

Workers and oppressed peoples of all countries, unite!

Incorporating
The
Irish Liberation Press

Voice of the People

The British ruling class will appear strong for as long as we the people stay on our knees
Fight racism and growing fascism now! Organise to build a genuine workers' Party to win state power!

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BRITISH WORKERS MUST SUPPORT THE IRISH PEOPLE

British workers must not be duped: hunger strikers are dying to protest at the brutal conditions in the British prison camps where another 700 Irish people are held for the 'crime' of claiming the right to their own country...

THE brutal Irish policy of the British ruling class is more and more coming under international scrutiny as people all over the world declare themselves against this savage repression. The sacrifice of the hunger strikers in the H Blocks of the Maze prison in the north of Ireland has focussed attention, as it has not been focussed before, on the activities of the British authorities. This was clearly in evidence in the days before and after Bobby Sands' death when consciousness of the issues was everywhere at its highest.

The "Sunday Times" conducted a survey of leading newspapers throughout the world. The findings were analysed thus: "the hunger-strikers have rekindled a flagging interest in Ulster and its problems; as a result world opinion has begun to shift away from the British government."

The report went on to point out that "of the 64 foreign newspapers, 36 said Britain should either withdraw unconditionally or enter into immediate talks over reunification. Only 5 said Britain should remain in Ulster."

Crisis of policy

What is another important characteristic of the present situation is that the British ruling class has a crisis of policy. All the parties that have tried to find a solution to the problems of the British imperialists have so far failed to come up with anything that would seriously have a chance of working.

Calls for a re-shaping of the border, for power-sharing, for UN peace-keeping troops, for an EEC initiative — all dredge up old ideas and fail to deal with the main problems for the imperialists... the Irish people.

Basically, the British ruling class cannot defeat the Irish people because they do not have the support of the Irish people. On the other hand, the Irish people cannot as yet win because they have not developed the clear, militant and constructive leadership that is necessary to unite the people around a programme of national liberation.

A situation of stalemate exists at the moment, with a continued state of repression being the order of the day for the Irish people in the North.

Oldest colony

This repression is deemed necessary to ensure that British capitalists maintain their economic and political control over Ireland, their oldest colony. The same goes for the southern part of Ireland, which is dependent in many ways on British capitalists and is still suffering the legacy of 800 years of oppression as a British colony.

The picture presented to us by the establishment press and T.V., and through all the 101 other ways they influence the way we think, is totally false and presents only what they want us to see. British people must not be duped: hunger-strikers are dying to protest at the brutal conditions in the British prison camps where another 700 Irish people are held for the 'crime' of claiming the right to their own country.

Everyday Irish people are confronted with the sight of a foreign army in their streets, while people get killed and maimed by the British army as a regular occurrence. The British people must take a stand in defence of the Irish people.

Same interests

The same economic and political interests that prolong the agony in the 6 counties of the north of Ireland are currently behind the most savage offensive against the people of this country (see article 'Savaging of the British People'). The protection of their system of capitalism is the order of the day.

We must come to the aid of the Irish struggle for national liberation and defeat the British imperialists' plans. A strong free Ireland would seriously weaken the rich and powerful capitalists of this country, and their ability to exploit us would be that much less. Let us take up the demands of the hunger-strikers and support the whole struggle of the Irish people.



Three pictures of Patsy O'Hara taken in his cell a few days before he died. He died fighting the same British ruling class that exploits every man, woman and child throughout Britain.

Workers cause inflation because the wages are too high — LIE Capitalism breeds inflation in the pursuit of profits — TRUTH

Whether it is the capitalist Thatcher or the capitalist Foot at 10 Downing St., the same lies are peddled about inflation, namely that workers should keep their wages down by agreeing to a 6 per cent norm, or an incomes policy, or some other such trickery aimed at conning workers into continuing wage slavery submission.

Truth

The truth is of course that workers are not at all the cause of inflation, despite whatever the millions of copies of the *Sun* and *Daily Mirror* try to ram down our throats each day.

In real terms workers wages overall have been systematically reduced over the last few years, with annual increases having fallen way behind the annual rate of inflation.

So, it cannot be that wage rises are the reason behind non-stop inflation.

Just look at the table of statistics appearing here.

Prices: then and now

	May 1979	May 1981	Percentage increase
Postage stamp	7p	11.50p	64
Telephone call	3.24p	4.60p	42
Electricity: per unit*	2.77p	4.44p	60
Television licence (colour)	£25	£34	36
20 cigarettes (Players No 10)	50p	85p	70
Pint bitter†	35p	50p	43
Rail fare (London to Birmingham)	£7.40	£10.30	39
London tube fare (Highgate to Waterloo)	45p	80p	77
Gallon petrol	95p	£1.50	58
Box matches	3p	5p	67
Electric light bulb	27p	43p	59
Izal toilet roll	21p	32p	52
Aspro (8s)	13p	21p	61
Optrex	51p	89p	74
Course of dental treatment	£5	£9	80
Prescription charge	25p	£1	300
Sanitary towels (10s)	39p	60p	54

* Eastern Electricity † figures supplied by Brewers' Society

Control

Workers don't control the Post Office, or the TV licensing department, or the Central Electricity Board, or the breweries, or British Rail etc. etc. Capitalist bosses and their capitalist governments do. And they are to blame and nobody else.

It is clear from these figures that much of the inflation comes from government-imposed taxes (VAT, excise duty, etc.) or by direct government intervention!

As is proven beyond doubt in another article in this issue of the VOP (see "How the rich are getting so much richer, while poverty mutilates the working class") the capitalist class is forcing the working class to pay for the crisis of its own system. What irony it is that the patient must pay the quack who consciously injects him with a disease!

Unjust

Capitalism is an unpleasant, unjust system, not for the working people but aimed at providing even more for those who already have more than they know what to do with.

The issue is not inflation. The issue is to live under, or to overthrow capitalism. After having had the truth presented to him, only the slave or the stupid would settle for anything less than a total destruction of the system and the chains it girths the masses with.

Sham opportunity knocks

The present capitalist policies of mass unemployment have fallen above all on working class youth.

Faced with a miserable existence on leaving school, many have looked toward the state run Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP), which is supposed to give some training in skills and provide work experience.

In fact the YOP scheme has been seized upon by the bosses as a means of using these helpless kids to do work on the cheap. One example is of a girl taking advantage of the training scheme, who was then sent for work experience filling shelves from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and alternate Saturdays.

Her boss paid her nothing and she got just the £23.50 weekly government allowance.

By all accounts, this was not an isolated instance. Last year a third of those on the work

experience scheme received no actual off-the-job training at all. They were simply used as unpaid labour.

Contempt

Four hundred places were said to be available at a college in Bury where a "social and life skills" course was run as part of the scheme, but only 72 actually ran due to financial cutbacks.

Anyone else wishing to join the scheme was presumably sent for work experience, this succinctly sums up the total disregard that the capitalists have for working people.

Their latest tack is to try and make payment of dole cheques conditional upon attendance at one of the YOP schemes.

This state scheme is an obnoxious insult to peoples intelligence and does nothing save provide cheap and free labour for any boss who can exploit a no-hope kid to do menial and dirty chores.



'No hope' kids — hopeless only under capitalism



ROYAL ROMANCE AND OPPRESSION GO HAND IN HAND



When the richest man in England gets married on July 29, 3,000,000 people will still be unemployed; thousands of young school-leavers will have no prospect of work; hundreds of thousands of homeless people couped up in ghettos and rented slums will face endless years of the same; education, health and welfare services will be rationed; prices rents, mortgages will rise and rise beyond our reach; new laws and measures against all working people, will be delayed by only one public holiday....

Crisis, poverty and unemployment on an unprecedented level form the backdrop to the wedding and have the royal stamp of approval. All are necessary and inevitable in a system where the top ten per cent of the people own and most importantly control 95 per cent of the wealth of this country.

On July 29, the Church, the State, Royalty and the richest parasites in the land will combine in a rapturous celebration of their wealth, power and prestige, and (they Hope) everlasting happiness.

Meanwhile in the slums, on the dole queues, in ghettos, in factories up and down the country, millions of people will no doubt be reflecting on the fact that the groom will receive more in a year, than they would in a hundred.

This wedding is being paid for by the taxes, the welfare cuts, the cuts in services which fall upon the shoulders of every working man and woman.

July 29 is a kick in the teeth for the working class. It is a monstrous injustice.

Never has the gutter press worked so hard to ram this Cinderella tripe down our throats to conceal certain basic truths about who has all, and who has nothing in our society.

Capitalism keeps these relics on their thrones — while workers sweat in perpetual fear of unemployment and poverty for their families and friends. Only capitalist exploitation of the working class could give such superabundance of every material comfort to two basically useless individuals, while providing nothing but dole cheques and fairytales for millions of decent human beings.

UNEMPLOYMENT RAGING INFLATION, THE WORST HOUSING IN EUROPE...



GARRET HEADS FOR BOOT HILL

226,000 people are officially unemployed in Ireland. 126,000 in the south, and 100,000 in the north. 30,000 of those in the north come from Belfast alone. In East Belfast, 2,000 people sign on in one dole office.

Officially, 10.5% of the Irish population in the south is unemployed, but actual totals are much higher when those who do not register are taken into account.

It is estimated that by

December 140,000 will be registered, but that the total in need of work will be as high as 170,000.

Inflation in Ireland is currently running at 21% a year. The European Commission which studies economic trends and prospects for the EEC, has stated that the 'Irish economy is in the worst condition of all EEC countries.

Housing in Ireland has been condemned as among the worst in Europe. In Dublin and in

other major Irish cities, beggars line the streets.

These figures testify to the plight of the Irish people in general.

British grip

Although, in the south, British troops do not occupy the streets, the people still suffer the violence of social poverty — the legacy of British imperialism, which still controls much of the industry

and resources of the country. A sign of British imperialism's continued grip on the whole country can be seen in the way that the British Government can manipulate, almost at will the administration in the so-called 'Republic'. The significant thing that emerges from recent elections there, is that none of the three big parties — Fine Gail, Fianna Fail or the Labour party dared to challenge the role of British imperialism in Ireland.

This may seem an incredible fact, but it has been that way, since the 'creation' of the 26 county state.

With Fitzgerald and his shaky alliance taking over as premier in the south we can expect the same pro-imperialist policies as under all preceding governments.

Aggressive Irish police and troops will continue to provide a back up service to the British army thugs. The crack down on republicans and socialists in the

south will continue, with true patriots facing imprisonment, censorship and brutal from recent elections there, is treatment from the police.

The working class will continue to be exploited and oppressed by government measures that severely curtail their rights to strike and take other forms of industrial action — all in the name of the foreign capitalists who profit from the labour and resources of that country.

Street revolts shake the state



The July revolt of the youth from the inner-city slums has given the capitalist class a severe shock.

It can truly be said that they are reaping what they have sown.

For workers and all people who want socialism and justice in Britain, the street revolt against the police should be seen as a source of strength for

the future. For the first time in decades, the violence of the capitalist state has been met head-on by the violence of the people.

The cause is clear as daylight by capitalist politicians and the media. It is capitalism as a social system which is to blame regardless of what sparked off

any one riot... whether racist police harassment, fascist attacks, unemployment, poverty or boredom.

This rotten system has condemned a whole young generation to a life of hopelessness, and it is this generation which, without any political direction, is taking up the weapons to hand and

fighting back.

Faced with this revolt, the reaction of the capitalist class has been inevitable. The introduction of CS gas, plastic bullets, water cannon and paramilitary police gear into Britain merely shows the ruling class acting like any ruling class under attack from the people.

But this increasing armed violence of the state is bound to lead to the increasing violence of the people against it, for wherever there is oppression there is also resistance.

However, what working people need to defeat the forces of the bosses' state is more than just a spontaneous and disorganised street revolt.

What is needed is a political movement with the goal of a socialist revolution.

It is to the task of achieving that goal, and getting rid of unemployment, poverty, racism and social frustration once and for all, that all serious workers reading this paper should urgently commit themselves.

THE RACE AGAINST RACISM

A catalogue of recent fascist atrocities

● **Assault:** 9 March, Southall, West London. 19 year-old Satwinder Sondh is attacked by 3 racist skinheads at a bus stop. They use a knife to cut the initials YNF (for Young National Front) and a swastika on his stomach and hands. The police take no action and prosecute Satwinder for making a false report.

● **Murder and Arson:** 27 March, a fascist hijacks a car, puts Heather Bridge, the car-owner, in the boot, rams it into the Birmingham Socialist Worker Bookshop and firebombs the shop. The assistants and customers get out the back; the woman in the boot is burned to death and the shop destroyed.

● **Murder:** 10 April, Swindon. 17 year old Markland Chambers stabbed to death outside a disco and said to have been thrown through a window during a fight with racists.

● **Murder:** 18 April, Coventry. Satnam Singh Gill, a student walking with his white girlfriend through the shopping centre on Saturday afternoon is stabbed to death by a Nazi skinhead gang.

● **Assault and harassment:** St Annes, Lancashire. A 27 year old black man has bricks twice thrown through his window,

once narrowly missing his sixty year old mother. He also had a metal sign smashed through his door and a cider bottle smashed over his head, and received 4 inch stab wounds in the back. All the work of racists.

● **Assault and Harassment:** East End of London. In Cable Street, scene of the 1936 defeat of Mosley's fascist blackshirts, a 43 year old Asian man is knocked over by a car driven onto the pavement by a racist skinhead. He has also had his front door broken down three times, bottles smashed on his door step, fireworks and rubbish pushed through his letterbox and his doormat used as a toilet by dogs belonging to local racists.

● **Assault and harassment:** Also in Cable St, a middle aged Jewish woman gets swastika letters pushed through the door saying "Death to all Jews — Jews killed Jesus Christ", and her niece has been pelted with eggs in the street.

● **Assault:** May, Coventry. An Indian worker, made redundant from Jaguars in April, is attacked by 3 white youths outside his local pub. He is hit in the face, kicked and stabbed five times. He nearly dies.

● **Vandalism:** 16 & 17 May, Wandsworth, South London. In one weekend, 7 council day nurseries used by black children are attacked by fascists. In one in Battersea, National Front leaflets are left in the kitchen with food, drink, excreta and urine all over the floor, furniture and toys broken and children's pets killed. In the same building, the previous weekend, 15 windows had been smashed and British Movement stickers plastered on the walls.

● **Murder:** 30 May, Wimbledon, South London. A 50 year-old Asian man, Miah Azim Khan, is attacked on the Common by three youths. He is killed in a particularly brutal manner, with hammer, screwdriver and knife.

● **Assault and stabbing:** Although outside this country and against fellow Europeans, the scenes of mindless violence by some England fans at the match against Switzerland in Basle, culminating in a callous mob stabbing, were probably the work of Nazi football supporters. On Friday 31 May, a group of England supporters seriously injured three black youths. The 'England Sieg Heil' chants and the Nazi salutes during the match only go to

show how the capitalist state has failed to ensure that Nazi ideology would never again rear its head.

● **Murder:** 20 June, Peckham, South London. Fenton Ogbogbo is attacked by a white gang; white friends and passers-by come to his rescue. Later in the evening, the gang catch up with him again and stab him to death outside a fish and chip shop. The police do not rule out the possibility that the same gang stabbed a 33 year old West Indian man in Peckham two days earlier.

● **Assault:** 20 June, Islington, North London. Three fascists attack the left-wing Other Bookshop, where shop assistant Sheila Malone was so violently attacked that she needed an operation for head injuries.

● **Arson** 30 June, Walthamstow East London. 28 year old Mrs Berveen Khan and her 3 children, are burnt to death when petrol is squirted through their letter box and a lighted match is thrown in. The father aged 45 is seriously ill after jumping through the bedroom window.

● **Arson:** 30 June, Islington again. The Islington Community

Press, threatened by fascists the previous week, is petrol-bombed and completely destroyed.

● **Mass assault and terror:** 3 July, Southall, West London. 200 racist-inspired skinheads descend on Britain's largest Asian community. Attacking shopkeepers, smashing windows, their invasion of Southall is met head-on by the enraged Asian youth who defend themselves and their community against this invasion.

This is a short list. There would be insufficient space in this paper to catalogue all the attacks so far this year. The Union of Pakistani Organisations which monitors racial violence says that racist attacks are now averaging 50-60 a week, compared to 20-25 a year ago.

Most go unreported and receive scant attention from the police. Often police with pro-National Front sympathies are involved with the very cases discussed above.

Young and old, men and women and children, West Indians, Asians and any progressive allies, and once again an increasing number of Jewish people — are all becoming the target of the new self-styled stormtroopers.

Proposals
The 'Voice of the People' has on several occasions put forward its proposals for a People's Defence Organisation (PDO). They should be studied by every serious anti-fascist who genuinely wants to see the defeat of growing fascism (they can be obtained by writing to the address at the back of this newspaper).

A People's Defence Organisation would not be a substitute for the broader based anti-fascist movement which needs to be built. It would be a component part of such a movement but there is a definite urgency attached to its formation.

Time is getting short. The crisis of capitalism is getting worse. The capitalists are desperate to find solutions which will inevitably mean greater hardship and oppression for the majority.

Many will be driven into the ranks of the enemies of the working class unless we can successfully combat the reactionary politics of the bosses' state.

In the long run we will win this race. But how much better to do so before, not after, fascism may take a terrible toll on the people, by destroying all freedoms, murdering and imprisoning opponents and shoring up the capitalist system for yet another generation to slave under.

MILLIONS ON THE DOLE LEAVES MILLIONS IN THEIR POCKETS



More money than they know what to do with... how they must laugh at the workers they screw for profit every day

The 'VOICE OF THE PEOPLE' brings to its readers the latest information on the salaries of the big capitalist high fliers in this country. A year ago 33 company directors receiving salaries totalling more than £3 million. Each received at least £70,000 and the man at the top of the pile, Lord Grade was paid £195,208. Those figures were for 1978-9.

The facts of the boardroom bonanza for 1979-80 show that, far from tightening their belts, sticking to a six per cent pay limit, like the rest of us are supposed to do in order to "beat the recession",

the top capitalists are doing very well, thank you.

The number of directors in receipt of very high salaries has greatly increased. In fact, because of their inflationary pay rises, we have had to raise the base line in this year's survey from £70,000 to £75,000. Even so this figure now includes the 44 men whose salaries are shown in Table A. This compares with the 29 men we reported last year who were paid £75,000 or more each. The top salary of £195,208 recorded last year is now dwarfed by the 39 percent higher payment of £271,400 given to Dick Giordano.

Table A Top paid directors

Company	Rank amongst top UK firms ¹	Director	Pay (£)	Av. pay per UK employee ² (£)	Top pay as multiple of av. pay	Year to
BOC International	37	R V Giordano	271,400	6,432	42.2	30. 9.80
Lonrho	35	R Rowland	224,938	5,096	44.1	30. 9.80
Associated Communications Corp	318	Lord Grade	207,854	5,175	40.2	31. 3.80
Alexander Howden Group	414	I R Postgate	187,931	6,288	29.9	31.12.80
Vauxhall Motors	70	W R Price	182,349 ³	5,017	36.3	31.12.79
Associated Newspapers Group	230	Patrick Sergeant	143,542	7,130	20.1	30. 9.80
British Petroleum Co	1	Sir David Steel	143,334	8,658	16.5	31.12.80
Imperial Chemical Industries	4	Sir Maurice Hodgson	134,853	7,544	17.9	31.12.80
Plessey Co	91	highest paid	133,944	4,992	26.8	31. 3.80
Gallaher	23	Stuart Cameron	126,547	4,073	31.1	31.12.79
Heron Corporation	166	Gerald Ronson	123,000	3,795	32.4	31. 3.80
Wedgwood	395	Sir Arthur Bryan	115,694	3,339	34.6	31. 3.80
Rank Xerox	45	highest paid	114,177	6,836	16.7	31.10.79
Beecham Group	60	Sir Graham Wilkins	103,192	4,907	21.0	31. 3.80
Eso Petroleum Co	8	A W Pearce	102,000	8,134	12.5	31.12.79
Akroyd & Smithers	*	highest paid	98,224	18,106 ⁴	5.4	5.10.80
Hepworth Ceramic Holdings	183	Peter Goodall	98,000	5,753	17.0	31.12.80
Akroyd & Smithers	*	David Leroy-Lewis	95,832	18,106 ⁴	5.3	5.10.80
Plessey Co	91	Sir John Clark	95,732	4,992	19.2	31. 3.80
BAT Industries	3	Peter Macadam	94,726 ⁴	3,985	23.9	31.12.79
BOC International	37	Sir Leslie Smith	88,400	6,432	13.7	30. 9.80
Glaxo Holdings	108	Sir Austin Bide	88,042	5,149	17.1	30. 6.80
Burton Group	301	highest paid	88,000	3,388 ⁵	25.9	30. 8.80
Imperial Group	6	M A Anson	87,815	4,177	21.0	31.10.80
Grampian Holdings	563	highest paid	87,482	4,462	19.6	31.12.79
Barclays Bank	3	Sir Anthony Tuke	87,323	6,028	14.5	31.12.80
National Westminster Bank	8	highest paid	86,649	6,176	14.0	31.12.80
Standard Telephones & Cables	125	highest paid	85,823	4,092	21.0	31.12.79
Imperial Continental Gas Assoc	262	highest paid	83,000	6,262	13.3	31. 3.80
Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds	17	G Trevor Holdsworth	81,000	5,432	14.9	31.12.80
Burmah Oil Co	41	Sir Alastair Down	80,000	4,081	19.6	31.12.79
Trafalgar House	57	Lord Matthews	80,000	7,881	10.2	30. 9.80
Fosco Minsep	214	D V Atterton	79,695	4,565	17.5	31.12.79
Lloyds Bank	7	highest paid	79,344	5,844	13.6	31.12.80
Minet Holdings	844	J Wallrock	79,057	5,376	14.7	31.12.79
Lloyds Bank	7	Sir Jeremy Morse	78,712	5,844	13.5	31.12.80
Hogg Robinson Group	906	highest paid	78,000	5,201	15.0	31. 3.80
ICL	94	highest paid	77,000	8,127	9.5	30. 9.80
Automotive Products	253	J T Panks	76,500	4,735	16.2	31.12.79
Taylor Woodrow	123	Frank Taylor	76,000	5,367	14.2	31.12.79
Sedgwick Forbes Bland Payne	279	P T Wright	75,500	6,047	12.5	31.12.79
Fine Art Developments	602	F R Kerry	75,243	3,065 ⁶	24.6	31. 3.80
Reed International	24	Sir Alex Jarratt	75,209	5,647	13.3	31. 3.80
General Electric Co	12	Sir Arnold Weinstock	75,000	4,686	16.0	31. 3.80

¹ From Times 1,000 1980-81 ² figures include management and, often, directors ³ annual equivalent to \$225,749 paid for 7 months ⁴ annual equivalent for 15 months' pay ⁵ ranked 2nd of clearing banks ⁶ ranked 1st of clearing banks ⁷ ranked 4th of clearing banks ⁸ including part-time workers * this is a firm of stock and share jobbers; employees' pay includes profit-sharing entitlements.

The salaries of the 44 men shown in Table A in fact totals £4,746,063—equivalent to employing 791 workers on £6,000 each for a year.

As we indicated last year, the top paid do not necessarily head the top British companies. Only 20 are directors of the top 100 manufacturing companies. Two of the highest paid in fact are directors of a stock jobbing company, manufacturing nothing more than profit.

The sky's the pay limit

Whilst the government is vainly trying to restrict pay rises in the public sector to six per cent, and private sector pay rises are only occasionally 10 or 15 per cent, directors on very large salaries feel perfectly justified in giving themselves very large pay rises. For example 14 of the directors we name in Table A got pay increases in excess of 20 per cent, but as half of them have been knighted perhaps this is what Sirs expect. These 14 are shown in Table B. In addition, many of the anonymous "highest paid" directors received large pay rises, but we have not been able to identify who they are. Under companies legislation firms have to declare the specific salary of the chairman and the highest paid director (if that is not the chairman). There is no requirement to name the highest paid director, although this is usually the managing director or chief executive.

Table B Pay increases of top paid

Director	Current salary over previous year's (% increase)
Derek Leroy-Lewis	+ 81
D V Atterton	+ 53
A W Pearce	+ 44
Sir Leslie Smith	+ 41
J T Panks	+ 33
Patrick Sergeant	+ 27
Sir Arnold Weinstock	+ 25
Sir Jeremy Morse	+ 22
Sir Alastair Down	+ 21
Sir Anthony Tuke	+ 21
Sir Austin Bide	+ 20
Sir Alexander Jarratt	+ 20
R Rowland	+ 20
Peter Macadam	+ 20

Top paid directors do not have just their salaries and knighthoods to exist on. Many have large shareholdings in their company and get a sizeable dividend income: "Tiny" Rowland of Lonrho got £4 million in dividend income in 1980, for example. Whilst still in employment there are also the advantages of free company cars and worldwide travel; perhaps a company flat "in town"; low or interest-free loans to purchase a house; private health insurance; help in paying the children's public school fees. On retirement there is the prospect of a very generous "golden handshake"¹² as well as an index-linked "top hat" pension.

In most cases, the top director's concept of "the rate for the job" is hugely above his concept of his employees' rate for their job. Table A shows how wide the gap is between the average pay for all employees and the pay received by the top directors. The greatest gap is at Lonrho where Rowland gets 44 times more than the average pay. The smallest variation, of five times, only arises because this is at a small firm of stock jobbers who all share the profits. Variations between the top and the average (note: not even the bottom) are frequently between 20 and 40 times greater.

The recession is affecting three million unemployed and millions more whose wages can't cope with the effects of capitalism but, as our survey shows, there are still some who are managing to maintain very, very high incomes, despite the economic crisis the rest of us have to cope with.

So generous are the top paid treated, that the Economist Intelligence Unit recently produced a report on the 'UK as a Tax Haven'. It said that Britain:

"has introduced such bountiful tax and exchange control legislation that it has left all the others far behind... money can move in and out of the country without awkward questions being asked." Also, some British tax laws "enable tax levels for its own residents to be kept below those in the traditional tax havens such as Jersey and Monte Carlo." (Daily Telegraph 19.3.81)

Those who are forced to exist on state benefits, however, because they cannot work, face continual threat of investigation and removal of their measly allowances.

ISRAEL-a fascist state



There is an erroneous notion among some people that because of the tremendous sufferings of Jews under Nazi rule, every Jew deserves our support. But it is a fact that the state of Israel is an aggressive fascist state led by a fascist, Begin.

Begin plays on international sympathy for Jews. But just as Hitler accompanied his mass murders with talk of building a great German nation, so Begin's fascist demagoguery stands truth on its head.

The destruction by Israeli air forces of the Baghdad nuclear plant recently was an aggressive, unprovoked attack against another country. Yet Begin claimed it was a defensive attack "to ensure the safety of our people".

He appealed to memories of the Nazi concentration camps by saying that Iraq had wanted "a mass destruction against the people of Israel". But it is he

who is ordering mass destruction. He boasts of his "excellent air force boys" and tries to keep neighbouring countries in fear by his threats of attack.

The state of Israel itself was built on land stolen from the Arabs of Palestine. It continues its existence only by brutally suppressing the Palestinian Arabs and their supporters in their fight to regain their homeland.

At home, for many Jewish people there is nothing but extreme exploitation, yet he boasts of the 'democracy' he runs. His recent election campaign appealed to the poor working class Jews — just as Hitler's lies appealed to German workers with all their problems. Begin's campaign also whipped up support on racial lines. His supporters went to the lengths of burning opposition party committee rooms.

Backed by the US, which

supplies it with fighter-bombers anti-aircraft missiles, bombs, and ammunition, Israel is an aggressive fascist state with a fascist leader.

No-one should let their sympathy for the fate of millions of Jews under the Nazis be used to lure them into a conciliatory attitude towards another fascist.

Begin has more in common with the likes of Hitler than with those Jews who died at Hitler's hands. We cannot excuse a fascist just because he is a Jew.

There can be no compromise. Progressive workers in Britain must support the cause of the Palestinian Arabs in their struggle against the Israeli state.

The only solution is for both Israel Jews and the dispossessed Arabs to unite to overthrow the Begin regime — and any other regime that stands for a fascist Israel — and to establish a secular state.

BEGIN-a fascist jew

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD BRITISH IMPERIALISM IS HATED AND THE RULING CLASS IS ISOLATED



● March in Sydney, Australia, after the death of Bobby Sands, on May 8th



● Demonstrations in support of the political prisoners have continued in Norway since the visit of the British Queen in May (above) when there were several protests

"British Imperialism stands wholly condemned, it is a leper, hated on the international stage"
G. Singh

PORTUGAL Over sixty members of Parliament signed a petition that was handed to the British Embassy describing Sands as "a patriot and a fighter for human and civil rights."

ties to make immediate concessions.

FRANCE Several hundreds of people demonstrated outside the British Embassy in Paris.

USA An Irish nun teaching in New York went on a solidarity hunger strike outside the United Nations building.

PORTUGAL A British Airways office in Oporto, was taken over by armed men who raised an Irish flag and painted the walls with slogans in support of Bobby Sands.

EUROPE Ten women members of the European Parliament called upon the British authori-

BELGIUM In Antwerp, a bag of blood was hurled at the

British National Westminster Bank by demonstrators in a gesture that symbolised the British-caused bloodbath in Ireland.

BELGIUM In Ghent, 5,000 pamphlets were distributed pointing out that the British government was soon to be responsible for the murder of Sands.

USA The British Consul's office in Central Chicago was picketed.

SCOTLAND Bobby Sands was elected vice-president of Glasgow University's oldest organisation, the 530-year-old Dialectic Society, which is a student debating society.

INDIA Parliament stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Sands and in protest at British policy.

PORTUGAL Masses demonstrated on the streets of Lisbon declaring their support for

armed struggle to free Ireland.

IRELAND In Dublin, the main street at O'Connell Bridge was periodically blocked for several days running by demonstrators.

IRELAND Riots occurred in Dublin outside the British Embassy after the deaths of Bobby Sands and Francis Hughes.

BRITAIN In London, police fought with demonstrators who defied the ban on demonstra-

tions and marched in Kilburn.

CANADA Prisoners went on a token 24-hour hunger strike in sympathy with Bobby Sands.

USA In New York, dockers blacked British goods. Several demonstrations culminated in a powerful protest staged to confront Prince Charles on his visit to attend the Royal Ballet. He was taunted inside the theatre as the Prince of Death. Princess Margaret has had to cancel a visit to New York as a result.



CAPITALISM — A SYSTEM WITHOUT A GRAIN OF GOOD

“CAPITALISM — I’m not sure what it is, really”. A fairly common remark when people talk about politics.

The socialist will explain that capitalism is a system in which a tiny ruling class of capitalists who own the banks, most of the land, the factories, the mass media etc. etc. have control over the majority of society, the working class whom they exploit for maximum profit day in, day out.

Although such explanations tell the truth of the matter the

non socialist (or potential socialist) is sometimes still left wondering exactly what capitalism — which he already suspects is an anti-people system — really boils down to.

And it is here that the old saying “a picture is worth a thousand words” often applies.

Here on this page we have two such pictures. One shows the shameful waste of food. At the bottom of the page pictures show the terrible waste of life. This is the truth about capitalism — poverty at home, imperialist

oppression abroad.

In Britain right now there are nearly 3,000,000 registered unemployed. Together with those in employment they are having a really tough time of it. All thanks to the capitalist system which puts profits before people.

Millions throughout the country are not getting enough food, even basic food such as a good cereal breakfast, the roughage nutritionists argue is so vital in the fight against

cancer.

Witness

Yet here we witness a massive monument to capitalist waste and distaste for the peoples interest. Here, in a huge RAF hanger at Manby, near Grimsby, a solitary working man spends his days scratching the surface of 10,000 tonnes of barley, the base element in many cereal dishes.

A working man walking a mountain of good food going to waste while millions of his class

brothers and sisters and their children, outside the hanger and many others like it, go without.

This is capitalism — capitalism at work. Only one of many, many examples of the disgusting system that must be overthrown if the majority of society are to have any future, any hope.

Beef

Along with the waste pictured here there is currently 6 million tonnes of rye, wheat and barley stored in Britain and throughout Europe, 350,000 tonnes of

beef, 80,000 tonnes of butter and 230,000 tonnes of skimmed milk.

All owned by capitalists and their governments. All being kept — rot or not — until the price for these essentials of life rise sufficiently on the stock exchange (the gambling parlour of the capitalist class) and in the market place to make it “profitable enough” to sell.

What a system. What a system to overthrow. What an historic task to support with all one’s strength and determination.

...HUNGER AT HOME MURDER OF LITTLE CHILDREN IN IRELAND

A British soldier takes aim to fire a plastic bullet of the kind that recently killed a 12 year-old girl in Belfast, Carol-Ann Kelly. On his helmet, a swastika: symbol of Hitler’s fascists and used by Hitler-loving fascists the world over. It is an apt symbol for a British soldier to be wearing.

The brutal repression of Irish people by the British troops is hardly any different from that meted out by German nazi troops to the people of the lands they occupied like Poland and France.

The irony is that this young man has been turned into a people-hating machine of death by the same British authorities, who, back home, are forcing the likes of his family to suffer the worst conditions for years and have created the mass unemployment that has probably led him to join up in the first place.



Carol-Ann in her coffin — her parent’s hearts broken. One of thousands of child casualties of British imperialism in Ireland.



It was a swastika-bearing khaki savage like this who’s shots caused little 12 year-old Carol-Ann Kelly’s head to cave in.