

# CHARTIST

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**No Deals with the Liberals! Break with Capitalism!**

## **ALL FINANCE, ALL INDUSTRY, ALL POWER TO THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT!**

WE HAVE THROWN OUT Heath's Government. Now let's prove OUR movement can govern instead.

It won't be easy. The economic crisis is desperate. £2,000,000,000 worth of production was lost by the Tories through their three day week. Britain's trade-debt is at an annual rate of £4,500 million. The Treasury must seek a loan—says the Tory Times—of ~~£~~45,000m, which is far more than the amount any international financial institution can provide.

There is only one way to deal with the situation. We need real POWER over finance, over all industry, over imports and exports and over the economy as a whole. The Labour Government must GOVERN. Not be pushed around by the Liberals, by the employers, by the bankers or by the International Monetary Fund. No return to the policies of 1964-1970!

The total rent-freeze is a great start. Now there must be NO DELAY in implementing the rest of Labour's main promises:

- Pensions of £10 and £16!
- "Strict price control" and cheap food!
- Redistribution of all income and wealth!
- Abolish prescription charges and expand the social services!

But these in themselves will get us no-where. A £35 national minimum wage is an absolute must. We need an immediate crash house-building programme. Yet all these things will cost money. And the bankers and International Monetary Fund are saying "No!"

And HOW are we to curb prices? And increase investment to modernize plant? To control food-prices



HAROLD WILSON

means to cut out profiteering. To boost investment means to do the investing ourselves. We need STATE OWNERSHIP of the food distribution industry. That's the ONLY way to root out hoarding and profiteering in food. We need to TAKE OVER the major industrial monopolies, under WORKERS' CONTROL. That's the ONLY way to get production moving again, to guarantee all our jobs, to boost investment and to PLAN the economy.

Labour's minority position in Parliament is no excuse for inaction. In any election forced in the coming months, Labour would win hands down.

Without a break from the bankers and the employers, catastrophe stares us in the face. And it has to be said: Harold Wilson's conduct so far has been a recipe for disaster. Throughout the election campaign, he evaded Labour's nationalisation commitments. He is doing nothing at all to take us out of the Common Market. He is leaving the six building pickets imprisoned under the Tories

in their cells. The armed police Special Patrol Groups are being left intact. No move is being made to withdraw troops from Northern Ireland. And instead of cancelling the trade-debts contracted under the Tories, he is going cap in hand to ask for still bigger loans!

The "Queen's Speech" was an absolute sell-out, with a scandalous omission of the nationalization pledges in Labour's programme. And how does Wilson square the prolongation of Heath's Phase 3 controls with his denunciation of these when in opposition?

To all those who have illusions in Harold Wilson and his Ministers, we warn: within weeks—unless they reverse course—they will prove wholly prisoners in our Tory opponents' hands. In a few months they will be attacking our unions, letting prices soar, throwing millions out of work and slashing spending on the social services. Labour's Ministers will prove impotent playthings of blind economic forces, driving us towards the greatest financial disasters this country has seen.

We cannot let this happen. This Government was placed in office by the miners. The working class has never been stronger. We have just experienced the greatest victory ever won by the British trade union movement. We say to Wilson: Disarm the bosses! Take the Power! From now on, this must be the slogan of the trade union movement: All Industry, All Finance, All Power to the Labour Government! If Wilson can't GOVERN on our behalf, then we will have to use our own methods—as the miners did—until we are running this country ourselves.

# THE CHARTIST

Monthly Journal of the Socialist Charter Movement.

Editor: CHRIS KNIGHT, 82 Loughborough Road, Brixton, S.W.9.

## FOLLOW UP THE VICTORY!

BRITAIN'S TRADE UNION movement has won the greatest victory in its history. The pay settlement of the miners was almost as nothing compared with the political victory won. Never before has an industrial struggle in Britain brought a Government down.

Now Harold Wilson must be stopped from cheating us of the fruits of this victory. He has refused to abolish immediately the Tories' Pay Board and Phase 3 controls. He has abandoned the Labour Party's plans for nationalization of key industrial firms. In this way he has made certain that, in the coming months, we will continue to be exploited by the same old ruling class that governed us under the Tories.

Inevitably, the cost of the attempt to solve capitalism's crisis will fall on the shoulders of the

working class. Prices and unemployment will rise faster than even under the Tories.

There can be no truck with any policy of wage-restraint under these conditions. The Engineers in particular must stand firm on their full claim. The message of the trade unions to the Labour Government must be this: we will accept an incomes policy—on the day AFTER you bring the wealth and power of this country into social ownership and control. That is the only guarantee we could have that any sacrifices made would be "fair". That is the only binding "social contract" our movement can possibly make.

The conditions for implementing a socialist programme have never been better. Above all, the forces necessary have largely been mobilised already.

Heath smashed against the

miners like a ship on the rocks. The question "Who rules?" is still genuinely in dispute—the Parliamentary stalemate having merely reproduced and formalised this question in Constitutional terms. There is arising in the land a force stronger than the capitalist state itself. In other words, the working-class conquest of power is no longer merely an idea. It is already a tangible possibility and threat rooted in the objective situation itself.

Harold Wilson wanted office but feared power. He has got what he wanted—office without power—and intends to keep it as long as he can. He did his utmost to restrain enthusiasm and avoid a class-appeal during the election. He succeeded in preventing the Labour landslide which would otherwise have been won. On forming a Government, he announ-

ced that he would not—if he could avoid it—call a new election this year. Yet he himself pointed out that a quick election would produce a massive Labour victory. The conclusion is clear: Wilson wants a weak Labour Government. The present stalemate suits his politics down to the ground.

The unions' job is not to overthrow the Labour Government. It is to force the Labour leaders' to take power—or make way for others who will. The TIMES—main organ of big business—is so afraid of an election this year that it has advised the Queen she has the power to refuse Wilson a dissolution even should he ask for one.(8.3.74). The trade unions, accepting NO wage-restraints under capitalism, must insist on the programme of nationalisation and force a new election now.

## LESSONS OF THE MINERS STRIKE

Interview with JOE HOLMES

JUST BEFORE the miners' pay settlement, NUM leaders began demanding more than the full claim, with backdating to November 1st. It was quite clear that these demands could in fact have been won. In the event, only Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire President, and Jack Collins, C.P. Kent delegate, voted against the final deal, quite rightly and with considerable rank-and-file support. The settlement reached—of £32, £35 and £45—was below the full claim, widened differentials and was only backdated to March 1st. It represented, however, a 29 per cent increase on the NCB wage-bill, and there can be few doubts that it was a massive victory for the union.

CHARTIST spoke to Joe Holmes, ex-President of the Kent miners, from Tilmaston Colliery and organizer of the London area picketing operations:

CHARTIST: Miners have won substantial victory. What are the lessons for the rest of the working class?

JOE HOLMES: The action of British miners was not to get rid of the Tories but to win the claim. The Tories decided to make it a political battle. It has now cost them the loss of government.

It is clear that any government which introduces state wages policy comes into immediate contact with the trade unions; therefore any trade union, faced with such state intervention, will seek to bring down the government.

The lessons of the miners' action must be learnt by the TUC.

That is, any government taking away the right of free collective bargaining must be met with the resistance of the strongest unions, so as to assist other weaker unions in the maintenance of standards of living and conditions of employment. The quicker the mobilization by the TUC the speedier the victory.

C: Miners have been called a 'special case'. Do you agree?

JH: Miners never argued they were a 'special case'. As far as miners were concerned our demands were just demands. Miners and other workers have taken the brunt of wage restraint policies for the last 12 years. We have supported the struggles of hospital workers, ambulance men, firemen, local government workers and many others and we will continue to do so.

C: What kind of solidarity did miners get from other workers?

JH: Support from the British trade union movement has been fantastic. Many workers have gone much further than the directives of their leaders. There were difficulties because of the General Election. Many people were working hard for a Labour victory. But despite this and the savage attacks on miners in the press and on TV we received just as much support as in 1972.

Internationally we've had tremendous support. Not only messages of support but also money, from the US, Japan, Canada, Belgium, W.Germany, France Poland and the Soviet Union. So we had a demonstration from the world trade union movement of beginnings of support in a physical and constructive way.

C: What role do you think Mick McGahey's appeal to troops played?

JH: I see nothing wrong with workers appealing to troops not to break strikes. People pay taxes to have armed forces to protect them not to be used against them. Therefore it is not unreasonable for any worker to call upon the better nature of soldiers not to take up action against them. Personally I don't believe troops would have been used because it would have turned practically everyone against the Tories.

C: In your view what should be the demands of the next claim?

JH: Miners have got to become equal to our brothers in other West European countries—not only in questions of wages, but also shorter hours, better overtime pay, improved pensions and so on. If anything this strike has exposed to people in Britain the atrocious wages and conditions miners have suffered since the war.

C: In view of the soaring price inflation, do you think the NUM should be insisting that all annual wage gains are protected by the inclusion of a 'rising scale of wages' clause? So any agreement with the NCB in future contains a clause, guaranteeing—according to the rise in a workingclass cost of living index—a monthly adjustment upwards in wages.

JH: Part of our 1973 conference decisions related to this problem. Miners must now draw up their own Charter of demands. This

must include our own cost of living index and a scale of wages based on a zero rating—not threshold clauses—so that real wage levels are not eroded by inflation. The Charter, which is already being drawn up, must demand pensions are the same as our European counterparts, that we have free safety equipment, and we are paid for bathing, waiting and winding time.

C: How should the Labour government exploit the favourable situation created by your success?

JH: A Labour government has already learnt the lessons of interference with the independence of trade unions. It must now immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act, restore free collective bargaining and repeal the Counter-Inflation Act. There must be no incomes policy. We must return to conditions of normal working in order to begin to resolve the economic crisis and develop industrial growth. A socialist nationalization programme should be brought in as quickly as possible. The Labour government must not wait until the economy of the country is healthier. It must nationalize without compensation now—perhaps we'll compensate when the economy is healthier.

The wealth created by the people of Britain and the mineral assets around should belong to the working people. The present capitalist owners are more able to afford sacrifice and can wait for any compensation we might pay.

This Labour government has got to show real socialist leadership, then the workers will give it support.

# PRICES EXPLOSION

## The Socialist Solution

MIKE DAVIS

EVEN THE MOST MODERATE forecasts point to an increase in prices of between fifteen and twenty per cent by the end of the year. Already, the two per cent increase in the Retail Price Index for January indicates an even higher annual rate. Under the last Tory Government, food prices rose fifty three per cent, and many essential items have more than doubled.

These are just a few of the price-rises during the last three and a half years of Tory Government:

● MEAT	UP	81%
● FLOUR	UP	76%
● CHEESE	UP	72%
● FISH	UP	192%

We have now reached the three shilling loaf, and the one shilling egg!

Meanwhile, according to the big business journal the *Economist*, the big farmers have been making bumper profits:

"Farm incomes jumped 47 per cent last year to more than £1.2 billion, net income was 22 per cent up, and in real terms, farmers' income rose 11 per cent."

(*Economist* February 16, 1974). As if this wasn't enough, the Tory Government, in its annual farm price review gave an added hand-out of £145 million to dairy farmers.

Moreover, one of the big fish monopolies—Associated Fisheries—more than doubled their pre-tax profits from £2.22 million in 1972 to £5.89 million in 1973.

To cap all this, according to 'The Grocer', up to the third week of February, 4,000 grocery items had risen in price in 1974. At this rate there will be 28,000 price-increases by the end of the year—more than DOUBLE last year's total.

## Other Rises

Food is not all that's been rising in price. Middle East oil price increases have been passed on by the monopolies, causing an 11 pence rise in petrol per gallon—which has yet to work its way through to fuel, fare and steel prices. Under the Heath government's Housing Finance Act rents have been jacked up by over 40%.

Those families looking for their own house have seen average house prices soar—through Harry Hyams and Lord Carrington-type property and land speculation and asset stripping—from an average £5,082 in 1970 to £10,023 in 1973. Mortgage rates have been raised from 8 per cent to 13 per cent, adding another 25 per cent on to monthly house payments. Bank interest and loan rates now make lending, however necessary, practically impossible.

## Shirley Williams

This is the situation the new Labour government inherits. Shirley Williams, new Minister for Prices and Consumer Protection, has stated, "I never said we would be able to sudd-

## TORY PROFITS BONANZA 1973

**Assoc. British food Corporation up 81%**

**I.C.I. up 145% to £311,000,000**

**Bowaters up 92%**

**BPC up 33%**

**Plessey up 52%**

**Reed International up 42%**

**Decca up 114%**

**Unilever up 34% to £337,000,000**

**BANKS** Barclays up 75%  
National Westminster up 81%  
Midland up 77%  
Lloyds up 96%

**Estimated company profits for 1973:**  
**£4,000,000,000**

**All under a Tory government which tried to limit workers incomes—through pay laws—to 7 per cent**

enly cut prices...I think it will be some time before we see a drop in prices." But the millions of housewives who voted Labour will want action now, not sometime in the future.

## Inflation

Why are prices rocketing out of control? The Tories blame "greedy workers", the trade unions, "reds" and "wreckers". They point to the fact that, according to the Department of Employment's figures, in 1973 earnings were up 12.9 per cent on the previous year, compared to a rise of 10.6 per cent in the retail price index. But when deductions have been made for tax and insurance etc., and taking into account the extra rise in the cost of essential items in the working class budget—food and rent—real WAGE CUTS were inflicted on workers last year. Labour MP Michael Meacher—a tax and insurance expert—has calculated that our wages were cut on average last year by nearly 3p in the pound.

When the Tories' argument that inflation is wage-led begins to look thin, they blame world prices and bad weather. We are told that bad harvests overseas, droughts in New Zealand, floods in major soya-bean-producing areas, frosts in Brazil (affecting coffee plants) and even "a sudden change in the direction of the warm current off Peru" (causing a drop in fish meal supplies) are to blame for the rising cost of imports. But what this illustrates is the complete bankruptcy

and crisis of the world capitalist system which the Tories stand for.

Yet why is it that Britain has one of the highest rates of inflation in any Western capitalist country? The basic reason is the low investment, outdated plant and machinery of British industry. With the post-war loss of her empire, followed now by the collapse of the world economic "boom", Britain is exposed to the icy winds of competition from her rivals in the cut-throat trade war. Forced to float the pound downwards—an effective devaluation of 20 per cent—the last Heath Government only aggravated soaring import costs. In an attempt to offset workers' wage increases, the Tories have been printing money (to quote a phrase of Harold Wilson's) "like the drunken sailor on Lime Street, Liverpool". They have been increasing the money supply at an annual rate of 25 per cent, without any corresponding rise in the real value of production. This, of course, has led to further drastic cuts in the spending power of the pound. Finally, the Tories' attempts to unite with their European counterparts in the Common Market have led to disaster. The EEC was entered just at the moment when it was bursting apart at the seams. Entry brought with it VAT and the Common Agricultural Policy, which has yanked up still further the price of basic foods. Huge amounts of food have been hoarded to maintain common price levels under the dear food policy. Last year saw the "butter mountain". This year

arrangements have been made for 40,000 tons of beef to be bought up by the Intervention Boards and hoarded.

All these factors—devaluation, the money-supply increase and EEC entry—have contributed to the particular intensity of Britain's inflationary crisis.

What is the Labour Party's solution to the problem of rising prices? It is "food-subsidies" and "profit control". The idea of food subsidies would be an essential part of any socialist plan of production and distribution. But Labour's manifesto suggests that this can be subsidised merely by altering the tax burden, tampering with profits and cutting defence expenditure. This is nonsense. In this period of deepening crisis for capitalism, no such half measures can work. The Labour Party's plan would simply add to the profits of the farmers and food-industry parasites, who would be in an even better position to hold the labour movement to ransom.

The capitalist class will continue to RAISE PRICES in order to BOOST PROFITS and will not tolerate any interference. Only by breaking their power, nationalizing the food industry and planning it under workers' control can profiteering and hoarding be ended, and a cheap food policy (including subsidies) be effectively introduced.

But this cannot be done without a head-on challenge to the whole power of capitalism and its state, and the transfer of all power, industry and finance into the hands of the working class.

This in turn requires that the battle against inflation is waged on an international scale. With sharpening trade war, competitive devaluations, growing monetary chaos, the collapse of the dollar and the rush into gold and other commodities, each capitalist nation will increasingly revert to measures of economic nationalism. In efforts to offset the tendency for the rate of profit to fall and increase their share of the world capitalist market, each capitalist state will attempt to shift the inflationary crisis onto their rivals at the same time as waging a ruthless war to drive down workers' living standards. To end the scourge of world inflation, the working class in each country must be united in an International Socialist Party—a Fourth International—to conquer power and harness the world's productive forces to the needs of mankind. It is only in conditions of socialised, consciously-planned production on a global scale that the so-called "underdeveloped" countries can industrialise and mechanise their agriculture, that new techniques and methods of production can be implemented, that the weather can be increasingly controlled, that deserts can be irrigated, that deep-sea farming can be organized, pollution eliminated, and the general anarchy of capitalist production ended.

# A SOCIALIST PROGRAMME FOR LABOUR

## Extracts from the SOCIALIST CHARTER

**THE LABOUR MOVEMENT NEEDS A STRONG LABOUR GOVERNMENT A GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL NOT BE PUSHED AROUND BY EMPLOYERS AND BANKERS A GOVERNMENT WITH THE FULL INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL POWER OF THE STATE IN ITS OWN HANDS, SO IT CAN PLAN THE ECONOMY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS**

### £35 Minimum Wage!

The Labour Government and TUC should immediately insist on a £35 National Minimum Wage. With prices and rents at present levels, nobody can be expected to live on less. The minimum should be raised automatically in accordance with a cost-of-living index worked out by our own class organisations (see below). We also want equal pay for women, not some time in the future but now, with the harshest legislation to prevent discrimination in employment. There should be full pay for apprentices in place of the ridiculous rates and exploitation in the name of "apprenticeship" which are current now. There should be a proper system of wages for all students and pupils at least from the age of sixteen, so that young people from working-class families are not kept from higher education on account of financial hardship. And it is Labour's elementary duty to insist on pensions equal to the minimum wage. The elderly need no less to live on than the rest of us and have a right to expect at least the national minimum in place of the present pittance after a life-time's work.

### Defend the Right to Work!

There is only one standpoint from which we can fight unemployment: if the system cannot afford us all jobs, then WE CANNOT AFFORD THE SYSTEM. At present, every bankruptcy, every fall in production and every change in demand leads to our people being thrown out of work. But why should they suffer when the industrialists, stockbrokers and shareholders get off scot free? We demand that every cut-back in production should lead to a reduction in the working day without loss of pay. If the work available were divided equally among the whole work-force, then no one need be without a job. The employers will say they "can't afford it". The answer to that is the take-over (through occupation or other means) of those plants concerned so that a useful programme of production can be initiated using their

### Freeze Rents Now

For a permanent freeze on all rents. This could galvanise the tenants' movement. The landlords couldn't afford it? The answer to this plea is the municipalisation of all private rented accommodation with compensation only to those small owners whose livelihood is at stake. The Council Housing Revenue Accounts could not afford it? But the annulment of Council debts to the loan companies would soon solve that problem: 80p in every pound paid in rent goes to the giant money-lenders as interest on loans. But would not this in turn bankrupt the loan companies? CHARTISTS would shed no tears over that. Apart from the fact that they are bleeding us dry, these loan-sharks are the very people who provide the bulk of finance for the property-developers who are ravaging our city-centres, destroying whole communities and spawning offices which are kept empty to increase their capital gains. The Prudential itself owns £250 million worth of property in London alone. If defending the tenants means bankrupting such people, then so be it. These companies should be state-owned anyway. With their resources in our hands, we could finance our housing ourselves. Already the Government pays not a penny in interest when it builds a motorway or a submarine. If houses were paid for like that, they would be five times cheaper. With interest-free Government loans — along with state-ownership of land and the building industry — all previous house building records could be doubled. In fact, a million houses could be built built a year. The unemployed building workers are there; the bricks and materials are there: all we need is a Government prepared to use them.

### A Crash House Building Programme

CHARTISTS insist that only drastic and revolutionary measures can solve Britain's housing crisis:

- Nationalise under workers' control all land, the construction industry, the banks and the insurance companies, with absolutely minimal (or "social security") compensation in cases of need.
- With the above resources, launch an immediate crash building programme with a target of at least one million houses per year.
- Annul all council debts to private insurance companies, and all mortgage debts of owner-occupiers of dwellings valued at less than £30,000.

- Municipalise or co-operativise all private rented accommodation which is let for more than one month at a time.
- Operate housing as a social service at low rents designed only to cover maintenance and repairs.

### Banks & Insurance Companies

It would be absurd to think that a Labour Government could even begin to plan the economy whilst these institutions remained in private hands. That is why CHARTISTS call for the expropriation of all the private banks and insurance companies and their merger into a single state enterprise with a uniform system of credit.

Does that mean—as the Tories will allege—that we want to rob all the old age pensioners who are dependent on the meagre interest paid on their life-savings? Or that we want to expropriate the worker who has insured his home or his life? Of course it doesn't! The new institution, with the full resources of the country behind it, will in fact be a safeguard for such people. And it will be able to offer much better rates than any private bank to the small farmer, the retired worker or the small tradesman who wants a loan or a safe place for his money.

### Take the Power!

When certain of our leaders say they are against "dogmatic" nationalisation, they mean this. They mean they are against nationalising to gain power for the working class. They want us to "examine each case on its merits". In other words, we're to take over companies only if they are "failing the nation". If they are massive, loss-making white elephants, we can have them. If they are huge profit-makers like the Prudential or I.C.I. — we can't. That would be "dogmatic".

People who talk in this way are interested only in piecemeal "improvements" in the capitalist system. That is why they are against the proposal in the Labour Party's new programme to start nationalising the profitable sectors of industry. There would be absolutely no point in doing this . . . unless the objective were the "dogmatic" or POLITICAL one of tackling big business for its POWER.

### Nationalize the Monopolies

Despite the desperate need for modernisation, Britain's shareholder class has lost all confidence in the future and is stubbornly refusing to invest. Investment in the private sector as a share of total investment has been steadily falling in recent years (e.g. from 58.5 per cent in 1962 to 53.4 per cent in 1969), with the public sector increasing its share. It is the failings of the private sector which account for Britain's tiny amount of capital investment in comparison with her Japanese and European rivals between 1960 and 1972:

Investment as a percentage of Gross National Product (1960-72)

	per cent
Japan . . . . .	30-35
Germany . . . . .	23-27
France . . . . .	20-26
Britain . . . . .	16-18

The investment in plant and machinery in Britain was only about two-fifths of total investment, that is, about 7 per cent of G.N.P. over the same period. If we want to know why Britain's share of world trade has dropped since 1950 from 25 per cent to less than 10 per cent, then here is the answer. It is no use giving the capitalists huge grants and "incentives" to invest: they will simply place the money in office-blocks or send it abroad. Unless we take over the monopolies and do the investment ourselves, the whole economy will continue to stagnate. And it is on the performance of the economy that everything else depends.

No Labour Government in the past has made inroads into the really profitable sectors of private industry. We've only shouldered the capitalists' losses for them—coal, railways, steel and so on—which they've readily allowed us to do. That is why nationalisation in the past has been so easily discredited in workers' eyes. It was all done by the ruling class (using our own Labour leaders in Parliament) as a means of buttressing their system. Not surprisingly, they made sure that outright reactionaries were put in charge of the boards of "their" state-owned industries. And out of the arrangement they got cheaper coal, transport and steel for the private sector at public expense.

All the oft-repeated objections in the labour movement to nationalisation—that the industries "make a loss", that the workers have no control, that it's all only a form of bureaucratic or state capitalism—stem from this experience. Were we to start OPPOSING the ruling class, taking over their PROFITS rather than their LOSSES, the whole

situation would be transformed. In the capitalists' own state. To carry the complete overturn of the class balance of all social relations—in the administration of each industry and in the management of each industry and in the place of work.

One important point is that if we have profitable monopolies, the possibility of their complete overturn of the class balance of all social relations—in the administration of each industry and in the management of each industry and in the place of work. One important point is that if we have profitable monopolies, the possibility of their complete overturn of the class balance of all social relations—in the administration of each industry and in the management of each industry and in the place of work. One important point is that if we have profitable monopolies, the possibility of their complete overturn of the class balance of all social relations—in the administration of each industry and in the management of each industry and in the place of work.

Our right-wing leaders know—as they know—that what would happen the moment we took steps along such lines. It couldn't be done "gently" so that the ruling class would be able to "phase out" what the authors of Labour's programme of nationalisation are not that stupid. The moment Labour was embarked on a programme of nationalisation, it would immediately mobilise to bring down the government and would take their stand on the very day of nationalisation.

The Government would suddenly find itself of power becoming paralysed in its hands. It has been retained for nothing all these years. The Queen remind the Queen that it was her "executive" precedent Constitutional crisis" to refuse Royal Assent to its Bills. It would be according to the most progressive course of action had no "right" not to give her Assent to the Armed Forces swear allegiance to the Queen.

There would be only one thing that the government could do in order to avoid surrender. As the apparatus of power proved unusable, so the government would be formed to take their place and gain control of the outlived state machine.

The following steps—in broad outline—

- Emergency joint Labour and TUC programme of "Queen in Parliament" legislation. Abolition of Monarchy.
- Guarantee of trade union rights to picket and give powers to arrest officers. Arming of our movement.
- Confiscation of ALL major monopolies. Mobilisation and occupation of plant and equipment.
- Seizure of full state power on above lines.
- Appeal for support from European countries.

It is because it would involve taking steps along such lines that we are ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN that the Labour Party leaders will in fact extend nationalisation to the most profitable sectors of industry. And since they are not serious about the nationalisation of the monopolies, they will allow themselves to be bought out.

That is why we say to our comrades that if we are serious about the nationalisation of the monopolies, we REALLY want our movement to start on the basis of a programme of nationalisation—then the time to make plans to require an iron-hard and determined revolution. We are serious about the nationalisation of the monopolies. The Labour Party which is committed to preparing for the future tasks here and now, the Socialist Charter movement. We must move our way. In the struggle for power—give us your support.

### Democratise Labour

In order to conquer the state, we must have a minimum for our unions and the Labour movement. CHARTISTS will not be satisfied until the movement is run as democratically as the original form in 1905 and 1917. In order to conquer the state, we must have a minimum for our unions and the Labour movement.

## DR D AROUND BY THE E COUNTRY IN ITS

could not be done using the process through would involve a of power in society, transform- of the country, in the the shop-floor of every factory

were to start nationalising the of paying compensation would olved—even for the most legal- oo great. As it is, the crippling industries such as British Rail has to discredit nationalisation in CHARTISTS make it quite clear: profitable monopolies, not pur- urse. This would not rule out in cases of real need (e.g. where company). If the monopolist on social security like anyone

all in the Labour Party should ent a Labour Government took take over firms "gradually" and naps wouldn't notice (which is me seem to hope). Our oppo- nt they even slightly suspected me of taking real power, they down the Government. They FIRST industry proposed for

and all its levers and instruments ds. The Monarchy has not rs. All her "advisors" would eptional" duty in this "unpre- e the Labour Government her be no use crying that— stitutional experts—the Queen! Again it is not for nothing e not to Parliament but to the

Labour Government could do old, conservative levers and a NEW apparatus would have the upper hand, destroying the

outline—would be required:

Conference to act as replace- in debating and enacting

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, engaged in anti-Government as necessary

opolies through trade-union

e basis and implementation of

a and world working class.

s along these lines that we can ONE of our present Labour a on any scale into the profit- won't break the power of the be ruled by them.

in the Labour Party: if you gramme of our Party—if you t taking over the profitable reparations is now. It will olutionary leadership of our e is only one tendency in the oviding such leadership and now. And that tendency is y be small, but events in the you are serious about the

## ur Movement

t first conquer our own class e satisfied until our Labour were the Russian Soviets in the meantime we demand as Party:



## Only the nationalization of the land, banks and insurance companies can solve Britain's housing crisis.

1. All representatives, officials and committees to be (a) subject to elections at least annually and (b) subject to immediate right of recall at any time by those who elected them.
2. No officials to be paid more than a skilled worker's wage (in the case of trade union officials, the average wage of their members). Labour M.P.s to hand over the whole of their salaries to Party national funds. Legitimate expenses to be paid subject to vetting by rank-and-file committees.
3. No major policy-change, pay-settlement, etc. to be signed or implemented without being endorsed by a full Conference or mass vote of all those affected.
4. Delegations to Labour Party Conference, Trades Union Congress, etc., to be elected democratically—i.e. with opportunity for participation by entire rank-and-file. Each member of delegation to stand for election to it on his or her own political position, and—once elected—to be free to vote in accordance with this. Each affiliated organisation to send a delegation of size proportional to its own paid-up numerical strength, each delegate having one vote. This would end the completely undemocratic "block vote" system as it operates today.

## For A Rising Scale of Wages

Soaring living-costs have now made fixed wage-agreements completely obsolete. Even the biggest awards are eaten away within months. Into every agreement from now on we must insist that there is written a clause guaranteeing a monthly adjustment upwards in accordance with the cost of living as determined by the organisations of our own class. To determine price-rises, the TUC and Labour Party must sponsor the establishment of committees of trade unionists and housewives with access to all the books of both manufacturers and distributors. Not only wages but salaries, pensions and allowances should all be linked to the same price-rise index.

Linked up with the trade unions and given real backing by the TUC and Labour Party NEC, popular price-committees could begin to acquire real power in each area and prepare the way for a take-over of distribution itself. If the ruling class can't hold down prices, then we will have to take over the chain-stores and food industry and do the job ourselves. "But rising food-costs are part of a global problem", the Tories keep telling us. Precisely. The same is true of all the problems we face under the capitalist system. That is why we socialists are part of a global movement. The only real solution to world food shortages is the mechanisation of agriculture in the "underdeveloped world". This in turn requires an expropriation of imperialist assets in these areas and the supply of tractors, harvesters and other equipment from the advanced industrial countries in accordance with a world economic plan. We must see the struggle for a rising scale of wages and for price committees in Britain as part of the struggle of our class internationally to control in our own interests the productive resources of the world. If our living standards are to be defended, there is no other way forward.

## No to the Common Market

CHARTISTS are irreconcilably opposed to Britain's membership of the Common Market. But we have nothing in common with those who fight this monopolists' cartel in defence of "Parliamentary sovereignty" or "Queen and Country". As workers, our only possible allies in the anti-market fight are not Enoch Powell and the National Front, but the organisations of the European labour movement itself. The national boundaries dividing Europe are obsolete, do hamper the development of production and must be broken down. But this is a task which cannot be left to the ruling classes of the Continent, whose antagonisms will intensify to explosion point in the developing world

economic crisis. The unification of Europe can be achieved *only under the rule of the working class.*

With our continental allies, CHARTISTS will fight against the European Economic Community to the end. It represents an intolerable threat to our living standards and a sinister conspiracy against the organisations of our class. We demand that the Labour Government, immediately, take the following measures in relation to it:

1. Withdraw from it, regardless of any "new terms".
2. Convene an all-European Conference of labour organisations to (a) co-ordinate joint defence against the attacks of the European monopolies and (b) prepare and implement a strategy for uniting Europe under our own class rule.
3. Break from the European and British-based multi-national monopolies by implementing Clause Four of our Party Constitution in this country.
4. Establish a Socialist Britain as a base from which to struggle for a Socialist United States of Europe, embracing both East and West of the Continent.

## A New International!

By creating a world market, capitalism has made every nation dependent on all the others, binding the continents together once and for all. In this situation, it would be ludicrous to think that we could successfully resist or defeat our employers by activities on a purely national scale. Even were we to successfully conquer power for our class in Britain, we could not survive for very long without a powerful INTERNATIONAL organisation to defend us militarily and politically and to spread our revolution abroad.

CHARTISTS demand of our Labour leaders that they:

1. Act in solidarity with the "communist world" against NATO and the capitalist big powers.
2. Give unconditional support to all workers' movements (in the tradition of the revolution in Hungary in 1956 or the upsurges in Czechoslovakia, 1968, or Poland, 1970) for the right to strike and for full democratic rights in opposition to Stalinist bureaucracy in the "communist" states.
3. Link the struggle for power in this country with the convening of an international Conference of Labour Organisations—inviting workers' representatives from the Soviet Union, China, etc.—to establish a new trade union and Labour International.

## A Workers' Government

The CHARTISTS are *revolutionary socialists*. If we had the power, we would not flinch from the severest measures against the landlords, the employers and the old ruling class. We would immediately legislate a £35 National Minimum Wage, Equal Pay for Women, a rent and prices freeze, a completely comprehensive secondary education system, fare-free public transport and the nationalisation under workers' control of all major industrial and financial concerns. We would then *plan* the economy, not permitting a single worker to be made idle against his will, not allowing any more cuts in rail or bus services, not allowing any more useless offices to be built while there is a housing shortage, not permitting anyone to own two or more houses while others have none, taking over all under-used mansions and palaces (such as Buckingham Palace) for the homeless or for use as recreation centres for all, not allowing any more capitalist anarchy, "planned obsolescence", inefficiency, corruption or production for profit at the expense of people's needs. A national plan of production would be worked out allowing the mighty material and human resources of this country to be used to the full.



## Chile

The Military Junta's claim to have restored "Peace and Calm" since the coup last September is appearing hollow.

The inflation of Allende's period has now given way to hyperinflation. The price increases announced on January 26th show the real depth of the crisis the Junta is facing. A kilo of sugar is now 280 escudos (12 last September). A gallon of petrol is 96 escudos (10 last September).

The foreign debt is now \$3,500m. and the prospects are that this will rapidly increase.

As if this is not bad enough, food prices are also soaring, urban and rural rents are likely to rise up to 10 and 30 times respectively, and the coming abolition of the wealth tax will further advance differentials between rich and poor. Vicious penalties have been devised for hoarders, speculators and rumour-mongers. e.g. five leaders of the bus owners' committee in Valparaiso—fierce opponents of the Allende regime—have been jailed for distributing subversive literature which condemned the Junta for failing to allow transport prices to rise with costs.

What are the prospects for the revolutionary left? Many of the Popular Unity leaders have yet to be brought to trial, but they can expect little mercy from the Junta. The exiled leaders appear not to have learnt the fatal errors inherent in Popular Frontism, and the Stalinists are working flat out to bring "progressive" Christian Democrats into an even broader front. The conditions in which the small revolutionary forces in Chile are working are fraught with danger, the Chilean workers and peasants are still demoralised by the defeat of Popular Unity, and clandestine work will only have very slow results in the immediate future. But the splits which are already emerging within the Chilean bourgeoisie, incapable of dealing with its domestic economic crisis, provide potentially immense possibilities for building a mass revolutionary party drawing all the lessons of the recent defeat, and basing itself on the Transitional Programme to lead the Chilean workers to the conquest of State Power.

## West Germany

A million public service workers in the OTV union have settled for an 11½% increase, after the threat of massive strike action to gain their 15% claim. This represents an important setback for Social Democrat premier Willy Brandt in his attempts to hold back workers' living standards. The right wing now reckons Brandt has lost his grip and is unable to curb either the unions or the "lefts" in his own party. Meanwhile, jobless totals have shot up to 650,000 facing vast numbers of immigrant workers with the threat of deportation.

## Ethiopia

After Ethiopia's four-day General Strike, things in that country can never be the same again.

The strike call followed a rank-and-file revolt over pay in the armed forces. The small (85,000 strong) Ethiopian Confederation of Labour Unions took the opportunity to press a 16-point programme of demands including a tripling of the minimum wage (to the equivalent of 75p a day!).

On most points, substantial concessions have been won. Now army non-commissioned officers, students and others are trying to utilize the new situation to press their own demands for governmental changes. Despite a 37 per cent pay rise, the NCO's committees have threatened to "take power" if necessary to implement such measures as democratic and land reforms.

46.6 per cent of land still belongs to the Throne; 20 per cent to the Church. The NCO's demands could only be carried out by the rural poor under the leadership of the working class. But backward Ethiopia may yet prove the weak link in the chain binding the vast African continent to world imperialism.

## Italy

Christian Democrat Mariano Rumor's coalition government has resigned over the stiff terms of a massive loan needed from the International Monetary Fund to plug the country's expected £2,500 million trade deficit. Meanwhile the unions held a 4-hour general strike protesting against inflation, unemployment and the lack of promised reforms by the government. As well as the economic crisis, Italy has been rocked by major political scandals.

Forty-five political party bureaucrats and oil company heads are likely to face charges of bribery. The parties and the state electricity board are accused of taking back-handers in return for allowing petrol price increases and forking out subsidies to the companies. The incompetence and corruption of the state apparatus provides fuel for the neo-fascists' calls for a clean-up and strong government. The Fascists are themselves involved in gun-running and terrorist attacks which took place in Northern Italy recently.

## France

France has also been sharply hit by the petrol crisis and the onset of a world recession. The official cost-of-living index rose 1.7% in January, making inflation the main political issue. President Pompidou has attempted to get the working class to accept this cut in their living-standards as an "act of God", for which the Government and the French bosses can't be blamed. To do this, and also to assert his own authority within the Government, he had premier Messmer's cabinet resign. But Messmer has formed a new administration, with most of the same ministers holding the same posts, and nobody seems to be fooled very much by this "psychological shock".

## Trinidad

A former leader of an abortive military uprising against the Government is now heading the struggle of the exploited East India sugar workers. The hold of the old union leaders, who were actually directors of the employing sugar company is being broken. A campaign of one-day strikes is to be followed by a march of 20,000 workers on the capital, Port of Spain.

## Argentina

General Juan Peron's "nationalist" government is shaping up for a real showdown with the left and militant trade unionists. Already, several union leaders who failed to toe the official line have been slapped down. A new law against "incitement to violence"

and "illicit associations" will obviously be used against any opposition to Peron's anti-working class politics. The illusions of many young workers in Peronism as a sort of socialism are being rudely shattered.

## Bolivia

Massive strikes and armed clashes in which dozens died rocked President Hugo Banzer's dictatorship in late January after 100% increases in basic food prices were announced. The city of Cochabamba was cut off by armed peasants, who were only dislodged by tanks and combat aircraft who massacred large numbers. 5,000 militant tin miners also launched a two-day strike (The unions are illegal.)

# WHO RULES BRITAIN?

"WHO RULES BRITAIN?" screamed the Tories and their puppet press during the election campaign. At every chance, they accused 'greedy', 'extremist' trade unionists—especially miners—of 'wrecking' the economy and holding everyone to ransom. This was aimed at diverting people's attention from the real answer to the question. The real rulers are the people for whom the Tories, Liberals and Labour right-wing act as mouth-pieces: the capitalist class, whose secret is to present big business policy as being in everybody's interest. This is not the case, as the following evidence shows.

First, there's private wealth. 84% of that is owned by a mere 7% of the population, while the richest 2% have 55% in their hands.

Second, there's property ownership. Here the top 5% of the population owns 75% of all property.

Third, there is income from property. It has been estimated that 10% of the population take in a mere 99% of all income from property.

Much property ownership takes the form of company shares. 81% of these are in the possession of 1% of the population. Lord Thomson, a director of the Thomson Newspaper empire, has shares to the value of £59½ million. His personal share amounts to £15 million MORE than the total N.C.B. offer to 270,000 miners. Jules Thorn, the electronics magnate, is a pauper by comparison. He only has £29.6 million worth of shares in Thorn Electric. Others who own shares to values of over £10 million are Sir Charles Forte of Trust Houses Forte, Lord Samuel of Land Securities Investment Trust, Sir Godfrey Mitchell of Wimpey Construction, Lord Pilkington and Hyman Kreitman of Tesco's Stores. These men are among the top 133 (!) people who command an income of over £100,000 a

year...and they tell workers to make sacrifices.

The rich wield almost total power. They conspire against the working class after the manner of Mafia gangsters. In their hands is the fate of millions of workers...most of whom are one wage packet away from poverty and who own only the clothes they stand up in and the furniture in their homes. They have more political power than the votes of all their employees combined. They can sack men or employ them at will. They can close down or open factories as profit dictates. They are elected by nobody and responsible to nobody. Their system is a regime of chaos. Their rate of profit is in decline and they expect the working class to foot the bill. Between them and the capitalist solution to the crisis stand the trade unions, the very organizations that these faceless men are intent on crushing. Behind the facade of democracy the power of this small minority is maintained only by the naked force of the state which has intervened directly in the class struggle because of the glaring failure of the right-wing leaders of the Labour movement to dampen working class resistance to the capitalist offensive.

The ruling class must intensify the exploitation of workers. It must pay out less in wages to make more in profits. It will rapidly dispense with democracy if it has to. That is the lesson of Italy, Germany and, nearer to today, Chile.

For the same reason, the present Labour government must destroy the power of the capitalists and mobilize the working class to do it. Either this, or the destruction of the unions, Labour Party and working class living standards. That is the stark choice before the Labour movement.

# THE STRUGGLE FOR REVOLUTION IN BRITAIN

By Graeme Atkinson

## Part 1. The Contradictions Of Capitalism

For 172 years, the British working class has waged continuous battle to win, defend and extend its rights. Historically, this battle centres on the formation and development of trades unions. Today, 10½ million workers are organised into unions. Today, too, the existence of these unions is under challenge.

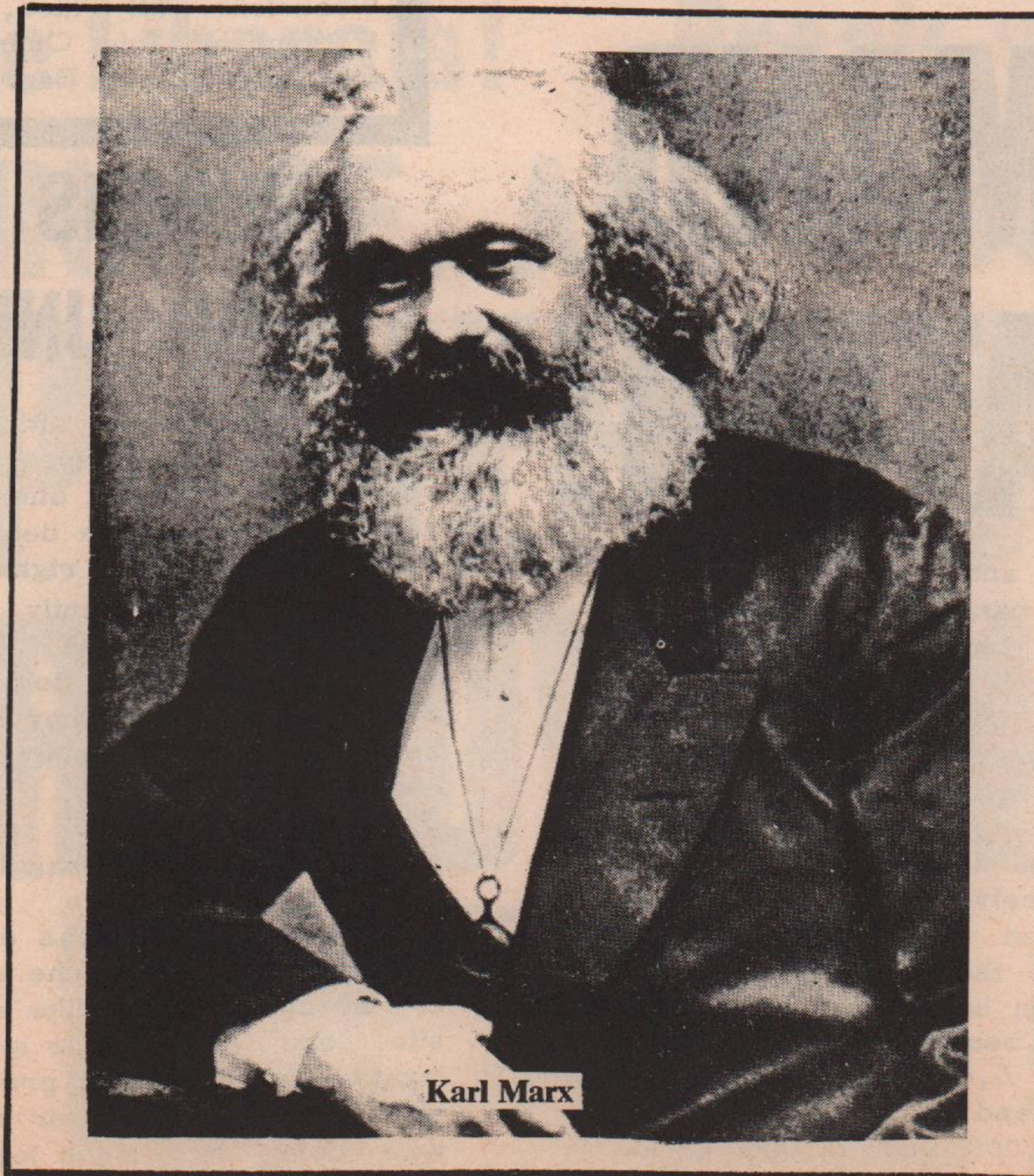
To understand fully what is at stake it is vital that we study the history of the labour movement and the struggle for trades unionism.

### MATERIAL ROOTS

The material roots of the struggle for unions lie within capitalism itself. From the beginning of its life capitalism creates its opposite, its gravedigger: the working class. The drive to amass capital, constantly multiply profits and beat off competition from other capitalists, national and international, carries with its two basic conditions of development. First, the incessant trend towards socialisation of production; the concentration and growth of the working class into greater masses and the growth of the world economy. This latter tendency signifies the need of capitalism to seek new markets for its goods and new areas in which to invest its capital. Through this process capitalism became the dominant mode of production in the world.

### CHAOS

Second, in opposition to the socialisation of production, capitalism increases in chaos. Under private ownership, socialisation of production leads inexorably to monopoly. Capital and wealth are concentrated into fewer and fewer hands. Thus, while capitalism provides the material basis for the development of socialism it also aims to crush that development. Equally, while the development of the productive forces has given man a degree of independence from the dominance of nature, under capitalism it also comes to threaten man's own existence. Science and technique are subordinated to the defence needs of capitalism. Everything is assessed from the standpoint of profit possibility.



Private ownership and control of the means of production reach a stage where they can no longer be regarded as a progressive element in man's history. Capitalism, the most revolutionary social system to date, qualitatively changes. It is transformed into an obstacle to all further progress. Its potentialities inspire fear and no longer hope. Under the system, conditions for mankind as a whole deteriorate. The further development of the productive forces — above all, the working class — can only be hindered and corsetted by the framework of capitalist production relations. The highest stage of capitalism is imperialism, the epoch of wars and revolutions. In this epoch of capitalism's death agony, the most gigantic social convulsions occur. All relations are marked by instability. Imperialism resorts to war to divide and re-divide the world markets. It resorts to fascism to destroy the working class. It fights frantically to uphold the system through crisis after crisis. Above all, it intensifies the class struggle.

### CAPITAL

As Karl Marx explains: "The essential condition for the existence and the sway of the bourgeois class is the formation and augmentation of capital; the condition for capital is

wage labour ... The advance of industry, whose involuntary promoter is the bourgeoisie, replaces the isolation of the labourers due to competition by their revolutionary combination due to association. The development of modern industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet the very foundation on which it produces and appropriates products. What the bourgeoisie, therefore, produces above all is its own gravedigger."

### CLASS STRUGGLE

Thus, the class struggle between capitalist class and working class is the central manifestation of the contradiction between the productive forces and capitalist production relations. The class struggle, between those who produce surplus value and those who appropriate it, is inherent in capitalism, existing whether we like it or not. Capitalism cannot exist without the working class. The working class cannot exist without struggling to exact a higher price for the sale of its labour power. Recognition of the class struggle and of the central role of the working class as the revolutionary class which must establish its dictatorship is what divides Marxists from all bourgeois trends of thought. Only

Marxists grasp the reality that capitalism contains within itself insoluble contradictions which provide the material basis for its revolutionary overthrow. On this basis alone, on the basis of confronting capitalism in a struggle for power can revolutionaries intervene in the class struggle.

The analysis put forward by Karl Marx in "Capital" is not mere speculation but is the theoretical expression of a material process. As Marx says, "... with the development of industry the proletariat not only increases in number, it becomes concentrated in greater masses, its strength grows and it feels that strength more. ... The growing competition among the bourgeois, and the resulting commercial crises, make the wages ever more fluctuating. The increasing improvement of machinery, ever more rapidly developing, makes their livelihood more and more precarious; the collisions between individual workmen and individual bourgeois take more and more the character of collisions between two classes. Thereupon, the workers begin to form combinations (trades unions) against the bourgeois; they club together in order to keep up the rate of wages; they found permanent associations in order to make provision beforehand for these occasional revolts. Here and there, the contest breaks out into riots.

Now and then the workers are victorious — but only for a time. The real fruit of their battle lies, not in the immediate result, but in the ever expanding union of workers."

The initial impetus for trades unions was thus provided by the objective nature of capitalism itself. The brutal exploitation suffered by workers in the Industrial Revolution forced them to combine to defend themselves. Their only "property" was their labour power, the ability to work, which they sold to the capitalist in exchange for wages. Constantly, workers endeavour to get a higher price for their labour power. In this way, the consciousness of the British working class was shaped by the objective conditions of its existence. And precisely for these reasons does the class stick to its unions, fighting so tenaciously to defend them against the capitalists and their State.

How these processes took on flesh and blood will be the topic of our next article.

# young socialist NEWS



Peter Doyle v Ted Milne

## WE DEMAND AN EXPLANATION!

The North Eastern Labour Party's manoeuvres against Ted Milne MP were decisively re-jected at the General Election. Milne defeated the "official" Labour nominee, Ivor Richards, by a margin of over 6,100 votes.

For a considerable time Milne, almost alone amongst the "Northern Group" of Labour MPs, had been demanding a full enquiry into the affairs of the Labour Party in Newcastle and the surrounding area, particularly in relation to the "activities" of Poulson, T Dan Smith and Andrew Cunningham.

For his efforts he was made the centre of a series of plots and manoeuvres hatched, (in some cases, with at least the tacit support of Transport House), by certain people afraid of the consequences of any exposures.

The plots finally seemed to have paid off just before the election. Blyth General Management Committee was at last pushed into refusing an endorsement of Milne, its sitting MP. The full-time officials of the Labour Party hurriedly endorsed this, their action contrasting sharply with the almost grovelling consideration given to Taverne when Lincoln CLP booted him out for voting with the Tories on the vital Common Market issue.

In place of Milne, the hopelessly bankrupt, right-wing and pro-Market Ivor Richards (who had lost his own seat in the boundaries review) was wheeled in. Richards' own Constituency of Baron's Court had been merged into Fulham and Hammersmith North. The fact that these CLPs had preferred to retain Michael

Stewart and Frank Tomney as their candidates respectively speaks volumes for Richards' popularity!

Milne, quite sensibly, refused to accept this carve-up. He appealed to the local labour movement for support as an independent socialist candidate. This he duly received—with many local miners on strike canvassing for him, and the local Labour clubs giving him backing. He was duly elected, beating Ivor Richards by over 6,000 votes and the Liberal and Tory candidates by over 12,000 and 14,000 respectively.

This despite two anti-Milne adverts in local papers, signed by the entire membership of the Labour Party NEC, including Militant supporter and LPYS representative Peter Doyle.

Milne has quite rightly announced his intention of carrying on the fight for an NEC enquiry, pointing out that he has a mandate for this from the working class of Blyth. Milne must apply for the Labour Whip, even though this means approaching Bob Mellish himself. He should be re-admitted without delay to the Parliamentary Labour Party, while every CLP should push for a full NEC enquiry, not only into the case of the corruption charges but also into the affairs of Blyth CLP.

Chartists will also be demanding at this year's LPYS conference an explanation from Peter Doyle. Voting for the "official" Labour candidate in this case would be bad enough. Allowing your name to be used in a right wing anti-Milne advertising campaign was scandalous.

## WE'RE COMING TO CLACTON!

This Easter the youth of the Labour Party - the Labour Party Young Socialists - will meet at Clacton for their National Conference. Here the struggle of the Chartist YS branches to

The conference will be held at Butlins, April 12-15th with a rally afterwards until April 19th. Both will include discos, with films and theatre featuring in the rally. Cost is £10.30 (which covers everything for conference), or about £17 for conference and rally.

make our leaders fight will be intensified! Come and join us

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED fill in this form and send it to: John Quirke, sec. Lambeth YS c/o 264 Rosendale Rd., SE.24.

NAME.....

## YOUR YS BRANCH

For details of branch activities write to:  
Brent East: Sally Humphries, 9 Kingswood Avenue, NW6

Tunbridge Wells: Glenda Ratcliffe, 9 Greggs Wood Rd, Sherwood Estate, Tunbridge Wells.

Wycombe: Ann Snell, c/o 242 West Wycombe Road, Bucks.

Norwood: Paul Moore, 61 Selsdon Road, SE27.

Streatham: Elaine O'Neill, 47 Amesbury Avenue, SW2.

Vauxhall: Kevin Moore, 170 Wandsworth Road, SW8.

Woolwich: Phil Elliott, 82 Woodhill, SE18.

Rotherham: John Connelly, 22 Bradgate Road, Rotherham, Yorks.

Stockport: Dave Barratt, 42 Lisburne Lane, Offerton, Stockport.

## UNWINS SUPPLIERS FIGHT FOR UNION RECOGNITION

The stone age attitudes of management at Philips Newman Wine bottling plant and distributors at Waterloo has bred a determined fight for trade union rights there by the predominantly young workforce. George Jones, acting shop steward, told Young Socialist News that they had not seen any more money at all under Phase 2 or Phase 3. Few had any clear job status so wages were often 'haggled' on an individual basis and no systematic training was offered. Conditions are bad: the surface of the main yard is like a bomb site and only one sit-down lavatory is available for production staff. A fork lift driver said he was doing two mens jobs, but being paid too little for one man with a family and that, when orders were slack, people had been given their cards for no reason and 'on suspicion' by a new ex-CID boss. Vauxhall YS has forced the Transport and General Workers Union to meet with the activists; the T & G promises a direct approach to the management demanding recognition but while the outcome is awaited well-attended "unofficial" branch meetings have taken place and drawn up detailed immediate demands to the union and the firm which include:

1) All jobs to be defined, the

same basic wage for the same job, agreed piece work rates. 2) Substantial increases all round (specified), end the exploitation of boys.

3) Protective clothing, a canteen to be provided; facilities up to standard. 4) Known spies on the floor to be sacked or given a white coat and staff status.

George Jones of Vauxhall YS says the union makes clear organising sense because the drivers from Pearl and Duffrin are in the T&G as are the tanker drivers and the men from United Glass. And for the future he reckons that union recognition or a fight for recognition will be enough to sign up all those still wavering about the union for fear of victimisation. They plan to go for 100% union membership and, in the long term, to try to crack the large works down the road in Kennington - Burroughs who handle Beefeater Gin - where to breathe the word "union" is enough to get you the sack. A meeting of the young workers at Vauxhall Labour Party on 6th March resolved to strike and appeal for support IF recognition was not granted and to hurry up the T&G in getting them organised into an official branch - maybe as part of the branch at Unwins other works at Chislehurst.

## YS NEWS ROUND-UP

With the announcement of a National YS campaign against racialism, Chartist YS branches took a full part in the series of London meetings and gathered the masses for the demonstration to be held in Bradford. Unfortunately the demonstration was again cancelled, this time due to "election difficulties". We eagerly await the new date!

With electoral law coming into force at the announcement of the General Election, a convenient gag was put on the Labour Party Young Socialist branches.

When the Lambeth YS gave its support to the Socialist Charter meeting to be held at Brixton Town Hall, the local Labour bureaucrats did all they could to stop it. Vauxhall's Labour Party agent - "We can support the miners but we must not publicise it" - conferred with ancient reactionary, Marcus Lipton MP to get the meeting stopped. YS members also organised collections at their union branches,

When Greenwich Trades Council formed a Borough Miners Support Committee the Greenwich and Woolwich YS joined with practically every other socialist organisation and trade unionist in arranging accommodation for pickets and meetings for miners to put their case and collections to the strike fund, through this committee. At the same time the local Thames Polytechnic gave their support, in the way of food and hot soup, identifying their grants campaign with the miners' pay claim.

### FILM SHOWS

Vauxhall and Norwood YS are to organise regular film shows every month. Details from secretaries.

### MIXED FOOTBALL

March 31st (Sun.) - Mixed football Brockwell Park, 2.00p.m.