THOUSANDS FACE SACK AS GIANTS MERGE
by DAVID BLACK

Engineers demand ‘No retreat!’
by TOM BILLIERS/ AEF

ON MONDAY the Confederation of Engineering Unions endorsed the AEF’s decision to call a national strike in support of their claim.

The strike fixed for the state of the AEF was September 23. This has now been set for October 21 to allow the other members of the Federal to ballot their members. Members of the AEF will be instructed to vote against the strike.

Frank Cousins of the Confederation of Engineers Unions has supported the AEF’s policy. It is the responsibility of the Federal and of the state to oppose any industrial action.

They are relying on their members to vote against the strike.

No betrayal!

Members of the unions cannot betray their fellow engineers. They are voting against industrial action. They are sure never to oppose the picket line if the AEF and TUC have to go it alone.

Engineering workers have had a wage freeze since January and the AEF has made a number of unilateral improvements.

A new agreement has been discussed for 14 months.

Shop stewards committees throughout the country should be held on the amendment to the agreement to inform their members of the situation and to build up support for the strike.

In order to show their leaders, the employers and the general public that they are really that business, engineers must stand together and vote the strike to a successful outcome.

The 899 million merger between English Electric and GEC casts a grim shadow over employment prospects in the whole of the country’s electrical and electronic industry.

Even before the financial details of this shotgun marriage had been settled, the bosses were at work examining areas where rationalisation could be achieved.

With the tune over the AEF’s sackings still in their minds, the directors of the two companies are remaining silent over possible redundancies.

But in an industry that employs over 200,000 workers in OEC and Electronic industry associations, the sackings could run into many thousands.

WORRIED

WORRIED

For it is not only English Electric and GEC that are planning a "shake-out" of the other big electronics and electrical groups. Worried by the strength of the new giant, are anxiously seeking ways in which they can cope.

For Harold Mullens, the boss of Regal, which employs 11,000 workers, admitted that he was worried that they could not meet the competition from the new giant.

A list of candidates for new merger: extends to Peasey, Fernhill, Thor, Southall, Goodall, and on the stock market, shares in these companies are eagerly snapped up by speculators hoping to make a quick profit from any takeover.

In the City at least there is little prejudice about the outcome of the mergers. The closure of factories not making sufficient profit is being canvassed as the chief advantage of any industrial purging.

But time that remain independent will not be able to compete. The visibly the strength of the new giant, is anxiously seeking ways in which they can cope.

A list of candidates for new merger: extends to Peasey, Fernhill, Thor, Southall, Goodall, and on the stock market, shares in these companies are eagerly snapped up by speculators hoping to make a quick profit from any takeover.

AFRICA’S NEW COLONY

AFRICA’S NEW COLONY

Africans have more wealth, notably in the form of gold, than in the case of the European neighbours. But the nation has not enough to make it self-sufficient.

To enable the African-American Corporation of South Africa to exploit the iron ore and sell it, mainly in Japan, a new railway was built linking Swaziland with its other neighbour, Portuguese colony of Mozambique.

The條ohanwhich has laid Biafra waste looks as though it is slowly drawing to a close as the last Biafran towns fall to the invading troops of the Nigerian federal army.

Ala has fallen. Only Owerri and Umuahia still lie in Biafran hands.

But there are still about 1,000,000 Biafrans in the surrounding jungle areas.

East, west crush Biafra

by RICHARD KUPER

No more soldiers will come to the aid of Biafra.

This is the case of a government, with the imperialist aid of the United States, which is unable to defeat Biafra. The federal government has been defeated and can no longer support the activities of Biafrans.

The Biafrans clearly have the right to fight for their freedom. The federal government of Nigeria must be defeated. Although there is an internal political struggle in Nigeria, we must support the struggle of the Biafrans.

Hypocrites

The British government and the TUC are continuing to arm the Biafrans. They are trying to support the imperialist war in Nigeria.

Foreign Office blocks anti-Nazi show

by DAVID BIDDY

The FIRST BRITISH exhibition of the posters and photomontages of Hundscheidt, whose art put him on the Nazi death list, has been blocked by the Foreign Office.

When difficulties had arisen in arranging the exhibition, the Post Office, which handles the exhibition, was asked to consider the possibility of having a similar exhibition.

Two weeks ago the Tory MP of Cheadle, Geoffrey Fiske, chairman of the British Council, met the director of the exhibition at the Bischinger Centre in Paris.

The exhibition was to be opened by the French government and closed by the British government.

The exhibition was to be opened by the French government and closed by the British government.

Today Hundscheidt’s revolutionary work was shown for the first time in France and it has received a warm welcome. It has received a warm welcome.

The exhibition has been opened by the French government and closed by the British government.

The exhibition has been opened by the French government and closed by the British government.

PUBLIC MEETING

The October 27 demonstration and parade will be held at 2 pm in Hyde Park.
The Vietnam march: squelches from the Street pig-sty

THE RIGHT-WING PRESS is frothing at the mouth about next month's anti- Vietnam war demonstrations. Even the "respectable" high-Tory Times has had wild headlines such as "Militant plot feared in London".

Not surprisingly, the campaign to discredit the anti-war marches was started in the London Evening News, the right-wing paper that launched the anti-peace crusades in the 1930s. "The Times" reporters clamoured on to the Street dung heap and added their penwiper of invective: "A small section of the extreme left's plans to seize control of certain highly sensitive installations in London and establish a "May Day" committee for controlling the mobs, for buying arms, and for those who finance the plot would be impossible, otherwise the thing is a load of irresponsible codswallop. It is a simple attempt to terrorise the demonstrators and frighten away thousands of people who might otherwise come on the 1st May."

Who is responsible for these Nazi-propaganda techniques? The monopoly press would never start such a campaign unless it was given the go-ahead by the establishment, which represents the interests of the government, the employers and the security forces. The campaign is planned at a high level, between police and government officials, by the go-ahead to the Vietnam war in this country. The Wilson government has sold out to the American imperialists, and the people, especially the working people, are up in arms. They can't be bought off with meaningless slogans such as "Socialist Worker".

The American ruling class, disease-ridden and money-hungry, is about to start a new war against the people of the world. This means that the Soviet Union and the people of the world must unite to fight against this war. The Socialists of the world must unite to fight against this war.

Czechoslovakia and the Russian invasion: an open letter to members of the British Communist Party

SURELY a situation where a Communist government, as in Czechoslovakia, can be denounced as a tool of counter-revolutionary elements for permitting minimal civil liberties which all Communist states have supposedly practised all along, means that Marxism has been stood on its head.

Dear Comrade,

This excerpt is from a letter in the Morning Star on August 26 to the heart of the matter. All serious communists have to face the question of how, after 20 years of supposed socialist rule in Czechoslovakia, the very existence of the regime can be said to be threatened by the civil war in that country. What sort of "socialist" is it? The Communist Party's letter of July 15, 1968 contains the following revealing statement: "The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia is capable of a different political leadership, and then the need to carry it out through appropriate methods."

"Some indication of a return to those methods would assure the resolution of the overwhelming majority of the working class, the co-operative farmers and the intelligentsia."

This is a clear admission that the regime is not socialist. The essence of the matter is that the party puts its own interests above those of the working class. The immediate question that arises is: what can be done to bring about a change in the situation? Without a change in the leadership of the party, there can be no change in the situation.

Workers' power: the essence

What is the situation of the working class in Czechoslovakia? The party has the support of the working class, but this support is not genuine. The party is in fact in the hands of a small group of reactionaries, and the workers are being used as tools by the party to maintain their power. The only way to change this situation is to take the power into the hands of the workers, to establish a workers' government. This would mean a socialist transformation of society.

LENIEN: without workers' power, no socialism.


Without workers' power, no socialism. Without freedom of discussion, publication and organisation within the working class, no workers' power. These considerations apply especially in the East European countries and in the GDR itself. In our opinion, the Brundage regime does not differ essentially from the former "bureaucrat-police" regime of the front in Czechoslovakia. It is precisely what it is: the Brundage regime is a "people's" regime. What they fear is the possibility of bringing about a "people's revolution" in Czechoslovakia. This is no threat to the working class, but it is a serious threat to the working class. What they fear is that the workers will organise and fight for their rights. This fear is not without foundation. It is necessary to support the struggle of the workers for their rights, and to establish a workers' government as the basis for a socialist transformation of society.

Implications for communists

But the fundamental question is that of what is the nature of the socialist regimes and the implications for the demand for the development of a socialist society in Czechoslovakia.

Socialist International has developed its analysis of Soviet-type regimes and the development of a socialist society in Czechoslovakia. It is necessary to support the struggle of the workers for their rights, and to establish a workers' government as the basis for a socialist transformation of society.

WHERE WE STAND

Socialist Worker

WHERE WE STAND is the paper of International Socialism, a movement of socialists who believe that the present form of society is a result of the class nature of society and who seek to replace this system with a new society based on the principles of freedom, equality, solidarity, and rational organisation. Socialism is opposed to any inegalitarian policies that discriminate against workers, such as the nationalisation of the economy. Socialism is opposed to any interference in the political life of the working class, and it advocates the right of罢工, the right of the workers to elect their own representatives, and the right of the workers to control the means of production.

Socialism is the only possible solution to the problems of capitalism. The workers' struggle is opposed to any interference in the political life of the working class, and it advocates the right of罢工, the right of the workers to elect their own representatives, and the right of the workers to control the means of production.
Ronan Point—a symbol of all that is best in Labour’s moral crusade...

3000 people at risk in sky-high death-traps

by PAUL FOOT

IT IS ALMOST a year now since Francis Taylor, founder, chairman and managing director of Taylor Woodrow, the second largest construction firm in Britain, burst into the headlines with violent attacks upon the National Insurance at London’s Barbican.

On television, Frank ordered one of his directors to convey the interests of the country. And why not? His Barrister, Mr. D.B. Taylor, had called off the strike with a mash through the City of London, through the National Insurance and standing next to his brilliant backer, the Prime Minister, blantly claiming that at the works he had helped deliver.

In the months very little has been heard of Frank Taylor. The charges that his men have been whipped from his face.

Rumble, roar

What disturbed him was a rumble and then a roar in the early morning last May, when a novel of 12 Stores, a firm of high block of flats in East London, was sent up. The charges were 3 orders, killing five people.

Taylor Woodrow Anglian, the first company to be found guilty, on 13 trials, is now owned by Taylor Woodrow. Phillips Consulants, the company with 100 divisions, of which Taylor Woodrow instigated to add to its portfolio. Today, all these firms were owned by Taylor, DfT, (which funded the West Ham Borough Council, a borough of the same Continental System, known as the National Union of Nationalists), the Council of the London County Council before them.

Immediately, the company rushed to the House of Commons and shouted the Act of God. The explosion had been enormous. The distinguished blow-hard who represented Taylor Woodrow at the inquiry tried to prove that no building on earth could withstand that terrible blast.

Very quickly the arguments fell, and in a short 32 pages of the final report, the architectural, the engineering and the engineering and architectural and television.

The report reveals a report described as "a summary" (perhaps all the conditions would have been too much for the authorities) that in the case of the incident, conclusions which have been wholly ignored by the National Insurance, the architectural and engineering journals and television.

They are some of them:

1. The explosion itself was very mild indeed.

2. In our opinion there were weaknesses in the general design of the building.

3. The building was constructed "inadequate for the explosive charge to the degree that the explosion produced was produced.

4. In various forms of vapour given off, mixed with the mixture of the domestic, such as pentolite, mastic, sodium bromide, chlorine, flour, and similar volatile liquids on domestic purposes and likely to be stored in small quantities at the flat.

The building was not up to any standard fire regulations.

5. Pressure rise in the building of one floor after another is an inevitable characteristic of this kind of building.

Rumbling, roaring

The report, and the many similar statements from our report, showed that Ronan Point’s damage was likely to be -by way of the door panels and the walls, and hoping that this would lead to the building from falling down. The 439 doors which rest on the outside walls - panels - have suffered minor damage. If the door panel is pushed out by 1¾ inches, the fire doors collapse, the others above and below.

Any structural weaknesses, however, in the building that could be attacked, may be that extent. Wind can buckle out panels out. An explosion inside the flat caused by a small as two parts of panel is enough to push the wall out the outside 1¾ inches.

Subsidence in the ground - expansion of new panels through the floor, or the effect of the floor being bent or down - the new panels - any of these can cause "progressive collapse." And if the sections which collapse in the day or evening time, not five, but 500 could be killed.

These new forms of buildings are not necessary, still less traditional. Traditional frame building has new forms of buildings. Even carefully jointed system buildings have not undergone collapse.

Yet the London System, which has no tie between wall and floor, is the most popular with the local authorities. Allowance more than 3,000 working people are living today in sky-rise flats in the National Insurance. Ronan Point and lies in collapse on the right side, at the city.

No wonder Frank Taylor and the directors of the City Council, who works, who works, the other half of Taylor Woodrow Anglian are worried. But they are not the only people to blame for the Ronan Point monstrosity.

The government has closed the door. The policy, which had become "streamlined" technicals, which can effectively keep down the cost of the already monstrously expensive sky-rise flats.

Failure to "tie" walls and floors, failure to provide for fire regulations or basic engineering principles, failure to insist on independent construction engineers - all these add up to a cheaper building. And cheaper buildings are what the Labour government wants.

Ronan Point stands today as a monument to the technological revolution about which Wilson etched in the Good Old Days, and about which the Labourites who present it with the Ronan Point is a symbol of all that’s best in Labour buildings - everywhere.

The London System, which has no tie between wall and floor, is the most popular with the local authorities. Allowance more than 3,000 working people are living today in sky-rise flats in the National Insurance. Ronan Point and lies in collapse on the right side, at the city.

Publicity is not the only reason for criticism. Perhaps the policy will be needed to condemn that particular monument to be destroyed. But there will still be many cabins, perhaps with gas tackworn (tied) with the tenancy, and able to do anything and everything - and other "suites" substandard, perhaps with the same attempt to "squeeze" the walls and floors, but all equally liable to tumble down at any time of the day or night, damaging their unsuspecting inhabitants.

The shareholders of Taylor Woodrow, whose dividend has been held at 20 per cent for the last three years, need not be specially worried. Government and local authorities will ensure their firms’ profits for many years to come.

And most of them live in buildings which are either safe or heavily insured.

Join International Socialism for a real alternative to capitalism and Stalinism

OXFORD: Barry Doody, 24 Stock- more Road, Oxford.


RIPPLE & KESTON: Chris Rum- ball, 257 High Street, Keston, Kent.

MILTON: John Charlton, 23 Thach- Classing, Deal, Kent.

SHEFFIELD: Eric Howard, 15 Barnet- Road, Sheffield.

SOUTHAMPTON: Bob Delay, 65, Hill- Street, Southampton.

STEVENAGE: Michael Downes, 97 Clifton Road, Stevenage.

NORTHAMPTON: Bob Doonan, 4-6, Oxford Street, Northampton.

Foster: Paul Russians, 81 Capp- den Avenue, Camberwell Park, Lon- don, E3 11; P/L, Pelham Road, N.12.

Sheffield: Eric Howard, 15 Ber- ne Avenue, Sheffield.

NORTHAMPTON: Bob Doonan, 4-6, Oxford Street, Northampton.

HAMPSTEAD: Bob Doonan, 4-6, Oxford Street, Northampton.

OXFORD: Barry Doody, 24 Stock- more Road, Oxford.


RIPPLE & KESTON: Chris Rum- ball, 257 High Street, Keston, Kent.

MILTON: John Charlton, 23 Thach- Classing, Deal, Kent.

SHEFFIELD: Eric Howard, 15 Barnet- Road, Sheffield.

SOUTHAMPTON: Bob Delay, 65, Hill- Street, Southampton.

STEVENAGE: Michael Downes, 97 Clifton Road, Stevenage.

NORTHAMPTON: Bob Doonan, 4-6, Oxford Street, Northampton.
£25 million site locks out 1000 workers

From ROSS HILL: Liverpool, Wednesday.

ONE THOUSAND construction workers were locked out of the £25 million Chemicol GB site at Ellesmere Port last Friday. At a mass meeting, the workers narrowly defeated a call for a ballot.

The lockout was the latest move by the employers to crush the militant building workers who have managed to cut a fair slice of the firm's more than 1000 workers.

Earlier this year, the management agreed to pay an extra £4 a week "without strings"—a move to guard against further wage rises. The men took the increase and then the union stepped in. It didn't want the workers to be without pay and it won't amount to more than six meals a week.

The workers were faced by the threat of a one-day strike from the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Leaders of the union warned the workers that the lockout would lead to a "massive and unprecedented" action against Chemicol.

The firm wanted the men back in the building from last week to work, but the management said no, they would all do the work themselves. The firm's statement said the workers would be sacked.

NO STRIKES

Under the agreement, the men would lose their right to strike and no union meetings could be held on the site for a period of time.

"This agreement will not detract from the workers' rights," the union's statement said. "You will have to respect the rights of your fellow workers and the union's rights to organise and to strike.

"The firm has promised to respect the workers' rights to strike, but this agreement has not been fulfilled."

WE NEED YOUR HELP

This is not the first time that we have been asked to help the workers of the Ellesmere site. We have done this twice before, and we have not been paid.

We have an urgent need to raise £600 in the next few weeks. This is vitally necessary to run the printed papers for the workers. We are also making arrangements for transmission to all parts of the country.

Please donate what you can to us as quickly as possible.

Make sure you see Socialist Worker every week.

Get involved!

Address: 100-102 New Oxford St, London WC1X 7HZ

Organisation: Socialist Worker

Telephone: 020 7603 1055


donations to cover their production costs.

Giant Mining wides

FORD FIGHTS ON FOR EQUAL PAY

In JUNE, 203 Ford workers, women sewing-machine operators at Dagenham and Haslemere, went on strike for a week to stop cuts in wages. Before the strike, they were working a 44-hour week on an hour less than male machinists in the same work shop and department. Although the strike broke the Ford management's attempts to destroy women's resistance, the women raised the question of equal pay by incorporating the principle of equal pay for equal work in their demands.

When they were brought before the Ford management and their claims were rejected (the union at 1370 per week and the women at 1370 per week), they demanded that the women's wages be raised by half towards the women's grade C, i.e., from 45 to 125 per cent of the men's rate.

The company was forced to concede an extra 74 hours' work for the women on the men's rate of pay on 11 June.

Great victory

Although on the grading list the women were said to have been "bumped off" with another Scamp, they have come out against Ford management and their bitter attack on women's resistance. Their victory is a great achievement for thousands of other Ford workers.

It caused the first breach in the Ford line of resistance, and management sagged last year between the demands for the women's bonus and the union bureaucrats on the Ford executive committee.

Manchester says No

MANCHESTER—The local district council of the National Union of Railwaymen voted by 4 to 1 to reject the agreement.