Iraqi attack exposes safe haven fraud

No to all US intervention

By John Lister

As the countdown begins to the next general election, the Welfare State Network is determined not to allow this year’s Labour Conference to degenerate into another stage-managed jamboree.

The Network is supporting a Coat to Coat March from Hull to the Blackpool conference, which will raise in every town on route the need for a radical Labour programme, defined and enacted by the welfare state.

Sponsored by Trades Councils and labour movement bodies in Humber, Yorkshire and the North West, the March will start off from a rally in Hull on September 24, stopping for meetings and receptions in Goole, Doncaster, Barnsley, Huddersfield, Clitheroe, Manchester, Bury and Preston be-

Marchers bid to rock Blackpool

by Alec McFadden

fore its arrival in Blackpool on Tuesday October 1.

As one of the march organisers, Alec McFadden, sums up: “This is not a token protest march but a serious attempt to influence and persuade the Labour Party to save the welfare state.

The marchers will represent a cross section of working class people: unemployed, low-paid, students, nurses, civil servants, council workers and pensioners.”

The rallies en route will build support for the Welfare State Network’s Emergency Plan to rebuild the Welfare State. Copies of the Plan are available from the WSN, 181, Queen’s Crescent, London NW5 4DS.

To join the march, or sponsor it, contact John Howard 0161-789-2999 or Alec McFadden, 0161-764-8390.

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The attack and Germany expressing doubts.

The Arab League has also condemned the attack. There is not yet been any public response from Turkey, which under its new Islamic government has been hinting at a

Cabinet meeting on September 19, America’s decision to use force in the Gulf, is likely to be. Britain and France have already indicated their willingness to back the US, in the view of many experts, this indicates a new era in Middle East diplomacy.

However, the reaction from Europe has been more cautious. Germany, under its new Social Democratic government, has expressed concern about the situation in Kuwait.

Self-determination for the Kurds

Alek McFadden

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Young rebels rock Portugal

George Thompson

"WELCOME TO THE Black Sheep Republic" declared the banner at the entrance to the 13th International Youth Congress held in Amadora, Portugal in July 1996. Hundreds of young people from Europe and other countries flocked to attend the annual event organized by the Fourth International.

We discussed the capitalist crisis in Europe and the necessity of planning new campaigns and exchanged experiences. There was plenty of time to party. Bands sympathetic to the FI played a free concert for us and thousands of local youths.

The event was big news in Portugal, a major item on the evening news...and in the papers. The PSDB, the Portuguese Socialists of the Right, came out strongly in opposition to the activities of the INPI, the Portuguese Labor Party...and that was what this sudden strike outside Parliament demanded. Faced with the demands of workers in the streets, we met a 17 year old self-professed communist who told us of her father's activity in the movement and her involvement in the local youth movement.

This is but a socialist alternative in the capitalist crisis in Europe is visible everywhere in Portugal. Old age pensions are being cut on the streets. Employees and pensioners live in shantytowns and the government demands that we back down. This is not the end of the battle. We must fight for our rights.

The camp has been very young and inexperienced in struggle. The French described the December events, Dutch comrades told of their march to Chernobyl against nuclear power, and the Germans how they faced imprisonment under anti-terrorist laws for supporting Turkish self-determination. Solidarity was planned in discussions on Cuba, East Timor and the recent conflict in the Bosnian country and Quebec spoke of their own local struggles.

The camp received greetings from the Zapatistas, the anarchists and the socialists.

The proportion of women at the camp was the highest ever at an international congress. A day of discussions was devoted to being a young feminist today. Throughout the week, activities were held in the spaces for women and lesbian and gay liberation, and we worked together on specific issues.

The final food and housing forum was devoted to the singing of revolutionary songs.

The goodwill which exists at the camp seems to be a sign of the future socialist society. Every year is another step towards it.

- The 1997 camp is in Denmark. To join up for a brilliant summer, write to Liberation, PO Box 1699, London N4 2UJ.

LUL workers sold out by ASLEF

As the LUL Dispute comes to an end, RMT train crew members in former LUL companies are moving into action. Relevant participants from the start, the ASLEF leadership took the opportunity to walk away from the LUL dispute as soon as they could.

While the RMT leadership took a more principled position and argued for a continuation of the struggle, without ASLEF involvement, their feelings were not enough to keep the dispute alive. Once again, ASLEF leaders have left their members high and dry.

With little sign of opposition inside ASLEF, many are questioning whether the time has come to move on to the RMT.

Machine train crews have opened up a new range of actions.

Train crew in seven train operation companies have taken two days strike action. Train crew in other companies are being balloted and will hopefully be drawn into the dispute by the end of September.

Two of the privatised companies have been prepared to negotiate a settlement (a 10 week bonus for past productivity) whereas those still publicly owned are refusing to make any meaningful offer, their hands tied by the government. They have adopted a strategy of trying to split the union, attacking the union for playing political games inspired by the SLF, and buying off company-based union representatives.

This dispute has been brewing over many years. Pressure has been building up since 1994 for resolving productive issues. From higher than usual motoring, the national executive has been slow in responding to demands from the ranks.

Ballot results have surpassed expectations, and the first days of action were relatively successful. No longer industrially able to help everything, RMT trade union have nevertheless delivered a first shot across the bow.

In the past, two or three days of action could lead to victories - clearly more will be required this time - but with fortitude leadership our demands can be won.

Serious problems need to be overcome, however.

In the best of worlds, one would hope that ASLEF would positively support the dispute.

The deadline for implementation of last year's agreement on a shorter working week ended without movement in a number of companies. Where there has been change, it is only on the basis of restructuring agreements setting out conditions. Some ASLEF branches are demanding the union's support for implementation of the shorter working week without strings. However ASLEF actually helping to break the strike, they are encouraging train guards to leave the RMT and join ASLEF to avoid having to strike. They have issued instructions to their own drivers that they should be prepared to work as guards (ie sick) if asked by management.

On August 13, French riot police broke down the doors of St Bernard's church in Paris, forcibly removing over 200 African immigrants. Some have already been deported.

Police actions have been strongly condemned. Strike threats by civil aviation workers forced the government to use a military plane for the deportations. Le Monde compared government immigration policy to a Gestapo era. Across Emmanuel Berth, star of Mission Impossible was among those arrested at the demonstration that have swept France. The Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire, French Section of the Fourth International, has played a leading role in organising protests. Alan Krivine of the LCR even featured prominently in French television reports.

Postal workers send clear message

AFTER THREE months of successful one day strikes, the Postal dispute has reached a crucial point. The massive offensive by Royal Mail has failed to create a significant return to work. The Communications Workers Union (CWU) can win the dispute if it breaks through the wall of apathy currently exists.

On the day that the CWU had its seventh one day strike with indications that support for the strike was as strong as ever. History now shows that Royal Mail has to call for a ballot on the ACAS deal.

The timing of his intervention could not have been more significant. The CWU executive were due to discuss the next moves in the dispute having gone back to ACAS to clarify Royal Mail’s position.

It is no secret that Alan Johnson, the general secretary, wants to end the dispute by forcing a ballot on the ACAS deal. A ballot at this stage, even if the executive recommended opposition, would pass the initiative back to Royal Mail. For this reason it should be opposed.

The pressure from Johnson for a ballot reflects the struggle on the CWU executive. Unlike the postal dispute in 1986 the general secretary cannot just call off the dispute at will. Any deal will have to satisfy an executive that has been responsive to the views of branch activists. The sticking point on the executive were team working, streaming of mail between the first and second delivery, and the inclusion of office workers and cleaners in the settlement.

The executive has been criticised for lack of progress on a shorter working week and the pay restructuring package. It is impossible to reopen these issues at this stage of the dispute.

The executive must resist attempts to halt the membership and escalate the action to bring matters to a head. An open meeting of branch activists, sponsored by 31 CWU branches was held on August 31 to discuss the way forward.

This was an important step forward as such a meeting earlier in March was vital in putting pressure on the executive and directing the dispute. The meeting gave a clear commitment to oppose any settlement that included the issues rejected by the executive committee. It agreed that if a ballot were organised it would campaign around these issues.

The meeting discussed the victimisation of union representatives being mounted by Royal Mail. Milton Keynes took unlawful action to defend a new and falsely accused of hitting a manager on the picket line. Southend took official action after a member was falsely accused of headbutching a manager.

Geoff Caldwell, south west divisional representative, is facing the sack as a result of allegations against him over an incident which occurred during one day strike. In Edinburgh a ballast has been organised for action following the dismissal of one member, and four more are facing appeals.

It is clear that other representatives face disciplinary action for the ‘crime’ of calling strike breakers ‘scabs’. Victimized activists should not be left on their own – the national union must defend them.

A demand for amnesty must be part of any settlement. Postal workers have shown tremendous resolve to win this dispute in the face of a massive offensive by Royal Mail management, the Tories, the media and now Tony Blair.

Labour MPs must pledge their support and challenge Blair’s statement on the ballot. Trade unionists and Labour party activists should be organising solidarity – get a speaker along to your meeting or help organise a public meeting locally to spread the word.
### Editorial

Poll boosts for the left

Monks’ stage managed meeting

THIS YEAR’S TUC conference marks the end of a political silly season. Labour has been busily giving free gifts of whale and - with Whitby to - to humbled Britain in Bermondsey, while the Tories unconvincingly denoted Blair as the “New Danger”.

But for growing numbers of Labour supporters, trade union activists, the problem is that Blair’s New Labour is No Solution to the problems they face.

Similar Blair not TUC leader John Monks want to see their supporters up at the TUC or at the Labour Party conference in a few weeks time.

In this issue you’ll find editorials - or should it be reviews - to massive displays of utility around the new Manifesto pieces to show the leaders are now accepting major changes.

Monks, it is the necessity for a Blair government, is desperately trying to head off union movements such as UNISON, whose conference voted to ignore the placings of the Blairites on the platform, and demand Labour put a fig leaf on its program for a minimum wage.

Monks and Blair agree that the figure should only be set in discussions with employers - hardly a recipe for meeting the needs of low paid workers.

While Blair promises faithfully not to attack the middle-class, the rich, he has also backed away from giving unions anything like parity for part-time workers the same protection as those in full-time work.

40% of people (unlike Tony Blair and John Monks) still believe that all is war and killing in Britain.

Editorial

For a democratic Europe of solidarity

IN JUNE 1997 the heads of state and government of the European Union will lay the foundations of a powerful supranational state. The logic of Maastricht and its convergence criteria are meant to give birth to a single currency.

The script has already been written, although the populations affected have never been consulted.

From the middle of a 1997 executive is supposed to come into existence, alongside an embryonic army which will form the European pillar of NATO. There will be a single police force and common repressive laws, especially on the issue of immigration. At the beginning of 1998 there will be single currency, the Euro, managed by a Central Bank subject to no democratic control.

By the end of the century this Europe of trusts and finance capital will extend from the Atlantic to the Russian borders, from the North Pole to Gibraltar.

The following is translated from a leaflet produced by the sections of the Fourth International at the G7 counter-demonstration at Lyon in July 1996.

No to a New Imperialist Super-power!

The Europe desired by governments and礼貌ed to meet the needs of powerful industrial and financial groups carries with it the political, economic and military threat to the national sovereignty of the United States and Japan and the popular movements in these countries.

The logic of Maastricht is political, economic and military domination of the “weaker” countries by the “stronger” ones.

The task of the Fourth International is to mobilise all those who are against the trends of the “Europe of Dollar”.

### Why not to a New Imperialist Super-power?

#### Super-power!

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#### Why not to a New Imperialist Super-power?

**Twenty million unemployed: 50 million living in poverty!** This is the Europe of unemployment and “bread, coal” disease.

**A multinational exploiting humanities from the four corners of the earth, showing** their concern for democracy and their economic and social policies, as expressed by the people.

**This is the Europe of simplicity in the name of a “Europe of the’s” and “socialist” in the name of a “Europe of the state”**

**The anti-war movement and the workers, those of the “Third World” and those of the workers**

**Not to any Nationalist and Chauvinist Response!**

**Nationalist responses are a dead-end, as before cooperation and solidarity between peoples. They cannot confront the globalization of capital and the collapse of the national forms of existence, from wages to the end of the relation to the state**

**No to the Imperialist Super-power!**

*The Fourth International*
Our Bodies—Our lives
Our right to decide

Terry Conway
SUMMER 1996 has seen a series of concerns attacks on the rights of women in care homes. The facts that organisations such as Life and SPEC were to the forefront in this attack is no surprise to anyone in the production movement.

Life and other anti-abortionists were quick to intervene into the public debate that was generated when 3300 embryos were to be thawed and called for the solicitor general to intervene. The Embryology Bill passed in 1991 prevented embryos being stored more than 5 years if both the donors involved did not give their active consent to a five year extension. Chaos was breaking out with one woman trying to extend the rule of life to embryos through the courts but being powerless to do so — presumably because the man involved either disowned or could not be contacted. Staff in the centres involved, obviously in favour of the work they were mainly involved in were clearly concerned about the bureaucratic nightmare that might lead to some form of legal action. But from the outside the argument became one as a golden opportunity to peddle their state old arguments about life beginning at conception.

They campaigned for couples to come forward to adopt the embryos and for the law to be changed for this to be permitted without the agreement of the donors. One, a couple interviews with one couple who came forward it seemed clear that those interested in this course of action did not do so because they were previously interested in adoption, in having a child but because they were morally opposed to these embryos being thawed. Another couple, they and their sympathisers are demanding an end to the links to abortion that women have. Some want the total repeal of the Embryology Act. Cardinal Basil Hume argued that they should destroy full of the supposed ‘scandal’ that two gay men are about to parent a child born to a surrogacy mother.

Surely Philip Benett of Queen Charlotte hospital told the Sunday Express that one case of a patient — a woman in socially ‘straight’ circumstances — had decided to have one of her 16-week old twin fetuses aborted because she could not cope. It remains completely unclear why Benett, who despite being a Christian apparently defended this patient right to make such a choice speaks in the press about it. While the woman’s details were not disclosed it was clear that the doctor’s statement was that in fact the abortion was de facto a breach of patient confidentiality. The woman was subject to a massive public debate by people in a belief that her act was against pregnancy. The overwhelming majority of people did not do so as if they could put themselves in this situation. In this way ‘people’ can never find the right to find her guilty. But any woman who has considered having an abortion, what ever her final decision will well aware that the statements of these women are often an aspect of what they are talking about. Have these stories been about millions of women who have died from back street abortions. Despite the fact that women are usually aware that such a course of action can lead to their deaths or to serious health problems with legal abortion not is available there is often a motive to do so that the anti-abortionists intervened in this instance as well, this time mounting a campaign which they claimed would allow the woman to go abroad and have the operation. They were to claim to raise somewhere between £60,000 and £200,000 to make available for existing mothers struggling on the breadline Not was there the test case that the woman’s the test case that the woman’s abortion was based on finances. Benett refused to say who the donor was and if the egg on their faces i.e. it became apparent that the abortion had been performed.

This case was to lead to calls for the tightening of the already 1967 Abortion Act and not just from those who oppose all abortions. Bill Knight, an officer of the National Abortion Service has argued this and is against the idea being allowed for social reasons.

Melanie Phillips in ‘The Observer’ took up the battle on the fate of the embryo and went on to criticise both the whole basis of the embryology bill and a woman’s right to abortion. She argues “this is the rights agenda that says it is a woman’s right to have a child if she wants one and her right to dispose of it if she does not. Human Life has become instrumental, a means to the end of this agenda.” Unborn babies are considered a matter of personal property. The idea that there is a potential human being which calls upon obligations beyond the individual egos has been lost. How could it be otherwise if it is a woman’s right to choose.”

She ignores the fact that it is not society that are concerned and it gives birth to children but individual women. It is not the demand that women have the right to control their own bodies that is an ‘instrumental’ one but the notion that our words are at the disposal of policy makers and ideologies. The government has millions of women who have died from back street abortions when even the limited access to the NHS was not available since the 1967 Act was not available. The desperation of human beings in religious termology her argument is couched in mystical terms which are deterministic in their approach.

Human beings and most particularly women have to make do with the lot that is given them. Understand that there is a distinct possibility that science can even bring progress — that it can be used for the benefit of society and of the individuals that make it up to try to use the courts to attack our rights as they have tried to do in these recent cases. We will need to step up our defiance of these attacks and welcome the fact that the National Abortion Campaign has called an urgent strategy meeting to discuss the way forward.

We also need to get onto the offensive both around abortion rights and the right to fertility treatment. Women should have the right to terminate any pregnancy, at any time, and it should be freely available on the National Health Service.

If a woman wants or needs fertility treatment she should get this free through the National Health Service. We must also insist that there are no restrictions on any woman having this treatment, be they married or single, be they in heterosexual relationships or any sex couple.

We also do not accept that there should be any time limit on the research on embryos. We do not accept that life begins with conception.

We demand:

Free abortion on demand — A Woman’s right to choose.
No forced abortion or forced sterilisation
Free fertility treatment for all women that want it
An end to discrimination against lesbians

The National Abortion Campaign demonstrates

These are the arguments of post-feminists. They point out that women’s oppression is alive and well.

The fact that such a debate is happening in the press demonstrates once again the need for a concerted battle for women’s liberation.
Post feminism
No Chance!

Marian Brain

SOCIALIST Outlook has always supported the fight of women to control their fertility which is a central aspect of the struggle for women's liberation. It is important that women's freedom is central to women's oppression in class society.

In the 1990s women continue to be treated as second-class citizens. Unless women have the right to decide if and when to have children we will have little control over other aspects of our lives.

Despite the passing of laws such as the Equal Pay Act and the Sex Discrimination Act, women are far from equal in the world of work. Job Segregation still exists with women concentrated in jobs where skills such as caring or manual dexterity are important to carrying out the work. Women are still paid less than men and part time and casual jobs are on the increase. The lack of childcare provision and the low wages women get makes it increasingly difficult for women to take full-time jobs.

In the Autumn of 1995, of the 113 million women who were in employment 44.5 per cent of these worked part time in their main job. 75.1 per cent of women had second part time jobs. The pay in these jobs is in general so low that many women earn less than they allow to pay national insurance contributions and thereby claim certain benefits.

Women's average hourly earnings (excluding overtime) were 79.6 per cent of men's. While more and more women are sole or primary breadwinners in their households this low earning power is still linked to women's position in the family.

In the past few years we have witnessed an ideological offensive by those who want to bolster the nuclear family. We have seen, for example, the introduction of the so-called Child Support Act, one of the most regressive Acts which is an attack on women's ability to get benefits.

There is a contradictory situation developing, however, where some right wing ideologues and politicians would like to emphasise the primacy of women playing their 'natural' role of wife, mother. At the same time capitalism needs a supply of flexible and cheap labour. And for others on the right the opposition to state intervention extends to the area of personal life and the family. This is the context in which figures such as Theresa Gorman who supported women's abortion rights.

The Women's Liberation movement which developed in Britain in the last sixties and seventies fought concerted campaigns on the related questions of women's position in the family and the workplace. Through mass action women were able to win important victories and gain important backing in the unions and the labour party. The support of trade unionists and the TUC was important in defining the various attempts through parliament to restrict even further the limited rights women had won through the 1967 Abortion Act.

Socialists and feminism as a whole take the fight for the right of women to control their lives, and to decide if, when and how they have children.

The limited reproductive rights that women have are once again under attack. This attack is taking many forms and pro-choice supporters will have to step up our campaigning not only to defend these limited rights, but to begin the fight to extend them.

Today's fight for women's liberation remains as central as ever to the struggle for socialism. The idea of post-feminism is as irrelevant to women today as the idea that the class struggle is dead was to the 68% of those questioned in a recent poll. The women's liberation movement may fragment but it has had an impact on the lives of thousands and thousands of women, far beyond those actually involved in its activities. Crucially young women growing up today have much higher expectations than women of earlier generations. The gap between these expectations and the reality of working in 1990's Britain could well lead to an explosive situation.

One year on strike

FIFTY-THREE UNISON members at Hillingdon Hospital have been on strike for one year on pay and conditions.

The strikers have been subjected to racket abuse and violence on the picket line.

But they have also faced indifference, apathy and sabotage at worst, from UNISON and official TUC officials.

In June 1994, Pall Mall offered them £12,000 to settle the dispute and end the strike. The strikers, however, overwhelmingly rejected this offer, and went on strike again.

Nearly a year on, the strikers are still as determined as ever to continue their fight for reinstatement.

A resolution initiated by the Campaign for Unfair Pensions and Democratic Unionist (CFPU) calling for further solidarity action and picket support was rejected unanimously by this year's UNISON Annual Conference.

But this was only the start of the battle. The strikers are absolutely determined that the NEC and officials have had to be pressurised continuously to act on the conference decision.

On August 23, the Pall Mall manager at the hospital was sacked by the company. This may be the sign that the company is really backing down, but the campaign of solidarity and protests must be stepped up.

JOIN the vigil outside the head office of the Davis Service Group (Pall Mall's parent company) Monday 2 to Friday 6 September. This vigil officially organised by UNISON between 10 am and 2 pm (some days until 6 pm) will be at 4 Grosvenor Place, SW1 (Hyde Park Corner and Victoria for 'Central' on the tube).

The profits of the strikers are welcome every day, but the Friday will be a mass vigil with banners.

PICKET of HSS shops Saturday 7 September (8am-12 noon)
Fred Leplia, UNISON London Regional Committee (in personal capacity)

No concessions on NHS rationing

THE POTTENTIAL birth of scriptures to Mandy Allwood (combined, it is fair to admit, with the media hype arising from her commercial deal with the News of the World has given every two-bit moralist the opportunity to cash in on her 'feminism' as a -parent.

But the case is also handy as a peg on which another brand of ideologe can hang a different line of argument: as health authorities and Trusts buckle over who should pick up the estimated £500,000 bill for her care up to and after the birth, her situation is being exploited by advocates of rationing care on the NHS.

In practice, while there have been occasional outbursts of reactionary dissent about the NHS paying for 'cosmetic' operations such as varicose veins or tonsor removal, most arguments for the rationing of health care centre around the fight to deny certain people with exceptional (and potentially expensive) health problems the treatment they need.

This hit the headlines last year when Cambridge & Huntingdon Health Authority decided to charge a whole pound and half before voting that 'Child B' (Gaynor Bowden) should be allowed to die, because the cost of the treatment to keep her alive would bankrupt the rest of her 'ordinary' patients.

Now, as Merrion, Sutton & Wandsworth Health Authority (MSW) contemplate the costs of caring for Mandy Allwood, journalists are being told that this might mean cuts in services for local people.

In fact, MSW were planning drastic cuts before anyone even heard of Mandy Allwood. Like many other health authorities, they are being starved of cash under the Tory funding formula, while demand for treatment continues to increase.

But even if this were not the case, Mandy Allwood would be given all the treatment she needs. Half a million pounds may seem a heavy bill, but local health authorities quite frequently have to pay upwards of £100,000 or more a time for intensive care treatment of new-born babies. For a woman caught in this unique situation, with up to eight more lives at stake, the money involved is not so big.

The National Health Service was established precisely to guarantee treatment to all, regardless of ability to pay, and funded collectively through taxation. It is the special talent of the Tories to have devised a market system which now means that a single problem like this can potentially disrupt the finances of a health authority: the answer is not to exclude such "special cases" from treatment, but to scrap the market system and establish a national level contingency reserve to ensure that money (and treatment) is available when and where it is needed.

Any concession on this issue leads down a slippery slope. Once the principle of excluding individuals from NHS care is accepted, the concept of collective provision falls down, and the way is left open to privatisation and insurance schemes.
Brussels sprouts a Bonaparte

Duncan Chapelle

BRITAIN’S Labour Party is attentively following the international situation of economic powers by Belgium’s coalition government last month. Belgian MPs passed three laws giving Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene extreme power to raise taxes, cut social security budgets and set wage levels. These undemocratic laws remove the need for consultation, or parliamentary approval, for breakthrough speed plans to force Britain’s economy to meet the harsh financial criteria set by the Maastricht currency union. Britain’s Guardian newspaper, which generally reflects the views of the Labour Party, suggested that the authoritarians laws could be an impetus to Britain. Belgium is showing how few EU member states other than Britain are prepared to go for economic and monetary union, even at the risk of social and political unrest, as France last year. Indeed, the Daily Brussels correspondent, Stephen Basset.

The ruling classes in Belgium and Britain share similar historical roots and social dynamics. The Bonaparte family’s power and influence in France’s political history is well known. The same month, EU chiefs had baulked the Belgian finance minister, Philippe Maystadt, over the costs for failing to cut the state spending enough. Maystadt emerged from the high-profile meeting committed to a new plan to reduce the state debt. New privatizations were on top of the list. Belgium’s government has also failed to bring the economy on line for mone- tary union. Indeed, the relative improvement of the economy is due to the German government’s abandonment of the project of European mone- tary harmonization. The failure of the British and Belgian states to implement fully the austerity policies favored by their ruling class is a part of a pattern of change. As these states have finalized their period of “inflation plunder”, the working class needs to assist the ideas of the ruling classes relatively easily. This allowed the development of “weaker” states for a short time in which the normal functioning of the capitalist market – and not an interventionist state – was usually the main tool of the ruling class.

Today, Belgium’s politicians are tak- ing strikes along the road to a “triggering state”. The normal functioning of the capitalist market is not enough to impose the changes needed to allow monetary union. However, most pro-capitalist politicians are not committed enough to the austerity policies desired by the vast majority of capitalists.

British Labour Party will study Bel- gian closely. Cutting even today’s lim- ited democracy out of the control of social spending, wage and taxes may be necessary for the capitalist class, and their Labour Party supporters, to build a united Europe.

Australian austerity

Elkie Dee

DEMONSTRATION of over 25,000 stormed the Australian Parliament in Canberra on August 19 to pro- test against the first budget of the newly Liberal government.

The state budget makes huge cuts in public spending, coupled with a planned Workplace Relations Bill in a vicious assault on the Australian working class. Social security cuts include tougher tests of actively seeking work, cuts in basic educational support to report “jobseekers” with the wrong at- titude. Some subsidies to nurseries are being removed. Cuts in public health spending include reductions in hospital funding, increases in charges and means testing, and pres- crip.

These cuts mean worse services and increased poverty for those on welfare and for many Aboriginals, women, immi- grants and those on disability. Many workers are also likely to lose their jobs.

The government has made it clear that they intend to create the optimal climate for reducing public health, interest rates and “restrictive” la- bour conditions. This requires cutting public spending, avoiding tax profits and attacking trade unions. They will not have an easy ride.

Clinton the Barbarian axes welfare

John Lister

WHILE the media alternates be- tween stories on the activities of the Democratic Party convention and sexual sleaze to hit President Bill Clinton’s team of advisors, millions of Americans have more imme- diate reasons to reject his “electro- engineering phrases about ‘family values’.

In the run-up to the Chicago nomen- nination jamboree, Clinton signed into law one of the most brutal attacks on social welfare ever imposed, scraping over 60 years of welfare provision established by Roosevelt’s New Deal. Nothing could further undermine the call for a new Labour Party in the US than this bi-partisan attack on the poorest sections of the working class.

The cut of $16 billion in Federal welfare payments will leave each state to decide and fund its own level of welfare support, throwing up to 2.6 million peo- ple, including 1.1 million children, into destitution. At the same time an extra $13 billion has been allocated to the US military budget, and a massive $35 billion allocated to the US arms business.

Clinton’s cuts actually go further than the Republican-led Congress has de- cided. A $40 billion “public option” endorsed by the House has been wiped out.

Celebrating 75 years of Inperkorr

SEVENTY FIVE years ago the Inperkorr group was founded. It was the first Inperkorr in Berlin, with English and French editions following one and two weeks later. Inperkorr (International Press Correspondence) was a mouthpiece for international solidarity and the struggle for a world-wide revolutionary socialist alternative.

But Inperkorr has since published shortlisted reports of actual events or brief contributions to debates by well known authors. Thus it connects the theoretical magazine Kommunistische Internationale which carried com- prehensive analyses of up to 20 sides or more. The aim of the Communist International in producing Inperkorr was to promote discussion and provide informa- tion on events in different coun- tries and to promote the cooperation of communist parties in different countries. Inperkorr was aimed mainly at the editorial boards of newspapers, political decision and analysis they could use, but the de- mand went well beyond that. The initial run in each language was about 1,000 and it appeared 2 or 3 times a week.

For a time a weekly edition ap- peared for a wider public. Occa- sional issues appeared in Spanish, Czech, Hungarian, Italian and Swedish. Correspondents were appointed in every country rather than everything being written centrally.

Although they did not domi- nate, Inperkorr had many famous contributors: Lenin, Zinoviev, Trotsky, Lenin, Trotsky, Victor Serge led the French edition for a time. Stalin’s name did not ap- pear at all in the first three years but then this changed dramati- cally in 1935, in the bloodiest year of heavy handed attacks on Trotsky. In 1943 it was closed down by Stalin together with the Communist Interna-

tional in 1971 the Fourth Interna- tional renounced Inperkorr and pledged itself to revive the tradi- tion in which it had stood. To- day’s magazine of news and analysis had fewer big names to promote the cause of world wide revolutionary socialism but it is still an invaluable tool for in- ternationalists. Subscribe today!

The biggest savings come from cuts to support to legal immigrants, and cuts in the provision of food stamps through Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

Under the new rules, a family will lose all benefits if the family head is unemployed for more than two years. Nobody will be able to claim benefits for more than five years during their lifetime. Mothers aged under 18 will only get benefits if they stay in school and live with an adult. Legal immigrants who have not taken US citizenship will be denied social security and food stamps, regardless of how long they have lived and paid taxes in the US.

Childless adults aged 18-30 will be allowed only 3 months of food stamps in the US, and 300,000 low- income children will be lose their entitlement to welfare completely.

These savage attacks on the most dependent groups in the US are going alongside Clinton’s boast of creating up to 1 million jobs, almost all of which, as in California, are low paid and temporary.

For 75 years, Inperkorr! For dozens of thousands of pov- erty-stricken individuals there will be no escape other than crime. The drug trade becomes bigger and cheaper. And the number of Clinton’s new cuts is only defying any welfare benefits to anyone acquainted of drug felons.

The burden will of course fall hardest on the black and Latino communities. Already 50 per cent of black children and 40 per cent of Latino children live in poverty, compared with 24 per cent of white children. The most powerful capi- talist country in the world has 14 million children living on an existence below the poverty line.

The amount of cash saved is puny compared to the millions that have re- sisted. The significance is a dramatic shift in ideologies, opening the door to more dramatic cuts. As the Wolf Street/Journal lead in the week before the cuts, “The moral and political implications of the proposed changes in the Food Stamps are staggering.”

America’s rabid right are celebrating their victory in attacking Clinton as their standard-bearer, pointing out that only he could have pushed through such cuts. Their victory is a victory for all right wing and anti-socialist fights against the prospect of reducing the scrapping of federal pensions, and abolishing the system of social pensions.

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Taking Lenin seriously

SIMON KENNEDY

LENIN'S FIRST response was disinclined—indeed quite disinclined—to make up. But the rush soon came anyway. The growth of socialist parties throughout Europe had forced his hand.

Harding sees this as the defining moment of 'Leninism'. The treachery of social democracy in 1914 led Lenin to throw himself into the most important and politically formative period of his intellectual life.

From 1914 to 1921 he dedicated himself to the study of philosophy—particularly the place of Hegel in Marx's thought—and the working of a number of basic Marxist categories. He combined a dialectical philosophy with an analysis of the dynamics of capitalism and the end of a political epoch. The distinctive voice of Leninism was born in the libraries of Switzerland.

This response to the collapse of the Second 'socialist' International Harding finds peculiar. He argues that it is responsible for Leninism's subsequent harshness and intolerance, showing a "deeply doctrinaire and scholasticization of the world"—unlike the sensitive pragmatism that characterized, for example, Harding's Lenin was also displayed in his Isaac Deutcher prize winning Lenin's Political Thought.

He argues that Lenin was much more an intellectual than a political squire or opportunist politician with a nose for power—he was a faithful and orthodox disciple of Marx who built upon the doctrinaire thinking of his mentor. If you want to find the culprit for the sins of Leninism, look to Marx.

Lenin is no friend of Leninism. But he has been important in ascertaining the intellectual strength of Leninism as a coherent ideology.

This enables him to explain well how the slogans of "all power to the soviets", "bread, peace, and land", "freedom to the nationalities", all arose from a "transcended analysis" of the world.

Lenin's 'deteriorated' world-view gave him a unique standpoint, one which was to facilitate the revolutionizing of the twentieth century.

Arriving from the famous sealed train from Germany, Lenin's proclamation of the April Theses shocked his Bolshevik audience. No significant leader of the organization gave support. Pravda disclaimed the contents, presenting them as a personal position.

How could Lenin be so far from his party?

Later the same year Lenin found himself in a minority of one on a scandalised Central Committee.

Lenin was able to translate analysis into a political strategy, with clear slogans, goals, and a defined target audience. For example, were not particularly original. But he was able to translate the analysis into a political strategy with clear slogans, goals, and a defined target audience.

The internationalisation of capitalism made social democracy an international doctrine, with relevance for those beyond the advanced capitalised countries. Understanding the internationalisation of capitalism made social democracy an international doctrine, with relevance for those beyond those advanced capitalised countries.

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A YOUNG MOTHER seeking work in a Humberside village is forced to go out of work - at a price of £150 an hour. Not wanting to turn it down out of hand, the October deadline for local childcare. The minimum is £3 per hour.

But when she turns down the job, because it would cost her £50 per hour to go to work, the job is lost because she海棠有等 flew out of work. She appeals against the brutal judgement, and after due consideration the social security adjudicator rule in view of the work. Apparently it is incumbent on a claimant to take any work they are offered, no matter how much it may cost them.

This may appear to be one isolated case of an unfortunate victim of the system. However, similar cases are decisions are likely to fall on tens of thousands of desperately poor and unemployed workers this autumn.

The Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) is the Tories New Digger to the Employment Bill, or they will be made to face the consequences of their actions.

According to the Tories up to 90,000 claimants will lose their benefit:

1. Role model of a new benefit regime
2. The Tories adopt a new benefit regime, which will cut benefit payments by as much as 20% for those who have not been out of work for more than six months.
3. The benefits of the new regime will be phased in over a period of two years, with the full effect coming into operation in 1998.

A new role model of a new benefit regime, which is to be adopted by the Conservative government, will mean that those who are out of work for more than six months will lose their benefits. The government has said that this is necessary to make work pay and to get people back into work.

The new regime will be introduced in stages, with the first changes coming into effect in April 1997. The full impact of the changes will be felt by 1998.

Under the new regime, those who have been out of work for more than six months will be required to register with the job centre and to demonstrate that they are actively seeking work. If they fail to do so, they will lose their benefits.

The government has said that this is necessary to ensure that those who are out of work are making a real effort to find employment. The government has also said that it is important to get people back into work, as this will help to reduce the number of people living in poverty.

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