapon for the bosses, who can weed out known militants through the use of the 'blacklist'.

The new rule, agreed by the union side of the joint council for the building industry, will strengthen the blacklist. UCATT, with seven seats, has a majority over the other unions on the council—the TGWU has three seats and the GMWU and furnishing trades association one each.

Militants in UCATT should challenge the new rule by demanding that the 12 regional councils of the union—which issue stewards' credentials—declare full support for any member who is elected a steward but is refused recognition by the employers.

POSTAL UNION LEADER SNUBS CONFERENCE

by Tom Dredge

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL of the Union of Post Office Workers, headed by general secretary Tom Jackson, are refusing to carry out decisions of the annual conference for the second time in a year.

Last year, after being instructed by conference to refuse to co-operate with Post Office mechanisation, the executive decided that the instruction was unacceptable for parcel work and ignored it. When Jackson was tackled about the matter at this year's conference he made it clear that he would do the same again if

necessary.

Now it is apparent that he was not joking. The conference voted overwhelmingly against any increase in part-time and temporary labour. A new circular from the union HQ makes it clear that the executive has been discussing the shortage of postmen with the Post Office and has accepted part-timers as a solution where necessary.

Branches must campaign to reverse the executive decision and organise immediate walk-outs if the terms of the conference resolution are breached by the introduction of dilution of labour in our industry.

IS NEWS

Picket put on big army tattoo

COLCHESTER:—Members of the International Socialists, with members of the International Marxist Group and the Irish republican organisation Clann na h'Eireann, used the town's annual tattoo last week to campaign for the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

Colchester, one of Britain's largest army towns and the stepping off point for troops going to Northern Ireland, had military displays every evening and two grand marches through the town centre.

The local Anti-Internment League printed more than 10,000 leaflets and posters calling for the withdrawal of troops. Every evening all entrances to the tattoo were picketed and leaflets given out.

'We were received well,' said one of the IS members organising the leafletting. 'At one gate we had soldiers taking handfuls of leaflets and giving them to their friends. A lot of the troops here resent being sent to the North.'

One bandsman who took a leaflet complained: 'I joined the army to play music and now they are putting me on a firing range, teaching me to kill. I'm fairly certain I'll be sent to Northern Ireland soon and I don't want to go.'

Biggest socialist meeting for years

BRISTOL:—The city saw its largest socialist meeting for years when Paul Foot spoke on the Unacceptable Face of Capitalism last Thursday. 150 people packed the Shepherds Hall to hear a talk about capitalism's only face. Labour Party supporters squirmed as Paul Foot lashed the Labour leaders' record in office.

After a discussion which ranged from the need for union democracy to the shape of a future workers' state, John Evans, a member of the print union NGA, concluded the meeting by calling on workers to join IS and build it into the revolutionary party.

Money collected at the meeting was split three ways, for Bristol IS and the Shrewsbury and Coventry building workers' defence funds. Four workers joined IS on the spot.

RACE ACT CHALLENGE

OXFORD TRADES COUNCIL has pledged itself to fight the Tory Immigration Act and to help fight racism in the working-class movement.

The council will: Mobilise local support for any national movement to fight the Act. Produce a leaflet in as many languages as necessary outlining immigrants' rights for distribution among immigrant areas.

Initiate industrial action in support of immigrants and their families victimised under the Act.

Organise a campaign to unionise immigrant workers.

The same night as the trades council met, National Front posters appeared all over the town and the next day three men were handing out NF leaflets in the main shopping area.

The following have added their names to the anti-racist appeal: Ken Wallace, AUEW/TASS No. 6 Divisional Council Secretary, Dave Ayre, UCATT Crook Branch Secretary, UCATT Convenor, North Tees General Hospital Site.

NOTICES

COMRADE SEEKS ACCOMMODATION in Manchester from 1 September. Write Jim Davis, 17 The Mansions, 33 Mill Lane, London NW6, or telephone 01-794 9303.

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

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

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

DOUBLE ROOM in IS flat in Battersea, South London, to let for September, £8.50 per week. Contact R Fincham, 3 Theatre Street, London SW11. Phone 01-589 5111 extension 1044.

IS COMRADE requires accommodation in Exmouth, Devon, or surrounding area from mid-September. Write Alan, 44 Harrington Road, Leytonstone, London.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MARXISM Today. The Socialist Party aims at building a world community without frontiers based on common ownership—with production solely for use—not profit. It opposes all other political parties, all leadership, all racialism, all war. The September Socialist Standard considers the importance of Marx's ideas today. Free copy from Dept SW, The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, London SW4.

IS COMRADE who is bored with the lack of good Marxist art criticism wishes to start journal to rectify this. Ideas etc to Alan, 44 Harrington Road, Leytonstone, London.

WILL ALL comrades who wrote to George Peake in the past 10 days about meetings at their branches please write again as he has lost the correspondence. Write to George Peake, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

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

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

NORTH LONDON DISTRICT IS public meeting
FIGHT RACIALISM: Speaker George Peake (IS organiser and victim of apartheid). Thursday 16 August, 8pm, Lord Morrison Hall, Chestnut Grove, London N17. Everybody welcome.

CHELMSFORD IS public meeting: Parliament—why it won't achieve socialism for us. How to avoid the dangers it poses for socialists. Monday 20 August, 8pm, Cricketers Arms, Moulsham Street.

IS HEALTH WORKERS BRANCH East London meeting: Bonus schemes—the hidden dangers. Trade unionists from local hospitals who have rejected the new proposals put their case. Thursday 9 August, 7.30pm, The Britannia, Mare Street, London E2 (opposite Hackney Town Hall).

ERITH IS public meeting: Wages and Prices—the big con trick. Speaker Ted Parker (ATTI). Tuesday 14 August, 8pm, Committee Rooms, Town Hall, Erith, Kent.

WORCESTER IS public meeting: Would Labour be better? Speaker Granville Williams. Tuesday 14 August, 8pm, Lamb and Flag, The Tyching, Worcester.

BATH IS DAY SCHOOL
THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY
1955-1973. Speakers: Reg Grows and Andrew Noyall. Saturday 18 August, 10.30am-4.30pm, The King's Bath Sub, Wilton Road, Claverton Street, Bath. 10p each. IS membership.

CARDIFF IS public meeting: Women—the struggle for liberation and socialism. Mon 20 August, 8.30pm, Blue Anchor, St Mary Street, Cardiff.

IS FACTORY AND INDUSTRIAL BRANCHES School: Saturday 25 August, 2pm-5pm. Lecture room 5, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. Branch secretary and one other branch member and organisers should attend.

OTHER MEETINGS

CARWORKER public meeting

BRITISH LEYLAND—THE BEGINNING OF THE END? Speakers: Steven Marks (Counter Information Services) and Brian Goodwin (ACTSS, Standard Triumph, Coventry). Saturday 11 August, 12.30, White Lion, Horsefair, Birmingham. All car and component workers welcome.

MASS ANTI-INTERMENT DEMONSTRATION
2.30pm, Sunday 12 August
SPEAKERS CORNER, Marble Arch Rally at Temple (Embankment).
Speakers invited from Sinn Fein (Provisional), Clann na hEireann, Bob Purdie (AIL), a relative of an internee, Paul Foot (IS, Journalist of the Year), Orla Farrell (People's Democracy, Belfast).
Organised by the Anti-Internment Ad-Hoc Committee.

SPONSORED BY: Sinn Fein, Clann na hEireann, Anti-Internment League, Belfast Ten Defence Committee, Prisoners Aid Committee, Cumann Cabhrach, Northern Aid, Irish Civil Rights Association (NICRA), United Ireland Association, Northern Minority Defence Association, Peoples Democracy, International Socialists, International Marxist Group, Workers Fight and other organisations.

INDONESIA'S Independence Day, Friday 17 August: Join us in a vigil outside the embassy in Grosvenor Square on behalf of the 55,000 political prisoners detained without trial for the past eight years who won't be celebrating. 12.30-2.30pm and 6pm-onwards. Organised by TAPOL, 114 Mansfield Road, London NW3.

BIRMINGHAM Gay Liberation Front announce a free disco every Wednesday in the upstairs room of the Old Crown, Digbeth. Come as you please. Gays and friends welcome. 8pm-11.30pm. Further information and meetings at the Peace Centre, Thurston 3pm-7.30pm. Phone 021-640 3866.

A "RACE TODAY" SPECIAL REPORT.

BLACK WORKERS AND TRADES UNIONS

Are trades unions "too much a part of the problem to be any part of the solution?"

The August issue of Race Today.
Price 10p at too few good shops.

Move to get Equity off register

THE BATTLE to keep Equity, the actors' and variety artists union, in the mainstream of the trade union movement is once again coming to a head.

Several leading artists long active in the union have signed a petition urging members to vote to deregister the union. They insist that Equity needs the broad trade union movement and warn that a majority in favour of registration means expulsion from the TUC. They also point out that only a deregistered Equity which does not rely on a state-approved closed shop can become an effective trade union.

Peggy Ashcroft, Michael Booth, Glenda Jackson, Frederick Jeager, Miriam Karlin and Ian McKellan are among those signing.

Their petition sharply criticises the union leadership for refusing to encourage maximum discussion on the registration issue.

The new Equity council, in contrast to its predecessor, favours registration and the government-authorised closed shop that goes with it.

It has refused to hold mass meetings of members to debate and settle the issue. Instead it is resorting once again to the dubious practice of holding a referendum, where of course people vote as individuals cut off from the flow of ideas.

Their statement points out that whenever there have been mass meetings to discuss the issue the vote has been for massive deregistration.

The new union council has turned and twisted on the issue setting aside the decisions of an annual meeting and that of the previous council meeting.

As soon as TUC instructions came out in September 1971 Equity was deregistered. But concern to survive by courtesy of the employers rather than by independent action, led to a reversal of this decision in March 1972.

Since then the right wing have constantly manoeuvred to keep the union registered. Among other things they have indulged in has been a spot of red baiting.

In their statement supporting continued registration, the new council states that the Industrial Relations Act and registration will not affect Equity's rules and will not mean less democracy.

This is hardly likely to be the case. Details of the rule changes the state register of trade unions requires or may require are not available. But the Institute of Professional Civil Servants recently came off the register because the registrar's demands were intolerable. Votes in the current referendum ends on 22 August.

Why not make sure of every month's issue by taking out a postal subscription. Copies are sent out by first class post on the first Friday of every month. Send a cheque or Postal Order for £1.60 to: RACE TODAY
184, King's Cross Road,
London W.C.1.

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ADDRESS _____



Workers from the naval stores depot on the march

400 CIVIL SERVANTS MARCH

CORSHAM, Wiltshire: 400 stores and office staff demonstrated during working hours last week against the planned closure of the Copenacre Royal Naval Stores Depot. The closure will mean the loss of about 800 jobs and widespread redundancy in a town almost entirely dependent on the depot.

The march ended at Corsham Town Hall, where the Bishop of Bristol is holding a public inquiry into the closure, and many of the marchers went into the already packed hall to make their protests known.

Representatives of the workers' main union, the Transport Workers, said they would do all in their power to prevent the closure. They are supported locally by the Civil Service Union and the Civil and Public Services Association.

Rolls directors carry the can

THE OFFICIAL inquiry into the collapse of Rolls-Royce, published last week, is a masterpiece of evasion and whitewash. It heaps most of the blame on two directors, Sir David Huddie and Sir Denning Pearson, who are accused of allowing their enthusiasm for the RB-211 to colour their assessment of its financial potential.

In the report's view the collapse of Rolls-Royce was due to the drain on the company's resources by the increase in the price of the RB-211 from £89 million in 1968 to £203 million in February 1971, when the receiver took over.

What the report fails to say is that the Rolls-Royce board ignored its affairs and that the two 'guilty' directors were caught up in the absurd obsession with technology promoted so enthusiastically by the Labour government and the City of London.

It says nothing about the callous Tory government that was willing to see 75,000 workers sacked.

Rolls signed the contract with Lockheed to supply RB-211 engines in 1967. It was a time of enthusiasm. The Labour government gave a £47 million grant to back Britain's biggest export order. In the City Rolls-Royce shares hit a new high of 216p.

The same City pundits and financial press now so willingly join in the condemnation of the two directors.

Loans

There were, however, other directors. The chairman, Lord Kindersley, was exposed as a great inside dealer in the notorious Bank Rate Scandal of 1957. Kindersley was also a director of Lazard's, Rolls-Royce's merchant bank, and Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance, the trustees for various loans made to Rolls. He was also a governor of the Bank of England and chairman of the British Match Corporation. It is amazing he found time to turn up to board meetings.

But the report doesn't castigate Kindersley or the other directors for the directors' fees they took without trying to find out what was happening in Rolls.

The Tories' nominee chairman, Lord Cole of Unilever, appointed in 1970, was not much better. The 1971 estimates saying Rolls-Royce needed an extra £107 million are criticised by the report as inadequate, and the report shows that the appointment of the receiver was a direct result of the confusion over the government's promise of £42 million.

The report's complete failure to show any real concern for the interests of the workers explodes the myth that businessmen and politicians have some special power that helps them run the country.

The report does not, of course, mention Concorde, into which the Tory government is pouring millions more than was ever paid to Rolls-Royce and whose costs are far higher than the RB-211.

Backing Clay Cross

STEVENAGE:—The trades council has passed a resolution deploring the recent High Court decision that imposed severe fines on the Clay Cross councillors who refused to raise council rents and calling on the TUC to fight for the repeal of the so-called 'Fair Rents' Act and for a continual boycott of the Rents Scrutiny Boards.

The trades council has sent £5 to the councillors to support their struggle 'in the interest of tenants everywhere.'

Sinn Fein arms charge man freed

COVENTRY:—Tim Canty was acquitted of illegally possessing 110 rounds of ammunition after the state had used his position as chairman of the local Sinn Fein branch, his work for the Northern Relief Committee—a fund raising body for N Ireland—and his support for the Provisional IRA's fight against the British army, as proof of his guilt. Despite this, the jury acquitted Tim.

Canty was originally charged with possessing ammunition when police swooped on Republican homes in Coventry, arresting seven others and charging them with conspiracy. But his acquittal was not the end of his troubles. He had been suspended from his job as a labourer at Coventry Radiator (Associated Engineering) despite workmates' protests.

On acquittal, Tim returned to work and was asked to leave and offered two weeks pay. George Anderson, TGWU convenor, and the TGWU Shop Stewards Committee insisted on his getting his job back, and Tim is now reinstated.

Meanwhile, the case of the Coventry Seven conspiracy prisoners will open on 8 October, at Birmingham Crown Court. Father Pat Fell, Frank Stagg and Frank Kelly are still held in A1 security. They have been in solitary confinement since April.

Tony McCormack and Frank Kelly are also on remand in Winson Green prison, Birmingham, while Pat Burke and Gerry Rush are on bail. Gerry Rush is suspended from BLMC-Alvis on full pay.

Coventry District International Socialists are supporting the demonstration called by the Prisoners Defence Committee at Hearsall Common on Sunday (2.30pm) to protest over the detention of political prisoners in Britain and Ireland.

BIG STRIKE CALL OVER UNION DEAL

BIRMINGHAM:—An emergency shop stewards meeting this week called for a total shutdown of the union-busting building firm of C Bryant and Son, who with top-ranking union officials seem determined to resist workers' pressure for better conditions.

The strike call is over the sacking of a convenor steward and six carpenters at the Priory Ringway site in the city centre shortly before a site panel ordered the firm to reinstate two sacked hoist drivers.

Monday's emergency meeting decided to use flying pickets to bring out weak and non-union sites.

Bryant, who earlier this year sacked Pete Carter, Communist Party member and chairman of the city shop stewards committee, originally provoked the dispute when the men refused to work in the rain. The men introduced an overtime ban and a go-slow because they felt Bryant

by Dave Adshead, UCATT

was stirring up trouble to avoid paying a penalty clause.

Shortly before the panel met to censure Bryant over the two sackings, the firm dismissed convenor steward Pat Longworth and six carpenters for allegedly 'not working' even though the lack of materials made work difficult.

Two other Bryant sites came out on strike before union official Harry Hunter negotiated a return to work on condition the men appeared before a national panel. After an emergency stewards meeting at which calls were made to defend the union and allegations of Bryant threatening bonus gains on organised sites, a mass meeting at Digbeth hall demanded an all-out strike if the steward and his gang were not reinstated.

National officials did not reflect

this marvellous rank and file spirit when, with the employers' representatives, they agreed not to reinstate the men in a meeting lasting a record-breaking 20 minutes. The national joint council said that the men might have justified dismissal. In a statement it said Bryant had followed incorrect procedure, yet the panel could not reinstate the men.

With Monday's vote the stewards have declared that they will fight Bryant's union-busting tactics even when the employers seek help from their own national executive.

25 out over sacking

NORTH LONDON:—All 25 workers at the Seiko watch service centre at Kilburn walked out at the beginning of last week after management sacked a watch repairer for 'unco-operative behaviour'. The workers, who had previously been unorganised, joined the Engineering Union.

Management wrote to the workers on Thursday last week threatening them with the sack unless they returned to work the next day. The threat has made them more determined to establish basic trade union rights.

The workers are demanding recognition of the union, proper negotiating procedures, reinstatement of their sacked colleague and no victimisation. Management is refusing to discuss these matters, claiming that it first has to get directives from its parent company in Japan.

The company is trying to take on new workers through agencies to replace the strikers, but the factory is being picketed by the workers with the help of the local branch of the International Socialists.

Oval Four demand inquiry into 'anti-mugging' squad

SOUTH LONDON:—Four young blacks who were jailed after being attacked and framed by police, but were released early from jail and borstal last week are to press for a Home Office inquiry into their case and into the police mugging squad which arrested them and other young blacks.

The men, known as the Oval Four, say they are dissatisfied with the way the judge upheld their convictions for attempted robbery and assault at The Oval tube station. They want to clear their names and expose the police 'anti-mugging' squad led by Detective Sergeant Peter Ridgewell which arrested 16 young blacks in underground stations last year and earlier this year, and beat them up to extract confessions to crimes they had not committed.

Police brutality

If the Home Office refuses to act, the four may set up their own open inquiry and call witnesses. Nine of the 16 men arrested were later convicted—four were jailed, three went to borstal and two to detention centres.

Three of the Oval Four—the fourth went to borstal—were freed after serving eight months of their two-year jail sentences, but the convictions still stand.

At a press conference two of them said they had spoken in jail to fellow-prisoners who had also suffered police brutality.

Sterling Christie, 23, said a warder told him he was a 'marked man' because of the publicity given to the case. Said Christie: 'We have to educate people about what is really happening in the community. If the Home Office does nothing the black community can judge for themselves about justice. There is certainly no justice in the courts.'

The case had exposed how helpless blacks were if the state wanted to convict on a blatant lie. The transport police think highly of Ridgewell. Since the arrests he has been promoted to inspector.



Two of the Oval Four: Sterling Christie (left) and Winston Trew.



I would like to join the International Socialists

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____

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

HUNGER STRIKE: BACKING GROWS

BELFAST:—The Tory government is continuing its obscene poker game with the health and lives of two Irish socialists. Tony Canavan and Michael Farrell have been on hunger strike for nearly four weeks demanding they be given political prisoner status.

They are now so seriously ill that they have had to be moved out of the hospital wing of the notorious Crumlin Road prison. Michael Farrell has been moved to the Royal Victoria Hospital and Tony Canavan to another city hospital.

They are both very weak indeed and still refusing all but water in their fight to be treated as what they are—political prisoners.

Last Sunday 2000 people joined a Peoples' Democracy march in Belfast to denounce the second anniversary of internment, now called detention—Britain's polite name for its concentration camps in Northern Ireland.

Most of the protest centred on the fate of Farrell and Canavan.

TACTIC

But William Whitelaw, Tory overlord for Northern Ireland, recognises who his serious enemies are. He gives political status to sectarian murderers but not to Farrell and Canavan, opponents of sectarianism, upholders of the socialist cause.

They are to starve as near to death as the Tory government dares let them get before they will obtain political status and the slight relief from the horrors of the prison system that this affords.

With this ghastly tactic Whitelaw hopes to discourage the others, those others who like Tony Canavan and Michael Farrell see that there is an alternative to unending sectarianism and British domination of Ireland.

Orla Farrell, Michael Farrell's wife, will be speaking in London on Sunday after a demonstration in protest against two years of internment.

Support for squatters

EAST LONDON:—Squatters in Parfett Street, Stepney, have been promised support from the local trades council and council workers for their mass demonstration when speculators plan to evict them at midday on Tuesday. All support is welcome.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Women workers fight on after convenor's sabotage

COVENTRY:—Women workers at GEC's Spon Street plant are carrying on their fight against reduced bonus payments and bad union representation.

Just before the holiday fortnight late in July 200 women walked out and picketed the factory over management's refusal to re-time jobs. Their struggle was sabotaged by Spon Street convenor Albert Beardmore.

The women decided to return to work after the holidays and lodge seven days strike notice after Beardmore repeatedly insisted that their strike was 'illegal'. The notice expires this week.

But last week Albert Beardmore moved in anticipation of a renewed dispute. He summoned the leading women's steward and AUEW deputy convenor Elsie Moles at short notice to a meeting of the shop stewards. This meeting decided to vote out Elsie Moles as deputy convenor and re-elected the old deputy.

Mrs Moles walked out of the meeting in protest after she had been prevented from taking notes or from having witnesses. She was joined by another woman shop steward. Despite her absence and without hearing her side of the story, the meeting still carried on.



ELSIE MOLES: Walked out

The women workers at GEC were outraged at this manoeuvre and last Thursday morning 600 walked out, marched to the union's district offices and held a protest meeting demanding that Beardmore be removed as convenor.

AUEW district officer George Butler was forced to assure the meeting that Elsie Moles was still deputy convenor until a union inquiry is held into the situation.

The new so-called election has been declared null and void.

What initially concerned the women workers, Beardmore's disreputable activities during the strike, has now spilled over into a much broader questioning of union structure at Spon Street.

Majority

The women workers are now raising the question of regular elections for shop stewards, a proper number of women shop stewards, and also why the AUEW as a whole, with the majority of workers at the plant, has only four stewards out of 14.

A formal complaint against Beardmore has now been lodged with the AUEW district. Complaints centre on his telling lorry drivers to cross the picket line during the strike, his suggestion to management that they should bring goods through the gate during a mass meeting and his regular unaccompanied visits to see management.



MOURNERS at the funeral of one of the 17 miners killed in the Markham Colliery disaster last week.

On Tuesday, the day after the pit cage plummeted to the foot of the shaft killing 17 and maiming 13, NCB area director Robert Dunn was to visit nearby Glapwell colliery and give notice of closure. He postponed his visit as 'a mark of respect'—for two days. He intended to go last Thursday, the day before the funerals.

But the NUM North Derbyshire area council voted to fight the closure, and local MP Dennis Skinner staged a pit gate meeting against Dunn's visit.

Some of the men from Glapwell were to be moved to Markham, 'to fill dead men's shoes before they are buried,' as Dennis Skinner put it. Dunn's visit was abruptly postponed again.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report).

STC anti-racism strike on again

NORTH LONDON:—Machine shop operators at the Standard Telephone Company's new Southgate factory came out on strike again less than 12 hours after returning to work on Monday without a victory in their struggle against management-inspired racism.

The 120 night-shift operators first struck three weeks ago after Roderick Adams, the one black worker who was being trained for a better-paid job as a setter, was taken off training by the management.

Management insisted he take alternative work or go home on full pay. There was nothing they could do, they claimed, since Electricians Union members—whites who left the Engineering Workers Union two years ago when AUEW workers started electing black shop stewards—were refusing to train any blacks.

But STC management has a long history of fostering racism in the plant, aiming to keep workers divided and trapped on their present low rates of pay.

The strike three weeks ago was the first sign that the AUEW members, some white, mainly black, were determined to end the blatant discrimination in the factory.

But the strike was poorly organised and no serious attempt was made to spread it throughout the factory or to other STC plants or to picket effectively. So on

Monday night the strikers decided to return to work. But as soon as they got back to work, STC management insisted not only that Roderick Adams be suspended while phoney negotiations went on, but that they had the right to sack him at the end of one month.

Refusal

This infuriated the workers in the machine shop. They came out again, determined to win and agreeing with the course of action outlined in a leaflet produced by Tottenham International Socialists and given out before Monday's vote to return.

The management's move also angered the day shift operators who had previously refused to support the strike. They came out on Tuesday morning in solidarity.

The strikers have now set up a strike committee. They are mounting pickets and organising visits to other STC plants. The pressure is really on the company this time.

LONDON JOINT SITES COMMITTEE
in support of Shrewsbury
Defence Committee
public meeting
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1
Friday 17 August, 7.30pm
Speakers will include a London
building worker, member of the
Shrewsbury Defence Committee and
a London docker

Steel win on policy

MILITANTS in BISAKTA, the iron and steel union, have scored a major victory in the fight for union democracy. The latest quarterly report reveals that this year branch officers' conferences in four of the union's seven divisions have demanded an annual national policy-making conference.

The fight for an annual policy-making conference has gone on for years. In the past however, only a minority of divisions have demanded a conference and the executive has claimed that this is therefore a minority view.

The divisions calling for a conference are No 1 (Scotland), No 2 (Teesside and Workington), No 4 (Midlands and London) and No 7 (North West). The number of resolutions from divisions is limited and the two Welsh divisions concentrated on the fight against plant closures. It is probable that some concessions will be made, but this is only the beginning of the fight to turn BISAKTA into a democratic, fighting union.

Strike firm drops case

TAMWORTH:—Management at Polymatic engineering company, where AUEW members have been on strike since they were sacked for supporting a May Day rally, went to the Industrial Relations Court again last week, and this time they withdrew the case.

The management explained that action by sympathetic trade unionists in support of the strike had made the situation harder. Last Friday pickets from Polymatic went to Smith Bros in Tamworth to ensure that steel for the strike-bound firm would not be delivered.

On Wednesday the AUEW district organised a picket of the factory which was supported by trade unionists from Tamworth and Birmingham.

Financial support and details of the firm's products and collection sheets—write to the AUEW office, Anson Street, Rugby, Staffs.

Union drops pottery men

STOKE:—The unofficial strike of 46 operative fitters at Campbell tile works is in danger of collapsing. The men, members of the Ceramic and Allied Trades Union, say their wages are falling behind other workers but union general secretary Alf Dulson 'deplored' their attitude.

The strikers have so far not carried out their threat of quitting the union but 14 men have already returned to work and eight others have handed in their notices.

Bernard Nicklin, strikers' spokesman, said they will continue to fight for a productivity agreement. The answer lies not in leaving the union but in struggling to make it more democratic.

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